

Sydney Metro Northwest Showground Station

Archaeological test excavation report
1890s house site
Prepared for Transport for NSW | 1 February 2016



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Sydney Metro Northwest - Showground Station

Final

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Executive Summary

EMM Consulting Pty Limited (EMM) was commissioned by Boulderstone Pty Ltd (Boulderstone) on behalf of Transport for New South Wales (TfNSW) to undertake an archaeological investigation at the Showground Station construction site (the site) as part of the early works program of the Sydney Metro Northwest Project (the project). The report details the results of archaeological test excavation (test excavation) and provides a significance assessment of the archaeological evidence.

The objective of the test excavation was to ascertain the level of archaeological preservation of the late nineteenth century cottage identified through historic research. The archaeological assessment and research design (EMM 2013) identified that there was moderate potential for remnants of these structures. The potential archaeological resource of the nineteenth century cottage included remnants of a weatherboard house, bricks from fireplaces, post holes for structures including outbuildings, structural materials, cesspits, wells and cisterns.

The test excavation sought to determine if any uncovered features could be defined as 'relics' under the *NSW Heritage Act 1977*. A determination of intact relics would be a trigger to conduct salvage excavation on the site to collect information relating to the use of the site as a home. EMM concluded that the archaeological resource would be of local heritage significance if relics were identified through test excavation.

The test excavation was conducted over two days between 4 and 5 September 2013. Jillian Comber (Comber Consultants Pty Ltd) was excavation director, with Pamela Kottaras (EMM) as excavation co-director. A team of archaeologists assisted with the test excavation and site recording.

The archaeological investigation revealed that the site, being subject to such repeated use, left little archaeological evidence from any one event and shows high levels of disturbance. It is likely that land-use in the twentieth century caused the majority of the disturbance from events such as the construction of the Hills Shire Council and former Hills Entertainment Centre and the installation of a car park and utilities.

The results of the test excavation concluded that:

- No archaeological evidence was identified relating to the nineteenth century cottage.
- Sufficient information was gained to indicate that it is highly unlikely any relics remain on the site. As such it is considered that EMM has discharged TfNSW's responsibility to meet the requirements of SSI-5100 Minister's Condition of Approval E10.
- As such it fulfils SSI-5414 Minister's Condition of Approval C31 which has the same requirement as SSI-5100.
- No further archaeological investigation was recommended for site.

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1 Introduction

1.1 Background

EMM Consulting Pty Limited (EMM) was commissioned by Boulderstone Pty Ltd (Boulderstone) on behalf of Transport for New South Wales (TfNSW) to undertake an archaeological investigation at the Showground Station construction site (the site) as part of the early works program of the Sydney Metro Northwest Project (the project). This report details the results of test excavation and provides a significance assessment of the archaeological evidence.

This report is in accordance with the Project Approval SSI-5100 and specifically responds to Condition E10 which states that:

Prior to the commencement of pre-construction and/ or construction activities that will impact the historical archaeological sites identified in identified in table 4.2 of the North West Rail Link EIS: Technical Paper 3, - European Heritage, dated March 2012, the Proponent shall undertake an archaeological excavation program in accordance with the Heritage Council of NSW Archaeological Assessments Guideline (1996) using a methodology prepared in consultation with the Heritage Council of NSW, and to the satisfaction of the Director-General. This work shall be undertaken by an appropriately qualified archaeological heritage consultant.

Within 2 years of completing the above work, unless otherwise agreed by the Director General, the Proponent shall submit a report containing the findings of the excavations, including artefact analysis, and the identification of a final repository for any finds, prepared in consultation with the Heritage Council of NSW and to the satisfaction of the Director-General.

This report is also in accordance with Project Approval SSI 5414 and specifically responds to Condition C31 which states that:

Prior to the commencement of pre-construction and/ or construction activities that will impact the historical archaeological sites identified in identified in table 4.2 of the North West Rail Link EIS: Technical Paper - European Heritage, dated March 2012, the Proponent shall undertake an archaeological excavation program in accordance with the Heritage Council of NSW Archaeological Assessments Guideline (1996) using a methodology prepared in consultation with the Heritage Council of NSW, and to the satisfaction of the Director-General. This work shall be undertaken by an appropriately qualified archaeological heritage consultant.

Within 2 years of completing the above work, unless otherwise agreed by the Director General, the Proponent shall submit a report containing the findings of the excavations, including artefact analysis, and the identification of a final repository for any finds, prepared in consultation with the Heritage Council of NSW and to the satisfaction of the Director-General.

If the impacts or works have been addressed in accordance with Condition E10 of State Significant Infrastructure Approval SSI-5100, the requirements of this condition are taken to be fulfilled.

Heritage constraints were initially identified in the preliminary phase of the project, specifically two potential archaeological sites (GML 2012a, p.27). A 1920s plan of the area showed two structures between Carrington Road and Cattai Creek (Figure 1.2). A 1947 aerial photograph shows a small group of buildings in a setting that appears to be an orchard (GML 2012a p.27). The rest of the area was identified as cleared paddocks and orchards.

In July 2013, EMM continued the archaeological investigation in greater detail and identified that there was potential for the remnants of the 1920s house site which was of potential local heritage significance. EMM and Comber Consultants Pty Limited completed a test excavation program from 4 to 5 September 2013 in accordance with the archaeological assessment prepared for the site in July 2013. No significant archaeological remains were identified and an interim excavation report was prepared in September 2013 to advise TfNSW about the preliminary excavation results and to provide recommendations to allow construction activities at the site to start. More detailed information about the archaeological assessment including historical analysis, archaeological site evaluation and research design can be found in the archaeological assessment prepared for the site (EMM 2013).

Table 1.1 **Compliance table**

Condition #	Condition	How condition is addressed
E8 (SSI-5100)	Archival recording all affected heritage items shall be undertaken in accordance with the NSW Heritage Council Guidelines.	The archaeological investigation of the Showground Station site was recorded in accordance with the guidelines for archival recording. Additionally, the site of Showground Station was included the archival record prepared for the project (EMM March 2013 in draft).
E10 (SSI-5100)	As above (p.1)	A test excavation was undertaken in September 2013. The results were presented in an interim report and are expanded within this report
C31 (SSI-5414)	As above (p.1)	The impacts have been addressed in accordance with Condition E10
EH16 (EIS)	Archaeological monitoring of the areas (the house site on Carrington Road at site 6, the archaeological site south of Samantha Riley Drive at site 11, and the remains of track and post holes at site 16 and site 17) that are likely to contain archaeological remains would be undertaken with recording of any identified features and/or deposits associated with the identified buildings in accordance with archaeological best practice.	Archaeological features (of low significance) were discovered. These features were recorded prior to their removal. The archaeological features did not possess sufficient significance to categorise them as relics and interpretation specific to the relics is therefore not required.

1.2 Project description

The Sydney Metro Northwest project (the project) is a priority transport infrastructure project for NSW and will provide a new 23 km electrified passenger rail line between Epping and Rouse Hill. The project includes a tunnel between Epping and Bella Vista, eight new stations (Cherrybrook, Castle Hill, Hills Centre, Norwest, Bella Vista, Kellyville, Rouse Hill and Cudgegong Road), a stabling facility and associated infrastructure (Figure 1.1).

Construction for the project has been divided into a number of stages:

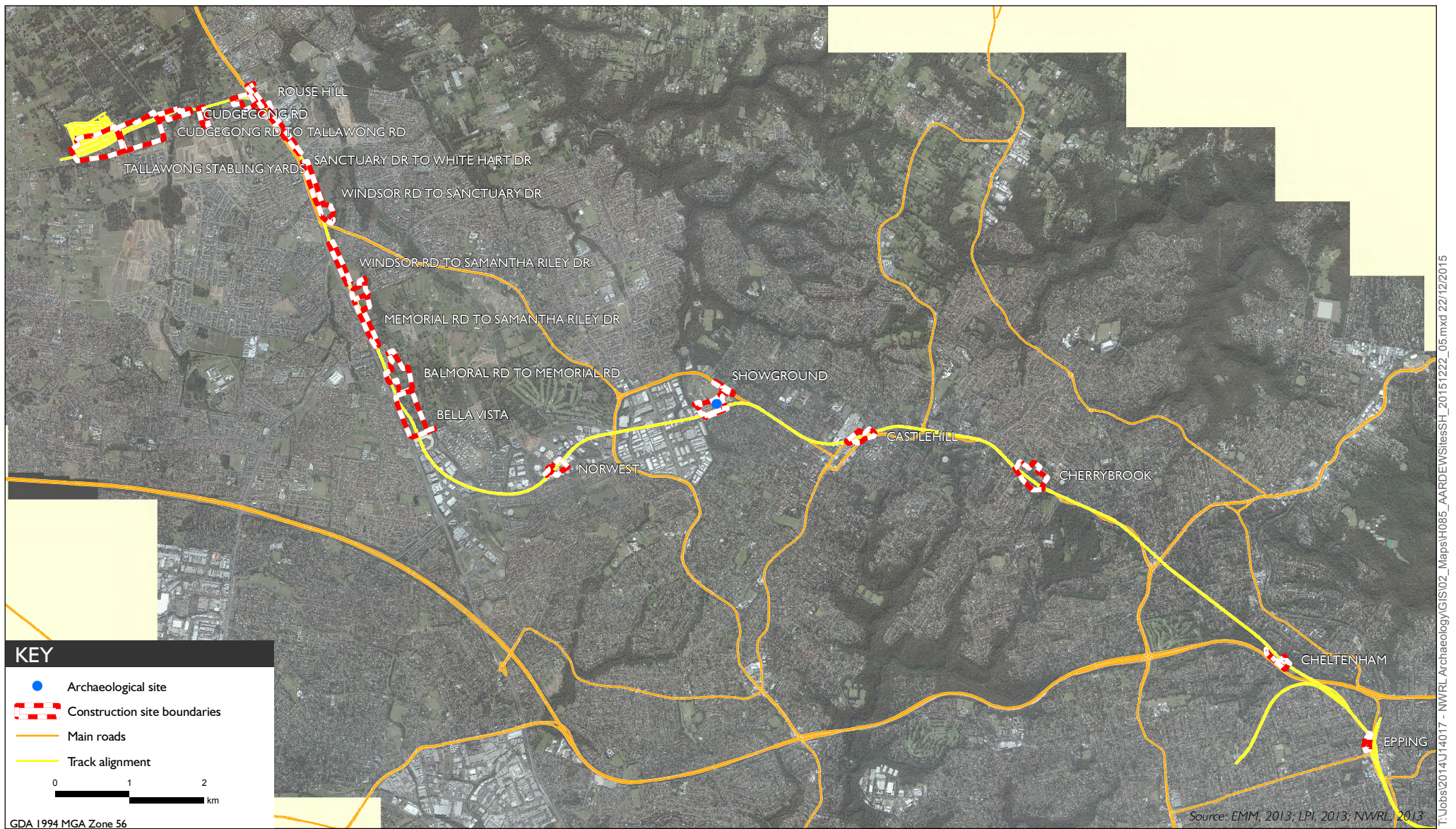
- Early Works including site establishment, power supplies, demolition and roads and traffic works;

- Tunnel and Station Civil Works (TSC) including extensive subsurface excavation and construction to build the Epping to Bella Vista tunnel, five stations and associated works;
- Surface and Viaduct Civil (SVC) including building the 4 km skytrain between Bella Vista and Rouse Hill; and
- Operations, trains and systems (OTS) including building stations and car parks, supplying trains, installing the tracks, signalling, mechanical and electrical systems and operating the rail system.

TfNSW commissioned Boulderstone as the managing contractor for the early works to allow construction site establishment prior to commencement of the major works for Sydney Metro Northwest. Early works construction is now completed and site-specific construction has begun. The site will become Showground Station at the completion of the project.

1.3 Study area

Construction is currently being undertaken at the site. It is approximately 65,000 m² along Carrington Road, bounded by Showground Road in the east, the Castle Hill Showground in the north and Cattai Creek in the west (Figure 1.2). The excavation encompassed the southern sections of Lot 38 DP 35320, Lot A DP 37659, Lot B DP 37659 and Lot 2 DP 539201. The land has frontage to Carrington Road. For the purposes of the current assessment, the study area is located within the Hills Shire Council Local Government Area (LGA).





Showground study area

Sydney Metro Northwest

Figure 1.2

Heritage items located in the vicinity of the study area include:

- Old Windsor Road which covers a number of lots and LGAs, and is listed on the Hills Shire Council Local Environmental Plan 2012 (LEP) as an item of local heritage significance; and
- a “House” located at 128 - 132 Showground Road located to the east in Lot 406 DP 860609, which is listed as an item of local heritage significance in the Hills Shire Council LEP 2012 due to its remnant orchards.

1.4 Report method

This report was prepared in accordance with the *Archaeological Assessment Guidelines* (Heritage Council 1996) as prescribed by the MCoA. This report is also guided by the philosophy of the *Charter for Places of Cultural Significance* commonly known as the *Burra Charter* (Australian International Council on Monuments and Sites, ICOMOS 1999).

Significance and impacts to significance have been assessed using the following guidelines:

- *Statements of Heritage Impact Guidelines* (Heritage Office 2006);
- *Investigating Heritage Significance* (Heritage Office 2004);
- *Assessing Significance for Historical Archaeological Sites and ‘Relics’* (Heritage Branch Department of Planning 2009);
- *Historical Archaeology Code of Practice* (Heritage Office 2006); and
- *How to Prepare Archival Records of Heritage Items* (Heritage Office 1998).

1.5 Authorship

This report was written by Rebecca Newell BA (EMM) with assistance from Ryan Desic (EMM). Analysis, report direction and review was provided by Pamela Kottaras BA Hons (Archaeology) – Associate Archaeologist (EMM). External review was undertaken by Jillian Comber of Comber Consultants, who is one of the nominated excavation directors.

2 Historical background

The history of the study area has been explored in detail in the archaeological assessment for the site (EMM 2013) and it is provided in full in Appendix A. The historical background provided in this report aims to summarise the phases of occupation of the study area since European settlement. The Aboriginal cultural heritage aspect of the study area has been investigated by Kelleher Nightingale Consultants. The main historical events are listed below:

- **Castle Hill Government Farm (1801-1811).** The study area was originally part of the 14,000 hectares operated by convicts to provide food and stock for the colony. Archival research did not identify any potential deposits relating to this phase.
- **Early Land Grants (1815-1877).** The first land grant on the study area was to Michael Hancey in 1819 with an adjoining plot granted to his brother William. The rich loamy soil of the area was suitable for the cultivation of fruit trees, particularly citrus, nectarines and peaches. The land was then acquired by Alfred Thomas Carpenter, a clerk in 1898. No specific structures or land uses were identified for this time period from the archival research.
- **Castle Hill Showground (1890 – present day).** The land directly adjacent to the study area was granted to the Castle Hill Show Society in 1890 for the purposes of a permanent showground (Castle Hill Show 2013). The Castle Hill Show is an annual event which continues today. During World War II the Showground was occupied by the Victorian Ambulance Brigade. No structures from the history of the Showground were found to be in the study area.
- **Suttor's Estate Subdivision (1898 – 1922).** The area south of the current Showground was subdivided and offered for sale in 1898 but many areas were not taken up until the early 20th century. The earliest aerial photograph of the study area in 1928 shows two buildings on an area occupied by Charles Fredrick Lloyd, a labourer from Auburn.
- **1950's housing (between 1947 and 1959).** The 1947 aerial photograph of the study area shows a complex of buildings in the centre of the study area and two smaller groups of buildings are located in adjacent lots. The majority of the land is either cleared, or heavily vegetated. Small orchards are scattered throughout. In 1947, the study area was obtained by David John, a farmer and his wife Mary. Myra John, possibly their relation (although not definitively determined), obtained title of the land in 1950. The buildings in the aerial photographs are likely to have belonged to the John family but may have been built by the previous owners George and Amelia Lamb sometime between 1932 and 1947.
- **Hills Shire Council (from 1977 to the present day).** The Hills Shire Council obtained title over the study area in 1977 and proceeded to level the land to construct a car park, roads, the Hills Shire Council Chambers and Works Depot and the Hills Entertainment Centre. The area on which structures were present in the early twentieth century became a grassy space.
- **Present date.** Today the study area contains the construction site for Showground Station. The former Council Chambers have been converted into a project office.

3 Test excavation

3.1 Overview

The test excavation was conducted over two days between 4 and 5 September 2013. Jillian Comber (Comber Consultants Pty Ltd) was excavation director, with Pamela Kottaras (EMM) as excavation co-director. A team of archaeologists assisted with the test excavation and site recording.

3.2 Rationale

The test excavation followed the methodology in the research design presented in the archaeological assessment. This was approved by the Heritage Division of the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage, Department of Premier and Cabinet and the Department of Planning and Infrastructure (DP&I – now the Department of Planning and Environment (DP&E)) on 12 August 2013 and 14 August 2013 respectively.

The objective of the test excavation was to ascertain the level of archaeological preservation of the 1920s structures as identified through historical research. The archaeological assessment and research design (EMM 2013) identified that there was moderate potential for remnants of these structures.

The test excavation sought to determine if any features uncovered could be defined as ‘relics’ under the (NSW) *Heritage Act 1977*. A determination of intact relics would have been a trigger to conduct salvage excavation on the site to collect information primarily relating to a house structure and associated outbuildings identified by footings, foundations and postholes potentially occurring at the site. EMM concluded that the archaeological resource would be of local heritage significance if relics were identified through test excavation.

3.3 Test excavation method

The first stage of excavation involved the use of a machine excavator monitored by one or more archaeologists to identify any archaeological deposit. An excavator with a smooth edged bucket was used to remove soil overburden down to any potential occupational surface or structural remains. The excavator operator was monitored and guided by an archaeologist and by clearly marked open area boundaries.

Archaeologists clarified all potential archaeological evidence through hand excavation techniques after it had been identified by the monitoring of the excavator.

3.4 Recording methods

Archaeologists recorded the test excavation using the following techniques:

- The establishment of a 1 m x 1 m grid within each open area;
- GPS recording of each open area location;
- detailed archaeological scale plans and cross sections;
- the use of context recording forms and context numbers for each archaeological deposit, cut and feature;

- detailed photographic recording using appropriate photographic equipment, scales and a photographic register; and
- collecting and labelling all artefacts with detailed reference to their context information.

3.5 Test excavation layout

Two open areas were excavated in the areas of highest archaeological potential at the site (Figure 3.1). Open Area 1 was located approximately 2 m east of Doran Drive and was 5 m by 10 m. It was investigated to ascertain if there was any evidence of a house structure and associated sheds or other structures identified by historical research as potentially occurring in this area. Open Area 2 was located approximately 3 m east of Open Area 1 and was 1 m by 5 m. Open Area 2 was used to ascertain if there was any additional evidence of the house structure identified in this area through historical research.



4 Test excavation results

4.1 Open Area 1

4.1.1 Test excavation results

Open Area 1 was located in a grassed area 2 m east of Doran Drive (Photograph 4.1). The majority of Open Area 1 was excavated to a depth of approximately 0.5 m and found to consist of topsoil and fill deposit with frequent sandstone and charcoal inclusions (Photograph 4.2). Two possible post holes [context 6] [6] and [7] were identified in Open Area 1 (Photograph 4.3) both with a fill of charcoal [contexts 3 and 4]. Further excavation revealed that they were within the fill deposit [1]. Figures 4.1 and 4.2 show a representative cross section of Open Area 1 with the deposit layers annotated.

In addition to the main Open Area 1 trench, a 5 m by 1 m test trench was excavated in the western portion of Open Area 1 to investigate the deposit beneath the fill layer [1]. The test trench contained a light brown and orange sandy clay deposit with sandstone inclusions [2], likely to be redeposited natural bedrock (Photograph 4.4). Fill [2] was damp as it retained water flowing down the slope. In situ sandstone bedrock [8] was excavated beneath [2], which prior to landscaping the site, is likely to have been exposed as it was located on a steep lip above the road and adjacent to another exposed section of bedrock.



Photograph 4.1 Open Area 1 pre excavation facing west showing starting level and adjacent stockpiles



Photograph 4.2 **Open Area 1 facing east showing fill deposit and charcoal inclusions**



Photograph 4.3 **Open Area 1, two possible post holes (red arrows) facing east**



Photograph 4.4 **Open Area 1, test trench showing orange brown redeposited bedrock, facing east**

4.1.2 Interpretation

The archaeological record at the Showground Station site has been identified as insubstantial and disturbed. The area was likely to have been cleared of vegetation during the early stages of colonial settlement with its use as a government grounds and farmland. However, evidence of agriculture has been lost during the subsequent use of the site and the changes that occurred during the construction of the Council facilities. The natural soil horizon has been truncated with the deposition of a fill layer [1] and recent stockpile.

No structural fabric was noted during the excavation of the deeper layers of fill deposit [1] and as the site was the location of a recent stockpile, any demolition rubble at the upper layers of Open Area 1 could not be ascribed to historic structures on the earlier site. The two possible post holes identified in Open Area 1 were interpreted as recent and non-significant features. Based on this evidence, after the demolition of early twentieth century structures, the site was cleared, and levelled. The dark brown loamy topsoil deposit was overlaid to facilitate the use of the site as a lawn area.

Excavation of Open Area 1 indicated that structures related to the historic use of the site had been removed. The features uncovered were insubstantial and in a disturbed context and therefore interpreted to be related to recent events within the study area. The archaeological excavation in Open Area 1 did not provide any archaeological evidence of outbuildings related to the cottage or previous historic use of the site.



Figure 4.1 Cross-section of Open Area 1 showing context numbers

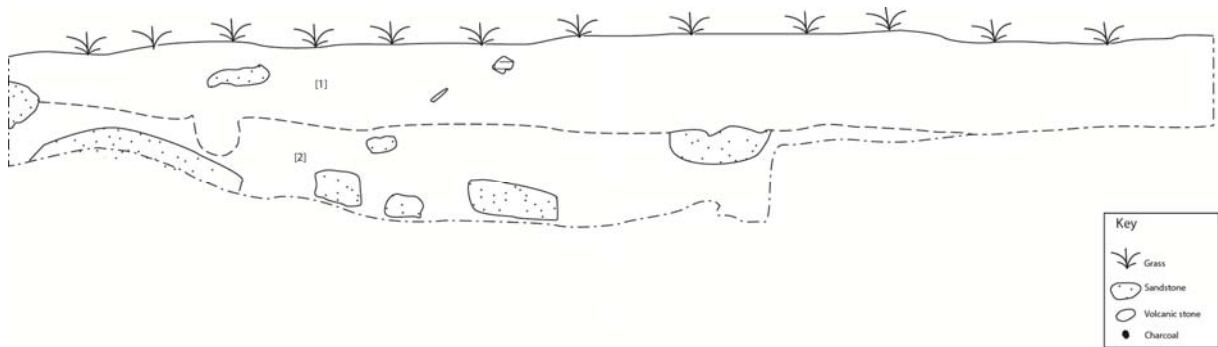


Figure 4.2 Drawn cross-section of Open Area 1 showing layer boundaries

4.2 Open Area 2

4.2.1 Test excavation results

Open Area 2 was excavated to a depth of 0.8 m and consisted of a thin layer of road base [9] over shallow topsoil and grass [10] on very compact and in situ decaying bedrock (residual soil) [11] (Photograph 6). The decaying bedrock was damp clay, predominantly orange and yellow with some black running through it. The decaying bedrock [11] overlaid intact sandstone bedrock [12] and was equal to bedrock [8] in Open Area 1. Open Area 2 did not reveal any archaeological features.



Photograph 5 Open Area 2 pre excavation facing east, showing starting level



Photograph 6 Open Area 2 post excavation showing decaying bedrock and residual soil facing south-east

4.2.2 Interpretation

Archaeological evidence was not uncovered in Open Area 2. The bedrock in this area was directly beneath a shallow deposit of brown loamy topsoil and lawn. As such no further interpretation has been completed.

4.3 Artefacts

Ceramic, glass and corroded iron were all found within the disturbed fill deposit of Open Area 1 as was plastic wrap, rigid plastic fragments and a small aluminium novelty knife in the shape of a fish (See Photograph 4.7). Secure deposits of datable artefacts were not recovered from Open Area 1. No artefacts were uncovered in Open Area 2. The artefacts have been entered into a database and due to their small size and unstable context no further artefact analysis was undertaken.



Photograph 4.7

Sample of artefact uncovered from Open Area 1

5 Response to the research questions

The archaeological assessment presented a series of research questions for the potential archaeological resource as part of the research design. A research design is a set of research questions developed for a specific site, which contributes to current and relevant knowledge.

Research questions have been guided by historic themes relevant to the site which have been taken for the NSW Heritage Branch website (www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritage/index.htm). These have been used to ensure that the site may be a comparable resource for previous and future archaeological investigations in NSW and nationally. The full list of relevant historic themes can be found in Appendix A.

The area of interest for the structures was focused on the historical context of a rural landscape, characterised by orcharding and farming. The archaeological evidence revealed very limited information to address the themes. As such, the archaeological investigation cannot answer any of the research questions presented in the archaeological assessment because no archaeological evidence was identified.

6 Re-evaluation of significance

6.1 Overview

The results of the test excavation have provided the opportunity to re-assess the significance of the archaeological resource detailed in EMM (2013). The poor representation of the potential structures within the archaeological record has influenced the re-assessment of significance presented in Table 6.1. The table firstly presents the significance of the potential archaeological remains as predicted in the archaeological assessment and then presents the revised significance based on the results of the archaeological investigation.

The assessment and statement of significance is based on the guideline *Assessing Heritage Significance* (Heritage Office 2001) and the *Burra Charter*. The concept of cultural significance is defined as “aesthetic, historic, scientific, social or spiritual value for past, present or future generations” (*Burra Charter* 1999: Article 1.2). It identifies that conservation of an item of cultural significance should be guided by the item’s level of significance.

6.2 Revised statement of significance

The archaeological features uncovered were in a disturbed context and resulted from activities undertaken on the site since the second half of the twentieth century. They do not yield any additional information that could contribute to an understanding of NSW’s cultural or natural history. The historical research did not indicate that they are associated with any person or organisation. The disturbed, insubstantial features did not demonstrate aesthetic characteristics or evidence of technical achievement. They are not rare and are not a good representative example of a late nineteenth century house. They are neither of local or state significance and are therefore not relics.

Table 6.1 **Assessment of significance summary**

NSW Heritage criteria (NSW <i>Heritage Act</i> 1977)	Significance assessment of the potential archaeological resource (prior to the archaeological investigation)	Revised significance assessment based on the results of the archaeological investigation
Criterion (a) an item is important in the course, or pattern, of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the local area);	<p>The potential archaeological resources is historically associated with the late eighteenth and early twentieth century use of the local area particularly orcharding, farming and horse keeping. The agricultural uses of the study area demonstrate the importance of the region in producing food for the region and was one of many such orchards, none of which survive in the local area.</p> <p>Archaeological evidence of horse keeping may be able to contribute to the understanding of the adjacent Showground and the pursuit of horse trotting.</p> <p>Archaeological evidence demonstrating the domestic and commercial uses of the study area would be of local significance.</p>	<p>The features identified in the test excavation, including two possible post holes, are not significant in the course or pattern of NSW's or the local area's cultural or natural history. The possible post holes were found in a recently disturbed context; they do not provide any additional information on the history of NSW or the local area.</p> <p>This criterion was not demonstrated by the archaeological resource.</p>
Criterion (b) an item has strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in NSW's cultural or natural history (or the local area);	<p>The Panacek family were of local interest and Metod Panacek was investigated by the federal police and died at his house in Carrington Road. Archaeological evidence would provide further information on their lives and contribute to an understanding of these locally significant people.</p>	<p>The information uncovered does not have a strong or special association with the life or works of a person or persons of importance in NSW's or the local area's cultural or natural history.</p> <p>This criterion was not demonstrated by the archaeological resource.</p>
Criterion (c) an item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW (or the local area);	<p>The research conducted to date has not indicated that the potential archaeological resources fulfil this criterion. The expected archaeological resource may include remains of a unidentified structures which are unlikely to be aesthetically significant. However, if evidence survives that demonstrates rudimentary building techniques such as slab construction, these technical aspects of the resource would be of local significance.</p>	<p>Archaeological resources did not survive intact or in substantial proportions.</p> <p>This criterion was not demonstrated by the archaeological resource.</p>
Criterion (d) an item has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in NSW for social, cultural or spiritual reasons (or the local area);	<p>The research conducted to date has not indicated that the potential archaeological remains fulfil this criterion.</p>	<p>The assessment prepared to accompany the test excavation did not find reason to associate cultural or spiritual practices with this site.</p> <p>This criterion was not demonstrated by the archaeological resource.</p>

Table 6.1 **Assessment of significance summary**

NSW Heritage criteria (NSW <i>Heritage Act</i> 1977)	Significance assessment of the potential archaeological resource (prior to the archaeological investigation)	Revised significance assessment based on the results of the archaeological investigation
Criterion (e) an item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the local area);	<p>The site has the potential to yield new information that would contribute to an understanding of construction techniques and materials used in structures during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries including how they changed over time. In addition, archaeological evidence relating to the life of the people that lived there may shed light on their way of life, their economic situation as well as answer questions related to farming in what had been recognised as an important food-producing area on the outskirts of Sydney.</p> <p>The presence of a cesspit is a possibility, and if one exists it would yield important information regarding the lives of the people that lived there.</p> <p>Archaeological evidence demonstrating this criterion would be of local significance.</p>	<p>Two possible post hole features uncovered were ephemeral and did not yield further information on the house or associated buildings identified in this area through historical research. They have been interpreted as recent features within a modern and disturbed context. As such the features did not yield information that will contribute to an understanding on NSW's cultural or natural history.</p> <p>This criterion was not demonstrated by the archaeological resource.</p>
Criterion (f) an item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the local area); and	The research conducted to date has not indicated that the potential archaeological remains fulfil this criterion.	<p>Archaeological resources were not discovered during the test excavation.</p> <p>This criterion was not demonstrated by the archaeological resource.</p>
Criterion (g) an item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW's cultural or natural places or cultural or natural environments (or the local area).	The research conducted to date has not indicated that the potential archaeological remains fulfil this criterion. If the archaeological resource is a house this evidence will be representative of life in the area and the results will be comparable to other like sites.	<p>Archaeological resources were not discovered during the test excavation.</p> <p>This criterion was not demonstrated by the archaeological resource.</p>

7 Conclusion and recommendations

7.1 Conclusion

The nineteenth and early twentieth century history of the Hills District was characterised by farming and orcharding and the study area was a part of this history. It was used for orchards, farms and horse breeding and lies adjacent to the Castle Hill Showground, which is the home of the Castle Hill Show, an agricultural event that continues to this day.

The archaeological investigation has sought to determine the nature and significance of the potential archaeological resource. The archaeological investigation has revealed that the site, being subject to such repeated use, has left no archaeological evidence and displays a high level of disturbance.

Sufficient information was gained to indicate that it is highly unlikely any relics remain on the site. As such it is considered that BPL and TfNSW have fulfilled their obligations under the Minister's Condition of Approval E10.

7.2 Recommendations

The recommendations for the Showground Station site are:

1. Construction work should continue without further archaeological assessment, testing or monitoring except where unexpected finds (potential relics not identified in the archaeological assessment) are uncovered.
2. If any unexpected finds are uncovered, the following procedure must be followed:
 - a) All work must stop in the immediate area and a nominated archaeologist be consulted to assess whether the find can be identified as a potential relic.
 - b) an archaeologist is to complete a preliminary assessment and recording of the find;
 - c) if the find is not considered to be a relic, then work may proceed;
 - d) if the find is a relic, then formally notify OEH by letter;
 - e) consult with the works contractor, OEH and TfNSW and determine management action based on the provisions in the contractor's heritage management plan;
 - f) implement management actions; and
 - g) review contractor's heritage management plan and approval conditions.

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Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Term
£	Pounds
\$	dollars
AHD	Australian Height Datum
AHIMS	Aboriginal heritage information management system
BOM	Bureau of Meteorology
BH	borehole
c	circa
cm	Centimetres
DP	Deposited Plan
DP&E	Department of Planning and Environment (formerly DP&I)
DP&I	Department of Planning and Infrastructure (now DP&E)
EMM	EMM Consulting Pty Limited
EP&A Act	<i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i>
GML	Gooden Mackay Logan
km	kilometres
LEP	Local Environmental Plan
LGA	Local Government Area
m	metres
m ²	metres squared
MCoA	Ministers Conditions of Approval
mm	millimetres
NSW	New South Wales
NWRL	North West Rail Link
OEH	Office of Environment and Heritage
PAD	Potential archaeological deposit
RMS	Roads and Maritime Services
SHR	State Heritage Register
t	Tonne
TfNSW	Transport for NSW
TP	Test pit

Glossary of Terms

Many of these definitions use throughout this report have been taken from the *Archaeological Assessments Guidelines* (Heritage Branch 1996).

Archaeological Potential: a sites potential to contain archaeological relics as defined in the Heritage Act 1977. The degree of physical evidence present on an archaeological site usually assessed on the basis of physical evaluation and historical research. It refers to the surviving condition of archaeological sites). Common terms for describing archaeological potential are:

- known archaeological features/sites (high archaeological potential);
- potential archaeological features/sites (medium archaeological potential); and
- no archaeological features/sites (low archaeological potential).

Archaeological Site: a place that contains evidence of past human activity. Below ground archaeological sites may include building foundations, occupation deposits, features, artefacts and relics. Above ground archaeological sites may include buildings, works, or industrial structures that are intact or ruined.

Archaeology: the study of the human past using material evidence.

Archaeological investigation or excavation: the manual excavation of an archaeological site.

Artefact: an object produced by human activity. In historical archaeology the term usually refers to small objects contained within occupation deposits. The term may also encompass food or plant remains and ecological features (for example, pollen).

Conservation: all of the processes of looking after a place so as to retain its cultural significance.

Building: a part of a building, structure or part of a structure.

Heritage: encompasses both Aboriginal and historic heritage including sites that predate European settlement and a shared history since European settlement such as the shared associations in pastoral landscapes as well as associated link with the mission period.

Heritage Item: an item defined under the *Heritage Act* 1977 and assessed as being of local, State and/or National heritage significance

Heritage Significance: a term used to encompass all aspects of significance (see Cultural Significance). Defined in the *Heritage Act* 1977 (Section 4A) as being of State or Local significance in relation to historical, scientific, cultural, social, archaeological, natural or aesthetic value of the item.

Historical Archaeology: in NSW historical archaeology is the study of the physical remains of the past, in association with historical documentation, since European occupation of NSW in 1788.

Item: a place, building, work, relic, moveable object or precinct.

Listing: an item is placed on a statutory heritage list.

Local Significance: in relation to a place, building, work, relic, moveable object or precinct, means significance to an area in relation to the historical, scientific, cultural, social, archaeological, architectural, natural or aesthetic value of the item.

Place: site, area, land, landscape, building or other work group of buildings or other works and may include components, contents, spaces and views.

Potential Archaeological Site: a place which may contain physical evidence of past human activity (see Archaeological Site).

Relic: any deposit object or material evidence that (a) relates to the settlement of the area that comprises New South Wales, not being Aboriginal settlement, and (b) is of State or local heritage significance.

Research Design: a set of questions, which can be investigated using archaeological evidence and a methodology for addressing them. A research design is intended to ensure that archaeological investigations focus on genuine research needs. It is an important tool which ensures that when archaeological resources are destroyed by excavation, their information content can be preserved and can contribute to current and relevant knowledge.

Research Potential: the ability of a site or feature to yield information through archaeological investigation. The significance of archaeological sites is assessed according to their ability to contribute information to research questions.

State Significance: in relation to a place, building, work, relic, moveable object or precinct, means significance to the State in relation to the historical, scientific, cultural, social, archaeological, architectural, natural or aesthetic value of the item. An item can be both of State heritage significance and local heritage significance. An item that is of local heritage significance may or may not be of State heritage significance.

Appendix A

Historical background

A.1 Appendix A References

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Appendix A - Showground Station

Sydney Metro Northwest | Historical analysis

Prepared for Transport for NSW | 22 December 2015

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Appendix A - Showground Station

Final

Report J13006RP1 | Prepared for Transport for NSW | 22 December 2015

Prepared by **Rebecca Newell**

Approved by **Pamela Kottaras**

Position Archaeologist

Position Associate Archaeologist

Signature



Signature



Date 10 July 2013

Date 10 July 2013

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1 Introduction

This report is the historical analysis was prepared in 2013 to support the archaeological assessment and research design for the construction of Showground Station for the Sydney Metro Northwest (formerly the North West Rail Link).

The affected lots are shown in Table 1.1, with the lots that have been identified as possessing archaeological potential being marked with an asterisk. The construction area boundary for Showground Station is shown in Figure 1.1.

Table 1.1 Affected Lots

Lot//DP	Lot//DP
1//135696	A//37659*
C//398374	B//37659*
D//398374	1//539201
E//398374	2//539201*
38//35320*	2//870828

The MCoAs list a number of requirements for heritage including the heritage management tasks EH1 to

- identified in the North West Rail Link Heritage Zoning Plan (GML 2012a) through historical research;
- determine the likely location of the archaeological resource;
- assess the level of potential for archaeological resources;
- provide a preliminary assessment of significance;
- present appropriate archaeological management strategies for the historic archaeology; and
- provide recommendations on future procedures required to best mitigate impacts on the archaeological resource.

1.1 Research method

To determine the likely location, survival and heritage significance of the archaeological resource the following sources were consulted:

- historic maps and plans;
- Picture Australia for historic photographs;
- previous historical or archaeological reports;
- geotechnical investigations of the study area;
- modern and historic aerial photography; and

- additional local historical resources including rate books and probate records.

Research was undertaken a number of sources listed below:

- Land and Property Information: title searches;
- Land and Property Information: Six Spatial Information Exchange (online);
- the Mitchell Library;
- the State Records Authority NSW;
- Hornsby Shire Local Studies Library;
- Hills Shire Local Studies Library;
- Trove Newspapers online;
- the Australian Dictionary of Biography online;
- Heritage Branch Library: Consultant reports;
- Archaeology Online: Consultant reports; and
- Miles Lewis: Online database.

1.2 Consultation

A meeting with the Heritage Branch, TfNSW and EMM occurred on 13 June 2013. This meeting presented information on each of the study areas with archaeological potential and the preliminary research and excavation strategies planned for each. The Heritage Branch comments from that meeting noted the requirement that this report be submitted to the Heritage Branch on behalf of the Heritage Council for review and comment.

1.3 Limitations of the investigation

Due to the constraints of project timing there was limited time to conduct research on the study area. A number of resources were consulted, which did not yield the anticipated level of information. Additional research may be required during and after the completion of any excavation and reporting on the excavation results.

1.4 Authorship

This report was written by Rebecca Newell BA (EMM) with assistance from Ryan Desic (EMM). Research was conducted by Rebecca Newell, Ryan Desic (EMM) and Louise Doherty (Heritage Advisory Services). Analysis, report direction and review was provided by Pamela Kottaras BA Hons (Archaeology) – Associate Archaeologist (EMM) and David Kelly BTP (Hons) – Senior Environmental Planner (EMM). External review was undertaken by Tory Stening of Comber Consultants, who is one of the nominated excavation directors.

1.5 Acknowledgments

Staff at the State Library and the State Records provided invaluable assistance. Assistance in investigating land titles and early mapping was provided by Robert Parkinson at the Land and Property Information Division of the Department of Finance and Services. Research in the Castle Hill area was provided by Castle Hill Local studies librarian Kylie Dobbie.

1.6 The Aboriginal past

The majority of information about the social and cultural structure of Aboriginal society before contact with new settlers comes from accounts made by Europeans. These accounts and observations were made after massive social disruption due to disease and displacement. As a result, this information is often contentious, particularly in relation to language area boundaries. The discussion below is based on information obtained for early settlers and explorers in the Castle Hill area.

The dominant Aboriginal language group for the study area was the Darug (hinterland) (according to Attenbrow 2010 p.34). Their territory extended from the mouth of the Hawkesbury River inland to Mount Victoria, Campbelltown and Liverpool (Tindale 1974). The surrounding landscape, including the Hawkesbury River, would have yielded fresh water and fresh water fish, crustaceans and shellfish. Men and women fished, women hunted small animals such as lizards and snakes while men hunted the larger animals such as kangaroos (GML 2012c, Hornsby Shire Council 2013). This diet was supplemented by edible flowers and plant roots, honey, berries and fruits.

Suitable stone for manufacture of stone tools occurs across the Cumberland Plain. The closest raw material would have been the silcrete of the St Mary's formation at Plumpton Ridge, Eastern Creek and Marsden Park (GML 2012c p.13).

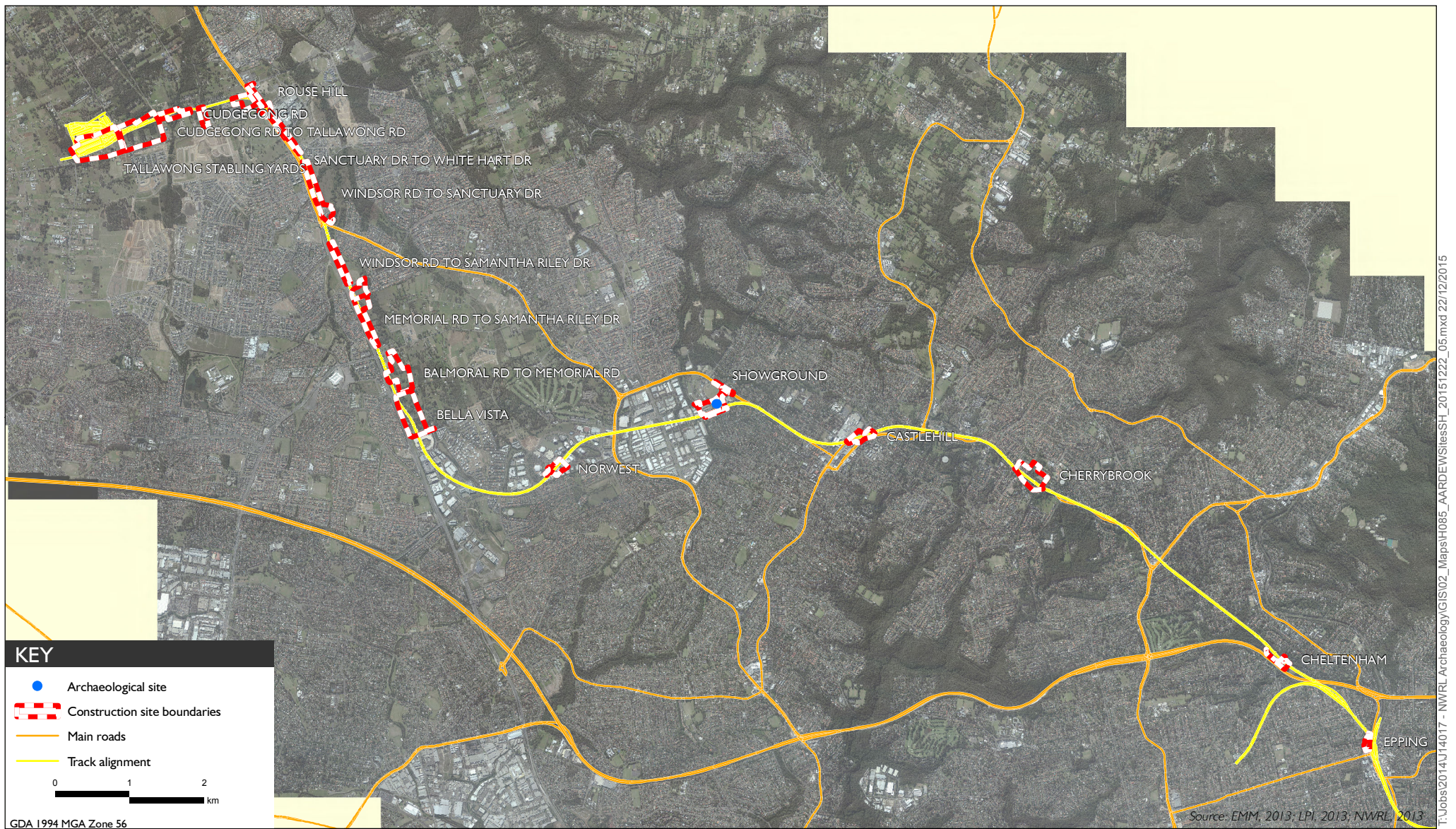
The Aboriginal cultural heritage issues in the study area have been addressed in GML 2012c.

1.7 Historical context

The Castle Hill area was initially reserved by the colonial Government as part of a 34,539 acre area known as the Government Grounds, shown in Figure 2.1 (Carr *et al* 1997). This area was largely uninhabited but included government run model farms to test the productivity of the soil (Carr *et al* 1997). In 1811, a lunatic asylum was created in Castle Hill by Governor Macquarie, while the remaining area of the Government Grounds remained unoccupied but under the Government's control (Neil 1992 p.6). After approximately 1815, the Government Grounds were released to settlers as Crown Grants and the asylum was closed in 1826 (Carr *et al* 1997).

The model farms were a moderate success and the settlers who came to the area created a large agricultural district. Large land grants were given to George Suttor, the Mobbs family, Andrew McDougall and Matthew Pearce. The rich loamy soil of the area was suitable for the cultivation of fruit trees, particularly citrus, nectarines and peaches. Numerous plans, surveys and aerial photos note the large number of orchards in the Showground area.

The present day showground site was granted to the Show Society in 1890 for the purpose of a permanent showground (Castle Hill Show 2013). This development was in response to a number of previous sports and ploughing contests known as Castle Hill Sports Show Day hosted at multiple locations in Castle Hill.

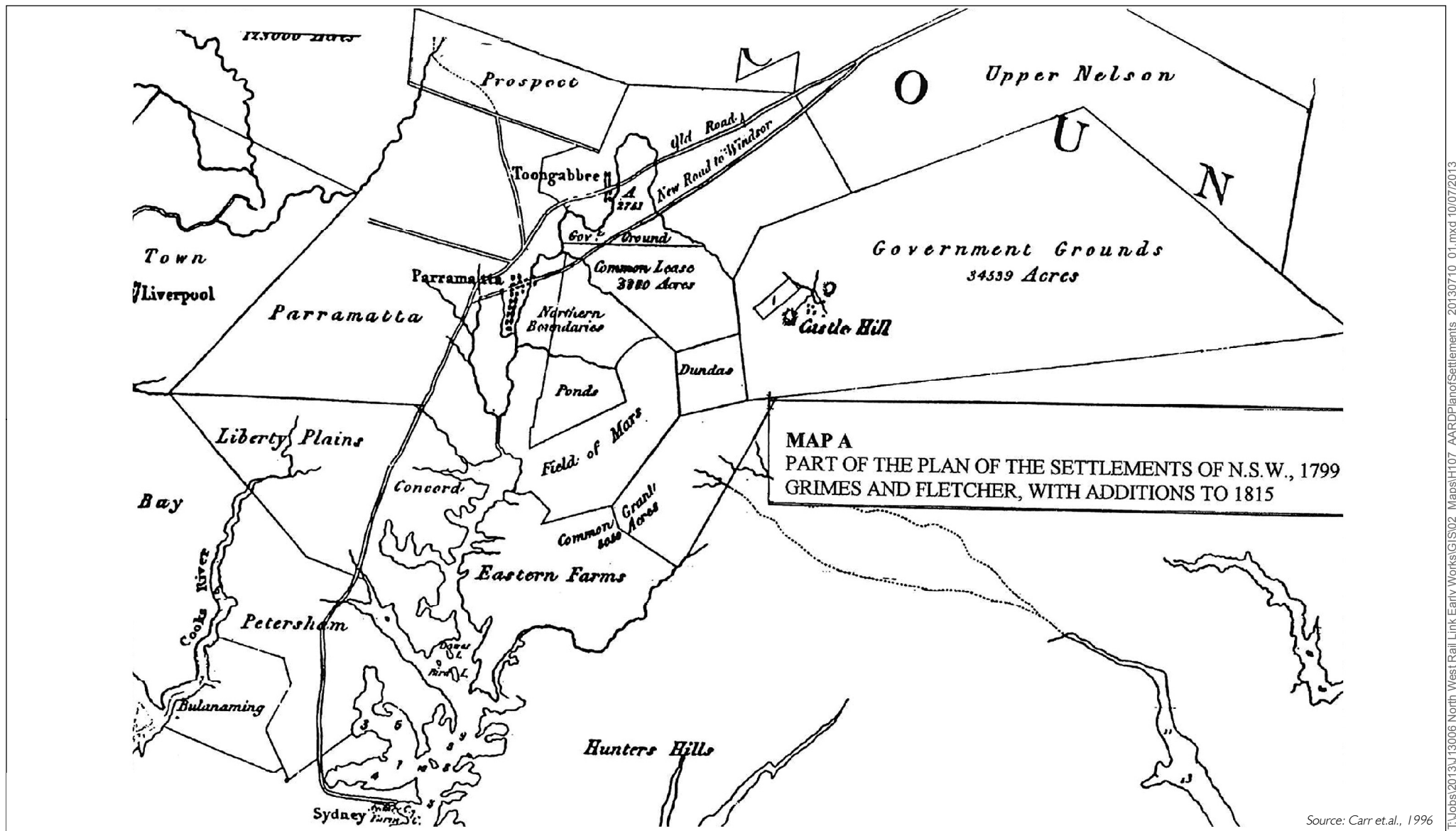




Showground study area

Sydney Metro Northwest

Figure 1.2



Part of the plan of the settlements of NSW 1799 Grimes and Fletcher, with additions to 1815

Sydney Metro Northwest
 Historical analysis

Figure 1.3

The annual Castle Hill Show, from 1891 to the present, initially focused on a sports and agricultural program (Castle Hill Show 2013). The Show soon expanded in scope and added the display of mechanised farm equipment and displays of motor cars to the once equine-focused atmosphere.

World War II saw the decline of activities in the show, with a complete lapse from 1941 until 1945 (Castle Hill Show 2013). During this period, the Showground was occupied by the Victorian Ambulance Brigade — part of the Australian army. In the wake of World War II, the show continually expanded to include exhibitions of cattle, dogs, fruit, vegetables, farm produce, needlework, horticulture, schoolwork, arts, crafts, hobbies and photography. From the late 1940s, The Castle Hill Show had the reputation of being second only to the Sydney Royal Easter Show, opening two weeks prior to it.

An article in the Windsor and Richmond Gazette recounts a journey through Castle Hill and Kellyville in 1893 which passed by the Showground which hosted a cricket match. No further information was given regarding buildings in the study area.

1.8 Development of the Showground study area

1.8.1 1800s – 2000s

As noted above, the study area was originally part of the large, Government Grounds until 1819 when 150 acres was granted to Michael Hancey. Hancey is shown on the parish maps for the area in the 1840s (Figure 2.2), 1850 (Figure 2.3), 1897 (Figure 2.4) and on an early map with no date listed (Figure 2.5).

Michael Hancey came as a free settler on the Minorca in 1801 with his brother William. Michael and William were granted adjoining parcels of land with Michael's falling within the study area (Watson 2010 p.18). A census in 1828 showed Michael as a carpenter residing in Sydney and William as a farmer with 17 acres of cultivated land, 5 horses and 16 sheep (Watson 2010 p.18).

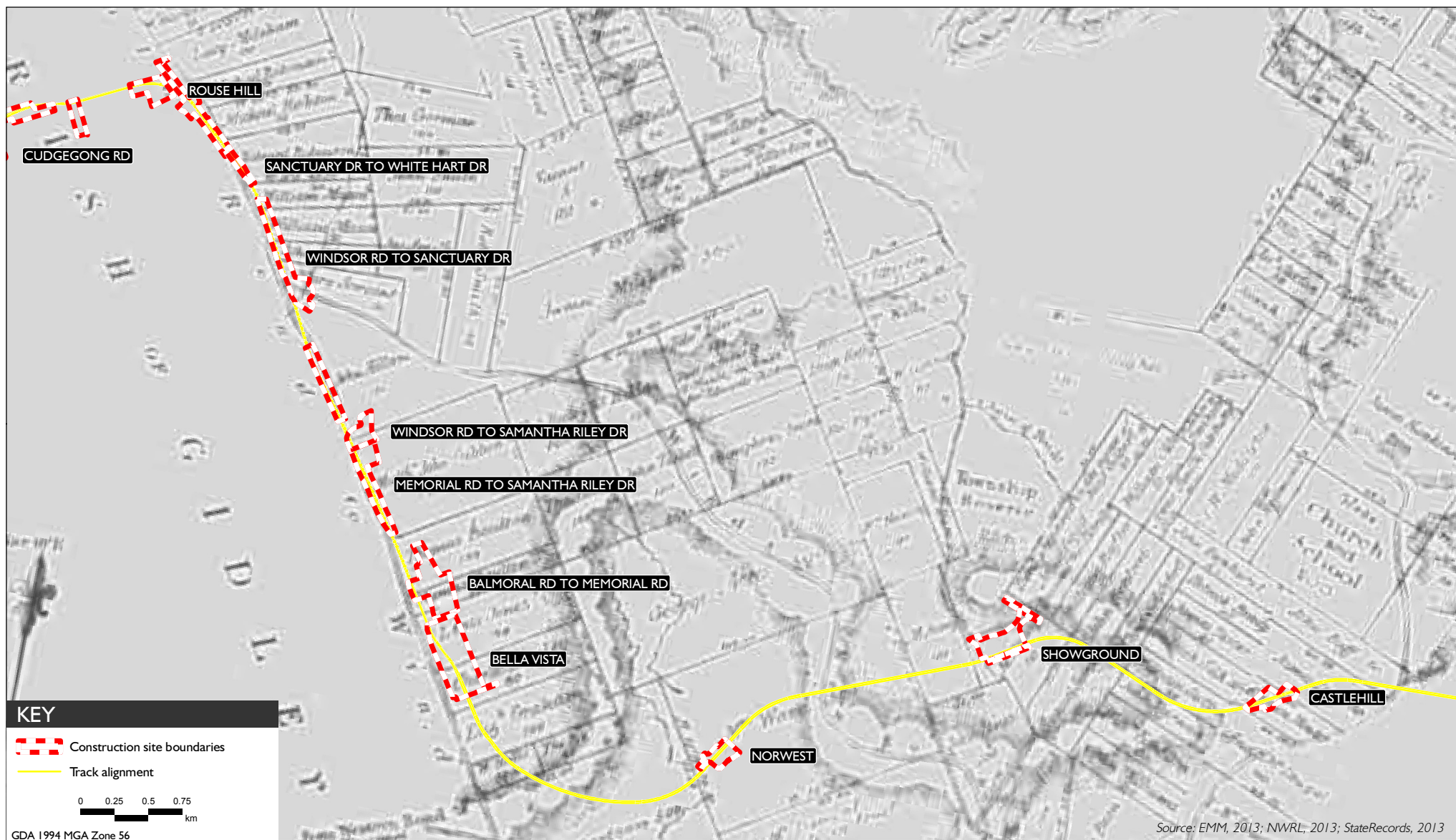
In 1891 the portion of Hancey's grant north of the study area was set aside as a showground. The land of the study area was then acquired by Alfred Thomas Carpenter, a clerk, in 1898. The land was subdivided and offered for sale in the Suttor's Estate subdivision of 1898 (Figure 2.6). No buildings are shown on the subdivision plan however the area's orchard land, suitable for citrus fruit growing is noted. The Suttor's Estate subdivision does not appear to have sold until 1908 when the land was transferred to William Arthur Power of Kellyville, who is listed as an orchardist. Power bought many blocks in the configuration of the Suttor's Estate subdivision including portions of the study area. He sold these blocks to a number of people including Milford Howard Reid, James Patterson, Walther Sydney James, Alfred Dowsett and George Henry Mobbs all in 1909. The study area was obtained by George Henry Mobbs, an auctioneer from Parramatta who also obtained a number of the Suttor Estate lots. Mobbs sold his portions over the next few years to Charles Fredrick Broughton (1911), George Sydney Smith (1911), Arthur John Baker (a farmer, 1911), Joseph Bothe (1912), Minnie May Stephens (1912), Arthur Kenwell (1912), James Kentwell (1912), Minnie Eliza Devine (1914), Sarah Jane Taylor (1914), Mary Jane Amos (1914), William Brown (1915), Henrietta Elizabeth Kentwell (1916), George Hammond (1919) and Dennis Coates (1922).

As a result of the sale by Mobbs, the study area fell into the ownership of two people. Sarah Jane Taylor obtained Lot 37 along Carrington Road and Dennis Coates obtained the adjacent Lot 36. Lot 36 was then obtained by Charles Fredrick Lloyd, a labourer from Auburn in 1922. It was passed to Ernestine Panacek in 1929 and then to George and Amelia Lamb in 1932.

Oral history for the Castle Hill area notes that the Taylors and two foster children lived along Carrington Road on a small farm (Watson 2010 p.55).

The Panacek family are mentioned three times in the local newspapers, first in 1925 after the sudden death of Metod Panacek husband to Ernestine, and then Ernestine is noted as receiving a clock for her birthday in 1935. At this stage the family had moved to Merrylands. In 1939, Ernestine's youngest daughter's 16th birthday party was noted as occurring at the Merrylands School of Arts. Additionally before his death, Metod was possibly being investigated by the federal police for spying.





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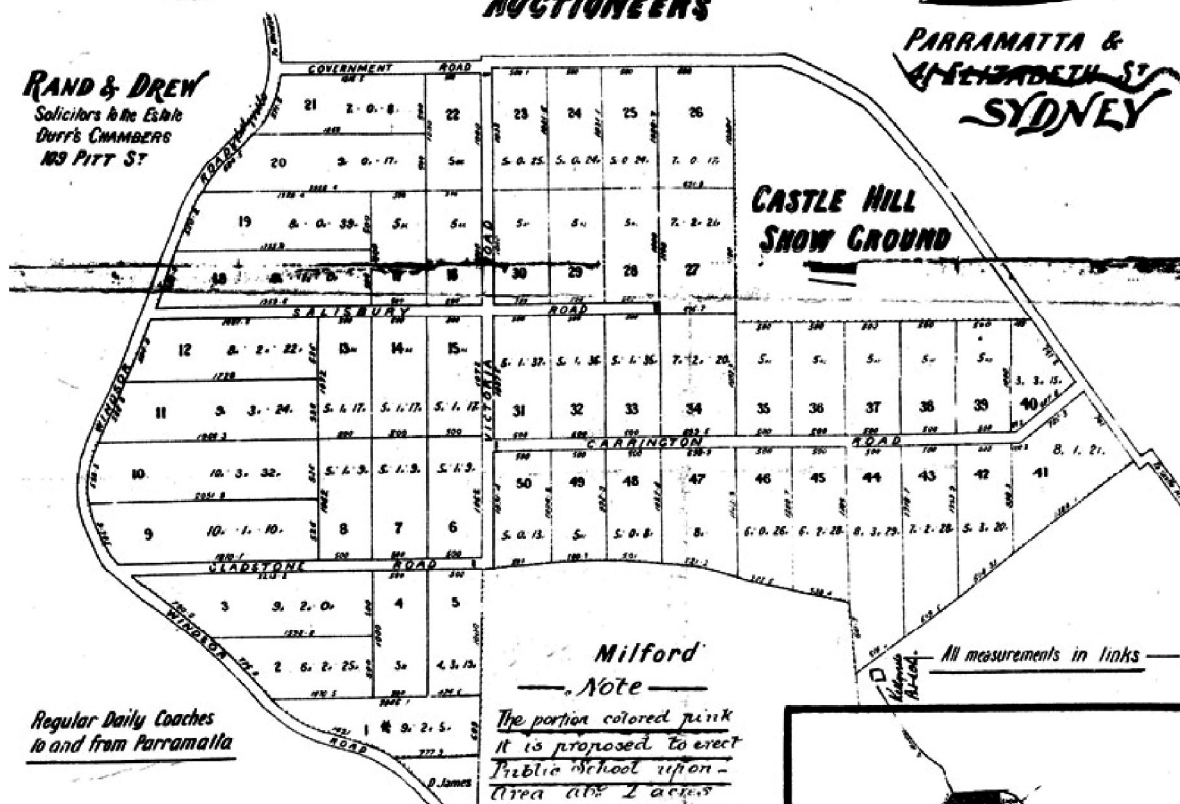
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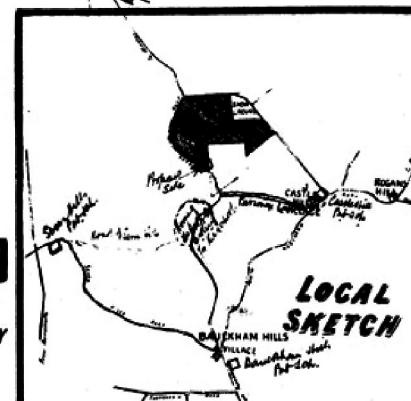
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Source: State Library, 2013

The death of George Mobbs was recorded in the Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate in 1946 which noted that he was a member of the Parramatta Bowling Club and stood but lost as an independent candidate for parliament and established one of the first estate agencies in Parramatta.

In 1947, Lot 36 of the study area was obtained by David John, a farmer and his wife Mary. Myra John, possibly their relation (although not definitively determined), obtained title of the land in 1950.

An unprovenanced plan possibly from the 1920s and possibly a topographic map, noted in GML (2012a) and Casey and Lowe (2006), shows two buildings located in the study area between Showground Road to the east and Cattai Creek to the west (Figure 2.7). Detailed investigation has been attempted on this map and information from Land and Property Information (Robert Parkinson pers comm) suggests that the style of mapping evident is reminiscent of the topo format (not topographic) maps from the 1940s era. Alternatively this mapping could be based on topo format surveys completed between 1929 and the mid 1940s.

The earliest aerial photograph of the study area in 1928 shows a predominantly rural area with Cattai Creek heavily vegetated and a combination of orchards and cleared land surrounding (Figure 2.8). The oval show ring of the Showground is clearly visible to the north of the study area and surrounding it is a number of buildings, none of which fall in the study area. One structure is noted near the centre of the study area, set back from Carrington Road surrounded by vegetation to the east and cleared land to the west. A smaller structure is also located in the cleared land adjacent.

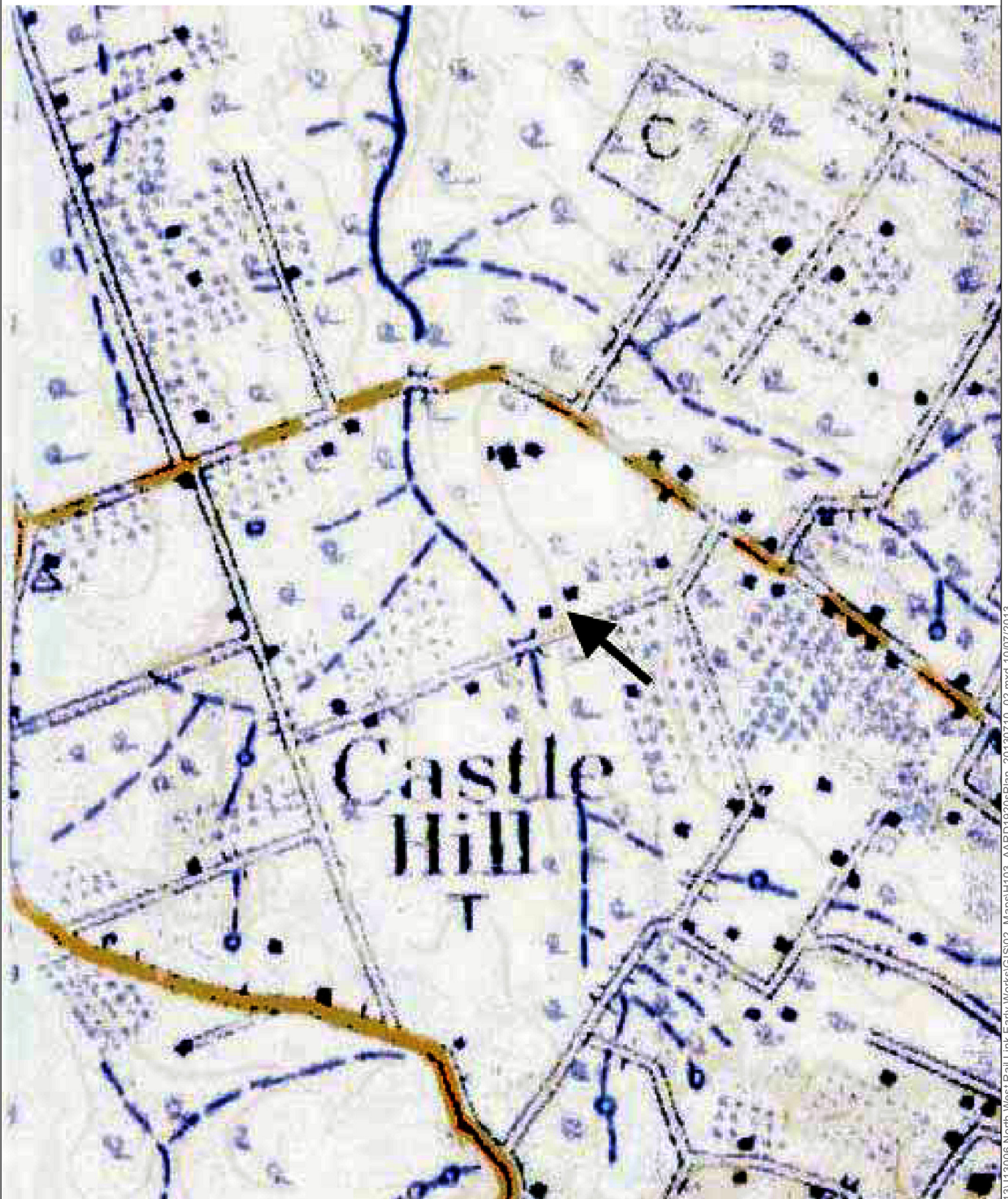
The 1947 aerial photograph of the study area shows a slight change to the shape of the Showground oval. A complex of buildings is clearly visible in the centre of the study area and two smaller groups of buildings are located in adjacent lots (arrows in Figure 2.9). The majority of the land is either cleared, or heavily vegetated. Small orchards are scattered throughout. The area remained unchanged in 1956 (Figure 2.10). A newspaper article from 1949 indicated that the area in front of the showground entrance (now the Council Works Depot) was a large rubbish dump. The Castle Hill Showground Trust asked for it to be removed prior to the Castle Hill Show on March 25 1949.

Lot 37 remained in the ownership of Sarah Jane Taylor until December 1952 when it was bought by Herbert Roy Alley, a horse trainer from Parramatta. Herbert consolidated the land around the study area including Lot 36 and 37. Oral history records convey that he was known as Bert Alley and trained trotters, leasing the adjacent Showground track to train them (Watson 2010 p.55).

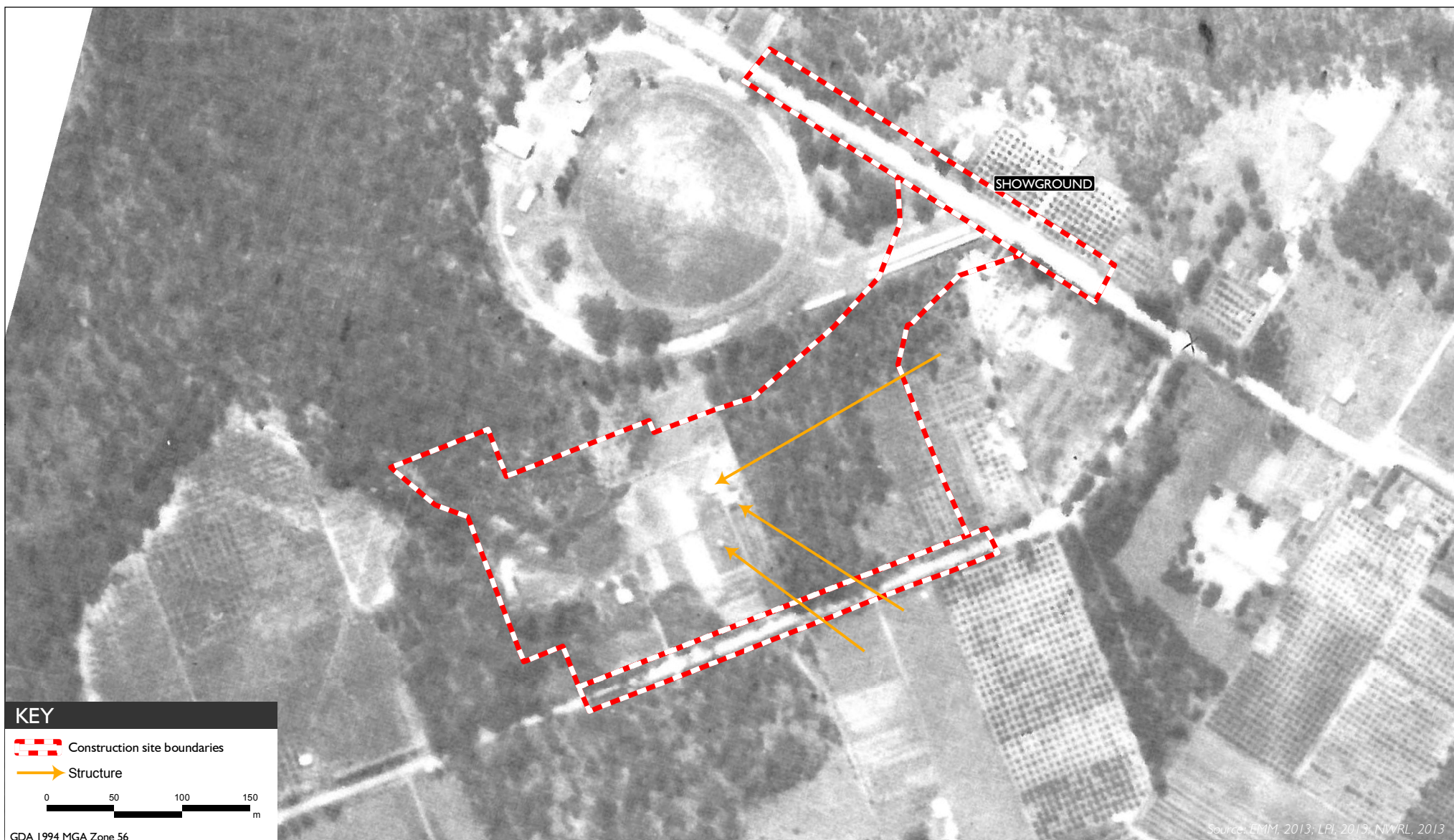
The aerial photograph from 1961 (Figure 2.11) shows a similar layout of houses as compared to 1947. Vegetation has been removed throughout the study area and fewer orchards are visible. In the north area of the lots belonging to Herbert Alley structures have been constructed which resemble horse stables. Alley transferred some of the land to MA Rose Holdings Pty Ltd in 1971 and another portion to the Baulkham Hills Shire Council in 1970. The Baulkham Hills Shire Council (now the Hills Shire Council) consolidated all of the land in the study area in 1977 after obtaining title over the rest of Alley's land.

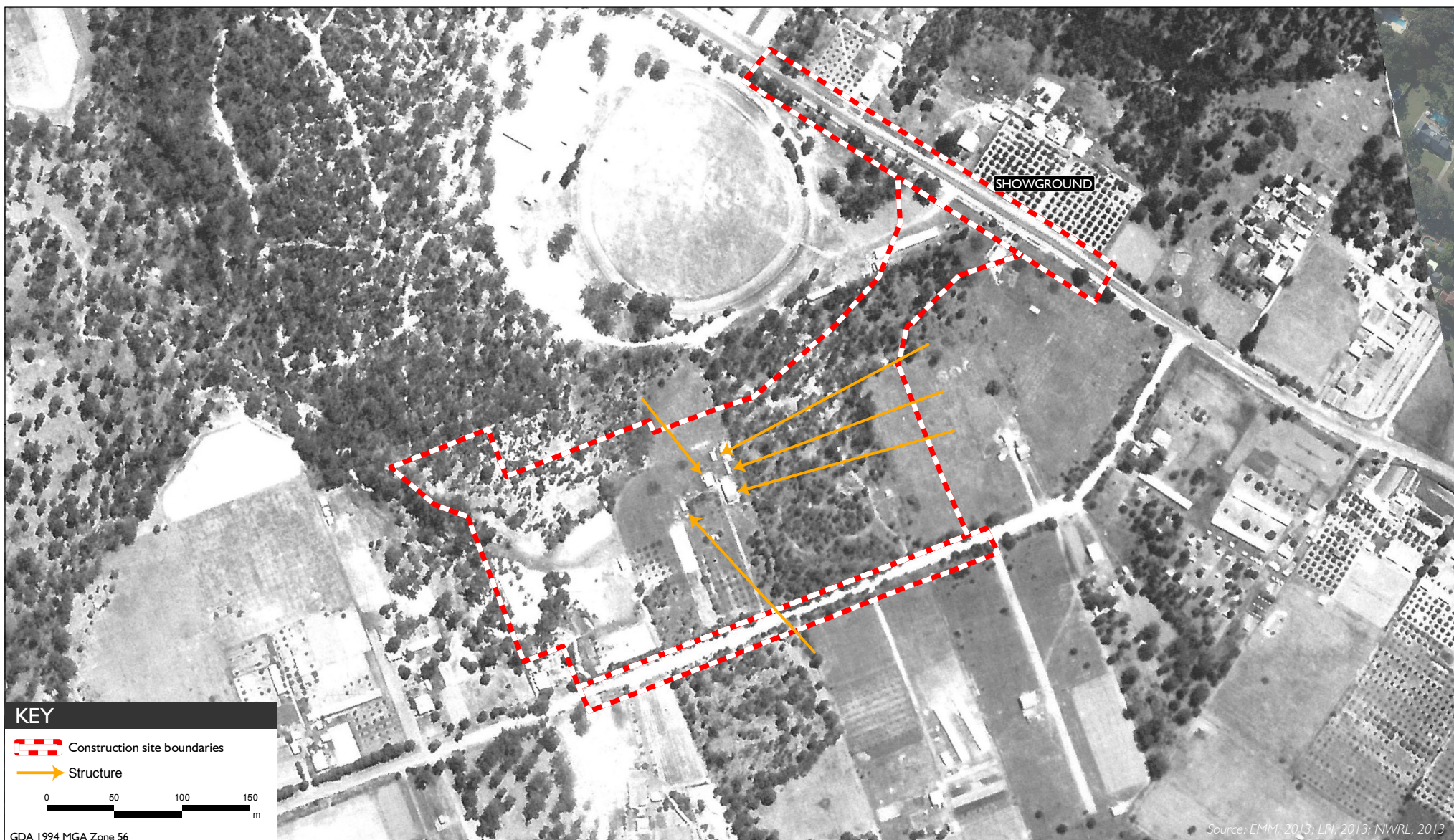
The 1978 aerial photograph of the study area shows it has been extensively cleared for the provision of two soccer fields and the construction of the Hills Shire Council Works Depot and a road to the showground (Figure 2.12). The Hills Shire Council built their Council Chambers adjacent to the study area fronting Showground and Carrington roads. It is visible on the 1986 aerial photograph (Figure 2.13) along with more land clearing. The surrounding area has experienced considerable expansion with subdivision and housing development.

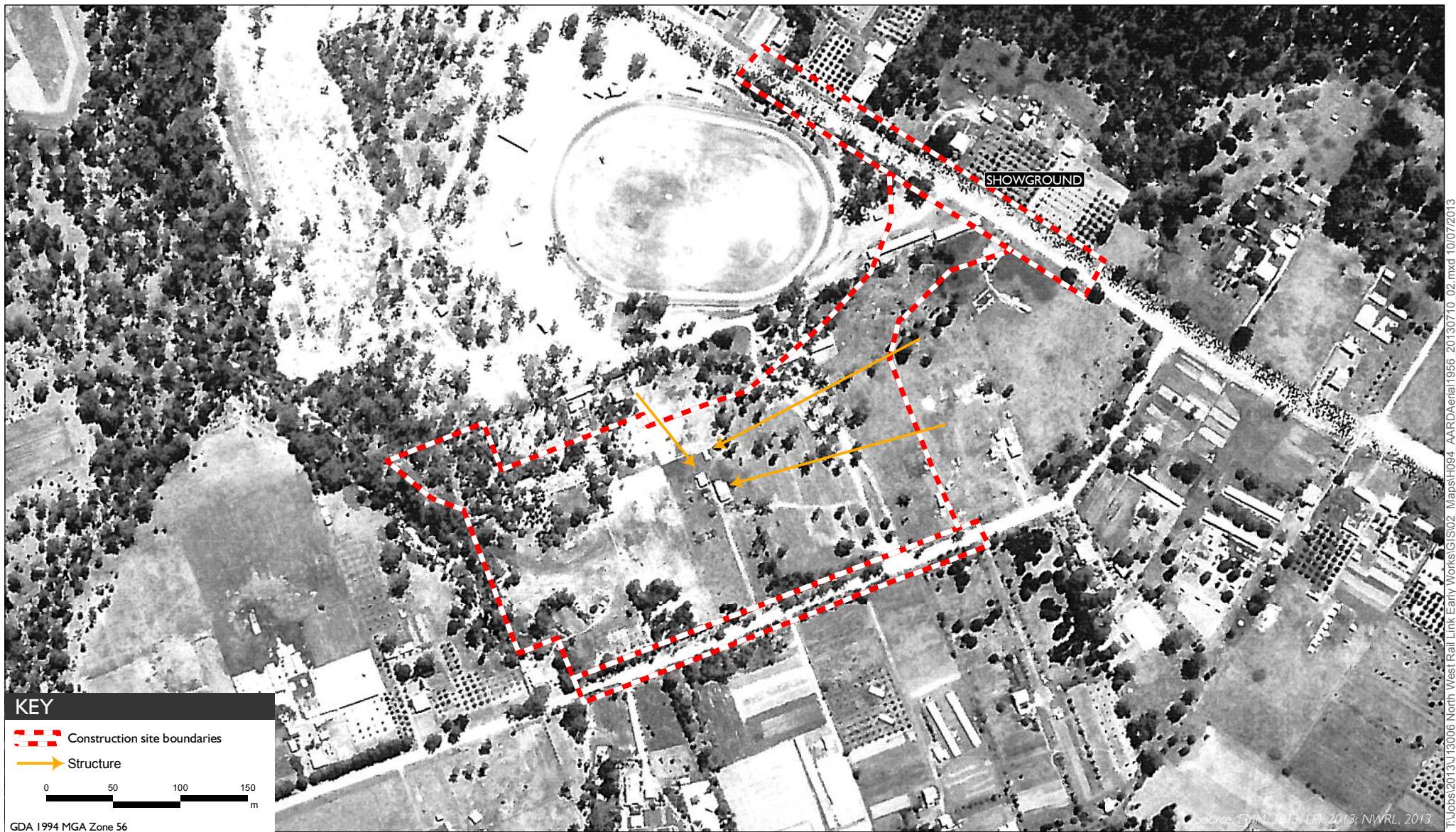
The 1994 aerial photograph shows the consolidation of the Council Chambers including car parking and the construction of the Hills Entertainment Centre, which also includes a large car park and landscaped areas (Figure 2.14). The Hills Shire Council Depot has also expanded to include bitumen areas.

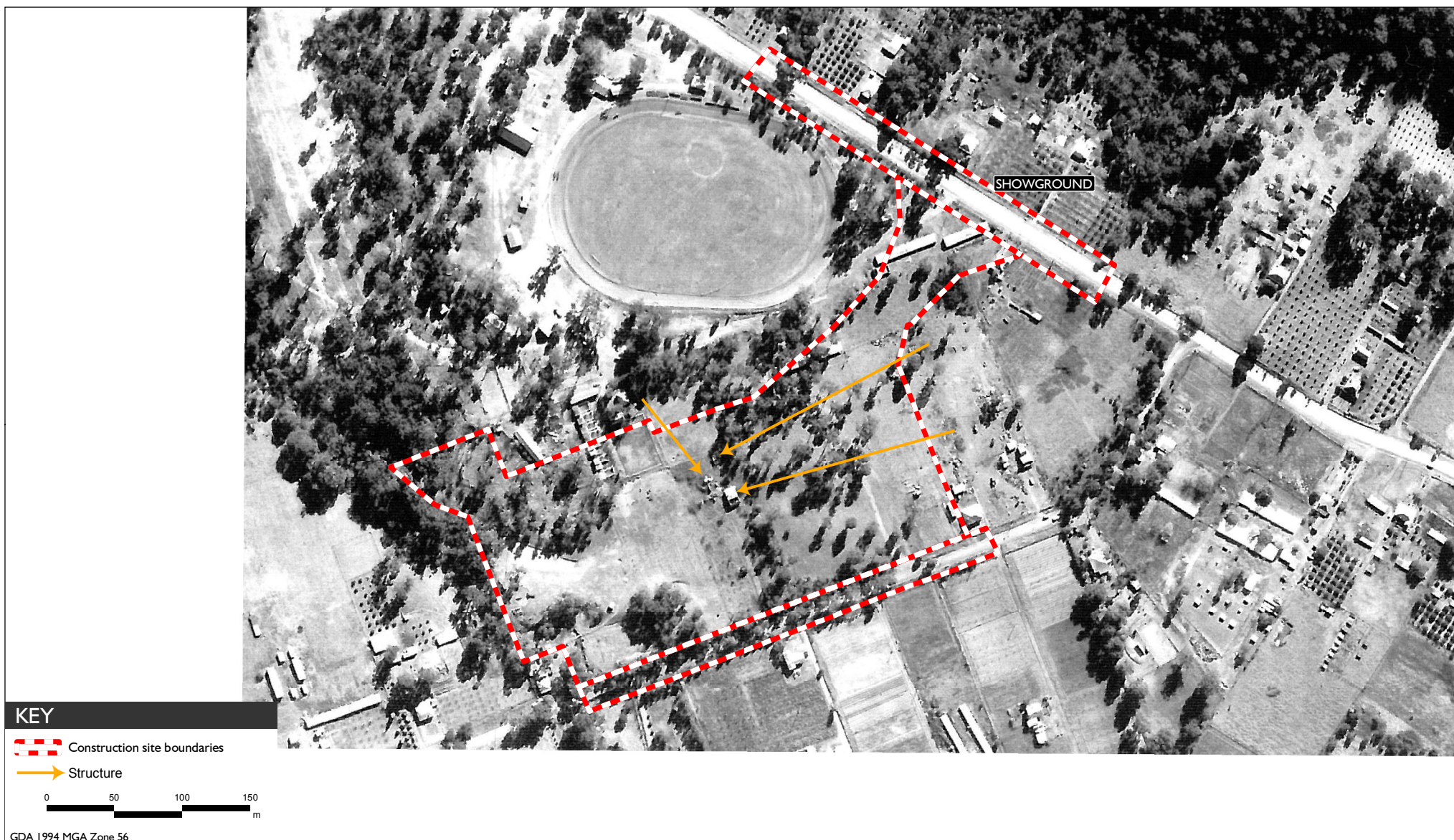


Source: EMM, 2012; State Library, 2013

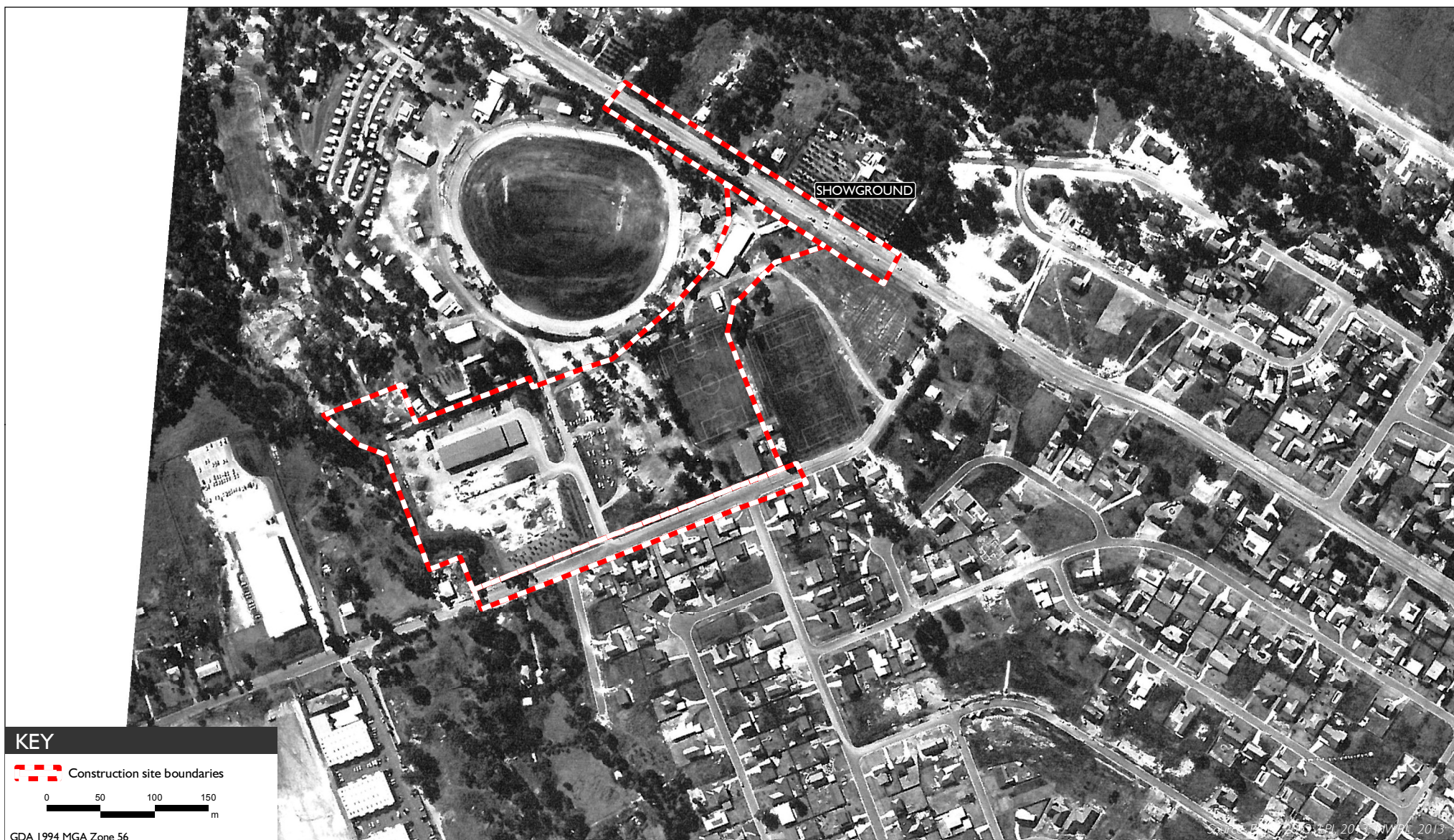






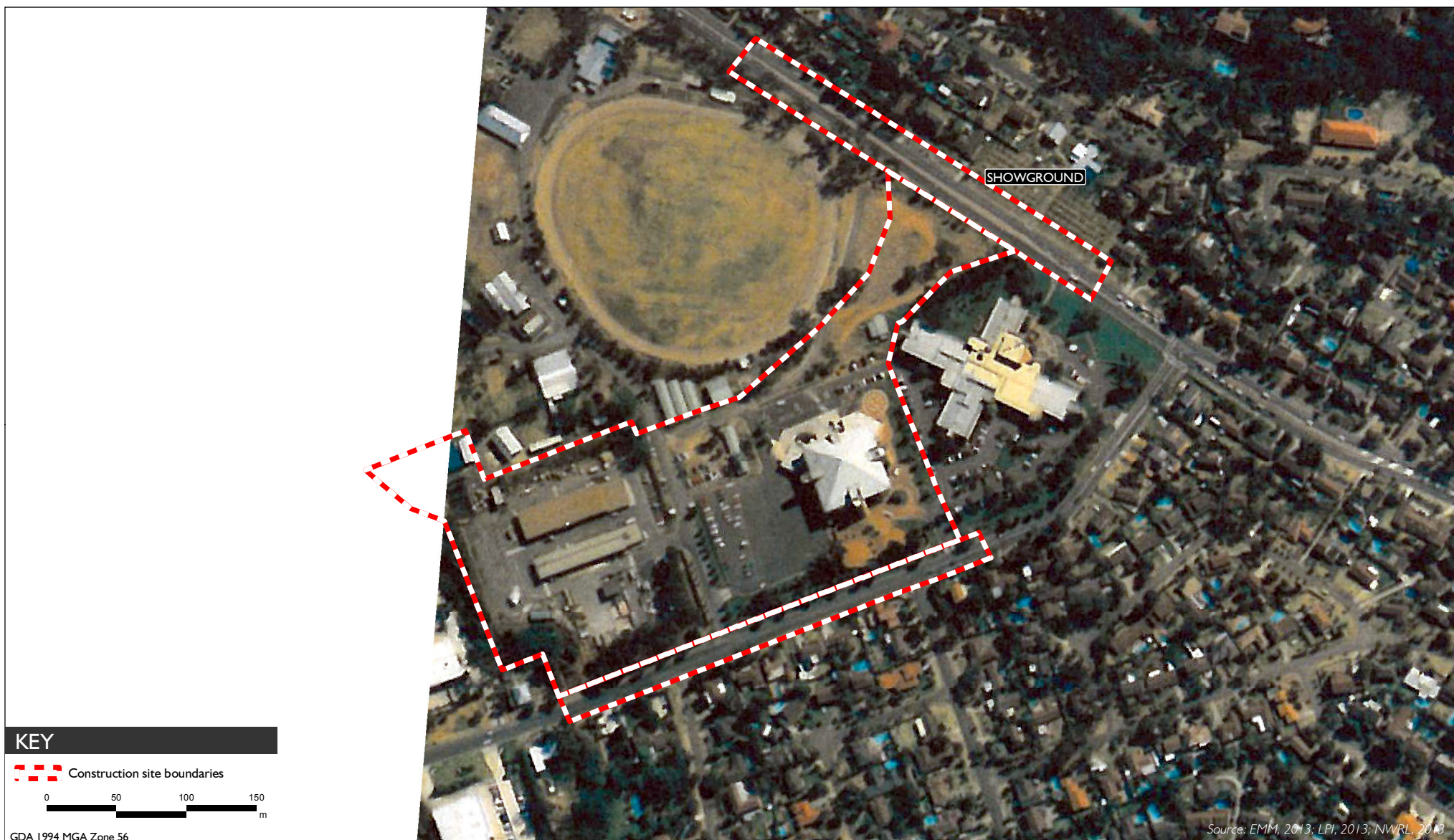


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1.8.2 Present date

Today the study area contains the Hills Entertainment Centre a large bitumen car park and the Hills Shire Hills Shire Council Works Depot (Figure 2.15). Surrounding the study area is the Castle Hill Showground and the Hills Shire Council Chambers. Industrial buildings are located to the west towards Victoria Avenue and houses are located further to the south and east.

The historic themes relevant to the archaeological investigation of the study area were taken from the NSW Heritage Branch website (www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritage/index.htm). These have been used as a source and starting point in the formulation of research questions for the proposed archaeological monitoring program.

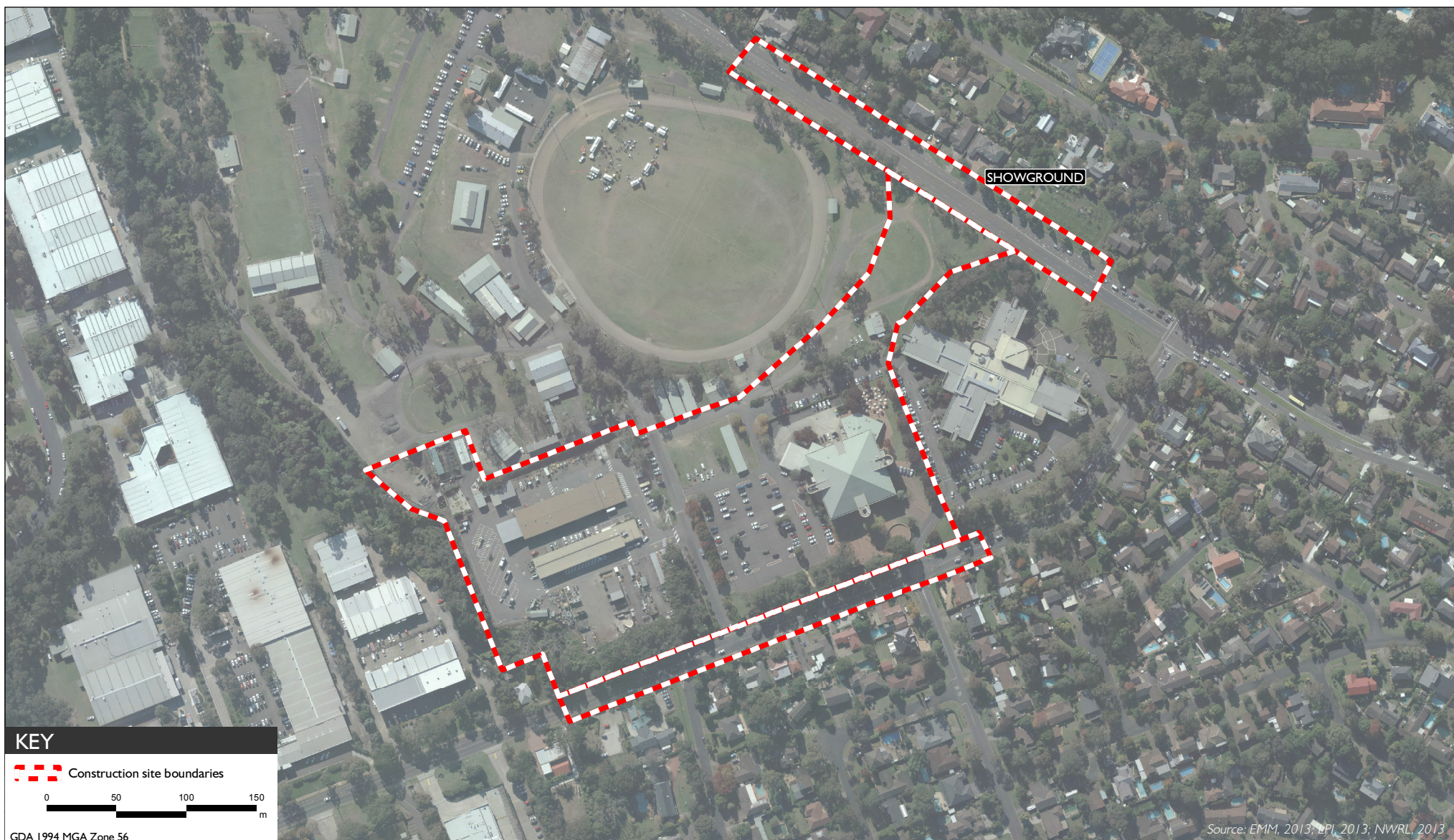
1.9 Historic themes

The national historic themes relating to the study area are:

- building settlements, towns and cities;
- marking the phases of life;
- developing Australia's cultural life; and
- developing local, regional and national economies.

The NSW historic state themes relating to the study area are:

- pastoralism;
- accommodation;
- domestic life;
- land tenure;
- environment – cultural landscape;
- persons; and
- agriculture.



1.10 Overview from research

An evaluation of the study area aids in the identification of archaeological potential as well as the significance of potential relics. It is achieved through a process of analysing the archival sources, historical maps, plans and photographs, comparing historic aerals with modern aerals and the results of the site visit, as well as reviewing previous reports for sites in the vicinity and other like-sites. The following sections address the sources of information that have assisted with the assessment of archaeological potential and assessment of significance.

1.10.1 Aboriginal occupation

Aboriginal people utilised and passed through the Castle Hill area for thousands of years. A due diligence Aboriginal heritage assessment identified an Aboriginal site located outside the construction site and an area of archaeological potential adjacent to Cattai Creek (GML 2012b p.60). A survey identified a potential archaeological deposit (NWRL PAD 3) adjacent to Cattai Creek.

A separate Aboriginal heritage assessment and salvage excavation has been completed by RPS. Excavations of four test pits have occurred close to Cattai Creek which have revealed the area's use as a rubbish dumping ground. Excavation pits uncovered fragments of asbestos and building demolition and Aboriginal stakeholders noted in their memories of the site that it was used for rubbish dumping during the twentieth century (Erin Williams pers comm). No Aboriginal artefacts were uncovered. These results will be presented in a separate report.

In the event that any subsurface deposits containing Aboriginal relics are found, they are likely to consist of isolated or low density artefacts with disturbed soil profiles. The unexpected finds protocol includes Aboriginal heritage objects and should these objects be found all work will cease in the vicinity of the finds until an assessment of significance can be made in consultation with the registered Aboriginal parties for the project.

1.10.2 Early grants

The study area was part of the 34,539 acre Government Grounds and used for farm production until approximately 1815. The Government farm and asylum are located approximately 2 km to the east of the study area and it is likely that the study area was used for cattle grazing and crops during this time. While it may be possible that vernacular structures were built illegally, on government grounds, no documentary evidence has been found that suggests this and any evidence of early structures may have survived only in fragmentary form. Subsequent subdivision and cultivation of the land is likely to have disturbed the context of early structures.

The land was alienated in 1819 and granted to Michael Hancey. There is little information on his land grant, though it does appear on the parish records until the 1900s. No information has been found in regards to his use of the land or to any structures present. The Showground was alienated from this grant in 1891 and used for many events, however it is outside the study area. The modern aerial photographs suggest that the land has been heavily cultivated which may have removed evidence of Hancey's use of the land, if indeed he did proceed with modifications.

1.10.3 Agricultural practices

The study area has been predominantly used for orcharding and farming, particularly during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The local soil was considered loamy and good for farming, as noted in the Suttor's Estate subdivision of 1898. Citrus and fruit trees thrived and large portions of the

Castle Hill area was turned into orchards (Watson 2010 p.9). This included the study area. The aerial photographs in 1928 (Figure 2.8) and 1947 (Figure 2.9) clearly show rows of orchard trees and areas of cleared land likely used for cropping. As shown in later aerial photographs when the fruit trees were removed, the landscape retained the furrows and tracks of the cultivated areas. Crop marks of the orchard are still visible in aerial photographs from 1956 and 1961 and can be seen as faint lines in cleared areas. Additionally approximately 1 km to the north-east of the study area at 128 Showground Road an area of remnant orchard has been retained and trees and crop marks are clearly visible.

The occupations of many of the study areas owners were also related to agricultural practices including orchardists and farmers, helping to characterise the area as a rural and agricultural district well into the twentieth century.

In the 1950s, Herbert Alley due to his occupation as a horse trainer is likely to have kept horses on the property. Potential visual evidence of horse stables and pens is visible in the 1961 aerial photograph, however these items have been removed for subsequent construction activities.

Due to the recent development of the area including the large development of the Hills Entertainment Centre, crop marks are unlikely to have survived in this area. It is possible that the archaeological remains of sheds and other agricultural buildings have survived, particularly in areas which are less disturbed such as grassed areas and car parks. None of these items are visible on aerial photographs from the 1980s onwards.

1.10.4 Subdivision

The land title records show the development of the subdivision of the land from the original 150 acre grant to Michael Hancey in 1819 to the current area owned by the NSW Government. The development of subdivision in the study area is shown in Figure 3.1.

The grant of Hancey was consolidated into a much larger grant by Alfred Thomas Carpenter in 1898. It was then subdivided and offered for sale as part of the Suttor's Estate subdivision of 1898. It is unknown as to the success of the subdivision but the land configuration remained and the lots in the study area were bought by George Mobbs.

Mobbs sold the lots in the study area to Sarah Jane Taylor in 1914 and Dennis Coates in 1922. These lots were consolidated by Herbert Alley in 1952. The lot configuration remained consistent till the study area was divided into its modern subdivision boundaries.

1.10.5 Historic maps and plans

Minimal information has been obtained for the majority of the title holders of the study area from maps and plans, particularly in relation to any structures which may have been present during their holding of the title.

The parish records for this area do not provide any further indication of structures on the study areas. Parish maps are available for 1897, 1905 and 1924 and one map that has not been definitively dated but is attributed the date of 1920 by Casey and Lowe (2006) and GML (2012a). All parish maps regardless of the year show Michael Hancey as the owner of the land. This information is confirmed through the land title documents.

Little other mapping information was forthcoming. The only subdivision plan for the study area, the Suttor's Estate subdivision does not show any structures. Town water and sewerage was not connected in Castle Hill until after 1917.

Thus, it was considered unlikely that water board plans of the area would be present or able to provide further information on the study area. Similarly, fire and insurance maps were also considered but relevant information was not obtained.

A 1920s topographic map of the area shows two buildings present in an area between Cattai Creek and Showground Road, however as noted in Section 2. this map has been unable to be sourced and no further information on the buildings can be ascertained (Casey and Lowe 2006 and GML 2012a).

1.10.6 Structures on aerial photographs

The historic aerial photographs provide information on structures present in the study area. In the 1928 aerial photograph two groups of three or four structures are evident in the centre and south-west of the study area. It is possible that these buildings belonged to Sarah Jane Taylor or Dennis Coates who were owners of these properties during this time. The 1928 aerial photograph has considerable overexposure in parts and is difficult to read in sections. In the 1947 aerial photograph these buildings remain and are more clearly visible. Structures have been added to the groups and there is evidence of buildings scattered through the study area.

The 1956 aerial photograph shows small changes, including the removal of orchards along Carrington Road within the study area and vegetation clearing which is continued in the 1961 aerial photograph. It is possible this is the work of Herbert Roy Alley who was the owner of this land during this time.

The majority of structures have been removed by the 1978 aerial photograph which shows playing fields, the Hills Shire Council Works Depot, a grassed car park and large cleared area. Carrington Road has been paved and widened and Doran Drive is visible as a paved Road in the centre of the study area. Some structures remain adjacent to the playing fields.

In the 1986 aerial photograph, clearing has continued and the construction of the Council Chambers is complete. The area between the Council Chambers and the Council Works Depot is cleared and grassed. None of the structures visible on earlier air photographs remain within the study area.

The construction of the Hills Entertainment Centre has been completed and is visible in the 1994 aerial photograph. A large car park covers the area between the Entertainment Centre and the Hills Shire Council Works Depot. Landscaping is evident on the majority of the study area though some small grassed areas remain. This is shown in the overlay of the 1947 aerial photograph over the 2013 aerial photograph (Figure 3.2).

1.10.7 Probate records

While probate records were canvassed, those who are listed as owners of the study area had transferred the land to another prior to their death. As such little information could be gained from these records regarding the study area.

1.10.8 Comparative studies

The local area has been subject to a limited number of archaeological investigations relating to domestic vernacular buildings and associated properties in the late nineteenth century and beyond. A search of the Heritage Branch library catalogue and other library resources identified only a few relevant previous investigations.

The most prominent archaeological investigation in the local area relates Castle Hill Heritage Park which is assessed to be of state heritage significance. The Castle Hill Heritage Park contains a number of known and potential archaeological sites, including the Third Government Farm, a lunatic asylum and barracks, a church and school, the remains of early dwellings and wells, roads, tracks fencing, and bridges of the early to mid-nineteenth century. The site was later adapted for orcharding from 1870 to 1930 (GML 2007). The Castle Hill Heritage Park has little comparative value with the current study area as it does not encompass late nineteenth–early twentieth vernacular buildings that were occupied during the agricultural phase of the study area. A mid-twentieth century domestic building and cistern remains in the north-east quadrant of the park, however it is likely to post-date any historical buildings constructed within the study area.

A number of showgrounds in NSW are listed on statutory registers including the State Heritage Listed Queanbeyan Showground. Locally heritage listed showgrounds include Bathurst Showground (McGregor Projects Architects and Builders 1995), Armidale Showground, Moree Showground, Maitland Showground (Conybeare Morrison International 2006), Moryua Showground and Sydney Showground (CSK Planning and Associates 1994). McMonnies (1996) also completed a study on rural showgrounds in the Hunter Valley. Showgrounds interacted with their surrounding environment and relationships often existed between the adjacent landholders and the Showground management. This was the case for the Bathurst Show which had to rely on sympathetic landholders before finding a permanent site (McGregor Projects Architects and Builders 1995 p.8). It was also the case for the Maitland Showground was held on various sites including adjoining land holdings (Conybeare Morrison International 2006 p.16). Therefore, it can be expected that structures relating to showground uses exist within the study area. These structures are likely to be related to animal holding pens, stables, cow sheds. Additionally, it is possible that structures relating to horse keeping and trotting may exist within the study area due to Herbert Alley's use of the site for horses and his use of the Showground for trotting training.

GML identified two pre-1920s house sites along Carrington Road (NWRL heritage site numbers 32 and 33) requiring further background research and potentially archaeological monitoring during construction activities. GML (2012a p.20) note these structures were visible on a 1920s plan. It is possible these sites were also shown on the 1928 and 1947 aerial photographs. As a result of their investigations GML (2012a) considered archaeological potential to be present in the east and west of the study area. However, these areas do not correspond to the result of this investigation. This investigation has shown that during the 1920s, structures present are located in the centre of the study area. The areas identified by GML (2012a) have also been subject to considerable disturbance for the construction of the Hills Entertainment Centre and the Hills Shire Council Works Depot and the archaeological potential in these areas is very low. No above ground evidence of these structures was located during the field survey (GML 2012a p.20).

Two pre 1920s sites were also listed in the Casey and Lowe (2006) preliminary report on the North West Rail link as items 125 and 126. These sites were identified on a 1920s plan which has not been able to be recovered. The picture of the 1920s plan contained in the Casey and Lowe (2006) report has been geo-referenced and the structures which it depicts are located within the centre of the study area.

In its Shire-wide heritage study during the 1990s, the Hills Shire Council considered archaeological sites but no sites along Carrington Road were listed.

Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Term
£	Pounds
\$	dollars
AHD	Australian Height Datum
AHIMS	Aboriginal heritage information management system
BOM	Bureau of Meteorology
BH	borehole
c	circa
cm	centimetres
DP	Deposited Plan
DP&I	Department of Planning and Infrastructure
EMM	EMGA Mitchell McLennan Pty Limited
EP&A Act	<i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i>
GML	Gooden Mackay Logan
km	kilometres
LEP	Local Environmental Plan
LGA	Local Government Area
m	metres
m ²	metres squared
MCoA	Ministers Conditions of Approval
mm	millimetres
NSW	New South Wales
NWRL	North West Rail Link
OEH	Office of Environment and Heritage
PAD	Potential archaeological deposit
RMS	Roads and Maritime Services
SHR	State Heritage Register
t	Tonne
TfNSW	Transport for NSW
TP	Test pit

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Appendix B

Test excavation photography

PHOTO CATALOGUE: Sydney Metro Northwest

SHOWGROUND

#	Date	Location	Description	Aspect
IMG_4821	03.09.2013	OA1	Area pre-excavation	N NW
IMG_4822	03.09.2013	OA1	Area pre-excavation	SW
IMG_4823	03.09.2013	OA1	Area pre-excavation	S
IMG_4824	03.09.2013	OA1	Area pre-excavation	NE
IMG_4825	03.09.2013	OA1	Area pre-excavation	NE
IMG_4826	03.09.2013	OA1	Destroying the Hills Centre	E
IMG_4827	03.09.2013	OA1	General location of future Area 2	E
IMG_4828	03.09.2013	OA1	Start of machine excavation. Tory Stening	W
IMG_4829	03.09.2013	OA1	Machine scrape. Working shot.	E
IMG_4830	03.09.2013	OA1	Photo board for base of [1]	NW
IMG_4831	03.09.2013	OA1	Top of [2] (orange clay)	NW
IMG_4832	03.09.2013	OA1	Top of [2] with [1] on right	SW
IMG_4833	03.09.2013	OA1	Top of [2] (background) with [1] (foreground)	SE
IMG_4834	03.09.2013	OA1	Top of [2] (right) base of [1] left	NE
IMG_4835	03.09.2013	OA1	Feature [3] unexcavated	N at top
IMG_4836	03.09.2013	OA1	Feature [3] unexcavated	N at top
IMG_4837	03.09.2013	OA1	Sandstone fragment in [2]	N at top
IMG_4838	03.09.2013	OA1	Photo board "post" alignment	
IMG_4839	03.09.2013	OA1	Feature [3] and [4] in base of [1]; possible post holes?	NW
IMG_4840	03.09.2013	OA1	Feature [3] and [4] in base of [1]; possible post holes?	NW
IMG_4841	03.09.2013	OA1	Feature [3] and [4] in base of [1]; possible post holes? With north arrow	NW
IMG_4842	03.09.2013	OA1	Feature [3] and [4] in base of [1]; possible post holes? With north arrow	NW
IMG_4843	03.09.2013	OA1	Destruction of the Hills Centre	E
IMG_4844	03.09.2013	OA1	Tory Stening and Irek Golka	SE
IMG_4845	03.09.2013	OA1	Feature [3] and [4] in base of [1]; possible post holes?	NE
IMG_4846	03.09.2013	OA1	North corner of area showing section. Rubble at top is a result of a recent stockpile	NW
IMG_4847	03.09.2013	OA1	Clay/charcoal fill [5] in north west corner of area	SE
IMG_4848	03.09.2013	OA1	Clay/charcoal fill [5] in north west corner of area	SE
IMG_4849	03.09.2013	OA1	Context shot showing [5] in foreground	E
IMG_4850	03.09.2013	OA1	[3] feature	N at top
IMG_4851	03.09.2013	OA1	[3] feature	N
IMG_4852	03.09.2013	OA1	[4] feature	N at top
IMG_4853	03.09.2013	OA1	[4] feature	N
IMG_4854	03.09.2013	OA1	[4] feature	N
IMG_4855	03.09.2013	OA1	Test trench 1: removing [2] on the west side	W NW
IMG_4856	04.09.2013	OA1	Early morning photo: [1], [2], [3], [4]	NW
IMG_4857	04.09.2013	OA1	Photo board	
IMG_5858	04.09.2013	OA1	Early morning photo: [1], [2], [3], [4]	NW
IMG_4859	04.09.2013	OA1	[1] foreground, TT1 background	SW
IMG_4860	04.09.2013	OA1	TT1 with [1] fill; [5] orange fill, [8] bedrock	SE

PHOTO CATALOGUE: Sydney Metro Northwest

SHOWGROUND

#	Date	Location	Description	Aspect
IMG_4861	04.09.2013	OA1	TT1. Ryan Desic	NW
IMG_4862	04.09.2013	OA1	TT1 [1] back, [2], [8] bedrock	NW
IMG_4863	04.09.2013	OA1	NE area of excavation with [1], [2], [3], [4]	NE
IMG_4864	04.09.2013	OA1	Photo board	
IMG_4865	04.09.2013	OA1	TT1 West section detail	NW
IMG_4866	04.09.2013	OA1	TT1 West Section general	NW
IMG_4867	04.09.2013	OA1	TT1 West section general showing [1], [2], [8]	NW
IMG_4868	04.09.2013	OA1	TT1 East section centre	NE
IMG_4869	04.09.2013	OA1	TT1 East section north end	NE
IMG_4870	04.09.2013	OA1	TT1 East section south end	NE
IMG_4871	04.09.2013	OA1	TT1 East section with background	NE
IMG_4872	04.09.2013	Area 2	Photo board	
IMG_4873	04.09.2013	Area 2	Start of Area 2 [9] gravel layer	NW
IMG_4874	04.09.2013	Area 2	Start of Area 2 [9] gravel layer with bitumen of car park visible to the right	N
IMG_4875	04.09.2013	Area 2	Start of Area 2 [9] gravel layer with bitumen of car park visible to the right	NE
IMG_4876	04.09.2013	Area 2	Start of Area 2 [9] gravel layer with bitumen of car park visible at back	SE
IMG_4877	04.09.2013	Area 2	Start of Area 2 [9] gravel layer with bitumen of car park visible to the right	SE
IMG_4878	04.09.2013	Area 2	Start of Area 2 [9] gravel layer with bitumen of car park visible to the right. General	S
IMG_4879	04.09.2013	Area 2	TT2 Start of machine excavation [11] residual soil	SW
IMG_4880	04.09.2013	Area 2	TT2 [11] residual soil/degrading bedrock (very tough compact and consolidated generally)	SW
IMG_4881	04.09.2013	Area 2	TT2 Clearing back [11]	SW
IMG_4882	04.09.2013	Area 2	Photo board for final photos	
IMG_4883	04.09.2013	Area 2	TT2 working shot	NW
IMG_4884	04.09.2013	Area 2	TT2 after cleanup with [11] residual soil, [12] bedrock	NW
IMG_4885	04.09.2013	Area 2	TT2 North section	NW
IMG_4886	04.09.2013	Area 2	TT2 at completion	SW
IMG_4887	04.09.2013	Area 2	TT2 at completion context	SW
IMG_4888	04.09.2013	Area 2	TT2 at completion [12] at southern end of trench	SE
IMG_4889	04.09.2013	Area 2	TT2 at completion [12] at southern end of trench	SE
IMG_4890	04.09.2013	Area 2	TT2 at completion [11], [12]	E
IMG_4891	04.09.2013	Area 2	TT2 east section	NE
IMG_4892	04.09.2013	Area 2	TT2 complete excavation	N
IMG_4893	04.09.2013	Area 2	TT2 east section with north arrow error	NE
IMG_4894	04.09.2013	Area 2	TT2 east section	NE
IMG_4895	04.09.2013	Area 2	TT2 completely excavated	N
IMG_4896	04.09.2013	Area 2	TT2 south section	SE
IMG_4897	04.09.2013	Area 2	TT2 south section	SE

PHOTO CATALOGUE: Sydney Metro Northwest SHOWGROUND

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IMG_4822



IMG_4823



IMG_4824



IMG_4825



IMG_4826



IMG_4827



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IMG_4829



IMG_4830



IMG_4831



IMG_4832



IMG_4833



IMG_4834



IMG_4835



IMG_4836



IMG_4837



IMG_4838



IMG_4839



IMG_4840



IMG_4841



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IMG_4849



IMG_4850



IMG_4851



IMG_4852



IMG_4853



IMG_4854



IMG_4855



IMG_4856



IMG_4857



IMG_4858



IMG_4859



IMG_4860



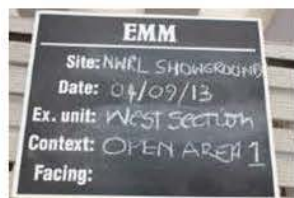
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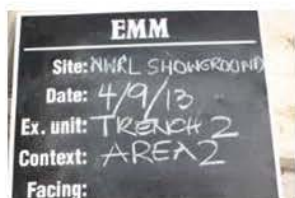
IMG_4879



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IMG_4885



IMG_4886



IMG_4887



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IMG_4889



IMG_4890



IMG_4891



IMG_4892



IMG_4893



IMG_4894



IMG_4895



IMG_4896



IMG_4897



IMG_4898

Appendix C

Context register

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Appendix D

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Vol 1915 Fol 224

Vol 2023 Fol 221

Vol 2507 Fol 130

Vol 3292 Fol 175



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