

# Riverstone East Precinct (Stage 3) Package C

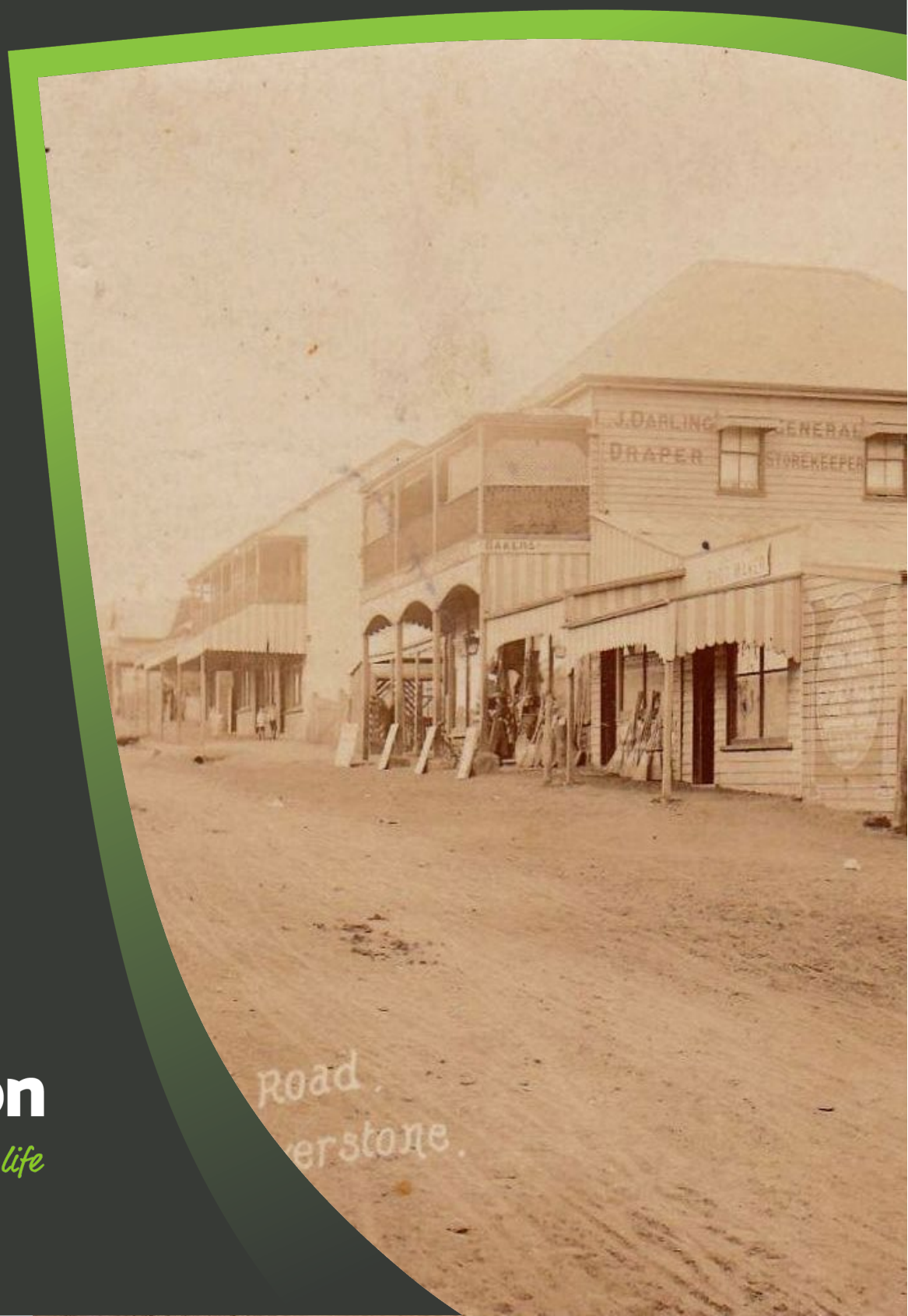
Non-Indigenous Heritage Assessment

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## Abbreviations

Acronym	Definition	Acronym	Definition
AHD	Australian Height Datum	RHHE	Rouse Hill House Estate
BCC	Blacktown City Council	RNE	Register of the National Estate
BCD	Biodiversity and Conservation Division	RTA	Roads and Traffic Authority (now Transport for NSW)
CBD	Central Business District	SEPP	Statement Environmental Planning Policy
CHL	Commonwealth Heritage List	SHI	State Heritage Inventory
CHLA	Cultural Heritage Landscape Area	SHR	State Heritage Register
c	circa	SOHI	Statement of Heritage Impact
Central River City SEPP	State Environmental Planning Policy (Precincts—Central River City)	WHL	World Heritage List
DA	Development Application		
DCCEEW	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water		
DCP	Development Control Plan		
The Department	The Department of Planning and Environment		
DP	Deposited Plan		
EP&A Act	<i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i>		
EPBC Act	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1979</i>		
GIS	Geographic Information System		
Growth Area DCP	Blacktown City Council Growth Area Precincts Development Control Plan 2010		
ha	hectare		
Heritage NSW	Heritage NSW (formerly OEH)		
ILP	Indicative Layout Plan		
km	kilometre		
LEP	Local Environment Plan		
LGA	Local Government Area		
M	metre		
NHL	National Heritage List		
NTR	National Trust Register		
NSW	New South Wales		
NPWS	National Parks and Wildlife Service		
NWGA	North West Growth Area		
OEH	Office of Environment and Heritage (now Heritage NSW)		
Precinct	Riverstone East Stage 3 Precinct comprising approximately 174 hectares (excluding Rouse Hill Regional Park)		
the Project	Riverstone East Stage 3 Precinct		



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# 1

## Executive Summary





# 1 Executive Summary

- Aurecon have been engaged by the Department of Planning and Environment (the Department) to prepare environmental assessments to support the development of the Riverstone East Precinct (Stage 3) Indicative Layout Plan (ILP). This Non-Indigenous Heritage Assessment (this Assessment) was developed to provide guidance on mitigating potential impacts on sites of heritage significance within and around the Riverstone East Stage 3 Precinct (the Precinct) and to make recommendations on heritage schedule and map amendments required for the State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) along with providing inventory sheets for the State Heritage Inventory (SHI).
- A combination of desktop assessment, analysis of an archaeological predictive model and field investigation was undertaken to inform the findings and recommendations of this Assessment.
- The Assessment identified that there are no listed heritage sites within the Riverstone East Precinct Stage 3 and 14 within a one kilometre (km) buffer of the Precinct (Figure 1). Three of these items are listed on the State Heritage Register (SHR), notably the Box Hill Inn, Box Hill House in grounds of McCall gardens and Rouse Hill House and Farm. The majority of the heritage items within the vicinity are locally listed.
- One site of potential non-Indigenous heritage significance which is not currently listed has been identified at 325 Garfield Road, Riverstone (Tyburn Priory building). Taking into consideration the date of the convent, the documentary evidence regarding its use and configuration and its probable association with the Benedictine Adorers of the Sacred Heart of Jesus of Montmartre, the Tyburn Priory building would likely be of future local heritage significance.

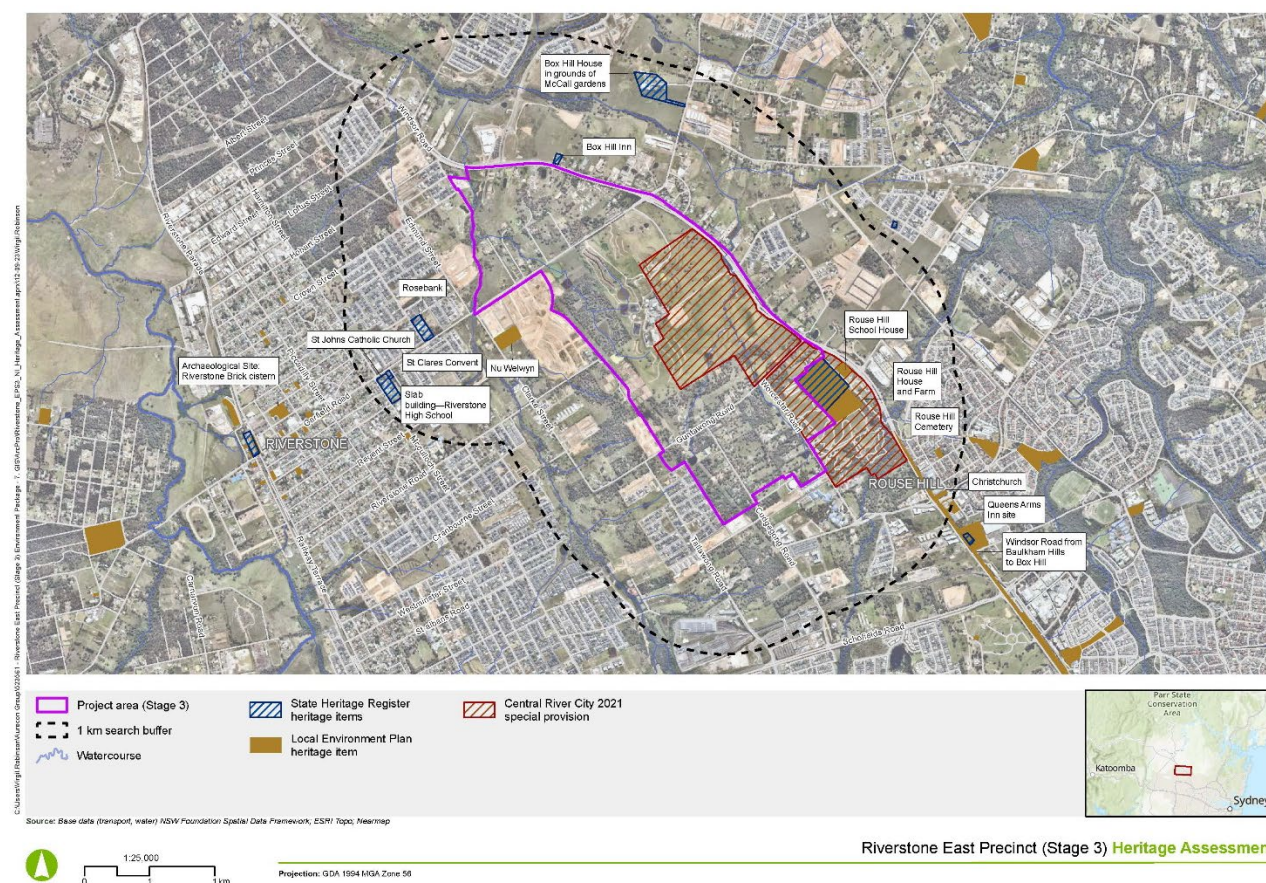


Figure 1 – Riverstone East Stage 3 – Heritage Listing Map (Aurecon, July 2023)

- An assessment of archaeological potential within the Precinct found a number of sites of which are considered to have a medium to high level of archaeological significance (Figure 2). The former Rummery House, Box Hill Inn Stable and Windsor Road corridor was found to have medium archaeological potential due to its historical associations and relatively low disturbance, located towards the north-east of



the Precinct. Furthermore, moderate archaeological potential is associated with creek lines which traverse the site.



Figure 2 – Riverstone East Stage 3 – Archaeological Potential Map (Aurecon, July 2023)

## Recommendations

The following mitigation and management measures (Figure 3) are recommended to protect the local heritage and archaeology associated with the Precinct:

### Heritage Curtilage

- The extent of the curtilage of the Rouse Hill House Estate heritage item should be increased to extend to Windsor Road in the east and to subsume the stockyard in the west. Rouse Hill House Estate heritage curtilage should be extended to subsume the Rouse Hill School. This would assist in the conservation of the setting of the main homestead group and view lines to and from the heritage item and surrounding area. It will also help in reinforcing the connection of the listed item with the wider historical estate. The extended curtilage should be recognised in modifications to the local heritage listing (*State Environmental Planning Policy (Precincts—Central River City) 2021*), in order to give the site statutory protection.
- The State Heritage Inventory (SHI) should be revised to reflect the content and recommendations of this assessment report and new inventory sheets (Appendix A) should be completed for those items not already included on the SHI.
- In order to preserve the middle- and long-distance distance views from Rouse Hill House into the Rouse Hill Regional Park and broader district, the height of a building on any land with the Precinct is not to exceed the maximum heights shown for the land on the Height of Buildings Map (Figures 4 and 7-2).

### Potential Archaeological Remains

- Post ILP implementation and rezoning, archaeological potential of Rummery House, Box Hill Stable Inn, and Windsor Road remains should be managed as follows:
  - If any development or other ground disturbing works are to be undertaken at these locations, further historical archaeological assessment and investigation should be undertaken to determine whether



remains are present, and if so, to assess their nature and condition. This investigation must take the form of a Statement of Heritage Impact (SOHI).

- Construction of local roads in vicinity of the potential Rummery House should be restricted to the required width where possible.
- If associated archaeological remains are present and these have been preserved at a high level of integrity, these should be preserved in situ if possible. Such preservation is likely to require restrictions on development in the affected area.

### **Tree Canopy Protection along the Vegetated Ridge**

- In order to preserve the tree canopy on the vegetated rise, no trees are to be felled from this location and the area should be retained in its current form and state. It is recommended that no construction works or development should be undertaken in this location.
- It is recommended that the above-mentioned vegetated ridge be included in the SEPP for protection.
- Any required works which may impact trees along the vegetated ridge (i.e to protect any overhead powerlines) is to be undertaken by a suitably qualified arborist.
- No excavation should occur within the root zone of the trees on the vegetated ridge in order to avoid damaging the root system and inadvertently killing the tree.
- A Tree Management Order made under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* should be prepared to preserve the trees within the vegetated ridge.

### **Heritage Interpretation Strategy**

- In accordance with the Heritage Interpretation Strategy (Section 8), the following recommendations are proposed:
  - The new Transit Spine Road and/ or local roads should be named in Dharuk Language or after historical settlers or other heritage items in the vicinity of the Precinct.
  - Walking tracks within recreational reserves with interpretive signage.
  - Interpretative signage should be considered for placement within the Rouse Hill Regional Park.
  - Interpretative signage should cover general themes of relevance to Riverstone East including Indigenous heritage and the post European settlement history.
  - Yarning circle within the Rouse Hill Regional Park, developed in consultation with Indigenous and Non-Indigenous stakeholders and other community groups including the Riverstone Historical Society, Museums of History New South Wales, and any other interested party.
  - Input for Indigenous themed signage should seek input from Indigenous stakeholders and incorporate feedback received from the Designing with Country workshop undertaken as part of the development of the draft ILP for the Precinct.

### **Planning Framework**

- The cultural heritage provisions of the Central River City SEPP and Growth Centres Precinct Development Control Plan 2010 (Growth Centres DCP) would apply to future subdivision and development of the Riverstone East Precinct (post rezoning). Accordingly, the development of the ILP should be cognisant of these requirements to ensure future development does not contravene or conflict with the Central River City SEPP and Growth Centres DCP objectives.
- Proposed development of the properties immediately adjacent to and to the west of Worcester Road should be subject to a heritage impact assessment. This would assist in the conservation of the setting of the main homestead group associated with the Rouse Hill House heritage item. This could be achieved through mapping.
- It is recommended that the Tyburn Priory building be retained within the future Riverstone East Precinct Stage 3 ILP to protect the multi-layered nature of the heritage of the Riverstone East area. If retained, this property could be considered for listing as a local heritage item in the Central River City SEPP when it

meets all criteria for inclusion in the future. This would assist in the protection of the standing structures, together with any other elements of the main Convent buildings that may remain.

- Development Applications (DAs) for subdivision and building on the properties identified as European cultural heritage sites in the relevant Precinct's Schedule, are to be accompanied by a report from a suitably qualified heritage consultant detailing the results of archaeological investigations undertaken to confirm the presence of archaeological material relating to the heritage site. Where archaeological material is identified, the DA is to address the requirements of the *Heritage Act 1977*.
- Recommended heritage controls for inclusion into the Growth Centres DCP have been prepared, in order to preserve view lines and ensure appropriate land use and management options for significant heritage places and to ensure matters of non-Indigenous heritage can be considered as part of future development. Refer to Part 7.1.8 of the Report.

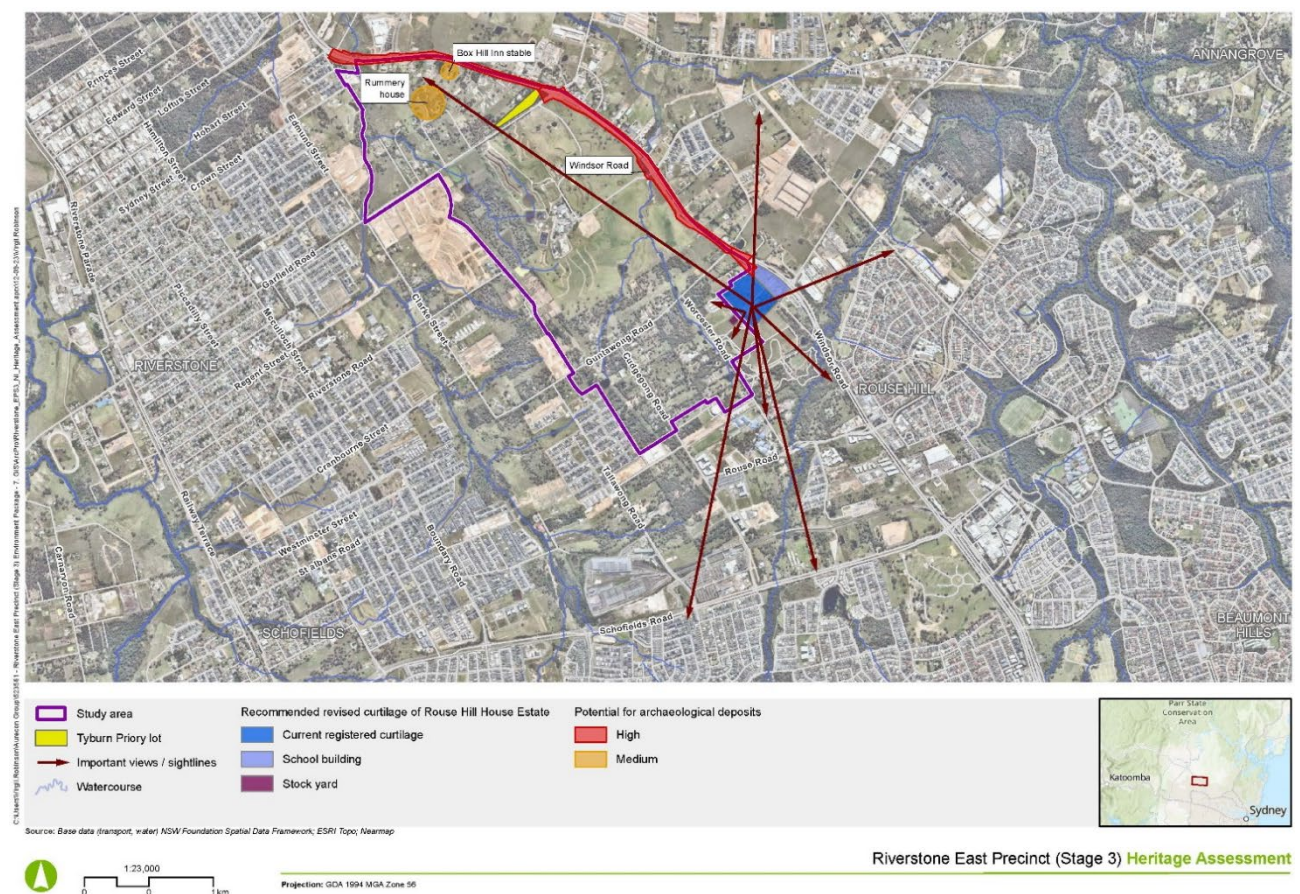


Figure 3 – Heritage Recommendations Map (Aurecon, July 2023)



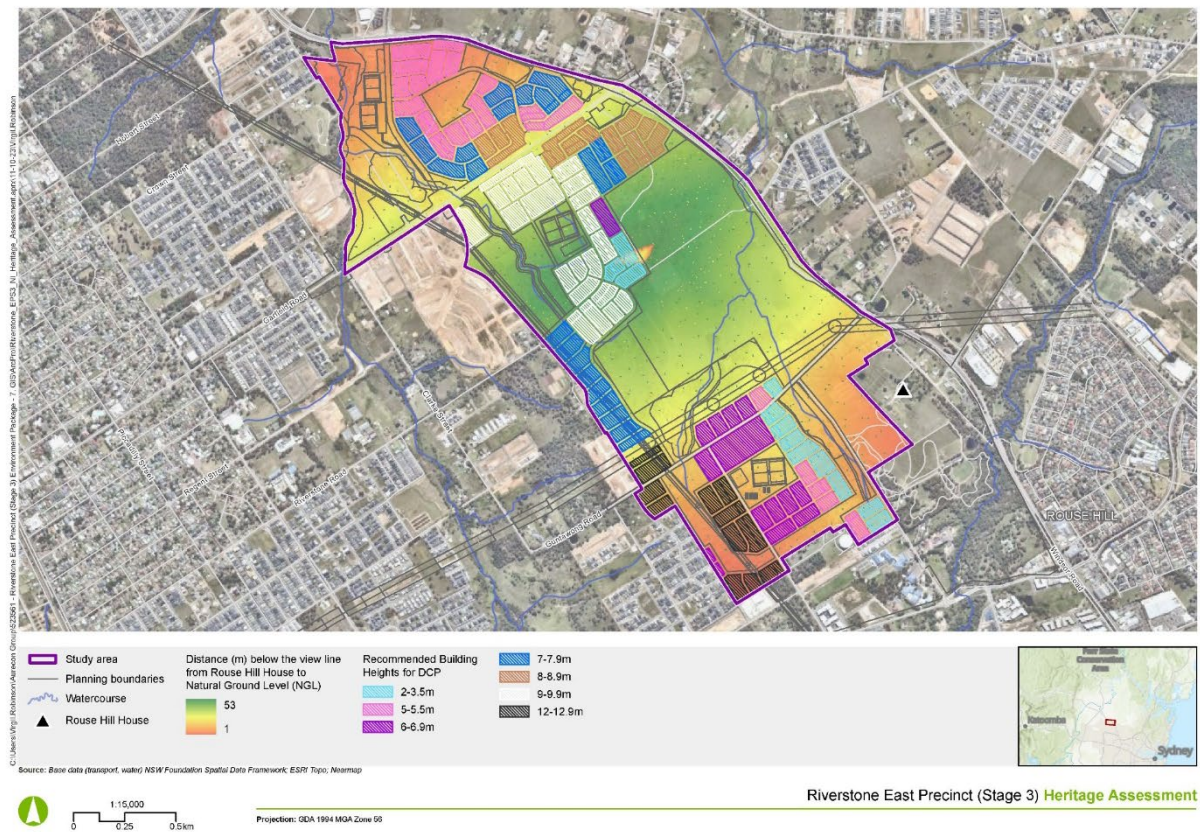


Figure 4 - Recommended Height of Buildings for DCP to retain medium to long distance views from Rouse Hill House and Farm (Aurecon, September 2023)

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# 2

## Heritage Assessment



## 2 Introduction

Aurecon have been engaged by the Department of Planning and Environment (the Department) to prepare environmental assessments to support the development of the Riverstone East Precinct (Stage 3) (the Precinct) Indicative Layout Plan (ILP), encompassing biodiversity and riparian, bushfire, contamination, Indigenous and non-Indigenous heritage, noise, vibration, and odour considerations. This report presents the findings of the Non-Indigenous Heritage Assessment for the Precinct.

The Department is progressing investigations into the potential rezoning of the remaining portion of the Riverstone East Precinct as part of the broader North West Growth Area (NWGA), nominally identified as Stage 3, in collaboration with Blacktown City Council (BCC).

Using the draft Concept ILP as a reference, this Non-Indigenous Heritage Assessment was developed to provide guidance on mitigating potential impacts on sites of heritage significance within the Precinct.

### 2.1 Objectives of this Assessment

The purpose of this Non-Indigenous Heritage Assessment is to build on and verify findings of the Stage 1 Non-Indigenous Heritage Gap Analysis (Aurecon, May 2023) via further assessment and an historic site survey. This assessment provides recommendations for the future management of non-Indigenous heritage values located within and adjacent to the Precinct through input to the ILP and an interpretation strategy.

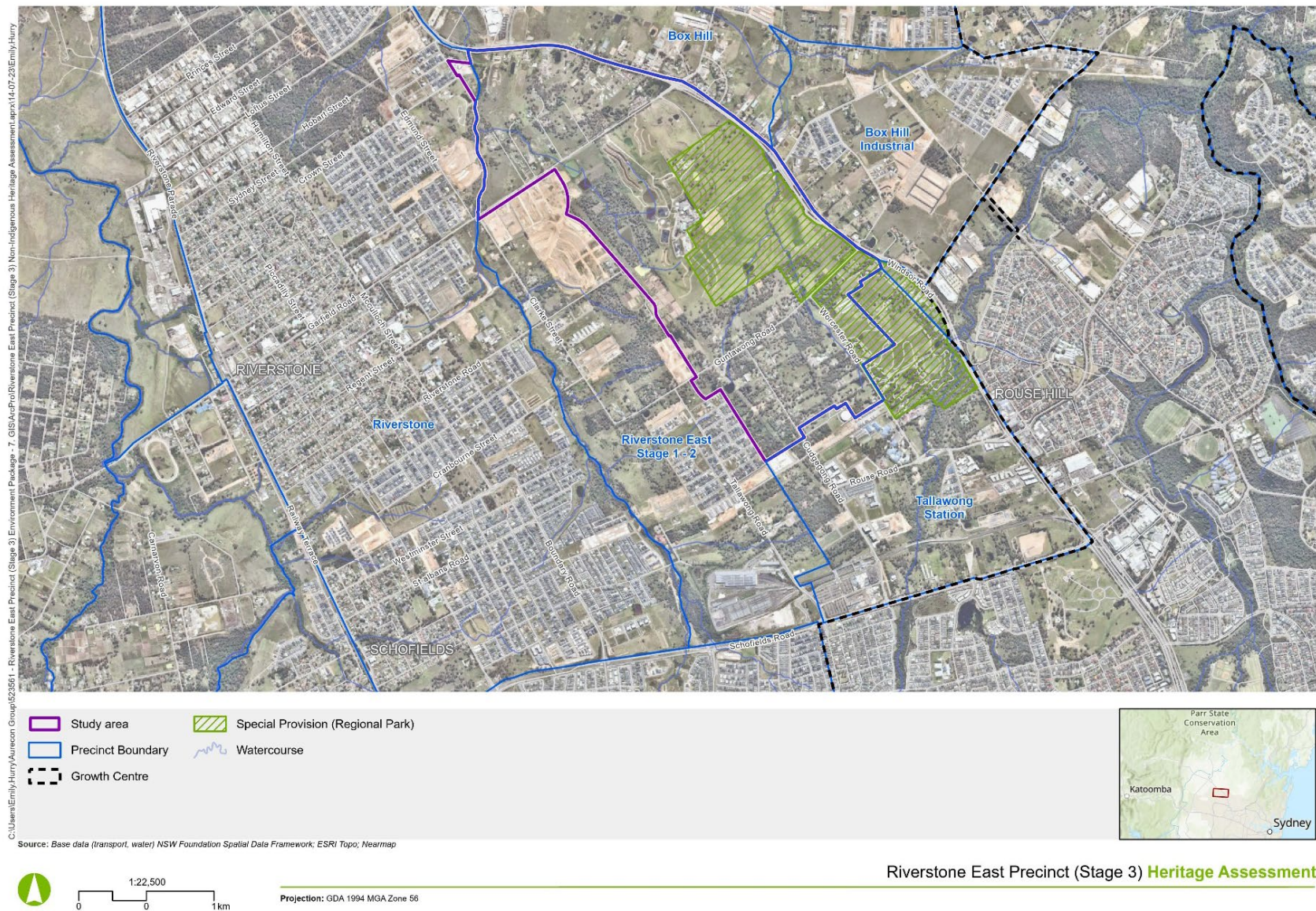
The key objectives of this Assessment are to:

- Undertake all necessary background research and primary investigations (including historical, ethno-historical, landscape/environmental, archaeological, community-based cultural research) to enable the identification, assessment, significance ranking and mapping of non-Indigenous cultural heritage places and values within the Precinct.
- Understand the non-Indigenous heritage of the Precinct and immediate surrounds, particularly the contextual relationship with Rouse Hill House and Farm Estate.
- Collaborate with the project team in establishing an ILP which recognises any non-Indigenous heritage significance identified.
- Develop appropriate land use and management options for significant heritage places (including landscapes, sites, objects, historical places, etc) based on their level of significance.
- Promote the role and value of non-Indigenous heritage for place identity, vision, and character.
- Develop an understanding of the characteristics of the Precinct in relation to non-Indigenous heritage and its cultural, political, social, and related economic significance.
- Prepare an evidence-based assessment and collaborate with the broader project team to provide strategic advice in support of the precinct planning process.
- Ensure matters of non-Indigenous heritage can be considered as part of future development.
- Address legislative requirements and Government policy and guidelines relating to heritage conservation.
- Prepare an interpretation strategy for heritage items within Stage 3 of the Riverstone East Precinct.

### 2.2 Site context

The Precinct, located within Blacktown Local Government Area (LGA), is generally bound by Windsor Road to the north-east, lands designated for Rouse Hill Regional Park in the east, the developing lands within the Tallawong Station Precinct to the south, the developing Riverstone East Stage 1 and 2 lands to the west, and First Ponds Creek in the north-west. The Precinct includes Lots 1 and 2 DP 218794 along Junction Road to the north-western corner, and sites owned by Burns Pet Food and A J Bush and Sons. Riverstone East is surrounded by NWGA precincts in the Blacktown, Hills Shire, and Hawkesbury LGAs. The Precinct covers approximately 174 hectares (ha) (excluding Rouse Hill Regional Park) (Figure 2-1).





**Figure 2-1** Location of the Precinct



**Figure 2-2** Draft Indicative Layout Plan for the Riverstone East Precinct Stage 3 (source: DPE 2016)

### 2.3.1 Approach

The following approach has been undertaken in preparation of this Assessment:

- Stage 1 – A **Gap Analysis including a desktop assessment** comprised a review of existing heritage literature and assessment undertaken for the broader vicinity. It included a search of non-Indigenous heritage registers that identified that there are no listed heritage items located within the Study Area and 14 within one kilometre (km). These are predominantly locally listed; however, the Box Hill Inn and Rouse Hill House and Estate are listed on the State Heritage Register (SHR). There is a notable lack of registered archaeological heritage items listed on both the Blacktown LEP 2015 and The Hills Local Environmental Plan 2019 (the Hills LEP 2019). A site prediction model was constructed based upon the findings of the background research and was tested in the field.
- Stage 2 – A **Site Inspection** was undertaken to ground truth the site prediction model and identify if all forms of cultural heritage have been recorded and included in the assessment. The site inspection had mixed results. Few predictions were able to be verified due to restricted access to private properties.
- Stage 3 – The non-Indigenous heritage values identified during the desktop assessment were revised and heritage management recommendations were provided through collaboration as part of an **Enquiry by Design** workshop, to further develop and refine the draft ILP.
- Stage 4 – The potential impacts of the draft ILP on the built heritage, significant view lines from Rouse Hill House and the archaeological potential identified in this **Non-Indigenous Heritage Assessment** was considered and have informed a refined iteration of the draft ILP.
- Stage 5 – An **Interpretation Strategy** has been prepared, based upon the cultural heritage significance of the potential archaeological remains and heritage places and elements within the Study Area. It is intended that this Interpretation Strategy be implemented in the future development of the Precinct.

## 2.4 Non-Indigenous Heritage Scope

The scope for this Non-Indigenous Heritage Assessment comprised the following key tasks:

- Review and mapping of statutory and non-statutory heritage registers and environmental planning instruments to identify any known or listed heritage items within and within the vicinity of the Precinct (Section 3.1 and 3.2).
- Overview of the environmental and historical context of the Precinct and surrounds, and review of previous studies and investigations to develop a predictive model of unrecorded heritage (including archaeological potential within the Precinct). Undertake archaeological mapping of any identified items or places of heritage significance, as well as the non-Indigenous potential of the area (Section 3.3, 3.4 and 3.5, Section 4).
- Undertake a site inspection of the Precinct to ground truth known heritage values within the Precinct, test the archaeological potential model and record known heritage values. The aim of the site inspection is also to record and verify significant view lines relating to Rouse Hill House Estate (Section 5).
- Undertake an overall assessment of the Riverstone East Stage 3 Precinct to identify items or places of significance in terms of their aesthetic, historic, scientific and/or social value.
- Provision of a revised non-Indigenous archaeological and heritage assessment of the Precinct (Section 5.6).
- Provision of recommendations pertaining to the cultural heritage landscape and visual catchment of Rouse Hill House and Farm Estate, including previous visual analysis undertaken (Section 7.1).
- Where necessary, draft, or update, a succinct 'statement of significance' for any items located within the Precinct which summarises the heritage values of any items identified, in accordance with the *Guidelines for assessing places and objects against the Heritage Council of NSW Criteria* (DPE, 2023).
- Prepare, or update draft heritage inventory sheets for the inclusion of the items in the statutory planning framework and State Heritage Inventory.

- If required draft a “statement of heritage impact” including a statement explaining how the heritage value of an item is to be conserved, or preferably enhanced by the proposed development.
- Work with the urban designer to develop a set of objectives and development controls (text and illustrations) for inclusion in a SEPP Amendment and DCP, if appropriate.
- Prepare a narrative of non-Indigenous heritage in the Precinct and surrounds and how it has influenced the current pattern of development and land use. Develop interpretive and planning strategies that could be included in the ILP toward the interpretation and preservation non-Indigenous heritage values (Section 8).

## 2.5 Assumptions and Limitations

The assumptions and limitations of this report are as follows:

- The register search for non-Indigenous heritage was undertaken on 3 April 2023. As such, this report is accurate as of this date.
- An historic site inspection was undertaken over two days on 16 and 17 May 2023. This inspection was limited due to a lack of access obtained to private properties.
- This assessment is limited to non-Indigenous heritage, a separate Indigenous Heritage Assessment has been prepared by Navin Officer Heritage Consultants (Navin Officer). Consultation has however been undertaken with Navin Officer to understand the Indigenous heritage values of the Precinct and incorporate these values into the heritage interpretation recommendations where possible.
- Research undertaken to inform this report was predominantly based on secondary sources, limited primary sources and previous historic investigations of the Riverstone East Precinct Stage 3 and wider Blacktown LGA.
- Consultation with the local community has not been undertaken as part of this assessment, however Blacktown and Riverstone local historical societies were consulted for input.
- Access to Rouse Hill House Estate was not obtained for the site inspection and the Museums of History, NSW (currently managing Rouse Hill Estate) were not available for consultation at the time of report preparation.
- This report does not substitute the requirement or recommendation for further heritage assessments, such as Statement of Heritage Impacts (SOHIs) and archaeological excavation, to adequately investigate the nature, significance, and extent of non-Indigenous heritage elements or that may be impacted by the Project.

## 3 Desktop Assessment

The following section summarises the outcomes of the Desktop Assessment.

### 3.1 Heritage Legislation

#### 3.1.1 Regulatory Framework

The protection of non-Indigenous heritage in NSW is governed by a set of interrelated local, state and Commonwealth legislation and planning instruments which are listed and briefly described below.

##### Commonwealth Legislation

- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act)
- *Australian Heritage Council Act 2003*.

##### NSW Legislation

- *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* amended by the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Amendment Act 2017* (EP&A Act)
- *Heritage Act 1977* (*Heritage Act*)
- *State Environmental Planning Policy (Precincts – Central River City) 2021* (Central River City SEPP)

These acts and their relevant sections and associated regulatory documents (for example codes of practice, guidelines, etc.) govern the Precinct described in Table 3-1.

**Table 3-1 Legislative framework pertaining to non-Indigenous heritage**

Legislation	Description
EPBC Act	The EPBC Act includes provisions to protect matters of national environmental significance and Commonwealth land. Lists and registers made under the EPBC Act include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A National Heritage List (NHL) of places of national heritage significance.</li><li>• A Commonwealth Heritage List (CHL) of heritage places owned or managed by the Commonwealth.</li><li>• Management of the Register of the National Estate (RNE).</li><li>• An independent expert body, the Australian Heritage Council, advises the Minister on the listing and protection of heritage places.</li></ul>
<i>Australian Heritage Council Act 2003</i>	This Act established the Australian Heritage Council as an independent advisory body regarding National/ Commonwealth heritage places. The Council conducts assessments of listing nominations, advises the Minister for Environment and Heritage, maintains the Register of the National Estate, and promotes the assessment and conservation of heritage items.

Legislation	Description
<i>Heritage Act 1977</i>	<p>Heritage in NSW is principally protected by the <i>Heritage Act 1977</i> (as amended) which was passed for the purpose of conserving items of environmental heritage of NSW. Environmental heritage is broadly defined under Section 4 of the <i>Heritage Act 1977</i> as consisting of the following items: 'those places, buildings, works, relics, moveable objects, and precincts, of State or Local heritage significance'. The <i>Heritage Act 1977</i> is administered by the Heritage Council, under delegation by Heritage NSW.</p> <p>The <i>Heritage Act 1977</i> is designed to protect both known heritage items (such as standing structures) and items that may not be immediately obvious (such as potential archaeological remains or 'relics'). Different parts of the <i>Heritage Act 1977</i> deal with different situations and types of heritage and the Heritage Act provides a number of mechanisms by which items and places of heritage significance may be protected.</p> <p><b>Section 170 Heritage and Conservation Registers</b></p> <p>Section 170 of the <i>Heritage Act 1977</i> requires that culturally significant items or places managed or owned by Government agencies are listed on departmental Heritage and Conservation Register. Information on these registers has been prepared in accordance with Heritage Division guidelines. Statutory obligations for archaeological sites that are listed on a Section 170 Register include notification to the Heritage Council in addition to relic's provision obligations. The State Heritage Inventory (SHI) currently provides details of Section 170 listings.</p>
EP&A Act	<p>Local Environmental Plans (LEPs) guide planning decisions for local government areas through zoning and development controls. They provide a local framework for the way land can be developed and used. LEPs are the main planning tool to shape the future of communities by ensuring local development is carried out appropriately.</p>

Legislation	Description
<p><i>Environmental Planning Policy (Precincts – Central River City) 2021</i> (Central River City SEPP)</p>	<p>State environmental planning policies (SEPPs) have been consolidated to align with theme-based focus areas to make the planning system more accessible and user-friendly. Forty-five existing SEPPs were consolidated into 11 new SEPPs based on the theme-based focus areas. The consolidated SEPPs commenced on 1 March 2022.</p> <p>Of relevance to the Precinct, SEPP (Sydney Region Growth Centres) 2006 has been repealed and superseded by the <i>State Environmental Planning Policy (Precincts – Central River City) 2021</i> (Central River City SEPP).</p> <p>The previous SEPP (Sydney Region Growth Centres) 2006 included a Cultural Heritage Landscape Area located within the Precinct, north of Rouse Hill House and Farm. The landscape area is now included as a 'Special Provision' which is an expanded area from the original landscape area curtilage.</p> <p>Under Central River City SEPP, Part 3.7 outlines Development Controls – cultural heritage landscape area:</p> <p><b>3.33 Development on land in cultural heritage landscape area—additional heads of consideration</b></p> <p><i>Consent is not to be granted to the carrying out of development to which this Part applies unless the consent authority has taken the following into consideration—</i></p> <p><i>(a) whether or not the development will adversely impact on the cultural heritage values of the Rouse Hill House Estate and its setting, having regard, in particular, to the following matters—</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>(i) any proposed subdivision design and layout,</i></li> <li><i>(ii) the siting, height, bulk, and scale of any proposed buildings or works (including any buildings or works likely to result from any proposed subdivision),</i></li> <li><i>(iii) the materials and colours to be used in any proposed buildings, fences, or other structures,</i></li> <li><i>(iv) the extent, location and form of any proposed landscaping and its ability to reduce the visual impact of the development,</i></li> <li><i>(v) the impact of the development on any archaeological relics,</i></li> </ul> <p><i>(b) a site analysis of the cultural heritage landscape area that assesses development that is responsive to the topography of the area and to other development in the vicinity,</i></p> <p><i>(c) a visual analysis that assesses the impact of the development on views to and from the Rouse Hill House Estate,</i></p> <p><i>(d) measures to minimise any adverse impact of the development on the cultural heritage values of Rouse Hill House Estate and its setting.</i></p> <p>Also of relevance to the Central River City SEPP are <b>Part 4.3 – Special provisions relating to development</b> and <b>Part 4.4 Protection of the natural environment and heritage items</b>.</p> <p>The cultural heritage provisions of the Central River City SEPP would apply for future subdivision and development of the Riverstone East Precinct. Accordingly, the development of the ILP should be cognisant of these requirements to ensure future development does not contravene or conflict with the SEPP objectives.</p>



### 3.1.2 Non-statutory Considerations

#### Register of the National Estate

The Register of the National Estate (RNE) is a list of important natural, Indigenous, and historic places throughout Australia. It was a statutory register of more than 13,000 places originally established under the *Australian Heritage Commission Act 1975* (repealed) until February 2012. From February 2012 all references to the RNE were removed from the EPBC Act and the *Australian Heritage Council Act 2003* (Commonwealth Government, 2003). The RNE is now maintained as a publicly available non-statutory archive.

#### National Trust (NSW)

The National Trust of Australia (NSW) is a community-based, non-government organisation, and has no statutory power. Heritage sites deemed to hold values are listed to the Register of the National Trust of Australia (NSW).

#### The Burra Charter: The Australian ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance 2013

The Burra 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. The Burra Charter was first adopted in 1979 at the historic South Australian mining town of Burra. Minor revisions were made in 1981 and 1988, with more substantial changes in 2013. The Burra Charter provides specific guidance for physical and procedural actions that should occur in relation to significant places.

#### Blacktown City Council Growth Area Precincts Development Control Plan 2010

The Blacktown City Council Growth Area Precincts Development Control Plan 2010 (Growth Area DCP) (as amended in 2020) provides supplementary and more detailed and specific planning controls in addition to the provisions in the Central River City SEPP and will apply when the land is rezoned.

The Blacktown Local Environmental Plan 2015 currently applies to the Precinct. The Growth Area DCP only applies to land covered by the Blacktown Local Environmental Plan 2015.

Relevant to the non-Indigenous heritage considerations of the Precinct, the DCP seeks to ensure areas identified as archaeologically or culturally significant are managed appropriately. It includes maps of Indigenous and European heritage significance.

Development Applications (DAs) for subdivision and building on the properties identified as European cultural heritage sites in the relevant Precinct's Schedule, are to be accompanied by a report from a suitably qualified heritage consultant detailing the results of archaeological investigations undertaken to confirm the presence of archaeological material relating to the heritage site. Where archaeological material is identified, the DA is to address the requirements of the Heritage Act.

## 3.2 Heritage Listings

A search of the following historic heritage registers was undertaken by Emily Martin (Consultant, Aurecon) on 3 April 2023. The search was conducted using a one-kilometre buffer around the Precinct. The result of this search is provided in Table 3-2, Table 3-3 and Figure 3-1 and included the following registers:

- World Heritage List (WHL)
- State Heritage Register (SHR)
- State Heritage Inventory (SHI) (Section 170 heritage and conservation registers)
- Blacktown Local Environment Plan 2015 (Blacktown LEP 2015)
- The Hills Local Environment Plan 2019 (while the Precinct is located within the Blacktown LGA, The Hills LGA borders the Precinct on Windsor Road and is relevant to the wider register searches)
- National Heritage List (NHL)
- Commonwealth Heritage List (CHL)
- Register of the National Estate (RNE)



■ National Trust Register (NTR)

A search of the relevant registers indicated that there are no listed non-Indigenous heritage items within the Precinct. There are no heritage items on the WHL, CHL or NHL within 1 km of the Precinct. Likewise, a search of the SHI did not reveal any listings on the Section 170 heritage and conservation registers.

There are 14 non-Indigenous heritage items located within a 1 km buffer of the Precinct. Three of these items are listed on the SHR, notably the Box Hill Inn, Box Hill Inn Box Hill House in grounds of McCall gardens and Rouse Hill House and Farm. The majority of the heritage items within the vicinity are locally listed.

A large number of listed items are located within the Riverstone town centre, including the state heritage listed railway station west of the Precinct. There is a notable lack of registered archaeological heritage items listed on both the Blacktown and The Hills LEPs.

While not a heritage item, the Precinct contains a prescribed 'Special provisions' area under the Central River City SEPP. This area encompasses a Cultural Heritage Landscape Area as a development control area within the repealed SEPP (Sydney Region Growth Centre) 2006.

While not listed on any heritage register, the former Rouse Hill schoolhouse, constructed in 1888, is located south-east of the Precinct. The restored schoolhouse is located outside (east) of the SHR curtilage of the Rouse Hill House and Farm listing. A 1.5 km section of Windsor Road was previously deviated by the Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA, now Transport for NSW) to avoid negatively impacting Rouse Hill Estate and the former schoolhouse during Windsor Road upgrade works. With the road realignment works the schoolhouse was transferred from The Hills LGA to Blacktown City Council and it was acquired by the Historic Houses Trust in 2002 and added to the Rouse Hill Estate property.

This section of land within the Rouse Hill Estate (not listed on the SHR or LEP) also includes a section of the original Windsor Road turnpike proclaimed by Governor Macquarie in 1813 and the site of the 1804 Vinegar Hill convict rebellion. The schoolhouse is currently managed by the Museums of History, NSW (formerly Sydney Living Museums).

**Table 3-2 Statutory heritage listings in and within 1 km of the Precinct**

Heritage Register	Items within the Precinct	Items in proximity to the Precinct
World Heritage List	None	None
National Heritage List	None	None
Commonwealth Heritage List	None	None
State Heritage Register	None	<p><b>Box Hill Inn (#00724)</b>, Windsor Road, Box Hill (Lot 11 DP 1009338). This item is located on the northern site boundary, on the northern side of Windsor Road.</p> <p><b>Box Hill Inn Box Hill House in grounds of McCall gardens (#00613)</b>, 10 Terry Road, Baulkham Hills. This item is located approximately 800 m from the eastern site boundary.</p> <p><b>Rouse Hill House and Farm SHR #00002)</b>, 980 Windsor Road, Rouse Hill. This item is located on the south-eastern site boundary, approximately 100 m west of Windsor Road.</p>

Heritage Register	Items within the Precinct	Items in proximity to the Precinct
Blacktown Local Environmental Plan 2015	None	<p><b>House 'Nu Welwyn' (#171)</b>, Clarke Street, Riverstone (part Lot 5 DP 229296) located approximately 350 m west of the site, on the eastern side of Clarke Street.</p> <p><b>Rouse Hill House and Farm (#107)</b>, 980 Windsor Road, Rouse Hill (Lot 1 DP 815213) located on the south-eastern site boundary, approximately 100 m west of Windsor Road.</p> <p><b>Slab Building – Riverstone High School (#187)</b>, located approximately 1 km south-west of the western site boundary.</p> <p><b>Archaeological site: Riverstone Brick cistern (#A122)</b>, 26 Market Street Part of Lot 1, DP 1140952 Local A122, located approximately 2.5 km west of the western site boundary.</p> <p><i>Note: this item is not located within the 1 km buffer zone but is the only archaeological site listed on the LEP in the vicinity of the Precinct.</i></p>
The Hills Local Environmental Plan 2019	None	<p><b>Windsor Road from Baulkham Hills to Box Hill (#128)</b>, located approximately 480 m south-east of the southern site boundary.</p> <p><b>Queen's Arms Inn Site (#A24)</b>, 1 Resolution Place, Rouse Hill, located approximately 900 m south-east of the southern site boundary.</p> <p><b>Rouse Hill Cemetery (#182)</b>, 10–12 Arberdour Avenue, Rouse Hill, located approximately 850 m south-east of the southern site boundary.</p> <p><b>Christchurch (#187)</b>, Windsor Road (Lot 10, DP1087432), Located 880 m south-east of the southern site boundary.</p>

Heritage Register	Items within the Precinct	Items in proximity to the Precinct
<p><i>State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) (Precincts—Central River City) 2021</i></p> <p>Note this SEPP has replaced and consolidated the repealed SEPP (Sydney Region Growth Centre) 2006</p>	Yes	<p>14 Heritage items with SEPP provisions:</p> <hr/> <p><b>House 'Nu Welwyn'</b></p> <p><b>Box Hill Inn</b></p> <p><b>Box Hill Inn Box Hill House in grounds of McCall gardens</b></p> <p><b>Rouse Hill School House</b></p> <p><b>Rosebank</b></p> <p><b>St Clares Convent</b></p> <p><b>St Johns Catholic Church and School</b></p> <p><b>Rouse Hill Cemetery</b></p> <p><b>Christchurch</b></p> <p><b>Slab building – Riverstone High school</b></p> <p><b>Queen Arms Inn</b></p> <p><b>Windsor Road from Baulkham Hills to Box Hill</b></p> <p><b>Rouse Hill Estate</b></p> <p><b>Archaeological site: Riverstone Brick cistern</b></p> <p>Cultural Heritage Landscape Area (within Special provisions curtilage)</p>
Section 170 Heritage and Conservation Register (SHI)	None	None

**Table 3-3 Non-statutory heritage listings in and within 1 km of the Precinct**

Register	Items within the Precinct	Items in the vicinity of the Precinct
Register of the National Estate	None	<p><b>Rouse Hill House Garden</b>, Windsor Road, Rouse Hill</p> <p><b>Rouse Hill House including Stables and Outbuildings</b>, Windsor Road, Rouse Hill</p>
Register of the National Trust of Australia (NSW)	None	<p><b>Rouse Hill House including stables, other buildings, and curtilage</b>, located on the south- eastern boundary of the site, approximately 100 m west of Windsor Road.</p> <p><b>Windsor Road</b>, Rouse Hill, located on the northern boundary of the site, on the northern side of Windsor Road.</p>



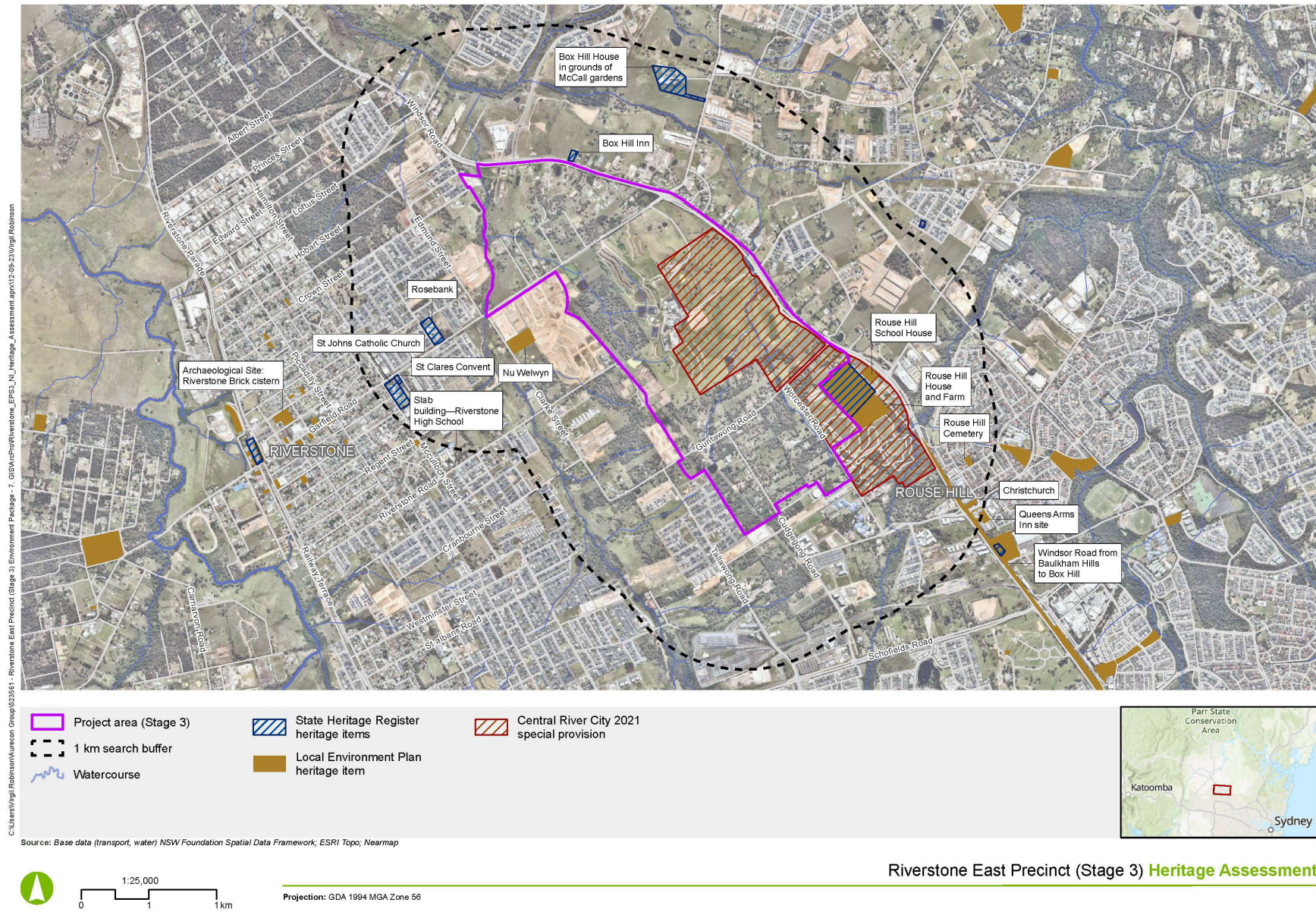


Figure 3-1 Non-Indigenous heritage listings within and nearby the Precinct (Aurecon, July 2023)



### 3.3 Review of Past Studies and Historic Site Information

A review of previous heritage assessments, studies, archaeological investigations, and other relevant reports was undertaken to assist in identifying non-Indigenous values within the Precinct, development of an archaeological predictive model and gap analysis. It should be noted that this review is not exhaustive and is based on available reports available at the time of preparation of this report with a focus on those most relevant to the Precinct.

#### 3.3.1 Blacktown Heritage Study (1988)

Jonathan Falk Planning Consultants (JFPC) and Rodney Jensen and Associates (RJAA) undertook a heritage study for the Blacktown shire council area in 1988. This heritage study considered built, Non-Indigenous and Aboriginal heritage. Historical themes identified within the city of Blacktown were identified as Pioneers and Social Pressures/Settlement in the 19th Century, Transport and Urbanisation, Exploiting Natural Resources, Farming Activities, Rural Industry, Subdivision and Urban Growth, and Serving the Metropolis/Regional Functions.

As part of this heritage study three surveys were undertaken to assess built, Non-Indigenous and Aboriginal heritage within the municipality.

##### Buildings Survey

*'A total of 140 buildings in the Blacktown shire council which have been identified as worthy of inclusion on the heritage inventory... Blacktown City exhibits heritage items of either very simple houses or potential residences on large estates with little examples of middle-class housing. There are few non-residential buildings of note. The very small worker's cottages frequently in timber slabs are however significant in terms of their scarcity and provide examples of materials available to the earliest settlers. By contrast the estates were the homes of the most influential and wealthy members of the community and demonstrate fine architecture of the late Georgian and Victorian periods'* (JFPC and RJAA, 1988:9).

Of the 140 buildings identified as having local heritage significance, 36 were located in the Riverstone township (Table 3-4). Riverstone was the largest village in the City of Blacktown before World War Two therefore this total is not surprising. None of these buildings are located within the Precinct.

**Table 3-4 City of Blacktown Buildings of Environmental Heritage located in Riverstone**

Heritage Study	Theme	Located in proximity to the Precinct
047	Transport and its Impact on Urbanisation	Shop & Cottage, 44 Garfield Road, East Riverstone
049	Transport and its Impact on Urbanisation	House Station Master's Residence, 22 Garfield Road, East Riverstone.
050	Transport and its Impact on Urbanisation	Terrace Parrington Terrace, Garfield Road, East Riverstone
155	Transport and its Impact on Urbanisation	Cottage Pitt Street, Riverstone
160	Transport and its Impact on Urbanisation	Shop Old Riverstone Meat, Garfield Road West Riverstone
163	Transport and its Impact on Urbanisation	Row of Cottages, 21 Richards Avenue, Riverstone
165	Transport and its Impact on Urbanisation	Station group Riverstone Station, Riverstone Parade, Riverstone
036	Subdivision and Urban Growth	House Lot 15 Riverstone Road, Riverstone
175	Rural Industry	Cottage Clive Cottage Lytton Lane, Riverstone

Heritage Study	Theme	Located in proximity to the Precinct
178	Rural Industry	Slab Cottage, Lot 12 Lytton Road, Riverstone
350	Rural Industry	Riverstone Meatworks
035	architectural significance	House Nu Welwyn, Clarke Street, Riverstone
037	architectural significance	House Lot 5, 2 Brighton Street, Riverstone
040	architectural significance	House Rosebank Garfield Road, East Riverstone
041	architectural significance	House 785 Garfield Road, East Riverstone
042	architectural significance	House 779 Garfield Road, East Riverstone
043	architectural significance	Church St.Johns Catholic Church., Garfield Road, East Riverstone
044	architectural significance	School Riverstone Inf. Sch., Garfield Road, East Riverstone
045	architectural significance	Hall Masonic Hall, Garfield Road, East Riverstone
046	architectural significance	Cottage 86, 30 Garfield Road, East Riverstone
048	architectural significance	Church St. Andrew's Presbyterian, Garfield Road, East Riverstone
051	architectural significance	Cottage 3 Castlereagh Street, Riverstone
052	architectural significance	Row 3 Cottages 7, 9 & 11 Oxford Street, Riverstone
053	architectural significance	Cottage 31,37 Elizabeth Street, Riverstone
055	architectural significance	Cottage 38 Railway Tee, Riverstone
057	architectural significance	Cottage 20, 40 Regent Street, Riverstone
058	architectural significance	Cottage 41, 5 Riverstone Road, Riverstone
059	architectural significance	House, 6 Riverstone Road, Riverstone
137	architectural significance	Cottage 57 Hamilton Street, Riverstone.
144	architectural significance	House 45 Bourke Street, Riverstone
147	architectural significance	House 8 King Street, Riverstone
158	architectural significance	House 38 Park Street, Riverstone.
164	architectural significance	Group cottages 27-49, 39 Richards Avenue, Riverstone
168	architectural significance	Cottage 22 West Pde Riverstone
172	architectural significance	House Redgate Farm Road, Riverstone
282	architectural significance	Slab Cottage in grounds, Riverstone High School, Regent St., Riverstone

## Non-Indigenous Archaeological Survey

A targeted survey of places assessed with archaeological potential was undertaken as part of the heritage study. These surveyed sites were selected from the thematic history and the National Trust Register of Industrial Sites. Several of these inspected places were located within the wider Riverstone area and included:

- Prospect Reservoir, Veteran Hall site, avenue of pines, house fences and trees near Cricketers Arms, former Cricketers Arms Inn;
- Rooty Hill Stock Farm Superintendents Residence;
- Plumpton Native Institution site;
- Blacktown Fitzsimmons family graves;
- Rouse Hill Vinegar Hill site;
- Riverstone cemetery;
- War memorial; and
- Meatworks (JFPC and RJAA, 1988: p.24).

Of the sites surveyed, only three were deemed to have archaeological potential (Table 3-5). These places with archaeological potential lie within the wider Riverstone region and are not located with the Precinct. Heritage places, especially Pump and Well, Garfield Road West Riverstone (Ar184A), attest to the types of places potentially situated within the Stage 3 Study Area. As the Precinct has not seen as much residential development since the 1950s (see Table 3-4 for the built heritage of local significance in the Riverstone area), there is a reasonable chance that potential archaeological remains survive and may be well preserved.

**Table 3-5 City of Blacktown Buildings of Environmental Heritage located in Riverstone**

Number	Located in proximity to the Precinct	Summary
Ar307	Riverstone Cemetery, Garfield Road, West Riverstone	A large graveyard on the side of a hill, sloping down to the northeast. The denominations are clearly separated into groups. Most of the graves are in the style of the last fifty years - rectangular granite headstones, polished on the side with the inscription and rough on the back side.
Ar335	War Memorial within Riverstone Railway Station, Riverstone Parade, Riverstone	A sandstone war memorial, consisting of an obelisk with crossed rifles in relief on it and carved letters dedicating it to World War I, World War II, Malaya, and Korea. It is well maintained.
Ar184A	Pump and Well, Garfield Road West Riverstone	A classic design water pump which is mounted on a brick cistern that supplies water for the house in item 184.

### 3.3.2 Riverstone East Precinct: Non-Indigenous Heritage Assessment DRAFT (AHMS 2015)

AHMS (2015) undertook a Non-Indigenous Heritage Assessment for the entire Riverstone East Precinct, including the Stage 3 Study Area. This assessment emphasises the local and state significance of several known heritage items, as well as potential archaeological remains to be further explored. Those heritage elements most relevant to this assessment include:

- Rouse Hill House (outside, but adjacent to the Stage 3 Study Area boundary)
- Windsor Road precinct (adjoins the north-eastern Stage 3 Study Area boundary)
- Box Hill Inn (outside, but adjacent to the eastern Stage 3 Study Area boundary)



- Potential Rummery House Remains (inside the Stage 3 Study Area boundary, north of Garfield Road East and east of Junction Road).

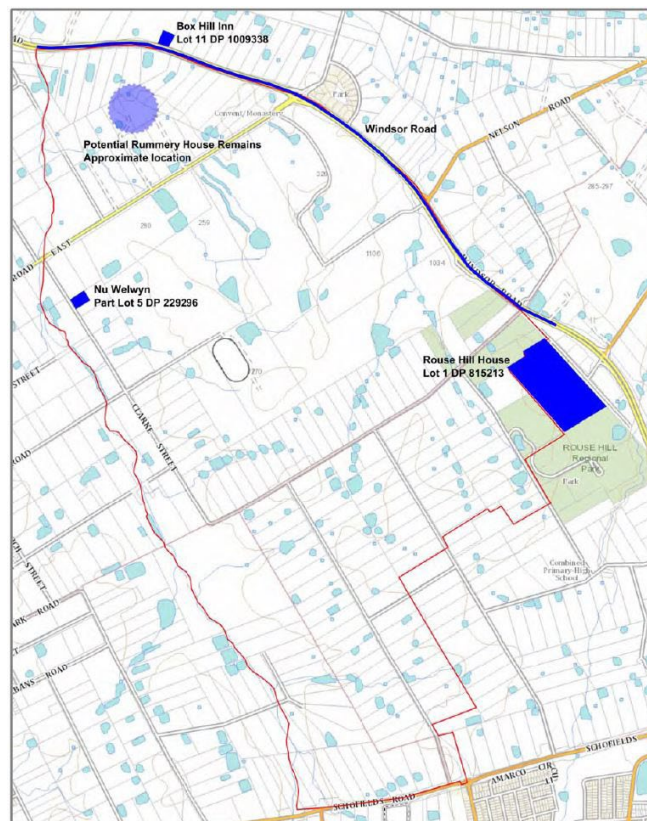
Windsor Road, running along the eastern boundary of the Precinct, approximately follows the same alignment that was originally laid out in 1794 and formalised in c1810. Rouse Hill House and some of the main outbuildings remain standing, and the boundaries of the estate are still evident in current cadastral boundaries. Rouse's connections are referenced in the naming of the streets created during the subdivision of the estate. The earlier rural setting of the House is apparent as a result of the creation of Rouse Hill Regional Park, and the open outlook to the north-west has been preserved by the use of this property by Burns Pet Food.

A targeted site inspection was undertaken on 12 June and 23 October 2014, the locations of which were informed by the initial documentary research. A pedestrian survey concentrated on public roads and involved restricted access to private land. It was intended to provide a broad overview, not a comprehensive survey of the Precinct, together with targeted examination of heritage items and potential heritage items identified through the documentary research. The survey confirmed that agricultural structures and the remaining housing within the precinct date to between the 1950s to the 1980s, as identified by the documentary record.

### **Potential Rummery House Remains**

The configuration and location of the former structure is not known. It is shown in the relatively schematic 1925 plan (Figure 3-2) but is not apparent in either the 1947 (Figure 3-10) or 1949 (Figure 3-11) aerial photographs. In addition, while it is not known whether any remains of the house may exist as buried archaeological deposits within the Precinct, dressed sandstone blocks observed within the property known as 307 Garfield Road East may indicate remains of the house in this location (refer to Figure 50 in AHMS 2015:82).

AHMS (2015) identified a track linking this house on the rise to the Former Box Hill Inn property directly across Windsor Road, linking the two properties. Further, it is suggested that both the homes were situated on high ground and could have good view lines along this track. Any surviving remains, given the association with the prominent Rummery family, would likely be of local significance (AHMS, 2015). The lack of documentary evidence concerning the use and configuration of the structure, including aerial photography, supports this assessment.



**Figure 3-2** Potential location of Rummery House Remains (AHMS, 2015: p.90; Figure 73).

## **Recommendations**

AHMS made the following key recommendations pertaining to potential non-Indigenous heritage identified within and adjacent to the Precinct for consideration:

- Retain the roads and cadastral boundaries representing significant historical property divisions. For Stage 3, the northern boundary of the former Richard Rouse property is most relevant (see Figure 10, page 10, in the AHMS 2015 study).
- Recognise the distinct character of the historical estates in specific development controls (i.e., the Rummery and Rouse Hill estates).
- Co-ordinate planning with neighbouring Precincts (e.g., Tallawong Station) to allow the whole of the historical extent of the Rouse Hill estate to be recognised.
- Potential Rummery House Remains:
  - Undertake historical archaeological assessment and investigation to determine whether remains associated with the house are present, and if so, assess their nature and condition.
  - If associated archaeological remains are present and these display a high level of integrity, these vestiges should be preserved in situ if possible. This will probably lead to restrictions on development in the affected area.
  - Where relevant, conserve existing view lines between the probable location of the former Rummery House (on the high ground within the historic Portion 95 i.e., land north of Garfield Road East) and Box Hill Inn.
- Rouse Hill House:
  - Extend the curtilage of the listed heritage item to Worcester Road in the west and Guntawong Road in the north (refer Figure 8 in AMHS report) to assist in the conservation of the setting of the main homestead group, and view lines, and in reinforcing the connection with the wider historical estate. Note this would need to be recognised in the environmental planning instrument and development within the expanded curtilage would be subject to heritage impact assessment.
  - Proposed development of the properties adjacent to and to the west of Worcester Road should be subject to heritage impact assessment.
  - Extend the Cultural Heritage Landscape Area under the Growth Centres SEPP to Guntawong Road in the south and Garfield Road East in the north (refer Figure 8 in AHMS report) and retain as open space to assist in conserving view lines.
- Amend the development controls for the Cultural Heritage Landscape Area to address potential impacts on the setting of this section of Windsor Road to allow the rural setting of the road, which has been identified as being of heritage significance, to be retained.

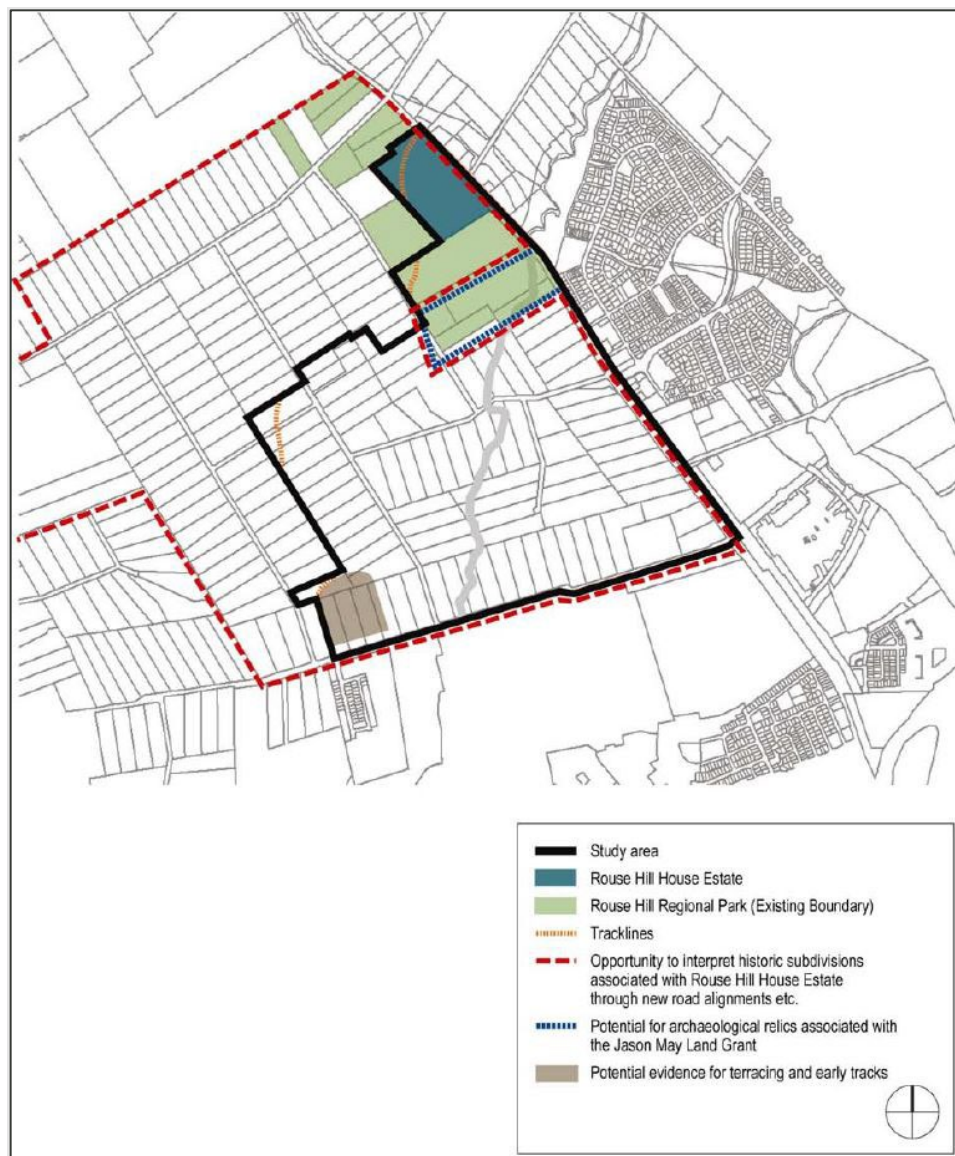
### **3.3.3 Area 20 Precinct: Non-Indigenous Heritage Assessment (GML 2010)**

The Non-Indigenous Heritage Assessment prepared by GML observed specific potential for several different types of heritage objects/structures remained within their project area. These included potential surviving evidence of:

- Rouse Hill - within Area 20 (adjacent to Riverstone Stage 3):
  - Early land subdivision structures and land enclosures (i.e., fences and post holes)
  - Grain cultivation and orcharding
  - Cesspits and refuse dumps
  - Early wells, services, irrigation, and water supply pipes
  - A windmill
- Windsor Road – adjacent to the east of Area 20 (Adjacent to Riverstone Stage 3):

- Earlier road surfaces, bridges, culverts, and drains
- Convict stone markers for the historic road alignment
- Remaining Land:
  - Bush tracks leading to Rouse Hill House
  - Land terracing in south-west corner of Area 20
  - Early land subdivision structures and land enclosures (i.e., fences and post holes)
  - Grain cultivation and orcharding
  - The original ford where Rouse Road crosses Second Ponds Creek
  - Cesspits and refuse dumps
  - Isolated artefacts (Figure 3-3).

GML (2010) assessed the overall potential of these artefacts and features surviving to this day within Area 20 (and therefore a small portion of the south-eastern extent of the Stage 3 boundary) as being low, except for refuse dumps in areas where non-intensive land use has occurred and historic road surfaces which have been preserved under sealed bitumen surfaces (these were assessed as having moderate and high potential for survival, respectively).



**Figure 3-3** Heritage items previously identified by GML within Area 20. Area 20 overlaps a small portion of the south-eastern section of Riverstone East Stage 3 (GML 2010: p. 57; Figure 5.3).

## **Recommendations**

GML (2010) made the following recommendations for protecting these non-Indigenous heritage items identified within Area 20:

- Manage the cultural landscape to minimise visual impacts.
  - Complete the regional park acquisition.
  - Interpret the stories of the precinct at Rouse Hill House.
  - Create a landscape buffer on Windsor Road.
  - Conserve and interpret historic linkages.
  - Incorporate heritage impact considerations into the objectives of the ILP, DCP and SEPP amendment.
  - Incorporate interpretation of the historic roads and subdivision pattern in new precinct design
  - Conserve and manage remnant vegetation associated with the Cumberland Plain woodlands.
- Manage and promote the integration of heritage places in regional growth planning.
  - Respond to and manage the potential historical archaeology of the precinct.
  - Undertake a Heritage Impact Statement for works impacting Rouse Hill House.
- Integrate heritage into the precinct vision statement.
- Implement the interpretation strategy.

### **3.3.4 Historic Heritage of the Riverstone and Alex Avenue Precincts (ENSR 2008)**

ENSR was commissioned by the NSW Growth Centres Commission (GCC) to investigate Local, State and Federal Heritage registers to identify items and/or places of high, medium, low significance or intrusive levels located within the Riverstone/Alex Avenue Precinct and draft statements of significance for these places and accompanying Statement of Heritage Impacts (ENSR 2008). The survey area lies immediately west of the Riverstone East Precinct Stage 3 and extends further north and south.

The desktop study identified a total of 86 items of potential heritage value within the growth corridor. Thirty of those items are currently heritage-listed. This documentary evidence was investigated using a two-pronged survey approach involving ground truthing and site inspection. ENSR physically inspected 71 of the total 86 items identified by their desktop assessment (ENSR, 2008). Six additional sites were inspected during the survey, making a new total of 92 items of potential heritage value identified within the Precinct. Inspections of built heritage structures were completed to confirm their existing location, condition, and integrity. Glendon', which was supposed to be situated on Cranbourne Street, Riverstone – was not relocated.

ENSR also inspected a potential archaeological site along with several unlisted Items of potential heritage value and the results of which are reproduced below (Table 3-6). This potential archaeological site is not located with the Precinct.



**Table 3-6 Excerpt from Table 11, Survey Results – Unlisted Items of Potential Heritage Value (ENSR 2008, p. 37-49)**

Site ID	Item	Location	Description & Condition
019	Site of former Riverstone Sawmill (potential archaeological site)	Riverstone Parade, Riverstone	The location of the mill depicted on the 1877 sub-division map is now occupied by the Riverstone Bowls Club. While subsurface remains cannot be completely discounted, they are unlikely to have escaped undisturbed. The location of the mill in the 1881 sub-division map is now occupied by the Elders Produce Store. There is some conjecture about whether the produce store evolved from the mill structure (Clive Lucas, Stapleton, and Partners 1999).

ENSR (2008:52) identified a moderate level of archaeological potential within the Riverstone/Alex Avenue Precinct areas. Areas specifically classified as potential archaeological sites include areas of known former structures including parts of 'Grantham Farm', the remains of Riverstone and Schofields Sawmills and within the Windsor Road corridor. Whilst these specific areas of archaeological potential are not located within the Precinct, they provide a good indication of the types of potential non-Indigenous archaeological sites, features, and remains which could be present (those associated with land use, pastoralism, and regional economies).

### 3.3.5 Review of Previous Archaeological Investigations

Archaeological significance has usually been measured in terms of Assessment Criterion (e) – that is, 'the potential to yield information.' The Archaeological Assessment Guidelines note, 'the key test that must be applied in understanding the scientific research values of a known or potential archaeological site is the question of whether further studies of the physical evidence may reasonably be expected to help answer research questions' (Archaeological Assessment Guidelines, 1996:26).

There have been numerous excavations within the Blacktown and the neighbouring Hills Shire municipalities prompted by recent development in one of the NWGA's of Sydney.

Archaeological evidence within the region have previously been identified as trackways, terracing of land, potential relics associated with historic land grants/subdivisions, pastoralism and agriculture and irrigation, settling the area, roads and trainlines, water crossings such as fords culverts and bridges, and farms with houses and associated outbuildings. These potential archaeological remains also tie into the NSW historic themes of Western Sydney (Section 8.4).

Table 3-7 provides a list of known archaeological resources within a one-kilometre buffer around the Precinct as archaeological assessments and excavations have not yet been undertaken therein. This list is not exhaustive and is not a full list of publicly available heritage consultancy excavation reports undertaken in the region but provides an indicative picture of the archaeological resource in the wider region surrounding the Precinct. These reports describe farm building foundations and materials, non-Indigenous artefacts, post-and-wire fences, refuse pits, creek crossings, road cuttings, foundations possibly associated with toll houses, Windsor Road ballast, and remains of the macadam pavement.

**Table 3-7 Archaeological reports undertaken within proximity to the Precinct.**

Location/Project	Summary of Archaeological works	Reference
Rouse Hill Infrastructure Project	The assessment identified the archaeological site of the former Rouse Hill Police Station (RH/40) in the vicinity of the Riverstone East Precinct Stage 3. The 1885 survey map shows it directly fronting onto Windsor Road. The report also found stretches of post-and-rail and post-and-wire fencing along Windsor Road.	Casey & Lowe Associates (1993)

Location/Project	Summary of Archaeological works	Reference
Archaeological Excavation RH/46: Queen's Arms Inn & Rouse Hill Post Office	<p>The excavation focused on the front portion of the building, the verandah, and the area to the west of the building. This excavation resulted in the discovery of disturbed deposits. In the 1970s, the Golf Course curator used a bulldozer to grade and level the front of the site, thus creating disturbance. Disruption of structural remains appears to be associated with the demolition of the building in the late nineteenth or early 19th century. Architectural remnants from the demolition were used to build a cottage about 100 m to the south, which was later demolished after 1975. The artefacts exposed comprised a wide range of material: ceramics, building materials, shell, animal bone, glass, Aboriginal artefacts etc. These were mostly found in the disturbed deposits. The deposits were known to be disturbed because they included modern artefacts including golf balls.</p>	Casey & Lowe Associates (1995)
Queen's Arms Inn and Post Office Site	<p>Casey &amp; Lowe undertook archaeological testing at RH/46, the site of the Queen's Arms Inn and the former Rouse Hill Post Office, NPWS site #45-5-2348. They found the rear of the property retained no potential archaeological deposits – shale was directly below the grass. Several archaeological remains were discovered including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ wall footings</li> <li>■ remnant stone flagging</li> <li>■ brick paving</li> <li>■ rubbish dump about 40 metres to the north.</li> </ul> <p>No historic artefacts were collected. The structural remains survive in the known historic site. A large rubbish dump survives approximately 40 metres to the north of the historic structure. It is possible that this rubbish dump is backfilling a cistern or well.</p>	Casey & Lowe Associates Archaeology & Heritage (2000)
Windsor Road between Mile End Road and Boundary Road, Vineyard	<p>This heritage assessment was undertaken for the proposed upgrade of Windsor Road between Mile End Road, Rouse Hill, and Boundary Road, Vineyard; located along the eastern boundary of the Precinct. The consultants recognised the potential for the presence of eight alignment stones and other cultural material associated with Windsor Road, such as road surfaces and substructure, and culvert drains and causeways. The survey identified remnants of a former bridge over First Ponds Creek, consisting of seven wooden piles, timber cross beams and two timber abutments.</p>	Therin Archaeological Consulting, (2003)
Mungerie House/ Archaeological assessment	<p>The report assessed the potential non-Indigenous archaeological resource present in the property known as Mungerie House, on the north-east side of Windsor Road at Rouse Hill in preparation of the subdivision and construction of a substantial town development. Mungerie House farming landscape is of local significance. Archaeological evidence was inferred to include the foundations of outbuildings, post holes for fences, possibly long-drop pits for toilets, domestic refuse dumps, stockpiles piles of farm junk. It recommended:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Recording prior to development ensuring that information about the place is obtained.</li> <li>■ Monitoring of earth disturbance is appropriate in specified locations.</li> <li>■ A systematic investigation to collect any evidence of the battle of Vinegar Hill.</li> </ul>	Banksia Heritage+ Archaeology (2003)



Location/Project	Summary of Archaeological works	Reference
First Ponds and Second Ponds Creeks Bridges	An assessment of both RTA Site No. 27: Remains of a bridge over First Ponds Creek, Box Hill, and RTA Site No. 28: Remains of a bridge over Second Ponds Creek, Rouse Hill. The archaeological remains were assessed as not having any heritage significance, whereas the crossing locations (i.e., the historic places where the bridges were built) have heritage significance.	Heritage Concepts, (2004)
Windsor Road between Mile End Road, Rouse Hill, and Boundary Road, Vineyard	<p>Heritage Concepts prepared a research design and excavation methodology for several areas of historical archaeological potential within the corridor identified by Therin Archaeological Consulting (2003). The subject area consisted of that stretch of Windsor Road running along the eastern boundary of the Riverstone East Precinct Stage 3 and extending slightly to the north and south. The corridor included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 14 alignment stones (and the potential for six more),</li> <li>■ bridge remains at the crossings of First Ponds and Second Ponds Creeks,</li> <li>■ possible remains associated with two former toll houses located between Annangrove and Mile End Roads.</li> </ul> <p>The potential for historic culverts, earlier road surfaces; two stretches of old fencing (post-and-wire, and post-and-rail) and two cuttings, one in the vicinity of Annangrove Road, and the other to the south of the intersection with Garfield Road East; both possibly made during the Second World War was noted.</p>	Heritage Concepts, (2005)
Sandstone Ballast, Windsor Road, Box Hill	Four sections of sandstone ballast were revealed during works to upgrade the road pavement of Windsor Road, between First Ponds Creek and Garfield Road East. The stone formed a base for the road in areas where the natural ground was soft and/or subject to flooding. The report found that the ballast could be preserved <i>in situ</i> .	Heritage Concepts, (2006)
Brick Culvert and associated Macadam Pavement, Windsor Road, Box Hill	During stormwater installation works on Windsor Road, a brick barrel culvert and associated macadam pavement were uncovered. The construction date of the items was unable to be established. Due to their association with the development and use of Windsor Road, they were assessed as being of heritage significance. The report proposed these items to be preserved <i>in situ</i> .	Heritage Concepts (2006)
Rouse Hill Potting Shed, Rouse Hill	AHMS undertook test excavations on the Rouse Hill House property, to investigate the construction and use of the structure known as the Potting Shed. The investigation revealed evidence associated with attempts to manage wastewater or surface run-off from upslope, earlier phases of flooring within the structure, and a rubbish pit.	AHMS (2006)

Location/Project	Summary of Archaeological works	Reference
Rouse Hill House Stage 1 Museum Education Facility, and Hawkesbury Road and Watch House, Rouse Hill	<p>The 2009 assessment and subsequent 2010 investigation of the Rouse Hill Watch House site aimed to test for the presence of the former structure and associated occupation deposits, and to investigate the former line of the Hawkesbury Road to the south. The investigation was undertaken within the 'Rouse Hill House and Farm' property, to the south of the present Study Area. The testing for the former Watch House resulted in the identification of the site and general configuration of the structure but found that it had been heavily disturbed by demolition and recycling/robbing of much of the associated building materials. No early road surfaces or features associated with the line of the Hawkesbury Road were identified.</p> <p>The review of the archaeological evidence, together with historical documentation of early road construction suggested that the Hawkesbury Road, as originally constructed, might have been little more than a cleared track. However, the investigation revealed 20th Century surfaces and associated elements of the Windsor Road. Similar earlier roadway evidence may remain within the current Study Area boundary where future works are proposed along Windsor Road.</p>	AHMS (2009 & 2010)
<p>Riverstone Estate, Former Grantham Farm</p> <p>Lot 1, Section 55, in DP1480 - Riverstone, NSW</p>	<p>A historical archaeological test excavation was undertaken in advance of a subdivision for residential development. This was to investigate potential (non-Indigenous) archaeological resources that have been assessed to be of local archaeological significance. The S140 (permit compliance) investigations sampled a considerable area of land but failed to identify any archaeological evidence for either the late 19th century 'Grantham Farm' described as an 'old dwelling' still on the property in the 1920s, or an earlier homestead called 'Riverston' with local historical associations with an 1810 Macquarie-period land grant originally 2,500 acres in size that is (anecdotally) believed by some to have formerly been located on the property. Excavations discovered a previously (historically) unknown farm comprised of a house and nearby tank with outbuildings possibly now destroyed by the central dam.</p> <p>Historical evidence locates the 1820s 'Riverston Homestead'/ Grantham Farm abutting the Windsor Road to the north of Garfield Road, around Crown and Junction Streets according to Seale (1999).</p>	Dominic Steele Consulting Archaeology (2013)
Rouse Hill Town Centre Northern Precinct/ Heritage Impact Statement	<p>A Heritage Impact Statement for non-Indigenous heritage was undertaken for the planned Rouse Hill Town Centre development bordered by Commercial Road, Caddies Boulevard and Windsor Road. This project area is surrounded by properties on The Hills Local Environment Plan 2012. This report assessed the archaeological potential for the surrounding properties on the LEP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Rouse Hill Town Centre site - may retain evidence small scale agricultural activities associated with neighbouring Mungerie House from late 19th - 20th century.</li> <li>■ Any surviving evidence of the Battle of Vinegar Hill will be of very high state and probably national significance for its archaeological, historical, and social value and rarity. This, however, has been disputed by Dr Whitaker, who counter claimed proposed Rouse Hill town centre which were not the focus of events in 1804 are unlikely to contain archaeological relics.</li> </ul>	City Plan Heritage (2013)

### 3.3.6 Review of Landscape and Visual Analysis

Multiple landscape and visual analysis assessments have been carried out in the Riverstone East Precinct, which have analysed the natural landscape values and visual qualities of important view locations and sightlines. Of particular significance, is the visual curtilage assessments undertaken for the Rouse Hill House Estate located adjacent to the Precinct.

Table 3-8 presents brief summaries of the relevant previous landscape and visual analysis reports undertaken in the region.

**Table 3-8 Summary of previous landscape and visual analysis reports**

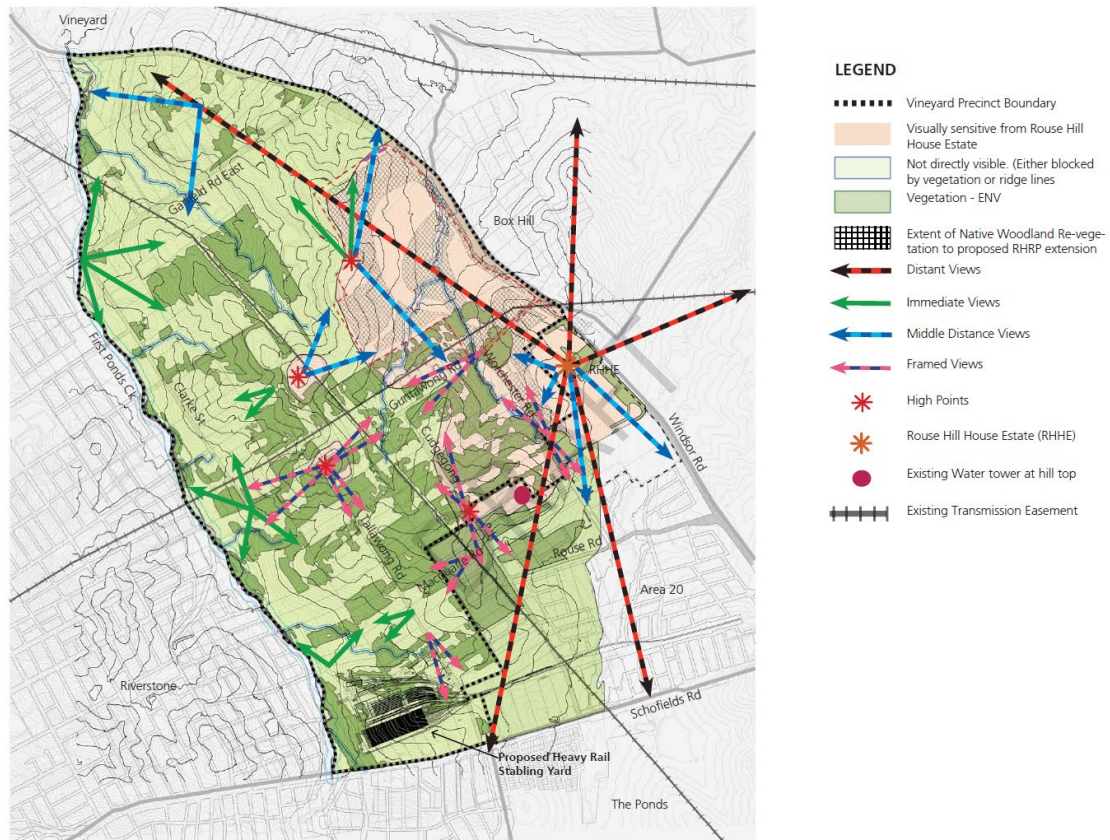
Location/Project	Summary of landscape and visual analysis	Report reference
Open Pastures Sub-Precinct, Box Hill Inn	A visual impact analysis identified a 500 m buffer of the Box Hill Inn as an area of moderate sensitivity, due to the proximity from Box Hill House, existing vegetation, and the surrounding topography. The potential visual impact of this area was assessed to be medium and controls on building height, colour, materials, and finishes were recommended to enhance the rural character of the area.	Riverstone East Precinct: Non-Indigenous Heritage Assessment, Draft (AHIMS, 2015)
Area 20 Precinct, Old Windsor Road	<p>A landscape and visual analysis was prepared to inform the planning of the Area 20 Precinct in north west Sydney, which encompasses the Rouse Hill Estate and Rouse Hill Regional Park. An analysis of the expanded heritage curtilage of the Rouse Hill Estate and Rouse Hill Regional Park was undertaken.</p> <p>The analysis determined that the Rouse Hill Estate is located on one of the highest ridgelines in the area which, as well as the heritage significance of the area and creek views, attributes it with very high visual sensitivity. Any development in the expanded heritage curtilage would be assessed as having a high visual impact.</p> <p>The Rouse Hill Regional Park also holds very high visual sensitivity due to its location in proximity to the Rouse Hill Estate. The vegetation within the Regional Park provides a visual buffer to surrounding land. Any future development to the west of Worcester Road will be visible from the Rouse Hill Estate.</p>	Area 20 Landscape and Visual Analysis including Rouse Hill Estate Curtilage (Conybeare Morrison, 2010)

Location/Project	Summary of landscape and visual analysis	Report reference
Rouse Hill Estate	<p>Conybeare Morrison &amp; Partners prepared a comprehensive curtilage study of the Rouse Hill Estate in 2003, the purpose of this report to determine an appropriate curtilage for the Rouse Hill estate in light of the creation of the Rouse Hill Regional Park and the likely future urban development of the surrounding area. The determined curtilage would identify a suitable area of land to maintain the rural context of the estate in its rural setting.</p> <p>The expanded heritage curtilage of the Rouse Hill House Estate (Figure 3-5) was recommended to protect the existing cultural landscape. This extended heritage curtilage, however, has not been endorsed and amended on either the SHR or the Blacktown LEP.</p> <p>Key recommendations provided in the report, as relevant to the development within the Precinct and impacts to Rouse Hill Estate included the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Ensure that the zoning of the surrounding areas within its view catchment remain in land use with avoidance of any intensification of urban development within the Expanded Heritage Curtilage area.</li> <li>■ Retain a natural landscape ridgeline canopy and vista to the north, north-west and to the Blue Mountains.</li> <li>■ Ensure there is an “Urban Vision” for the entire North-west sector of Sydney that establishes sound environmental development principles for the area.</li> </ul>	<p>Rouse Hill Estate Curtilage Study (Conybeare Morrison &amp; Partners, 2003) as cited in North West Growth Centre: Area 20 Precinct – Non-Indigenous Heritage Assessment (GML, 2010)</p>
Riverstone East Precinct	<p>An analysis to identify the visual and landscape qualities of Riverstone East was completed to inform indicative plans for the Riverstone East Precinct. The analysis recognised Rouse Hill House Estate as one of the most significant heritage sites in Australia, and that the visual catchment of the estate is defined by the prominent ridge lines and valleys surrounding the area. There are four significant and visually sensitive areas within the Precinct of Riverstone East including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Rouse Hill House Estate and surrounds;</li> <li>■ Rouse Hill Regional Park and extension;</li> <li>■ Cumberland Plain Woodland vegetation to ridge lines and Alluvial Woodland to First Ponds Creek; and</li> <li>■ Historic and present rural characteristics.</li> </ul> <p>Any development within the visual heritage curtilage of the Rouse Hill Estate and Regional Park is required to provide a stringent visual impact report for each stage of development which occurs within the visual catchment.</p>	<p>Riverstone East Landscape and Visual Assessment (Place Design Group, 2014)</p>

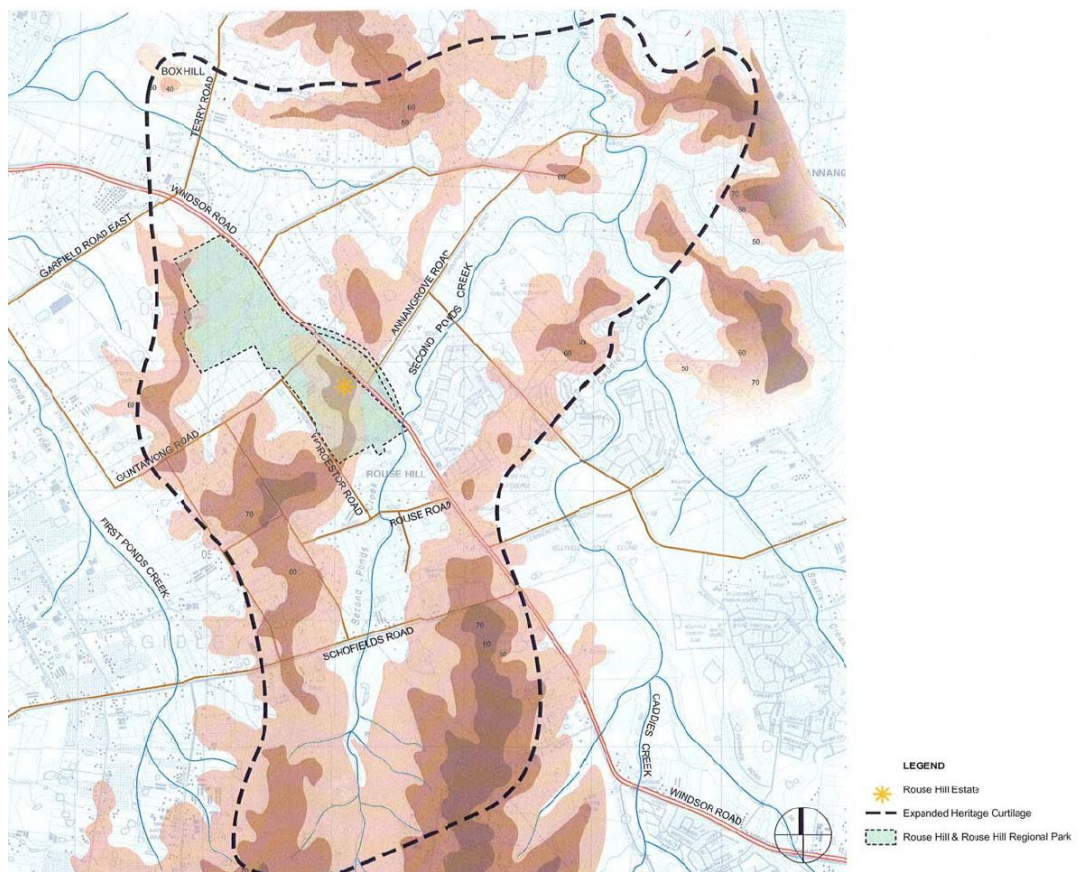


Location/Project	Summary of landscape and visual analysis	Report reference
Riverstone East Precinct Stage 3	<p>An analysis was carried out to inform the NWGA master planning process, which will involve the development of medium density housing, community facilities and open space. The visual and landscape analysis identified the following values important to the visual significance of the precinct:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Topography: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Major north-south ridgeline defines the horizon and distinct boundary between two landscape types, as well as the Blue Mountains which provide a core visual feature that distinguishes Riverstone from other precincts.</li> </ul> </li> <li>■ Vegetation cover: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Woodland settings and heavily vegetated Scheduled Lands area is unique within a predominantly residential setting.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>The report recommendations can be summarised into three distinct topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Scenic protection of the main north-south ridge</li> <li>■ The landscape and open space network</li> <li>■ Future development areas – where future development should seek to consolidate lots to accomplish integrated and coordinated development outcomes that protect the existing landscape values.</li> </ul>	Visual and Landscape Assessment Paper – Values, Opportunities and Recommendations. (Speckman and Mossop, 2008)

The Rouse Hill House and Rouse Hill Regional Park offer a unique chance to protect the visually significant ridgeline landscape and in so doing conserve the visual heritage curtilage of one of Australia's most significant historic rural homesteads. Rouse Hill Estate is located on one of the highest ridge lines in the area. The house enjoys expansive views (Figure 3-4) of the surrounding landscape which is typified by low rolling hills dotted with remnant native woodland mainly on the ridge lines and shallow valleys predominately cleared of vegetation for rural and pastoral use (Place Design Group, 2014:3).



**Figure 3-4** Significant views from Rouse Hill House and the high points across the Vineyard Precinct, now Riverstone East Precinct which borders the Vineyard and Box Hill LGAs (Place Design Group, 2014: p16; Figure 7)



**Figure 3-5** The recommended curtilage of the Rouse Hill Estate (Conybeare Morrison & Partners Oct 2003: Fig.5.2; reproduced in GML, 2010: Appendix E).

'Any future development within the visual catchment of the (Rouse Hill House Estate) RHHE will be assessed as having a very high visual effect due to the cultural and visual significance of the homestead. Previous studies with regards to the preservation of the visual and cultural significance of the RHHE have made strong recommendations that any development planned for within the visual curtilage of the RHHE be treated as having a very high visual effect on the rural setting of the RHHE' (Place Design Group, 2014:25). Nevertheless, Place Design Group (2014:25) recommended several visual mitigation measures including:

- Possible impacts to the south and south-east could be minimised by the preservation of the regional park woodlands and Second Ponds Creek.
- Possible impacts to the south and south-west could be minimised with the retention of the ridge line vegetation along the ridge lines and rezoning the surrounding allotments as either environmental living lots with tree retention or as recreational open space.
- To reduce potential impacts to the west and north-west the mid-level vegetation along Guntawong Road and adjoining allotments should be preserved and even enhanced' (Place Design Group, 2014:25).

## 3.4 Environmental Context

This section provides an overview of the non-Indigenous historic land use, cultural and geological conditions that characterise the region. An understanding of the environmental context of the wider region and the Precinct assists in identifying potential heritage values within the Precinct.

### 3.4.1 Geology and Soils

This Study Area is situated on the Wianamatta geological group, dated to the Triassic geological era, and belongs to the regolith lithics group (Geoscience Australia 2006). The Wianamatta group is largely composed of shale with sporadic thin lithic sandstones.

Situated within the Blacktown soil landscape, the Precinct is characterised by gently undulating hills with slopes of less than 5% over the Wianamatta Group shales. Crests and ridges are broad and rounded with slightly inclined slopes. Soils of the landscape are most commonly shallow to moderately deep (>100 m) and consist of clayey loams and silty to heavy clays, which have a hard setting mottled texture (podzolic soils). These soils consist of red and brown colour on the crests which grade to yellow on lower slopes and in drainage lines (Hazelton et al. 2010).

### 3.4.2 Topography and Hydrology

The landscape in this region ranges from flat to gently inclining slopes. Approximate elevation across the Precinct is between 21 – 73 m AHD. Notable points of elevation include built up areas around the premises (located in the southern portion of the Precinct) AJ Bush & Sons Manufacturers (up to 56 m above Australian Height Datum (AHD), and low-density housing areas to the south-east of the Precinct (up to 73 m AHD). Low points across the Precinct include areas adjacent to First Ponds Creek (down to 21 m AHD) to the north-west and the Killarney Chain of Ponds near the centre of the Riverstone East precinct Stage 3 (down to 33 m AHD). LIDAR imagery as shown below in Figure 3-6 details the topography of the Precinct and surrounds.

Within proximity of the Precinct, there are a number of permanent sources of water which would have shaped a range of environmental landscapes. One main surface water body, Eastern Creek, is situated approximately 2.3 km west of the Precinct. The headwaters of Eastern Creek are located in the Western Sydney Parklands to the south of the Precinct. The creek flows in a northerly direction for approximately 30 km before draining into South Creek. According to Blacktown City Council (2020), Eastern Creek is located in Western Sydney and drains a catchment area of 118 km<sup>2</sup> to South Creek which, in turn, drains into the Hawkesbury River near Windsor. Eastern Creek drains approximately one half of the Blacktown LGA. During periods of heavy rainfall within the catchment, there is potential for the capacity of the various creek channels to be exceeded leading to inundation of the adjoining floodplain. Flooding across the Eastern



Creek catchment has occurred on a number of occasions. The most significant recent floods occurred in 1986 and 1988.

Situated to the east of the Precinct, urban stream First Ponds Creek is located on the western boundary of the Precinct, and Second Ponds Creek is located approximately 300 m south-east. Bells Creek is located approximately 3 km west of the Precinct. These streams largely maintain their natural channels and are likely to have been used as water sources for non-Indigenous settlers, or local wildlife living along the vegetation corridors. During times of drought or extended dry periods, it is probable that these waterbodies may have run dry. However, it is likely that water was still available for some time after rainfall through the development of groundwater wells.

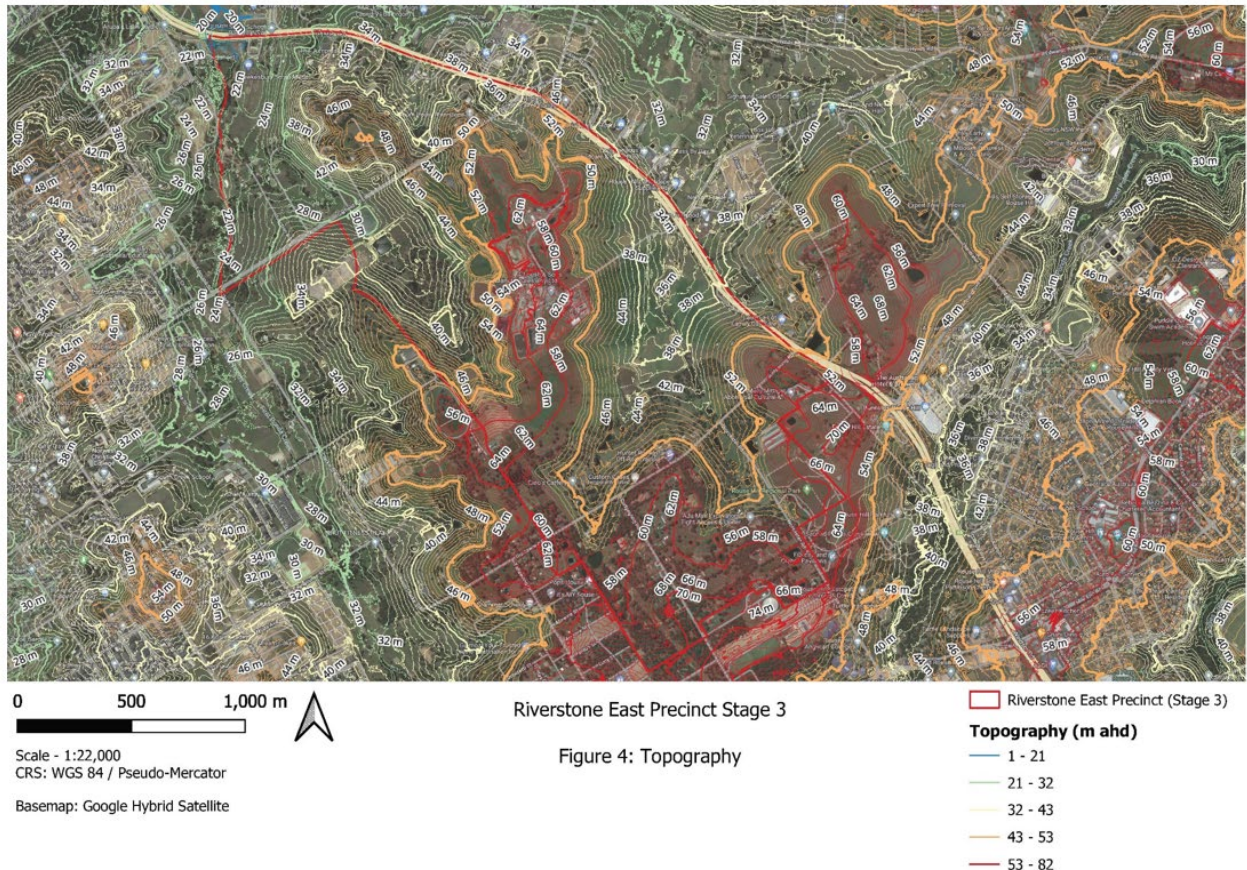


Figure 3-6 LIDAR imagery showing topography of the Precinct (source: Aurecon, 2023)

### 3.4.3 Major Floods in Riverstone

Records since 1799 show that the Riverstone town centre, west of the Precinct, has been repeatedly affected by flooding of the Hawksbury River (Table 3-9). Repeated flooding of the region will have both deposited and removed alluvial deposits and may have contributed to the movement of historic artefacts. The flood records show that the Township of Riverstone has been inundated repeatedly, yet no photographic records for Riverstone East could be located in the relevant archives. Flood types and effects include:

- Minor - From about 5.8 m causes inconvenience, minor roads & low-level bridges affected.
- Moderate - From about 6.9 m overbank flow occurs with damage to low lying homes and farms. North Richmond bridge closes at 8.4 m and Windsor Bridge at 6-9 m.
- Major - From about 12.2 m widespread inundation. Large areas flooded; towns & properties isolated, and waters encroach. Extensive damage and hardship can occur (Civic News August 1988, p. 9, cited in Riverstone & District Historical Society, 2002).

Moderate and Major floods would cause inundation of the low-lying lands within the Precinct.



**Table 3-9 Flood levels of the Hawkesbury River documented at Windsor Bridge, floods 9.15 m and over. Major floods shown in bold (Sources: Hawkesbury Gazette, Sydney Gazette & Macquarie Country cited in Riverstone & District Historical Society, 2002).**

<b>Year (month)</b>	<b>Height (m)</b>	<b>Year (month)</b>	<b>Height (m)</b>
<b>1799 (March)</b>	<b>15.25</b>	1898 (February)	9.61
<b>1800 (March)</b>	<b>12.20</b>	<b>1900 (July)</b>	<b>14.08</b>
<b>1806 (March)</b>	<b>14.64</b>	<b>1904 (July)</b>	<b>12.22</b>
<b>1806 (August)</b>	<b>14.33</b>	1916 (October)	10.83
1806 (October)	9.15	1922 (July)	9.45
<b>1809 (May)</b>	<b>14.64</b>	1925 (June)	11.36
<b>1809 (August)</b>	<b>14.49</b>	1934 (February)	9.15
<b>1816 (June)</b>	<b>13.88</b>	1943 (May)	10.11
<b>1817 (February)</b>	<b>14.03</b>	1949 (June)	11.97
<b>1819 (February)</b>	<b>14.03</b>	1950 (March)	9.20
1857 (July)	9.91	1950 (April)	9.20
1857 (August)	11.44	1950 (June)	9.45
1860 (April)	11.21	1952 (June)	9.35
1860 (July)	10.45	1952 (June)	11.61
1860 (November)	10.98	1952 (August)	9.71
1864 (June)	9.91	1955 (May)	9.76
1864 (July)	10.98	<b>1956 (February)</b>	<b>13.70</b>
<b>1867 (June)</b>	<b>19.26</b>	1956 (February)	11.56
1869 (May)	11.21	1956 (March)	9.81
1870 (April)	13.72	1956 (June)	9.53
1870 (May)	10.83	<b>1961 (November)</b>	<b>15.10</b>
1871 (May)	11.21	1963-4 New gauge reduced 305 mm	
<b>1873 (February)</b>	<b>12.66</b>	<b>1964 (June)</b>	<b>14.51</b>
1875 (June)	11.82	1969 (November)	10.06
1877 (May)	9.15	1974 (May)	10.28
1879 (September)	10.52	<b>1978 (March)</b>	<b>14.31</b>
<b>1879 (September)</b>	<b>13.91</b>	1978 (June)	9.55
1889 (May)	11.74	1986 (August)	11.30
1890 (March)	12.12	<b>1988 (April)</b>	<b>12.65</b>
1890 (March)	10.52	1988 (July)	10.74
1891 (June)	10.83	1990 (April)	9.80

Year (month)	Height (m)	Year (month)	Height (m)
1894 (March)	9.68	1992 (February)	11.00
1895 (January)	9.30		

## 3.5 Historical Overview

The following historical overview has been derived from numerous previous non-Indigenous heritage assessments undertaken within the Blacktown LGA, including the Precinct. Detailed histories of the heritage places and potential archaeological sites have not been undertaken for this heritage assessment, however strategic historical research has been undertaken to inform the archaeological predictive model (Section 4), particularly pertaining to the former Rummery House Remains (discussed in AHMS, 2015) and other potential former structures in the Precinct.

It is noted that in the historical record, the spelling of the Rummery family changes from Rummery to Rumery.

### 3.5.1 Establishment of a European Community

Early non-Indigenous exploration of the Riverstone and surrounding area was undertaken in the 1890s by Governor Arthur Phillip during his expeditions of the Hawkesbury River. During 1794, 72 families took up residence on the Hawkesbury River, South Creek and McKenzies Creek clearing land and planting crops of wheat and maize on the fertile river soils (AHMS, 2015). It was in this same year that the Hawkesbury Road (later renamed Windsor Road) was laid out by Lieutenant-Governor Grose to connect Parramatta and Sydney with the new farming community established on the Hawkesbury near present-day Windsor. The road was built by convict labour gangs. Governor Macquarie later improved and widened the road to make it a viable access to his new towns of Windsor, Richmond, Pitt Town, and Wilberforce (GML, 2010:7).

Hawkesbury Road was changed to Windsor Road to reflect the growing importance of the Windsor district. Receiving a high amount of traffic and movement of produce resulted in the erection of tollhouses, creek crossings and coaching inns along Windsor Road such as the Box Hill Inn, built by the Rummery family in c1825 located to the west of the Precinct and the c1829 Royal Oak Inn.

Despite warnings from local Aboriginal people, these settlers' efforts were marred by flooding, including the 1867 flood which saw the Hawkesbury reach a height of 19.2 m and the devastating flood of 1799. Other early obstacles included the shortage of livestock. The first livestock had either died or disappeared and it proved difficult to import stock in the absence of a dedicated ship attached to the colony (ENSR, 2008:9). Under Governor Hunter and his successor Governor King, stock numbers increased via importation from India, and the reservation of large tracts of land for cattle breeding at Castle Hill, Prospect and Hawkesbury by 1803. The first land grants were made along Windsor Road at this time with colonial administrators encouraging occupation of the land along Windsor Road. In May 1810, Governor Macquarie granted 2,500 acres of land within in the present Riverstone area to Maurice Charles O'Connell. The grant was all the land now bounded by Windsor Road, Bandon Road, Vineyard, Eastern Creek, and Kensington Park Schofields (AHMS, 2015:45). O'Connell named the land "Riverston Farm" after his birthplace in Ireland (Riverstone Historical Society, 2023).

Richard Rouse (1774-1852) of the State heritage listed Rouse Hill House and Farm appears to have begun building at Rouse Hill in 1813 although the grant of 450 acres was not made until October 1816. He chose the site of his new house while building toll houses for Macquarie's upgraded road to the Hawkesbury. Rouse sited the new house prominently, possibly with an eye to its possible use as an inn, on a hilltop adjacent to the toll house (also built by him) on the Parramatta to Windsor Turnpike (SHR listing, 2023). Following Charles O'Connell's death in 1848, his estate of Riverston Farm was sold to Andrew Hardie McCulloch and then subdivided in a number of stages. In 1881 John Rumery of Windsor bought a number of lots within the former estate and during this time built the present 'Nu Welwyn' house on the eastern side of present Clarke Street to the west of the Precinct.

The rail line linking Sydney to Parramatta was proposed in 1850 and opened in 1862. According to AHMS (2015) the advent of the railway was a critical point in the history of Riverstone, leading to the subdivision of farms, the development of industry and the emergence of the villages of Schofields and Riverstone, each centred on the new railway line (AHMS, 2015:45). A land boom took place in the 1880s (ENSR, 2008), which saw Riverstone established as the largest urban settlement in the Blacktown LGA prior to World War II. One such prominent establishment that arose as a result of the railway was Benjamin Richard's Riverstone Meatworks, established in 1878.

### 3.5.2 The Precinct

The Precinct was originally part of the several initial land grants: Portion 95 granted to Maurice Charles O'Connell in 1810, Portion 2 granted to John Martin, Portion 6 granted to Richard Rouse in 1816 and small sections of Portion 72 (James May) and Portion 9 (John Faultless, 1818). The 19th century agricultural uses of the properties involved clearing of vegetation, cultivation, establishment of orchards and grazing (AHMS, 2015:55).

The northern section of the Precinct, north of Garfield Road East lies within Portion 95 of the Parish of St Matthew granted to O'Connell in 1810. In 1810, O'Connell married Mary, a daughter of the former Governor William Bligh, and the 2,500 acres was granted by Macquarie to O'Connell on the day before the wedding and was named 'Riverston' after O'Connell's homeland in Ireland. While O'Connell did not appear to reside on the estate early lease advertisements indicate that land established for sheep and cattle grazing, with fencing and accommodation present:

*To Let, on Lease for three Years, and possession given the 1st May next, the Estate of Riverston, consisting of 4000 Acres of Land, commonly known by the Name of the Race Course Farm, 4 Miles from Windsor. These lands are well adapted for the grazing of sheep or horned cattle, being nearly fenced round, and abundantly supplied with excellent water. There is a shingled cottage and outoffices on the farm, with a good garden, and 10 acres of cleared land.*

*(The Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser, 2 April 1829, p.3, sourced from AHMS 2015:50).*

The Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser (30 October 1832, p.4) as sourced in AHMS (2015:50) further refers to a 'brick and out-offices on the Riverston Farm and can be made a comfortable residence for a small family, at a moderate expense.'

O'Connell passed away in 1848 leading to the purchase of his Riverston Estate by Andrew Hardie McCulloch in 1855. Like O'Connell, McCulloch did not appear to live on the estate, but rather leased to others. According to AHMS (2015) subdivision plans for various parts of the estate were drawn up in 1859 and 1864, although it appears that few lots sold. The second of these plans indicated that development of the estate remained much the same as it had been in 1842; the Riverstone (later Grantham) homestead (AHMS 2015:51). An 1859 plan reveals that land within Portion 95 bounded by Garfield Road East, Junction Road and Windsor Road had been sold to Rummery, as annotated in the historic plan. An 1864 subdivision plan also shows ownership by a Rummery, which was William Rummery, his family notable for connections to Box Hill Inn and Nu Welwyn historic buildings.

The 1880s saw Portion 95 divided into a number of lots. According to AHMS (2015) an 1885 plan shows an area to the north of Garfield Road East in the ownership of Richard Rummery Senior, and has been divided into paddocks, described as, from north to south; cleared paddocks, cultivation, bush paddock, cultivation, and bush paddock. The fence along the boundary with the road is described as 'old split three rail' (AHMS 2015:51). The aerial imagery review (Section 3.5.4) further discusses the development of Portion 95 including the potential for former remains associated with a Rummery family home north of Garfield Road East.

South of O'Connell's original grant, Portion 2 of the Parish of Gidley originally belonged to John Martin (date of grant unknown). The property consisted of 530 acres and was bounded by O'Connell's land to the north and west, Rouse's property to the south, and Windsor Road to the east (AHMS 2015:52). Samuel Terry took possession of Portion 2 by 1865 and remained in ownership of the land until the mid-1880s. Evidence of farming activities in Portion 2 are shown in an 1885 plan of Windsor Road where a stock yard is present on the corner of Garfield Road East and Windsor Road and a number of paddocks. By 1947 most of Portion 2 was cleared of vegetation, with orcharding and cultivation evident. In 1950, a large part of Portion 2 was

bought by John Edwin Fitzgerald Burns. It was presumably at this time that the present abattoir was established. In 1960, the property was transferred to Burns Animal Food Company Pty Ltd (AHMS 2015: 52). Further development with Martin's original grant included establishment of 20<sup>th</sup> century structures associated with farming activities, substantial terracing and irrigation trenching associated with the present Burns Pet Foods, establishment of large ponds, a horse track and widening activities on Windsor Road and Garfield Road East.

Portion 6 (450 acres) was formerly granted to Richard Rouse in 1816, although it is probable that Rouse was in occupation of this land from 1813. This original land grant encompasses the southern section of the Precinct. According to GML (2010), Rouse had cleared 100 acres of his property by 1818, owned 10 horses, 195 horned cattle, 300 sheep and 40 hogs, and had wheat, maize, wheat, barley, peas, oats, potatoes, an orchard, and garden under cultivation. Rouse also had extensive land holdings away from his estate at Riverstone, including 4,000 acres north of Bathurst at Guntawang on the Cudgegong River. Both Guntawang and Cudgegong Roads are located within the Precinct, providing continued historical interpretation of Rouse's occupation. The Rouse Hill property remained in the ownership of the Rouse family until 1978, although subdivision of the property from 1951 onwards reduced the land surrounding house to 8.15 hectares by 1975 (Artefact Heritage, 2013:16).

The Riverstone & District Historical Society & Museum provided the following anecdotal information from the book, *A History of the Rumery Family* by Rosemary Phillis (1993).

#### **Possible location of the Rummary Family House**

The 179-acre lot in the survey area was owned by the Rumery/Rummary family from 1856 to 1926. The spelling of the family name started as Rummary but changed to Rumery during the 1800s (Phillis, 1993).

Phillis (1993) stated a slab hut/house, stables and possibly a hay shed was located on the property. The property was used for orcharding together with cattle and horse grazing. The orchard on the property was situated on the hill up near where the Tyburn Convent is now.

The precise position of the buildings mentioned by Phillis (1993) is not known. Family members recalled them to be located across Windsor Road from the family home at Box Hill (Phillis, 1993). The family home building was the former Box Hill Inn; it had long since been closed before Richard Rumery/Rummary purchased it in 1856 (NSW Land Registry Services, N.D.a). Both the Box Hill Inn and the Rummary Family House were purchased at this time. There was a strong connection between the site and the family home.

John and Margaret Rumery resided in the slab hut/house on the property referred to in *A History of the Rumery Family* for several years, after their marriage in 1878 (Phillis, 1993; NSW Land Registry Services, N.D.b). They then moved into their permanent home, Welwyn, in Clarke Street (NSW Land Registry Services, N.D.a). This home, Welwyn, was later renamed to Nu Welwyn (AHMS 2015).

Whilst there is no record as to whether there was a house or building near the location marked as a potential building site (Figure 3-7), there may have been some structure there, if not a house, possibly something connected to the operation of the orchard or horses or cattle. Figure 3-8 anecdotally records a stable at this location.



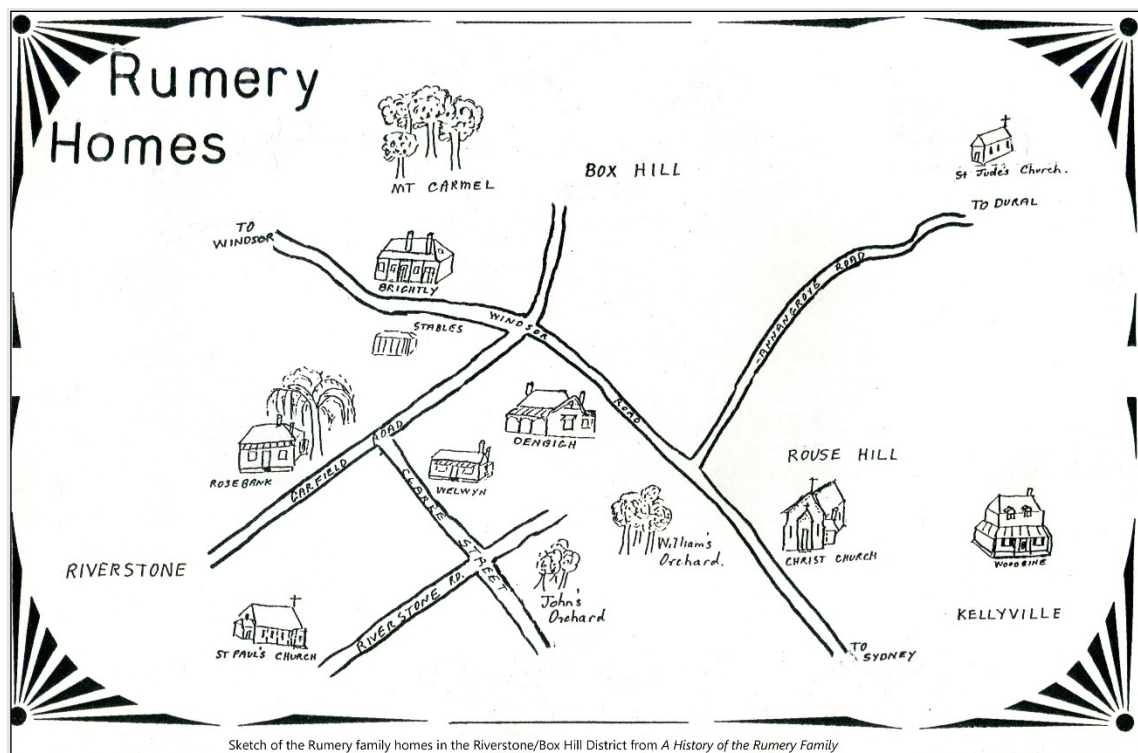


Figure 3-7 The northernmost green circle, highlighting a structure north of Garfield Road East, could be associated with the lost Rummary Family House. 1925 Australian Section Imperial General Staff plan with the approximate boundaries of the Riverstone East Precinct marked in red, and the structures within the Precinct circled in green. (AHMP 2015: p.65; Figure 24).

There were four Rumery family homes near to each other within the Riverstone/Box Hill area. One belonged to Richard Rumery and the others to three of his eight sons (he also had three daughters).

- Brightly - Richard Rumery, formerly the Box Hill Inn on Windsor Road
- Rumery, south side of Garfield Road East (demolished)
- Welwyn - John Rumery, Clarke Street. (Renamed Nu Welwyn in the 1980s)
- Rosebank - William Rumery, Garfield Road East (recently restored)

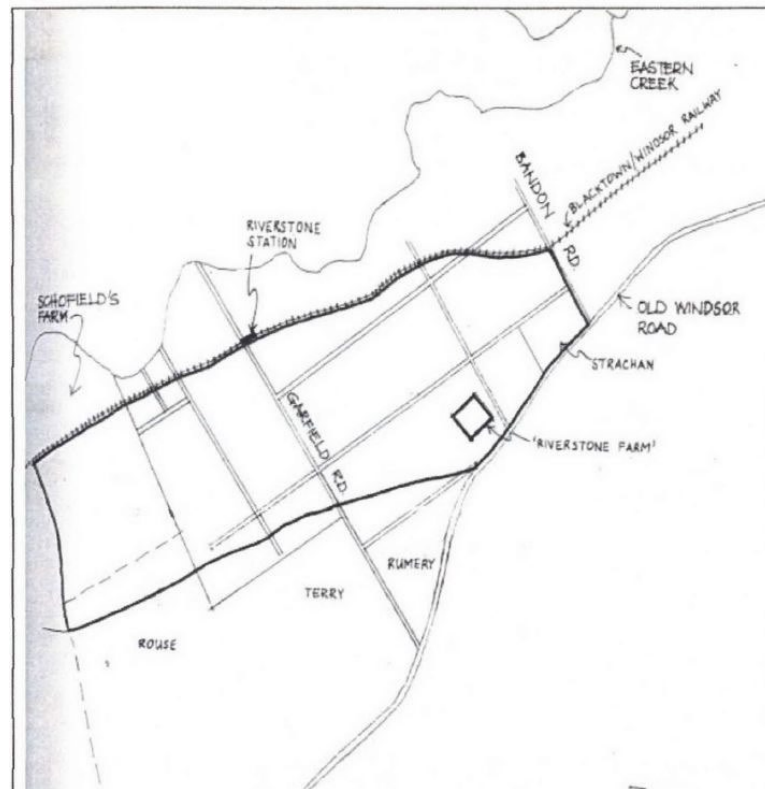
All four members of the Rumery family listed above tended orchards on the land near their homes. The schematic plan below approximates the locations of the known homes in the Riverstone/Box Hill area (Figure 3-8). Note, a stable is recorded across the road from the former Box Hill Inn which may be associated with the slab hut occupied by John and Margaret Rumery before they moved to Welwyn (Nu Welwyn).



**Figure 3-8 Schematic of the locations of the four Rumery family homes in the Riverstone/Box Hill area (Phillis 1993).**

This information concurs with that presented by AHMS (2015) (see Section 3.3.2). Taking into consideration the date of the house, the absence of documentary evidence regarding its use and configuration and its probable association with the regionally important Rumery family, any remains of the building would likely be local heritage significance. Additional investigation would be required in order to accurately determine the location, nature and condition of any archaeological remains of this house.

Additional documentary evidence from Clive Lucas, Stapleton and Partners Pty Ltd (1999) shows that the Rumery family is associated with the land immediately west of Windsor Road, across the street from the Box Hill Inn and north of Garfield Street in the c1860s based on the Riverstone Development Plan (Figure 3-9).



**Figure 3-9** Riverstone Development Plan in the c.1860s (Source: Clive Lucas, Stapleton, and Partners Pty Ltd 1999 cited in Dominic Steele Consulting Archaeology, 2013: p.38).

### 3.5.1 The Early Residents and Industry of Riverstone and District

Riverstone's population in 1911 was 981, however the impact of World War I was significantly felt by the community.

Other industries in the Riverstone area included timber milling and creation of vineyards. Overall, farming in the Riverstone area was relatively small scale until the 1900s when there was a significant increase in poultry farming and market gardening. By 1930 there were twenty-six market gardeners at Riverstone and twenty-nine poultry farmers (ENSR, 2008:16).

### 3.5.2 Later 20th Century Development

Riverstone remained a semi-rural community in the 1960s however the 1970s brought many changes including the establishment of community facilities such as the Riverstone Olympic Swimming Pool, Riverstone Market, and the Riverstone Branch Library. In May 1975 the Richmond railway line was electrified from Blacktown to Riverstone. A new meatworks complex was constructed in 1973, making Riverstone Meatworks one of the most technologically advanced processing plants at that time. The meatworks closed permanently in 1994. By 1996 Riverstone's population had grown to 5,497.

### Tyburn Priory

In 1956, upon the invite of Cardinal Norman Gilroy, the Tyburn Priory was established in North Sydney. Two elderly nuns started this monastery. In 1962, the Priory moved to Manly near Sydney's North Head. The Priory moved yet again in 1986, its current location to Riverstone in the Parramatta diocese, near the Blue Mountains (Tyburn Priory 2019). On the 2nd June, The Tyburn Nuns set up their Australian Headquarters at 325 Garfield Road East on five acres of land previously owned by Mr and Mrs Benz within the Parish of St John's (Hession 2010). Upon their arrival, as a congregation of thirteen, they dwelled in rather cramped conditions in the existing residence on the property (Hession 2010). The monastic Church was constructed and subsequently consecrated in 1988 (Tyburn Priory 2019). A Shrine in honour of Mary, Help of Christians

was blessed and opened by Father John O'Neil, Parish Priest of Doonside, assisted by Father Peter Little, S.J., and Father Carl Ashton, Parish Priest of Mount Druitt on 10 September 1989. The Shrine was built next to the Chapel, and featured a beautiful, fibreglass resin statue of Mary, imported from Italy (Hession 2010).

## **AJ Bush and Sons**

In 1908, after Mr. Alfred John Bush had completed his butchery apprenticeship with Marshall & Sons in Broken Hill, he commenced trading as a butcher in Newcastle. He worked for Harry Lucerne, who owned numerous large butcher shops. Later, in 1909, Mr. Alfred John Bush opened his own shop. He owned 12 shops by 1921 and in this year, he moved his family to Homebush and established the wholesale butchery business of AJ Bush & Sons. Alfred's four sons, Norman, Albert, Jeffrey, and Lance, worked hard and expanded the business. In the 1940s and 50s, AJ Bush & Sons were the major meat operators at the then Homebush State Abattoir.

Alfred Bush retired in 1940, handing the reins to his four sons. They continued to operate the business under a partnership agreement. All four sons lived in the Homebush and Strathfield areas. Upon his death in 1951, Alfred Bush was described as a 'Captain of his industry' (The Land 1951). The business became incorporated during the later 20<sup>th</sup> century and gradually 'expanded into meat retailing, stock treatment works at Yanco NSW (1963), smallgoods at Rockdale (transferred to Prospect in 2017), and rendering (meat by-product recycling) at Rouse Hill, Sydney (1956) and Murarrie QLD (1972)' (AJ Bush & Sons 2023).

## **Business Directory Records**

A review of historic Business Directory Records was undertaken (LotSearch, 2023) to provide additional detail regarding the historical development of the Precinct. The Business Directory Records between 1950-1960s indicate numerous agricultural shops, hairdressers, milk bars, delicatessens, general stores, licenced hotels, hardware stores, Butchers, motor garages, Picture theatres (Olympia Theatre), produce merchants (Grain and seed), grocers, mixed businesses, real estate agents/ auctioneers, and chemists (pharmaceutical) were present along Garfield Road east. These same records indicate two businesses including produce merchants and security services were located along Junction Road in 1991. Numerous businesses were registered along Windsor Road in the vicinity of the Precinct in the 1950 and 1960s comprising newsagents, motor panel beaters/tyre and tube dealers, green grocers/fruiterers, and poultry dealers. The businesses identified along these roads often experienced longevity in the scale of a decade or more such as Knights Garage (V. Knight)/ Knights Service Station, Macquarie Dry Cleaners Pty. Ltd and the Vineyard Service Station on Windsor Road (Lot Search, 2023).

## **Aerial imagery review**

The use of aerial imagery assists in determining the level of disturbance across the site, historic land use and any changes to the site over time to determine whether non-Indigenous heritage may be present. This review provides further information to assist in developing a predictive statement about the likelihood of previously unidentified heritage within the Precinct. This aerial imagery review comprises an analysis of historic aerial imagery. A brief review was undertaken using historic aerial images dating from 1947, 1949 and 1965 (NSW Foundation Spatial Data Framework, NSW Government). For legibility, the approximate location of the Precinct has been displayed in red. This is restricted to the north-western section of the Precinct in order to confirm previous assessments and the absence of any remains of the possible location of the Rummery family home.

A review of historic aerial imagery dating from 1947 provides a glimpse of the nature of development across the Precinct at that point in time. In particular, the imagery indicates a lack of change or development within the Precinct prior to 1947. This suggests that the Precinct was likely used to run livestock and possibly orcharding. Buildings at a location immediately across from the Former Box Hill Inn/Rummery Homestead and a cleared paddock were interpreted as relating to a stable perhaps associated with the Rummery family.

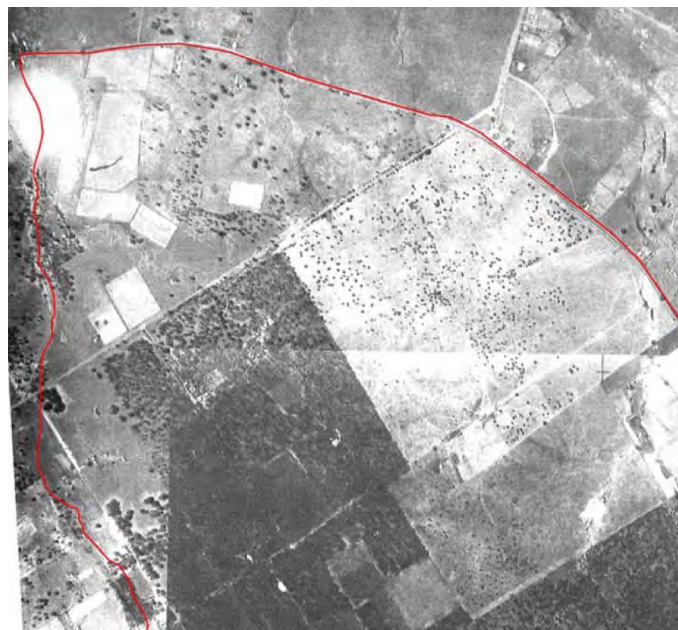
The 1947 aerial image depicts little development within the northern most section of the Stage 3 Study Area and the surrounds (Figure 3-10). A couple of prepared paddocks, cleared and possibly for agriculture or



pastoralism, near the highest point between the creeks and drainage lines where the 1925 survey map plots a structure. There is no sign of any remains of the lost Rummary family home.

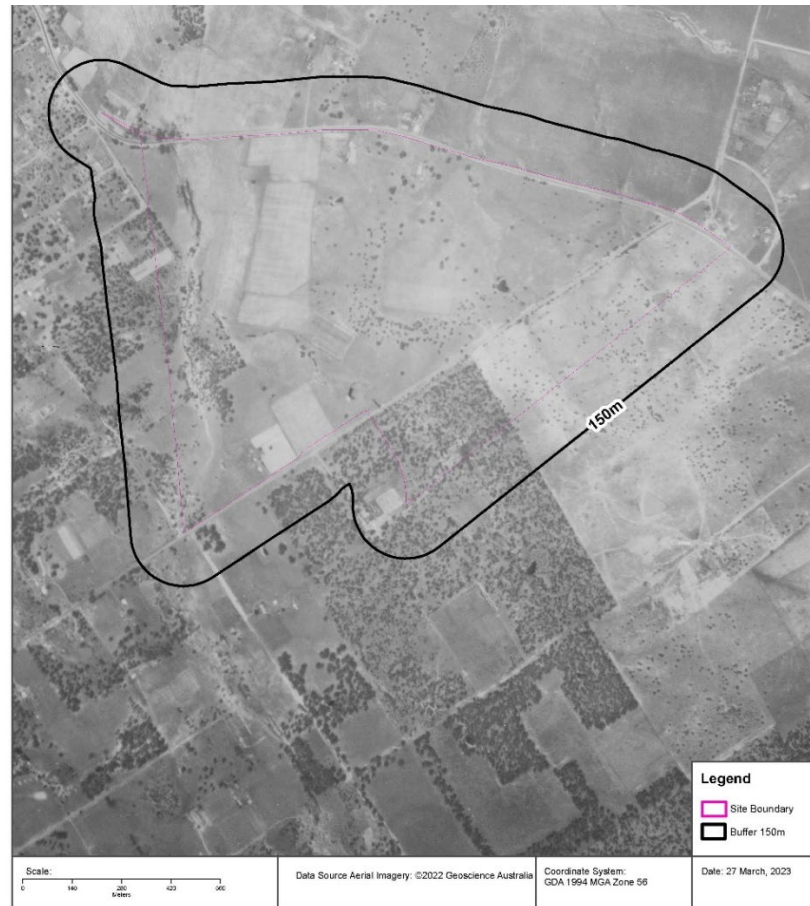
*'The Rummary property had been almost entirely cleared of vegetation, and part appeared to be in cultivation. There were two structures, or groups of structures, set back from Windsor Road. These were not shown in the 1925 plan, and are therefore likely to have been constructed in the intervening period. On the other hand, the structure shown in the central part of this property in the 1925 plan was not evident in the 1947 photograph, although it may simply be that the photograph is not clear enough to make out the building. The area to the west of Junction Road had also been largely cleared of vegetation, with one section in cultivation, and a possible structure having been built in an area set back from Garfield Road East. Development on Portion 1 appeared to be comparable to that shown in 1925, with the Nu Welwyn group on the eastern side of Clarke Street, and two or three groups on the western side of the street'*

(AHMS, 2015: p. 51).



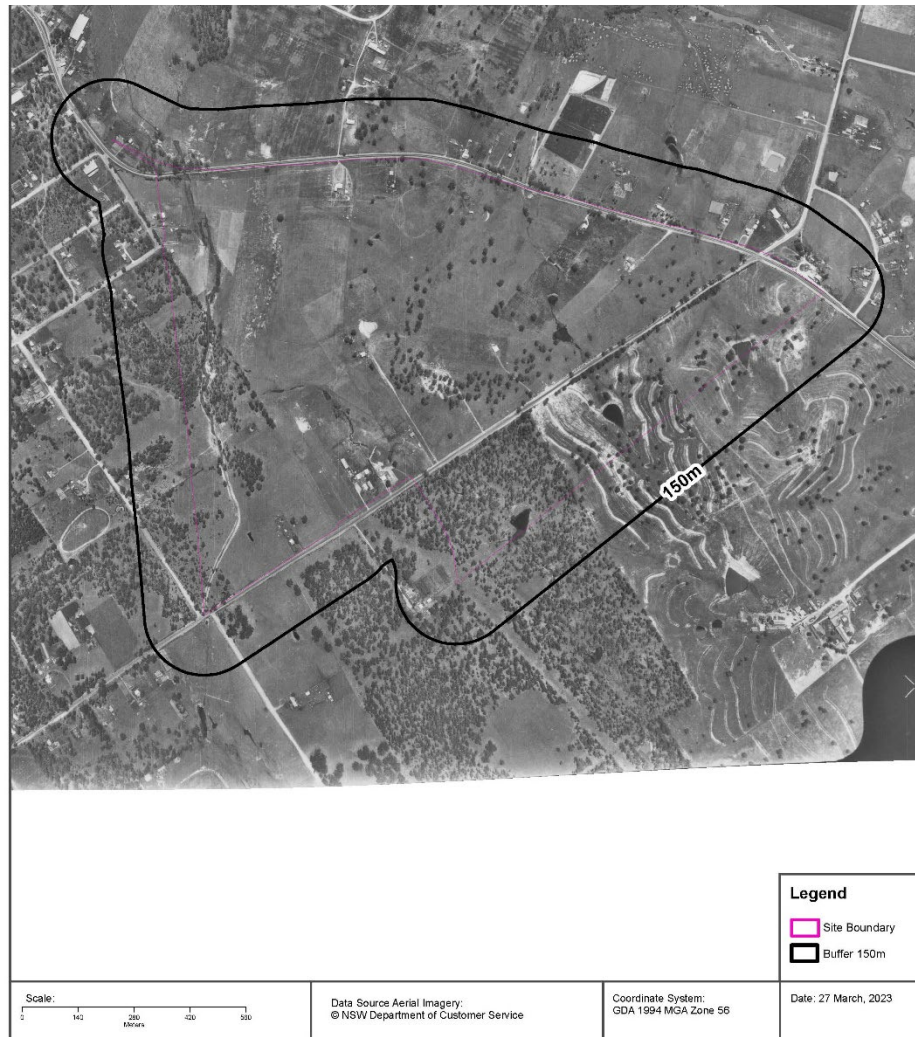
**Figure 3-10** Extract from Historic aerial image of the Riverstone East Precinct including the Precinct (1947, NSW Government)

The 1949 aerial image is very similar to the 1947 image; however, it is clearer and depicts the same information (Figure 3-11).



**Figure 3-11** Historic aerial image of the northern portion of the Precinct (1949, NSW Government)

The 1965 aerial image shows the number of outbuildings has decreased and the stable has been removed (Figure 3 12). Road locations are formalised and more dams have been constructed as well as an oval horse track in the northwestern corner near the junction of Eastern Creek and Windsor Road. It is difficult to identify locations of potential archaeological remains dating to the early 19th century as more farmland is subdivided for residential purposes. This will have impacted upon the integrity of any preserved subsurface archaeological deposits in the Precinct.



**Figure 3-12** Historic aerial image of the northern portion of the Precinct (1965, NSW Government)

A review of historic aerial imagery has indicated that anecdotal evidence suggesting an early slab hut/house built on the highpoint across Windsor Road and the Former Box Hill in cannot be confirmed by aerial photographs due to the size and ephemeral nature of this kind of structure.

Previous studies discussed in Section 3.3 have included a review of aerial photography of the wider Riverstone areas and found that the area has been subject to considerable change and development over the last 50 plus years. This is not the case for the Precinct which has remained as a low-density residential area.

### 3.5.1 Parks and Cultural Landscapes

#### Rouse Hill Regional Park

Rouse Hill Regional Park is located within the boundaries of two properties that were alienated from the crown in the early 19th century: Portions 6 and 72 of the Parish of Gidley. Portion 6 was granted to Richard Rouse in 1816, although he had probably occupied the property since few years earlier. Portion 72 was granted to James May in 1816. Rouse erected a house on his property (to the east of the Precinct) and moved there with his family sometime between 1818 and 1825. He also acquired the neighbouring Portions 5 and 9, and the estate remained in the ownership of the Rouse family until the mid-20th century. Portion 72 was purchased by the Rouse family in 1913.

Much of Rouse's property was cleared for agricultural uses, including cultivation of grains, vegetables, and fruit, and running livestock including horses, cattle, sheep, and pigs. Historical images indicate that the use of Portion 72 to the south was similar.

From 1951 onwards, parts of the Rouse estate were subdivided and sold off. From the mid to late 1960s, the neighbouring streets were laid out as areas were gradually subdivided and developed for residential occupation. This was encouraged by the creation of the Rouse Hill Development Area in the late 1980s, and later the NWGA. In the late 1980s, the site of a regional park was proposed, to provide recreational space for the development area and assist with retaining the rural setting of Rouse Hill House, to the east. In 1996, 43 hectares were transferred to National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), and a further two hectares were reserved in 1999. Development since the creation of the park has included construction of an internal road and parking, walking trails, a playground, three pavilions, and barbecue and picnic facilities (Coast History and Heritage 2023: p.15).

### 3.6 Desktop Assessment Summary

This desktop assessment comprised a brief review of the environmental context, historical overview, current heritage listings, and a review of past studies and historical site information. Re-evaluation of historic aerial imagery (focused upon the suspected location of the Rummary Family Home) and relevant archaeological reports did not identify any recorded non-Indigenous heritage present within the Precinct. Therefore, there is a moderate to low potential for unrecorded non-Indigenous heritage elements to be impacted by the Project.

This desktop assessment concurs with the previous findings by GML (2010) and AHMS (2015) regarding their identifications and assessments of the non-Indigenous heritage sites or areas of historic archaeological potential within the Precinct. A search of the relevant historic heritage registers did not identify any registered non-Indigenous heritage sites within the Precinct. Notwithstanding, non-Indigenous heritage sites either border, or are located in close proximity to the Precinct. The closest non-Indigenous heritage sites form portions of the eastern boundary of the Stage 3 Study Area (Windsor Road Corridor and Rouse Hill House and Farm). Although these places will not be directly impacted by the Project, visual qualities from Rouse Hill House through agricultural/pastoral lands and the wider pastoral landscape – indicative of the historical use and adding to the significance of this property and the wider region – could be compromised. Therefore, any future development within the visual catchment of the Rouse Hill House and Farm has been assessed as having a very high visual effect due to the cultural and visual significance of the homestead.

Development of the Precinct since the 1950s, together with repeated flooding, and terracing has likely disturbed the ground surface. Additionally, installation of subsurface utilities (e.g., telecommunications, water mains, gas, and electricity) might have impacted upon the integrity of any potential archaeological remains situated in the Precinct.



## 4 Predictive Modelling

Archaeological potential is defined by the NSW Heritage Office *Archaeological Assessment Guidelines* 'as the degree of physical evidence present on an archaeological site' (1996:34). It should be noted that archaeology in the *Archaeological Assessment Guidelines* is defined as 'any physical evidence of past human activity' (NSW Heritage Office, 1996).

*'The potential archaeological resource is a predictive statement about what should survive on a site if all phases of human activity are documented and leave evidence. This is seldom the case as later activity, such as farming or excavation can destroy earlier evidence. Also some activities can leave little or no physical evidence. The potential archaeological resource needs therefore to also consider the effects of later activity, the decay of materials in the ground and the form of the evidence'* (Gojak, 2005: p.5).

A review of historic aerial imagery and past archaeological reports have considered the level of modern impacts that have occurred within and surrounding the Precinct which has substantially reduced the likelihood for intact non-Indigenous places to be present. Disturbance within the Precinct has occurred as a result of landscape clearance and modification works such as terracing (around the meat works plant - A J Bush & Sons (Manufactures) Pty Ltd - Rouse Hill Plant), construction of roads, subdivision of farmland into smaller lots, and the installation of utilities to service the residences throughout the Precinct. As such, predicting the likelihood for identifying intact non-Indigenous sites within the Precinct must consider the range and level of ground disturbing impacts that have occurred across the Precinct and how this has impacted the potential for identifying intact non-Indigenous sites.

Extensive previous research, supplemented by additional research undertaken as part of this heritage assessment, has identified nine previously registered non-Indigenous heritage sites (LEP and SHR) within one kilometre of the Precinct. No non-Indigenous sites have been recorded within the Precinct to date. Anecdotal evidence (Phyllis, 1993), coupled with the 1925 survey plan of the Riverstone area, hint at the possibility of archaeological deposits associated with a lost Rummery Family home north of Garfield Road East and west of Windsor Road. To confirm this supposition, a targeted survey is required.

Archaeological evidence within the region has previously been identified as trackways, terracing of land, potential relics associated with historic land grants/subdivisions, pastoralism and agriculture and irrigation, settling the area, roads and trainlines, water crossings such as fords culverts and bridges, and farms with houses and associated outbuildings. Previous archaeological excavations (Section 3.3.5) have described building foundations (both farm and other functions), building materials, non-Indigenous artefacts, post-and-wire fences, refuse pits, creek crossings, road cuttings, foundations possibly associated with toll houses, Windsor Road ballast, and remains of the macadam pavement.

A review of previous reports suggests there is the potential for archaeological sites and deposits to be located in certain landscape contexts. The following predictive model summarises the main forecasts in respect to site types, locations, and characteristics relevant to the Precinct. Some areas within the Precinct and adjacent have high potential for archaeological remains to be present. These areas are associated with Windsor Road and Rouse Hill House, which form the eastern boundary of the Precinct. Few zones in the Precinct have been assessed as having medium potential to contain non-Indigenous archaeological resources. These include within 50 m of the creek lines (First Ponds Creek and Killarney Chain of Ponds), the Queen Arms and Box hill Inn together with the suspected location of the lost Rummery Family home. Overall, there is low potential for non-Indigenous sites to occur within the Precinct. A before you dig inquiry (BYD) coupled with observations made during a ground truthing survey would provide a better characterisation of the level and types of ground disturbance affecting the Precinct.

Based on the above information an archaeological predictive model for non-Indigenous heritage within the Precinct has been developed in Figure 4-1.

## 4.1 Predicted Site Types and Potential Locations

There is low potential for intact non-Indigenous sites to be present within the body of the Precinct. However, several areas of moderate or high potential have been identified by the archaeological predictive model and these are associated with creek crossings, the potential remains of the Rummery family home and the Windsor Road corridor - all areas of intense to moderate occupation during the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. Site types expected within the Precinct are associated with agricultural and pastoral activities and day-to-day residential life. Given agricultural activities in the area were not necessarily restricted to their formal boundaries, it is probable that the Precinct contains evidence of the pastoral and agricultural activities associated with Riverston(e) Estate, Rouse Hill House, and the Rummery family orchids. As such the site types expected include:

- Built Heritage (missed from heritage studies): surviving architecture indicative of the period in which it was constructed. Few buildings from the initial non-Indigenous settlement of the region remain and are significant on both local and state scales (Slab hut homes and are not located within the Precinct but are retained in the wider Riverstone and Riverstone East Precincts). Based on the reports publicly available, architecture from intervening periods within Blacktown City has not been regularly assessed for inclusion on the environmental planning instrument.
- Cultural landscape elements such as dams, roads, tracks and fencing as these relate to the initial and subsequent non-Indigenous farming and subdivision of the region through time.
- Water crossings such as culverts, fords, and bridges over First Ponds Creek and Killarney Chain of Ponds: Due to the number of tributaries debouching into the Hawksbury River which flow through the Precinct, crossings of these waterways would be required for road construction and moving about the landscape.
- Water control including wells, cisterns, windmills, and privy's: these concern provision of potable water to homes and farms and the removal of waste and the remains of which could be present within the Precinct.
- Stables and outbuildings: the anecdotal map provided by the Riverstone Historical Society noted a stable across Windsor Road from the Box Hill Inn. Remnants of the stable and outbuildings may be present, however, based on the aerial images between 1947 and 1965, this location has undergone changes, where the buildings visible in 1947 were gradually removed. It is unclear if the buildings visible in the 1947 map reflect these early buildings and non-Indigenous settlement.
- Possible remains of a slab hut house (Rummery Family Home): archaeological features could include wells, privies, rubbish pits, post holes and possibly portions of posts, underfloor deposits, and hearth/fireplace foundations.
- The ridgeline noted, running roughly north south through the centre of the Precinct, is mostly undeveloped and provides a visual line from Rouse Hill House to Riverstone township.

## 4.2 Predicted Site Characteristics

- Greater likelihood for non-Indigenous cultural material to be present across the ground surface.
- The shallow nature of the soils across the Precinct (in some areas bordering the Precinct the underlying shale deposits are very shallow - identified just under the grass surface on the eastern side of Windsor Road at the Queen's Arms Inn (Casey & Lowe Associates Archaeology & Heritage 2000) - and surrounding region do not yield deep archaeological deposits.
- Stone building foundations have been found to survive (Table 3-7).
- Post holes from previous structures could survive if the land has not been ploughed.
- Given the terracing along the eastern portion of the Precinct (330 Garfield Road, Riverstone, 328 Garfield Road, Riverstone, and 1038 Windsor Road, Rouse Hill), south of Garfield Road, occurred after 1949 yet prior to 1965 (Figure 3-11 and Figure 3-12), intact non-Indigenous remains of agriculture and pastoralism in this property may not persist.
- Disturbed by subsequent agricultural, pastoral and subdivision activities.

- Disturbed by subsequent subdivision and construction of residences, roads, and installation of surface and sub-surface utilities.
- Major floods could have repeated affected low-lying land within the Precinct and could have both removed soil and redeposited alluvial sediments. Flooding could have removed or covered over the ground surface and possibly damaged (eroded) or buried archaeological resources with further sediment.





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Projection: GDA 1994 MGA Zone 56

Riverstone East Precinct (Stage 3) **Heritage Assessment**

**Figure 4-1** Non-Indigenous predictive archaeological model



## 5 Historic Site Inspection

The following section describes the results of the historic site inspection.

### 5.1 Aims

The aims of the site inspection were to:

- Clarify the archaeological potential of the Precinct.
- Provide additional archaeological survey coverage due to the lack of access to private properties experienced by previous heritage assessments of the Riverstone East Precinct Stage 3.
- Investigate the archaeological potential associated with built heritage within the Precinct.
- Assess cultural landscape features such as dams, former roads, potentially exotic trees, tracks, and fencing within the Precinct.
- Test the site prediction model (in Section 4) and confirm if the following predicted site types are located within the Precinct : Built heritage, dams, roads, tracks, fencing, culverts, fords, and bridges over First Ponds Creek and Killarney Chain of Ponds, wells, cisterns, windmills, and privies, stables and outbuildings, possible remains of a slab hut house (Rummery Family Home) including rubbish pits, post holes and possibly portions of posts, underfloor deposits and hearth/fireplace foundations.
- Ground truthing the property identified as the potential location of the Rummery Family Home as AHMS (2015) only inspected public thoroughfares.
- Ground truthing the property identified as the potential location of the Box Hill Inn Stables (Phillis 1993).

### 5.2 Obstacles and Limitations

Obstacles and limitations included poor archaeological survey coverage due to the lack of access to private properties.

### 5.3 Survey Details

The historic site inspection was completed on 16 and 17 May 2023. The ground survey was supervised by Kylie McFadyen (Senior Heritage Consultant) and Lauren Prossor (Senior Heritage Consultant), Aurecon.

The site inspection was completed by a mixture of vehicle and pedestrian survey. Where access was permitted, the Precinct was traversed on foot at intervals of two metres between survey participants. Partial survey coverage of the Precinct was undertaken, and views of the Precinct were recorded using a Nikon AW 120 camera. Field notes were taken recording ground conditions, the vegetation type, landform, and details of areas of archaeological potential for non-Indigenous heritage. The location and extent of coverage of the survey area is shown on Figure 5-20.

### 5.4 Site Description

For the purpose of reporting the Site Inspection results, the Survey Area was divided into survey areas using the roads and those trails traversed by foot (Table 5-1). The division of units was based upon access, thoroughfares, and landforms elements such as rises, plateaus and low points.

**Table 5-1 Description of survey areas in the Precinct**

Survey Area	Land Use	Features
AJ Bush & Sons 1106 Windsor Road, Rouse Hill, NSW, 2155	Meat rendering and recycling plant and associated water reclamation ponds.	High ground, numerous water reclamation ponds disturbed the slopes of the hill. Varied dates for building construction.
Junction Road	Market gardening, vacant lots, and residential.	Gentle rise at the interchange with Garfield Road East. Wooden post and wire fencing.
Private Driveway 307 Garfield Road East, Grantham Farm, NSW, 2765	Residential: existing dwellings	No access on day – gate was shut.
Garfield Road East	Residential: existing dwellings on northern side, southern side is open paddocks and existing dwellings.	Tyburn Priory
Rouse Hill Regional Park	Regional Park	Rouse Hill stock yard
Guntawong Road	Residential - mix of occupied and abandoned homes	View of Blue Mountains from 21 Guntawong Road
Tallawong Road	Residential – mix of occupied and abandoned homes	Residential homes dating from the 1950s, 1970s and 1980s
Cudgegong Road	Residential – mix of occupied and abandoned homes and the water tank	The Rouse Hill Water Reservoir. Higher, undulating land and is higher at the location of the reservoir.
Worcester Road	Residential – mix of occupied and abandoned homes as well as the Rouse Hill Regional Park	Chicken farm, significant wooded rise along back of this property, and Rouse Hill Regional Park.

## 5.5 Areas Surveyed

Due to restricted access to the requested private properties, the site inspection was constrained to public thoroughfares, Rouse Hill Regional Park, and involved only limited access to private properties. It was not a comprehensive historic heritage survey of the Precinct. Therefore, the inspection of the potential heritage items and archaeological deposits identified through the documentary research, nor the aims of the site inspection, were not fully achieved.

### 5.5.1 AJ Bush & Sons

The site inspection commenced at AJ Bush & Sons where the areas outside the working buildings were inspected. AJ Bush & Sons was located on one of the highest points in the Precinct. Two other properties are associated with this hill which include Bird Brothers and Burns Pet food. Both businesses are no longer in operation and the access road from AJ Bush & Sons to Burns Pet Food has been blocked. Therefore, only the buildings associated with AJ Bush and Sons and Bird Brothers on the top of the hill were inspected. Due to the significant disturbance from digging numerous ponds up the southern, western, and northern slopes (AJ Bush & Sons and Burns Pet Food) of the hill and the terracing associated with the eastern slope (Bird Brothers Property) no direct inspections were made of the slopes were made.

The buildings at AJ Bush & Sons were constructed over time since the plant's 1956 construction in Riverstone. The oldest buildings were constructed of brick and the newest were of Colorbond. These buildings do not fulfil the criteria for listing on local or State heritage registers.

### 5.5.2 Junction Road

The west side of Junction Road contains abandoned and derelict dwellings (Figure 5-1) and empty paddocks at the intersection with Garfield Road East. There is a distinct boundary between the construction within Riverstone East Precinct Stage 2 and the Riverstone East Stage 3 (Figure 5-2, Figure 5-3, and Figure 5-4), yet to be developed and the concern of this heritage assessment. An aboveground power easement was noted running northwest across Junction Road. The farm fences were a mixture of wooden post and wire (Figure 5-3, Figure 5-4, Figure 5-5, Figure 5-6, and Figure 5-7).

Following a planting of eucalypts (Figure 5-6), several newer homes (c1980-1990s) were situated at the northern most extent of Junction Road. On the east side of the road, an in-use market garden was observed (273 Garfield Road East) with a dwelling and several sheds (Figure 5-7 and Figure 5-8), one of which was constructed of corrugated iron. Several shipping containers were stored in the southern extent of this property, abutting Garfield Road East.



Figure 5-1 Derelict building, Junction Road



Figure 5-2 Stage 2 Riverstone East Precinct boundary, Junction Road



Figure 5-3 Stage 2 Riverstone East Precinct boundary, Junction Road, Junction Road



Figure 5-4 Fencing along Junction Road





**Figure 5-5 example of residential architecture along Junction Road**



**Figure 5-6 Junction Road Eucalypts planting**



**Figure 5-7 Market Garden, east side of Junction Road**



**Figure 5-8 Junction Road, looking towards Garfield Road East**

### **5.5.1 307 Garfield Road East, Grantham Farm**

There was no access to this property during the survey due to a locked gate. Therefore, ground truthing the surface for evidence of the former Rummery Family Home was unable to be completed.

### **5.5.2 Garfield Road East**

Culverts and cuttings into the bedrock of the hill at the eastern end of Garfield Road East before it meets Windsor Road. Along the northern side of the road are residential properties set atop of the high point (Figure 5-9). At the highest point along the road is the Tyburn Priory, a brick veneer monastery constructed in 1986 (Figure 5-10).

The southern boundary of the Garfield Road East easement is described by undulating paddocks with a dam and trees which are situated approximately 500 m from the road. A tall cyclone fence, with canvas signs reading Simmons civil contracting tied to the fence, cordons off this property from the road. Above ground power poles follow the southern easement boundary.





**Figure 5-9 Driveway, 275 Garfield Road East (Aurecon)**



**Figure 5-10 Tyburn Priory (source: <https://www.tyburnconvent.org.uk/>)**

### **5.5.1 Worcester Road**

Worcester Road included a chicken farm, at the northern most extent and the significant wooded rise along back of this property (Figure 5-11). The homes along this road were mostly of 1980s construction. Rouse Hill Regional Park together with hobby farms and dams comprised the remainder of Worcester Road.



**Figure 5-11 Wooded rise from 21 Guntawong Road.**

### **5.5.2 Rouse Hill Regional Park**

Rouse Hill Regional Park is a mix of grasslands and remnant and planted stands of forest and community infrastructure such as playgrounds and picnic areas (Figure 5-12, Figure 5-13, Figure 5-14, Figure 5-15, Figure 5-16, and Figure 5-17). The grasslands are located on the slope of the hill upon which Rouse Hill House is located. A stockyard (Figure 5-15) associated with the Rouse Hill Estate was observed and was located outside the bounds of the existing curtilage of the SHR listing for Rouse Hill House and the Museums of History NSW property. The Rouse Hill School House, On the Windsor Road side of the Museums of History NSW property is also outside the curtilage of the SHR listing. Existing interpretative signage was noted in the regional park (Section 8).





Figure 5-12 Rouse Hill Regional Park



Figure 5-13 Rouse Hill Regional Park



Figure 5-14 Rouse Hill Regional Park



Figure 5-15 Rouse Hill Regional Park stockyard



Figure 5-16 Rouse Hill Regional Park



Figure 5-17 Rouse Hill Regional Park

### 5.5.1 Guntawong Road

Residential homes of mixed eras (1950s/1970s/1980s/1990s) comprised the east west thoroughfare of Guntawong Road. Homes were mostly of brick, few remaining weatherboard dwellings remained. The vegetation was mixed and mostly comprised gardens and some native trees. An electricity easement was noted running above ground on the north side of the road. One of the few locations in the Riverstone East Precinct, Stage 3 where the Blue Mountains can be viewed along the skyline (Figure 5-18) is located at 21 Guntawong Road and behind it, at Rouse Hill House Estate (Figure 5-19).





Figure 5-18 View of Blue Mountains from 21 Guntawong Road



Figure 5-19 Rouse Hill House from 21 Guntawong Road.

### 5.5.1 Tallawong Road

Tallawong Road comprised residential homes dating from the 1950s, 1970s and 1980s.

### 5.5.2 Cudgegong Road

Abandoned residential homes from the 1905s, 1970s/1980s and earlier described the southernmost extent of Cudgegong Road in the Precinct. The Rouse Hill Water Reservoir was noted on the eastern side of the road. The land here is undulating and higher at the location of the reservoir. Tree cover is varied due to the home gardens. This area is a mix of residential and hobby farms.

## 5.6 Revised Archaeological and Heritage Assessment

As AHMS (2015: p. 87) identified, *“Historical occupation of the Riverstone East Precinct has involved substantial changes to the landscape, particularly with regard to vegetation clearance and creation of dams. However, development has been relatively dispersed, and has tended to be conservative in nature. That is, new development has been added, while the older modifications have often been retained rather than demolished or otherwise obscured. This ‘layering’ of the material evidence of past occupation within the Precinct means that the history of the area is readily apparent”*.

The present structures within the Precinct largely date to two main periods; c1960s and c1980s; reflecting two key periods of population growth and development in the region. In many cases, the earlier structures on a property have been retained alongside the new.

The Riverstone East Precinct, Stage 3 boundaries follow the natural boundary of First Ponds Creek to Garfield Road East, Garfield Road East, the 132 Kv electrical easement, the property boundaries of cadastral boundaries created by the subdivision of the Rouse Hill House Estate, and the historic boundary of Windsor Road. These boundaries do not always follow historic property boundaries and the natural boundaries of the First and seconds Ponds Creeks.

The features identified and confirmed during the site inspection included: Tyburn Priory (325 Garfield Road East), Windsor Road, items such as a stock yard and the Rouse Hill School House which are not included in the curtilage of Rouse Hill house Estate Museum, and the visual lines of the Blue Mountains from Rouse Hill House and 21 Guntawong Road. A number of specific items of non-Indigenous heritage significance (or potential significance) have been identified within the Riverstone East Precinct Stage 3, or in close proximity to the Precinct (Figure 3-1). These are discussed individually below.

The site inspection was able to verify the predictive modelling to a degree. The following features of the predictive modelling were confirmed:

- The built heritage within the Precinct had previously been recorded appropriately.
- Cultural landscapes comprise dams, roads, tracks, fencing. These relate to the initial and subsequent non-Indigenous farming and subdivision of the region through time.
- High levels of disturbance from post-war development, especially in the AJ Bush & Sons property.
- The ridgeline noted, running roughly north south through the centre of the Precinct, is mostly undeveloped and provides a visual line from Rouse Hill House to the Riverstone township.
- Middle- and long-distance view lines from Rouse Hill House both within the Precinct and to the Blue Mountains.

However, due to the lack of access to private properties at the site of the site inspection, the following forecasts were not established:

- Presence of unrecorded water crossings such as culverts, fords, and bridges over First Ponds Creek and Killarney Chain of Ponds.
- Presence of unrecorded water control including wells, cisterns, windmills, and privies.
- Presence of unrecorded archaeological remains of the Box Hill Inn Stables and outbuildings.
- Presence of unrecorded archaeological remains of a Slab hut house (Rummary Family Home).
- Stone building foundations of Rumery House.
- Post holes from previous structures could survive if the land has not been ploughed.

As these site predictions remain unverified after the site inspection, management recommendations (Section 6) have been constructed to mitigate possible damage to potential archaeological deposits and future local heritage places during the works required in the realisation of the draft ILP (Section 7).

### 5.6.1 Tyburn Priory

‘Places of cultural significance enrich people’s lives, often providing a deep and inspirational sense of connection to community and landscape, to the past and to lived experiences; (Australia ICOMOS Incorporated 2013: p. 1).

At present, there is no statutory requirement to retain the Tyburn Priory. However, taking into consideration the date of the convent, the documentary evidence regarding its use and configuration and its probable association with the Benedictine Adorers of the Sacred Heart of Jesus of Montmartre, the building would likely be of future local heritage significance.

While all criteria were referred to during this initial assessment, only particularly complex items or places will be significant under all criteria. As such, the Tyburn Priory does not meet all the criteria for inclusion in the LEP or the SEPP as presented in Table 5-2. The Tyburn Priory does, however meet Criterion B, D, F and G.

#### Statement of Significance

The Tyburn Priory is of local significance to the Blacktown LGA is associated with the work of the Benedictine Adorers of the Sacred Heart of Jesus of Montmartre. The Tyburn Priory in Riverstone was dedicated in 1989 by Father John O’Neil, Parish Priest of Doonside, assisted by Father Peter Little, S.J., and Father Carl Ashton, Parish Priest of Mount Druitt. Inside, the church building is of a mid-century modern design and the stained-glass windows are distinct in composition. The church and the gardens have scenic appeal and value and represents the cultivation of their own food in an environment of quiet contemplation and prayer undertaken by the nuns who lived there. The Tyburn Priory forms a more recent chapter in the history of religious worship in the Blacktown LGA and can provide information regarding why the nuns who lived here still practiced age old traditions – such as wearing habits – that other convents in the wider Sydney area do not. As the buildings and gardens of the Priory are more recent, there has been few alterations made to the fabric, which is largely completely intact and forms a high to exceptional example of architecture in a building of worship. The Tyburn Priory has tangible and intangible attributes typical of the secular a particular way of life.



**Table 5-2 Details which currently support the future inclusion of the Tyburn Priory on the SEPP based upon the brief background research**

Heritage Significance Criteria	Current Details Supporting Future Inclusion
<b>Criterion (a)</b> – an item is important in the course, or pattern, of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area);	
<b>Criterion (b)</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 cultural or natural history of the local area);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Tyburn Convent (Adorers of The Sacred Heart of Jesus, of Montmartre) was originally founded in 1898 at Montmartre, Paris.</li> <li>• In 1901 the young community fled to England on account of the laws of France against religious Orders. The Foundress settled her new community at Tyburn in London.</li> <li>• The Tyburn monastery in England is now the Mother House of her Congregation which has monasteries in England, Scotland, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand (Bombay), New Zealand (Ngakuru), Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Italy, and France.</li> <li>• The Riverstone Priory buildings are located in what is the third location of the catholic Tyburn sect after the invitation was extended by Cardinal Norman Gilroy.</li> </ul>
<b>Criterion (c)</b> – an item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW (or the local area);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inside, the church building is of a mid-century modern design.</li> <li>• The church and the gardens have scenic appeal and value and represents the lifeways of the nuns who lived there.</li> <li>• The stained-glass windows are distinct in composition.</li> </ul>
<b>Criterion (d)</b> – an item has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in NSW (or the local area) for social, cultural, or spiritual reasons;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The nuns who lived and worshipped here have a strong association and connection to this location and for some, it has been their home for decades.</li> <li>• Demonstrates strong association with wider Catholic religious custom within a convent.</li> <li>• These practices are and have been ongoing since dedication in 1989 right up to the present.</li> <li>• The buildings and gardens are completely intact.</li> </ul>
<b>Criterion (e)</b> – an item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unlikely to provide substantial new archaeological or scientific research potential. However, additional research in to documents and oral history is required.</li> <li>• This is not a benchmark or type site.</li> </ul>
<b>Criterion (f)</b> – an item possesses uncommon, rare, or endangered aspects of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Tyburn Priory forms a more recent chapter in the history of religious worship in the Blacktown LGA and can provide information regarding the evolution (or not) of the convent as the nuns who lived here still practiced age old traditions – such as wearing habits – that other convents do not.</li> <li>• The Tyburn Priory is the only church within the Stage 3 Study area of the Precinct. Therefore, the cumulative loss of this group of buildings would be substantial.</li> <li>• There are three other churches, including St Clares Convent, St Johns Catholic Church and School, Christchurch within 1 km of the Study area and of these one is a convent. Therefore, the Tyburn Priory is an endangered heritage asset within the LGA.</li> </ul>

Heritage Significance Criteria	Current Details Supporting Future Inclusion
<p><b>Criterion (g)</b> – an item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW's</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• cultural or natural places; or</li> <li>• cultural or natural environments.</li> <li>• (or a class of the local area's cultural or natural places; or</li> <li>• cultural or natural environments.)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Tyburn Priory has attributes typical of a particular way of life, especially secular nuns.</li> <li>• The church was a place of prayer and contemplation.</li> <li>• The gardens were a way of being self-sufficient as well as working the land and a place of contemplation.</li> <li>• The Shrine in honour of Mary, Help of Christians, located in the gardens, provided an outdoor spot of prayer and contemplation while overlooking the gardens.</li> </ul>

An item is not to be excluded from the SEPP on the ground that items with similar characteristics have already been listed on the SEPP (St Clares Convent).

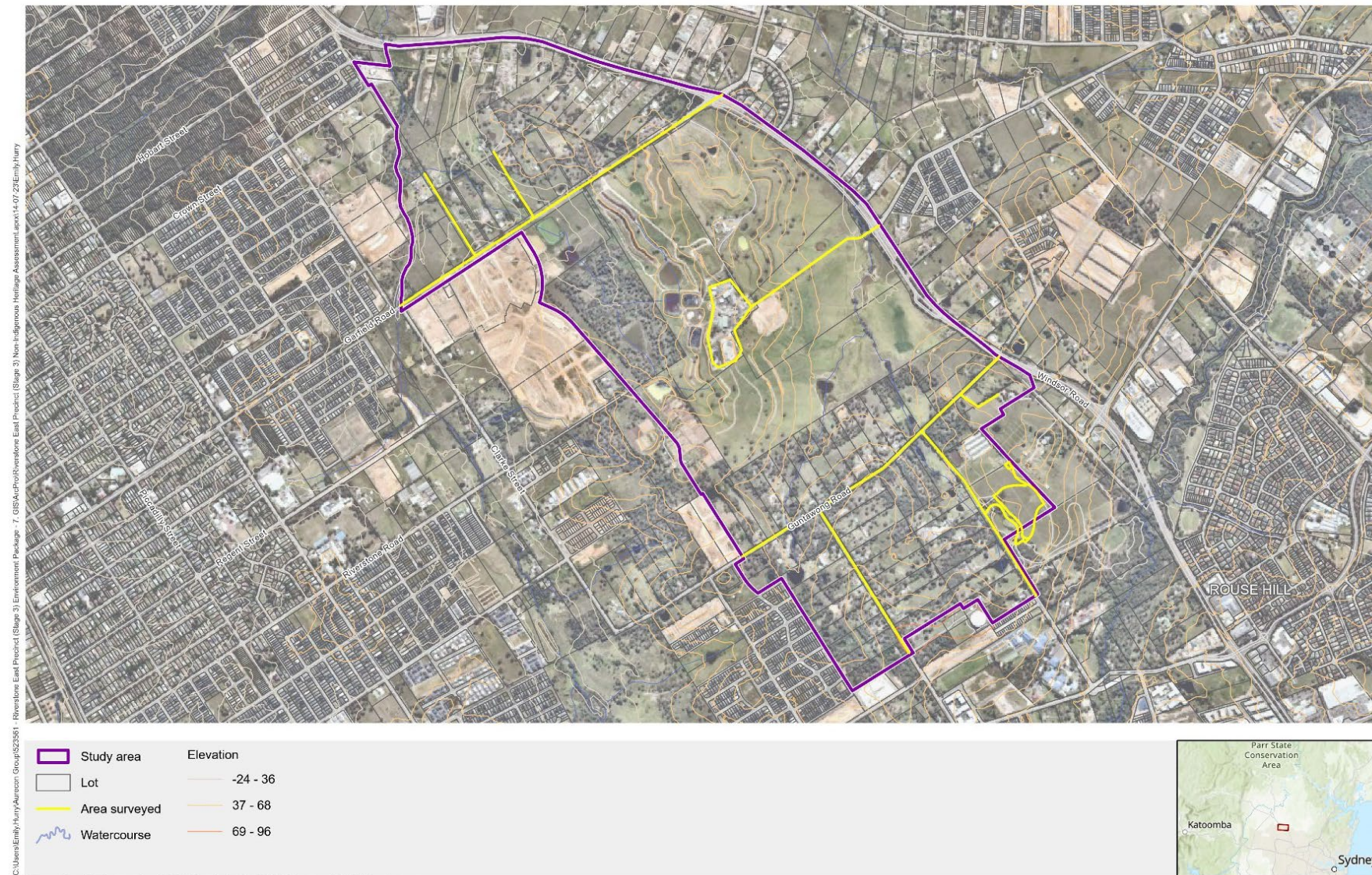
It is recommended that additional documentary and oral research and the physical investigation of its fabric should be undertaken to ascertain a full understanding of this potential heritage item (NSW Heritage Office 2002). So that in future, the Tyburn Priory could be included on schedule for the LEP and SEPP and provisions be developed as it is significant to the LGA.

Therefore, it is recommended that this future heritage item be retained within the Riverstone East Precinct Stage 3 ILP to protect the multi-layered nature of the heritage of the Riverstone East area.

It is also recommended that the priory chapel be deconsecrated and adaptive reuse, rather than demolition, be considered for this 2 ha property at 325 Garfield Rd, Riverstone East.

Adaptive reuse is the adaptation of historic buildings from one use to another while preserving their heritage value. Sometimes this may be nothing more than a change in activities and will keep the demolished building remains out of landfill and contribute to any sustainability targets of the Precinct. The location of the Tyburn Priory, close to the local parks, lends itself to potential community uses associated with the Regional Park including exhibition village, garden centre, group home or childcare facilities.





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Projection: GDA 1994 MGA Zone 56

Riverstone East Precinct (Stage 3) **Heritage Assessment**

**Figure 5-20 Non-Indigenous Heritage Site Inspection Survey Areas**



### **5.6.2 Rouse Hill House**

An historical overview of Rouse Hill House is outlined previously in Section 3.5. The heritage listed curtilage surrounding the house and principal outbuildings is located immediately outside the Precinct (Figure 3-1). However, the Precinct includes much of the original Rouse Hill estate (which had been consolidated by the mid-1820s and remained intact through to c1950). The historical setting of the house, within a large agricultural estate, has been substantially reduced as a result of the subdivision, sale and development of much of the historic property.

However, the listing of the immediate surrounds, together with the creation of Rouse Hill Regional Park, has resulted in conservation of part of the property as public open space. In addition, the adjacent section of Windsor Road has been realigned in order to take the increasingly busy road further from the house. An area to the north-west of the house is set aside as a Cultural Heritage Landscape Area (CHLA) in the SEPP (Sydney Region Growth Centres) 2006. The reasoning behind the selection of this area as a CHLA is related to the heritage significance of Rouse Hill House, however the area is in fact located outside the historic Rouse Hill estate boundary. However, the present lack of development across this area contributes to the existence of substantial view lines from the present Rouse Hill House. In the Riverstone East Precinct Stage 3, the SEPP has ensured the expansion of the Rouse Hill Regional Park and provides further protection for an extended area which was once part of the Rouse Estate.

The stockyard, identified during the site inspection, and the Rouse Hill School House are not included in the current curtilage of Rouse Hill House Estate Museum, therefore it is recommended that the curtilage of Rouse Hill House be extended on the SHR to include these items, even though they are protected within the bounds of the SEPP.

### **5.6.3 Potential Box Windsor Road Archaeological Remains**

The heritage significance of Windsor Road has been addressed in a number of previous studies and listings (see Section 3.3). For the most part, the heritage significance is associated with the alignment and material remains of the road, neither of which will be affected by development within the Precinct.

### **5.6.4 Potential Rummery House Archaeological Remains**

Taking into consideration the date of the former house, the absence of documentary evidence regarding its use and configuration and its probable association with the regionally important Rummery family, any remains of the building would likely be of local heritage significance.

In addition, there were significant historical connections between this property and the Box Hill Inn, through ownership and occupation by the Rummery family.

However, due to access issues, ground truthing of 307 Garfield Road East (potential Rummery House archaeological remains) could not be completed. Therefore, no additional information regarding the possibility of archaeological deposits at this location can be provided at this time. Additional investigation is recommended in order to accurately determine the location, nature, and condition of any archaeological remains of this house if ground disturbing activities are to occur here as part of the implementation of the ILP, at the DA stage.

### **5.6.5 Potential Box Hill Inn Stable Archaeological Remains**

Taking into consideration the date of the stable, the absence of documentary evidence regarding its use and configuration and its probable association with the regionally important Rummery family, any remains of the building would likely be local heritage significance.

However, due to access issues, ground truthing of 1280 Windsor Road (potential Box Hill Inn Stable archaeological remains) could not be completed. Therefore, no additional information regarding the possibility of archaeological deposits at this location can be provided at this time. Additional investigation would be required in order to accurately determine the location, nature, and condition of any archaeological

remains of this stable if ground disturbing activities are to occur here as part of the implementation of the ILP.

## 6 Recommended Management

Development with the potential to affect the historical heritage and archaeological significance of the Precinct is regulated by a number of existing statutory and non-statutory instruments and policies. The principal relevant instruments and policies are outlined in Section 3.1.1.

The following mitigation and management pathways are recommended to protect the local heritage and archaeology of the Precinct (Figure 6-1).

### 6.1.1 Tyburn Priory

- If the property boundary (Lot 7 on DP 1076228) is retained, this item should be added to the Central River City SEPP when it meets all criteria for inclusion in the future. This would assist in the protection of the standing structures, together with any other elements of the main convent buildings that may remain.
- At present, the Tyburn Priory meets Criterion B, D, F and G for local significance and potential inclusion on the LEP and the Central River SEPP. See Section 5.6.1 for the initial heritage significance assessment.
- The extent of the Tyburn Priory (325 Garfield Road, Riverstone) should be retained, if possible, because in a decade this could form part of the rich and layered heritage of the local Riverstone East region (Figure 6-3).
- If the Tyburn Priory (325 Garfield Road, Riverstone), is retained adaptive reuse should be considered.
- It is also recommended that an appropriate curtilage within that presented in Figure 6-2 be plotted on the SEPP's heritage map.

### 6.1.2 Rouse Hill House Curtilage Extension

- The extent of the curtilage of the listed heritage item should be increased to extend to Windsor Road in the east and to subsume the stockyard in the west (Figure 6-3). This would assist in the conservation of the setting of the main homestead group, and view lines to and from the group and the surrounding area, and in reinforcing the connection of the listed item with the wider historical estate.
- If possible, the extended curtilage should be recognised in modifications to the local heritage listing (in the Environmental Heritage Schedule of the Central River City SEPP) and/or to the SHR listing, in order to give the area statutory protection. The relevant development controls would then apply to this extended curtilage. Any proposed development within the expanded listed item should be subject to heritage impact assessment, either by way of assessment specific to the proposed development or a more general document such as a conservation management plan. This would allow potential for heritage impact to be avoided or minimised.
- The School House is already mentioned in the SHI listing even though it is not included within the curtilage of Rouse Hill House and Farm (SHR/LEP/S170; SHR #00002). Therefore, the curtilage should be expanded to encompass the School House (lot 210 on DP 1135923 and Lot 18 on DP 1118307). The Hills Shire gave lot 210 on DP 1135923 and Lot 18 on DP 1118307 to Blacktown LGA when the Windsor Road was diverted by 1.5 kms during road amelioration and intersection works. Now that these lots are no longer split between two LGAs there is a reduced administration of having the curtilage split between two LGAs. It is then, a good time to add the Rouse Hill School House to the existing curtilage of Rouse Hill House and Farm (SHR/LEP/S170; SHR #00002).
- The stockyard is associated with Rouse Hill House and is a good example of fencing that should be retained and added into the existing curtilage of Rouse Hill House and Farm as it provides standing evidence of farming technology of the time. Therefore, the curtilage should be expanded to encompass the stockyard (lot 2 on DP 815213).

- Proposed development of the properties adjacent to and to the west of Worcester Road should be subject to heritage impact assessment (a SOHI). This would assist in the conservation of the setting of the main homestead group.

See Section 7.1.8 for the heritage guidelines for inclusion within the Central River City SEPP.

### 6.1.3 Visual Lines from Rouse Hill House

- Any development within the Visual Heritage Curtilage of the Rouse Hill Estate and Regional Park is required to provide a stringent visual impact report for each stage of development that falls within this visual catchment.
- In order to preserve the distant views to the Blue Mountains (north-west) from Rouse Hill House no two-storey houses (no taller than 3.5 m) should be constructed on the highest centre point within the Precinct (Figure 6-4):
- In order to preserve the distant views to the Blue Mountains (north-west) from Rouse Hill House no two-storey houses (no taller than 5.5 m) should be constructed on the highest northern point of the Precinct (Figure 6-4):
- In order to preserve the middle-distance views from Rouse Hill House into the Rouse Hill Regional Park and into Stages 1 and 2 areas (Figure 6-4) no buildings taller than 3.5m should be constructed in the following locations:
  - On the western boundary of the extended Rouse Hill Regional Park
  - On the western boundary of Worcester Road for 200 m
- High density residential constructions throughout Stage 3 must be located in low lying areas (40-20 m).
- High density residential constructions in the southern portion of the Stage 3 area should be located on the lowest points on the western side of the main ridges and high points south of Garfield Road East. This will preserve both the middle-distance views and distant views from Rouse Hill House into the Riverstone East Precinct and to the Blue Mountains.

See Section 7.1.8 for the heritage guidelines for inclusion within the Central River City SEPP.

The height of a building on any land with the Precinct is not to exceed the maximum height shown for the land on the Height of Buildings Map (Figure 7-2).

### 6.1.4 Archaeological potential – Rummery House Remains

- If any development or other ground disturbing works are to be undertaken at this location, further historical archaeological assessment and investigation must be undertaken to determine whether remains associated with the Potential Rummery House are present, and if so, to assess their nature and condition (Figure 6-5). This investigation must take the form of a Statement of Heritage Impact (SOHI). The SOHI must be undertaken in accordance with guidelines outlined in the Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance, 2013, known as The Burra Charter, and the New South Wales Heritage Office (now the Heritage Division of the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage) publication, NSW Heritage Manual.
- If associated archaeological remains are present and these have been preserved at a high level of integrity, these should be preserved *in situ* if possible. Such preservation is likely to require restrictions on development in the affected area.
- Existing view lines between the probable location of the former house, on the high ground within Portion 95, and the existing Box Hill Inn, should be conserved as far as possible. This would allow one element of the historical connection between the two properties to be retained.

See Section 7.1.8 for the heritage guidelines for inclusion within the Central River City SEPP.



### **6.1.5 Archaeological potential – Box Hill Inn Stable Remains**

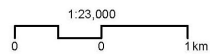
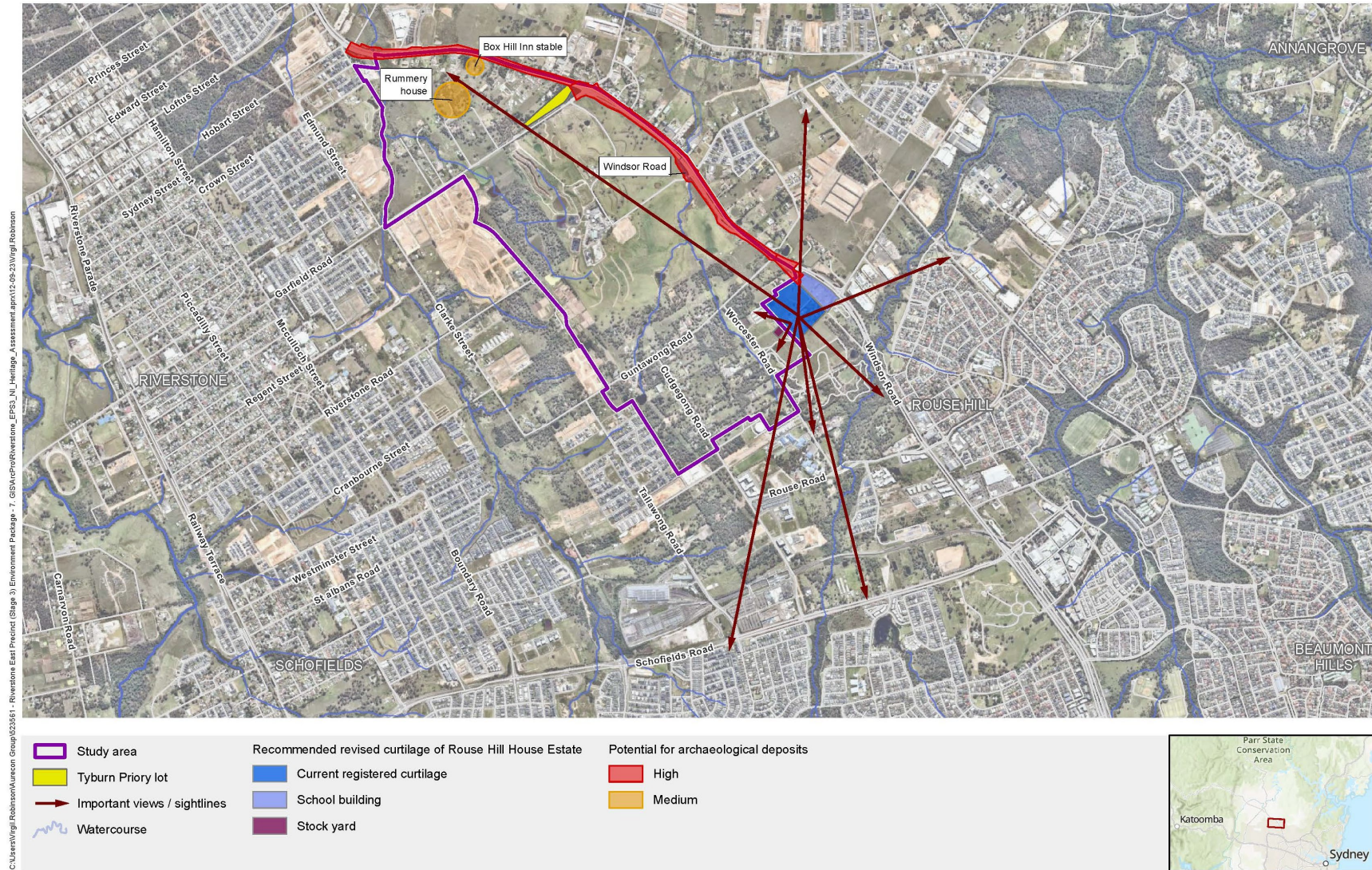
- If any development or other ground disturbing works are to be undertaken at this location, further historical archaeological assessment and investigation should be undertaken to determine whether remains associated with the Box Hill Inn Stable are present, and if so, to assess their nature, extent and significance (Figure 6-5). This investigation must take the form of a SOHI. The SOHI must be undertaken in accordance with guidelines outlined in the Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance, 2013, known as The Burra Charter, and the New South Wales Heritage Office (now the Heritage Division of the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage) publication, NSW Heritage Manual.
- If associated archaeological remains are present and these have been preserved at a high level of integrity, these should be preserved *in situ* if possible. Such preservation is likely to require restrictions on development in the affected area.
- Existing view lines between the probable location of the former house, on the high ground within Portion 95, and the existing Box Hill Inn, should be conserved as far as possible. This would allow one element of the historical connection between the two properties to be retained.

See Section 7.1.8 for the heritage guidelines for inclusion within the Central River City SEPP.

### **6.1.6 Archaeological potential – Windsor Road**

- If any development or other ground disturbing works are to be undertaken within the length of Windsor Road between the south of Guntawong Road and Junction Road, further historical archaeological assessment and investigation should be undertaken to determine whether unknown remains associated with the Winsor Road are present, and if so, to assess their nature and condition (Figure 6-5). This investigation must take the form of a SOHI. The SOHI must be undertaken in accordance with guidelines outlined in the Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance, 2013, known as The Burra Charter, and the New South Wales Heritage Office (now the Heritage Division of the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage) publication, NSW Heritage Manual.

See Section 7.1.8 for the heritage guidelines for inclusion within the Central River City SEPP.



Projection: GDA 1994 MGA Zone 56

Riverstone East Precinct (Stage 3) **Heritage Assessment**

**Figure 6-1** Management Recommendations for non-Indigenous heritage and potential archaeological sites





- Study area
- Recommended curtilage
- Lot



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Source: Base data (transport, water) NSW Foundation Spatial Data Framework; ESRI Topo; Nearmap



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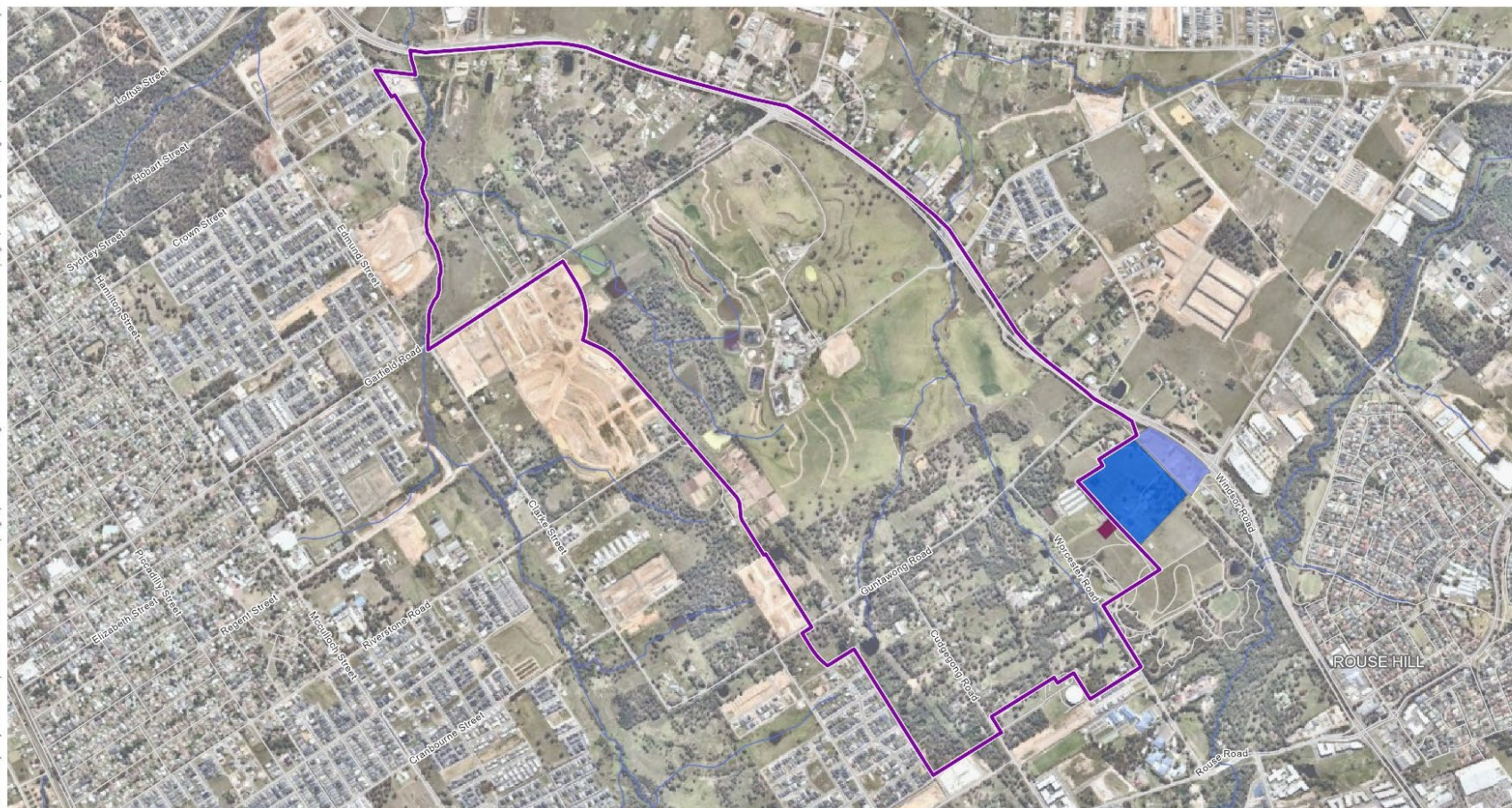
Projection: GDA 1994 MGA Zone 56

Riverstone East Precinct (Stage 3) **Heritage Assessment Study Area**

**Figure 6-2 Recommended curtilage for the Tyburn Priory**



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- Study area
- Watercourse
- Recommended revised curtilage of Rouse Hill House Estate
- Current registered curtilage
- School building
- Stock yard

Source: Base data (transport, water) NSW Foundation Spatial Data Framework; ESRI Topo; Nearmap



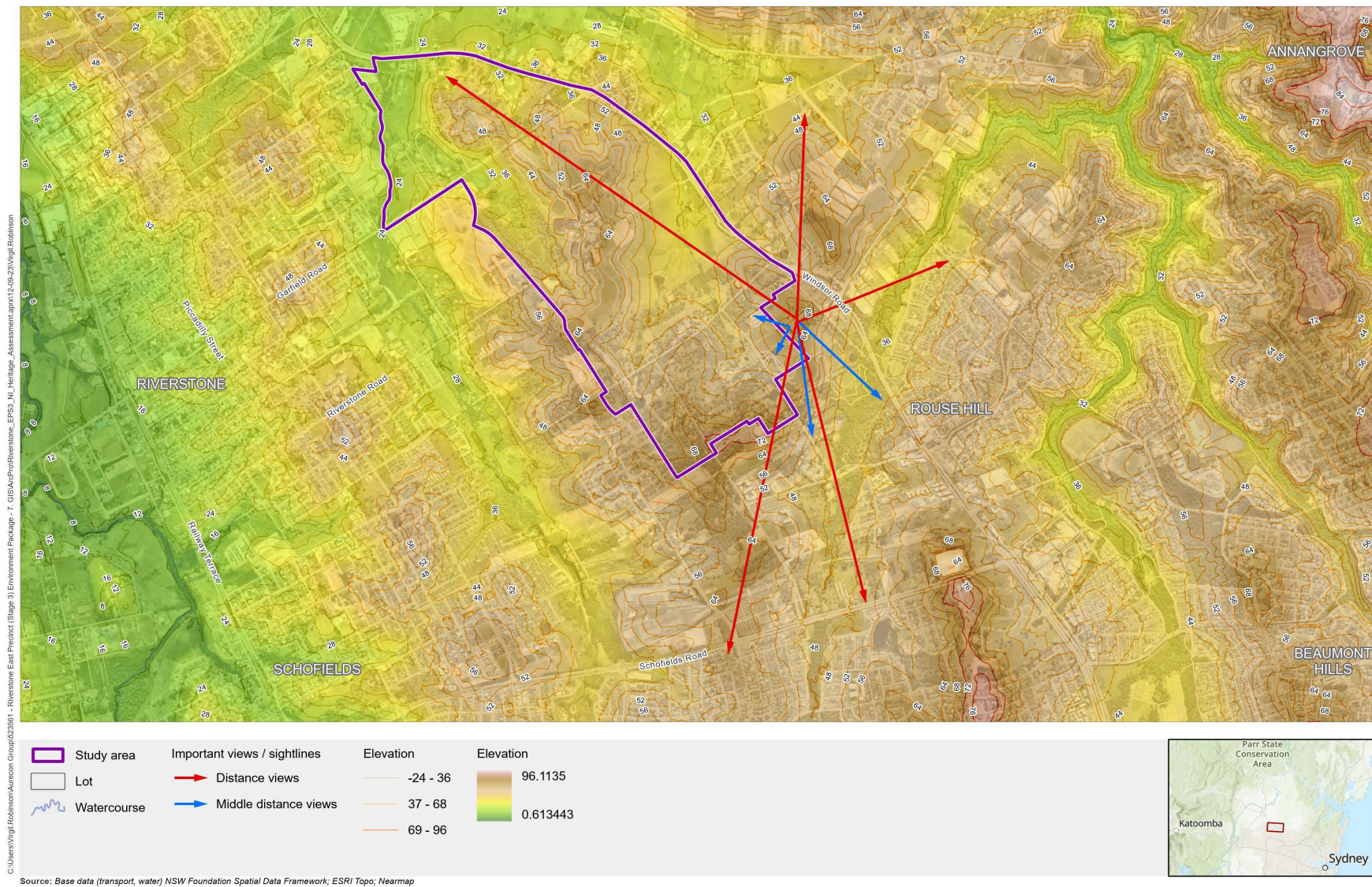
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Projection: GDA 1994 MGA Zone 56

Riverstone East Precinct (Stage 3) **Heritage Assessment Study Area**

**Figure 6-3** Revised curtilage of Rouse Hill House Estate to include protections for the Rouse Hill School House and stockyard





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Projection: GDA 1994 MGA Zone 56

Riverstone East Precinct (Stage 3) **Heritage Assessment**

**Figure 6-4** Visual lines from Rouse Hill House in Study Area in association with the topography





Figure 6-5

Revised archaeological potential within the Study Area



## 7 Potential Non-Indigenous Heritage Impact

The Department has prepared a draft Indicative Layout Plan (ILP) showing the proposed land use layout for Stage 3 of the Riverstone East Precinct (Figure 7-1). This forms the rezoning of the final Stage of the Precinct. Stage 3 will provide for approximately 2,849 dwellings, in low, medium, and high-density areas. It will also include an expanded Rouse Hill Regional Park, connectors and corridors, natural green infrastructure, community facilities, schools, local parks, sporting fields, and areas set aside for energy, environmental and water management.

Development within Stage 3 will be managed in accordance with conditions included in a Precinct-specific Development Control Plan (DCP) and Appendix to State Environmental Planning Policy (Sydney Region Growth Centres) 2006. Details of these documents are not yet available.

While there are no registered heritage items listed within the Precinct, there are registered heritage items located within the vicinity of the Precinct. The curtilage of the state listed Rouse Hill House and Farm abuts the southern boundary of the Stage 3 Study Area. As such, development will need to consider impacts to this site, including the identified significant visual catchment that extends into the Precinct. This and other constraints together with research opportunities have been recognised here (Sections 3 and 5).

Junction Road will be abandoned and a new connector road, 'Hambledon Road', is noted on the draft ILP that joins Clark Street (in Stages 1 and 2) to Windsor Road and crosses Garfield Road East within the Precinct. This name could be reconsidered using the information from the results of the Design by Country workshop and reflect the Dharuk Country in which Riverstone East is located.

Retention of roads and tracks in the draft ILP for the Precinct contributes to the heritage interpretation of the Precinct. For example, the retention of original roads, road names, and historic property boundaries.

The potential historical heritage impact of the ILP for the Precinct, with regard to the identified heritage items, is outlined in Table 7-1 below.



**Table 7-1 Potential heritage impact as a result of the Draft ILP (Stage 3)**

Item	Proposed Land Use	Statement of Potential Heritage Impact
Tyburn Priory  (Future proposed Heritage Item)	High Density Residential	If the Tyburn Priory is removed and demolished for the construction of low density residential as illustrated in the draft ILP (Figure 7-1), the heritage impact is a loss of one of the numerous layers of local heritage of the Riverstone community.
Rouse Hill House Curtilage	Rouse Hill Regional Park	No impact to Rouse Hill House from draft ILP (Figure 7-1).
Visual lines from Rouse Hill House	Rouse Hill Regional Park, Medium Density Residential, Riparian Corridor, & Natural green infrastructure.	<p>Potential interruption to the long visual lines to the Blue Mountains and middle visual lines into the Precinct from Rouse Hill House.</p> <p>Figure 7-1 shows the zoning for high-density residential appears to be restricted to the low-lying areas within the Stage 3 Study Area. Further, most of the high-density residential zoning is located on the western side of the ridgelines in low-lying land.</p> <p>The high-density residential zone, north of the intersection of Garfield Road East and Windsor Road, could subsequently block the long-range view to the Blue Mountains from Rouse Hill House. Therefore, height controls must be applied here and enforced during the planning and construction phases.</p> <p>Asset Protection Zones (APZs) may obscure visual lines from Rouse Hill House into the Precinct. On the contrary, the APZs reduce the visibility of the new development. This in turn conserves the rural nature of the area when looking out from Rouse Hill House.</p> <p>If buildings and APZs are too high, they will block the important view lines from Rouse Hill House into the Precinct and to the Blue Mountains.</p>
Archaeological Potential – Rummery House Remains	Passive Open Space	<p>No direct impacts to Potential Rummery House Remains from draft ILP (Figure 7-1).</p> <p>However, impacts to the potential archaeological remains may take the form of the construction of local roads and installation of services. Therefore, construction of local roads must be restricted to the required width where possible. Lay down areas and all works must be restricted to the road reserve. Underground services and utilities must not be installed within the park</p>



Item	Proposed Land Use	Statement of Potential Heritage Impact
Archaeological Potential – Box Hill Inn Stable Remains	Passive Open Space adjacent to natural green infrastructure – retarding basin	<p>No direct impacts to Potential Box Hill Inn Stable Remains from the draft ILP (Figure 7-1).</p> <p>However, impacts to the potential archaeological remains may take the form of the construction of local roads and installation of services. Therefore, construction of local roads must be restricted to the required width where possible. Lay down areas and all works must be restricted to the road reserve. Underground services and utilities must not be installed within the park</p>
Archaeological Potential – Windsor Road	Land use to remain as current (SP2)	<p>Windsor Road is a significant road corridor and heritage item that borders the eastern boundary of the Precinct. While only a portion of the road is listed on The Hills LEP, this Heritage Assessment has determined that the extent of Windsor Road along the Precinct will need to be considered in terms of impacting archaeology.</p> <p>Early road material and reburied alignment stones may be impacted by the construction of new roads into the Precinct. Potential heritage impacts to Windsor Road might occur when Hambledon Road is constructed and when the intersection with Garfield Road East is upgraded. This should be managed through the Part 5 environmental assessment planning pathway pursuant to the EP&amp;A Act (Review of Environmental Factors), with heritage impacts appropriately mitigated through heritage control measures.</p>

## 7.1 Recommendations

The following recommendations are intended to address the potential historical heritage impacts of the draft ILP developed for the Precinct, as outlined above (Section 7). They should be read in conjunction with the general recommendations (Section 6.2), which are considered still to apply, and should be referred to in the event that changes to the draft ILP are proposed. Responsibility for the broader requirements should be discussed between DPE and Blacktown City Council.

### 7.1.1 Tyburn Priory (Future Heritage Item)

The extent of the Tyburn Priory (325 Garfield Road, Riverstone) should be retained within the Precinct due to its potential for future heritage listing (local) as in a decade this could form part of the rich and layered heritage of the local Riverstone East region.

It is recommended that an appropriate curtilage within that presented in Figure 6-2 be plotted on the SEPP's heritage map.

If retained, this property could be considered for listing as a local heritage item in the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Precincts—Central River City) 2021* when it meets all criteria for inclusion in the future. This would assist in the protection of the standing structures, together with any other elements of the main Convent buildings that may remain.

See Section 5.6.1 for the initial heritage significance assessment.

### 7.1.2 Rouse Hill House

Proposed subdivision of the area falling within the curtilage of Rouse Hill House, as recommended in the 2003 study, should be subject to a SOHI for consideration by the relevant consent authority. Subsequent development should be designed with consideration of the results of the SOHI, and in such a way as to avoid or minimise impact on views and landscape features of heritage significance.

Proposed subdivision of the area falling within the former Rouse Hill estate should retain the boundaries of the former estate, as presently evident in cadastral boundaries and roads.

Proposed development of the area falling within the former Rouse Hill estate should incorporate heritage interpretation allowing the extent and history of the property to be understood. An overall heritage interpretation strategy should be developed to guide individual developers.

It is recommended Rouse Hill House and Farm be added as a heritage item to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Precincts—Central River City).

### 7.1.3 Visual lines from Rouse Hill House

Proposed subdivision of the Stage 3 Study area and the subsequent development should be designed in such a way as to avoid or minimise impact on views and landscape features of heritage significance.

Buildings heights in certain locations must consider and retain the long- and short-range visual sight lines from Rouse Hill within the precinct and to the Blue Mountains.

The height of a building on any land with the Precinct is not to exceed the maximum height shown for the land on the Height of Buildings Map (Figure 7-2).

APZs are a required type of bushfire protection measure and are comprised by trees, shrubs, and grass at specific thicknesses to protect buildings from radiant heat. These may obscure visual lines from Rouse Hill House into the Precinct. The AZPs reduce the visibility of the new development. This in turn conserves the rural nature of the area when looking out from Rouse Hill House. It is recommended that APZs are maintained as often as required to keep them within the height requirements specified in Table 7-2.

See Section 7.1.8 for the heritage guidelines for inclusion within the Central River City SEPP.

#### **7.1.4 Archaeological Potential – Rummery House Remains**

Proposed subdivision and development of that part of the former Rummery property to the south of the new, unnamed local road joining Hambledon Road and Garfield Road East should be subject to a SOHI for consideration by the relevant consent authority if any ground disturbing works (including demolition of current dwellings) are undertaken to create the passive open space.

A building setback is recommended for those lots adjacent to the passive open space. The setback should be adequate to reinstate and preserve views to and from the Box Hill Inn and potential stables along this alignment.

See Section 7.1.8 for the heritage guidelines for inclusion within the Central River City SEPP.

#### **7.1.5 Archaeological Potential – Box Hill Inn Stable Remains**

Proposed subdivision and development of that part of the former Box Hill Inn Stable should be subject to a SOHI for consideration by the relevant consent authority if any ground disturbing works (including demolition of current dwellings) are undertaken to create the passive open space or the regarding basin.

A building front setback should be required for those lots adjacent to the passive open space. The setback should be adequate to reinstate and preserve views to and from the Rummery House and potential stables along this alignment.

See Section 7.1.8 for the heritage guidelines for inclusion within the Central River City SEPP.

#### **7.1.6 Archaeological Potential – Windsor Road**

Proposed construction of the new roads intersecting with Windsor Road along the eastern extent of the Stage 3 Study Area should be subject to a SOHI for consideration by the relevant consent authority to determine whether unknown archaeological remains associated with the Winsor Road are present.

See Section 7.1.8 for the heritage guidelines for inclusion within the Central River City SEPP.

#### **7.1.7 Tree Canopy Protection along the Vegetated Ridge**

In order to preserve the tree canopy on the vegetated rise, this area should be retained as is and no construction works should be undertaken here. In addition, tree controls are recommended to protect the vegetated ridge.

See Section 7.1.8 for the heritage guidelines for inclusion within the Central River City SEPP.

#### **7.1.8 Recommended Heritage controls for inclusion in the Growth Centres DCP**

Heritage controls for inclusion into the Growth Centres DCP have been recommended in order to develop appropriate land use and management options for significant heritage places and to ensure matters of non-Indigenous heritage can be considered as part of future development.

These recommended controls will help to protect heritage places and potential archaeological remains within the Precinct, with particular regard for future development to the west of Rouse Hill Estate, to minimise detrimental views from Rouse Hill House.

A SOHI is required for the development of land adjacent to and adjoining heritage assets. The heritage provisions within the Central River City SEPP need revision to include the following development controls in Table 7-2.



**Table 7-2 Recommended Heritage Development Controls for inclusion into the Growth Centres DCP**

Heritage Item	Advised Development Controls	Objectives	Suggested controls/guidelines for the Growth Centres DCP
<b>Rouse Hill House Visual lines (Long-distance views)</b>	Height of Buildings	<p>(a) to minimise the visual impact, loss of middle and long-distance views to/from Rouse Hill House,</p> <p>(b) to minimise the visual prominence of development on the existing rural character of the Precinct,</p> <p>(c) to minimise development with a high visual prominence and encourage a more considered contextual design response relevant to the existing rural character of the Precinct,</p> <p>(d) to ensure that buildings are compatible with the landscape and help retain the rural nature within the extended Rouse Hill Regional Park, to establish an appropriate interface between lower density residential zones and public spaces (Rouse Hill Regional Park).</p>	The height of a building on any land with the Precinct is not to exceed the maximum height shown for the land on the Height of Buildings Map (Figure 7-2).
<b>Rouse Hill House Visual lines (Middle-distance views)</b>	Height of Buildings	<p>(a) to minimise the visual impact, loss of middle- and long-distance views to/from Rouse Hill House,</p> <p>(b) to minimise the visual prominence of development on the existing rural character of the Precinct,</p> <p>(c) to minimise development with a high visual prominence and encourage a more considered contextual design response relevant to the existing rural character of the Precinct,</p> <p>(d) to ensure that buildings are compatible with the landscape and help retain the rural character within the extended Rouse Hill Regional Park, to establish an appropriate interface between lower density residential zones and public spaces (Rouse Hill Regional Park).</p>	The height of a building on any land with the Precinct is not to exceed the maximum height shown for the land on the Height of Buildings Map (Figure7-2).
<b>Archaeological Potential – Rummary House</b>	Building front set-back from the road reserve	<p>(a) to minimise the visual impact and to mitigate disturbance to potential archaeological remains,</p> <p>(b) to establish an appropriate interface between residential zones and public spaces (local park),</p> <p>(c) setback should be adequate to reinstate and preserve views to and from the Rummary House and potential stables along this alignment.</p>	<p>Buildings and dwellings (including verandas and porches) facing the local park subsuming the suspected location of the Rummary Home remains should be consistently set back from the title boundary at 4 m.</p> <p>This applies to all buildings/ dwellings constructed on the local roads (yet unnamed) surrounding this local park.</p>

Heritage Item	Advised Development Controls	Objectives	Suggested controls/guidelines for the Growth Centres DCP
	Protection from adjoining areas	(a) to mitigate disturbance to potential archaeological remains, (b) to establish an appropriate interface between residential zones and public spaces (local park).	A temporary hoarding or temporary construction site fence must be erected between the work site and adjoining lands before the works begin and must be kept in place until after the completion of the works if the works
	Height of Buildings	(a) to minimise the visual impact, loss of views to/from potential archaeological remains of the Box Hill Inn Stable, (b) to minimise the visual prominence of development on the existing rural character of the Precinct.	The height of a building on any land with the Precinct is not to exceed the maximum height shown for the land on the Height of Buildings Map (Figure 7-2).

Heritage Item	Advised Development Controls	Objectives	Suggested controls/guidelines for the Growth Centres DCP
<b>Archaeological Potential – Box Hill Inn Stable</b>	Building front set-back from the road reserve	<p>(a) to minimise the visual impact and to mitigate disturbance to potential archaeological remains,</p> <p>(b) to establish an appropriate interface between residential zones and public spaces (local park),</p> <p>(c) setback should be adequate to reinstate and preserve views to and from the Rummery House and potential stables along this alignment.</p>	<p>Buildings and dwellings (including verandas and porches) facing the local park subsuming the suspected location of the Box Hill Inn Stable remains should be consistently set back from the title boundary at 4 m.</p> <p>This applies to all buildings/ dwellings constructed on the local roads (yet unnamed) surrounding this local park.</p>
	Protection from adjoining areas	(a) to mitigate disturbance to potential archaeological remains.	A temporary hoarding or temporary construction site fence must be erected between the work site and adjoining lands before the works begin and must be kept in place until after the completion of the works if the works
	Height of Buildings	<p>(a) to minimise the visual impact, loss of views to/from potential archaeological remains of the Rummery House,</p> <p>(b) to minimise the visual prominence of development on the existing rural character of the Precinct.</p>	The height of a building on any land with the Precinct is not to exceed the maximum height shown for the land on the Height of Buildings Map (Figure 7-2).



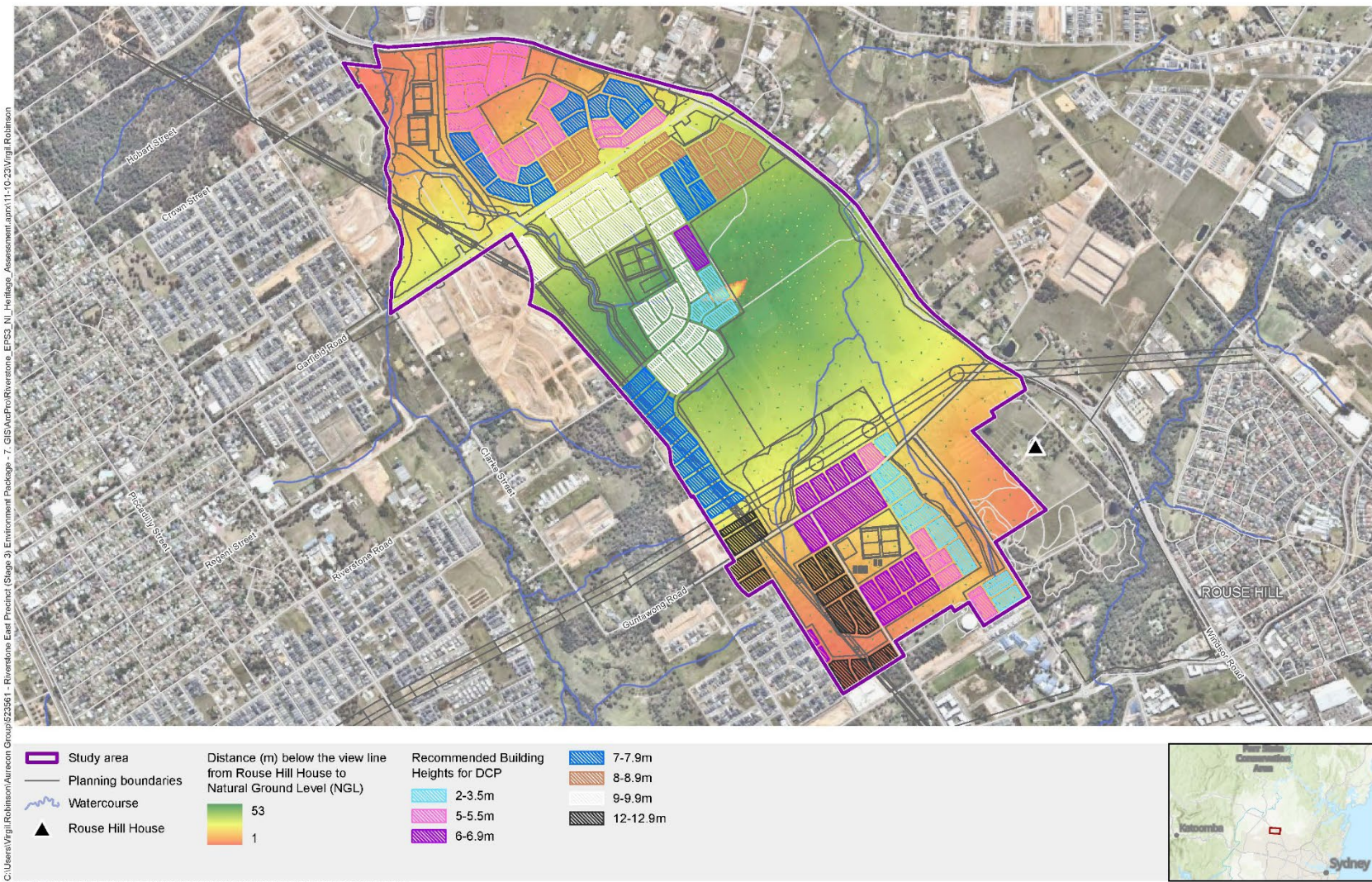
Heritage Item	Advised Development Controls	Objectives	Suggested controls/guidelines for the Growth Centres DCP
<b>Archaeological Potential – Windsor Road</b>	Building front set-back from the road reserve	(a) to minimise the visual impact and to mitigate disturbance to potential archaeological remains,  (b) to establish an appropriate interface between residential zones and public spaces (local park).	Buildings and dwellings (including verandas and porches) facing the local park subsuming the suspected location of the Rummery Home remains should be consistently set back from the title boundary at 4 m.  This applies to all buildings/ dwellings constructed on the local roads (yet unnamed) surrounding this local park.
	Protection from adjoining areas	(a) to mitigate disturbance to potential archaeological remains.	A SOHI must be undertaken before any ground disturbing works associated with the upgrade of the intersection of Windsor and Garfield Roads to ascertain if any convict era markers and other features associated with the original construction of Windsor Road will be impacted and the significance of the impacts (if any).  A temporary hoarding or temporary construction site fence must be erected between the work site and adjoining lands before the works begin and must be kept in place until after the completion of the works.

Heritage Item	Advised Development Controls	Objectives	Suggested controls/guidelines for the Growth Centres DCP
<b>Tree Canopy Protection along the Vegetated Ridge</b>	Building front set-back from the vegetated ridge	(a) to minimise the visual impact existing rural character of the Precinct, (b) to minimise the visual prominence of development on the existing rural character of the Precinct, (b) to establish an appropriate interface between residential zones and public spaces (local park).	Buildings and dwellings (including verandas and porches) facing or adjacent to the vegetated ridgeline should be consistently set back from the title boundary at 4 m.  This applies to all buildings/ dwellings constructed on the local roads (yet unnamed) surrounding this local park.
	Height of Buildings	(a) to minimise the visual impact on the existing rural character of the Precinct, (b) to ensure that buildings are compatible with the landscape and help retain the rural nature within the vegetated ridge, I to establish an appropriate interface between development of the Precinct and the retained Vegetated Ridge.	The height of a building on any land with the Precinct is not to exceed the maximum height shown for the land on the Height of Buildings Map (Figure 7-2).
	Add polygon to DCP	This vegetated ridge be added to the SEPP for planning protection.	In order to preserve the tree canopy on the vegetated rise, this area should be retained as is and no construction works should be undertaken here.

	Tree Management Order	<p>(a) to minimise the visual impact, loss of the existing rural character of the Precinct,</p> <p>(b) to minimise the loss of key green canopy which will reduce the temperature in the Precinct,</p> <p>(c) to minimise the loss of key habitat linages to riparian corridors for animals to move between the Rouse Hill Regional Park and other habitats with the Precinct.</p>	<p>Tree can be removed if they are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Smaller than 3 m in height</li> <li>2) Have a trunk diameter of more than 200 mm or more measured 1.0 metre above ground level.</li> </ol> <p>Any tree outside these parameters must require council approval before removal.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ No trees are to be felled from this location.</li> <li>■ A qualified arborist is required to maintain the trees on the vegetated ridge.</li> <li>■ Trees should be maintained at 5.5 m in height in order not to block heritage views.</li> <li>■ No limbs are to be removed by unqualified persons unless they endanger overhead power utilities.</li> <li>■ No excavation should occur within the root zone of the trees on the vegetated ridge in order to avoid damaging the root system and inadvertently killing the tree.</li> </ul> <p>No Exempt trees.</p> <p>Each protected tree that is within 10 m of a dwelling house or any ancillary development that is to be constructed must be provided with a tree guard that is comprised of hardwood timber panels each having a minimum length of 2 m, minimum width of 75mm and minimum thickness of 25 mm and secured, but not permanently fixed or nailed, to the tree and spaced a maximum of 80mm apart.</p> <p>The tree protection measures specified here must—</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) be in place before work commences on the lot, and</li> <li>(b) be maintained in good condition during the construction period, and</li> <li>(c) remain in place for the duration of the construction works.</li> </ol>
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Heritage Item	Advised Development Controls	Objectives	Suggested controls/guidelines for the Growth Centres DCP
Tyburn Priory	Building front set-back from the vegetated ridge	(a) to minimise the visual impact existing rural character of the Precinct, (b) to minimise the visual prominence of development on the existing rural character of the Precinct, (c) to establish an appropriate interface between residential zones and potential public spaces (Tyburn Priory).	Buildings and dwellings (including verandas and porches) facing or adjacent to the vegetated ridgeline should be consistently set back from the title boundary at 4 m.  This applies to all buildings/ dwellings constructed on the local roads (yet unnamed) surrounding this local park.
	Height of Buildings	(a) to minimise the visual impact on the existing rural character of the Precinct, (b) to ensure that buildings are compatible with the landscape and help retain the rural nature within the vegetated ridge, (c) to establish an appropriate interface between development of the Precinct and the retained Vegetated Ridge.	The height of a building on any land with the Precinct is not to exceed the maximum height shown for the land on the Height of Buildings Map (Figure 7-2).



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Projection: GDA 1994 MGA Zone 56

Riverstone East Precinct (Stage 3) **Heritage Assessment**

**Figure 7-2 Recommended Height of Buildings for DCP to retain medium to long distance views from Rouse Hill House and Farm**

### **Explanation of the Building Height Controls**

The height of a building on any land within the Precinct is not to exceed the maximum height shown for the land on the Height of Buildings Map (Figure 7-2). This map was constructed using a line-of-sight Geographic Information System (GIS) analysis using ArcGIS. The LIDAR data was used, and Rouse Hill House (the triangle on Figure 7-2) was selected as the viewpoint. A total of 1.5 m was added to control for the height of the average human.

The significant view lines identified in the background research review and field investigations were used to ascertain the appropriate Building Height Controls to preserve the middle and long-distance views to the west and north of RHHE.

The view line analysis identified that certain areas (orange and red on Figure 7-2) are more visible from RHHE. These include:

- Immediately west of RHHE, and to the western boundary.
- Along the northern boundary of the Precinct.
- The top of the highest central point.

The view line analysis further detected that particular zones (green and yellow on Figure 7-2) are less visible from RHHE. These include:

- On the south-western boundary of the Precinct.
- Along the western boundary of the Precinct.
- In low lying areas around the centre of the Precinct, except for the top of the highest central point.

The locations of the potential archaeological deposits (Rummery House and the Box Hill Inn Stable) and the view lines between them were considered when creating the recommended building heights for inclusion in the DCP. Therefore, the buildings within the blocks adjoining or facing these future local open space parks in the northern section of the Precinct are capped at 5-5.5 m.

Additionally, the location of the Tyburn Priory (recommended future local heritage item) was considered when creating the recommended building heights for the DCP. The buildings within the Priory are single storey and the new surrounding rooflines should be at a height consistent with this so as not to obstruct the view or to significantly change the character of the new neighbourhood.



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# 8 Interpretation Strategy

There is the opportunity to enhance community knowledge of the heritage of the Precinct and wider LGA via interpretation of the region's historic themes and adjacent heritage items (such as Box Hill Inn, Windsor Road and Rouse Hill House and Farm).

When interpreting cultural places, it is important to present their past in an informative, interesting, and easily accessible way. This is achieved by communicating the history and significance of the site using key historical themes and stories. Building on the information in the previous history, this section provides more site-specific detail regarding historical themes, and identifies key stories as well as images to illustrate them.

This interpretation strategy (Strategy) considers opportunities for both Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Heritage interpretation within the Precinct to provide a more holistic interpretation.

## 8.1 Aims and Purpose

The purpose of this Strategy is to provide the Department and BCC with short term and longer-term interpretive options to promote and elevate the Riverstone East Stage 3 Precinct heritage profile and propose the most suitable mix of methods to achieve the following interpretive aims:

- Promote an understanding and appreciation of the heritage values of the Riverstone East Precinct Stage 3.
- Identify the potential audience for the interpretation.
- Identify the historic themes to be interpreted.
- Identify potential media and location(s) for interpretation; and
- Identify how heritage interpretation will be integrated with the public realm and incorporate elements of cultural heritage significance.

## 8.2 Interpretation Guidelines

Both the Burra Charter and Ename Charter contain guidelines for interpreting heritage places.

### 8.2.1 Burra Charter

Established in 1979, the Burra Charter: The Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance (Burra Charter) (2013) is the key document for managing heritage in Australia. The Burra Charter has become the guiding document for guiding heritage legislation at all levels of government and heritage best practice in Australia.

Article 25 of the Burra Charter pertains directly to interpretation, stating that 'the cultural significance of many places is not readily apparent, and should be explained by interpretation. Interpretation should enhance understanding and engagement and be culturally appropriate' (ICOMOS (Australia), 2013).

In addition, Articles 12 and 15 provide guidance on heritage interpretation, stating that content should be developed in consultation with relevant stakeholders, and should seek to represent all aspects of a place's significance.

### 8.2.2 Ename Charter

The ICOMOS Charter for the Interpretation and Presentation of Cultural Heritage Sites (also known as the Ename Charter) was ratified in 2008 to provide guidance on enhancing public appreciation and understanding of heritage places (ICOMOS, 2008). The charter seeks to encourage a wide public appreciation of cultural heritage sites as places and sources of learning and reflection about the past, as well



as valuable resources for sustainable community development and intercultural and intergenerational dialogue (ICOMOS, 2004).

The Ename Charter consists of seven principles, which are outlined below:

- Principle 1: **Access and Understanding.** Interpretation and presentation programmes should facilitate physical and intellectual access by the public to cultural heritage sites.
- Principle 2: **Information Sources.** Interpretation and presentation should be based on evidence gathered through accepted scientific and scholarly methods as well as from living cultural traditions.
- Principle 3: **Context and Setting.** The Interpretation and Presentation of cultural heritage sites should relate to their wider social, cultural, historical, and natural contexts and settings.
- Principle 4: **Authenticity.** The Interpretation and presentation of cultural heritage sites must respect the basic tenets of authenticity in the spirit of the Nara Document (1994).
- Principle 5: **Sustainability.** The interpretation plan for a cultural heritage site must be sensitive to its natural and cultural environment, with social, financial, and environmental sustainability among its central goals.
- Principle 6: **Inclusiveness.** The Interpretation and Presentation of cultural heritage sites must be the result of meaningful collaboration between heritage professionals, host and associated communities, and other stakeholders.
- Principle 7: **Research, Training, and Evaluation.** Continuing research, training, and evaluation are essential components of the interpretation of a cultural heritage site.

## 8.3 Audience

The following are key audience members associated with the Precinct which have been identified at the time of this Strategy preparation. It should be noted that this list is not exhaustive and should be revisited when a detailed interpretation plan is developed.

- Aboriginal stakeholders.
- New residents, including those originating from India, Philippines, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, and China (ABS 2021).
- Employees at the new schools and community services.
- Tourists.
- Contractors.
- Visitors and event attendees.

## 8.4 Western Sydney Historic Themes

The following section considers the Precinct in relation to Australian historic themes identified by the former Australian Heritage Commission and State historical themes developed by the Heritage Division of the Office of Environment and Heritage. A short commentary relating the Precinct to each of the historical themes has been provided from Terry Kass (2005). This section also relates the key areas within the broader study to these themes.

Terry Kass (2005) prepared the Western Sydney Thematic History for the Heritage Office's State Heritage Register Project. Excerpts from this thematic history are presented below as they relate to the Precinct (Table 8-1). An understanding of the key historical themes assists in providing an understanding of the historical development of the Precinct and future interpretation of these themes in the planning process.

Underlined text below the extracts indicates that the place or object referred to has been included on the SHR.

**Table 8-1 Western Sydney and National Historic Themes and their Relation to the History of Riverstone East (Stage 3) Precinct (after Kass 2005).**

Australian Historic Theme	Peopling Australia
Western Sydney historic theme	Aboriginal Cultures and Interactions with other cultures
<p><i>"The Aboriginal people of western Sydney are part of a living and vibrant culture that has adapted to the invasion and occupation of the region by people from other cultures. Their twenty-first century cultures have their own practices and identities, and their own remembrances and histories of their interactions with other peoples.</i></p> <p><i>The Dharuk and Gandangara peoples arrived about 40,000 years ago. The earliest evidence of them in western Sydney dates from 28,000 years ago according to physical evidence found in the gravels of the Penrith-Castlereagh area" (Kass, 2005; p.6).</i></p>	

Australian Historic Theme	Peopling Australia
Western Sydney historic theme	Ethnic Influences
<p><i>"The Dharug/Dharuk linguistic groups that ranged across much of area were the original ethnic groups, which characterised Western Sydney. The Gandangara ranged across the land to the south-west in the south. Together they possessed and held the land that was soon taken over by a new ethnic group of Anglo-Celts" (Kass, 2005; p.12)</i></p>	

Australian Historic Theme	Peopling Australia
Western Sydney historic theme	Convict
<p><i>"... a host of assets constructed by convicts survive such as the Great North Road and Old Government House in Parramatta, or the former Hospital at Liverpool, by those on public work. Private homesteads too were built by convicts often in conjunction with free men, including such properties as Elizabeth Farm, Bungaribbee Homestead, Rouse Hill House and Warby's Barn and Stables at Campbelltown. <u>Rouse Hill House</u>." (Kass, 2005; p.10).</i></p>	

Australian Historic Theme	Developing Local, Regional and National Economies
Western Sydney historic theme	Agriculture
<p><i>"Although larger area grants could be made to officers, officials and merchants, the breaching of these limits in the 1790s set the scene for the alienation of large areas of Cumberland by private individuals. Much of that land was used not for arable cropping but for pastoral properties since that was where the bigger profits were to be made. Large landholders sought "forest" land, i.e. open park land ideal for grazing. <u>Rouse Hill House</u>." (Kass, 2005; p.18).</i></p>	

Australian Historic Theme	Developing Local, Regional and National Economies
Western Sydney historic theme	Commerce
<p><i>"Hotels were often the first commercial enterprise in many areas beating the post office or general store for primacy. The lowliest levels of inns and general stores were often the earliest retailing facilities available in the area. Such places frequently became the places where courts first met, inquests were held, and post offices were established. They were also places where money could be placed in the safekeeping of the proprietor by nearby residents or itinerant workers in the absence of an accessible bank. If they were sited with an eye to commanding passing trade, at key places, such as river crossings, these early stores or inns became the nucleus of future settlements. A cluster of stores at Green Hills near the government landing place on the Hawkesbury River predated the town of Windsor, which was established around them. Apart from the government courthouse, Penrith's importance and core formed around the inns and stores clustered near where travellers crossed the Nepean on their trek westwards to the mountains. It was never an official village, simply growing up in a favoured spot on the basis of private enterprise.</i></p> <p><i><u>Box Hill Inn. Former Royal Oak Inn, Baulkham Hills</u>." (Kass, 2005; p.22)</i></p>	

Australian Historic Theme	Developing Local, Regional and National Economies
Western Sydney historic theme	Forestry
<p><i>"Once railways criss-crossed western Sydney, sawmills sprang up along most of the early railway sidings, such as Riverstone" (Kass, 2005; p.37).</i></p>	

Australian Historic Theme	Developing Local, Regional and National Economies
Western Sydney historic theme	Industry
<p><i>"Benjamin Richards' Riverstone Meatworks which commenced operating in the late 1870s was an astute venture drawing on livestock as they were walked into the county, killing them on a large abattoir and then railing the carcasses to market in the cool of the evening".</i></p> <p>(Kass, 2005; p.42).</p> <p><i>"... post-war industrial expansion of western Sydney. The County of Cumberland zoning of 1951 created large areas set aside for industry, focussing not only on established areas such as Bankstown and the Parramatta-Granville axis, but also adding areas such as Moorebank, Seven Hills, Marayong, St Marys, Smithfield, Leumeah-Campbelltown, and Riverstone".</i></p> <p>(Kass, 2005; p.45).</p>	

Australian Historic Theme	Developing Local, Regional and National Economies
Western Sydney historic theme	Pastoralism
<p><i>"Abattoirs were mainly at Sydney originally but the establishment of the Riverstone Meatworks by Benjamin Richards in 1879-80 was a major innovation, killing stock then shipping them to market on train in the cool hours. The site had numerous advantages. It was on the route used by drovers bringing livestock down from the Hunter River and the Liverpool Plains. The railway went past the site enabling stock to be brought to the works for slaughter and products to be sent away speedily before they could deteriorate. Nearby rivers and creeks such as Eastern Creek and South Creek provided large quantities of water to process the meat and wash down the resulting mess" (Kass, 2005; p.50).</i></p> <p><i>"Paddocks were fenced in by their owners from the 1820s onwards using timber and very occasionally stone, but it was a relatively expensive method. The impact of wire fencing from the 1860s onwards ensured the gradual replacement of timber fences, though timber was still used as posts" (Kass, 2005; p.50).</i></p>	

Australian Historic Theme	Building Settlements, Towns and Cities
Western Sydney historic theme	Accommodation
<p><i>"Workers across western Sydney had to find their own accommodation. The private housing market was seen as not only the best source of accommodation, but it also absolved employers of responsibility for housing their workers. There have been some exceptions. Some employers did erect houses for their staff such as the cottages in Richards Ave, Riverstone, built by the Riverstone Meatworks to house key employees".</i></p> <p>(Kass, 2005; p.67).</p>	



## 8.5 Opportunities for Interpretation

Eight forms of heritage interpretation, which could follow the Western Sydney Historic Themes identified above, are proposed for the Precinct:

- Walking track within recreational reserve.
- Yarning Circle within public open space.
- Update to existing interpretative signage at Rouse Hill Regional Park.
- Self-guided tours:
  - Interpretation panels at existing heritage sites (inclusion of QR code audio tour).
  - Virtual tour of Riverstone before and during European colonisation.
- Use of social media.
- Additional curriculum units for schools in the wider Riverstone area.
- Augmented reality Mobile Phone game to explore a theme or event/story identified above.
- Wider Riverstone and Riverstone East Precincts – Riverstone Museum and Historical Society.

### 8.5.1 Media and Locations

Several different locations are proposed below for heritage interpretation within the Precinct (Table 8-2). Proposed interpretive media are both physical and non-physical in form and are concentrated in Rouse Hill Regional Park, including the new extended area of the Rouse Hill Regional Park as provisioned in the Central River City SEPP.

**Table 8-2 Suggested locations for Interpretive Media**

Interpretation	Location
Walking track within recreational reserve	Within the extension of the Rouse Hill Regional Park
Yarning Circle within public open space	Within the extension of the Rouse Hill Regional Park
Update to existing interpretative signage	Rouse Hill Regional Park. Consider use of braille on panels alongside written text.
Self-guided tours: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interpretation panels at existing heritage sites (inclusion of QR code audio tour)</li> <li>• Virtual tour of Riverstone before and during European colonisation</li> </ul>	Locations of Interpretive panels: Rouse Hill Regional Park.  Future interpretation after historical/ archaeological verification: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential Rummery House Remains</li> <li>• Potential Box Hill Inn Stable Remains</li> </ul>
Use of social media	Online – Public Facebook/Instagram etc. account for local area that posts stories, reminiscences, historic photographs that interpret the multi-layered history of the wider Riverstone area.
Additional curriculum units for schools in the wider Riverstone area	Riverstone Schools
Augmented reality mobile phone game to explore a theme or event/story identified above	Online
Wider Riverstone and Riverstone East Precincts – Riverstone Museum and Historical Society	Promotion of Riverstone Museum at proposed community centres

New interpretive panels should contain engaging text, be of clear design, be constructed of robust materials, holistically consider the audience (Section 8.3), and effectively placed for delivery of the message.

### 8.5.2 Interpretive Walk

An interpretive loop walking track is recommended to be constructed within the new extended area of the Rouse Hill Regional Park as provisioned in the Central River City SEPP. This loop walking track should also provide a pedestrian access spine through the regional park to the proposed playing fields (Figure 7-1) from the southern extent of the Precinct. To do this, the proposed interpretive loop walk is to link up with existing walking/bike trails in the present extent of the Rouse Hill Regional Park. Additional access pathways from the proposed adjacent residential areas on the western margin of the regional park into the Rouse Hill Regional Park should also be considered and these should link up with the interpretative walk.

This interpretive loop walking track, the associated landscaping and planting, and the content of the interpretive panels must be designed in consultation with the Dharuk Traditional Owners. However, it must also be recognised that Indigenous Stakeholders must be the 'final arbiters' with regard to management decisions about their heritage and should it be determined that the Interpretative Loop Walk is inappropriate for cultural reasons, this choice should be respected by BCC and DEP (Haskovec, 1991:99).

The proposed Interpretative Walk is to be comprised of four main features (Table 8-2):

- An internal loop located on lower ground to provide accessibility to less abled people (coloured black).
- Second, and larger loop (red line), which follows the slopes and travels along the hill and joins onto the Yarning Circle.
- Board walks or above ground wooden pads for the areas close to and adjacent to the First Ponds Creek must be installed, to protect any potential Indigenous archaeological deposits.
- Two bridge crossings over First Ponds Creek and non-ground disturbing methods for installing these bridges must be installed.
- Interpretive panels, seven or more, should be installed at locations along each section of the loop walking path.

### 8.5.3 Yarning Circle

A Yarning Circle and associated landscaping are recommended on the eastern side of the upper slope, with good visuals overlooking the region, near the current location of AJ Bush & Sons. This Yarning Circle and associated landscaping and planting must be designed in consultation with the Dharuk Traditional Owners. However, it must also be recognised that Indigenous Stakeholders must be the 'final arbiters' with regard to management decisions about their heritage and should it be determined that the Yarning Circle is inappropriate for cultural reasons, this choice should be respected by Blacktown City Council and DEP (Haskovec, 1991, p. 99).

The proposed Yarning Circle is to be comprised of three main features:

- Circle of natural seating elements (e.g., large rocks, stone blocks, tree stumps, etc.).
- Landscaping around the Yarning Circle should comprise a 'natural garden' of food and medicine plants used by local Aboriginal communities. Plants chosen should be suitable to the surrounding environment to ensure survival without the need for watering or maintenance.
- An interpretive panel explaining the layout and plant uses within the 'natural garden'.



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- |                   |                                   |                              |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Study area        | Special Provision (Regional Park) | Loop track                   |
| Precinct Boundary | Watercourse                       | Wheelchair accessible        |
| Growth Centre     | Yarning circle                    | Interpretive panel locations |



Source: Base data (transport, water) NSW Foundation Spatial Data Framework; ESRI Topo; Nearmap



1:22,500  
0 0 1 km

Projection: GDA 1994 MGA Zone 56

Riverstone East Precinct (Stage 3) **Heritage Assessment**

**Figure 8-1 Recommended Interpretation Location Map**



## 8.6 Implementation of Interpretation Options

The following procedure (Figure 8-2) is recommended to be applied for the development and subsequent implementation of heritage interpretation throughout the Precinct and the broader Riverstone East Precinct. Implementation may be shared across numerous people and organisations but chiefly should be overseen by a single body (either the Department or BCC) so that interpretation is developed in a coordinated and holistic manner.



Figure 8-2 Implementation Processes for the Interpretation options

## 8.7 Summary and Conclusions

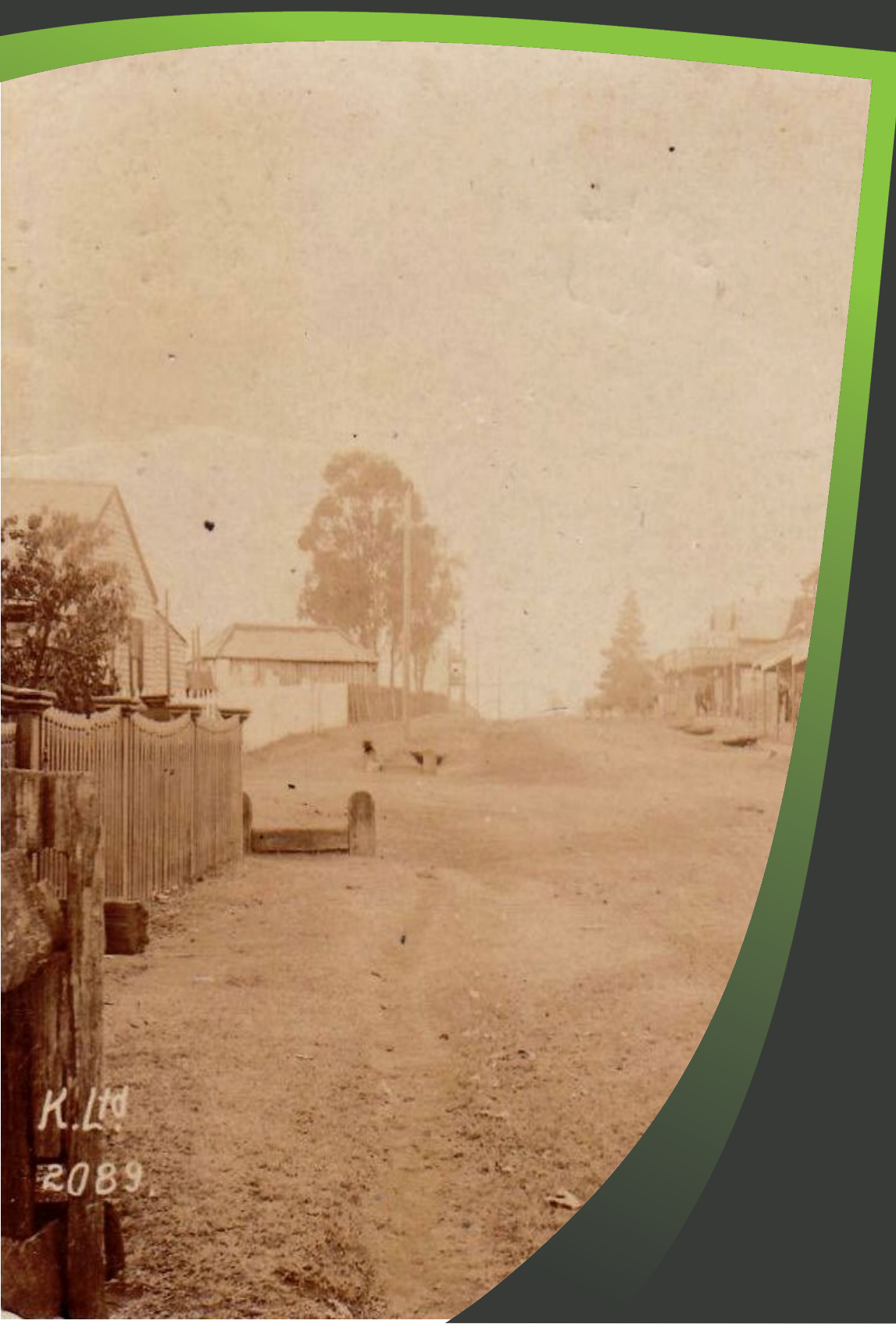
The proposed Interpretation Strategy has been developed in accordance with the principles of the Ename and Burra Charters. The strategy outlined here aims to convey an appropriate process for heritage interpretation that maximises engagement both during the planning phase as well as the final product for the community. The following recommendations are made:

### Interpretative Signage

- The new Transit Spine Road and/ or local roads should be named in Dharuk Language or after Historical settlers or other heritage items in vicinity of the Precinct.
- Interpretative signage should be considered for placement within the Rouse Hill Regional Park.
- Interpretative signage should cover general themes of relevance to Riverstone East including Indigenous heritage and the post European settlement history.
- Signage should be designed from environment appropriate materials.
- Input for Indigenous themed signage should seek input from Indigenous stakeholders.

## **Interpretative Walk and Yarning Circle**

- Further consultation with key stakeholders including the Department, BCC and NPWS as to whether the proposed Interpretative Walk and Yarning Circle is feasible.
- Consultation should then be undertaken with Indigenous and Non-Indigenous stakeholders and other community groups including the Riverstone Historical Society, Museums of History New South Wales, and any other interested party.
- If approved through consultation with the key stakeholders, a working scope should be developed in consultation with the Department and BCC. Funding opportunities should be investigated through external community heritage and/or Indigenous engagement grants.
- Scope should include not only the construction of the loop walk and Yarning Circle, but also:
  - a clear consultation program to report back to Indigenous stakeholders.
  - An archaeological program to recover archaeology that may be present within the disturbance areas.
  - Identification of suitable plants for replanting around the Yarning Circle.
  - Drafting of interpretative Indigenous signage text, dreaming stories and bush food and medicine.
  - Drafting of interpretative non-Indigenous signage text, using the Western Sydney Historic Themes.



K.L.H.

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# Appendix A

Draft Updated Heritage Inventory Sheet



# Appendix A – Draft Updated Heritage Rouse Hill House and Farm Inventory Sheet

Item Details								
<b>Name</b>								
Rouse Hill House & Farm								
SHR/LEP/S170								
SHR #00002								
<b>Address</b>								
Windsor Road ROUSE HILL NSW 2155								
<b>Local Govt Area</b>								
Blacktown								
<b>Local Aboriginal Land Council</b>								
Deerubbin								
								
<b>Item Type</b>		<b>Group/Collection</b>		<b>Category</b>				
Landscape		Farming and Grazing		Homestead Complex				
<b>All Addresses</b>								
<b>Street No.</b>	<b>Street Name</b>	<b>Suburb/ Town/ Postcode</b>	<b>LGA</b>	<b>LALC</b>	<b>Parish</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Electorate</b>	<b>Address type</b>
	Windsor Road	ROUSE HILL/ NSW/ 2155	Blacktown	Deerubbin	Gidley	Cumberland	RIVERSTONE	Primary Address

## Significance

Rouse Hill House is one of the most significant and substantial houses of the Macquarie period which dates from 1810 to 1822. Rouse Hill House Estate is the largest and most complete publicly owned physical record - in the form of buildings, furnishings, artefacts and landscape relationship - of the occupancy and culture of a European-Australian family, encompassing the tastes, fortunes, and endeavours of seven generations from the early 19th century to the late 20th century (Historic Houses Trust 1997:8).

The garden is perhaps Australia's oldest surviving colonial garden in relatively intact form. The surviving physical evidence in the gardens includes borders in a variety of materials, fence and gate remnants, fragments of trellis and arbours, paving and numerous soil displacements that become evident with the location's annual dry spells. These physical remains, matched with pictorial evidence from photographs, drawings and engravings of the property, and writings, have resulted in the identification of four stages of the garden's development: c.1825, c.1865, c.1885 and c.1968. This continuity and evidence of evolution of a very early intact garden from the first quarter of the 19th century to the Edwardian era and 20th century is extremely rare in Australia. (Bogle, 1993 adapted by Read, S., 2004).

**Criteria a)**

Rouse Hill House is significant for the record of the Rouse and Terry family occupancy over the seven generations and 180 years which the property constitutes. This record is to be found physically in the house, its outbuildings, finishes, collection, garden and rural curtilage. The property is significant for: - Its association with Richard Rouse, building contractor and free settler, and Superintendent of Public Works, based at Parramatta. - Its association with the convict period through assignment of convicts for the building of the house and operation of Rouse Hill House and nearby properties. - As a record of the history of taste and level of cultural awareness held by a particular class of people in the history of New South Wales. The property provides evidence of recurrent themes in NSW history, for example, the family's prosperity throughout the 19th century followed by relative poverty in the 20th century is representative of 'Boom and Bust' themes in Australian social and economic history. Of local significance is its association with a local population which included men and women who worked on the Rouse Hill property, shop keepers, local clergy, school masters and their families. (Historic Houses Trust 1997:6-7)

### Aesthetic/Technical Significance

### Criteria d)

The family history is representative of a class of people who survived the 1840s depression to rise to social prominence in the second half of the 19th century. It encompasses:

- the family's role as landowners with significant commercial interests in Parramatta
- the family's pre c1910 commercial and social prominence as pastoralists
- the social make-up of the extended family which included, free settlers, emancipists, pastoralists, businessmen, merchants and military, political and engineering men. (Historic Houses Trust 1997:6)

### Research Potential

-The evidence that the wide range of building works, including agricultural works, provides of various forms of design and construction from 1812 to the present

- The wide range of services and domestic equipment at the place dating from 1812 to the present.
- the immense research potential of the continuum of building techniques, services and equipment on the site and for the one family. (Historic Houses Trust 1997:7)

### Rarity

**Criteria g)**

The historical relationship of Rouse Hill to other properties owned by the Rouse family is representative of historical patterns of settlement in NSW in which first generation properties on the Cumberland Plain were supplemented or eclipsed by larger second generation properties. Rouse Hill House is arguably unrivalled in Australia for the wealth of physical evidence of its own history and its use by the family which built it. This intactness extends to all aspects of the property. (Historic Houses Trust 1997:6)



### Description

### Physical Description

The property is perhaps unique for its survival as a largely intact estate with an unbroken chain of occupancy, allowing the survival of major garden and interior elements of every period of its history to the present. This layering of artefacts and fashions is especially prevalent in the gardens where designs and physical details such as edging, fencing, planting containers, bed designs and paths provide a case history for the study of the development of garden practices in Australia.

The garden is perhaps Australia's oldest surviving colonial garden in relatively intact form. The surviving physical evidence in the gardens includes borders in a variety of materials, fence and gate remnants, fragments of trellis and arbours, paving and numerous soil displacements that become evident with the location's annual dry spells. These physical remains, matched with pictorial evidence from photographs, drawings and engravings of the property, and writings, have resulted in the identification of four stages of the garden's development: c.1825, c.1865, c.1885 and c.1968. This continuity and evidence of evolution of a very early intact garden from the first quarter of the 19th century to the Edwardian era and 20th century is extremely rare in Australia. The effects of new technologies in Australian estate gardening with replacement of palings with wire fences, displacement of stone and brick garden or path edgings with terracotta tile edgings etc are quite evident (Bogle, 1993 adapted by Read, S., 2004). Dominating the garden and seen from afar are tall, mature *Araucaria pines* (Bunya pine - *A.bidwillii* (2) and hoop pine (*A.cunninghamii* (5) (Stuart Read, 6/2014 visit). Other notable plantings are Moreton Bay figs (*Ficus macrophylla*), English oak (*Quercus robur*), funeral cypress (*Cupressus funebris*), Norfolk Island hibiscus (*Lagunaria patersonia*) and jacaranda (*J.mimosifolia*) both near the main house, loquat (*Eriobotrya japonica*), purple cherry plum (*Prunus cerasifera* 'Nigra'), African olive (*Olea europaea* var. *africana*), Mediterranean cypress (*Cupressus sempervirens*), purple climbing Bougainvillea *glabra* cv. (Halliday, 2019; Stuart Read, 29/4/2019). Other key plantings include ground cover red geraniums (*Pelargonium* cv.), the climber Chinese wisteria (*W.sinensis*), ground cover of kaffir lilies (*Clivia miniata*) and freesia bulbs (*F.alba*, or *F. leichtlinii* x *F.alba*) from South Africa and climbing golden Lady Banks rose (*Rosa banksiae* 'Aurea')(Halliday, 2017). A large crepe myrtle (*Lagerstroemia indica*) on the gravel front path dominates the garden in summer when blooming. the lilac-coloured crepe myrtles in Rouse Hill's front garden were probably planted in the 1950s or 1960s when crepe myrtles were at the peak of their post-war popularity. At the old Caretaker's Cottage at the back of the property is a spectacular carmine-pink form (Innes, 2018). A visit by the then young Australian Garden History Society in 1981 described it as a garden 'now near to total ruin. A few specimen trees remain, together with considerable evidence of the ground plan and some charming buildings, including the summer house and brick bathhouse. Of the trees, the (Jamaican) fiddlewood (*Citharexylum spinosum*) drew the most attention, being at least a hundred years old and possibly the oldest specimen in the state. A horticultural plan of management is being drawn up... (Patrick & Watts, 1981, 31). The timber arbour is covered with Cape honeysuckle (*Tecoma(ria) capensis*) the orange-red flowers of which are a spectacle in mid-autumn (Halliday, 2019). This erect scrambling evergreen shrub has been widely planted on the property, in particularly along the arbour path. A native of South Africa, this hardy plant was widely used in ornamental garden situations and also provided dense stock hedging (Halliday, 2018).

Rouse Hill House is a large two storey Georgian House set on top of a ridge which falls away gradually to all cardinal points. The house is oriented to the northeast, midway between Parramatta & Windsor. The house has a separate two storey brick service wing, offices forming an arcaded courtyard, 22 rooms, staircase hall, service stair and two cellar rooms. The house has a fine stone-flagged stair hall with cantilevered timber stair. The doors are all six panelled with some architraves and panelled jamb linings. The main house is built of sandstone with a slate roof, timber floors, (kitchen, scullery, staircase, hall, arcade and verandah are flagged) and oak grained hardwood joinery.

Several outbuildings are not on site, which include:

- School House:**

The Schoolhouse is located atop the old Windsor Road. It was built in 1888 just opposite the carriage way of Rouse Hill House. It is of the standard brick and stone construction of its time. It was designed by the architect William Kemp (Department of Public Instruction) and built by the firm of Cranney and Greenway. A matching brick and sandstone teacher's residence was built c.1895, but this was demolished in the 1960s.

## Item Details

### Caretaker's House / Overseer's Cottage:

Built in 1856 - then just a simple 2-roomed structure of vertical timber slabs, a ceiling that may have been hessian sheets tacked into place. After 1910 it was extended by Edwin Rouse's son Edwin Stephen Rouse with a 2nd bedroom and a rear kitchen skillion. Two decades later it was extended again by E.S's grandson Gerald Terry, who concreted the front verandah and built a new brick annex with a bathroom and third bedroom. Has seen extensive conservation since 1978 (including rebuilding a brick wall, inserting a waterproof membrane behind the skillion weatherboards, new bearers beneath the kitchen, underground drainage to remove excessive moisture. Post 2014 storm damage eastern extension roof entirely re-sheeted (original iron) (Hill & Reid, 2022, 25).

### Dairy:

The dairy design is essentially the same as one for a model dairy promoted in 1947 by the NSW Department of Agriculture as suitable for smaller farmers. 'Model dairies' (a term dating to the 1800s) were structures that exemplified the most up-to-date hygiene and production principles and materials and could serve as a model to other farmers to copy. The Rouse dairy contains a linear row of bails, with a gabled, fibre-cement-clad 'milk house' at the western end that held the pumping machinery and generator. As per 1947 plan specifications, the floor was laid with easily washed concrete to maintain strict hygiene. A much earlier timber structure, containing two cow bails for hand-milking, also survives at Rouse Hill House and features in tours of its outbuildings (Hill, 2016).

### Old Windsor (Turnpike) Road (section):

A section of Old Windsor Road also forms part of the Rouse Hill House and Farm property of Sydney Living Museums. This road predates the (early 19th century) R.H. House, and Rouse got the land as part compensation for his operation of the turnpike road between Parramatta and Windsor. Today, a remnant section of the later 'Windsor Road' that replaced the turnpike road, extends for 600m through Rouse Hill Estate, comprising a reconstructed gravelled road along the same alignment as the earlier turnpike road. Before Windsor Road was moved to its current position and widened, it ran through a deep road cutting here, constructed in the 1930s, that was filled in 2006 to return the road surface to its original (ground) levels. The road surface mostly comprises finely-crushed sandstone and shale, locally sourced materials... (Leong, 2022, 19).

Physical Condition						Updated	
Physical Condition - Good						09/18/1997	

Item Details							
Modifications and Dates							
1813 house begun, 450 acres (182 hectares)							
1818 house completed							
c1820 - cottage built 1825 family took up residence							
c.1825 - stage 1 of garden laid out with oval carriage loop and squared Georgian fashion to northeast of house, all borders to paths thought to be 'dug', brick and stone borders and gutters added later, Moreton Bay figs northeast of house must date to this period (Ficus macrophylla)							
1840s - Barn, woolshed and laundry wing built.							
1855 - Verandahs added to house and summerhouse and slaughter house built. -House redecorated and substantially refurbished							
1860s - Two storey service wing							
1862 - Roof of house slated.							
C.1865 - garden modification - stage 2 garden bridges over gutter northeast of squared beds east of house, drain added also in this location, garden beds (diamond and 4 triangles) cut in front of house, paling fence added to southeast, picket fence or gate to southwest near house, entrance driveway formalised, more fencing							
1865-67 - Two storey service wing added							
1876-77 - Stables built. -Bathroom linking service wing with terrace built							
1885 - House decorated and partially refurbished							
c.1885 - stage 3 garden modifications, sandstone drain and bridges to northeast of squared garden east of house, kitchen garden and drying yard added to southeast of house, paving in between western wings of house, circular drive loop west of house, 2 picket gates northwest side of house, trellis frame on northern wall of northern rear wing west of house, shed and octagonal summer house added in garden east of house, new garden bed immediately adjacent to east wall of house (near front facade but to the side), arbours /trellis added on two crossing garden paths east of house 1888 Rouse Hill public school opened to the east of Rouse Hill House and farm.							
1888 Contract for "New Buildings, Rouse Hill" for the Rouse Hill Public School site awarded to Cranney and Greenway by the Department of Public Instruction.							
1932 -Studio converted into a breakfast room 1951-63 - Subdivision. Land reduced to 106 acres							
1957 - Bathhouse renovated 1961 - Demolition of glass enclosure to western verandah 1965 - Nursery floor replaced							
c.1968 - stage 4 garden modifications - driveway re-routed WWII, two rear (west of house) gates added, steel tank added west of house, rockery added southwest of house, two gates added east of house connecting to pre-existing paths, vehicle gate and path added further east of garden towards Windsor Road, garden east of house used as grazing paddock, embankment cut into Windsor Road (with road upgrading?), loss of arbours/trellis on one of two garden paths (of c.1885 creation), stone kerbing on 3 garden paths (north-south) east of house replace? Earlier brick borders.							
1968 - Further subdivision							
1974 - Final subdivision (Historic Houses Trust							
1997:2, Bogle & Broadbent 1990:12-15)							
1984 summer house repair/reconstructed							
1993 - 25 acres (10 hectares) of land left (in HHT management)(Bogle, 1993)							
2002 The Historic Houses Trust of NSW acquired the Rouse Hill school site when the Department of Education built a new school in Rouse Hill							
2008: HHT got first stage funding for education component of its vision for the site. 10/3/2009 Remnant RTA lands were transferred to the HHT (from the Windsor Road bypass which is open further to the east than the old road alignment (in a cutting). The Hills Shire Council approved stage one development application for works.							
2009-10: Construction program almost complete on former RTA land and Rouse Hill Public School (former) adjoining re-aligned Windsor Road: School house conserved, repainted in Victorian colour scheme, and interpreted as 19th century school; cafe, retail, education centre and outdoor auditorium (for 60); parking; security; flexible public spaces to be used as venues and landscaping works completed. Property's capacity and visitation rate increased, including increasing numbers of local schools (capacity now for 20,000 children a year to visit)(Mackaness, 2010, 4-5).							
6/2016 increased visitation has been achieved by introducing a series of limited-number tours of the house's interiors. Works to conserve the farm's dairy precinct are now complete. Two main posts whose subsoil bases had decayed were re-footed, with new spliced material and a pad footing. Guttering was replaced, along with some roof sheeting where discrete patching was no longer sufficient and decayed timber trimming on the milk house has been replaced (Hill, 2016).							
Current Use							
House Museum, farm, and residence of Mr Gerald Terry							
Former Use							
Aboriginal land, pastoral property, and residence							



Item Details					
Listings					
Heritage Listing	Listing Title	Listing Number	Gazette Date	Gazette Number	Gazette Page
Local Environmental Plan			5/7/1993 12:00:00 AM		
Register of the National Estate			3/21/1978 12:00:00 AM		
Heritage Act - State Heritage Register		00002	4/2/1999 12:00:00 AM	27	1546
State Environmental Planning Policy			6/3/1989 12:00:00 AM		
Heritage Act - s.170 NSW State agency heritage register					
Heritage Act - Permanent Conservation Order - former		00002	6/22/1979 12:00:00 AM	84	
State Environmental Planning Policy (Precincts—Central River City)					



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