



CONSULTING

**Archaeological Assessment of Lot 101 DP 1037972
Brunker Road, Adamstown NSW**

Defence Housing Authority

Final Report

2002019

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29 October 2002

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Acknowledgments

AMBS wishes to acknowledge the assistance of the following people in this project:

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Executive Summary

This report details the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal heritage assessment undertaken by the Australian Museum Business Services (AMBS) and Heritage Concepts in July 2002 of the former Department of Defence site (Lot 101) on Bruncker Road, Adamstown in Newcastle. The assessment aimed to address any potential Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal heritage issues in preparation for a development application to Newcastle City Council.

The Aboriginal heritage investigation did not identify any Aboriginal surface sites on the property. During the inspection, it was noted that the majority of the site has been subject to a high level of ground disturbance thus limiting the potential for *in situ* archaeological deposits. It was concluded that while the discovery of intact archaeological deposits was unlikely, there remained the possibility that archaeological material may exist in a small but relatively undisturbed area on the upper eastern slope of the main hill on which the former military compound was located.

The non-Aboriginal heritage assessment resulted in the recording of a number of structural remnants. These remnant features were predominantly in the form of concrete slabs and brick building foundations associated with the army depot. It is unclear from the available historic information as to the exact function of the structures pertaining to the extant remains. However, it can be inferred from the scale and size of some of these structures that the buildings may have included workshops, such as large scale garages as well as domestic dwellings, possibly barracks. There are no significant historic heritage constraints to the proposal for redevelopment of the Bruncker Road site and no further assessment is required. Demolition of the remnant buildings is recommended.

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1 Introduction

Australian Museum Business Services (AMBS) was commissioned to address potential heritage issues for the Defence Housing Authority (DHA) Bruncker Road property at Adamstown, NSW (Figure 1) in preparation for a development application for Newcastle City Council.

The project comprised two separate components, namely an Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal heritage assessment. The Aboriginal heritage assessment is detailed in this report and the non-Aboriginal heritage assessment presented in *Appendix A*. The assessment was based on information provided by the DHA and Architectus Pty Ltd and the requirements of the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) and the NSW Heritage Office for heritage assessment.

2 Aboriginal Heritage Assessment

2.1 Study Aims

The key aims of the Aboriginal heritage assessment of Lot 101 (approximately 5.25 ha) were to determine the presence of surface archaeological material on site and to estimate the potential for intact subsurface archaeological deposits to remain, given the apparent level of ground disturbance. If archaeological sites were located, the scientific significance of the cultural material recovered was to be assessed and in light of this, identify any potential conflicts between the development proposal and Aboriginal heritage. In light of the study findings, appropriate management options would be suggested to address these heritage issues.

The investigation was undertaken in consultation with the local Aboriginal community and possible outcomes and mitigation measures arising from the study have been formulated with input from the community.

2.2 Legislative Framework

Aboriginal sites in New South Wales are protected by the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* and most often investigated and assessed under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. Principles for assessment and conservation management are provided by the non-statutory ICOMOS Australia Burra Charter 1999 (the Burra Charter).

2.2.1 New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974

All Aboriginal Relics are protected under Section 90 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*. Sites of traditional Aboriginal significance that do not necessarily contain archaeological materials may be gazetted as Aboriginal Places and are also protected under Section 90 of the Act. This protection applies to all Aboriginal Relics, regardless of their significance or land tenure. Under Section 90, it is an offence for a person to destroy, deface or damage Aboriginal Relics or Places without the prior consent by the Director-General of the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS). NPWS policy requires relevant local Aboriginal groups to be given the

opportunity to present an informed view on any Section 90 Consent application so that these views can be taken into account by NPWS when determining the application.

2.2.2 *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*

The *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act) requires that impacts on the environment, the definition of which includes heritage, be considered prior to land development. Local environmental plans prepared in accordance with the EP&A Act provide guidance on the level of environmental assessment required.

Parts IV and V of the EP&A Act stipulate the manner by which consent authorities (i.e. local councils and PlanningNSW) grant development applications by ensuring that consideration of potential impacts on the environment, inclusive of Aboriginal sites and heritage, are addressed by the proponent prior to development commencement. This usually involves the preparation of a review of environmental factors (REF) or an environmental impact statement (EIS) including a full archaeological assessment.

2.2.3 *The Burra Charter 1999*

The Burra Charter (1999) provides guidance for the conservation and management of places of cultural significance (cultural heritage places). The Charter was adopted by Australia ICOMOS (the Australian National Committee of ICOMOS) in 1979 with recent revisions adopted in 1999. The Charter sets a standard of practice for those who provide advice, make decisions about, or undertake works to places of cultural significance, including owners, managers and custodians.

In summary, Aboriginal Relics, and by implication Aboriginal "sites", in New South Wales are protected. A Section 90 Consent for all Aboriginal sites must be obtained from the NSW NPWS prior to impact on the site. Section 90 Consent applications are determined on the basis of the significance of the heritage item or place according to established criteria.

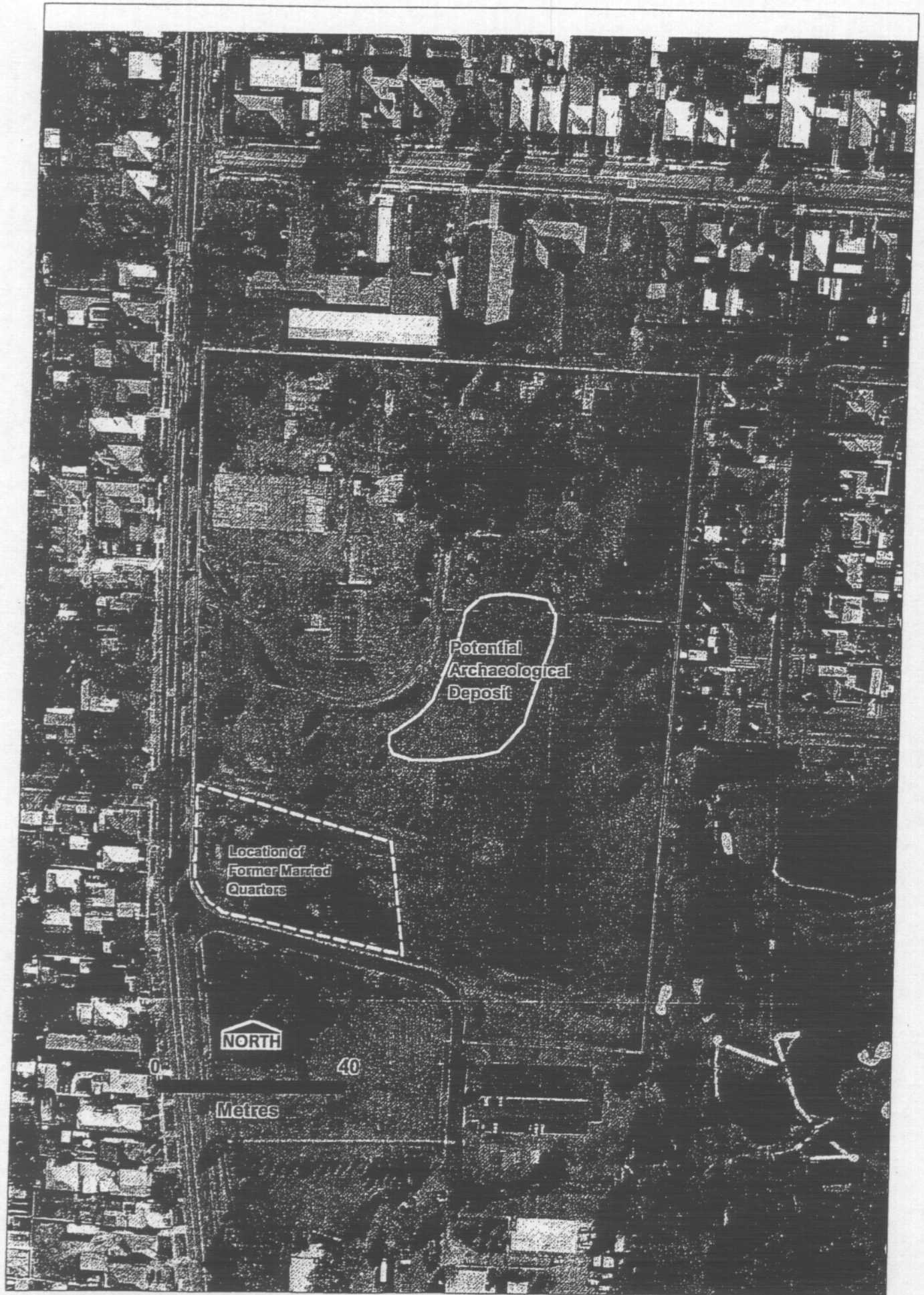



Figure 1. The Study Area  BS

2.3 Consultation

The Adamstown investigation involved consultation with the identified Aboriginal stakeholder group, the Awabakal Local Aboriginal Land Council (ALALC), the Defence Housing Authority (DHA), Architectus Pty Ltd and Newcastle City Council.

The study area lies within the boundaries of the ALALC. A search of the Register of Native Title Claims, the Register of Indigenous Land Use Agreements, the National Native Title Register and the Applications Summary revealed that there are no registered Native Title Applicants in the vicinity of the study area. The ALALC was initially contacted in late August 2002 and informed of the involvement of AMBS in the proposed Adamstown archaeological investigation and Sites Officer, Bob Smith participated in a site inspection on September 3rd 2002. AMBS requested a statement from ALALC regarding their views on the cultural value of the site and their response is presented in *Appendix B*.

A copy of the final archaeological assessment report has also been sent to the ALALC.

2.4 The Adamstown Study Area

A review of the environmental and archaeological context of the study area was undertaken in preparation for the site inspection to assist in establishing the archaeological potential of the study area.

2.4.1 Environmental Context

The Adamstown study area is characterised by undulating to rolling hills on the sediments of the Newcastle Coal Measures within the Mining Subsidence District, although the site itself has not been mined. A broad hill and southeastern facing, gentle slope dominate the site. Much of this hilltop has been disturbed by the construction of Defence buildings and associated infrastructure.

The main hillslope leads into a low-lying basin on the eastern boundary. Coffey Geosciences (2002a) report identifies the basin as poorly drained where minor cutting and fill has taken place. Boreholes drilled across the site revealed a brown, fine gravelly, silty sandy clayey topsoil (approximately 0.2 - 0.4 m depth) underlain by a grey, gravelly, silty, sandy clay (approximately 0.2 - 0.7 m depth) and orange fine to medium grained sandy clay (often to the base of excavation at approximately 2 m).

The land use history of the site is not well known (see non-Aboriginal heritage assessment). Newcastle parish maps dated 1887 do not illustrate any early dwellings or structures within the study area. While few reference documents relate directly to the site, there is reference to the 1956 opening of the Adamstown training depot. Apart from remnant Defence buildings and associated infrastructure, four subsurface table drains, a six metre electricity easement (above and below ground power lines) and numerous sewerage manholes are apparent throughout the southern half of the site which have obviously contributed to recent land disturbance (see Plates 1-3). In this respect, a large portion of the property has been disturbed and/or modified.

Limited sections of the property including a small area of the eastern hillslope and most of the low-lying basin however, appear to be relatively intact (see Section 2.4.3). Coffey Geosciences (2002b) confirms that in these sections, up to 30 cm of topsoil is evident.

The northern half of the Bruncker Road property is covered by remnant Defence buildings. This area is vegetated with exotic trees and introduced grasses. The remainder of the site is predominantly grassed (and mown) with pockets of exotic trees lining Bruncker Road and Military Road.

2.4.2 Archaeological Context

2.4.2.1 Newcastle Bight

While the wider Newcastle area has been occupied by Europeans since the early 1800s, Aboriginal campsites, middens, grinding grooves, stone arrangements and scarred trees have been recorded around the coastline and along the Hunter River.

A major study of the archaeological resource within the Newcastle Bight to the north of the city (and approximately 6 km from the current study area) was conducted by Dean-Jones in 1990. The study concentrated on recording archaeological sites within the Pleistocene (more than 10,000 years old) and Holocene (less than 10,000 years old) sand dune systems along the coastline. Dean-Jones' study showed that the Bight was one of the few areas in NSW where a relatively intact archaeological record demonstrated Aboriginal use from the Pleistocene through to recent times. It was therefore assessed as an important area of high heritage value.

Fourteen archaeological site types were identified within the Bight by Dean-Jones. The site types consisted of seven main types and combinations of these. The seven main types, as defined by Dean-Jones, were:

1. Isolated artefacts/manuports: one to three stone artefacts found in isolation with no associated archaeological material present;
2. Shell scatter: thin, unstratified (and commonly deflated or disturbed) marine and/or estuarine shell scatter with no associated stone artefacts;
3. Midden: a densely packed/stratified shell deposit (marine and/or estuarine) without stone artefacts;
4. Open campsite: a stone artefact scatter which comprises more than three artefacts but no shell;
5. Knapping floors: areas where discrete in situ stone flaking events occurred;
6. Open campsite/Quarry: a site where flaked stone artefact material was considered to be directly associated with a stone source; and
7. Euromiddens: shell scatters associated with large quantities of modern rubbish such as cans, bottles and scrap iron. These were deposited by non-Aboriginal people during the 1930s depression (Sullivan & Hibberd, 1994).

Dean-Jones' site types included many combinations such as midden/open campsites (dense shell and artefacts) and shell scatter/knapping floor (shell associated with stone material from a discrete knapping event).

Archaeological sites containing shell were the most commonly recorded site type comprising 74% of the 110 sites identified (1990). However, only 12% of these were considered to be stratified midden deposits (Sullivan & Hibberd, 1994). Only two sites were Euromiddens.

Midden sites were usually recorded on or next to rock headlands, saltmarsh shorelines and in Holocene and modern dunes (hence the most recent sites). Middens/open campsites were also located between both Holocene and Pleistocene aged backbeach dunes and wetlands. Artefact scatters were mainly located in the Pleistocene inner barrier dunes which were several kilometres inland of the current coastline.

While the development of Newcastle City is likely to have destroyed and/or disturbed many archaeological sites in the last 200 years, Dean-Jones' study is indicative of Aboriginal people's occupation of the coastline. It also suggests that prior to and during early European settlement, Aboriginal people probably utilised the Newcastle area and that archaeological evidence would have originally spread throughout the region.

Despite the continual development in Newcastle proper and its surrounds, Aboriginal campsites have been located within the Newcastle central business district (CBD). While these finds are uncommon, their presence indicates that Aboriginal archaeological material is in evidence within urban areas.

Excavations at the former Roman Catholic Church Cemetery at 700 Hunter Street (AHMS, 2001a) (approximately 3 km north east of the current study area) recovered approximately 4,000 stone artefacts mixed in the natural topsoil (intact archaeological deposits) and grave fills (redeposited archaeological material). Artefacts were also found in association with a large quantity of whole and fragmentary shell and animal bone pieces. The artefactual component is dominated by indurated mudstone with smaller quantities of silcrete, chert and quartz present. Artefact types included cores, flakes, flaked pieces and backed artefacts. The patterning of artefact distribution across the site suggested discrete concentrations considered to be *in situ* knapping floors (areas where Aboriginal people flaked stone to produce tools). The faunal assemblage, dominated by estuarine shellfish species (cockle and mud whelk) with smaller numbers of mammal, bird and fish species present, indicated some of the natural resources Aboriginal people used in the area.

Subsurface Aboriginal archaeological material has also been located at the former Newcastle Convict Lumberyard site in Newcastle East, the Catholic Education Office site on the Hill and at the Newcastle Civic site (AHMS, 2001b). Much of this material came from mixed or imported soil deposits. A portion of the Lumberyard deposit, however, was considered to be *in situ* and representative of an extraction site where large mudstone cobbles were worked and carried off site to use elsewhere (AHMS, 2001b).

2.4.2.2 The Local Study Area

Database searches were undertaken to establish the likely site types and their locations in and around the Bruncker Road site. Database searches included the NPWS Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS), Australian Heritage

Places Inventory (AHPI) and the Australian Heritage Commission's Register of the National Estate (RNE).

The AHIMS search revealed six recorded Aboriginal sites within a five kilometre area around the site. These included four open campsites (commonly referred to as open artefact scatters) and two grinding groove sites. All of these are located within the Glenrock State Recreation Area to the southeast of the present study area (Figure 2). No sites are recorded within or in the immediate vicinity of the Bruncker Road site. No sites were listed on the AHPI or the RNE in the Adamstown area. Similarly, the Newcastle local environmental plan (LEP) does not list any recorded significant sites near Bruncker Road.

2.4.2.3 Previous Investigations Relevant to the Present Study

Several investigations along the coast to the east of the current study area have been undertaken in the last 25 years.

Dyall (1975) conducted a survey which incorporated part of the coastline also investigated by Brayshaw ten years later (1985). Dyall recorded a number of sites, mostly within the dune system and along small creekline outlets on the coast. Site types included shell middens, artefact scatters (these were also found in association with middens), a chert quarry and grinding grooves. Brayshaw's later survey also identified archaeological sites however, these were considered to be disturbed portions of sites located previously by Dyall.

Barber (1992) conducted an archaeological investigation within Glenrock State Recreational Area less than a kilometre south east of the Adamstown study area as part of an environmental impact assessment for the upgrading of the Dudley – Charlestown sewerage system in 1992. The study area was located about 1 km from the coastline and included Flaggy Creek. Artefact scatters were expected to be located on relatively level ground on spur lines above Flaggy Creek rather than the steep creek banks. Grinding grooves were also expected along the creekline as natural sandstone outcrops had been located there.

Much of the survey route had been subject to previous ground disturbance as the proposed upgrade followed much of the existing pipeline. Despite this, two small artefact scatters were recorded. Site 1 consisted of two artefacts (a flake and a flaked piece) located on a spur above the creekline on a vehicle track. The scatter was considered to extend beyond the track boundaries. Site 2 was found on a flat bank of Flaggy Creek within a vehicle track cutting. This site consisted of eight artefacts (three flakes, three flaked pieces, one hammerstone and a scraper) three of which were considered to be *in situ* eroding out at a depth of 10-15 cm in the side of the cutting. The remaining artefacts were recovered from the base of the cutting within the track. The artefacts were produced from chert, volcanic stone and mudstone. Barber concluded that this site had the potential to hold further subsurface archaeological deposits. No evidence of grinding grooves was found on the sandstone outcrops along the creekline.

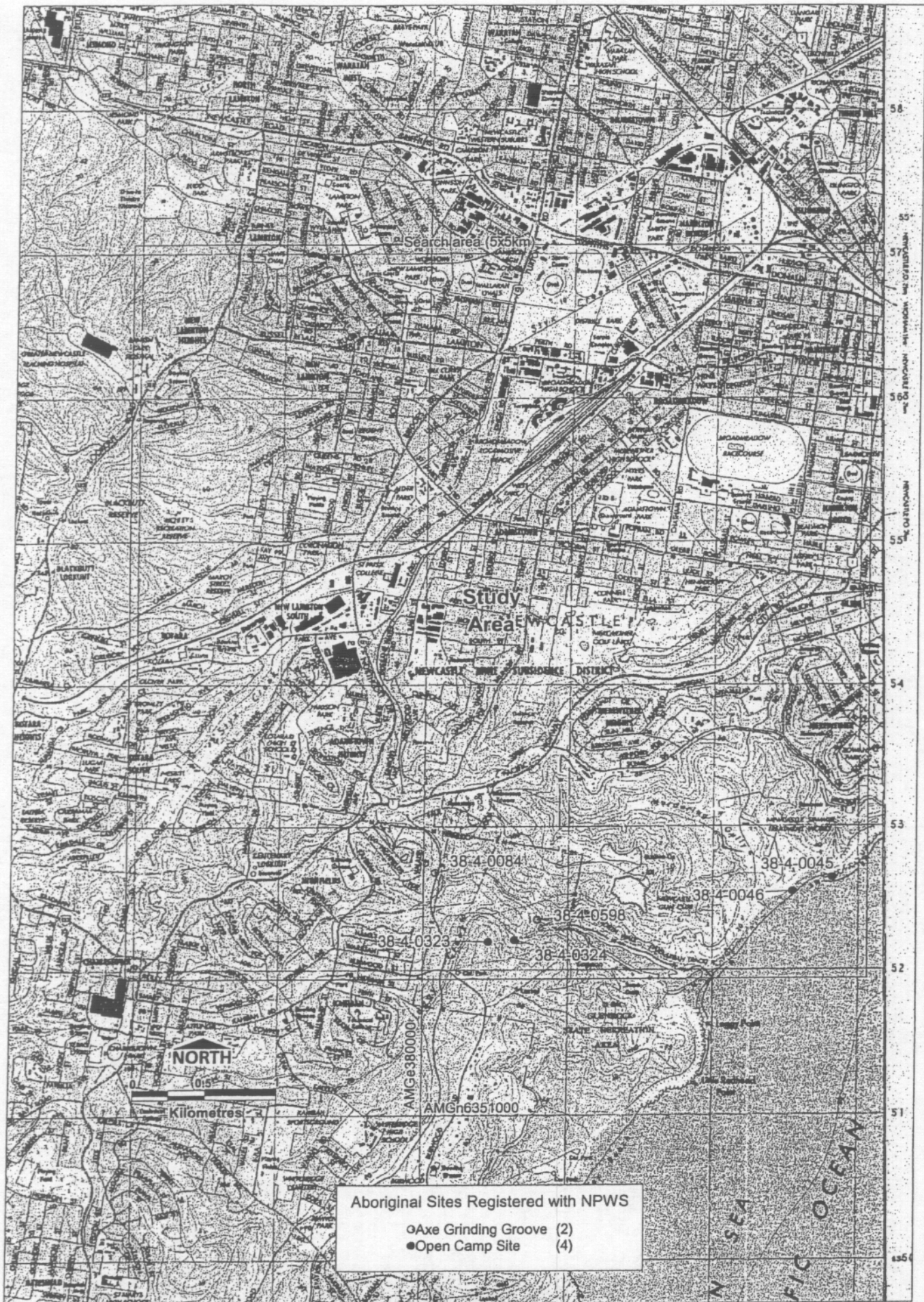


Figure 2. Previously Recorded Aboriginal Sites in the Local Area
 (Source: Newcastle 1:25 000 Topographic Map 9232-3-S)



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2.4.3 Predictive Statement

On the basis of previous studies in the local and wider Newcastle area, it is likely that Aboriginal sites will most likely be found near permanent sources of water or located on high ground in close proximity to water. Another key factor in site location is the proximity to a range of resources such as food and raw materials for tool making.

Site types most likely to be located in the current study area include small artefact scatters and isolated finds. As half of the site is a low-lying flat area which may have held water for short periods, it is improbable that the hilltop and slope was used extensively by Aboriginal people. Rather, it may have been an area where people sought resources during wet periods as more permanent water sources are close by. On the basis of landscape and soil information, it is also unlikely that shell middens will occur here as the site is not located within the sand dune system. Similarly, grinding grooves are not expected to be located within the study area as the site is not near a creekline with associated sandstone outcropping.

Although no Aboriginal sites have been located within the study area, its landscape context and the past land use practices have implications for the type of Aboriginal archaeological evidence that may remain there. While Aboriginal people may have used the area and archaeological evidence may have originally been present on site, European land use, particularly on the hilltop, may have impacted and/or destroyed any intact surface and subsurface sites that were present. In this respect, it is unlikely that intact archaeological deposits are still present on the site although the presence of Aboriginal archaeological material cannot be completely ruled out. In this respect, archaeological material is most likely to occur in elevated undisturbed areas.

2.5 Field Methodology and Results

A site inspection of Lot 101 was undertaken on foot by AMBS archaeologist Megan Mebberson and ALALC representative Bob Smith on Tuesday, September 3rd 2002. As the northern half of the study area was highly disturbed (approximately 2 ha), inspection was concentrated on the lower southern and eastern slopes of the property and the adjoining basin. Extensive inspection of the disturbed area was not warranted given this level of disturbance. In addition, a thick cover of grass between the built foundations within the northern area made inspection of this area unviable.

The southern half of the site was inspected and areas of ground exposure targeted. The grass was mown over the southern area and several small areas of exposure were located however ground surface visibility remained poor. As a result, effective coverage of the site was also limited due to poor visibility (see Table 1).

Table 1 Estimate of Effective Coverage

Landform	Area (m)	Exposure (%)	Visibility (%)	Estimate of Effective Coverage (%)
Southern slope	10,000	10	50	5
Eastern slope	12,500	5	30	1.5
Basin	10,000	5	20	1

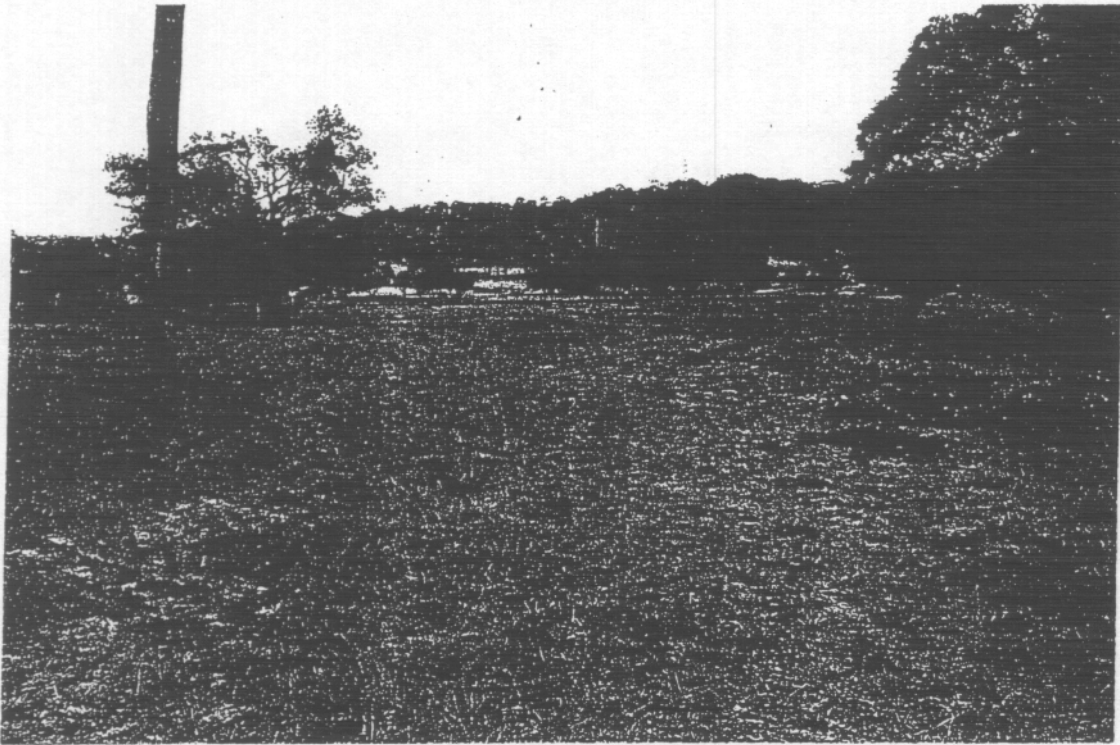


Plate 1 View of eastern hill slope showing drainage and transmission works ground modification with married quarters to the right.

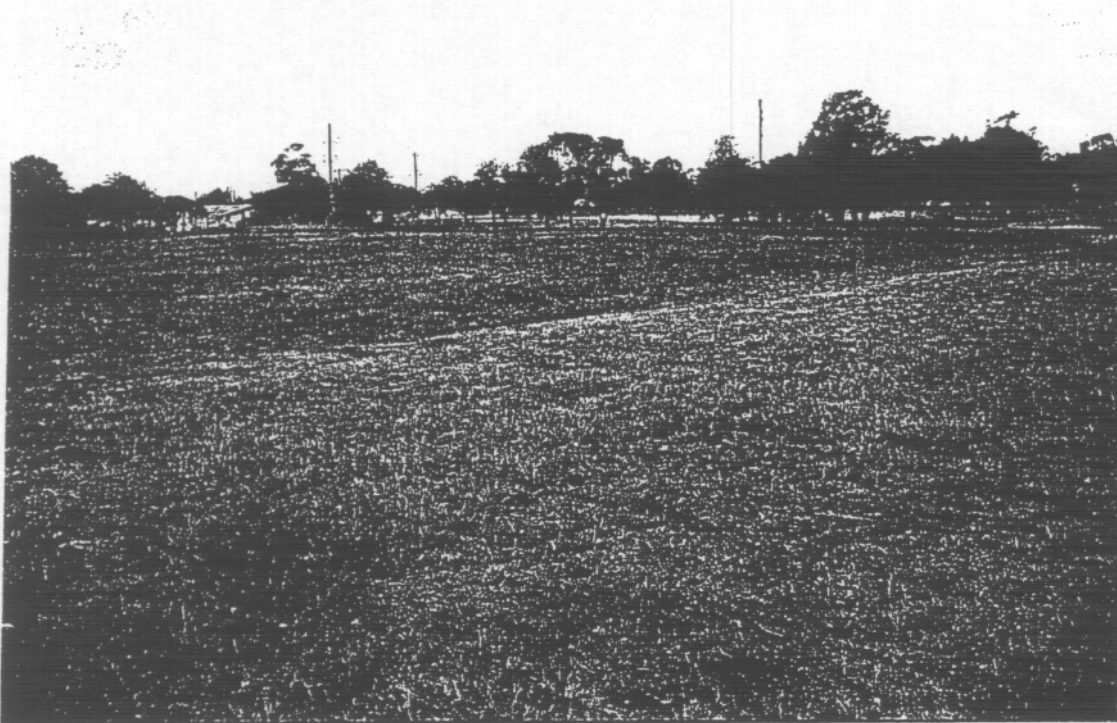


Plate 2 View across the low-lying basin from a levelled area in the south of the site with a layer of mixed gravel (see right corner).

There were several areas where land modification was observed, mainly in the vicinity of the married quarters and Brunker Road itself, with evidence of existing subsurface drainage and transmission lines was also noted (Plate 1). In addition, an

area adjoining the basin to the south of the block appeared to be levelled and topped with gravel (Plate 2). There was also water seeping through the ground surface along the eastern lower slope into the basin and as a result, the low-lying eastern flat was quite damp.

No Aboriginal sites were located during the inspection however ground exposure was minimal and thus inhibited artefact recovery (see Table 1).

As much of the northern and western portions of the site are disturbed, it seems unlikely that intact archaeological deposit remains on the hilltop and southern slope adjacent to Brunner Road and in the vicinity of the married quarters. However, one small elevated area on the upper eastern slope adjacent to the internal main road overlooking the low-lying basin, appeared to be relatively undisturbed (Plate 3). While it is considered unlikely that a significant intact archaeological deposit is still present in this area, the presence of archaeological material cannot be completely ruled out here. It was therefore identified as the only area within the site which is considered to have limited archaeological potential (Plate 3 and Figure 3).



Plate 3 Section of eastern hillslope which appears to be relatively intact.

2.6 Conclusions and Recommendations

On the basis of the assessment of the Brunner Road site, there are no known Aboriginal heritage constraints to the proposal for redevelopment of the Brunner Road site. In accordance with the study findings, previous land use, the local archaeological record, and legislative requirements, the following options are proposed as possible mitigation strategies for Lot 101 on Brunner Road, Adamstown. The conclusions and recommendations of this report are supported by the ALALC.

The ALALC survey report is presented in *Appendix B*. As there remains a limited possibility that archaeological material may remain in one area of the site (refer to Figure 3), AMBS suggests three options:

- a) this area be avoided;
- b) limited test excavation be undertaken in this area to determine whether subsurface archaeological material is present and if so, it is appropriately assessed by a qualified archaeologist in consultation with the ALALC and appropriate management and/ or mitigation measures identified; and
- c) ground disturbance activities commence with the knowledge that if archaeological material is recovered, then all works must cease immediately and the material must be assessed by a qualified archaeologist and representatives from the ALALC. Appropriate mitigation measures will be formulated on the basis of the significance of the find/s before ground disturbance work recommences. It should be noted that this option may affect construction timeframes significantly.

All Aboriginal Relics (including individual artefacts and sites) are protected under Section 90 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act, 1974*. It is an offence to destroy, deface or damage an Aboriginal site without the prior consent of the Director-General of NPWS.

A copy of this report should be forwarded to the ALALC at the following address:

- (i) Awabakal Local Aboriginal Land Council
PO Box 437 Hamilton NSW 2303

2.7 Summary

The combined heritage assessment did not identify any significant constraints to the proposal for redevelopment of the Brunner Road site. No surface evidence of Aboriginal heritage was recorded and a small area identified which may have limited archaeological potential. It is concluded that while the discovery of intact archaeological deposits in this area is unlikely, there remained the possibility that archaeological material may exist on the upper eastern slope of the main hill. No further assessment is required in terms of the historic heritage with demolition of the remnant buildings recommended (see *Appendix A*).

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Appendix A Non-Aboriginal Heritage Assessment

3 Non-Aboriginal Heritage Assessment

3.1 Historical Overview

The European discovery of the area known today as the Hunter region is attributed to escaping convicts, Martha and William Bryant in 1791. However, Lieutenant John Shortland is formally acknowledged as being the first European settler to have discovered the Hunter River in 1797. In honour of Governor Hunter, Lt Shortland named the waterway the Hunter River, however it was commonly referred to as Coal River until at least 1804.

Soon after Lt. Shortland's discovery of the Hunter River, a convict settlement was established and convicts put to work extracting the local coal. This early settlement was abandoned but subsequently re-established in 1804 when Governor King required a place for re-offending convicts. King's Town became a place where convicts were put to work and it soon developed a reputation for being a brutal place in the colony's penal system comparable with Norfolk Island (Docherty 1983:1). The establishment of the settlement during this time also provided an opportunity to exploit the natural resources of the local area, which included coal and shells for lime burning. The importance of coal as a resource was significant for the development of the fledgling colony as coal was already being exported by 1799 (Beaumont 1999: 20; Docherty 1983: 2). By 1804, King's Town was renamed Newcastle and could be described as a permanent settlement controlled by the military. Convicts were housed in rough huts whilst the military were housed in barracks and more substantial dwellings. Those convicts deemed to be trustworthy were assigned to tasks such as timber getting where they did not pose a threat, whilst less trustworthy characters were assigned to the hard labour of coal mining.

In 1814, the penal settlement of Norfolk Island was closed and the remaining convicts shipped to Newcastle. By 1820 when the settlement was at its peak 1,200 convicts were serving their sentence at the complex. Approximately two years later, Governor Macquarie announced the decision to transport convicts to Port Macquarie (Beaumont 1999: 20; Jack & Jeans 1996:38). The majority of convicts were removed however a number were assigned to the Australian Agricultural Company and remained in the area to continue work in the coal mines and tend to government herds (Beaumont 1999: 20).

By 1824, Newcastle was declared a free town and many free settlers followed. It appears that Newcastle was lacking in suitable agricultural lands and many free settlers made their way to Maitland instead (Docherty 1983). By 1856, Maitland had a population of over 6,000 while Newcastle could only boast a population of fewer than 2,000 people. It was not until the late 1850's that Newcastle began to grow.

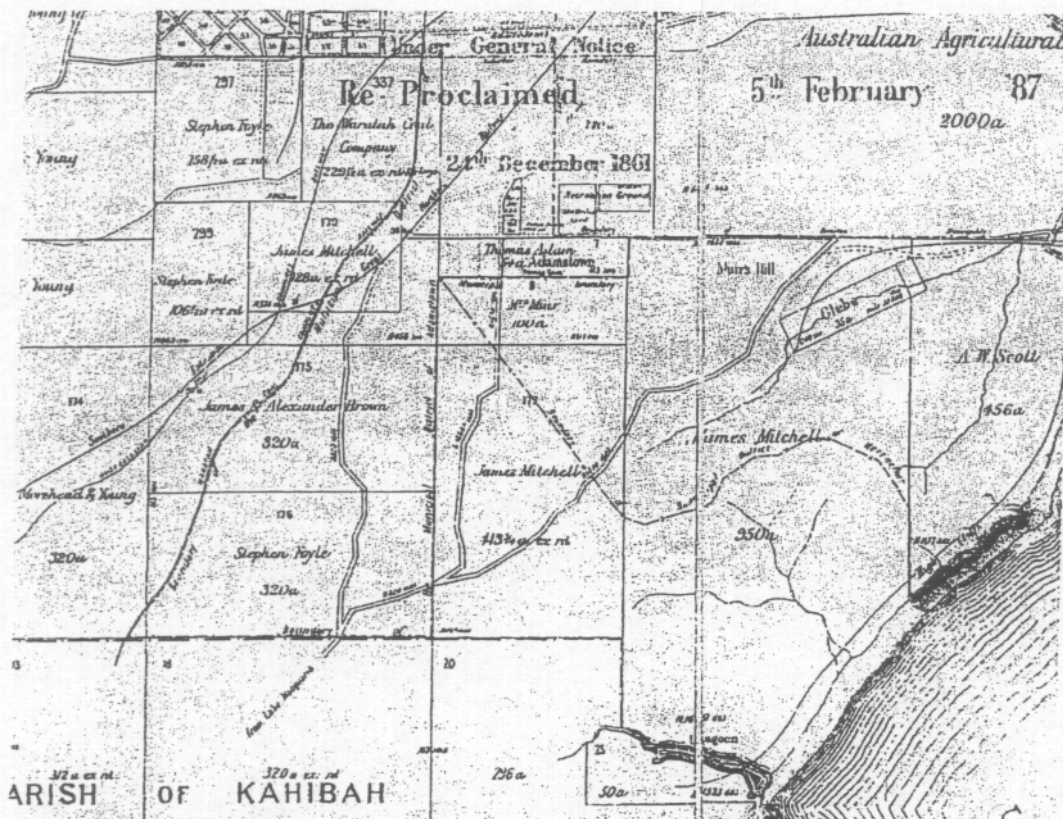


Figure 4 Parish of Newcastle, County of Northumberland, 1887.

The development of Newcastle, as indicated above, is intrinsically tied to its relationship with the discovery and exploitation of coal. Although coal was discovered as early as 1799, it was not until the late 1850's that the coal trade accelerated and continued on until the 1890's. The coal trade in Newcastle benefited from the discovery of gold in the 1850's through Sydney and Melbourne's greater demand for coal. Although Newcastle was not the only place where coal was being mined, it was the settlement location as a port which contributed to its success and dominance in the market place. Between 1880 and 1930, Newcastle boasted two-thirds of the mining workforce of all coal production in NSW.

The Australian Agricultural Company (AAC), which was established in 1824 to partake in pastoral activities, was also involved with coal mining activities in Newcastle. In 1829, the AAC was awarded control of government coal mines at Newcastle and had control of a land grant that took in most of modern day Newcastle. The AAC dominated the mining village of Newcastle until 1849 when its monopoly was broken. By 1855, the AAC shared the market with other coal mining companies. These companies included the Newcastle Wallsend, the Scottish Australian, the Waratah and the New Lambton (Docherty 1983:8).

In general, these mining companies often acquired freehold land and established settlements in close proximity to their mining operations in order to attract a workforce. Many suburbs of Newcastle were established in this manner as well as often evolving from secondary activities associated with the mining industry. Adamstown, the focus of this report is one such suburb. It was established by the Waratah Coal Mining Company for those working at nearby Hamilton.

Adamstown began as 'Adams Town' in 1869 when Crown Land was sold and taken up by Thomas Adams, a government surveyor. The Newcastle Morning Herald reported:

"Crown land was first sold there for the first time on June 16, 1869, when 54 acres were purchased for £54 by Thomas Adams.

The town took its name from him.

Adams' area comprised the main portion of the present suburb from Glebe-road extending in a southerly direction to mid-way between Victoria-street and Lockyer-street and on the east from Regent-street to a stormwater channel on the western side.

On September 11, 1869, Adam transferred the land to Thomas and Henry Bryant, who, in March, 1871, transferred to the Waratah Coal Company. In the same month, the company retransferred to the Bryants, excepting one lot and the mines and minerals. A sub-division called Adamstown of the whole 54 acres was affected by A.S. Huntley, surveyor, on behalf of the Bryants, who gave the suburb the name by which it has since been known.

The compliment was intended for Mr. Adams, who was one of the original members of Newcastle Council (1859).

The first recorded sale (1871) of an allotment in the present business section between Glebe-road and Victoria-street, containing a quarter of an acre, realised £6/10 for the block."

Newcastle Morning Herald 29.5.1950

Adamstown was gazetted as a municipality with an area of 1,000 acres on the 31st December 1885 (CWK 1929). Prior to this historic day, Adamstown was known as the Borough of Adamstown. In the early 1880's, Adamstown was described as a small place where many lived in "mud brick huts" and where there was "no sewerage, no street lighting and no system of transportation" (APSCC 1977: 40). Supporters of the proposal to become a municipality felt that it would provide Adamstown with these necessary facilities. The historic documents consulted refer to local accounts of Adamstown being completely isolated and of residents getting lost from time to time.

By 1892, water supply was made available to Adamstown and the sewerage service was introduced by 1915. At the turn of the century, Adamstown was no longer an isolated place, it was connected to the district tramline which provided half-hourly services to Newcastle. By 1925, the steam service was replaced by electric trams which ran on a quarterly timetable (CWC 1929). By 1956, the Newcastle Morning Herald reported:

"Lieutenant-General Woodward, G.O.C Easter Command, with Lieutenant Colonel McDonald, C.O., 34th Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment RAA, at the opening of the regiments' new training depot at Adamstown."

Newcastle Morning Herald 9.7.1956

There are few references in primary or secondary historic documents that relate directly to the current study area, other than the NMH reference in 1956 of the opening of the Adamstown training depot. The NSW State Library Picture Database (PICMAN) has four entries which could possibly relate to buildings once present in the study area. These entries date between 1955 and 1957. If these images represent

the current study area, their dates correlate with the formal opening of the Adamstown Army depot and barracks. The database does not provide sufficient information to confirm their connection with the study area.

Parish plans for Newcastle dated 1887 (Figure 4) do not illustrate any early dwellings or structures within the boundaries of the current study area. The 54 acres of Thomas Adams are clearly identified, as are the allotments that made up the private town prior to its inclusion into the greater municipality of Newcastle. The study area is within the boundaries of Mrs Muir's 100 acres and Mr James Mitchell's 413 $\frac{3}{4}$ acres. By 1908 (Figure 5), Elizabeth Muir and James Mitchell continue to own the land that contains the current study area. By 1933, the Parish plans indicate part of the lands of Muir and Mitchell had been acquired by the Commonwealth, a total 231 acres (Figure 6). The plans do not indicate the existence of early dwellings. This may be a reflection of the practice of early surveyors rather than a definite indication that no structures were present. It is also probable that surveyors may not have recorded dwellings considered to be unsubstantial.

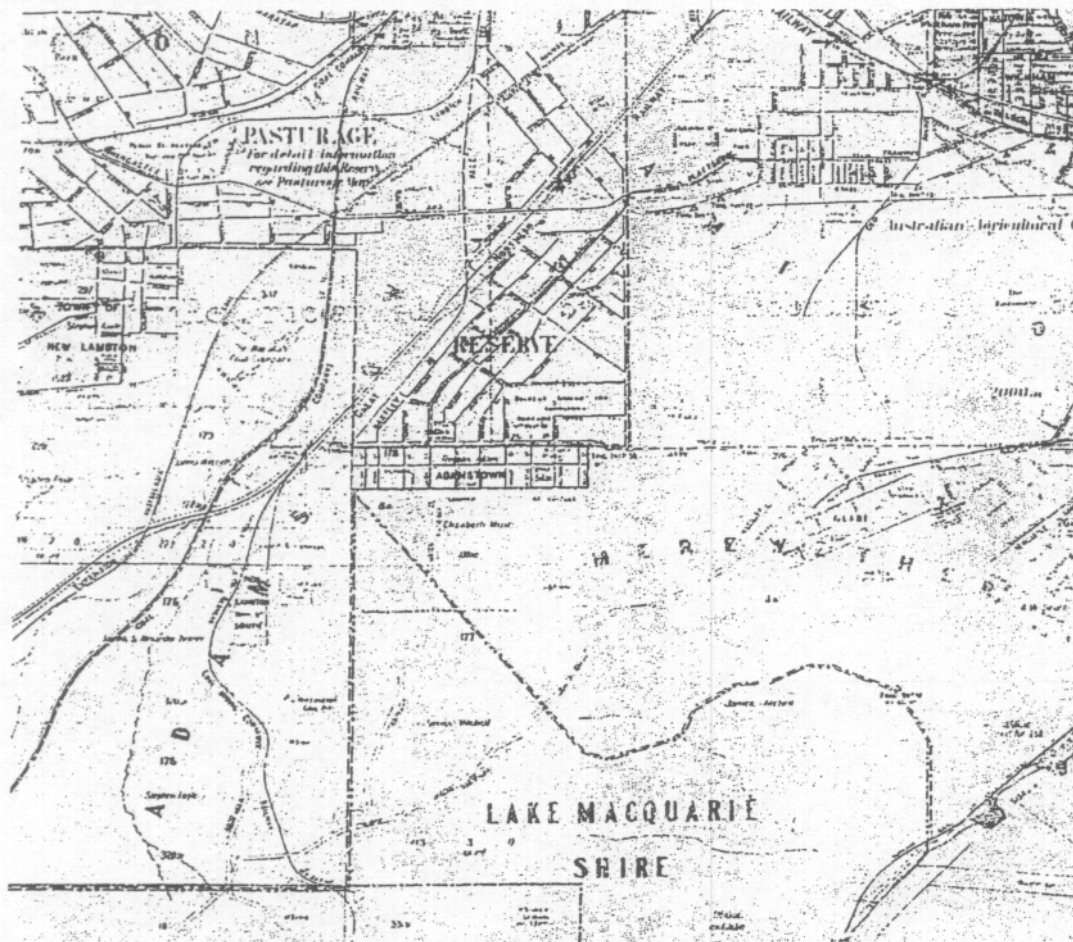


Figure 5 Parish of Newcastle, County of Northumberland, 1908

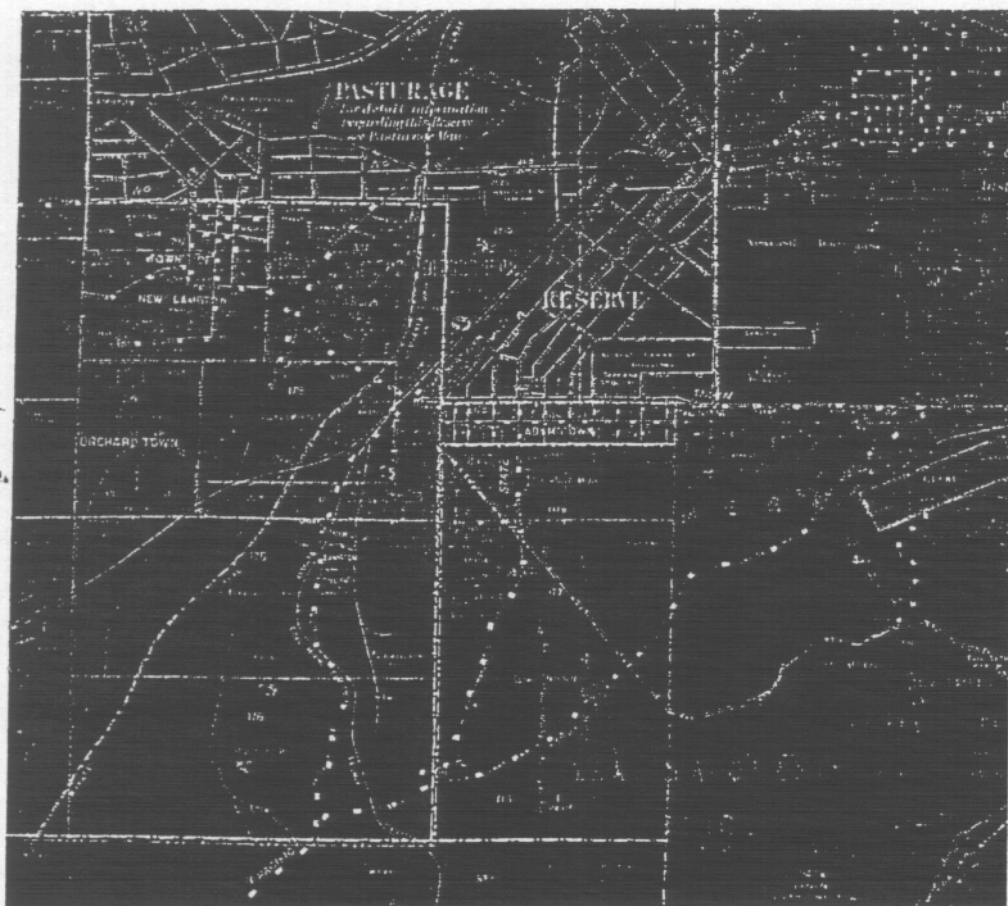


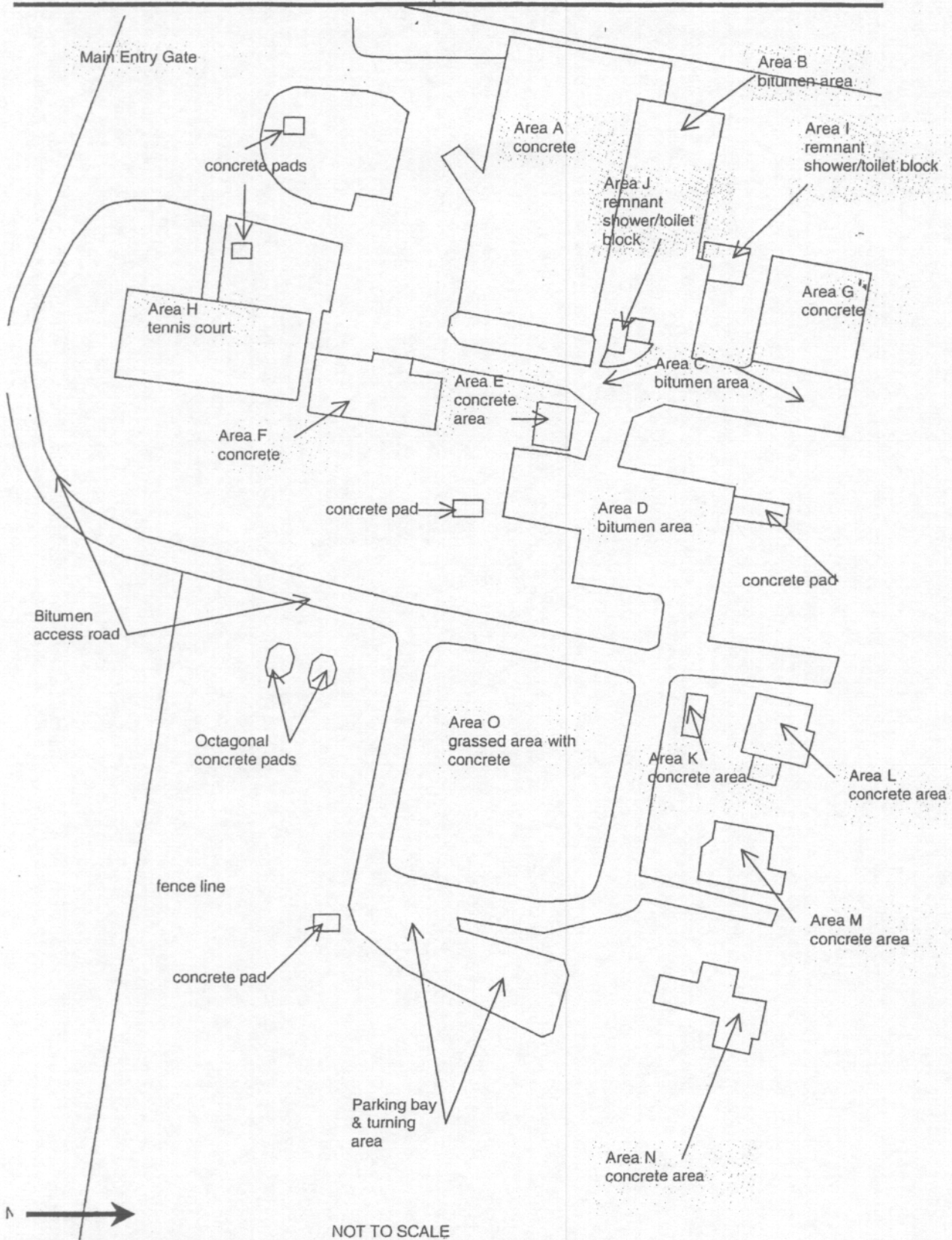
Figure 6 Parish of Newcastle, County of Northumberland, 1933

Based on the available documentation, which is limited, the following conclusions can be drawn. It is highly likely that the land may have been acquired by the Department of Defence (Army) prior to 1933, however, plans dating between 1908 and 1933 could not be retrieved from the Mitchell Library. By 1956, when the official opening took place at Adamstown depot, a number of timber buildings were in existence based on the images held by the Mitchell Library.

3.2 Site Survey Results

The survey of the study area took place on September 3rd 2002. The site was divided into sections (Figure 7) to facilitate recording. The survey involved the identification and photographic recording of remnant features associated with the past use of the study area. These remnant features were predominantly in the form of concrete slabs (Plate 4) and brick building foundations (Plate 5) associated with the army depot. Also evident throughout are bitumen roads and concrete kerbs associated with the demarcation between access roads, paths and formal garden beds within the 1950's army depot (Plate 6). It is unclear from the historic information obtained as to the exact function of the structural remnants. However, it can be inferred from the scale and size of some of these structures that the buildings may have included workshops, such as large scale garages as well as domestic dwellings and possibly barracks. These remnant features are all located and clearly evident within the north eastern section of the study area.

Adamstown Site Plan



Consultation with the client indicated the existence of married quarters located in the south western section of the study area. An aerial photograph of the study area indicated the existence of numerous dwellings within this area. These structures were demolished some time in 1997. An inspection of this location did not reveal the remains of any structures or dwellings.

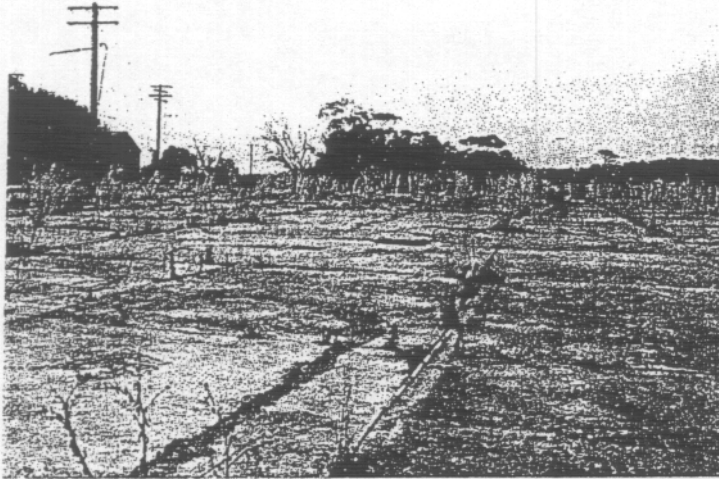


Plate 4 General view east north east of large concrete area (Area A). Note yellow parking bay markings on concrete.

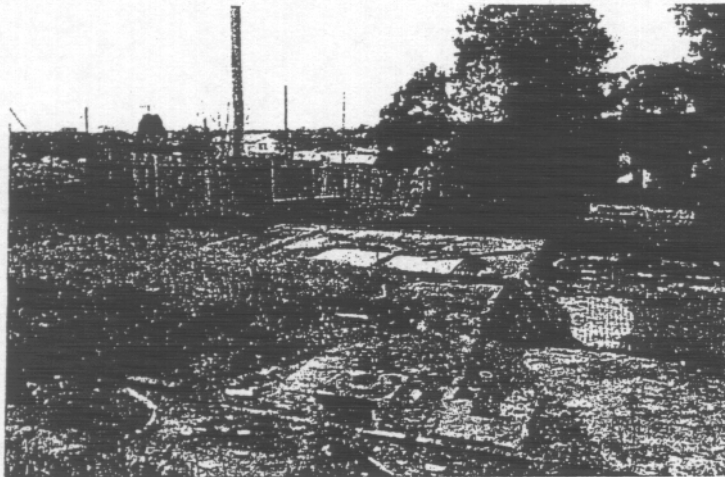


Plate 5 General view east of the northern boundary of the study area near the school. The remnant building foundations in the foreground pertain to Area M and Area N in the distant background.

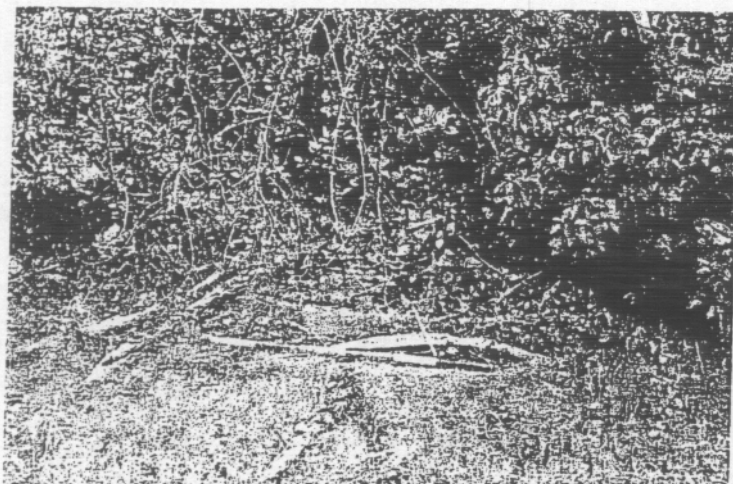


Plate 6 View of the remnant semi circular steps that are possibly part of the garden landscape associated with the army depot/barracks.

3.3 Assessment of Significance

3.3.1 Introduction to the Significance Assessment Process

An assessment of significance seeks to determine and establish the importance or value that a place, site or item may have for present and future generations. The concept of cultural significance is intrinsically connected to the physical fabric of the item or place, its location, setting and relationship with other items in its surrounds. The assessment of cultural significance is ideally a holistic approach that draws upon the response these factors evoke from the community. These standardised aspects of significance assessments are generally applied to sites, places or items that have tangible historic structures or relics visible at the site, and where there is general understanding of the extent of the historic resources.

Archaeological sites require a different approach to significance assessment because the extent of the heritage resource and the degree to which it can contribute to our understanding of history is not fully known at the outset. It is the significance of the potential of the site to reveal information about the past that needs to be assessed when establishing the cultural significance of archaeological deposits. Similarly, it is the significance of the type of information that can be revealed by the archaeological deposits, especially where the information is not available through any other source and the contribution it can make to our understanding of a place, which may also be of cultural heritage significance.

Despite these differences the same general set of criteria are used to assess cultural significance of different types of heritage resources.

3.3.2 Basis for Assessment

The *Australia ICOMOS Charter for the conservation of places of cultural significance* (the Burra Charter) was formulated in 1979 and most recently revised in

1999, and is the standard adopted by most heritage practitioners in Australia. The Charter divides significance into various groups or categories for the purpose of assessment. They are: Aesthetic, Historical, Scientific/Technical, Social and Other.

3.3.3 *The Australian Heritage Commission Act 1975*

The Australian Heritage Commission Act established the Australian Heritage Commission as a Commonwealth statutory body. A role of the AHC is to maintain the Register of the National Estate (RNE) which is an inventory of places of National significance. The RNE provides protection to those items listed only in relation to Commonwealth government actions that might be considered to adversely affect the cultural significance of those items or places listed on the RNE. The Act does not have direct legal constraints on state government actions or private landowners and thus the Commission does not have direct power over the actions of these individuals or departments.

Section 4 of the Act details criteria by which to assess the significance of items to be included in the Register of the National Estate. These criteria can be applied to natural, Indigenous and Historic places, sites or items. There are subclauses within each criterion relating to the type of heritage such as natural or cultural. The criteria reflect the categories identified by the Burra Charter and tie into the criteria of assessment set out by the NSW Heritage Office.

These categories are useful in considering a wide range of heritage items, and can be applied to sites with items of standing heritage as well as areas with the potential to contain archaeological deposits. It is important to note that an item cannot be excluded from listing on the grounds that other items have similar characteristics or significance.

Currently there are no set criteria for the assessment of National levels of significance beyond an extension of the principles and criteria of the Burra Charter. Therefore levels of National significance cannot be established in a formalised framework for wider comparison. However, some points about National levels of significance are made below where relevant criteria from the Burra Charter provide a viable framework and where a national corpus of comparative site information exists.

3.4 AHC Criteria for Assessment of Significance

Criterion A: Its importance in the course, or pattern, of Australia's natural or cultural history.

- A1. Importance in the evolution of Australian flora, fauna, landscapes or climate.
- A2. Importance in maintaining existing processes or natural systems at the regional or National scale.
- A3. Importance in exhibiting unusual richness or diversity of flora, fauna, landscapes or cultural features.
- A4. Importance for association with events, developments or cultural phases which have had a significant role in the human occupation and evolution of National, State, region or community.

Criterion B: Its possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of Australia's natural or cultural history.

B1. Importance for rare, endangered or uncommon flora, fauna, communities, ecosystems, natural landscapes or phenomena, or as a wilderness.

B2. Importance in demonstrating a distinctive way of life, custom, process, land-use, function, or design no longer practiced, in danger of being lost, or of exceptional interest.

Criterion C: Its potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Australia's natural or cultural history.

C1. Importance for information contributing to a wider understanding of Australian natural history, by virtue of its use as a research site, teaching site, type locality, reference or benchmark site.

C2. Importance for information contributing to a wider understanding of the history of human occupation of Australia.

Criterion D: Its importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of:

- i) a class of Australia's natural or cultural places; or
- ii) a class of Australia's natural or cultural environments.

D1. Importance in demonstrating the principle characteristics of the range of landscapes, environments or ecosystems, the attributes of which identify them as being characteristic of their class.

D2. Importance in demonstrating the principle characteristics of the range of human activities in the Australian environment (including way of life, philosophy, custom, process, land-use, function, design or technique).

Criterion E: Its importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group.

E1. Importance for a community for aesthetic characteristics held in high esteem or otherwise valued by the community.

Criterion F: Its importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement as a particular period.

F1. Importance for its technical, creative, design or artistic excellence, innovation or achievement.

Criterion G: Its strong or special associations with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.

G1. Importance as a place highly valued by a community for reasons of religious, spiritual, symbolic, cultural, educational, or social associations.

Criterion H: Its special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in Australia's natural or cultural history.

H1. Importance for close associations with individuals whose activities have been significant within the history of the Nation, State or region.

3.5 Evaluation of Significance

The study area is unable to meet the requirements of the AHC criteria of assessment of cultural significance. It is deemed that there are other more informative Defence properties that can demonstrate the importance and contribution of the Defence force to Australian society. The factors that detract from the cultural value of the study area are a lack of both historic documentation and significant extant structures and/or potential archaeological deposits. Although there are remains of structures that provide some indication of the past use of the study area, the fact that the site is no longer in use also detracts from its historic and interpretive value.

3.6 Conclusions and Recommendations

Based on the results of the background research, site inspection and assessment of cultural significance the study area does not pose any heritage constraints. The proposed development of the study area is unlikely to impact on any historic or archaeological cultural resources. Demolition of the remnant building is recommended.

It is recommended, however, that all works associated with the proposed development must cease if historic or archaeological artefacts are uncovered and the relevant government authority contacted. Both the NSW Heritage Office and the Australian Heritage Commission should be contacted if historic artefacts are uncovered.

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Newspaper Sources

Newcastle Morning Herald 29.5.1950

Newcastle Morning Herald 9.7.1956

Parish Plans

Parish of Newcastle, County of Northumberland, 1887

Parish of Newcastle, County of Northumberland, 1908

Parish of Newcastle, County of Northumberland, 1933

Electronic Databases

State Library of NSW, PICMAN Database

Adamstown Army Depot 18.3.1957, Hood Collection Part 1: Call No.NCY56/427

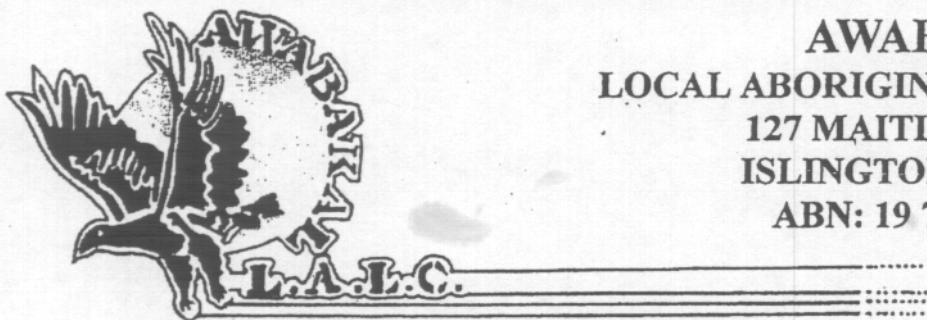
Adamstown Army Depot 18.3.1957, Hood Collection Part 1: Call No.NCY56/428

Adamstown AA Barracks 17.11.1955, Hood Collection Part 1: Call No.NCY55/372

Adamstown AA Barracks 17.11.1955, Hood Collection Part 1: Call No.NCY55/373

Appendix B Awabakal Local Aboriginal Land Council
Survey Report

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AWABAKAL
LOCAL ABORIGINAL LAND COUNCIL
127 MAITLAND ROAD
ISLINGTON NSW 2296
ABN: 19 759 066 759

Awabakal Local Aboriginal Land Council
Site Survey at Adamstown

Attendance: Megan Mebberson – Archaeologist
Robert Smith – Sites Officer

Survey Results: The Adamstown site was surveyed on foot. The area surveyed had restricted visibility this area was heavily disturbed previously and, where there was no archaeological objects found.

Although there were no archaeological objects found this does not suggest that the site is of no significance to the community. The areas surrounding this site of significant because of the nature of sites found in the general area.

Note: Importance of areas in the landscape is not determined wholly by the recording of stones and bones. Areas of Significance are importance because of the cultural context of the sites and objects attached to place and area.

Not all sites are recorded on known data bases there are sites in the community that information is kept within the community for protection and need to know basis only.

Recommendations: I am in support of the management recommendations 1 and 2 with Megan Mebberson, Archaeologist. I feel that there maybe a possibility of objects found if site was excavated.

Yours sincerely

Robert Smith (Bob)
Awabakal Sites Officer

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