

Lindfield Library Site, Lindfield

Historical Archaeological Assessment

Report prepared for SJB Urban on behalf of Ku-ring-gai Council

June 2015



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Report Register


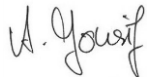
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The report has been reviewed and approved for issue in accordance with the GML quality assurance policy and procedures.

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Cover image source: Ku-ring-gai Historical Society, 1890s view of Coleman's Grocery Store on Lane Cove Road, Lindfield.

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 Background

GML Heritage Pty Ltd (GML) has been engaged by SJB Urban on behalf of Ku-ring-gai Council to prepare a historical archaeological assessment (HAA) of the Lindfield Library Site located at 259–271 Pacific Highway, Lindfield (hereafter referred to as the ‘site’ or ‘study area’).

This report has been prepared in response to the project brief (RFQ 005–2015) requiring that an archaeological investigation of the former well be undertaken as part of the site analysis. In order to understand the context of the well as part of the site, this report includes historical research and assessment of the archaeological potential and values for the whole site.

The HAA is required to inform a concept design for the potential development of the site. The report evaluates the site’s potential to contain a historical archaeological resource and assesses its heritage significance. The report also identifies historical archaeological constraints and opportunities and provides recommendations for the management of the potential resource.

This report has been prepared as a stand-alone document suitable for submission to any relevant government authorities.

1.2 Site Location

The study area is located on the eastern side of the Pacific Highway, between Strickland Avenue and Beaconsfield Parade (Figure 1.1). It borders the Pacific Highway at street level and slopes down towards the train line at the eastern boundary, and is contained within Lot 8 in DP 660564 and Lots 1, 2 and 3 in DP 212617 (Figure 1.2).

The site is currently occupied by the Lindfield Branch Library (Lot 8 in DP 660564), the Ku-ring-gai Youth Development Service (KYDS) centre (Lot 8 in DP 660564), the Lindfield Community Centre tennis courts and sun shelter (Lot 8 in DP 660564), a carpark (Lot 1 in DP 212617) and a number of community facilities and residential units (Lot 8 in DP 660564, Lots 2 and 3 in DP 212617) (Figure 1.3).

1.3 Proposed Development

In 2014 Elton Consulting prepared the Lindfield Community Facilities Study¹, which provided guidance for Ku-ring-gai Council in the planning, design and delivery of community facilities in Lindfield, including a new library, village green and multipurpose community centre. Council has begun drafting plans for the community infrastructure of the new Lindfield Community Hub on the western side of the Pacific Highway and the Lindfield Village Green on the eastern side of the Pacific Highway, north of the study area. Ku-ring-gai Council propose to plan and construct a new library and future public community infrastructure on the new Lindfield Community Hub site.

The existing Lindfield Library site is subject to a separate planning process, currently in the pre–design stage in the preliminary investigative stages, to determine its highest and best use. Part of the project will comprise the reclassification of the site from Community Land to Operational Land and an increase to the maximum floor space ratio. The proposed development will be residential, with a variety of retail and office spaces to be provided on the ground floor.

1.4 Statutory Context

The study area is not listed on any heritage registers and it does not border any heritage-listed sites or conservation areas. In NSW archaeological remains and heritage items are afforded statutory protection under:

- the *Heritage Act 1977* (NSW) (Heritage Act);
- the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NSW) (NPW Act); and
- the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (the EPA Act).

1.4.1 Heritage Act 1977 (NSW)

The Heritage Act is a statutory tool designed to conserve the environmental heritage of NSW. It is used to regulate the impacts of development on the state's heritage assets. The Heritage Act defines a heritage item as 'a place, building, work, relic, moveable object or precinct'. To assist in management of the state's heritage assets, the Heritage Act distinguishes between items of local and state heritage significance.

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

Specifically for archaeology the Act defines a 'relic' as any deposit, object or material evidence that:

- (a) relates to the settlement of the area that comprises New South Wales, not being Aboriginal settlement; and*
- (b) is of State or Local heritage significance.*

Sections 139–145 of the Heritage Act prevent the excavation of a relic, except in accordance with an excavation permit (or an exception from the need for a permit) issued by the Heritage Council of New South Wales. Section 139[1] of the Heritage Act states that:

A person must not disturb or excavate any land knowing or having reasonable cause to suspect that the disturbance or excavation will or is likely to result in a relic being discovered, exposed, moved, damaged or destroyed unless the disturbance or excavation is carried out in accordance with an excavation permit.

This report considers whether the study area has the potential to contain archaeological remains that would be considered 'relics' under the Heritage Act.

1.4.2 National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 (NSW)

The NPW Act provides statutory protection for all Aboriginal 'objects' (which consist of any material evidence of the Indigenous occupation of NSW) and 'Aboriginal places' (areas of cultural significance to the Aboriginal community) under Section 86 of the NPW Act.

The NPW Act defines an Aboriginal object as:

any deposit, object or material evidence (not being a handicraft made for sale) relating to the Aboriginal habitation of the area that comprises New South Wales, being habitation before or concurrent with (or both) the occupation of that area by persons of non-Aboriginal extraction, and includes Aboriginal remains.

Aboriginal objects and places are afforded automatic statutory protection in NSW whereby it is an offence (without the Minister's consent) to harm an Aboriginal object or declared Aboriginal place.

The definition of 'harm' includes any measures which destroy, deface or damage an Aboriginal object or declared Aboriginal Place or move an Aboriginal object from the land on which it had been situated.

The strict liability offence of harming Aboriginal objects has a number of defences. The two defences relevant to this project include the statutory defence of due diligence through compliance with an adopted industry code of practice (see due diligence below) or compliance with the conditions of an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP).

1.4.3 Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979

The EPA Act is administered by the NSW Department of Planning and Environment and provides for environmental planning instruments to be made to guide the process of development and land use. It provides for the protection of local heritage items and conservation areas through listing on Local Environmental Plans (LEPs) or Regional Environmental Plans (REPs). Heritage items in planning instruments are usually historic sites but can include Aboriginal objects and places. The EPA Act requires that appropriate measures be taken for the management of the potential archaeological resource by means consistent with practices and standards adopted to meet the requirements of the Heritage Act and NPW Act.

Ku-ring-gai Local Environment Plan 2015

The relevant archaeological provisions under the Ku-ring-gai LEP are found under Section 5.10—Heritage conservation:

5.10 Heritage conservation

(4) Effect of proposed development on heritage significance

The consent authority must, before granting consent under this clause in respect of a heritage item or heritage conservation area, consider the effect of the proposed development on the heritage significance of the item or area concerned. This subclause applies regardless of whether a heritage management document is prepared under subclause (5) or a heritage conservation management plan is submitted under subclause (6).

(7) Archaeological sites

The consent authority must, before granting consent under this clause to the carrying out of development on an archaeological site (other than land listed on the State Heritage Register or to which an interim heritage order under the Heritage Act 1977 applies):

(a) notify the Heritage Council of its intention to grant consent, and

(b) take into consideration any response received from the Heritage Council within 28 days after the notice is sent.

The Ku-ring-gai Planning Scheme Ordinance (KPSO) is a legal document that acts in a similar way to the 2015 LEP. It applies to land within Deferred Areas defined by the LEP. There are no Deferred Areas nearby the study area and the KPSO has therefore not been considered further for this study.

1.5 Approach

The report has been prepared in accordance with the following documents:

- NSW Heritage Manual, *Archaeological Assessments* (NSW Heritage Office 1996);
- *Assessing Significance for Historical Archaeological Sites and Relics* (NSW Heritage Branch 2009); and
- *The Australia ICOMOS Burra Charter, 2013* (the Burra Charter).²

The scope of work includes the following tasks:

- collation of existing information on the history of the study area;
- inspection of the proposed development site;
- determination of a preliminary archaeological potential and significance; and
- appropriate mitigation strategy and approval process.

1.6 Limitations

This assessment does not consider built heritage or the Aboriginal cultural heritage values, and Aboriginal archaeological potential of the study area.

No geotechnical information was available for reference during the preparation of this report.

1.7 Authorship

This report has been prepared by Caitlin Dircks, Graduate Consultant, GML. Historical research was undertaken by Michelle Richmond, Senior Consultant, GML. Anita Yousif, Associate, Archaeologist provided input and reviewed the report.

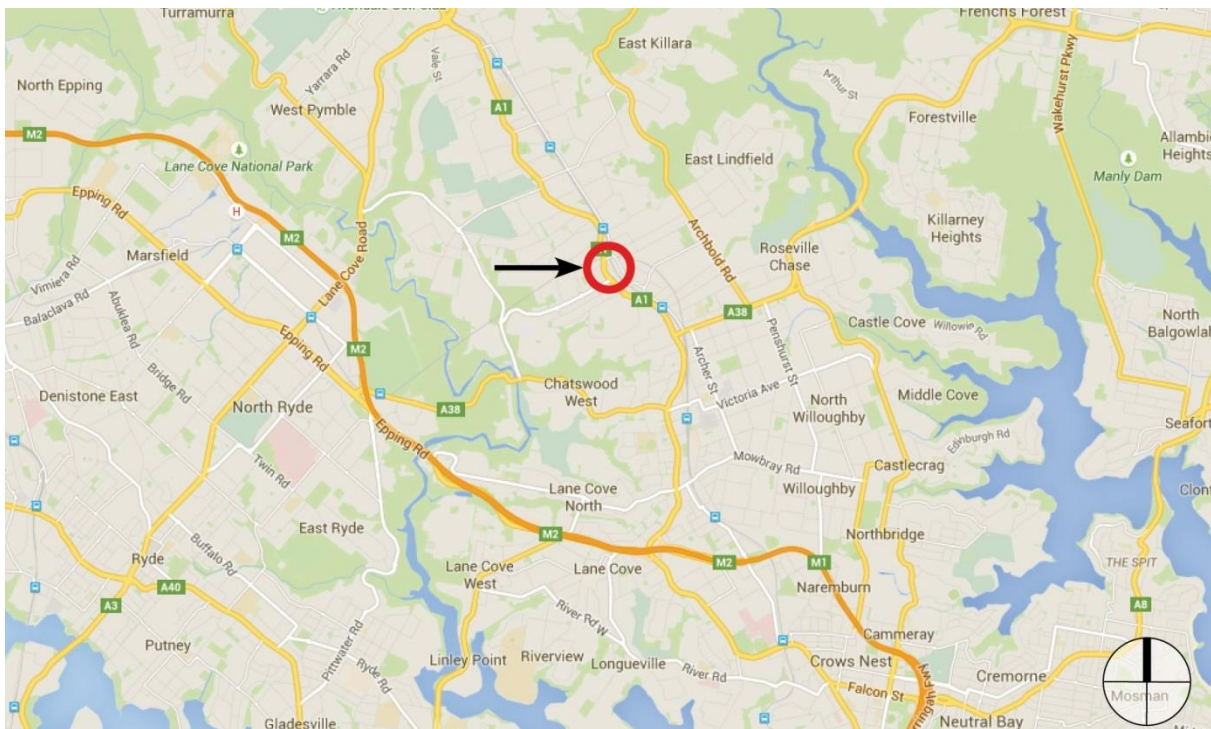


Figure 1.1 General location of the study area. (Source: Google Maps with GML overlay)



Figure 1.2 The Lindfield Library site boundary and also showing DP and lot boundaries. (Source: Google Maps with GML overlay)



Figure 1.3 The Lindfield Library Site showing current facilities. (Source: Google Maps with GML overlay)

1.8 Endnotes

- ¹ Elton Consulting, Lindfield Community Facilities Study, report prepared for Ku-ring-gai Council, April 2014.
- ² Australia ICOMOS Inc, *The Burra Charter: the Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance* 2013, Australia ICOMOS Inc, Burwood, VIC.

2.0 Historical Outline

2.1 Contextual History

2.1.1 Aboriginal History

For thousands of years before the arrival of European settlers, the Guringai (alternate spelling to Ku-ring-gai) people lived in the area from Newcastle down to Sydney, mostly along the foreshores of the harbour. The Guringai people fished and hunted in the waters and harvested food from the surrounding bushland.¹ They practised a complex system of beliefs, seasonal knowledge and sensitive management associated with their land. Their country provided them with ceremonial sites, hunting grounds, camping places, water, wood, stone and native foods that were hunted and harvested.

The arrival of European settlers in 1788 dramatically altered the traditions and customs of the Guringai people. Contact with Europeans introduced debilitating diseases such as smallpox that swiftly diminished the local population. Their traditional country was also irrecoverably changed when large land grants were taken up and the land cleared and settled by European farmers. New boundaries were mapped and fenced and the land was cleared, roads were formed, crops were planted and buildings were constructed.

Aboriginal people resisted the settlers and maintained connections to their land where they could, in some instances forming alliances with the settlers so that they could continue to stay on their Country. Early residents in the Ku-ring-gai area spoke of Aboriginal people travelling up from Middle Harbour to pick Mr Archbold's fruit.²

2.1.2 Early History of Region

The study site lies on land that was originally part a 400-acre grant to Daniel Dering Mathew in 1819. His land spanned much of what is now Roseville and Lindfield, covering the area from the Pacific Highway east to Archbold Road and from Boundary Street north to Tryon Road. Matthew named his farm Clanville. Here he felled timber and ran cattle (Figure 2.1).

In 1824, Matthew sold his grant to his neighbour Richard Archbold and moved further north. Richard Archbold cleared the land and established orchards, hiring convicts to work on his property. The orchards were kept running by the family until the death of Archbold's wife, Mary, in 1850. One of her sons, Gerald, built a cottage for himself of the estate which he called Clanville cottage and a plan of the site from 1858 shows an entrance drive to the cottage from Lane Cove Road with orchards and several paddocks under cultivation (Figure 2.2). The property was inherited by Richard and Mary Archbold's eight surviving children but remained with the trustees until the youngest turned 21 in 1858. The Clanville Estate was then subdivided into eight lots of 50 acres, with each child inheriting one portion of the estate (Figure 2.2). In the ensuing years, two of the brothers, Richard and Gerald, purchased much of the land from their siblings.

The subject site lies on part of two of these 50-acre allotments (lots 7 and 8) of the Clanville Estate.

The land continued to be farmed until the 1880s when, with the impending opening of the North Shore railway, much of the land began to be subdivided for residential development.

Lot 8 was inherited by Theodore Jervais and his wife Eliza (formerly Eliza Archbold) in 1858.³ They sold 40 acres of their land to Richard Archbold in 1864 retaining 10 acres for themselves. This 10 acres relates to this study and contained a long thin strip of land extending east from Lane Cove Road

(Pacific Highway) and adjoining the boundary of Lot 7 (Figure 2.3). Eliza and Theodore Jervais retained ownership of these 10 acres until 1881, but it is not clear how they used the land. In 1881, the 10 acres was sold to Thomas Coleman of Lane Cove, labourer.⁴

Lot 7 was inherited by Robert McIntosh and his wife Elizabeth (formerly Elizabeth Archbold) and immediately sold to Richard Archbold. Richard retained ownership of the whole site until the 1882 when it exchanged hands several times before being purchased by the Anglo Australian Investment Finance and Land Company Limited in December 1885.⁵

2.2 Historical Development of the Site

2.2.1 The Library and Tennis Court Site—Lot 8 in DP 660564 (Part of Allotment 8 of the Clanville Estate)

1881–1947: Thomas Coleman's Home, Shop, Nursery and Dairy

Irish born Thomas Coleman purchased the 10 acres (part of Lot 8) in 1881 just after he married local resident Emma Jenkins.⁶ On the portion of his land between the highway and the railway (which relates to this study), Coleman built his home and established several shops on the site fronting Lane Cove Road (now the Pacific Highway) (Figures 2.6–2.9). These included a grocer and newsagency and a produce store.⁷ Coleman also ran the first dairy on Lane Cove Road from this site, keeping cattle on the land behind his house (Figure 2.9).⁸ A newspaper report from 1888 also refers to him as a gardener on Lane Cove Road⁹ and it is known that Coleman ran quite a large plant nursery from the site.¹⁰ Coleman's wife Emma (nee Jenkins) came from the prominent fruit growing family whose orchards were located on the Lane Cove River. Thomas and Emma Coleman were amongst the first residents of Lindfield and here raised their six children. In 1896, Coleman enlarged this site on Lane Cove Road (Pacific Highway) with the purchase of part of the adjoining land to the south which he bought from Robert Fitzgerald (see Section 2.2.2) (Figures 2.4–2.5). Coleman's property on Lane Cove Road became a landmark in the district and this area was known for many years as Coleman's Corner.

North Shore settlement patterns were much slower than across the harbour, partly due to slower infrastructure development. It was not until the 1920s and 1930s, with the addition of a comprehensive sewerage system and the construction of the harbour bridge, that suburbanisation increased in the area.¹¹ In 1930 the Sands directory records part of his land operating as motorcycle works run by AW Gale, who was leasing the small cottage on the site at this time. Historical land titles also show a number of leasing's to businesses including Dairy Farmers Co-operative Milk Company Limited in 1922 for 10 years, Ku-ring-gai Ice and Storage Company Limited in 1923 for 12 years, and John Arthur Lucas (Blacksmith) in 1937 for five years. In 1932, the Pacific Highway was widened in front of the Coleman property to reduce the size of the bend. The Main Roads Board of NSW resumed part of Coleman's land on the western boundary and a number of the buildings shown on the 1926 Sydney Water Plan were demolished (compare Figures 2.10, 2.11 and 2.12). A *Sydney Morning Herald* article dated 13 February 1932 stated that the road was 'being widened by approximately 18ft at Mr T Coleman's corner at Lindfield' and that 'some of the oldest buildings in the suburb are being removed for this work'.¹² Coleman's timber cottage plus another old building, formerly Coleman's store, remained on the site until demolished in 1948.¹³ Coleman died in 1937 and Emma the following year, and the property was inherited by their son Robert who had left school at 12 to help his father run their businesses.

The property was still in the ownership of the estate of Thomas Coleman when it was resumed by Ku-ring-gai Council in 1947 (Figure 2.13). At the time of resumption buildings on the site included a four-room timber house, a nine-room timber house, a nursery, a timber yard and a car yard all being leased.¹⁴

The current well on the site also dates from the Coleman period. Previous research by the former local studies librarian of Gordon Library, Margaret Wyatt, stated that everyone she asked about the well said that 'as long as there had been Coleman's dairy there was a well'.¹⁵ Margaret also mentioned that the well had been filled in, but continued to sink and had to be refilled again.

1947–Present: Lindfield Library and Tennis Courts

In 1954, Ku-ring-gai Council built the Lindfield Library on part of this site and also a children's playground. The library was designed by architects Davey & Brindley and built by the McLennan Construction Company. The building was featured in the January–March 1955 edition of *Architecture* (Figure 2.15).

The tennis courts on the eastern side of the site were constructed by 1956 (Figure 2.16).

Ku-ring-gai Council remain the owner of this site.

2.2.2 The Aged Care Facilities—Lots 1,2 and 3 in DP 212617 (Part of Lot 7 of the Clanville Estate)

When the Anglo Australian Investment Finance and Land Company Limited purchased Lot 7 of the Clanville Estate in 1885 it contained just over 47 acres. This land stretched east in a long narrow corridor from Lane Cove Road (now the Pacific Highway) to Archbold Road (Figure 2.2). The North Shore railway line was already under construction at this time running along the eastern side of the study area. The 47 acres was sold to The Anglo Australian Assets Company in 1895 and they created a residential subdivision with Middle Harbour Road built to run down the centre of the subdivision east of the railway line.¹⁶

1881–1947: Coleman Land: No Development

The land between Lane Cove Road and the railway contained around 1.5 acres, and was not included in the subdivision but sold separately. This land was purchased by Robert Fitzgerald in 1896 and the following year he sold part of this land, an area of 2 roods, 14.5 perches, to his neighbour Thomas Coleman, farmer (Figure 2.4–2.5).¹⁷ This portion of the land relates to this study. The land was never developed but was used as extra land for the Coleman's home and business ventures.

In 1919, Thomas Coleman divided this extra land (2 roods 14.5 perches) between two of his children: his youngest son Robert Bede Coleman,¹⁸ and his eldest daughter Mary Elizabeth Earley (nee Coleman), wife of James Earley of Arncliffe.¹⁹ Neither of these two sites was developed. The 1923 Sydney Water plan of the site shows it as vacant land (Figure 2.10).

In 1930, the main Roads Board of NSW resumed a small portion of this land fronting Lane Cove Road for road widening, but there were no buildings on this site to be effected. Robert Coleman sold his land to his sister Ellen Gertrude Coleman in 1934, while Mary retained ownership of her portion. The 1943 aerial shows this land cleared but not developed (Figure 2.11). The land remained with the Coleman/Earley families until it was forcefully resumed by Ku-ring-gai Council in 1947.

1947–Present: Senior Citizens Buildings and Carpark

After Ku-ring-gai Council resumed the land they re-subdivided it into three portions as lots 1, 2 and 3 in DP 212617 (Figure 2.14).²⁰ The 1956 aerial shows this part of the site as a possible building materials dump or storage area (Figure 2.16).

In 1963, Ku-ring-gai Council engaged local architect Ellice Maud Nosworthy, one of the earliest practising women architects of NSW, to design a community housing project for 16 independent elderly people on lots 2 and 3 (Figure 2.17). This property was called 'Arrunga' and was located at 261 Pacific Highway, Lindfield.

Lot 1 was sealed and converted to a carpark. Ku-ring-gai Council remain the owner of this site.



Figure 2.1 Part of an 1835 map of the Parish of Gordon, showing the location of DD Matthew's 400-acre Clanville Estate now in the ownership of Richard Archbold. The site boundary location is estimated with the red line and arrow. Note the location of Clanville cottage on part of the estate (but not on the subject site) and also several other cottages shown dotted along Lane Cove Road (Pacific Highway). (Source: Department of Lands)

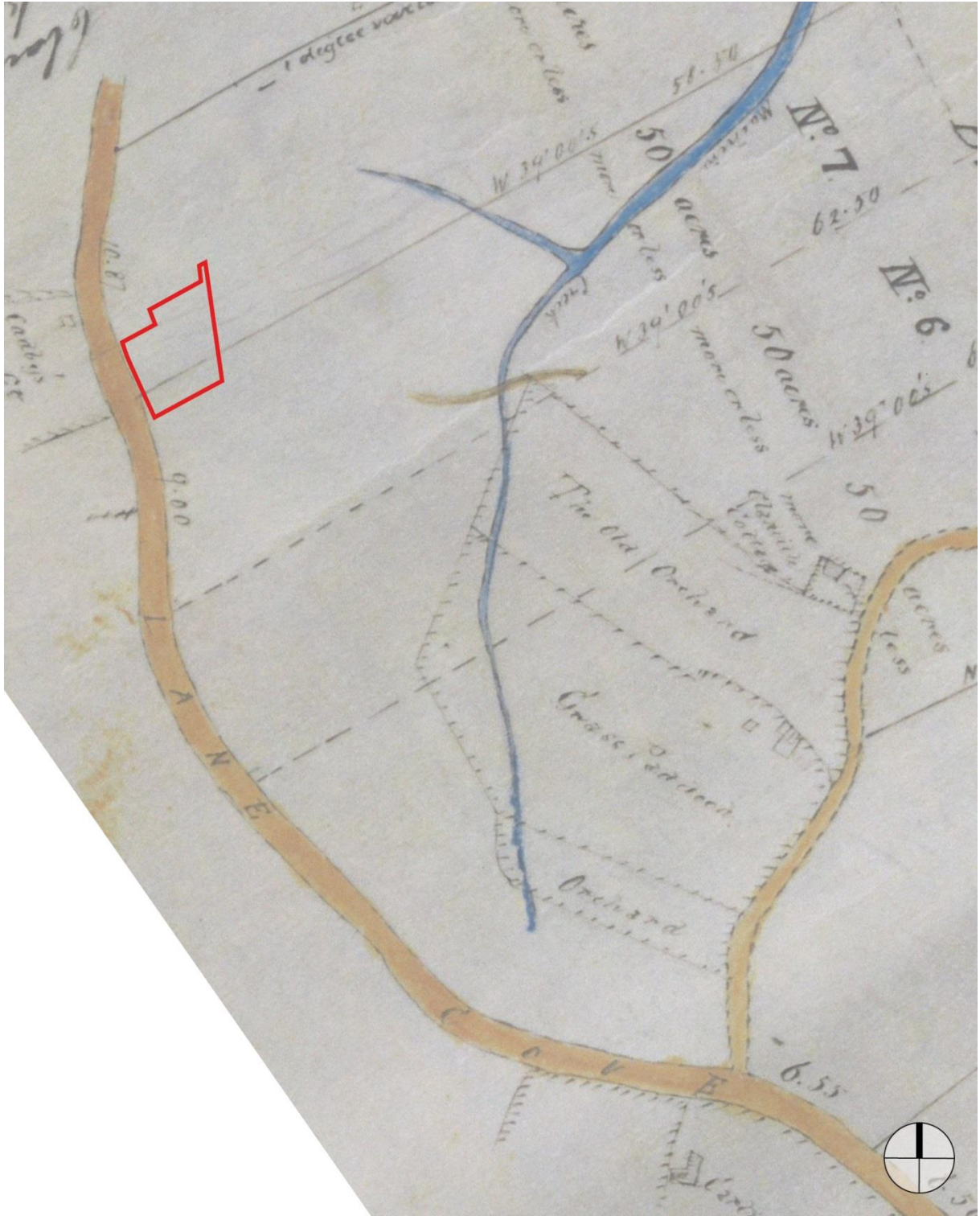


Figure 2.2 1858 subdivision of Matthew's 400 acres into eight 50-acre portions for the children of Mary and Richard Archbold. The site boundary location is estimated with the red line and is shown to cover the boundary of lots 7 and 8 near Lane Cove Road (Pacific Highway). Note Clanville cottage located on Lot 4 and the cultivated paddocks across lots 5 and 6. The subject site at this time is shown undeveloped (Source: Old Systems Title Bk 267 No. 952, Department of Lands)

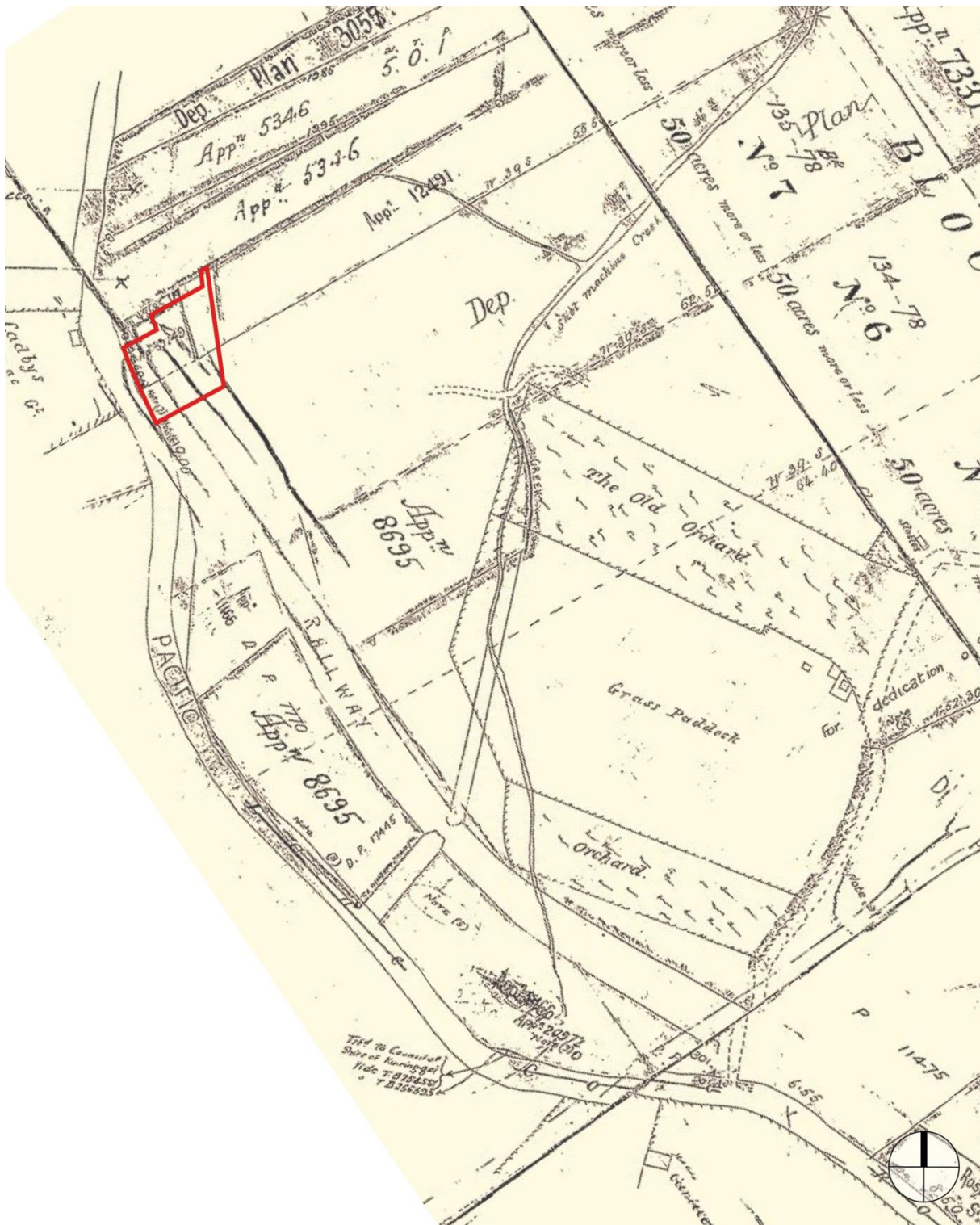


Figure 2.3 Part of a plan of the Clanville Estate drawn in 1858 and updated in the late 1880s to show railway line and recent subdivisions mostly along the Pacific Highway. The site boundary location is estimated with the red line. Note the various early subdivisions on Lot 8 while Lot 7 remains as one 50-acre lot. (Source: DP 975174, Department of Lands)

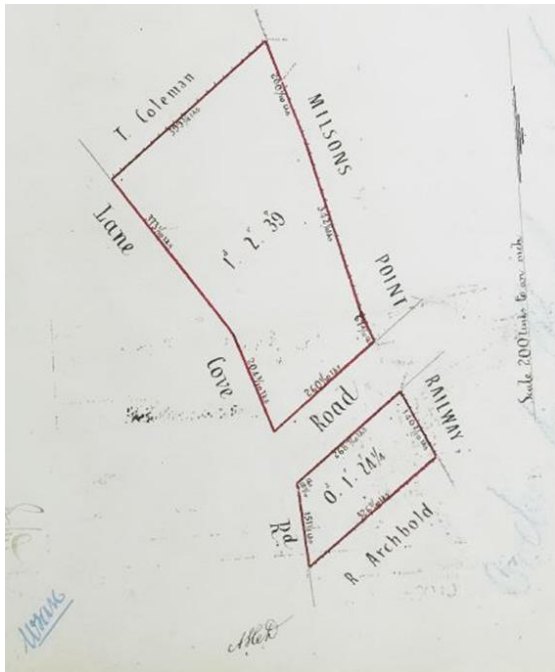


Figure 2.4 Land purchased by Robert Fitzgerald in 1896 being the western end Allotment 7. This land lay just south of Thomas Coleman's dairy. (Source: Certificate of Title Volume 1199 Folio 129, Department of Lands).



Figure 2.5 Portion of Fitzgerald's land purchased by Coleman in 1897 (Source: Certificate of Title Volume 1212 Folio 186, Department of Lands)



Figure 2.6 1896 view looking north along Lane Cove Road (Pacific Highway) towards Coleman's house shop and dairy, known for many years as Coleman's Corner. (Source: Ku-ring-gai Historical Society)



Figure 2.7 1898 view of Coleman's shop and dairy. (Source: Ku-ring-gai Historical Society)



Figure 2.8 1890s view of Coleman's Grocery Store on Lane Cove Road, Lindfield. (Source: Ku-ring-gai Historical Society)



Figure 2.9 1900 image of the cows grazing at the rear of Coleman's house Lindfield. (Source: Ku-ring-gai Historical Society)

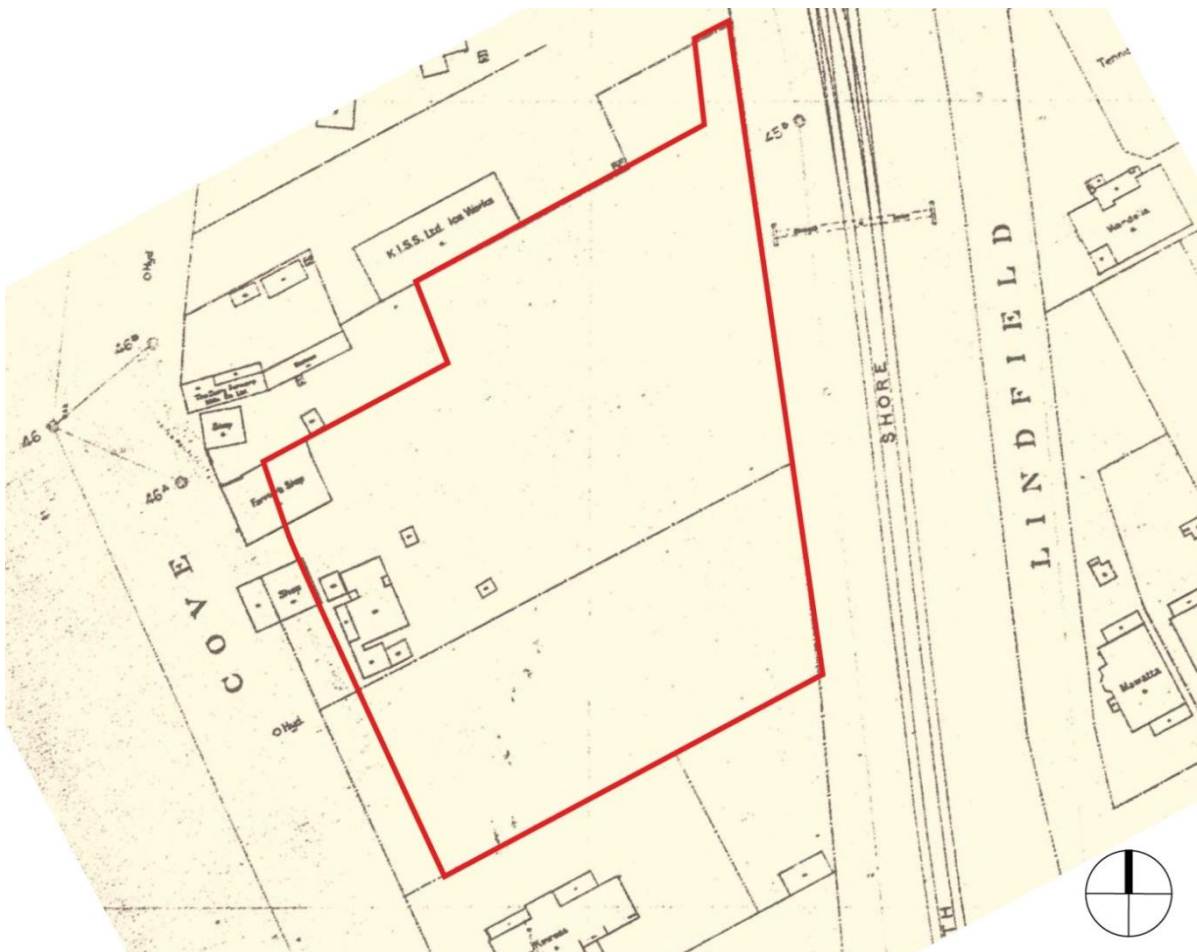


Figure 2.10 Part of a 1926 Sydney Water Plan showing development on the subject site at this time, with the site boundary location estimated with the red line. (Source: Sydney Water Archives)



Figure 2.11 1943 aerial view of the subject site. Note the widening of the Pacific Highway has caused the demolition of a number of the earlier retail buildings near the Pacific Highway, with the site boundary location estimated with the red line. (Source: Department of Lands)

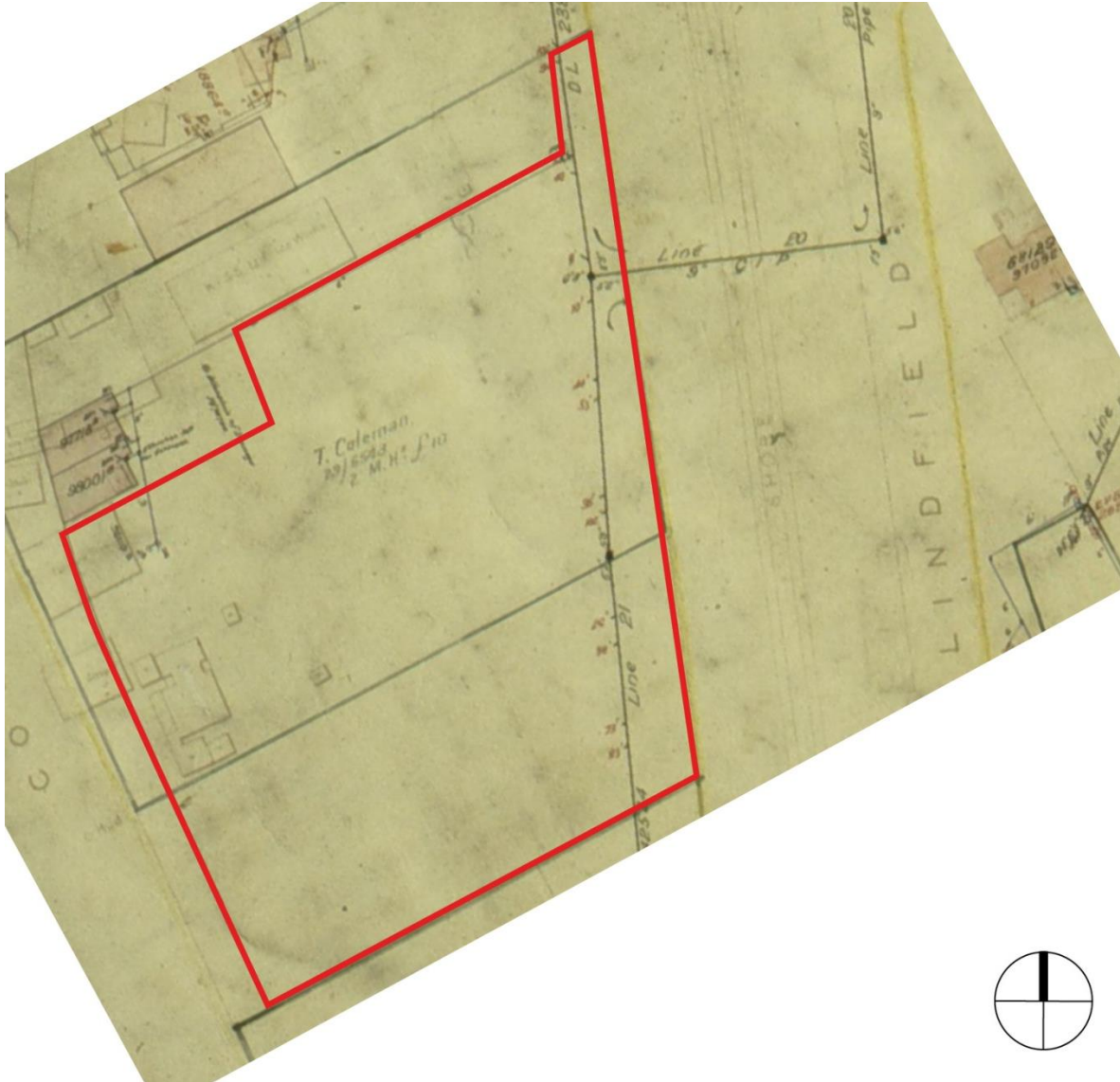


Figure 2.12 c1940 Sydney Water Blackwattle sheet 2029 (1), with the site boundary location estimated with the red line. (Sydney Water Archives)

Figure 2.13 1946 plan of Coleman's land Lindfield. (Source Crown Plan 12502-3000, Department of Lands)

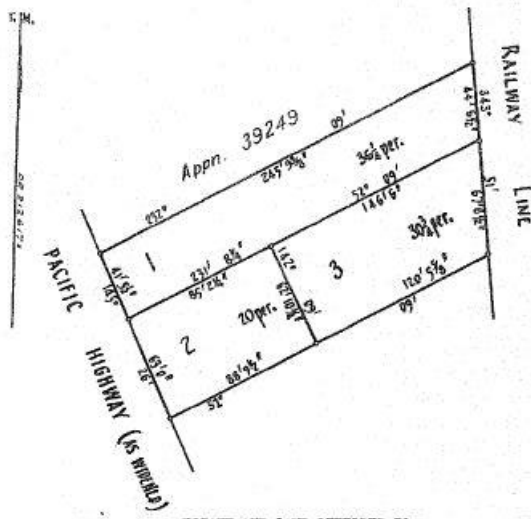


Figure 2.14 Ku-ring-gai Council's Subdivision of the southern two portions of Coleman's land in 1947 into lots 1,2 and 3 in DP212617. (Source: Department of Lands)

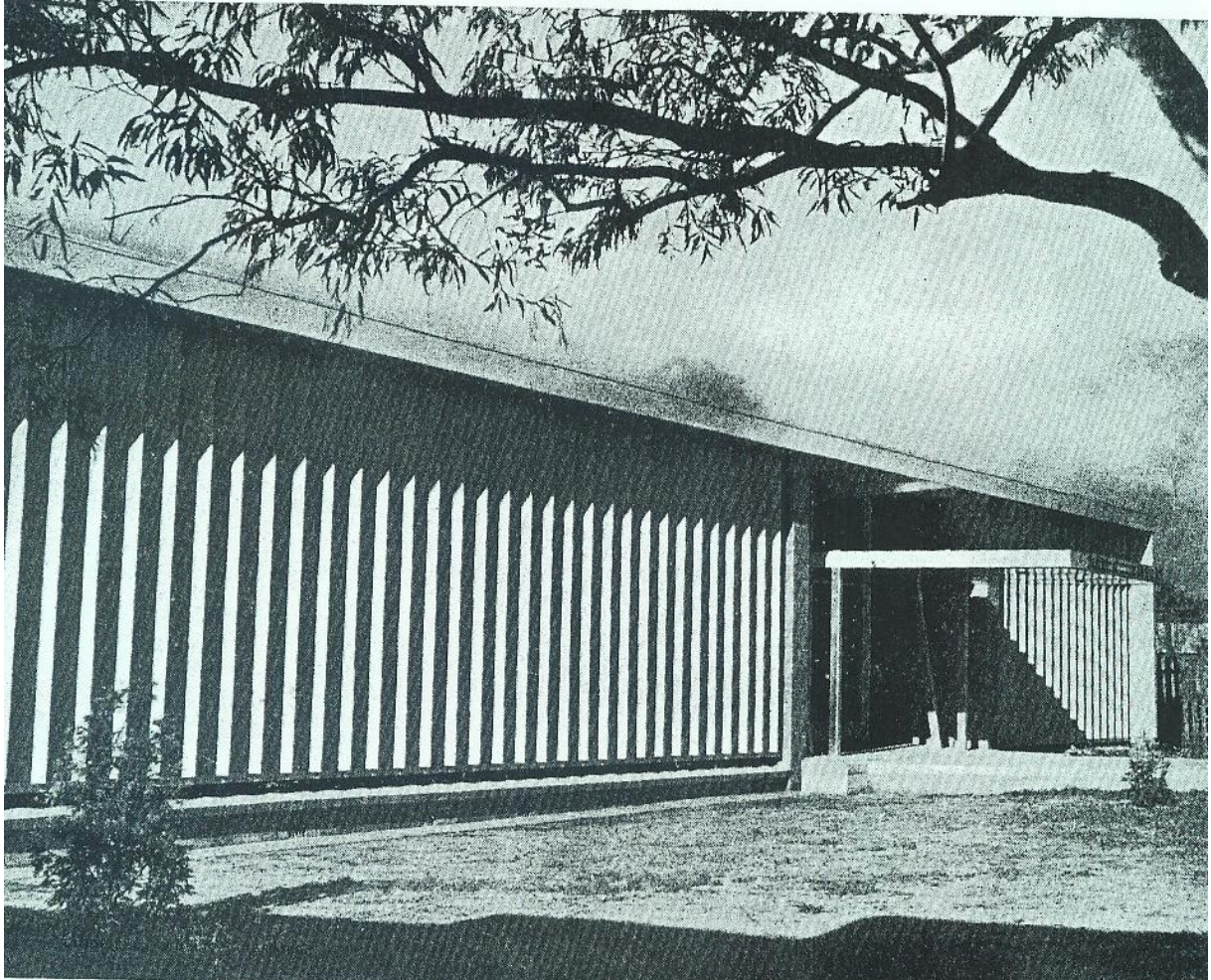


Figure 2.15 Lindfield Library in 1955. (Source: *Architecture*, January–March 1955, p 13).



Figure 2.16 1956 aerial showing the library soon after construction with the tennis courts at the rear with the site boundary location estimated with the red line. (Source: Department of Lands)



Figure 2.17 1970 aerial showing new buildings on the southern part of the site with the site boundary location estimated with the red line. (Source: Department of Lands)

2.3 Endnotes

- ¹ Ku-ring-gai Council, 'Aboriginal heritage', viewed 6 April, 2015 <http://www.kmc.nsw.gov.au/About_Ku-ring-gai/History_heritage/Aboriginal_heritage>.
- ² Roseville, Ku-ring-gai Historical Society Inc, pers comm, May 2015.
- ³ Old Systems Title Bk 267 No 932, Department of Lands.
- ⁴ Old Systems Title Bk 227 No. 28, Department of Lands.
- ⁵ Primary Application No. 7331, Department of Lands.
- ⁶ Old Systems Title Bk 227 No. 28, Department of Lands.
- ⁷ Sands Sydney and Suburban Directory 1905, 1910, 1915, 1920
- ⁸ Wyatt M, 1986, 'Timbergetting and Orchardng: 1840–1880', viewed 7 May 2015 <<http://www.mcnee.com.au/about/news.php?id=35>> .
- ⁹ 'Police', *Sydney Morning Herald*, 1 February 1888, p 5.
- ¹⁰ *The Sun*, 24 October 1925.
- ¹¹ Sydney Water 2012, *The History of Sydney's Water: Sydney's Water Supply and Wastewater Treatment*, Sydney Water.
- ¹² 'Road Improvement Scheme at Lindfield', *Sydney Morning Herald* 13 February, 1932, p 16.
- ¹³ 'Coleman's Cottage Disappears', *Lindfield Courier*, 30 September, 1948, p 1.
- ¹⁴ 'No Payment for 13 year Old Land Grab', *North Shore Times*, 9 November, 1960, p 1.
- ¹⁵ Margaret Wyatt, email dated 8 May 2015.
- ¹⁶ Certificate of Title Volume 896 Folio 1207 and Volume 920 Folio 132, Department of Lands.
- ¹⁷ Certificate of Title Volume 1199 Folio 129, and Volume 1212 Folio 186, Department of Lands.
- ¹⁸ Certificate of Title Volume 2987 Folio 216, Department of Lands.
- ¹⁹ Certificate of Title Volume 2987 Folio 215, Department of Lands.
- ²⁰ Certificate of Title Volume 9497 Folio 2, Department of Lands.

3.0 Site Analysis

3.1 General Site Description

An inspection of the site was undertaken on Tuesday 28 April 2015, by Anita Yousif and Caitlin Dircks of GML, for visible archaeological remains or evidence of former ground disturbance. The purpose of the site inspection was also to take note of current site conditions and to ensure that GML personnel were familiar with the site and its context.

The site inspection was informed by historical evidence, site plans and aerial photographs. This evidence is analysed below (Section 3.2). During the inspection, various aspects of the study area were recorded, including its topography, ground surfaces and coverage, and the presence/absence of structures or structural remains. The following observations were made:

- The site meets the eastern side of the Pacific Highway at ground level (Figure 3.1 and 3.2), but slopes from the back of the Lindfield Library building steeply to the east towards the railway line.
- The study area contains six major standing structures, a carpark and two tennis courts, which are surrounded by landscaped lawns and gardens (see Figure 1.3 for locations). The library building is a single-storey brick building, with open glass panels at the entrance. The library annex is a steel clad two-storey building that joins the library to the east and is occupied by the KYDS centre.
- The entrance and front yard of the library contains the fenced-off extant historical well. The top of the well is covered by overgrowth and a wire mesh for protection (Figures 3.3 and 3.4). The fabric of the well could not be examined as it was obscured by grass and moss. The ground in the well area is slightly sunken.
- The front entrance and yard area contains concrete paths, a paved porch to the library building, signposts and small garden beds and trees.
- Services were visible on the ground in a number of places, particularly running in a north-south direction along the site boundary, close to the footpath of the Pacific Highway. Services in the front yard area included a Telstra service, a possible gas line and a water meter (Figure 3.5).
- The site has been levelled in various places for the buildings and facilities, of which the tennis courts have required the most significant levelling, with terraces cut into the slope (Figure 3.6).
- The tennis courts are located to the northeast of the library and are fenced surfaces on two terraced levels (Figure 3.7). To the northeast of the tennis courts is a small brick public toilet block and a section of a carpark in the very northeast of the site.
- The carpark is a sloping, bitumen surface and includes spaces backing on to the library lot (Figure 3.8). The carpark runs down the slope and joins the landscaped space behind the library annex.
- A single-storey brick building is located at the back of the site at the base of the carpark, and is occupied by the Ku-ring-gai Senior Citizens Resource centre (Figure 3.9). Concrete paths and bitumen roads with kerbing cover some areas, and run between buildings.
- Brick retirement flats titled 'Arrunga' occupy the southeast corner of the site in a 'c-shaped' building with a number of access ramps and stairs. A brick building containing the Ku-ring-gai

Seniors Centre is on the southwest corner of the site, near the Pacific Highway frontage (Figure 3.10).

3.2 Discussion

The observations made during the site inspection suggest that most of the ground disturbance is localised in the eastern and southern portions of the site.

The most substantial disturbance is associated with construction of the extant buildings, especially the two-storey accommodation complex for seniors and the tennis courts behind the library building. However, given that none of the buildings on site have basements, deeper excavation would have been localised to the building foundations. The lightweight structure of the library building indicates that original soil deposits and former structural remains could still be present there in some form.

The preservation of the well directly to the west of the library building suggests a limited level of ground disturbance in the area between it and the Pacific Highway frontage.

The observation of the tennis court area demonstrates that the levelling process for construction has been predominantly undertaken by a combination of cutting into the slope and filling to raise the site.

Landscaping across the remainder of the site (outside of building footprints) generally shows evidence of only minor disturbance. The bitumen carpark, paved and concrete paths around the site are unlikely to have caused disturbance. There is likely some disturbance due to the planting of large trees, but the majority of gardens contained small shrubs that are unlikely to cause subsurface disturbance.

A number of services were also identified, including a Telstra cable, a possible gas line and a water meter. These will have caused localised but potentially deep disturbance, particularly on the very eastern edge of the site.



Figure 3.1 Entrance to the Lindfield Library looking east from the Pacific Highway. (Source: GML 2015)



Figure 3.2 View looking north showing the yard and gardens in front of the Lindfield Library building. (Source: GML 2015)



Figure 3.3 Extant historical well abutting the front of the Lindfield Library. (Source: GML 2015)



Figure 3.4 Surface of the well site is covered with a protective wire mesh. (Source: GML 2015)



Figure 3.5 Services in the front yard (in the foreground and behind the hedge in centre of photo). (Source: GML 2015)



Figure 3.6 Terracing for tennis courts looking north. (Source: GML 2015)



Figure 3.7 Behind the Lindfield Library, with two tennis courts cut into the slope towards the east. (Source: GML 2015)



Figure 3.8 Carpark on the southern side of the site looking east. (Source: GML 2015)



Figure 3.9 Southeastern buildings on site. The small single-storey building on the left is the Ku-ring-gai Senior Citizens Resource Centre. (Source: GML 2015)



Figure 3.10 'Arrunga' retirement flats and car park. (Source: GML 2015)

4.0 Assessment of Historical Archaeological Potential

4.1 Preamble

The assessment of a site's archaeological potential is based on consideration of current site conditions and examination of historical information related to its development and occupation, including evidence of demolition and construction activities that may have disturbed archaeological remains associated with former site features and activities.

The term 'archaeological potential' is defined as the likelihood that a site may contain physical evidence related to an earlier phase of occupation, activity or development. This term is differentiated from 'archaeological significance' and 'archaeological research potential', which are more subjective statements on the value of the archaeological resource in terms of state or local significance, and are discussed in more detail in Section 5.0 of this report.

4.2 Archaeology of the Neighbourhood

4.2.1 Artefact Heritage 2014 Lindfield Substation—Heritage Impact Statement

In 2014, Artefact Heritage prepared a Non-Indigenous Heritage Impact Assessment for the construction of a proposed new traction power substation at a site in Lindfield in Sydney, NSW.¹ Lindfield Substation is located on Lindfield Avenue at the intersection with Strickland Avenue in Lindfield, approximately 100 metres to the southeast of the study site. The study, which was also within Clanville Estate, identified potential for evidence related to farming of the estate, such as fences and the orchards but indicated they would be unlikely to remain. Following subdivision of the area, this site was substantially impacted by the construction of the railway.²

4.3 Phases of Historical Development

In order to assess the nature and extent of historical archaeological evidence that may have survived at the subject site, a historical overview—including historical plans and photographs presented in Section 2.0—has been analysed in detail to determine how the subject site was used during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

Phase 1: Early Land Grant and Farming of Clanville (1819–1858)

After European settlement, the study site was part a 400-acre grant to Daniel Dering Mathew in 1819, named Clanville. The land was sold to Richard Archbold in 1824. Orchards and paddocks were cultivated, and cottages built. However, these were located further south, outside of the study area's boundary (Figure 2.2). Archbold hired convicts to work on the property. It is unlikely that evidence of land cultivation and convict work on the site would remain.

Phase 2: Subdivision of Clanville Estate (1858–1881)

Clanville Estate was subdivided into eight lots in the 1850s. The subject site lies on part of two of these 50-acre allotments (lots 7 and 8) of the Clanville Estate. Readily available historical records do not provide information as to how the land was used at this time, but it is likely that it was vacant land. Therefore, any physical remains from this phase would be limited to subdivision fence postholes or markers and sporadic artefacts.

Phase 3: Thomas Coleman's Home, Shop, Nursery and Dairy (1881–1947)

Thomas Coleman purchased 10 acres in 1881 (within the study area), where he built his home and established several shops on the site fronting Lane Cove Road (now the Pacific Highway). These included a grocer, newsagency and a produce store.³ Coleman also ran a dairy, plant nursery and leased land to other small businesses including a blacksmith and farrier. Their property became a landmark in the district and this area was known for many years as Coleman's Corner. The complex included houses, shops and small industries localised towards to the east of the site fronting the Pacific Highway. There are no identified historical structures on the western side of the site; however, there is some potential for evidence of land use, such as dairying practices.

The eastern edge of the study area was abutted by the new North Shore railway line, which was already under construction in 1885. It is possible that evidence relating to the construction of the line may still exist along the eastern margin of the site in the form of modified landforms and remnants of railway, ballast or sporadic artefacts.

In 1932, approximately 18 feet of Coleman's land was resumed to widen the Pacific Highway, and the front shops, including part of the dairy, were demolished. Wells and cesspits are likely to have been in use for most of this phase as services were generally not installed until the 1930s in the area. The extant well is likely associated with Coleman's development of the site. Coleman's timber cottage plus another old building, formerly Coleman's store, remained on the site until it was resumed by Ku-ring-gai Council.⁴

The southern three lots of the site were never developed. The land remained as extra land for the Coleman's home and business ventures but is unlikely to have retained any evidence of land use.

Phase 4: Lindfield Library, Tennis Courts and 'Arrunga' (1947–Present)

The construction of Lindfield Library in 1954 and the tennis courts within the following two years required that the extant Coleman's buildings on site be demolished. The new development was likely to have impacted on a significant portion of the former building and shop complex, resulting in the removal of all above-ground structural elements. Based on the preserved evidence of the brick well, it is likely that other subsurface features (such as wall foundations, cess-pits, services or pits) still exist at the site.

The construction of the 'Arrunga' community housing in 1963 on the land adjacent to the Coleman's property is unlikely to have resulted in any significant disturbance and/or removal of archaeological features, as this portion of the study area remained undeveloped during the previous phases of the site's history.

4.3.1 Analysis of Disturbance

An understanding of the extent of previous ground disturbance will inform the predictive modelling for potential archaeological resources of the study area. This model is based on the results of the site inspection, review of the preliminary site investigation (contamination) data⁵, previous heritage studies, and analysis of historical aerial photography and twentieth-century plans to identify more recent structures or features that are no longer extant.

Some areas of the site, particularly the western side of the study area fronting the Pacific Highway, have been subject to several phases of structural development from the mid-nineteenth to the twentieth century. Some of the earlier structures were destroyed in the widening of the highway, and some are outside the study area's boundary. Later phases of redevelopment will likely have caused

moderate to major localised disturbance by levelling for the construction of the extant buildings, carpark and tennis courts. Installation of services across the site would have also contributed minor disturbance. Filling events within the study area may have assisted the preservation of archaeological remains that may be present as they are buried below the fill. However, based on adjacent terrain, most levelling events such as the tennis courts appear to have cut into the slope rather than filled to level.

4.4 Summary of Archaeological Potential

Archaeological potential or the likelihood of survival of archaeological remains at a site is generally graded as low, moderate or high, and is defined as follows:

- Low—it is unlikely that archaeological evidence associated with this historical phase or feature survives.
- Moderate—it is possible that some archaeological evidence associated with this historical phase or feature survives. If archaeological remains survive they may have been subject to some disturbance.
- High—it is likely that archaeological evidence associated with this historical phase or feature survives intact.

The results of the above analysis are summarised below in Table 4.1. The graphic illustration of archaeological potential across the site is presented in Figure 4.1 as well as the outlines of previous historical buildings.

Table 4.1 Potential Archaeological Remains within the Study Area and their Likelihood of Survival.

Phase and Date	Potential Archaeological Remains	Processes affecting survival	Likelihood of survival
Phase 1: Early land grant and farming of Clanville (1819–1858)	Evidence of farming activities, such as early boundaries or fence lines, or farming practices, such as stockyards. Evidence of land clearing, establishing orchards or convict work.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ephemeral nature of remains, such as post holes. • Lack of activities—the majority of farming land and structures did not occur on the subject site but were located further south. 	Low–Nil
Phase 2: Subdivision of Clanville Estate(1858–1881)	Evidence of allotment subdivisions such as post holes or land use. Evidence of early railway line construction, such as grading, levelling fill, remnants of ballast, lost artefacts etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ephemeral nature of remains. • Allotment divisions likely disturbed by later site development. • Later development of site, including Coleman's developments and the Lindfield Library construction. 	Low

Phase and Date	Potential Archaeological Remains	Processes affecting survival	Likelihood of survival
Phase 3: Thomas Coleman's home, shop, nursery and dairy (1881–1947)	<p>Evidence of cottages and businesses, such as a motor cycle works, dairy farmers, ice and storage service or blacksmiths workshop.</p> <p>Coleman's home, including a four-room timber house, a nine-room timber house, and the extant well.</p> <p>Coleman's industry uses, such as evidence of dairy structures, Coleman's store, a plant nursery, a timber yard and a car yard.</p> <p>Subsurface structural remains such as additional wells, cess pits, foundations or early services.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Post 1947 development of site, including the library building, annex, tennis courts and services. 1932 Pacific Highway widening and resumption of land. Minor landscaping, tree planting and additions of paths and walkways. 	<p>Extant (the brick well)</p> <p>Moderate–High</p>

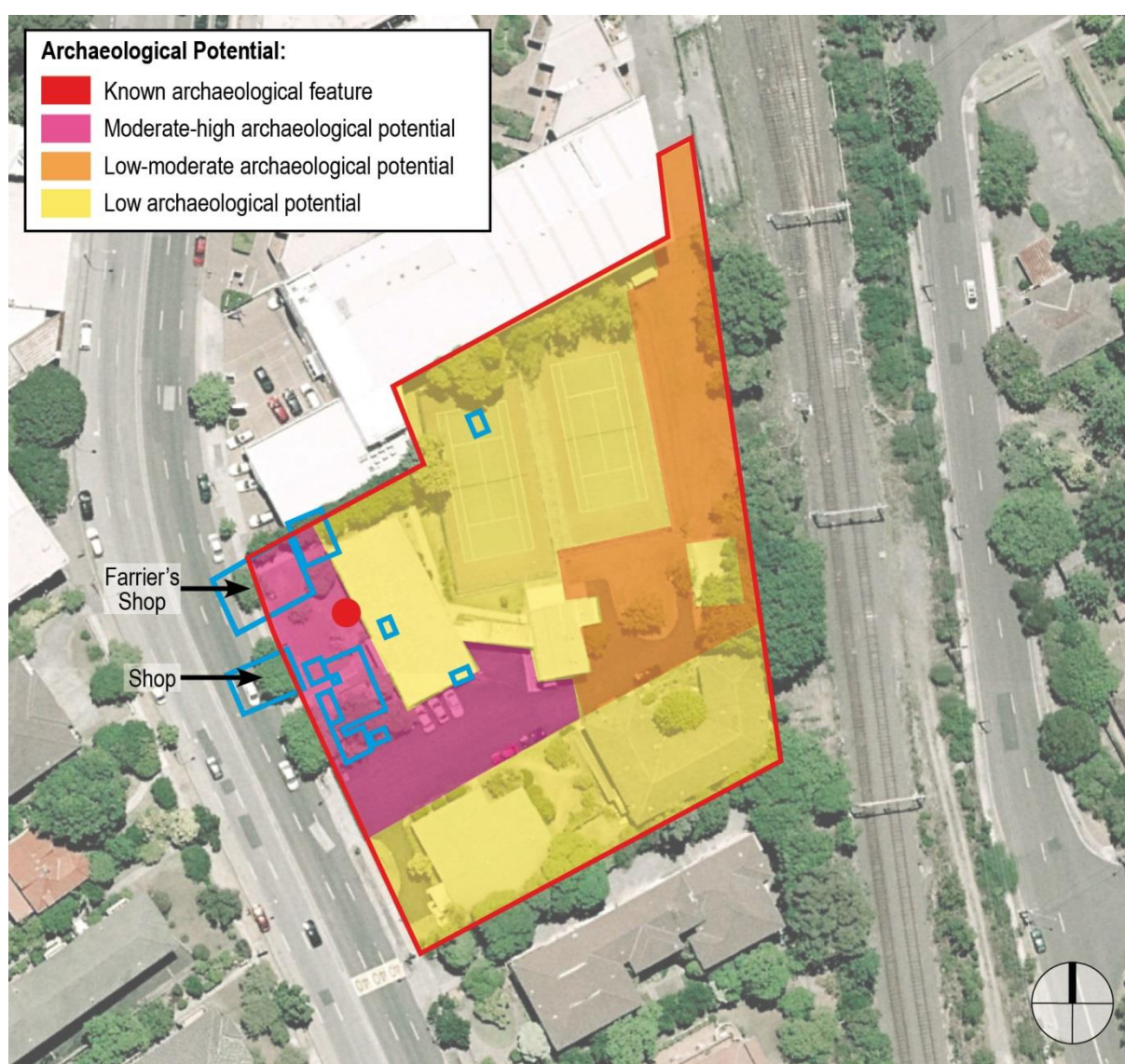


Figure 4.1 Historical building outlines (marked in blue) and archaeological potential of the site. (Source: Google Earth with GML additions)

4.5 Endnotes

- ¹ Artefact Heritage, Lindfield Substation: Statement of Heritage Impact, report prepared for Parsons Brinckerhoff, July 2014, in Technical Paper 5—Non-Indigenous Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment.
- ² Artefact Heritage, Lindfield Substation: Statement of Heritage Impact, report prepared for Parsons Brinckerhoff, July 2014, in Technical Paper 5—Non-Indigenous Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment.
- ³ Sands Sydney and Suburban Directory 1905, 1910, 1915, 1920.
- ⁴ 'Coleman's Cottage Disappears', *Lindfield Courier*, 30 September, 1948, p 1.
- ⁵ SLR Consulting Australia, Stage 1 Preliminary Site Investigation, Lot 1 , 2 & 3 in DP212617 and Lot 8 in DP660564, 259-271 Pacific Highway, Lindfield NSW, report prepared for Ku-ring-gai Council, 2015.

5.0 Significance Assessment

5.1 Introduction

Archaeological significance refers to the heritage significance of known or potential archaeological remains. As with other types of heritage items, archaeological remains should be managed in accordance with their significance. In situations where development is proposed, this can influence the degree of impact that may be acceptable or the level of investigation and recording that may be required.

While archaeological remains often form an integral component of the overall significance of a heritage place, it is necessary to assess them independently from above-ground and other historic elements. Assessing the heritage value of archaeological remains is made more difficult by the fact that their extent and nature is often unknown. It becomes necessary for judgements to be made on the basis of expected or potential attributes.

The assessment of significance for historical archaeological sites requires a specialised framework of consideration. The most widely used framework is that developed by Bickford and Sullivan in 1984¹ and comprises three key questions which can be used as a guide for assessing the significance of an archaeological site:

- Can the site contribute knowledge that no other site can?
- Can the site contribute knowledge that no other resource can?
- Is this knowledge relevant to general questions about human history or other substantive questions relating to Australian history, or does it contribute to other major research questions?

In 2009 the Office of Environment and Heritage (formerly the Heritage Branch of the NSW Department of Planning) issued a new set of guidelines for assessing the significance of historical archaeological sites and relics.² This calls for a broader consideration of multiple values of archaeological sites beyond their research potential. The following assessment of archaeological significance for the study area follows the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) guidelines and is augmented with answers to the above questions posed by Bickford and Sullivan³ (Section 5.3).

5.2 NSW Heritage Criteria for Assessing Significance related to Archaeological Sites and Relics

Archaeological Research Potential (NSW Heritage Criterion E)

Evidence of land cultivation is ephemeral and susceptible to various levels of disturbance (erosion, grazing, ploughing, construction, etc). Based on the history of the site development, the site is unlikely to contain any evidence of the early phases of the site's history (farming at Clanville prior to 1880), as the farm house and orchards were located south of the study area. However, if any evidence associated with the early land clearing and orcharding was preserved at the site, it would have potential to yield significant information that would assist in answering major questions relating to early rural life in Lindfield, wider Sydney's northern suburbs and the state of New South Wales. Any substantial evidence of convict work would have the potential to address questions relating to the development of the colony and would have high research potential.

The site has the potential to contain substantially intact archaeological evidence related to the Coleman history of the site (ie after 1881 and prior to the purchase of the site by Ku-ring-gai Council in 1947). If remains of the Coleman businesses and residences have survived at the site, they would likely include structural remains, such as postholes, foundation walls, cesspits, wells or former services and associated artefacts and deposits. There is high (and known) potential for remains of wells and cesspits because they are likely to have been in use for most of this phase—services were generally not installed until the 1930s in the area. The content of the extant historic well at the site would have high potential to provide important information about the Coleman household that cannot be obtained from the written records. Any structural remains associated with Coleman's property could provide information on the management of early commercial enterprises such as mixed businesses of late nineteenth century to early twentieth century North Shore, with the representation of what was likely to be the earliest local dairy in Lindfield.

Any evidence associated with the construction of the North Shore railway line would have limited research potential.

The site is considered to be significant in terms of this criterion for archaeological research potential of Coleman's home and business, and to some lesser degree, of the early orcharding and use of convict labour in the area, as telling remains of this type of evidence are not expected to be present within the boundaries of the study area.

The research potential of the study area is considered to be high as it could contribute information for the intensive use of the site between 1881 and 1947.

Association with Individuals, Events or Groups of Historical Importance (NSW Heritage Criteria A, B, and D)

The study area is on the outer edge of the Clanville Estate and to some extent could be associated with locally important activities, such as early orcharding and farming. The land was worked by convicts and although unlikely to survive, any evidence of their work on the site would be historically important.

The site is likely to contain intact remains of Coleman's Corner. Thomas Coleman purchased 10 acres in 1881 (within the study area), where he built his home and established several shops on the site fronting Lane Cove Road (now the Pacific Highway). These included a grocer, newsagency, a produce store, a leased blacksmiths and farrier shop and the first dairy on Lane Cove Road, which supplied milk for much of Lindfield, Roseville and Killara. Thomas and his wife Emma Coleman were amongst the first residents of Lindfield and their property was a landmark in the district—the area was known for many years as Coleman's Corner. The archaeological remains could help build a connection between the site's important historical associations and the local community (which has already expressed interest in the physical remains of the site's history). The site was also part of the development of an urban business and residential area following the establishment of the railway. It is an example of how rail links improved availability of resources, import and transport options, and can be linked to a wider history of Sydney's residential development.

It can also be linked to a number of NSW Historical Themes, such as:

- Agriculture: activities relating to the cultivation and rearing of plant and animal species, usually for commercial purposes (Coleman's dairy).

- Commerce: activities related to the buying, selling and exchanging of goods and services (Coleman's shops).
- Persons: activities of, and associations with, identifiable individuals, families and communal groups (Coleman's Corner)

The site is therefore considered to be significant in terms of Criteria A, B and D at a local level.

Aesthetic or Technical Significance (NSW Heritage Criterion C)

At this stage of the project, it is not possible to fully determine if the archaeological remains at this site would meet this criterion. If present, significant intact relics or movable items considered rare or representative in the course of NSW's history could have aesthetic value and as such would warrant preservation through post-excavation interpretation.

The potential archaeological remains on site are unlikely to demonstrate a significant technical achievement as it is expected they would generally have been made of local materials (timber/stone/brick) and in accordance with well-established building techniques of the time.

Ability to Demonstrate the Past through Archaeological Remains (NSW Heritage Criteria A, C, F and G)

The potential for the site to contain archaeological evidence associated with the key phases of the site's history is moderate–high. This assessment is based on both the known activities at the study area, which were focused towards the western side of the site, and the potential for preserved remains in this area—including artefacts inside the extant well. The surviving artefactual evidence, which is likely associated with the Coleman's home and business, would have the ability to demonstrate the site's past associations with local dairying industries and businesses, as well as the lifeways of the property occupants.

5.3 Bickford and Sullivan's Questions

Can the Site Contribute Knowledge that no Other Site Can?

The site has limited potential to contribute information about the early farming land use, orchards or Clanville Estate. The ephemeral and marginal nature of the elements associated with Clanville Estate means it has limited potential to contribute information about early farming and land grants in North Sydney. The subdivision of Clanville Estate and building of the railway are also unlikely to contribute significant knowledge because the study area was marginal to the core of these activities. Other areas in the region are likely to represent these activities in a more useful way.

The Coleman's occupation of the site was localised, taking up the western side of the study area fronting the Pacific Highway. The archaeological record of this phase is likely to contribute local knowledge that no other site can, due to the rarity of the site as a local landmark and the intensity of the site's use, both geographically and temporally.

Can the Site Contribute Knowledge that no Other Resource Can?

While there is potential for further historical research into the Coleman family and the site's history, the archaeological resource will likely provide evidence not attainable through other resources. Historical records have the potential to provide particulars of occupants and further information about the businesses run at the site. Archaeological features are likely to provide spatial evidence of the site's internal organisation and details of how the occupants lived, consumed and produced goods for

everyday living. Greater understanding of the lifeways of occupants would contribute important knowledge of the site. Any legible structural remains and artefacts associated with this phase would also provide an important physical link for local community to the beginnings of European history in this area.

Is this Knowledge Relevant to General Questions About Human History or Other Substantive Questions Relating to Australian History, or Does it Contribute to Other Major Research Questions?

If intelligible historical archaeological features or deposits do survive within the site, they have the potential to answer some questions relating to the early development of Lindfield or the wider North Shore area. The remains of the Coleman's Corner home and businesses would contribute to questions of the development of a commercial enterprise in the area. However, the subject site has the limited ability to contribute to major research questions relating to Australia's history, including a link to some NSW historical themes.

5.4 Significance of Potential Archaeological Remains

The significance of the potential archaeological remains are summarised in Table 5.1 below.

Table 5.1 Potential Archaeological Remains within the Study Area and their Potential Significance.

Phase and Date	Potential Archaeological Remains	Processes affecting survival	Likelihood of survival	Heritage Significance
Phase 1: Early land grant and farming of Clanville (1819–1858)	Evidence of farming activities, such as early boundaries or fence lines, or farming practices, such as stockyards. Evidence of land clearing, establishing orchards or convict work.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ephemeral nature of remains, such as post holes. Lack of activities—the majority of farming land and structures did not occur on the subject site but were located further south. 	Phase 1: Early land grant and farming of Clanville (1819–1858)	Local
Phase 2: Subdivision of Clanville Estate(1858–1881)	Evidence of allotment subdivisions such as post holes or land use. Evidence of early railway line construction, such as grading, levelling fill, remnants of ballast, lost artefacts, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ephemeral nature of remains. Allotment divisions likely disturbed by later site development. Later development of site, including Coleman's developments and the Lindfield Library construction. 	Phase 2: Subdivision of Clanville Estate(1858–1881)	Local

Phase 3: Thomas Coleman's home, shop, nursery and dairy (1881–1947)	<p>Evidence of cottages and businesses, such as a motor cycle works, dairy farmers, ice and storage service or blacksmiths workshop.</p> <p>Coleman's home, including a four-room timber house, a nine-room timber house, and the extant well.</p> <p>Coleman's industry uses, such as evidence of dairy structures, Coleman's store, a plant nursery, a timber yard and a car yard.</p> <p>Subsurface structural remains such as additional wells, cess pits, foundations or early services.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post 1947 development of site, including the library building, annex, tennis courts and services. • 1932 Pacific Highway widening and resumption of land. • Minor landscaping, tree planting and additions of paths and walkways. 	Phase 3: Thomas Coleman's home, shop, nursery and dairy (1881–1947)	Local
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5.5 Summary Statement of Significance

The site is associated with three phases of the nineteenth and early twentieth century development, prior to Ku-ring-gai Council resuming and developing the site: the early Clanville land use (1819–1850s), the subdivision of Clanville Estate and North Shore railway line construction (1850s–1880s), and the Coleman family's home, shop, nursery and dairy (1881–1947).

Many of the early land uses would be ephemeral in nature and the site is unlikely to contain intact remains associated with historical phases before the 1880s. If present, these items would be limited to evidence of fence lines and isolated artefacts, which would have limited research potential. However, any comprehensible evidence of convict work on the land would be considered of state and possibly national heritage significance.

Coleman's development of the western side of the site involved the construction of many residential and local industry related structures. Localised disturbance from the footprint of extant buildings have likely compromised the integrity of the potential archaeological remains in places. However, the complex fronting the Pacific Highway is likely to remain at least in part in the yard and carpark of the Lindfield Library. These items are considered to be significant in terms of historical values and archaeological research potential to contribute new information about the site and area's history. Archaeological evidence associated with Coleman's Corner would be of significant at a local level.

5.6 Endnotes

- ¹ Bickford, A and Sullivan, S 1984, 'Assessing the Research Significance of Historic Sites, in Sullivan, S and Bowdler, S (eds), *Site Surveys and Significance Assessment in Australian Archaeology Proceedings of the 1981 Springwood Conference on Australian Prehistory*, Department of Prehistory, Research School of Pacific Studies, the Australian National University, Canberra.
- ² Heritage Branch 2009, *Assessing Significance for Historical Archaeological Sites and Relics*, Heritage Branch of the Department of Planning.
- ³ Bickford, A and Sullivan, S 1984, 'Assessing the Research Significance of Historic Sites, in Sullivan, S and Bowdler, S (eds), *Site Surveys and Significance Assessment in Australian Archaeology Proceedings of the 1981 Springwood Conference on Australian Prehistory*, Department of Prehistory, Research School of Pacific Studies, the Australian National University, Canberra.

6.0 Archaeological Impact Assessment

6.1 Potential Impacts

On the basis of recommendations made in the Lindfield Library Community Facilities Study prepared by Elton Consulting¹, Ku-ring-gai Council propose to plan and construct a new library and future public community infrastructure on the Lindfield Community Hub site at Woodford Lane.

Due to the relocation of the library with other related community facilities to the Lindfield Community Hub site, Council is in the process of considering built form options for the existing Lindfield Library site, that are compatible with the existing B2 Zone. This will include the reclassification of the site from Community Land to Operational Land and increase the maximum floor space ratio. The building will be primarily for residential uses, with a variety of retail and office spaces to be provided on the ground floor.

It is likely that proposed concept designs will work with the natural grade of the site, but it is envisaged that bulk excavation for a basement level will be required. This would involve the disturbance and/or removal of any potential historical archaeological remains within the footprint of the prospective basement.

The assessment of the site's archaeological potential indicates that the portion of the site between the library building and the Pacific Highway may contain the highest level of preserved archaeological remains (Figure 4.1). This area also includes the extant historic well associated with the late nineteenth century Coleman's grocery complex.

The proposed development is likely to require the removal of the greater portion of the site's potential historical archaeological resources.

6.2 Recommended Mitigation Measures

The significance of the site's archaeological resource is primarily derived from its research potential and ability to be interpreted for public benefit. Therefore, the impact of the proposed development on the site's historical archaeological values could be mitigated by archaeological investigation and recording prior to, or concurrent with, the construction of the proposed development. This would ensure that the extant historic well and any other archaeological remains identified during the course of ground disturbance works could be appropriately investigated, recorded (so that the research potential of the site is fully realised) and interpreted.

The site includes an extant historic well that has been preserved as part of the library building. Given that the well is a well-known archaeological feature amongst the local community, it is recommended that this item be retained in situ. However, if the concept design is unable to allow for its in-situ retention, the well would be fully archaeologically investigated, removed and interpreted within the Lindfield Community Hub Site. The interpretation may also include reconstruction of the upper section of the well.

Based on the generally moderate potential for archaeological remains to be preserved on the remainder of the site, a program of archaeological monitoring and targeted investigation (prior to or in conjunction with ground disturbance works) would be required to satisfy the archaeological requirements associated with the assessed local significance of the site. Archaeological monitoring and detailed recording of any exposed features and deposits would provide an opportunity to gather

additional information relevant to the site's key periods of historical development. Investigation into these areas could yield further information that would add to the specific history of the site and the wider suburb of Lindfield; it would also provide for better understanding of the gradual expansion of the northern outskirts of Sydney through the late nineteenth and early twentieth century.

6.3 Interpretation

In addition to archaeological investigation, interpretation of the relics and/or evidence found could mitigate any adverse archaeological impacts. Interpretation would be informed by the archaeological discoveries identified at the site and communicate the history and heritage significance of the site to the community. Interpretation may include digital recording, signage, reconstruction or some other type of interpretation considered to be appropriate for the site and the significance of the resources found.

6.4 Endnotes

- ¹ Elton Consulting, Lindfield Community Facilities Study, report prepared for Ku-ring-gai Council, April 2014.

7.0 Conclusions and Recommendations

7.1 Conclusions

- The site has moderate to high potential to contain historical archaeological remains associated with the key phase of its late nineteenth century development associated with Thomas Coleman's shops and small industry complex. The complex became a landmark in the district, and was known to the locals for many years as Coleman's Corner.
- The potential historical archaeological resource associated with Coleman's Corner includes structural and depositional remains of the former shops (grocery, newsagency, produce store); residences; and associated outbuildings and infrastructure.
- The site includes an extant brick well associated with Coleman's Corner.
- The potential historical archaeological resource within the site associated with earlier phases of site development—such as the early grant and farming period of the Clanville orchard and farm property (1819–1858)—is assessed to be low. Equally, any potential archaeological resource associated with the c1885 North Shore railway line that runs along the site's eastern boundary would be considered to be low.
- The proposed concept design is in early stages of its development. The design is likely to include a basement level/s, the construction of which would cause significant impact to any surviving archaeological remains on site. The construction of the prospective basement would require bulk excavations and possible partial or full removal of archaeological remains that may still survive at the site.
- The majority of the site's potential archaeological remains have been assessed to be significant at a local level. Relics associated with the nineteenth century convict labour used at the Clanville property for orcharding and farming are unlikely to exist onsite, but if any substantial evidence were to be found, it would be significant at a state or possibly national level. As such, most of the potential archaeological remains constitute relics within the meaning of the Heritage Act.
- Archaeological investigation of the areas assessed to have the potential to contain archaeological remains could provide an opportunity to identify additional undocumented features and deposits associated with early development of the site. These features and deposits could enhance our knowledge about the development of Lindfield and the wider area of the North Shore.

7.2 Recommendations

- As part of mitigation of the potential development impacts, a program of archaeological investigations and recording should be undertaken prior to, or in conjunction with, the ground disturbance works required for the proposed redevelopment.
- Based on the local significance of the site and its potential to contain relics, an Excavation Permit under Section 140 of the Heritage Act should be sought from the Heritage Council of NSW, to allow disturbance and possible removal of potential archaeological relics that would be impacted by the proposed development.

- An Archaeological Research Design that outlines the proposed archaeological management strategy and research framework for the site should be prepared as part of the permit application.
- Ground disturbance works in the areas of the site identified as having potential to contain archaeological relics should not commence until the Excavation Permit has been issued.
- The removal of locally significant archaeological relics should be allowed only after thorough archaeological investigation and recording.
- The results of archaeological monitoring and recording of the site should be presented in the final excavation report and used to inform future interpretation measures as part of the proposed development of the site.
- Given the local interest in the extant well and the history of the site, it is recommended that the well be left in situ and incorporated into the new design. However, if this option is not feasible due to construction restraints, removal with relocation and interpretation should be considered. It is further recommended that interpretation of the well be relocated to the associated Lindfield Community Hub site, being a more publically accessible location.
- Interpretation of the site's archaeological resource, post excavation, should warrant the implementation of a public interpretation program (possibly in the form of interpretive signage or other suitable medium) in order to offset development impacts on the potential significant resource that may exist on site.
- A copy of this report should be sent to the NSW Heritage Division, OEH for their endorsement and records.
- In the event that unexpected historical archaeological evidence not identified in this report was to be encountered during site works, works should cease and the Heritage Division, OEH, be notified immediately in accordance with Section 146 of the Heritage Act.
- In the event that Aboriginal archaeological remains are located during the course of the proposed development or historical archaeological investigations within the subject site, work should cease immediately, and, if not already present, an archaeologist should be contacted to document and assess these finds. Any Aboriginal objects must be reported to the OEH under Section 89A of the NPW Act.