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HELPING CLIENTS MAKE A FUTURE FOR THE PAST

21 December 2015

Ku-ring-gai Municipal Council  
ATTN: Louise Drum  
Senior Urban Designer

## Re: Archaeological Monitoring Report for 259-271 Pacific Highway, Lindfield

### Project Background

Ku-ring-gai Council is investigating built form options for the development of 259-271 Pacific Highway, Lindfield (the study area). An historical archaeological assessment of the study area was undertaken by GML Heritage in 2015<sup>1</sup> to inform the proposed concept design. Areas of archaeological potential associated with key phases of the nineteenth and early twentieth century development of the study area were identified.

The northwest part of the study area was assessed as having moderate – high archaeological potential, associated with Thomas Coleman's shops and small industry complex known as Colman's Corner (1881-1947). Potential historical archaeological resources include structural and depositional remains of former shops (grocer, newsagency, produce store, blacksmiths and farrier shop, and dairy), residences, a well and associated outbuildings and infrastructure (GML 2015, p. 29).

The remainder of the study area was assessed as having low or low – moderate archaeological potential, associated with early farming activities (1819-1858), subdivision of the Clanville Estate and construction of the North Shore railway line (1858-1881). Potential historical archaeological resources include early boundaries or fence lines, post holes, and evidence of railway construction (grading, levelling fill, ballast etc) (GML 2015, p. 28).

The majority of the potential archaeological resources were assessed as having local heritage significance (GML 2015, p. 34-45).

An application for an exception from the need for an excavation permit under section 139(4) of the *Heritage Act 1977* for geotechnical and environmental works at 259-271 Pacific Highway, Lindfield NSW, was endorsed by the Office of Environment and Heritage on 19 November 2015.

Monitoring of the geotechnical and stage 2 environmental works was undertaken by Ngaire Richards on 6 and 13 December 2015. The works include the following:

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<sup>1</sup> GML Heritage Pty Ltd, June 2015. *Lindfield Library Site, Lindfield: Historical Archaeological Assessment*. Report, Report to SJB Urban on behalf of Ku-ring-gai Council.

### Geotechnical works by Asset Geotechnical

- Sinking of five boreholes to bedrock by auger using a track-mounted rig (BH1-BH5); and
- Installation of two groundwater monitoring standpipes at BH1 and BH5.

### Phase 2 environmental works by SLR Consulting

- Excavation of seven test pits 400 mm wide and between 1-1.5 m long (TP1-TP7); and
- Drilling of three boreholes with a nominal diameter of 150 mm using a hand auger (HA3-HA5).

A plan of the site indicating the approximate location of the boreholes and test pits in relation to areas of archaeological potential is appended to this report (**Figure 1**).

### Monitoring Methodology

The methodology below, developed by Futurepast Heritage Consulting Pty Ltd<sup>2</sup>, was followed during archaeological monitoring of the works:

#### Areas of low to moderate archaeological potential

*[...] [T]he works are unlikely to have an impact on areas assessed as having a low to moderate archaeological potential. During works, an archaeologist will be present on site to monitor the activity. If there is an observed risk, the test will either be relocated or the work will cease. Any historic material present within the core logs will be collected and recorded.*

#### Areas of moderate to high archaeological potential

*Tests located in the north western corner of the site will be closely monitored by an archaeologist during works. The area is identified as having moderate to high archaeological potential, with various potential building footings identified. Simultaneously though, the area is understood to be heavily disturbed as Coleman's Corner is located within a roadway, a footpath and in close vicinity to two modern buildings. If any archaeological risk is observed, work will cease or be relocated up to 500mm away. Any historic material present within the core logs will be collected and recorded.*

### Monitoring Results

The soil profile observed during archaeological monitoring was generally consistent across the north west of the study area. Test pits TP1 –TP5 contained an upper layer of brown silty loam (c.30 cm deep) overlying orange clay (**Figure 2**). In TP2, fine to coarse fragments of slag (c. 2 mm-20 mm in diameter) were mixed with the silty loam (**Figure 3**). In the east of the study area, the soil profile in test pits TP6-TP7 consisted of shallow brown silty loam topsoil (c. 5cm deep), overlying subsoils of orange and dark brown clay (**Figure 4**).

Artefacts were recorded in TP2, TP3 and TP5 (

). No historic material was observed in TP1, TP4, TP6, and TP7, or in the borehole logs from BH1-BH5 and HA3-HA5.

TP2 was located at the rear of the former farriers shop, and contained two metal artefacts; a steel tool with a solid cylindrical handle and flat trapezoidal head (possibly a blacksmiths tool), and a ring (possibly a

<sup>2</sup> Futurepast Heritage Consulting Pty Ltd, 20 October 2015. *Subject: Statement of support for Section 139(4) Excavation Exception Application (1B) for 259---271 Pacific Highway, Lindfield.* Letter report to Office of Environment and Heritage.

bit ring) (**Figure 3**). Excavation was stopped at depth of c. 10-15 cm below ground level when the artefacts were encountered, and the test pit was relocated approximately 50 cm south west, closer to the Pacific Highway. No historic material or slag was in the relocated test pit.

TP3 was located at the rear of Colman's former cottage, and a bull nose shale brick (**Figure 5**), a broken machine pressed brick with frog and screw impression (**Figure 6**), and small ceramic sherd - a whiteware body sherd with transparent glaze and moulded decoration on one side - were identified in the excavated material. The ceramic sherd was too small to determine the vessel form. Excavation was stopped at depth of c. 30 cm below ground level when the bull nose brick was encountered, and the test pit was relocated approximately 50 cm north east, closer to the Lindfield library building. No historic material was in the relocated test pit.

TP3 was located at the back of Colman's former cottage, and contained two machine pressed bricks with frogs and screw impressions, and one earthenware ceramic sherd – an unglazed, coarse red paste rim, probably from a flowerpot (**Figure 7**). The bricks were found at a depth of c. 25 cm and were sitting on the surface of the clay, but there was no mortar adhering to them, suggesting they were not part of the building foundations. Excavation was stopped when the surface of the bricks was encountered, and the test pit was relocated approximately 40 cm southwest, closer to the Pacific Highway. No historical material was observed in the relocated test pit.

Test Pit	Historic Material
TP1	-
TP2	Two metal artefacts – a steel tool with solid cylindrical handle and flat trapezoidal head, and a ring (possibly a bit ring).
TP3	One machine pressed brick with frog and screw impression, one bull nose shale brick, and one ceramic sherd – a glazed whiteware body sherd with moulded decoration on one side.
TP4	-
TP5	Two machine pressed bricks with frogs and screw impressions and one ceramic sherd – a coarse red paste earthenware rim (probably from a flowerpot).
TP6	-
TP7	-

**Table 1. Summary of historic material in stage 2 environmental test pits.**

## Conclusions

There was no evidence of Aboriginal objects on the site. No substantial intact archaeological relics of State or local significance were exposed during the archaeological monitoring.

The monitoring identified historic material in test pits TP2, TP3 and TP5, in an area assessed as having moderate to high archaeological potential. The material probably dates to the phase of site development associated with Thomas Coleman's shops and small industry complex in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. The slag and metal artefacts from TP2 can be tentatively associated with the former farriers shop. The material has limited research value, with little to contribute to the history of the site that could not be derived from other sources.

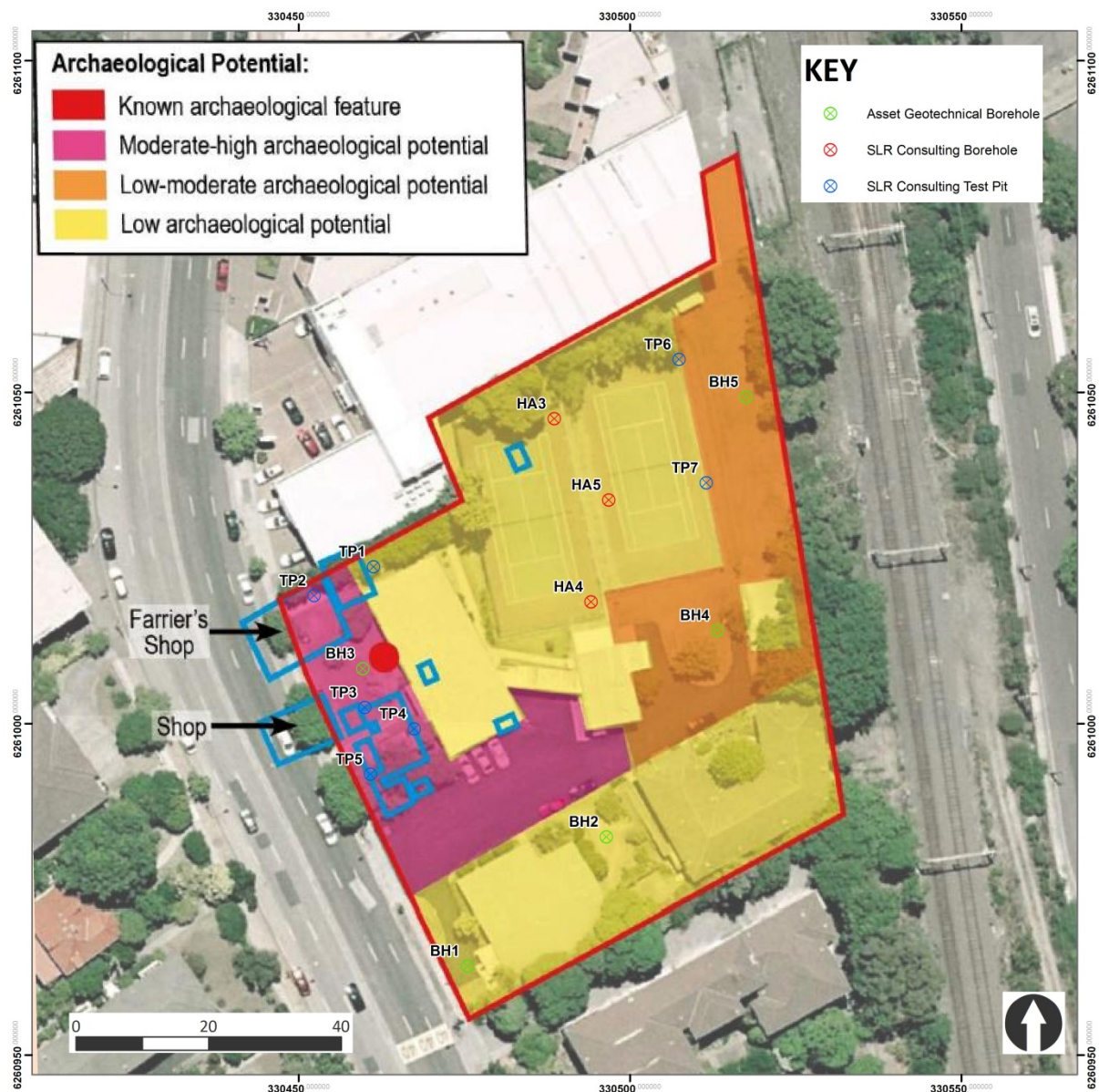






Figure 2. North section of TP1, showing typical soil profile of brown silty loam overlying orange clay.



Figure 3. Overview of TP2 with metal artefacts.





**Figure 4. West section of TP6, showing typical soil profile with shallow brown topsoil overlying orange and dark brown clay subsoils.**



**Figure 5. Bull nose brick from TP3.**





**Figure 6. Machine pressed brick with frog and screw impression from TP3.**



**Figure 7. Overview of TP5 with machine pressed bricks.**