



# **Sydney Metro West**

## **Parramatta Station Construction Site**

### **Enabling Works**

**Historical Archaeological Excavation**

**Preliminary Results Report**

## **Acknowledgement of Country**

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# Report register

The following report register documents the development of this report, in accordance with GML’s Quality Management System.

Job No.	Issue No.	Notes/Description	Issue Date
21-0167A	1	Draft Report—Delta and Sydney Metro Review	9 December 2022
21-0167A	2	Final Report	20 December 2022
21-0167A	3	Final Report—Version 2	20 December 2022

## Quality assurance

The report has been reviewed and approved for issue in accordance with the GML quality assurance policy and procedures.

It aligns with best-practice heritage conservation and management, *The Burra Charter: the Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance, 2013* and heritage and environmental legislation and guidelines relevant to the subject place.

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# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Project background

Sydney Metro West is a 24-kilometre metro line that will connect Greater Parramatta with the Sydney Central Business District (CBD). Stations include Westmead, Parramatta, Sydney Olympic Park, North Strathfield, Burwood North, Five Dock, The Bays and Sydney CBD. The concept and major civil construction between Westmead and The Bays (Stage 1 of the planning approval process for Sydney Metro West) were approved as a State Significant Infrastructure project (SSI-10038) on 11 March 2021.

The Sydney Metro West Concept and Stage 1 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) identified that the Parramatta station construction site had potential for a significant historical archaeological resource. The requirements of the project approval conditions included preparation of a place-specific Archaeological Research Design and Excavation Methodology for the Parramatta station construction site (ARDEM 2021)<sup>1</sup> and undertaking archaeological excavation in accordance with the ARDEM 2021.

Works at the Parramatta station construction site comprise two main stages: the enabling works, and the main station box and tunnel construction. Delta Group Pty Ltd (Delta) undertook the enabling works, which included demolition and archaeological clearance works of a portion of the site. Delta engaged GML Heritage Pty Ltd (GML) to undertake the archaeological excavation. The archaeological works included Aboriginal and historical archaeology and sedimentology sampling between March and September 2022.

This report presents the preliminary findings from the historical archaeological excavation at the Parramatta station construction site during the enabling works stage. A separate preliminary results report has been prepared for the Aboriginal archaeological excavation and sedimentology sampling.

## 1.2 Site location

The Parramatta station construction site is in the Parramatta CBD and is bounded by George, Smith, Macquarie and Church streets (Figure 1.1). The archaeological excavation for the enabling works was in the southwest portion of the site—referred to as 'the site' throughout this report (Figure 1.2). The site comprised the former Nos 58–60, 62–64, 68, 70, 72 and 74 Macquarie Street, the Horwood Place multilevel carpark and a portion of Macquarie Lane.

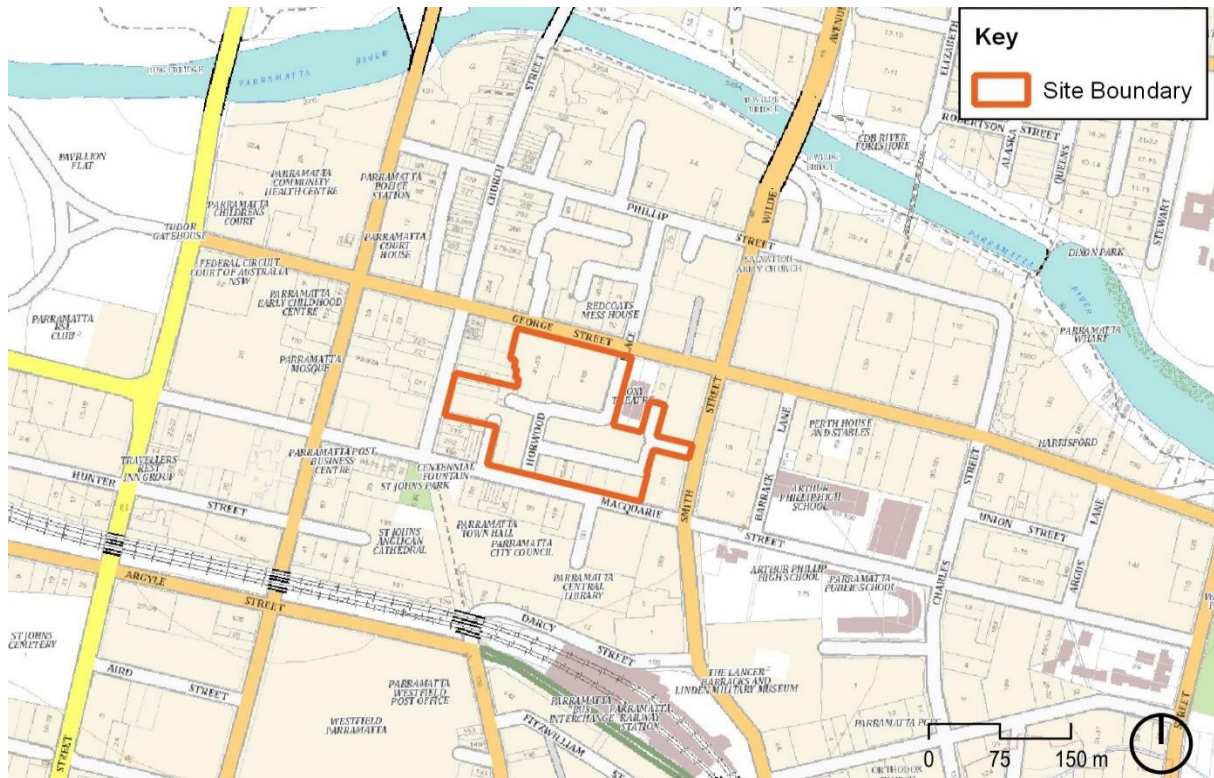


Figure 1.1 The Parramatta station construction site within Parramatta CBD. (Source: GML 2021)



Figure 1.2 The enabling works archaeological excavation area (yellow shading) within the southwest portion of the site. (Source: Nearmap with GML overlay)

## 1.3 Archaeological excavation

The historical archaeological excavation program was between 9 March and 27 September 2022. It included monitoring removal of the ground slab, bulk excavation to archaeological levels, detailed archaeological investigation and recording, Aboriginal archaeological excavation, sedimentology sampling, and various demobilising tasks such as washing and drying the artefact collection.



Figure 1.3 Archaeological excavation in progress in Area A along the Macquarie Street frontage. In the background, demolition continues in Area B. Photograph taken looking northwest.



Figure 1.4 Archaeological excavation under way behind the Roxy within Area B and the station box excavation footprint. This area contained large pad footings from the multilevel carpark. Photograph taken looking north.



Figure 1.5 The western part of Area B showing localised areas of archaeology between major impacts from the multilevel carpark. Photograph taken looking south towards Macquarie Street. Scale is 1m.





Figure 1.6 View of the enabling works archaeological excavation from the site time-lapse camera in June 2022. Photograph taken looking northwest. (Source: Delta site camera, June 2022)

### 1.3.1 Archaeological team

The GML project team for the historical archaeological excavation comprised over 30 archaeologists and specialists:

- Directors—Abi Cryerhall (Primary Excavation Director) and Sophie Jennings (Secondary Excavation Director).
- Supervisors—Andrew Brown, Emily Bennett, Richard Spencer and Dr Amanda Dusting.
- Illustration and survey—Kieren Watson (Planner), Guy Hazell (survey and photogrammetry) and Jacob Gwiazdzinski (GIS and 3D reconstructions).
- Archaeologists—Erica Brown, Nestor Nicola, Peter Woodley, Dean Wilson, Otto Dicipetris, Ismael Raupp, Samantha Eardley, Sarah Carter, Olle Lundgren, Katie Frisby, Matthew Kelly, William Jones, Jacob Kiefel, Jacob Gwiazdzinski, Kosta Contos,

Greg Sing, Nick Turvey, Jasper Click, Eric Claxton, Ewan Coopey, Andie Coulson and Drew Kennedy.

- On-site artefact management—Dr Eleanor Casella (Artefacts Supervisor), Karen Dye, Tess Dowell and Dr Penny Crook (Artefacts Specialist).
- Geoarchaeology advice—Jakub Czastka and Jacob Kiefel.

## 1.4 Authorship and acknowledgements

This report has been written by Abi Cryerhall (GML Principal, Primary Excavation Director) and Sophie Jennings (GML Associate, Secondary Excavation Director). All photographs and illustrations in this report are by GML unless stated otherwise.

GML would like to acknowledge the support from the Delta team including Angus Lumsden, Matthew Eaton, Jacob Althouse and Frank George, and input from the Sydney Metro heritage team including Cath Snelgrove and Georgia Wright.

## 1.5 Limitations

This report presents key highlights from the historical archaeological excavation during site work only. The post-excavation archaeological analysis, artefact and specialist analysis, research, and preparation of detailed archaeological investigation results reporting in response to condition D28 have not yet commenced.

## 1.6 Endnotes

- <sup>1</sup> GML Heritage 2021, Sydney Metro West Parramatta Station Construction Site Historical Archaeological Research Design and Excavation Methodology, report prepared for Sydney Metro November 2021.

## 2 Site context

The following section provides an overview of the site's history following the arrival of the British in 1788. It includes a short summary of Parramatta's eighteenth and nineteenth century urban development and is illustrated with key historical maps. This section also includes the results of the desktop archaeological potential assessment prior to commencing the excavation. A revised archaeological potential map for the site, based on the actual findings, is also included. A detailed history and archaeological assessment are in the ARDEM 2021.

### 2.1 Historical background

The site is within the historic core of Parramatta. The British settlement at Parramatta was established in November 1788 and the town was laid out on a grid pattern in c1790–1792. The main cross-streets were High Street (now George Street) and Church Street. Large town allotments, containing simple two-room huts to house convicts, lined the streets. Government buildings—the governor's house, military barracks, church, and gaol—occupied key positions on the east–west and north–south axis. Larger agricultural allotments were established to the south and east of the town, and the government farm occupied land to the west and north.

Initially established as an agricultural and penal settlement, Parramatta soon evolved into the main commercial centre for the region. Governor Macquarie's arrival in 1810 marked a major period of investment and transformation in Parramatta. His public works program, using convict labour, included construction of institutions such as hospitals and asylums, schools, and new barracks for the military and convicts. Parramatta was declared a free market town in 1812, and attracted increasing numbers of free settlers and emancipated convicts. This led to ad hoc development as they established homes and businesses in the town.

After Macquarie's departure in 1821, Governor Brisbane commissioned a town survey to resolve the issues of permissive occupancy and the somewhat chaotic land tenure system. Under Brisbane's scheme the town's occupants were offered 21-year leases that could be converted to freehold under certain conditions.<sup>1</sup> By June 1823 nearly all the land in town had been claimed as leasehold and several allotments were granted.<sup>2</sup> The 1823 plan records the subdivisions and development that had occurred since the town was laid out. Crown leases within the enabling works site are Lots 74, 75, 76, 77 and 78 on Macquarie Street and Lot 28 on Smith Street. All allotments except 78 are recorded as being developed and occupied by the early 1820s.

During the nineteenth century Parramatta became increasingly urbanised, with commercial and industrial development within the centre. Residential development occurred within the centre, continuously expanding the limits of town. Construction of the Parramatta railway station in the 1850s led to a change in the commercial development focus to the north–south axis of Church Street and away from George Street and the river wharf. Local development was affected by the New South Wales and global economic downturns in the 1840s and the 1890s.

Parramatta’s nineteenth-century urbanisation pattern is reflected in the station construction site. George Street’s development is characterised initially by domestic occupation and commercial activities followed by large-scale industrial activities such as Ritchie’s ironworks. Church Street’s convict allotments were subdivided and redeveloped multiple times as the street became the focus of Parramatta’s mercantile and commercial activity. Macquarie Street maintained a residential character with limited subdivision and large private houses, boarding houses, and small-scale businesses in the rear yards.

During the twentieth century commercial activities dominated the town centre as suburban residential development rapidly increased and industrial activities concentrated along the river areas to the east. Specialist shops, department stores, arcades and open-air markets are all represented within the Parramatta station construction site, mostly on Church and George streets. Amalgamations and further redevelopment occurred after the 1950s including the construction of new laneways—Horwood Place and Macquarie Lane. Macquarie Street’s large houses and boarding houses were replaced with two and three storey office buildings in the latter half of the twentieth century. To the rear a large multilevel carpark was built in the 1980s.

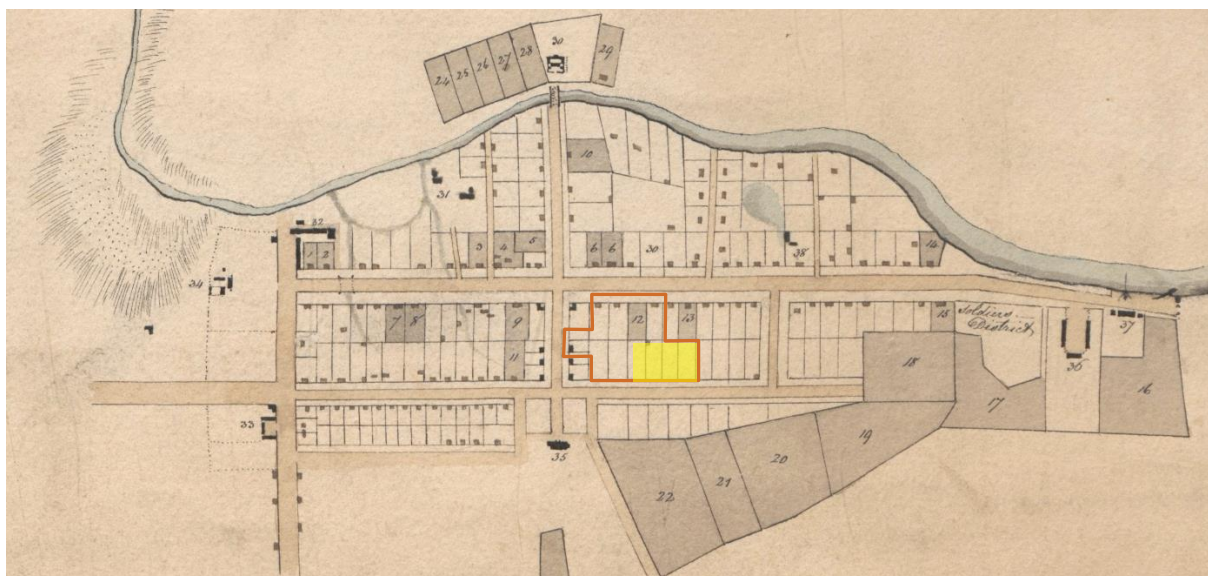


Figure 2.1 The station construction site (orange outline) and enabling works site (yellow shading) within Parramatta, as recorded on the 1804 plan. Note the plan is not accurate and the locations are approximate. (Source: National Archives UK with GML overlay)

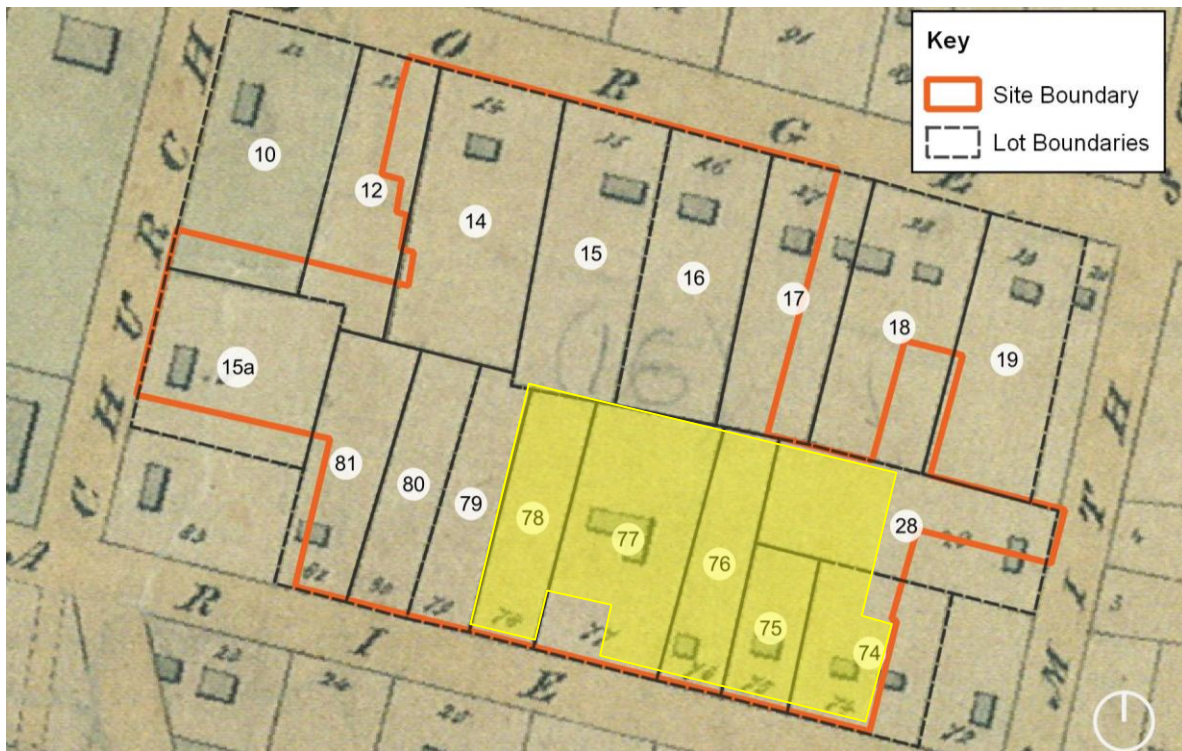


Figure 2.2 The 1823 plan records buildings on the Macquarie Street allotments—lots 74, 75, 76 and 78—within the site (yellow shading). (Source: State Library NSW with GML overlay)

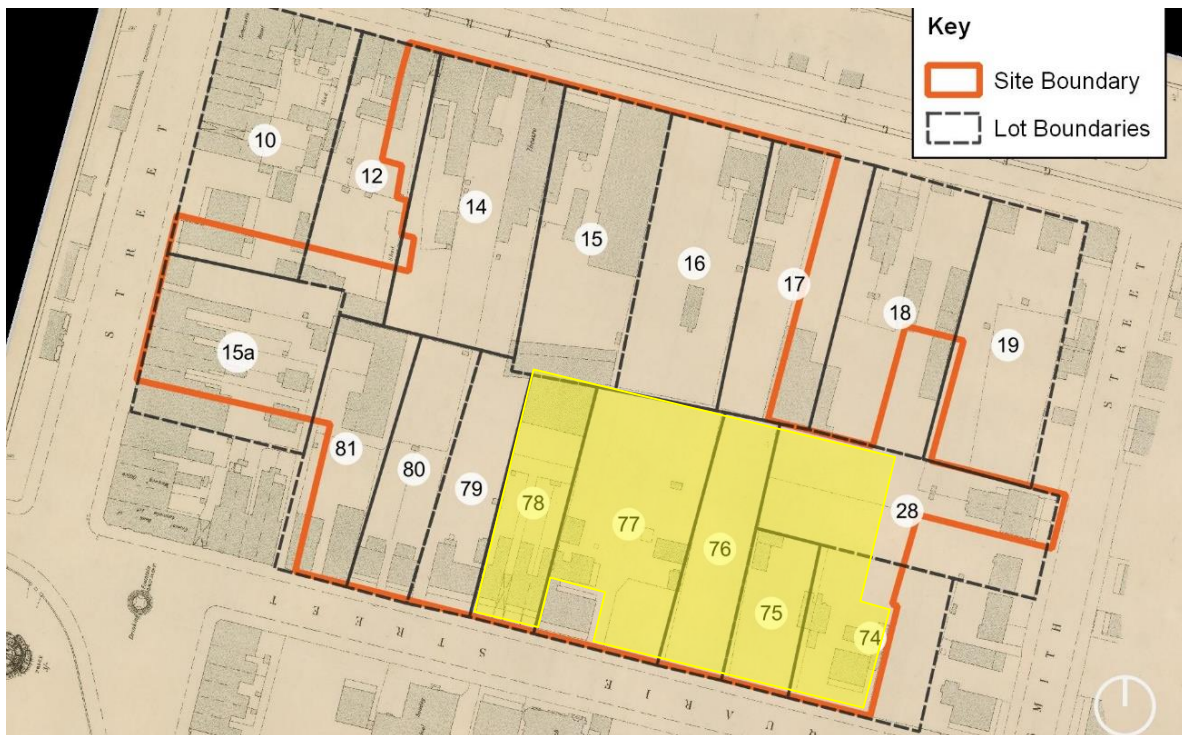


Figure 2.3 The 1823 plan depicts the Macquarie Street allotments—Lots 74, 75, 76 and 78—within the site (yellow shading) as being occupied by this time. (Source: State Library NSW with GML overlay)



Figure 2.4 1943 aerial photograph showing large houses and boarding houses on Macquarie Street within the enabling works site, large yards and buildings on parts of George Street and multiple subdivisions on Church Street. (Source: SIX Maps with GML overlay)

## 2.2 Archaeological assessment

The ARDEM 2021 included a detailed historical archaeological assessment for the whole station construction site at Parramatta. The desktop assessment concluded that generally there was low to high potential for archaeology depending on the anticipated extent of previous impacts from twentieth-century development (Figure 2.5). A revised historical archaeological potential map, based on the excavation results, for the enabling works site is provided in Figure 2.6. The remainder of the Parramatta station construction site remains unchanged from the desktop assessment. A summary of the desktop assessment for the enabling works site is provided in Table 2.1. A more detailed review of the desktop analysis compared with the actual archaeological survival, and a revised significance assessment, will be included in the final archaeological excavation results report.

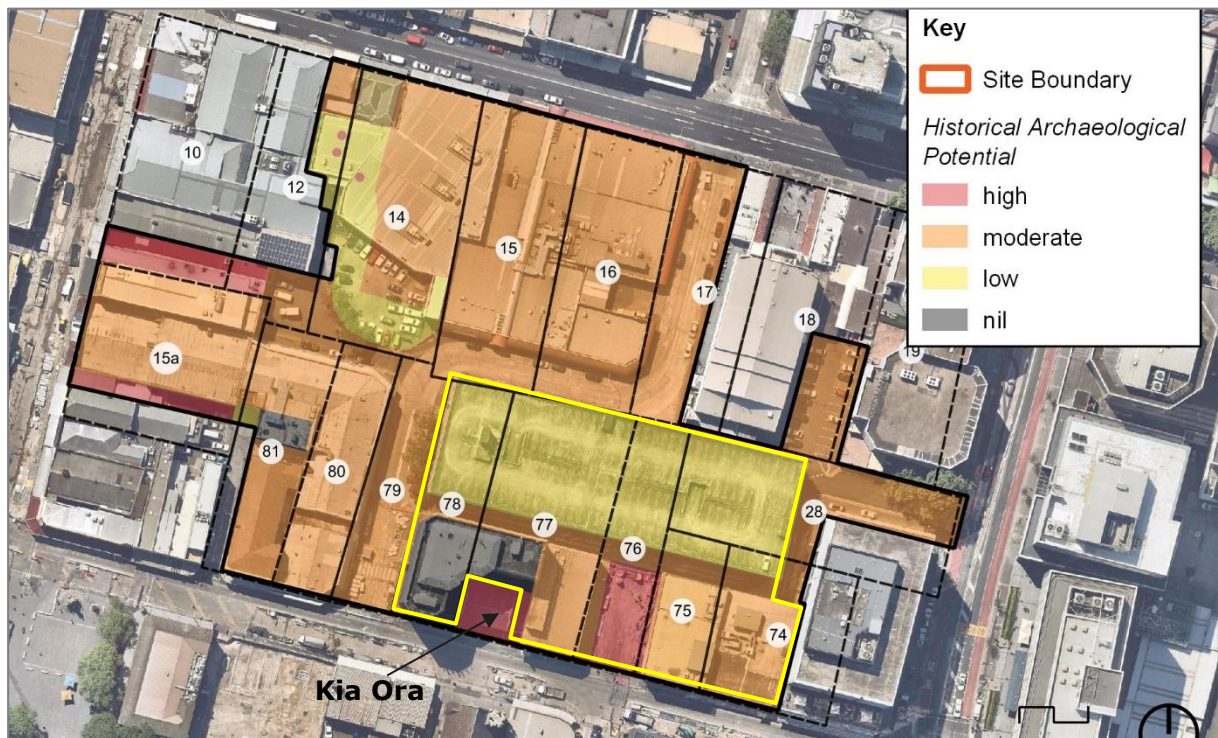


Figure 2.5 Historical archaeological potential mapping for the Parramatta station construction site prepared prior to the excavation. The enabling works site is outlined in yellow. (Source: GML ARDEM 2021)

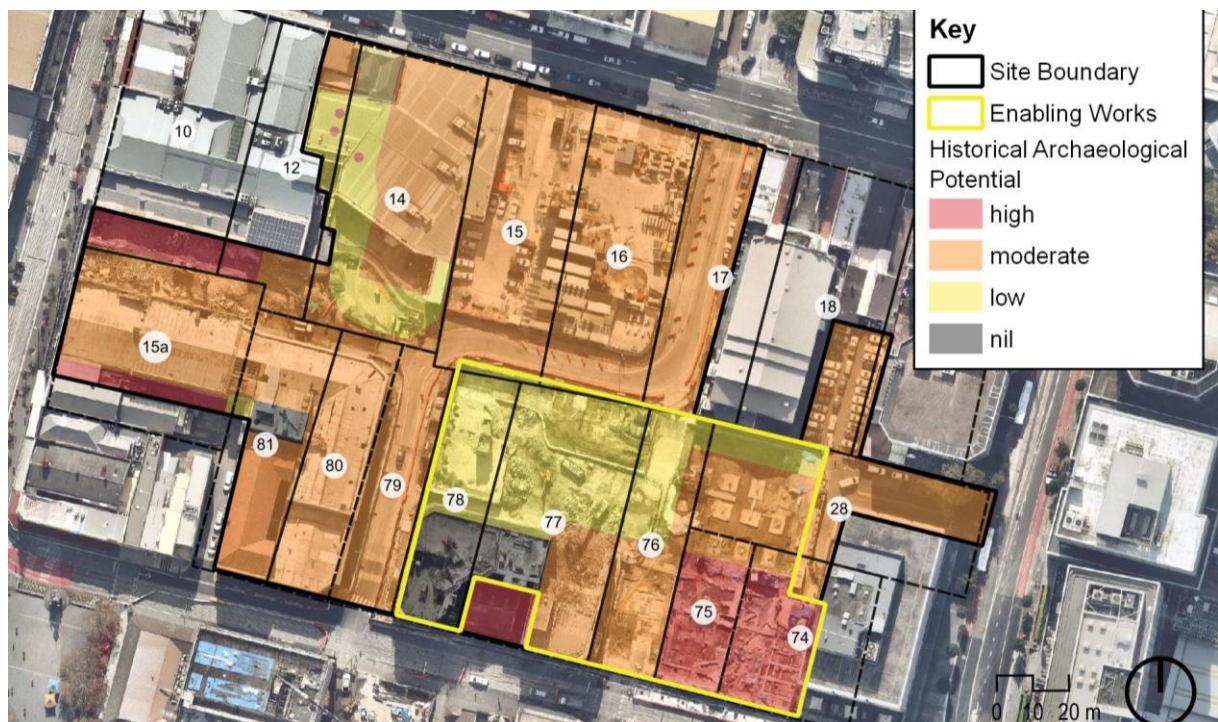


Figure 2.6 Revised historical archaeological potential mapping for the enabling works site (yellow outline) following completion of the works. Note the potential mapping for the rest of the Parramatta station construction site has not been updated yet.

Table 2.1 Summary of the historical archaeological potential and significance of the enabling works site from the ARDEM 2021. The table also includes a revised potential based on the actual excavation findings.

Address	Lot	Description	Desktop potential	Revised potential	Significance
74 Macquarie Street	74	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1790s–c1820—undocumented land use such as land clearance, drainage channels, agricultural features, rubbish dumping etc.</li> </ul>	Low	Low	Local/state
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>c1820s–c1840s—timber cottage and associated occupation deposits.</li> </ul>	Moderate	High	State
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1840s—Town Drain and associated deposits.</li> </ul>	Moderate	High	Local
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>c1850s–1890s—brick/stone building and various extensions and outbuildings.</li> </ul>	Moderate	High	Local
72 Macquarie Street	75	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1790s–c1820—undocumented land use such as land clearance, drainage channels, agricultural features, rubbish dumping etc.</li> </ul>	Low	Moderate	Local/state
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>c1820s–c1840s—timber cottage and associated occupation deposits.</li> </ul>	Moderate	High	State
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>c1840s—brick/stone building and associated occupation deposits.</li> </ul>	Moderate	High	Local
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>c1880s–1890s—weatherboard coach house and yard deposits.</li> </ul>	Moderate	High	Local
70 Macquarie Street	76	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1790s–c1820—undocumented land use such as land clearance, drainage channels, agricultural features, rubbish dumping etc.</li> </ul>	Low	Low	Local/state
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>c1820s–c1870s—timber cottage and associated occupation deposits.</li> </ul>	High	High (localised)	State/local
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nineteenth-century rear yard features and deposits.</li> </ul>	Low	Low	Local



Address	Lot	Description	Desktop potential	Revised potential	Significance
68 Macquarie Street	77	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>c1820s—timber cottage and associated occupation deposits.</li> </ul>	Moderate	Moderate	State
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nineteenth-century outbuildings and features associated with Kia Ora.</li> </ul>	Moderate	Moderate	Local
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nineteenth-century rear yard features and deposits.</li> </ul>	Low	Low	Local
62–64 Macquarie Street	77	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kia Ora (heritage listed building—not within archaeological excavation area).</li> </ul>	Extant	Extant	Local
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Basement to rear—no archaeology.</li> </ul>			
58–60 Macquarie Street	78	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Basement area—no archaeology.</li> </ul>	Nil	Nil	N/A
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nineteenth-century rear yard features and deposits.</li> </ul>	Low	Low	Local
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ritchie’s ironworks rail tracks, yard features and industrial deposits.</li> </ul>	Moderate	Low	Local
Multilevel carpark	28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1790s–c1820—undocumented land use such as land clearance, drainage channels, agricultural features, rubbish dumping etc.</li> </ul>	Low	Low (west) Moderate (east)	Local/state
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nineteenth-century rear yard features such as rubbish pits, agricultural furrows, drains etc.</li> </ul>	Low	Low (west) Moderate (east)	Local

## 2.3 Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> The lease could be converted to a freehold if the value of the building constructed on it was over £1000 or 21 years of quit rent was paid.

<sup>2</sup> Kass, T, Liston, C and McClymont, J 1996, *Parramatta: A Past Revealed*, Parramatta City Council, p 114.

### 3 Archaeological methodology

This section outlines the archaeological program, methodology and constraints affecting the work. The research questions and methodologies in the ARDEM 2021 guided the archaeological clearance works. The demolition works program required the archaeological excavation to commence in the southwest and progress west as areas became available. This section also provides an overview of the archaeological records, data and artefacts retrieved from the excavation.

#### 3.1 Excavation areas

The enabling works archaeological excavation was divided into two main areas: Area A and Area B (Figure 3.1). The division was based on the construction program and assessed level of archaeological potential (refer to Figure 2.5). Area A included Nos 68, 70, 72 and 74 Macquarie Street and a portion of Macquarie Lane. Area B included the site of the multilevel carpark to the north of Macquarie Lane. Each area was further subdivided into historical allotments and included all or parts of six allotments—Lots 74, 75, 76, 77 and 78 Macquarie Street and Lot 28 Smith Street.



Figure 3.1 The site was divided into two excavation Areas (Areas A and B). (Source: Nearmap with GML overlay)

## 3.2 Program

The historical archaeological excavation was between 9 March and 27 September 2022. The program included 28 weeks of monitoring, excavation and recording on site in Areas A and B, and several additional weeks completing the fieldwork paperwork and processing artefacts in preparation for the post-excavation analysis stage. More archaeology than anticipated in the ARDEM 2021 was present in the western half of the site—in Area A, Lot 74, and part of Area B to the rear of Lots 74 and 75. This was somewhat balanced by less archaeology than anticipated in Area A, Lots 76 and 77.

### 3.2.1 Weather

Sydney recorded its wettest year on record in 2022.<sup>1</sup> Frequent heavy rains from March to July impacted the archaeology program. The lower-lying eastern part of the site (Lots 74, 75 and part of Lot 28) was frequently inundated with water that was slow to drain. A particularly heavy period of rainfall towards the end of the excavation in early July 2022 resulted in the entire site being flooded and inaccessible for over a week. Severe rain events and wet conditions resulted in delays and required adjustments to approaches to excavation and recording.



Figure 3.2 Area A, Lot 75, under water following heavy rains in July 2022. Photograph taken looking southwest, towards Macquarie Street.



Figure 3.3 Area B and the rear yards of Lots 74 to 76 under water after heavy rain. Photograph taken looking west across the station box excavation area.

### 3.2.2 Contamination

Contamination was encountered in several areas and altered how the excavation was completed. Asbestos-containing material (ACM) was present within the modern fills overlying the archaeology across most of the site. The archaeological team were required to wear additional personal protective equipment (disposable suits with hoods and boot covers, P2 respirators and gloves) when working in areas with ACM. This affected the

efficiency and rate of archaeological excavation. A small area in Area A, Lot 74, contained contaminants that resulted in discontinuing the detailed archaeological excavation due to potential health and safety risks.

### 3.3 Excavation methods

The methodologies of the ARDEM 2021 were applied to the historical archaeological excavation. Works commenced in Area A with archaeological monitoring of slab removal and bulk excavation to archaeological levels. Extensive and substantial concrete piles and beams were encountered in Lots 74 and 75 over and adjacent to the Town Drain. These were not removed, to avoid impact to the surrounding archaeology. Slab removal and bulk excavation of modern fills progressed west across the site as areas became accessible following demolition.

Following slab removal, a limited number of test trenches were excavated. Archaeology was identified in all trenches and excavation expanded to 'open areas' quickly.

Archaeological investigations included excavation and recording of multiple layers or phases of archaeology. Excavation techniques included using hand-held tools such as mattocks, hoes, shovels and trowels to clean and excavate deposits and features. A 14 tonne and 7 tonne mechanical excavator were used to remove extensive historical fill layers and topsoils once the detailed excavation and recording were completed.

Context numbers were assigned to archaeological deposits, fills, features and structures. They were also assigned to some modern features to assist with stratigraphic descriptions. Contexts were recorded on pro forma designed specifically for the project. Blocks of context numbers were assigned to each area:

- Area A—contexts 0001 to 1000 and 2001 to 3000
- Area B—contexts 1001 to 2000.

Photographs of contexts and groups of contexts were taken using a 1m or 500mm scale and were included in a register for each area. The archaeology was surveyed and planned to scale frequently throughout the excavation. Survey included photogrammetry and production of orthophotographs. The field plans included annotation and preliminary interpretation of the archaeological features and stratigraphic relationships.

Artefacts were collected by context, lot and area. These were processed—washed, dried, and bagged—on site before removal to temporary storage at GML's office. Occupation deposits (also referred to as underfloor deposits) associated with several early nineteenth-century structures were excavated within a 1m grid and wet-sieved to collect artefacts. This spatially controlled excavation method was applied in Area A, Lot 74 and Lot 76. However, the grid excavation and sieving were discontinued in Lot 76 as the initial results indicated the material was not an underfloor deposit.

Environmental and building material samples were also retrieved from the excavation. Key deposits such as fills within cesspits, underfloor spaces and early nineteenth-century rubbish pits and drains were sampled for palynological analysis. Natural soils and historical topsoils were also sampled for soil and palynological analysis. Several monolith samples were retrieved from intact natural and historical topsoil profiles. The environmental samples will be analysed during the post-excavation stage of work. Building materials such as brick, mortar and timber were retrieved from significant structures for inclusion in the post-excavation analysis and archaeological collection from the excavation.

The historical archaeological excavation was completed and the site was handed back in stages to Delta to complete the bulk excavation to the required levels.

### 3.4 Archaeological records

The archaeological excavation generated a large quantity of records, samples, plans and artefacts. Table 3.1 provides an overview of the number of contexts, photos, plans, surveys, samples and artefacts for each area and lot. The number of artefacts is a rough count estimate, and the actual quantity of artefacts will be determined once the detailed cataloguing is complete. The number of samples may also change during the cataloguing and post-excavation stage.

Table 3.1 Summary of the archaeological records, samples and artefacts from Areas A and B.

Area	Lot	Contexts	Photos	Plans <sup>1</sup>	Surveys <sup>2</sup>	Samples <sup>3</sup>	Artefacts <sup>3</sup>
A	74	773	7847	27	240	94	15500
	75	300		16		37	5000
	76	186		8		12	1000
	77	32		6		10	300
B	28	175	2954	10	240	5	2650
	74	84		1		0	900
	75	30		1		0	200
	76	59		5		4	250
	77	136		11		12	500
	78	45		6		5	250
<b>Preliminary totals</b>		<b>1,820</b>	<b>10,801</b>	<b>91<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>240<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>179<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>26,250<sup>3</sup></b>

<sup>1</sup> Detailed field plans drawn to scale of 1:50.

<sup>2</sup> Surveys taken in the field include work-in-progress 'planners', survey drawings and orthophotographs.

<sup>3</sup> Estimate based on rough counts at the end of the fieldwork stage.

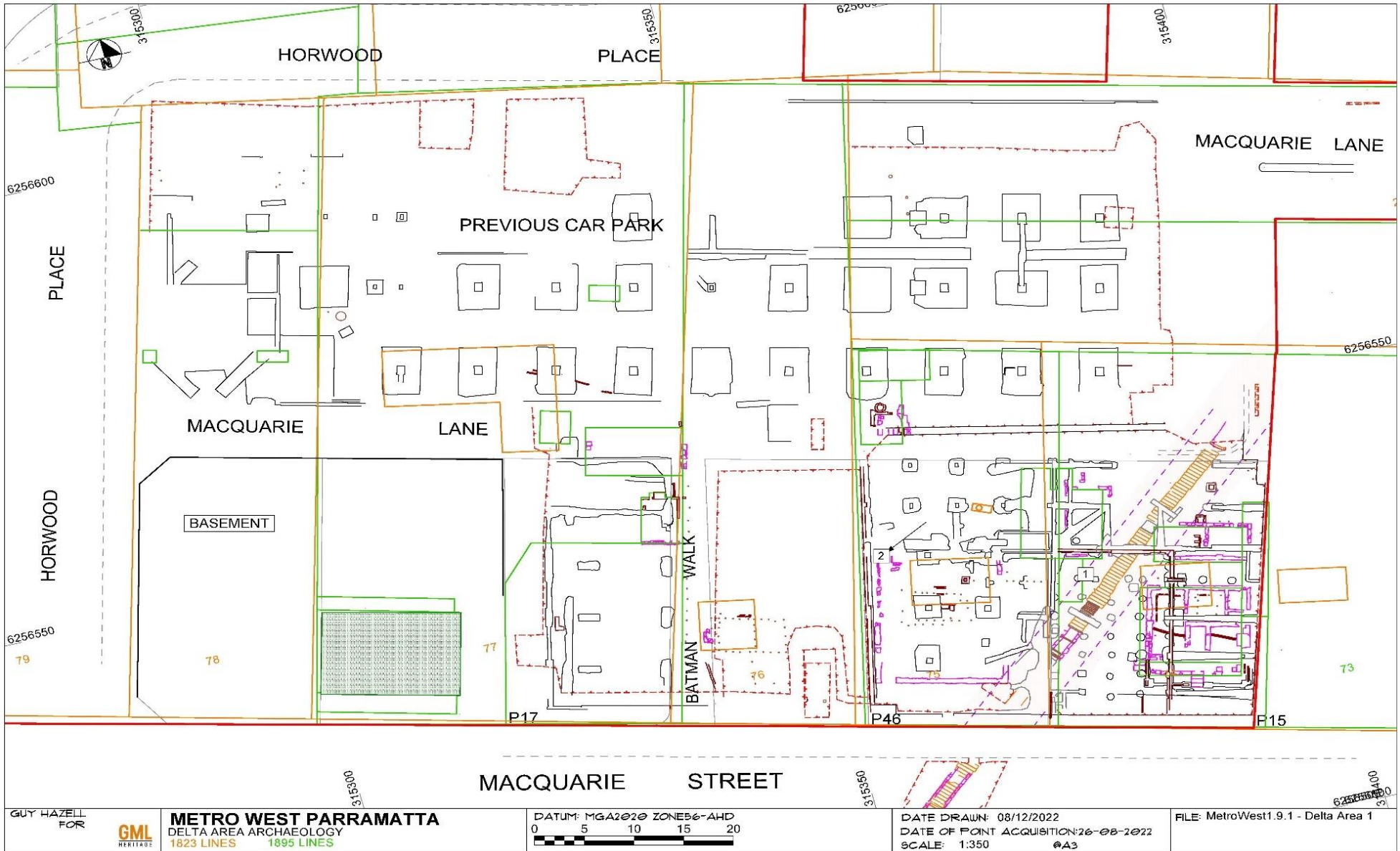


Figure 3.4 Survey drawing of the enabling works site showing the multiple phases of structural remains. (Source: Guy Hazell for GML)

## 3.5 Endnotes

- <sup>1</sup> Cockburn, P and Parkes-Hupton, H, 'Sydney marks wettest year since records began more than 160 years ago', ABC News, Thursday 6 October 2022, viewed Thursday 8 December <<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-10-06/sydney-breaks-annual-rainfall-record/101506452>>.

## 4 Preliminary excavation results

This section provides an overview of the historical archaeological excavation findings. The enabling works site is within the main town grid set out in the early 1790s, but it did not contain convict huts. Development by free settlers and emancipists began in the early 1800s and by 1823 there were three small timber cottages along Macquarie Street. Behind the cottages, the land was cleared, drained and cultivated. Changing ownership and favourable local economic conditions resulted in improvements and redevelopments during the 1830s and 1840s. Larger brick houses with sandstone footings replaced the timber cottages in most lots. Outbuildings, such as stables, coach houses and sheds, were built to accommodate commercial and domestic uses.

The extension of the Parramatta Town Drain through the site in the 1840s coincided with the end of transportation to New South Wales and the start of increasing urbanisation in Parramatta. Both residential and commercial activities intensified in the latter half of the nineteenth and early twentieth century. Houses were extended, tenanted or converted to boarding houses, and some were demolished. Large-scale industrial activity made a brief appearance as Ritchie's ironworks expanded south and created a Macquarie Street frontage in the 1880s. Amalgamations and redevelopment in the mid-twentieth to late twentieth century resulted in impacts. However, there was a significant quantity of historical archaeology and artefacts associated with the many occupants and uses of the site from the 1790s to the 1930s.

### 4.1 Landscape

The environment is one of the key historical archaeological research themes for the site. Desktop research indicated that the site was within a wetland area, and this influenced how Aboriginal people and early colonists interacted with the environment at this location in Parramatta. The local environmental conditions, and their changes over time, influenced how the site was developed and occupied in the first decades after the establishment of the town.

Archaeological evidence across the enabling works site included natural soil profiles, historical and modified topsoils that likely contain fossil pollens and other material associated with the evolving natural environment and urbanisation. Evidence of water management, such as drainage channels, gullies and levelling fill in low-lying poorly draining areas, was also present. Archaeological features associated with land clearance and cultivation included tree boles and burnt clay, furrows, hoe marks and modified historical topsoils and garden soils.





Figure 4.1 Fernando Brambilla’s 1793 view of Parramatta showing the land cleared of natural vegetation, with convict huts within large garden allotments lining the streets. (Source: British Library, maps T.TOP.124 Supp F44)

### 4.1.1 Topography

The Parramatta CBD occupies a wide terrace above Parramatta River that, prior to settlement, featured an undulating surface dissected by ephemeral creeks, ponds and swamps. The highest point in the landscape is the northwest of the enabling works site in the northern half of Lots 76 and 77. From this high point, the ground surface slopes down to the east and southeast towards a creek line or drainage channel that was later formalised into the Parramatta Town Drain in Lot 74. The landscape to the west of the high point is flat, with a very gradual slope west towards Church Street.

### 4.1.2 Erosion

The lowest-lying part of the site is within Lot 74. The natural soils suggest this area was frequently waterlogged and the earliest structures on this lot were built on soils that had been deposited by water movement. These soils are also likely evidence for erosion following land clearance in surrounding areas. Similar deposits were present in Lot 28—also a low-lying area to the north of Lot 74. Multiple topsoil deposits overlay the natural subsoil (A<sub>2</sub> horizon) and historical topsoil (A<sub>1</sub> horizon). Preliminary interpretation in the field of these deposits is that they were washed down-slope. Soil samples from Lots 74 and 28 will be analysed during the post-excavation stage to determine if there is evidence for erosion and environmental change in the early years of the colonial settlement.

### 4.1.3 Drainage channels

Although subdivided on paper, the lots did not appear to be formally marked out on site until development in the early 1800s. Archaeological evidence of land use prior to development was limited. However, an early drainage feature was present through several lots. The shallow ditch was roughly west–east orientated, following the natural slope, through Lots 76, 75 and 74. It is likely this ditch assisted with water management in the early years of cultivation. It may also have marked an informal boundary within the landscape, between crop fields or on the edge of a track before Macquarie Street was formalised.

Previous archaeological investigation of the Town Drain to the south of the site identified that it was built within an earlier enhanced natural drainage channel.<sup>1</sup> The Town Drain and surrounding deposits were not subject to detailed archaeological excavation because the item is being retained in situ. Evidence for a cut within one test trench on the eastern side of the drain may relate to an earlier channel or drainage ditch. However, it was inconclusive, and further archaeological investigation of the Town Drain and its archaeology at a later stage in the project is needed.



Figure 4.2 A long linear drainage ditch through Lots 76, 75 and 74 dates to the 1790s–1800s and is associated with early cultivation activity prior to development from the 1810s. Photograph is taken looking west. Scale is 1m.

## 4.1.4 Agriculture

Archaeological evidence suggests that agricultural activities within the enabling works site continued from the late eighteenth century into the late nineteenth century in some lots. Furrows, hoe marks and garden beds were present in all lots except Lot 74. The best-preserved evidence was in Lots 28 and 78, where there was limited nineteenth and twentieth century development. In the other lots, scattered patches of hoe marks or furrows were preserved in various locations within each lot. In Lot 28 approximately 20 furrows were preserved in northeast–southwest alignments across the natural slope. Hoe marks were observed below the furrows cut into the surface of the subsoil (A<sub>2</sub> horizon) after removal of the historical and modified topsoils. A small area of hoe marks was found in the northern part of Lot 28, not associated with visible garden beds or furrows, and may indicate multiple phases of agriculture. Phasing of the agricultural evidence will be determined across the lots as part of the post-excavation analysis.

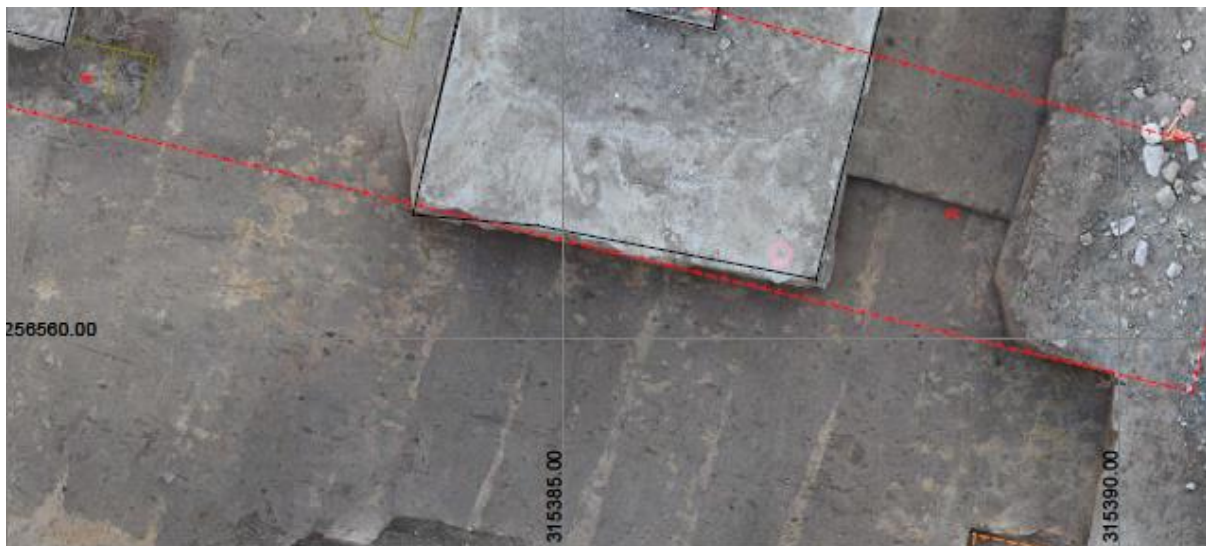


Figure 4.3 Orthophotograph showing the agricultural furrows in Lot 28. North is at the top of the image. (Source: Guy Hazell for GML)



Figure 4.4 Orthophotograph of hoe marks in the subsoil in Lot 78. (Source: Guy Hazell for GML)

## 4.2 Lot 74 Macquarie Street

The historical Allotment 74 on Macquarie Street is in the southeast corner of the site. The allotment was laid out in c1790–1792 and is recorded as being developed by 1823. Historical records identify Robert Bateman (later changed to Batman) as leasing the lot in 1823. Bateman arrived in the colony as a young child with his parents; his father was a convict. Archaeological evidence associated with his ownership, and potential occupation, of the lot include the remains of a two-room timber cottage, yard deposits and several rubbish pits. The lot had been sold and redeveloped by the mid-1840s. Archaeology associated with the mid to late nineteenth century includes the Parramatta Town Drain, sandstone footings for a large two-storey brick building, outbuildings, underfloor deposits, yard features and deposits. There was evidence of several building phases and multiple phases of levelling and demolition fills between the mid-nineteenth and the mid-twentieth centuries. Around 15,500 artefacts were retrieved from the archaeological deposits associated with domestic occupation of this lot over 100 years or so.



Figure 4.5 Detail from Evans's 1804 survey showing Lot 74 as undeveloped. (Source: The National Archives UK with GML overlay)



Figure 4.6 Detail from Stewart's 1823 plan showing a structure within Lot 74. (Source: State Library of NSW with GML overlay)



Figure 4.7 Detail from Brownrigg's 1844 survey showing a masonry building (as it is shaded) in Lot 74. (Source: SLNSW with GML overlay)

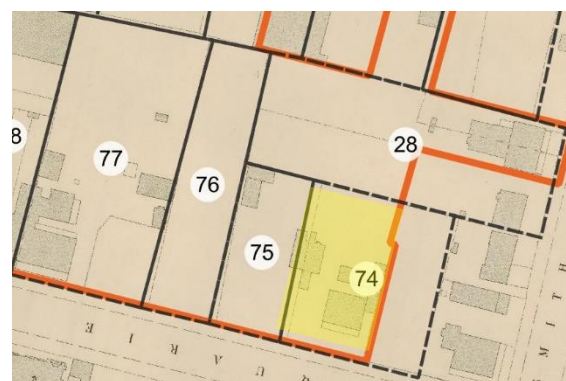


Figure 4.8 Extract from 1895 Parramatta detail survey showing several buildings within Lot 74. (Source: SLNSW with GML overlay)

## 4.2.1 Timber cottage c1810s–1840s

The earliest structure encountered in Lot 74 was a two-room timber cottage that is shown on the 1823 plan of Parramatta. Despite impacts from the mid-nineteenth century and mid-twentieth century buildings, most of the postholes survived and the full extent of the building was uncovered (Figure 4.9 ). The western half of the cottage was better preserved and included remains of an earthen floor, stone fireplace and brick edging that may indicate weatherboard cladding. The eastern half of the cottage had been removed and only the postholes survived.

The construction and two-room layout are similar to a convict hut; however, there are no convict huts recorded in this lot on the 1792 or 1804 plans. It is likely the cottage was constructed in the early 1800s and to an established design using the building materials available to a free settler with limited funds. The remains of a timber outbuilding were identified in the yard behind the cottage. It included postholes, remains of timber baseplates and internal stone flagging. There were no underfloor or occupation deposits surviving within the internal spaces of the cottage. There were several yard deposits, rubbish pits and historical topsoil layers that contained early nineteenth-century artefacts likely associated with the occupants of this cottage.

It is possible that at least part of the cottage was retained and incorporated into the more substantial sandstone and brick house built on the lot by the mid-nineteenth century.

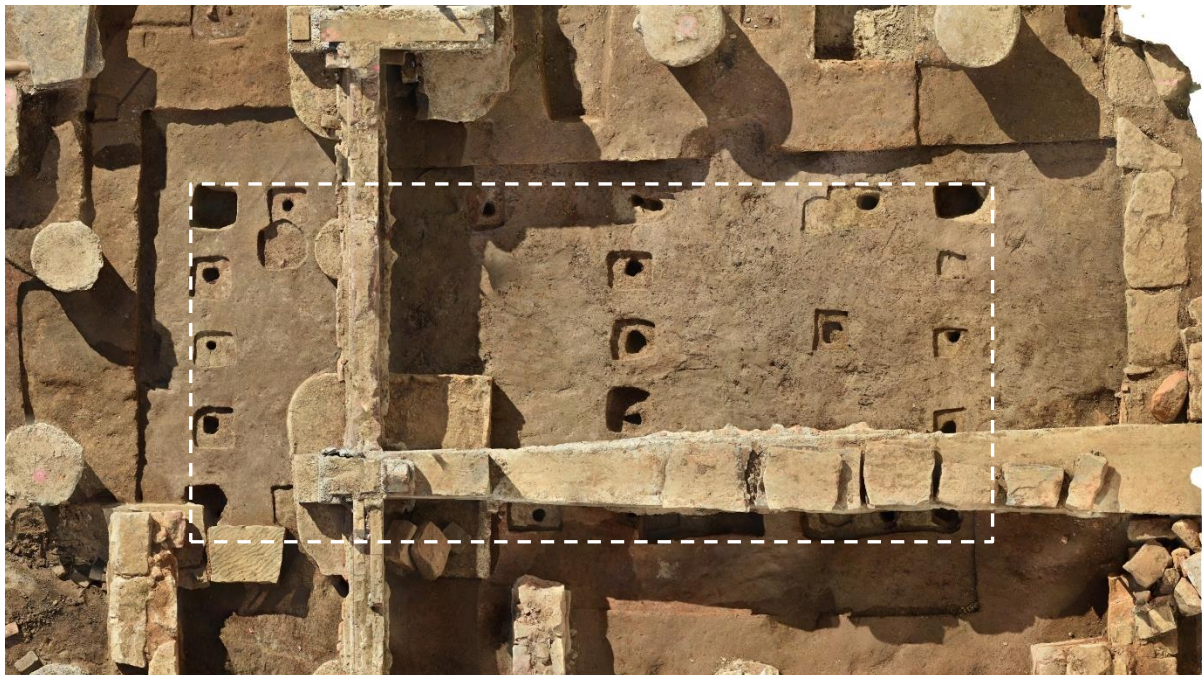


Figure 4.9 Orthophotograph showing the postholes from an early nineteenth-century timber cottage in Lot 74 (dashed white line). The postholes are visible beneath the later twentieth-century concrete footings. North is at the top of the image. (Source: Guy Hazell for GML)



Figure 4.10 Remains of an early nineteenth-century outbuilding behind the cottage in Lot 74. The dark staining in the foreground is the remains of a western wall timber baseplate. The white dashed lines mark the building footprint. Photograph is taken looking east. Scale is 1m.

## 4.2.2 Town Drain 1840s onwards

The Parramatta Town Drain (also referred to as the Parramatta Convict Drain) cuts diagonally through Lot 74 from southwest to northeast. This section of the drain was built in the early 1840s. It consists of a sandstone box drain with pre-cast concrete covers installed in the early twentieth century. Several degraded timber boards were also present as capping on the sandstone drain. It is unclear if the timbers are original or a later addition associated with the concrete cover modifications.

Four test trenches were excavated against the drain structure to provide information about its construction and to determine whether it was built into a pre-existing creek or drainage channel. The construction cut was identified in the trenches. A cut was identified in one trench that may be evidence for an earlier channel. Several construction-related backfills and levelling fills were noted abutting the drain structure. A second construction cut was identified for the concrete covers. The internal space contained some fills and sediments; however, these were not excavated.

As the Town Drain remained an active stormwater service until the 1960s it was preserved below the concrete footings of the 1950s building that was constructed on the western half of Lot 74. Substantial concrete beams supported on concrete piles bridged

over the drain, which also made access for machine excavation and archaeological investigations around the drain challenging (Figure 4.12).

The archaeological investigation of the Town Drain was limited due to the project approval requirements. Condition D15 requires the drain to be retained in situ. The drain structure and associated archaeological deposits and features within a 2m buffer either side were retained in situ.



Figure 4.11 Orthophotograph of the Town Drain showing the timber and concrete capping. Several concrete beams were erected to support the 1950s office buildings. (Source: Guy Hazell for GML)



Figure 4.12 The portion of the Town Drain recovered during archaeological investigations of Lot 74. It shows the early twentieth-century concrete covers and substantial mid-twentieth century concrete beams over the drain. The photograph is taken looking southwest towards Macquarie Street. Scale is 1m.

### 4.2.3 Sandstone and brick house c1850s–1950s

The site was redeveloped in the mid-nineteenth century and the timber cottage was replaced with a substantial two-storey sandstone and brick building set back from the street frontage. The building was constructed in two main phases, with multiple verandah upgrades and additions in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. In the late

nineteenth and twentieth century it is recorded as a boarding house. It was demolished in the 1950s and the lot was redeveloped again in the 1970s.



Figure 4.13 The sandstone footings of the substantial two-storey brick house built by the 1850s in Lot 74. The front verandah comprised brick footings and sandstone paving. The archaeology was impacted by concrete footings, piles and beams of the two-storey office building developed on the lot in the 1970s. Photograph taken looking northwest. Scale is 1m.

The first phase of construction was of a rectangular building with two rooms either side of a central hallway. The sandstone footings were bonded with an orange sand and shell mortar. The precise construction date is unclear, and our current understanding is that it was built between the 1830s and the mid-1850s. The building was extended to the rear, adding a further three ground floor rooms. There were several phases of verandah structures at the front of the building facing Macquarie Street, and another was added to the western side in the early twentieth century.

The northward-sloping site was levelled with imported fills at the initial construction stage and on several other occasions as the building was modified or extended. This build-up and consolidation of the ground facilitated the survival of archaeological deposits. Several phases of construction debris, underfloor deposits and demolition fills were present in all rooms. Internal drainage systems and levelling fills suggest the property had damp issues. Several phases of paving, yard deposits and levelling fills were present at the rear of the building. The underfloor and yard deposits contained thousands of artefacts associated with the 100-or-so years of this house's occupants. The abundance of sewing and clothing related artefacts suggest a seamstress or tailor worked from the house during the latter half of the nineteenth century.



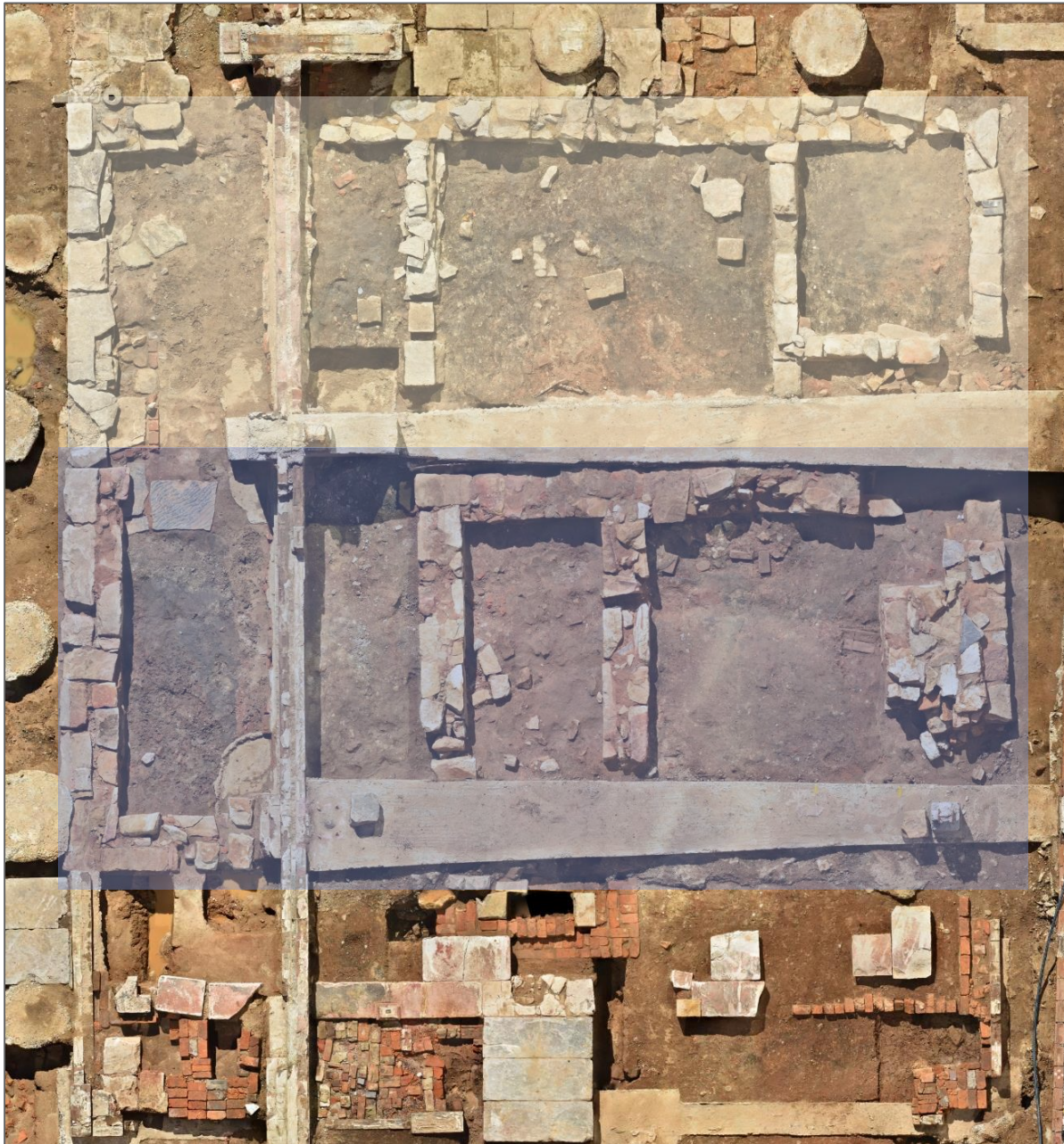


Figure 4.14 Orthophotograph showing the archaeology of the c1850s–1950s house in Lot 74. The first-phase construction is highlighted with blue shading. The extension to the rear is highlighted with grey shading. There was a front verandah with a sandstone-flagged path leading to Macquarie Street. North is to the top of the image. (Source: Guy Hazell for GML)



Figure 4.15 Example of small artefacts from within the Lot 74 house including pins, eyelets, buttons, buckles, beads, smoking-pipe fragments and marbles dating to around the mid-nineteenth century. Scale in 1cm increments.



Figure 4.16 Selection of artefacts from a rubbish dump in the backyard of Lot 74 including personal items such as the comb and toothbrush.

#### 4.2.4 Outbuildings and yards c1850s–1950s

A substantial outbuilding was located to the rear of the main house. It was a rectangular single-storey two-room building constructed with sandstone footings, brick and sandstone internal paving. It was likely built in the late nineteenth century and may have been a washroom and laundry. Remains of a stables or shed was located on the western lot boundary. The building had sandstock brick footings with an internal partition wall and evidence of later repairs using sandstone. A cesspit backfilled in the late nineteenth century adjoined the stables on the northern side. All outbuildings had been substantially impacted by the later twentieth-century redevelopments.

Yard spaces were located to the north and west of the main house. Archaeological features included multiple phases of rubbish pits and spreads containing artefacts, potholes from boundary fences, pet burials, other cuts and fills of unknown function, garden bed deposits and edging, historical and modified topsoils, and levelling fills. The original nineteenth-century yard spaces were also substantially impacted by the 1950s and 1970s development. Archaeological investigations of the yard spaces were limited by the presence of contaminated fills in some areas.



Figure 4.17 Orthophotograph showing the remains of the brick building (likely stables) and cesspit on the western side of Lot 74. The building is outlined with a white dashed line and the yellow arrow notes the remains of the internal partition wall. Most of the building and cesspit had been impacted by twentieth-century development. The image is orientated with east at the top and north to the left. (Source: Guy Hazell for GML)



Figure 4.18 Selection of artefacts from the Lot 74 cesspit. Preliminary review provides a late nineteenth-century date for the backfilling. Scale in 1cm increments.

## 4.4 Lot 75 Macquarie Street

Allotment 75 on Macquarie Street is not recorded as being developed until the 1820s. The cottage illustrated on the 1823 plan is associated with John Thorn, who is the first person recorded as leasing the lot. However, it is unclear whether Thorn ever lived here, as he had several other leases in Parramatta at the time. Thorn was born in Parramatta and became the chief constable in Parramatta, a juror and bailiff.

Archaeological evidence of Thorn’s first development of the lot comprises the remains of a timber cottage and water management features. The cottage was replaced with a larger and more substantial L-shaped brick building with sandstone footings in the 1830s–1840s. The occupant is recorded as Mr Jaimeson in the 1840s. Archaeology associated with the mid-nineteenth century occupation includes the building footings, remains of a stable and coach house, rubbish dumps and fills containing artefacts, and several phases of drainage features.

By the end of the nineteenth century the house had been demolished and the lot was sold to John Taylor in 1904. A large house, ‘Hollingarthe’, was built in the early twentieth century, and its archaeological remains were limited to levelling and yard fills. The lot was redeveloped in the 1960s, and several large concrete footings and pad footings impacted the archaeology.

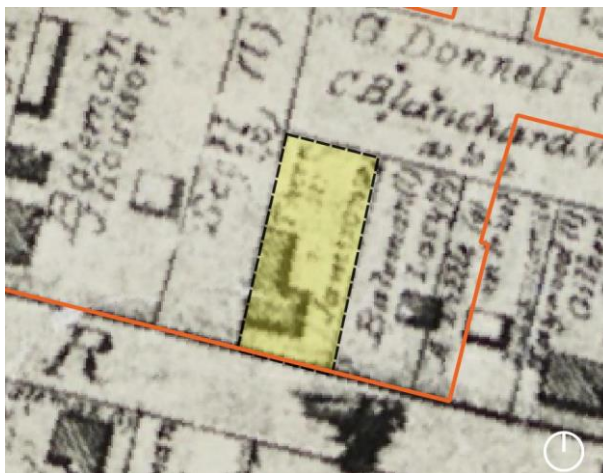


Figure 4.19 Brownrigg’s 1844 plan showing the L-shaped brick building in Lot 75. (Source: SLNSW with GML overlay)



Figure 4.20 The 1894 survey of Lot 75 showing the lot following demolition of the main house with the stables (top left) and coach house (right). (Source: NSW Land Registry Services, Crown Plan 191-750)

#### 4.4.2 Timber cottage c1810s–1830s

The timber cottage was set back from Macquarie Street in alignment with the cottage on Lot 74. The western half of the cottage was removed by a substantial pile cut (Figure 4.22, Figure 4.21). Based on the surviving postholes the cottage appears to have consisted of a single room, measuring 4.5m by 3m. A brick chimney and fireplace were built at the centre of the northern wall. There was no evidence to suggest that the structure continued further west, and a brick drain thought to be contemporary with the cottage would have limited its eastern extent. The absence of clay fills associated with the postholes, a common indication on other sites of wattle and daub walls, suggests the building was clad in weatherboard. There were no occupation deposits found in association with the postholes and few artefact deposits associated with this phase. A sandstock brick box drain cut diagonally through Lot 75 is associated with this initial development phase. The cottage was replaced by the early 1830s.



Figure 4.21 The remains of the small timber-framed cottage in Lot 75 and on Macquarie Street in the 1820s. The archaeology was impacted in the twentieth century by concrete pad footings. Photograph taken looking northwest. Scale is 1m.



Figure 4.22 Orthophotograph showing the postholes, brick chimney and fireplace, and brick box drain associated with the c1810s–1830s occupation in Lot 75. (Source: Guy Hazell for GML)

## Water storage

Between the cottage and Macquarie Street were two large pits cutting into the natural soils. The pits were approximately 1.8m by 1.6m and appeared to be connected by a series of channels that ran from Macquarie Street into the western pit, between the two pits, and southeast from the eastern pit towards the adjoining lot and the future location of the Town Drain (Figure 4.23). The function of these pits is not currently known, and further analysis and research may provide additional information and interpretations. The pits were unlined and did not contain any residues or deposits that may indicate an industrial function, such as tanning. The pits may be related to attempts at clay/sand extraction for building materials or may have served as water storage before the well was built. Soil samples have been taken from the base of the pits that may shed light on their function.

Northwest of the cottage was the partial remains a brick-lined well, half of which was removed by a modern sewer trench (Figure 4.24). The well was constructed from sandstock bricks and its location in relation to the later L-shaped 1830s building suggests it pre-dated this and was associated with the cottage phase. However, there is some evidence suggesting the L-shaped building was constructed in two phases and the well may relate to the first phase. The base of the well was not reached because the sewer remains an active Sydney Water asset and approvals were not in place to remove the sewer during the enabling works program. There is potential for further archaeological remains of this well, and associated deposits, below the sewer impact. Further site investigations will be required to determine whether these deposits and remains are

present, the phasing of the well's construction and whether it is associated with either the cottage or the early 1830s redevelopment of the lot.



Figure 4.23 Two large square pits (white arrows) connected by channels between the cottage (dashed white line) and Macquarie Street (behind the hoarding) may be related to water storage or management in Lot 75 during the c1810s–1830s. Photograph is taken looking west.



Figure 4.24 Remains of the brick-lined well along the western boundary of Lot 74. Photograph taken looking west. Scale is 1m.

### 4.4.3 L-shaped house c1830s–1880s

The small timber cottage was replaced by the early 1830s. The redevelopment consisted of a building that is shown on an 1831 sketch of Lot 75 and is thought to have been constructed in the late 1820s. This sketch suggests the building was initially a rectangular structure and was later extended to form the L-shape building recorded on the 1844 plan. The archaeological evidence also suggests this; however, further detailed analysis of the findings and historical records is needed. The main building facing Macquarie Street was large, measuring 13m × 8m, and constructed with sandstone footings. The internal wall footings had been removed during the demolition stage, but the robbed-out trenches were visible and provide an internal layout plan for the ground floor.

The building had been demolished by the 1890s. There was an absence of demolition material, suggesting that when it was demolished its building materials were sold off or removed from the site. The lack of occupation (underfloor deposits) from this building may be the result of twentieth-century development—the footings were capped with a large quantity of clay fill that contained a mix of nineteenth and twentieth century artefacts, and occupation deposits may have been mixed in during this levelling event. At the rear of the building was a gravel yard over which artefact-rich deposits had accumulated.



Figure 4.25 The sandstone footings of the L-shaped building constructed in the late 1820s–1830s in Lot 75. Photograph is taken looking northwest across the building footprint. The concrete piles and footings are from the 1970s redevelopment.





Figure 4.26 Orthophotograph showing the sandstone footings of the L-shaped building in Lot 75. The building was constructed in the late 1820s or early 1830s and it was extended by the mid-1840s. (Source: Guy Hazell for GML)

#### 4.4.4 Coach house, stable and yard

Remains of the coach house and stables shown on the 1894 survey (Figure 4.20) were uncovered during the excavation. Although not shown on earlier plans, these structures are thought to have been constructed around the same time as the L-shaped building.

The coach house was situated along the eastern boundary of Lot 75 (Figure 4.27). It had been heavily impacted by concrete footings of the 1970s building, with the northern half of the building completely removed. Postholes marking the southwest corner of the building survived, along with remains of an earthen floor and part of an internal brick wall. The gravel surface at the rear of the L-shaped building abutted the western wall of the coach house, which supports the idea that these buildings were contemporary.

Only the middle section of the stables was found at the rear of Lot 75, the rest of the building having been removed by a modern sewer trench and the carpark footings. The building was constructed with sandstone footings and machine-made brick walls (Figure 4.28). The bricks suggest the building was constructed in the later nineteenth century, although this may also be a renovation to an earlier structure. A crushed sandstone surface covered the yard space to the east of the building. This structure was poorly preserved, which limited the interpretation of the structure's layout. A row of three postholes below the later masonry structure may indicate the existence of an earlier timber building.



Figure 4.27 Postholes from a timber-framed building that is interpreted as the coach house were identified along the eastern boundary of Lot 75. Photograph is taken looking south. Scale is 500mm.



Figure 4.28 Looking south at the remains of the stable, showing the poor level of preservation. The circular feature is a sewer manhole. Scale is 1m.

The northern half of Lot 75 was reasonably intact and preserved a natural soil profile below the modern fills. A fence line indicated by a row of postholes was found close to the boundary with Lot 76. Several other postholes may be part of small timber sheds or garden features. Rubbish pits and dumps were also present.



Figure 4.29 Looking southeast across the rear yard in Lot 75 at the end of machine excavation. Scale is 1m.

## 4.5 Lot 76 Macquarie Street

There is no recorded development of Allotment 76 until the 1820s when it was leased to William Scott, a convict who arrived in 1805. Scott was identified as a labourer on the 1828 census. There was a small building recorded on the 1823 plan and Scott and his family are likely to have lived here during the 1820s and 1830s. The 1844 plan does not record a building on the lot; however, there is a house illustrated there on the 1855 plan. The lot was sold to James Houison in 1858. The house was demolished by the 1870s–1880s and it remained undeveloped until the early twentieth century. The twentieth-century developments had a significant impact and only localised areas of archaeology survived. Archaeological evidence included remains of the early nineteenth-century timber cottage and several rear yard features in the northern half of the lot.



Figure 4.30 The archaeology of Lot 76 had been impacted by twentieth-century development. This view across the lot and towards Macquarie Street shows sand-filled footing trenches from the 1930s apartment building and the land cut down to natural soils.

### 4.5.1 Timber cottage c1810s–1870s

The two-room weatherboard timber cottage was located close to the western boundary of the lot and measured 7.5m by 4m (Figure 4.31). The sandstone footings of a chimney were located on the western side wall. Remains of two brick thresholds—one to the front and one to the rear—were present. An artefact-rich deposit surrounding the front threshold contained clay smoking pipes, buttons and other items relating to the occupants of the cottage in the early nineteenth century. Within the cottage, linear impressions in the historical topsoil represented the floor joists. There was also evidence the cottage had a front verandah. The cottage lasted for many years and the archaeology may represent several phases of repairs and adaptation.

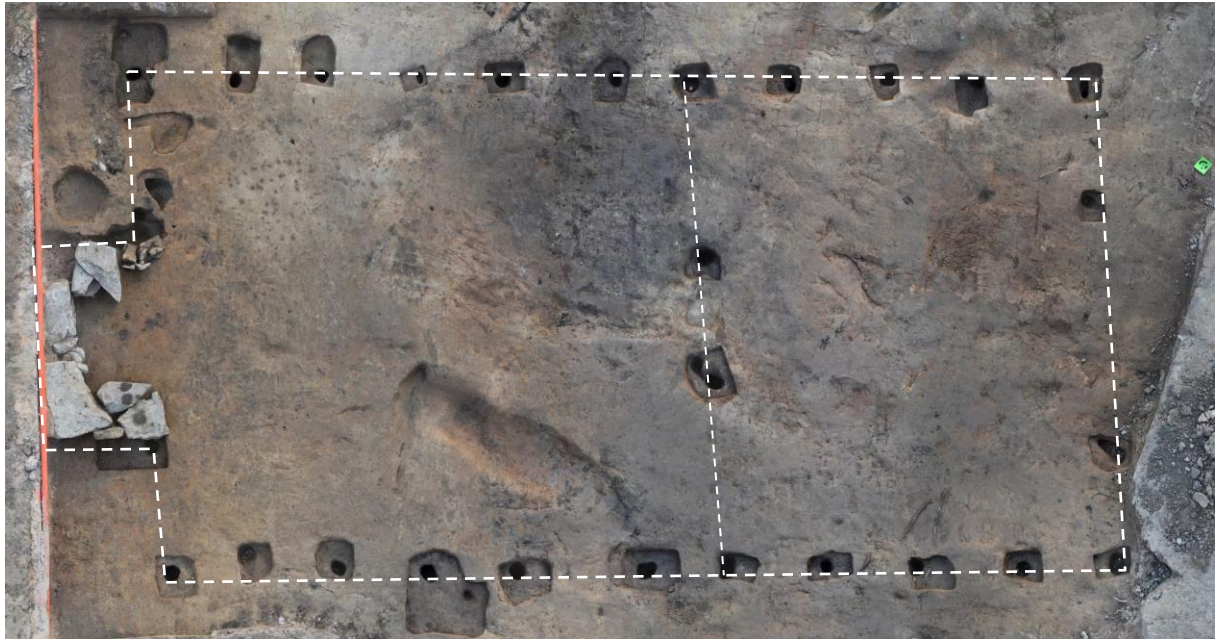


Figure 4.31 Orthophotograph showing the postholes for the timber-framed cottage built in c1810s in Lot 76. The sandstone footings of the chimney are on the western side wall. (Source: Guy Hazell for GML)

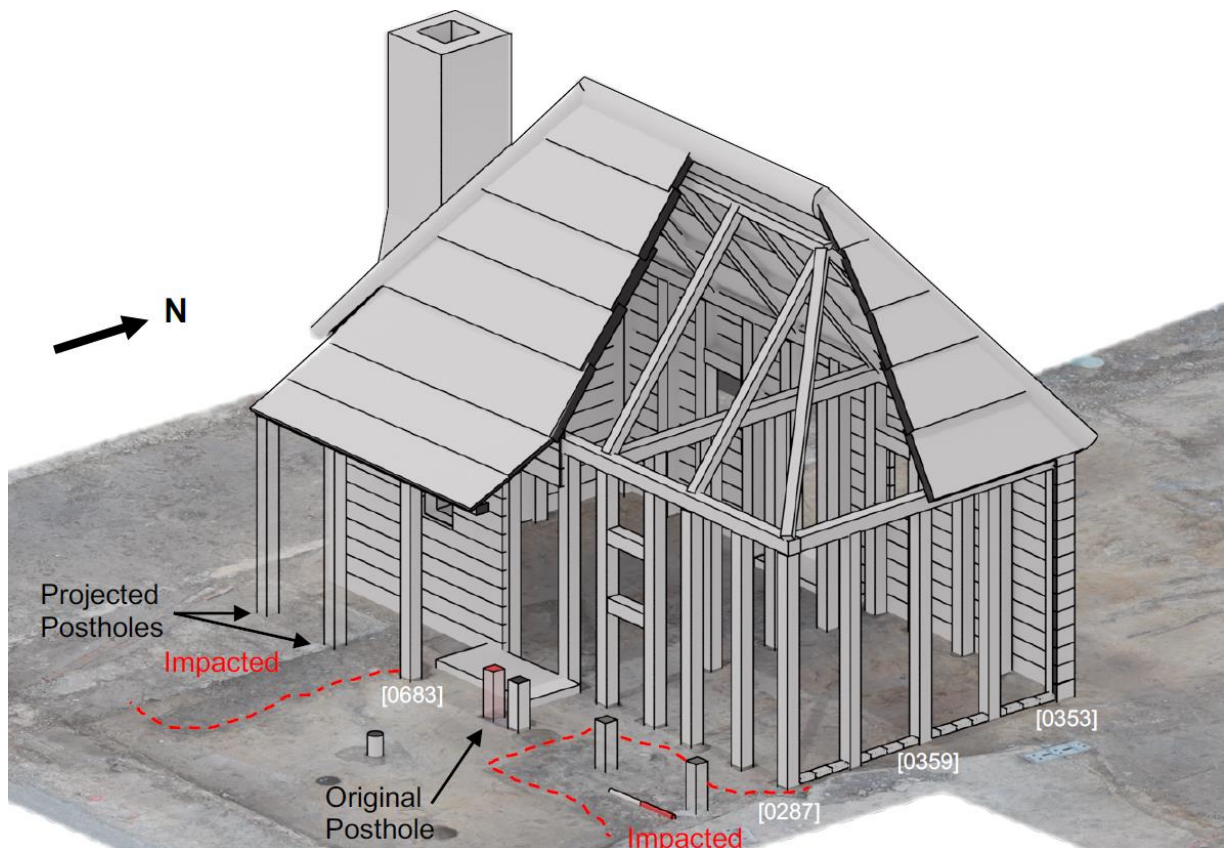


Figure 4.32 Preliminary reconstruction of the cottage using the archaeological data and historical depictions of contemporary structures in Parramatta.



Figure 4.33 Artefacts from the front threshold of the cottage in Lot 76.

## 4.5.2 Yard

Historical maps and aerial photographs depict the lot as largely undeveloped. Later twentieth-century impacts truncated and impacted the rear yard. As a result, relatively few archaeological features and deposits were present.



Figure 4.34 Looking southwest across the rear yard of Lot 76. Few features were identified, which is consistent with the documented history of this property. Scale is 1m.

## 4.6 Lot 77 Macquarie Street

Allotment 77 was leased to William Bateman (later changed to Batman), who arrived as a convict in 1797 with his wife and two children. The Batman family lived at the Macquarie Street property for many years. The 1804 plan records a small building to the rear of the lot; however, no archaeological evidence of this structure survived the twentieth-century development impacts. A larger L-shaped building is recorded in the centre of the lot on the 1823 plan. Several rubbish pits containing early nineteenth-century artefacts represent the only archaeology associated with the Batman family occupation.

The lot was granted to James Houison, who built a large house, *Kia Ora*, with a detached kitchen and stables in the early 1840s. Houison was a prominent local builder, architect, and public figure in the mid-late nineteenth century. The family lived there until 1865 and after this the property was rented to various tenants. The main house *Kia Ora* still exists in this lot today. The remains of several buildings and features associated with the latter half of the nineteenth century were present. Further analysis during the post-excavation stage may differentiate between the archaeology associated with Houison's occupation and that of the later tenants.

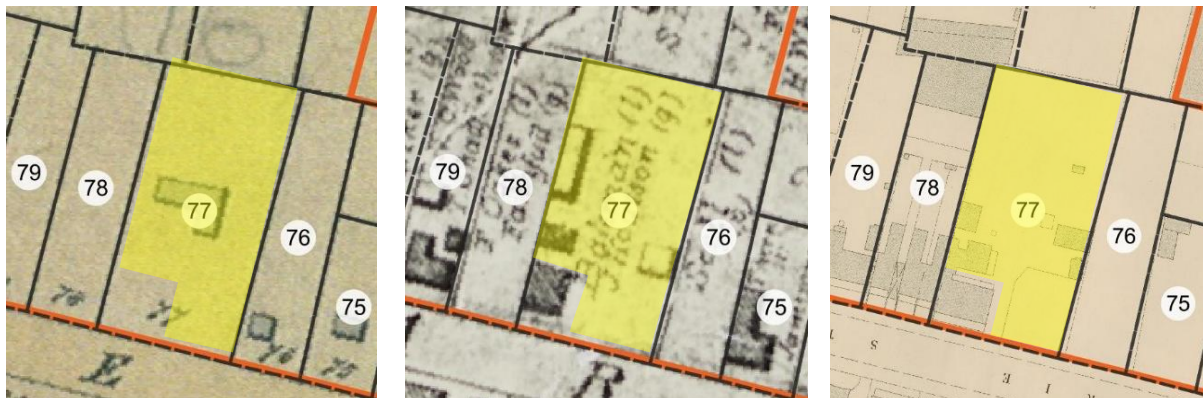


Figure 4.35 Sequence of historical plans—1823, 1844 and 1895—illustrating the nineteenth-century development of Lot 77. The building in the southwest corner on the 1844 and 1895 plans is the heritage-listed *Kia Ora*, built by James Houison. The yellow shading indicates the portion of Lot 77 within the archaeological excavation area. (Source: SLNSW with GML overlay)

### 4.6.1 Cottage and outbuilding c1840s–1930s

Remains of two buildings illustrated on the 1895 plan were found within the central portion of the lot, on the eastern side. The first structure comprised sandstone and brick footings with remains of a brick chimney and fireplace on the northern (back) wall. Overlays with the historical plans suggest these remains are part of the small building illustrated on the 1844 and 1895 plan and associated with Houison's development and occupation. However, the construction date is unclear at this stage, and they may be

remnants of an earlier building associated with William Batman’s occupation. The evidence suggests the building was a one-room cottage. The 1930s sale notice for the property include images of a cottage reported to be the Batmans’ original house. The remains of the second building consisted of sandstone footings, a robbed-out wall trench and postholes. There were no occupation deposits or artefacts from within the building.



Figure 4.36 Sandstock brick and sandstone footings of a small one-room cottage with a brick hearth in Lot 77. Photograph taken looking south towards Macquarie Street. Scale is 1m.

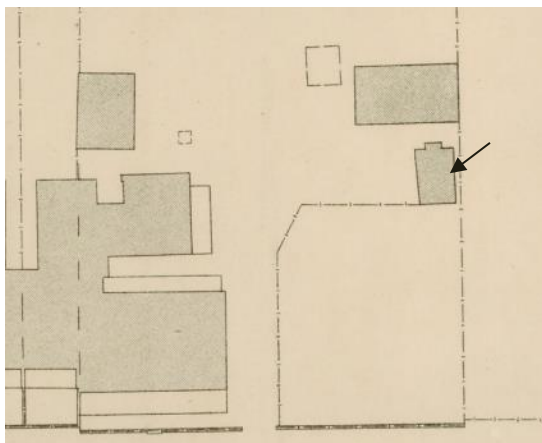


Figure 4.37 Small cottage with a chimney on the northern side depicted on the 1895 plan. (Source: SLNSW)



Figure 4.38 William Batman’s residence, Macquarie Street, Parramatta. (Source: State Library Victoria)



## 4.6.2 Garden and yard

A large circular cut with sandstone edging was located close to Kia Ora. This feature may be the remains of an ornamental garden bed or possibly a fountain. It was backfilled with material containing a relatively large quantity of butchered animal bone. Lines of postholes provide evidence for the boundary fence with John Thorn’s property to the east (Lot 76). Remains of a sandstock brick dish drain and box drain to the rear of the houses were also present; however, the features were significantly impacted by later twentieth-century development. Remnant historical, modified topsoil was present in localised areas in the rear yard and northern half of the lot. The base of several furrows could be identified. Remains of several rubbish pits containing artefacts were also present.



Figure 4.39 Row of posthole from the boundary fence between Lots 77 and 76. Photograph taken looking south towards Macquarie Street.



Figure 4.40 Remains of a sandstock brick box drain in the rear yard of Lot 77. Photograph taken looking west. Scale is 1m.



Figure 4.41 The rear yard of Lot 77 had been truncated by twentieth-century development and only localised patches of historical topsoil and the bases of agricultural furrows were present. Photograph taken looking northwest.

## 4.7 Lot 78 Macquarie Street

Allotment 78 was leased to Francis Oakes in 1823. Oakes was a free settler who was a shoemaker and missionary before arriving in 1798. He held various public office roles in Parramatta and was also a farmer in the early nineteenth century. He did not develop the lot and it was granted to William Faithfull in 1838. Faithfull was also a free settler, involved in the military and farming. It passed through several owners before being purchased by Robert Ritchie in 1880. Ritchie consolidated it with his ironworks on George Street and created two street frontages for his business.

### 4.7.1 Shed and yard c1880s–1950s

There was no recorded development until after it became part of Ritchie’s ironworks. Several buildings were recorded on the 1895 plan—the northern half of the lot contained a large workshop and the southern half had been subdivided and redeveloped with terraces. However, twentieth-century impacts—a substantial basement, lift pit and stairwell, pad footings and road structure—truncated most of this lot to the basal clay. A narrow strip between pad footings contained patches of archaeological deposit with several postholes and concrete surfacing. The postholes and concrete surface may be the remains of the Ritchie’s ironworks buildings or a later twentieth-century warehouse and yard surface.



Figure 4.42 Looking south across Lot 78 towards Macquarie Street. The arrow indicates the narrow area of archaeology that survived the later twentieth-century development impacts.

## 4.8 Lot 28 Smith Street

Allotment 28 was leased to Hugh O’Donnell, a free settler, in 1823. A small cottage is recorded fronting Smith Street on the 1823 plan. It is likely that O’Donnell and his family lived here until the 1830s when the property was tenanted. There are two buildings fronting Smith Street recorded on the 1844 plan. Various tenants are associated with the property throughout the nineteenth century, including Betsy McSorley in the 1860s. It was subdivided and redeveloped in the 1880s. The rear yard of Lot 28 was within the archaeological excavation area. Historical plans do not record any structures in the rear yard during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The archaeology had been impacted by the late twentieth-century carpark pad footings. However, there were areas of intact historical and modified topsoil deposits containing agricultural furrows and hoe marks, rubbish pits, postholes from timber-framed structures and boundary fences. The lot’s use for rubbish dumping was mostly from the late nineteenth to mid-twentieth century.

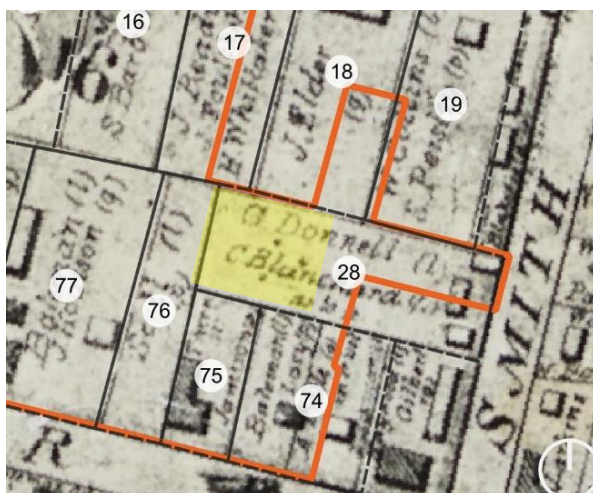


Figure 4.43 Detail from Brownrigg’s 1844 plan showing the rear yard of Lot 28 within the enabling works excavation (yellow shading). (Source: SLNSW with GML overlay)



Figure 4.44 Detail from 1943 aerial photograph showing the rear yards of the two Lot 28 subdivisions within the enabling works excavation (yellow shading). (Source: SIX Maps with GML overlay)

### 4.8.1 Outbuildings and fences

Multiple phases and arrangements of postholes were found within the garden soil layers, the historical topsoils and cutting the natural subsoil (A<sub>2</sub> horizon). Postholes from several lightweight timber-framed buildings were present. Further analysis is needed to understand the phasing and function of these structures. However, they likely relate to domestic use and could be remains of chicken coops and sheds in the rear garden of the Smith Street properties. Some postholes may also relate to cultivation, garden beds and

kitchen garden features. The lines of postholes likely represent property and subdivision boundaries created during the nineteenth century.



Figure 4.45 Orthophotograph showing the northern subdivision of Lot 28 containing numerous postholes and large rubbish pits. The postholes may be remains of lightweight timber-framed garden structures, such as sheds, chicken coops, and frames for plantings or garden beds.

## 4.8.2 Rubbish pits

Several large rubbish pits and dumps were present in the backyards of both Lot 28 subdivisions. The northern subdivision contained the most intact rubbish dumping related features and the largest quantity of artefacts overall. The rubbish dumping events span the late nineteenth to mid-twentieth century. There were large quantities of metal and glass artefacts, and the preliminary interpretation of the assemblages is that the rubbish dumping relates to commercial activities rather than domestic. Rubbish dumps containing large numbers of early to mid-twentieth century artefacts are not common in Parramatta archaeological sites. The assemblages from the rubbish pits will be a focus for detailed analysis and research.



Figure 4.46 Example of a rubbish pit from Lot 28 that contained a large quantity of glass prior to excavation. Scale is 500mm.



Figure 4.47 Section through a rubbish pit from Lot 28 during excavation. Scale is 500mm.



Figure 4.48 Artefacts from a large rubbish pit in the backyard of the Lot 28 northern subdivision.

## 4.9 Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> Archaeological excavation results from Parramatta Square (Casey & Lowe).

## 5 Further analysis and reporting

The historical archaeological collection from the enabling works site includes a large quantity of data, artefacts, and environmental samples. It is a significant archaeological resource with extensive research potential. It is expected to provide new information about the evolution and development pattern of New South Wales and Parramatta, and new insights into daily life during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The archaeology may also illustrate changes in the environment, from both cultural and natural forces, during those early years of the colony in the late eighteenth to early nineteenth century.

This report provides a high-level overview of the key findings from the excavation. Much more detailed analysis of the archaeology and artefacts is now required to prepare the excavation results reporting to comply with condition D28. The ARDEM 2021 provides the framework for the analysis and reporting. The scope for the post-excavation analysis and reporting stage is outlined in the sections below.

### 5.1 Research themes

Historical archaeological research themes, and a corresponding set of questions, for the project are identified in the ARDEM 2021. The archaeology from the enabling works site can contribute to all themes and these are:

- environment and the colonial landscape
- contact and interaction between Aboriginal people and the colonists
- convicts and free settlers
- urbanisation of Parramatta
- improvement, waste management and pollution
- commerce and economies
- industry and manufacturing
- material culture.

The research themes and questions will be refined during the post-excavation analysis stage. It is not intended that detailed responses to all research questions posed in the ARDEM 2021 would be prepared and included in the enabling works report, as it is one stage of a larger archaeological project.

## 5.2 Post-excavation analysis

Detailed archaeological analysis and research is needed to respond to the research design established in the ARDEM 2021 and to prepare the excavation results report required for condition D28. The post-excavation analysis includes the following:

- Preparing technical trench reports that provide detailed descriptions of the archaeological features, deposits and stratigraphic relationships with interpretations and discussions of findings. It is anticipated that seven detailed trench reports would be prepared by the area supervisors and excavation directors.
- Digitising the measured drawings made during the fieldwork and preparing phased detailed plans interpreting the archaeology in each lot and the overall site.
- Preparing phased orthophotographs and survey drawings, and creating illustrations and overlays that interpret the archaeology, historical plans and other data using GIS and other geospatial tools.
- Establishing the project’s artefact database (based on the EAMC system) and cataloguing the artefacts by material type—ceramic, glass, metal, animal bone, shell, building materials, miscellaneous small finds and organic materials. The cataloguing will be undertaken by specialists and research assistants. Spatial analysis of the underfloor deposits and artefacts from the grid excavation will also be undertaken.
- Preparing detailed artefact analysis reports, organised by the material types identified above. The artefact analysis reports will also respond to the artefact research priorities and key archaeological contexts identified by the excavation director and artefact specialist.
- Analysis of the soil samples, such as palynology (pollens), soil and geoarchaeology analysis. This work would be undertaken by specialist scientists and archaeologists with expertise in environmental sciences and geoarchaeology. Identifying timber species and analysing wood samples will also be undertaken.
- Undertaking more detailed historical and archaeological research to inform the analysis and interpretation of the archaeology and artefacts. The research will include primary and secondary sources.

During the post-excavation analysis stage, the following would also be undertaken:

- Digitising all the site registers—contexts, photographs, plans, samples and structures.
- Preparing the photograph contact sheets and site archive.
- Identifying archaeological material and artefacts that could be used for interpretation, such as displays and reconstructions, within the new development.

- Identifying which archaeological materials and artefacts should be reviewed by a specialist conservator to provide advice for long-term storage and interpretation displays.

## 5.3 Reporting

The final report for the enabling works historical archaeological excavation will be prepared in several volumes. The report will include a synthesis of the post-excavation analysis, research, technical and specialist reports. It will include:

- a plain English summary of the archaeological findings
- an overview of the archaeological investigation program and methodology
- historical background, including additional primary or secondary source research if required
- a synthesis and discussion of the archaeological investigation results and response to the research questions
- illustrations including photographs, scale drawings and interpretive graphics
- a reassessment of archaeological significance and the further research potential of the archaeological collection
- details of the archaeological collection repository, long-term management and access.

Technical and specialist reports, conservation review outcomes, detailed site plans and survey drawings, context and site registers, artefacts and samples catalogues, site photograph contact sheets and scanned context records will be included as appendices or in separate volumes.

A final volume synthesising the results and presenting the archaeological findings and research outcomes from the entire site will be prepared once all other stages of excavation, post-excavation analysis and reports are complete.