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Heritage Consultants



North West Growth Centre: Area 20 Precinct Cultural Heritage Interpretation Strategy

Report prepared for NSW Department of Planning
November 2010

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Report Register

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 Background

Godden Mackay Logan (GML) has been commissioned by the NSW Department of Planning (DoP) to prepare an Interpretation Strategy (IS) for the Area 20 Precinct located within Sydney's Northwest Growth Centre (see Figure 1.1).

In September 2009, GML completed the North West Growth Centre Area 20 Precinct Non-Indigenous Heritage Assessment report for the DoP which identifies and describes the cultural heritage values located within and in the vicinity of Area 20. This IS has been prepared to assist in the interpretation and promotion of the cultural heritage located within the precinct.

Interpretation of the heritage places and values of the precinct will be part of the forward planning of Area 20. A vision for Area 20 is included in Schedule One of the Blacktown City Council (BCC) Growth Centre Precinct Development Control Plan 2010 (DCP). The vision responds to the identified cultural values associated with the subject site.

Telling the story of the precinct will imbue the proposed urban development with a unique character and provide a source of enjoyment and interest for future residents and visitors, as well as conserving important heritage items and values.

This IS builds on the interpretation framework in the Non-Indigenous Heritage Assessment report and addresses specific interpretation options for the site as a whole. This strategy covers the following:

- context and concepts identifying a variety of ways in which the many aspects of heritage significance of the site may be interpreted;
- historic themes, key messages and storylines associated with the site;
- potential future audiences and people associated with the site; and
- interpretive media and general interpretive locations that take into account the opportunities and constraints arising from the site's significance which can be integrated into the Indicative Layout Plan (ILP) and Development Control Plan (DCP) process.

The following studies have also been reviewed as part of the preparation of this IS:

- Area 20 Precinct Landscape and Visual Analysis Report (Conybeare Morrison 2010).
- Area 20 Precinct Aboriginal Heritage Assessment (Kelleher Nightingale Consulting Pty Ltd 2009).
- Area 20 Precinct Draft Development Control Plan Schedule One (Department of Planning).

In this report, unless otherwise stated, the subject site is referred to as Area 20.

1.2 Subject Site

Area 20 is approximately 145 hectares in size and bounded by Windsor Road to the east and Schofields Road to the south, with Second Ponds Creek running through the centre (see Figure 1.2). The western and northern boundaries of Area 20 follow the boundaries of existing land

ownership and are defined by the catchment of Second Ponds Creek. The precinct incorporates Rouse Hill House and Farm and part of the Rouse Hill Regional Park and falls entirely within the Blacktown local government area. The Baulkham Hills local government area is located to the east of the precinct, on the opposite side of Windsor Road to the east.

The area originally designated as the Area 20 Precinct extended from the intersection of Windsor and Schofields roads to Second Ponds Creek. Following a review of precinct boundaries in 2008, 145 hectares of the Riverstone East Precinct release area was transferred to the Area 20 Precinct.

The updated boundary of the Area 20 Precinct (study area) is shown in Figure 1.2.

1.3 Scope

The primary objective of this IS is to help integrate heritage interpretation initiatives into the proposed rezoning of land and future residential development within Area 20. The IS is intended to inform and guide the initial planning for heritage interpretation, including the potential development of suitable public artwork that draws on the site's heritage significance as a source of creative inspiration.

Staff of Blacktown City Council, Historic Houses Trust of NSW and Conybeare Morrison Pty Ltd have been consulted during the preparation of this IS.

Stages of interpretive planning will include:

- client review and endorsement:
- developing select interpretive media and content; and
- implementing select interpretive initiatives.

1.3.1 Report Outline

This report is divided into the following subsections:

- An introduction to the project (Section 1.0).
- Interpretation as a conservation process (Section 2.0).
- Historical overview (Section 3.0).
- Historic themes and key stories (Section 4.0).
- Site Inventory (Section 5.0).
- Interpretation and recommendations (Section 6.0).
- Development and implementation tasks and responsibilities (Section 7.0).

1.4 Listings

A number of heritage items are within and in the immediate vicinity of Area 20. The following registers were checked as part of the preparation of this IS: the Australian Heritage Database (including the National Heritage List, the Commonwealth Heritage List and the Register of the National Estate), the NSW State Heritage Register (SHR), the State Heritage Inventory (SHI), the National Trust Register, *Sydney Regional Environmental Plan 19—Rouse Hill Development Area*

(SREP) 1989, *Blacktown Local Environmental Plan (BLEP)* 1988, *Baulkham Hills Shire Local Environmental Plan (BHLEP)* 2005 and relevant government agency Section 170 Registers including those of the Department of Environment and Climate Change NSW, NSW Department of Planning, Roads and Traffic Authority NSW, Energy Australia, RailCorp and Sydney Water.

The following statutory and non-statutory listings apply to Old Windsor Road and Rouse Hill Estate, which is located within the study area on the northwestern boundary abutting Windsor Road:

Listed	Statutory and non-statutory listings	Description
<input type="checkbox"/>	National Heritage List	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Commonwealth Heritage List	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NSW State Heritage Register	Rouse Hill House and Farm – Homestead Complex
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Register of the National Estate	Rouse Hill House and Farm – Homestead Complex
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	S170 NSW Heritage and Conservation Register Historic Houses Trust of NSW	Rouse Hill House and Farm – Homestead Complex
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	S170 NSW Heritage and Conservation Register Roads and Traffic Authority, NSW	Old Windsor Road and Windsor Road Heritage Precincts
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Blacktown Local Environment Plan	Rouse Hill House and Farm – Homestead Complex

There are several other listed heritage items in the vicinity of Area 20 and these are shown in Figure 1.3.

1.5 Methodology and Terminology

This IS has been prepared in accordance with the standards set by the Heritage Interpretation Policy and Guidelines as endorsed by the Heritage Council of NSW, August 2005. It is also in accordance with recommendations contained in *The Burra Charter: The Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance 1999* (the Burra Charter).

1.6 Authorship and Acknowledgements

This report was prepared by Randa Cotterell, Research Assistant and Sharon Veale, Senior Associate. Sheridan Burke, Partner reviewed the report and provided strategic input.

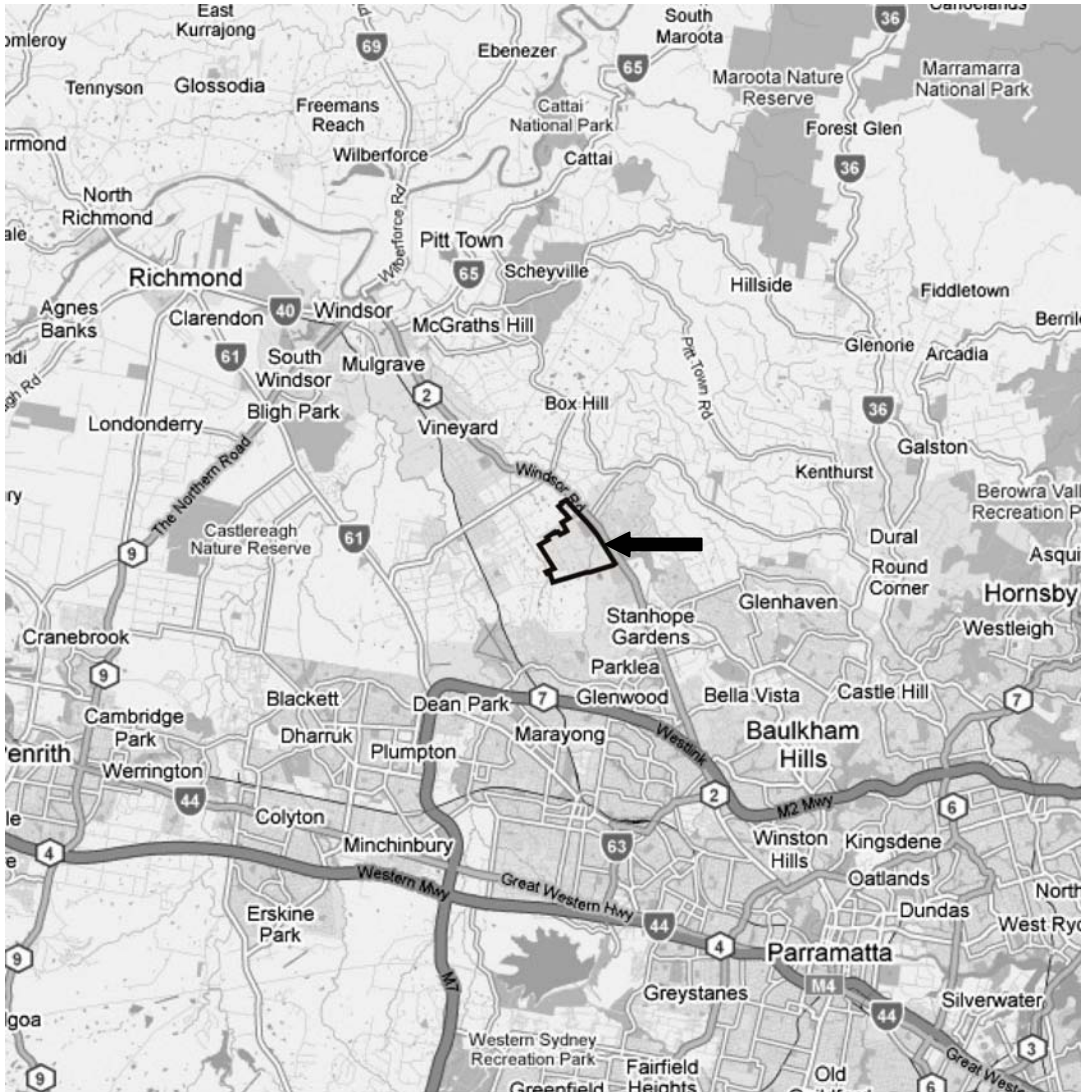


Figure 1.1 Map showing approximate location of the Area 20 Precinct. The arrow marks the study area boundary. (Source: Google maps with addition by Godden Mackay Logan 2009)



Figure 1.2 Aerial photograph of the Rouse Hill area, showing the updated boundary of the Area 20 Precinct (study area) marked by the solid white line. Note that the new alignment of Windsor Road is marked by the hatched white line. (Source: Google Earth with additions by GML 2009)

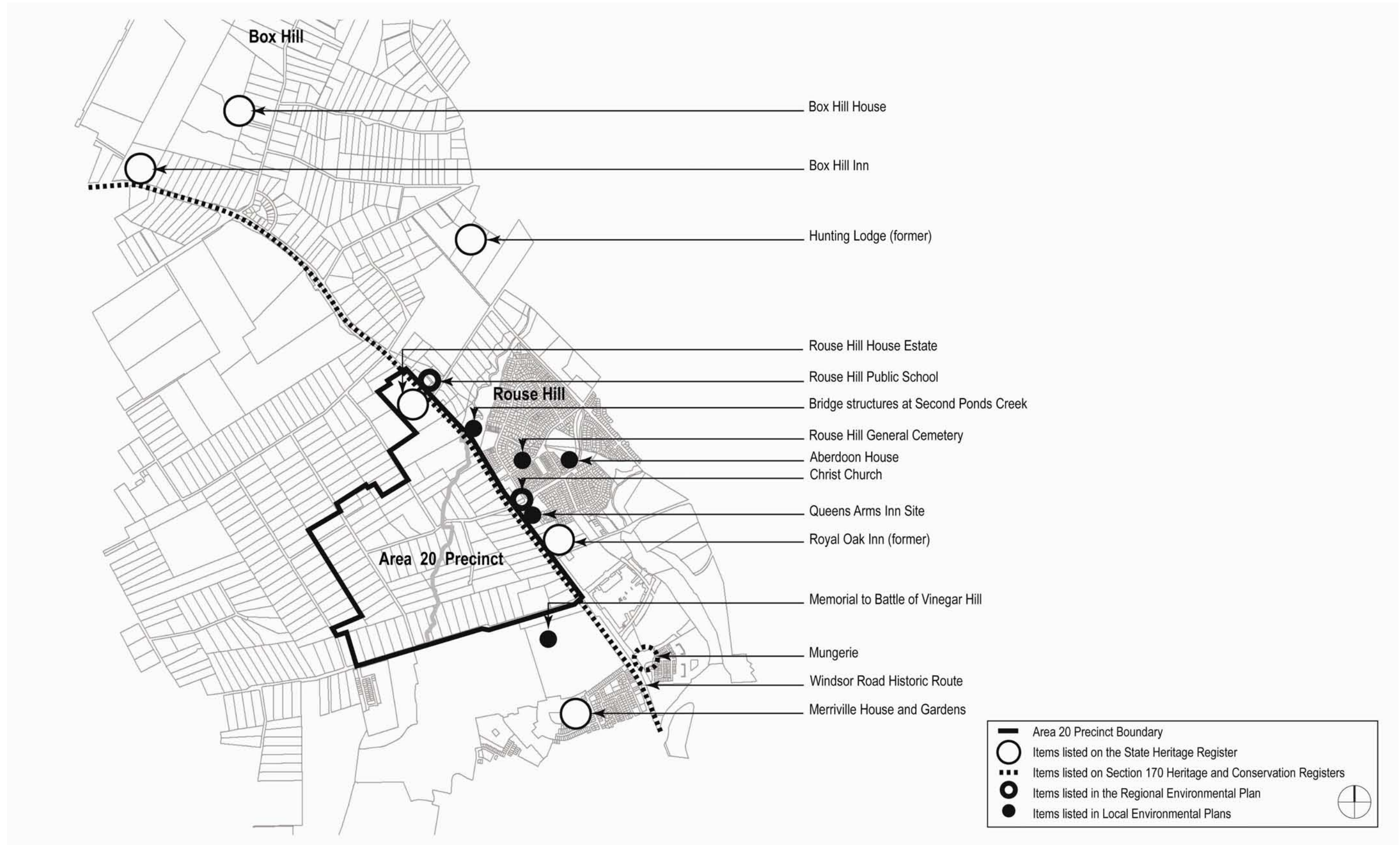


Figure 1.3 Plan of the study area and surrounding area showing approximate locations of listed heritage items. (Source: Base map Department of Planning NSW with GML mark-up of locations 2009)

2.0 Interpretation as a Conservation Process

Interpretation is an essential part of the heritage conservation process, as important as authentic restoration and regular maintenance. The active interpretation of heritage places supports the recognition and understanding of a site's values and significance by owners and the community.

In recent years, the importance of integrating interpretation in the conservation process has been highlighted. This was recognised through the 1999 revisions to the Burra Charter, which states, 'interpretation means all the ways of presenting the cultural significance of the place'. Interpretation may be a combination of the treatment of the fabric (eg maintenance, restoration, reconstruction), the use of and activities at the place, and the use of introduced explanatory material (Article 1.17).

Article 24.1 of the Burra Charter goes on to state, 'Significant associations between people and a place should be respected, retained and not obscured. Opportunities for the interpretation, commemoration and celebration of these associations should be investigated and implemented.' The charter notes that, 'for many places, associations will be linked to use'. Article 25 continues, 'the cultural significance of many places is not readily apparent, and should be explained by interpretation. Interpretation should enhance understanding enjoyment and be culturally appropriate'.

In 2004, the Heritage Branch, NSW Department of Planning prepared materials to encourage good practice in the interpretation of heritage items across New South Wales. This IS reflects the standards set by the Heritage Interpretation Policy and Guidelines, as endorsed by the Heritage Council of NSW, August 2005.

There is also an increased awareness about the need to interpret Aboriginal values, culture and country as part of all historic site interpretation. Specific guidelines such as *Ask First: A guide for respecting Indigenous heritage places and values* (published by the Australian Heritage Commission in 2002) and *Best Practice for Interpreting Aboriginal Culture and Country* (working draft 2005) by the Interpretation Australia Association have been prepared to help with this process.

2.1 Approach

Typically, the preparation of integrated, multi-faceted 'interpretation' for a place that has heritage values, would be carried out as part of a three-stage process, as summarised in Table 1 below.

Table 1 Interpretation methodology.

Interpretation plan: Stage 1—interpretation strategy
Introduction
Context of report, study area, approach
Application of interpretation—why interpret?
Interpretation as a conservation process Interpretation principles: place, audience, client, community collaboration
History overview and significance—what's the story?
Research and analysis of the place and its historic context

The significance of the site
Identification of commonwealth, state and local historic themes and key messages for the place

Site inventory—*what do we know?*

Description: buildings and surrounding environmental characteristics
Connections to other places, events, items
Connections to associated people
Existing and target/potential visitation
Interpretive resources

Interpretation policy development—*where are we headed?*

Interpretation opportunities to sustain the significance, integrity and authenticity of the place
Identify the audiences

Draft interpretation strategy—*what's proposed?*

Potential interpretive media and locations
Development and implementation tasks and responsibilities

Interpretation plan: Stage 2—content development

Development of content, materials and media

Review client/stakeholder/community comments on strategic overview report
Integrate interpretation into ongoing planning process
Develop interpretive media
Develop interpretive stories
Key texts and illustrations (consider copyright and approvals)
Recommendations for front-end evaluation
Design/production/fabrication/construction overview
Staged summary of activities, installation tasks, timing and responsibilities
Recommendations for maintenance
Recommendations for review

Interpretation plan: Stage 3—implementation

Implementation of interpretation plan

Review client/stakeholder/community comments on content
Detailed design of interpretive media
Evaluation of interpretive media
Image use or copyright clearances
Production of interpretive media
Installation of interpretive media
Finalise maintenance plan
Finalise review plan

This Stage 1 report provides specific recommendations on how the cultural heritage significance of Area 20 might be usefully interpreted as part of the proposed rezoning and future residential development.

2.2 Interpreting Area 20

Interpreting Area 20 will contribute an important aspect to the future planning of the area. The precinct's history includes various stories that can provide a source of enjoyment to residents and visitors, while at the same time conserving heritage items and values. To allow for this, certain principles need to be applied to guide future interpretation.



Key interpretation principles for Area 20 include the following:



- focus on the history and significant elements of the site to develop site-specific themes and stories;
- involve people with skills and experience in heritage interpretation;
- involve associated people to contribute to the interpretation process
- use documentary research and graphic material, as well as built fabric and landscape elements, to convey and interpret the history and significance of the site;
- ensure all research is thorough and that accumulated materials are publicly deposited, to be available at the completion of the project;
- identify potential audiences;
- ensure that interpretation recommendations and devices have potential to engage and stimulate public interest by evaluating them during and after development;
- ensure that recommendations and devices are integrated with conservation policy and planning;
- ensure that interpretive devices will be robust, accessible, reversible and compatible with the significance of the site;
- interpretation should be designed to respond to future care, control and management requirements;
- ensure the proposed interpretive initiatives reflect a collaborative approach to design and are well integrated into the landscape and architectural intent of the new development; and
- plan for continuing maintenance and regular review of interpretive media.


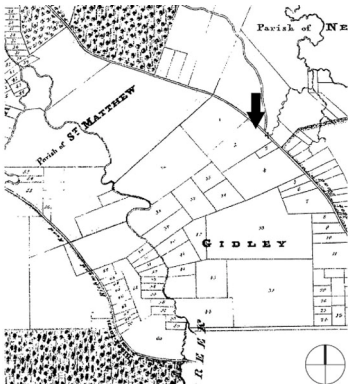
3.0 Historical Overview

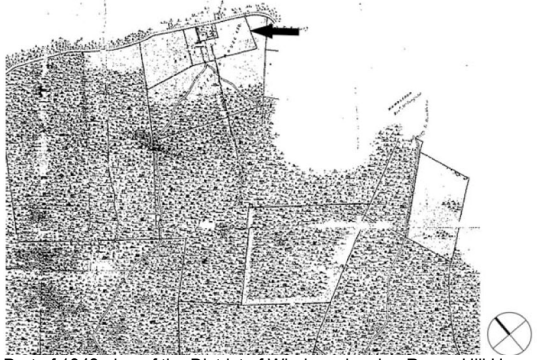

This section provides a brief overview of the site's historical development. The historical overview is an important step in the development of themes and messages for interpretation.

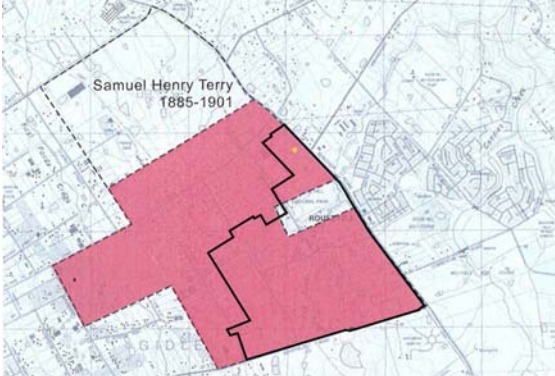

Year	Event	Image Reference
Pre European settlement		
	<p>Area 20 is connected to the Aboriginal history of the Cumberland Plains.</p> <p>The traditional owners of the area are the "Dharuk [Darug] speaking people [who] adjoined the Thurrawal on the north, extending along the coast to the Hawkesbury River, and inland to what are now Windsor, Penrith, Campbelltown and intervening towns".¹</p> <p>The inland inhabitants lived much differently to the way the coastal inhabitants lived and were referred to as the wood tribes.</p> <p>Hunting played a big role in their lives, snares were set along the river to catch wallabies and bandicoots. The main type of animal food was most probably possums and gliders. These were smoked out of trees with a fire at the base.</p>	
Early European settlement		
1789	As early as 1789, European exploration of the area in and around the Area 20 precinct had begun. Settlement in the area began to take shape from the later 1790s, first through the establishment of government farms at nearby Toongabbie in 1791 and followed by grants to emancipist and free settlers between 1793 and 1799 around Toongabbie, Kellyville and Dundas.	
1794	Hawkesbury Road, had been laid out in 1794 by Lieutenant-Governor Grose to connect Parramatta and Sydney with the new farming community established on the Hawkesbury near present-day Windsor. The name Windsor Road was adopted to recognise the growing importance of the Windsor district.	

Year	Event	Image Reference
1801	<p>A government farm was established at Castle Hill on 34,539 acres to the south and east of the study area.</p>	 <p>View of Castle Hill Government Farm, c1806, an unsigned watercolour that has been attributed to convict artist John Lewin. This shows the extensive clearing, various buildings and the landform which is still apparent in views from Banks Road today. (Source: ML PXD379-1 f.8)</p>
1804	<p>The convicts staged and organised an uprising. With the intention of capturing the farming establishments at the Hawkesbury and the town of Parramatta, one group of convicts headed from Castle Hill towards Windsor along the Hawkesbury Road (later renamed Windsor Road) while another, after failing to link up with rebel groups at Parramatta, concealed themselves around Castle Hill Road. Both groups failed in their objectives, being confronted and quickly put down by soldiers and armed citizens.²</p> <p>The main confrontation came at a site known as Vinegar Hill, where upwards of 230 convicts were met by a small contingent of troops who fired on and scattered the rebels in a short pitched battle. With the ringleaders captured, the main force of rebels fled through the forest and along the Hawkesbury Road, where they were pursued and overtaken by the troopers. Twelve convicts were killed during the skirmish.³ The actual site of the battle has never been absolutely confirmed and debate continues amongst historians about the exact location.</p>	 <p>Convict uprising at Castle Hill, 1804, (Major Johnston with Quartermaster Laycock and twenty five privates of New South Wales Corps defeats two hundred and sixty six armed rebels, 5th March 1804). (Source: NLA PIC T2495 NK10162 LOC Box B13)</p>
1825 - 1829	<p>Coaching inns and stopping places along the route were constructed along Windsor Road due to traffic. Two examples of these early inns remain along Windsor Road close to the study area. These are the Box Hill Inn (originally known as the Coach House Inn) built by the Rummery family in c1825 and situated to the northwest of the study area (at the junction of Windsor Road and Terry Road) and the Royal Oak Inn, constructed in c1829 on the eastern side of Windsor Road near Commercial Road (close to but outside the study area).⁴ Other early inns such as</p>	

Year	Event	Image Reference
	the Bird-in-Hand and the White Hart Hotel faced Windsor Road to the south of the study area.	
Richard Rouse and Rouse Hill House		
1801	Richard Rouse arrived in NSW	 <p data-bbox="858 947 1404 1052">Portrait of Richard Rouse, 1847 / W. Griffith, 1947 (Source: Historic House Trust <http://collection.hht.net.au/firsthhtpictures/picturerecord.jsp?r.ecno=31474>)</p>
1805	Rouse appointed Superintendent of Works of Parramatta. He later supported Governor William Bligh which resulted in the loss of his position.	 <p data-bbox="858 1590 1404 1695">Portrait of Governor William Bligh, c1875 (Source: State Library of Victoria < http://www.slv.vic.gov.au/pictoria/gid/slv-pic.aab61065/1/a15233>)</p>
1810	Rouse was reinstated by Macquarie.	

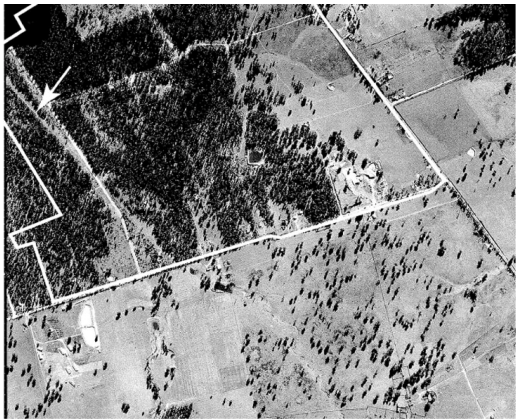

Year	Event	Image Reference
1810-1816	<p>Rouse was involved in construction of tollhouses on the colony's roads. One of these was erected on Windsor Road in 1813. In the same year, Rouse was granted 450 acres near Vinegar Hill directly opposite the tollhouse (the grant was formalised in 1816), with construction on a country house beginning there soon after.</p> <p>The house was sited facing Windsor Road on a hill that afforded views over the surrounding estate, the road and the tollhouse nearby as well as vistas to the Blue Mountains in the far distance and to nearby homesteads such as Box Hill. The area was known as Rouse Hill from this period onwards.</p>	 <p>Rouse Hill House, c1870 (Source: Historic House Trust <http://collection.hht.net.au/firsthtpictures/picturerecord.jsp?r.ecno=35622>)</p>
1817-1818	<p>Rouse enclosed his land by 1817 and soon added to the estate. An extra 150 acres adjoining its southern boundary were granted to him in 1818.⁵ That year it was reported that Rouse had cleared 100 acres and kept 10 horses, 195 horned cattle, 300 sheep and 40 hogs. He was growing maize, wheat, barley, oats, peas and potatoes on the estate, with an orchard and garden also in place.⁶</p>	 <p>Part of 1822 plan of the Parish of Gidley near Windsor. Richard Rouse's Rouse Hill Estate is marked as Lot 2 on the Windsor Road (arrowed).</p>
1823	Property increased to 1200 acres	
1825-1828	Rouse had also taken up land further west around Bathurst and Gulgong from 1825 and managed over 10,000 acres by 1828 when he retired and moved back to Rouse Hill House.	
1831	Box Hill estate (c1819) was to be linked to Rouse Hill through the marriage of Eleanor Rouse and John Terry. This union was further strengthened with the marriage of George Terry and Nina Rouse in 1895.	
1830s	Merriville, built between 1817 and 1830 on land granted to John Palmer. It was initially known as Hambeldon and served as a school in the 1830s. The property contained a superior cottage of eleven rooms and was purchased by Robert Pearce in the 1860s.	

Year	Event	Image Reference
1842	A plan of the Windsor District shows Rouse Hill estate as one of the few cleared areas along Windsor Road. The plan shows the house paddock with the house and associated outbuildings in place. To the southwest, the forest is shown largely uncleared, with bush tracks running through it from the house to Richmond Road.	 <p data-bbox="858 638 1404 712">Part of 1842 plan of the District of Windsor showing Rouse Hill House and Estate (arrowed) facing onto Windsor Road and surrounded by largely uncleared forest</p>
1852	Rouse remained at Rouse Hill House from 1828 until his death in 1852. Rouse raised stock and thoroughbred horses and managed his other properties from his Rouse Hill base. ⁷ At the time of his death, the estate included the main house, a laundry addition, barn and woolshed.	
Rouse Hill Estate		
1853	The estate was inherited by Edwin Rouse, his son. Edwin moved into the house with his family	 <p data-bbox="858 1552 1404 1664">Edwin Rouse (1806-1862) / photographer unknown c1865 (Source: Historic House Trust <http://collection.hht.net.au/firstthtpictures/picturerecord.jsp?recno=37182>)</p>
1860	Merriville house was built between 1817 and 1830 (exact date unknown) to the southeast on Windsor Road, it was another significant early homestead. Built on land granted to John Palmer, the house was initially known as Hambeldon and served for a time as a school in the 1830s. ⁸ The estate was advertised in 1844 as being 1700 acres and including a store, dairy, stable and granary with flour mill. The property was also occupied by a superior cottage of eleven	


Year	Event	Image Reference
	rooms. The estate passed through a number of hands, being purchased in the 1860s by Robert Pearce and family. The Pearce family cultivated orchards on their land	
1862	Edwin Rouse died and the house was passed onto Edwin Stephen Rouse. He added a summerhouse, woolshed and a two-storey service wing during the 1860s.	
1876	Stables designed by John Horbury Hunt were added. The estate was run more like a country seat than a working farm, with the family properties around Bathurst generating the income that allowed Rouse Hill House to be maintained. ⁹	
1894	Edwin Stephen Rouse's daughter, Nina, married George Terry of nearby Box Hill. This brought together the two most prominent families in the district.	
1931	<p>Edwin Stephen Rouse died after his wife had died in 1924. The house and estate passed onto his daughter Nina and her husband George Terry.¹⁰</p> <p>At this stage the Rouse Hill House estate still extended across the entire study area and beyond, excluding a small pocket facing Windsor Road. The estate fronted Windsor Road between Schofields Road and approximately 400 metres beyond the current intersection with Guntawong Road. It followed Schofields Road to approximately 250 metres west of the intersection with Tallawong Road and then north to Clark Street and back to Windsor Road</p>	 <p>Plan showing the study area (marked by heavy black line) in comparison to the Rouse Hill Estate at its peak (shaded area). Note that the portion not shaded was 40 acres granted to Jason May, later incorporated into the Rouse Hill Estate by a government acquisition. (not to scale)</p>
1947	<p>Aerial photos show the area as having been cleared along the Windsor Road frontage and around the home paddocks of Rouse Hill House but with substantial tree coverage in the back paddocks of the estate.</p> <p>The regeneration of the trees by the 1947 aerial photo indicates the decline in the active working life of large areas of the Rouse Hill House former farm. What would once have been the grazing paddocks for the Rouse family cattle and sheep and the fields of barley, wheat and maize had by this time been allowed to return to a natural state.</p> <p>Outside of the Rouse Hill House group there appears to be no other significant development across the study area. What appears to be a type of terracing can be seen west of Second Pond Creek close to</p>	 <p>1947 aerial photograph of the Windsor Road/Rouse Hill area, with the study site boundary shown. This photo shows Rouse Hill House and cleared paddocks located in the northeast corner of the study area and the largely undeveloped nature of the remainder of the area. The estate was mainly intact at this point, with large tracts of the property</p>

Year	Event	Image Reference
	<p>where it crosses Schofields Road. It has not been determined if this was agricultural terracing (eg vineyards) erosion or a natural feature (see Figure 2.4). Tracks and internal roads can also be discerned running out from the house across the paddocks and through the trees, with fencelines also visible dividing the paddocks.</p>	<p>still under tree cover.</p>

Former Rouse Hill Estate

<p>1950s</p>	<p>The first subdivisions were carried out in the early 1950s under the County of Cumberland Planning Scheme which allowed for minimum 2 ½ acre (1 hectare) allotments for rural sites. Although intended as a temporary guide, the resulting lot sizes, which averaged 5 acres (2 hectares) increased the density of the area considerably and in turn reduced its ability to handle increased agricultural production.¹¹</p>	
<p>1961</p>	<p>By 1961 part of the estate had been resumed for a transmission line, which ran through the western edge of the study area (See Figure 2.5), while excavation at a shale quarry located to the north of Schofields Road had also commenced. Also by this time the first roads had been created joining Guntawong Road in the northwest with Schofields Road in the southeast.</p>	 <p>1961 aerial photograph of the Windsor Road/Rouse Hill area, with the site boundary shown (white line). Schofields Road runs diagonally across the centre of the image and is bisected by the electricity transmission line (marked with the arrow).</p>
<p>1968</p>	<p>With Nina Terry's death in 1968 the estate had been reduced to 100 acres. The subdivision between her sons reduced it to 20 acres.</p>	
<p>1970</p>	<p>Aerial photographs of the site taken in 1970 show a proliferation of small, rural allotments throughout the former Rouse Hill estate area. While some of the sites have been planted as market gardens, others appear to have small dams upon them or small scale rural industry, such as chicken farms operating. The areas of tree cover apparent in the 1947 aerials are once again being cleared to make way for the increasing development occurring across the area. (see Figure 2.5-2.6).</p>	 <p>1970 aerial photograph of the Rouse Hill/Windsor Road area, showing the study area boundary (white line).</p>

Year	Event	Image Reference
1979	A Permanent Conservation Order was placed on Rouse Hill House. The Planning and Environment Commission (later Department of Planning) administered the site with the Department of Public Works undertaking restoration work.	
1986	The Department of Planning transferred the property and the historic collection of furniture and other items associated with the house to the Historic Houses Trust of NSW (HHT).	
1996	Conservation work began on Rouse Hill House by HHT.	
1997	In 1997, following recommendations from the Sydney Regional Plan No.19: Rouse Hill Development Area (SREP 19) prepared by the Department of Planning in 1989, 42 hectares around Rouse Hill House were declared as the Rouse Hill Regional Park by the NSW Government. In the same year it was announced that the Rouse Hill primary school, located directly opposite Rouse Hill House on Windsor Road, would be closed and the property transferred to the Historic Houses Trust. ¹²	
1999	Following the death of Gerald Terry (the last of the Terry family to occupy the house), Rouse Hill House and farm was opened to the public and a temporary visitor centre constructed. ¹³	

Year	Event	Image Reference
2005	<p>In 2005, Windsor Road was diverted away from Rouse Hill House as part of a road upgrade. The diversion, though small, was a significant component of a NSW Government commitment to conserve the curtilage and extend the regional park around the Rouse Hill Estate.</p> <p>The road diversion shifted Windsor Road approximately 130 metres to the northeast of its former alignment, creating a larger buffer area between the increasingly busy Windsor Road and Rouse Hill House and bringing the Rouse Hill School into the house precinct to be managed by the HHT as an education centre.</p>	 <p>c2006 aerial photograph of the study area. Comparison to Figure 2.5 shows the development (such as the regional park, public school, quarry and further subdivision) across the site since the 1970s.</p>

Endnotes

- 1 Kelleher Nightingale Consulting Pty Ltd, Area 20 Precinct Aboriginal Heritage Assessment, October 2009, p 10
- 2 *Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser*, March 11, 1804.
- 3 *ibid.*
- 4 Heritage Branch, Department of Planning, SHR listing Card Box Hill Inn, Royal Oak Inn (former).
- 5 Conybeare Morrison and Partners, *Rouse Hill Estate Curtilage Study*, prepared for the Historic Houses Trust of NSW, October 2003, p 8.
- 6 *ibid.*, p 8.
- 7 Lenehan, M 1967, 'Richard Rouse 1774-1852', *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Volume 2, University of Melbourne Press.
- 8 Proudfoot, H, 1987, *Exploring Sydney's West*, The Heritage Council of NSW, Sydney, p122.
- 9 Rouse Hill House and Farm Guidebook, Historic Houses Trust of NSW.
- 10 *ibid.*
- 11 Information provided by Blacktown City Council.
- 12 Conybeare Morrison op cit, p 12.
- 13 *ibid.*, p 12.

4.0 Historic Themes and Key Stories

4.1 Themes

In preparing to interpret places, it is important to present their past in an informative, interesting and easily accessible way. This is achieved through communicating the key themes and stories which have formed the site. The themes below have been derived from the historical overview for Area 20 (Section 3.0).

A national framework of historic themes has been developed by the Australian Heritage Commission, published in 2001. The Australian Historic Themes Framework aims to 'assist in structuring research and to emphasise the historical values of a place to reverse the prevalence of fabric-based assessment by identifying historical processes that might be used in assessing and interpreting heritage significance'. Nine national theme groups were identified, with focused sub-themes based on activities.

The Heritage Branch, Department of Planning has also developed state historic themes that, to a large degree, link with the national framework. The following themes have been identified to interpret Area 20:

Table 4.1 Historic Themes

NSW State Theme	Historic Theme
NSW: Aboriginal Cultures and Interactions with Other Cultures	
	The archaeological resources associated with the pre-contact period provide evidence of how local Aboriginal people interacted with the site and used the environment. Local Aboriginal people continue to maintain cultural connections today.
NSW: Environment – Naturally Evolved	
	The site contains areas of remnant Cumberland Plain Woodlands which is formally protected as an Endangered Ecological Community.
NSW: Environment (Cultural Landscapes)	
	Area 20 is a cultural landscape of many layers. Aboriginal people modified and used the land's natural resources. European settlement created a very different cultural imprint, from a large land grant dating from 1813 to the 1950s when the first of a series of subdivisions were undertaken.
NSW: Convict	
	Significant events relating to convict life lie in the history of the site, where convicts on site organised and staged an uprising starting from Castle Hill ending somewhere within the Area 20. Debate continues about the exact location referred to as Vinegar Hill. Convict labour is also relevant to the site. Windsor Road was built wholly by convicts between Parramatta and the Hawkesbury river.
NSW: Agriculture and Pastoralism	
	At various periods, the site was used for growing maize, wheat, barley, oats, peas and potatoes, orchards and gardens. The site was also associated with breeding thoroughbred horses, cattle, sheep, chicken farming, hogs and market gardens in the 20 th century.

4.1.1 Key Stories

Key stories are developed through the analysis of the historic themes outlined in section 4.1. The stories convey the layered history of Area 20 and are evident in its cultural landscape.

Historic photographs, documents and writings, as well as the locations of archaeological evidence, provide visual and physical evidence about places—prompting thinking about what happened in the past and how things have changed. People’s stories and memories also provide information about how places have evolved and changed through time. These resources are the key ingredients of interpretive planning. We can use the site, its features and the changes that have occurred through time to tell the stories of Area 20.

Some of the stories for Area 20 that may be interpreted include:

The natural environment—its evolution over time through natural processes; Second Ponds Creek, Cumberland Plain Woodlands; flora and fauna and the role of Aboriginal people and the settlers in re-imagining and reshaping the land.

Aboriginal—The Darug Aboriginal people and their relationship to the Area 20 site prior to and after British settlement.

Convict stories—Significant events relating to convict life lie in the history of the site. The role of convicts on site in organising and staging an uprising starting from Castle Hill which ended within the or in the vicinity of Area 20 referred to as Vinegar Hill. The cultural landscape also conveys the use of convict labour in NSW.

A rural colonial estate— A home and farm reflecting the life one of the district’s early settlers, Richard Rouse and an important figure in the Parramatta area with linkages with similar nearby properties (eg Box Hill and Merriville).

Subdivision and Development—The first of a series of subdivisions in the area in the 1950s. Rouse Hill Estate was subdivided under the County of Cumberland Planning Scheme which allowed for minimum 2.5 acre allotments for rural sites. This resulted in an increase in density in the area and hence reduced the ability to handle increased agricultural production.

This narrative framework captures and expands upon the historic themes and reflects the evolution of Area 20 from pre-settlement to the present day. It provides opportunities to convey a range of stories and enable people to experience, appreciate and enjoy the landscape as a changing entity.

5.0 Site Inventory

5.1 Introduction

Before decisions about future interpretation can be made it is important to understand the physical and other practical constraints that will have a bearing on the future of the area.

This section has been informed by GML's North West Growth Centre Area 20 Precinct Non-Indigenous Heritage Assessment, June 2010.

5.2 Opportunities for Interpretation

Opportunities for interpretation are explored in the North West Growth Centre Area 20 Precinct Non-Indigenous Heritage Assessment, June 2010. The opportunities that are presented in that report are outlined below with further comment. The comments provide a response following stakeholder consultation and development of the ILP.

5.2.1 Historical Archaeology

Interpretation of archaeological evidence and objects provides a means for communicating the history and heritage significance of places. Archaeology often provides an insight into the 'forgotten' traces of the past and can provide an opportunity for community involvement, education and enjoyment. On-site archaeological programs provide great public relations opportunities and a chance for the public to 'get their hands dirty' by being part of an archaeological dig. Archaeological programs are a great way to promote the discipline of archaeology and engage people in one of the research techniques used by heritage professionals to uncover more about what people did in the past.

Area 20 contains a number of areas of archaeological potential that would lend themselves well to interpretation. Opportunities to interpret archaeological evidence and objects within the study area include:

- *tracks and terracing located along the western edges of the study area;*
- *potential relics associated with historic land grants/subdivisions; and*
- *collaborative archaeology programs with Rouse Hill Regional Park.*

Although Rouse Hill Estate and its neighbouring buildings such as Rouse Hill Public School are contained within Rouse Hill Regional Park, opportunities exist for collaboration between key stakeholders and the regional park in interpreting the archaeology of the area at the proposed museum.¹

Comment

The archaeological stories of the precinct can be interpreted through the public programmes of the Historic Houses Trust of New South Wales (HHT) and/or the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (DECCW). These linkages and opportunities may be realised via integration into schools programmes and other community-based events.

5.2.2 Indigenous Cultural Heritage

The conservation and protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage is a vital part of cultural identity and wellbeing for Aboriginal people. Their heritage is a fundamental component of what creates and maintains connections between ancestors, community and country. Aboriginal people are the rightful owners and best interpreters of their cultural heritage. Whenever interpretation of Aboriginal history or heritage is proposed, the local

Aboriginal community should be involved. Aboriginal people should collaborate in all stages of interpretation planning from the development of the stories and text to the selection of images and media.

Often Aboriginal people want positive messages about the vitality and strength of their culture to be presented. They also often express their desire to have their culture represented as more than 'stones and bones', which is the term commonly applied to the pre-contact archaeological record. This is not to suggest that Aboriginal archaeological evidence is not significant to Aboriginal people or that it is not a valuable resource for interpretation, but rather to serve as a reminder that Aboriginal cultural heritage is far richer and more complex. Aboriginal archaeology is vital evidence of Aboriginal people's occupation and use of country and provides an important source of information about Aboriginal culture in the past.²

In October 2009, Kelleher Nightingale undertook an Indigenous Heritage Assessment of the study area.³ Nightingale identified a number of Aboriginal artefacts in the area and recommended that future planning should avoid impact to identified Aboriginal sites where possible. The report also stated that Aboriginal sites and values should be integrated into future conservation areas. Connections between sites and natural landscape elements are also noted as important as the connections help retain key elements of an holistic Aboriginal cultural heritage landscape. Such complete cultural landscapes are of higher significance than their individual parts.⁴

Comment

The Cumberland Plain woodland is significant to the local Aboriginal community. The conservation of the ridgeline woodlands and riparian corridor along Second Ponds Creek, combined with a proposed walking trail along the creek line, presents an opportunity to interpret Aboriginal cultural heritage. The relationship between Aboriginal people and the natural environment including the Cumberland Plain woodland and water is a key story that may be interpreted along Second Ponds Creek.

In order to develop interpretation relating to Aboriginal people's association with Area 20, consultation with Aboriginal stakeholder groups will be required, as Aboriginal people are the rightful interpreters of their cultural heritage.

5.2.3 Built Heritage

Buildings and structures are tangible cultural heritage resources that demonstrate how people and communities have responded to the environment and changed through time. Built heritage is a record of our history and is a valuable resource for interpretation. The fabric and spaces, materials and finishes of the built environment all contribute to the experience of a place and reflect important aspects of its history of occupation and use.

Few listed built heritage items remain within the study area, with the exception of those items located within the Rouse Hill Estate and Windsor Road. The current built environment within the study area is a mix of small residential and industrial buildings on medium and large blocks of land, while the built heritage relates to farmlands and paddocks interspersed with small country roads and tracks.

The current built environment tells a story of the coming of small industrial operations to the area, such as knackeries and small quarries, and the subdivision of formerly large estates into smaller lots punctuated by modest suburban-style houses as rural residential development.

Opportunities to interpret the built heritage of the study area include:

- *the origin and history of the locally listed bridge structures under Second Ponds Creek;*

- *new building scale;*
- *the historic road alignment of Windsor Road; and*
- *historic subdivision patterns and road layout.*

The historic linkages between inns and major properties along the road provide clear evidence of the relationships between families, communities etc.⁵

Comment

There may be opportunities to interpret the historic subdivision pattern as part of the ILP by retaining extant mature plantings along property boundary alignments. The historic alignment of Windsor Road may also be interpreted through the creation of a landscaped buffer area beside the road incorporating bike tracks walks and signage. The Conybeare Morrison Area 20 Precinct Landscape and Visual Analysis Report, 2010, includes a landscape overlay. The overlay shows the extant plantings which align with historic property boundaries. The strategy reinforces the existing vegetated corridors through new plantings along existing boundary plantings. Where possible, the strategy will be realised as part of the ILP and DCP.

The rural landscape character and vernacular may be interpreted through new built form in the proposed residential zones within Area 20. The DCP includes guidelines for the scale, character, form, siting, materials, colour and detailing that will express a contemporary rural aesthetic using a palette drawn from the surrounding natural landscape.⁶

5.2.4 Cultural and Natural Landscape Values

Cultural landscapes are important historic references. They are the products of natural and cultural forces. Cultural landscape interpretation should communicate the significance of natural and cultural elements in an integrated and balanced way. Within Area 20, cultural landscape interpretation should be encouraged and integrated into future precinct planning.

Natural heritage interpretation often emphasises individual species and vegetation communities in isolation and it is important to tell the story of the natural environment in a broader context of human-induced (ie land clearing) and environmental processes. Interpretation should encourage a sense of ownership and responsibility for the care and conservation of the natural environment and encourage appreciation and respect for its significance.

The cultural landscape of the study area tells a distinctive story about the history of this area, stretching from pre-colonisation bushland through to present-day quarrying operations at the southern edge. The remnant tracts of Cumberland Plain bushland are an important reminder of the natural environment of the area, while historic subdivisions and road layouts narrate the study area's history of occupation and landuse over the past 200 years.

Opportunities to interpret the landscape in the study area include:

- *historic road alignments;*
- *historic subdivisions of land and corresponding landuses;*
- *the state-significant Windsor Road, which defines the eastern boundary of the study area and is an intrinsic part of the historical development of the Rouse Hill area;*
- *Second Ponds Creek;*

- *the prominent position of Rouse Hill House on a ridge line and its relationship to the remainder of the study area; and*
- *visual and social connections between Box Hill, Merriville and Rouse Hill House.*⁷

Comment

The riparian corridor integrated into the Area 20 ILP that bisects the site from Rouse Hill Regional Park in the north to Schofields Road in the south, provides an opportunity to interpret the sites natural values and the relationship of both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people to fresh water sources.

There is an opportunity to interpret the Cumberland Plain woodlands which have been extensively cleared since European occupation. The interpretation of the endemic and threatened woodlands can help its conservation through being incorporated into walking trails for the public and school environmental education programmes.

The visual/social connections between Box Hill, Merriville and Rouse Hill House may be interpreted through signage and, where possible, conserving and maintaining historic views.

5.3 Constraints

The subject site is situated in a sensitive location with significant heritage values recognised at a national level. It is important that these values are conserved for future generations. Care will need to be taken during future planning to ensure that the significance of the area and heritage items in the vicinity are recognised and are not adversely impacted by new development in the precinct or its vicinity.

The following constraints flow from the significance of the area and exert an influence on interpretation planning:

- the site will be subdivided and maintained by individual landowners and this may impact on the implementation of an effective and cohesive interpretation strategy;
- new development, should be carefully situated and should be sympathetic in scale, character, form, siting, materials, colour and detailing to the existing setting, landscape character and values of the area; and
- careful consideration needs to be given to understanding future care control and management of public space. Maintenance requirements have the potential to become an issue, particularly those on private land, but also those that rely on public funds.

5.4 Associations and Audiences

There are several distinct groups of people with an interest to Area 20. In the future, the area will draw a distinct audience. Associations and existing and potential audiences are explored in the following sections.

5.4.1 Associated People

The following groups of people have an interest in the history of the area and may be able to add to the knowledge and understanding of it. It may be appropriate to invite their input and participation in the interpretive planning process.

- Aboriginal people—including those with traditional and historical associations with the locality, such as Darug Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessments (Gordon Morton – registered Native Title claimant); Darug Custodian Aboriginal Corporation (traditional owner community organisation); Darug Tribal Aboriginal Corporation (traditional owner community organisation); Deerubbin Local Aboriginal Land Council; Darug Land Observations (DLO); Yarrowalk Aboriginal Corporation; and Anthony John Williams;
- people with an interest in the place including members of the Combined Historical Societies Sub-Committee; Blacktown District Historical Society; Prospect Heritage Trust Inc; Blacktown City Council Library Local History Section; Blacktown City Council; Historic Houses Trust of NSW; former/current landowners; Friends of Vinegar Hill and Hills Shire Council; and
- local area workers and residents within the Blacktown and Baulkham Hills LGAs.

5.4.2 Existing and Potential Audiences

Accessible interpretation of heritage values will help to ensure the place is appreciated by specific identified audiences, visitors and the wider community into the future.

Blacktown City has a total population of 270,750.⁸ This includes an Indigenous population of 7,060, an Australian-born population of 159,979 and an overseas-born population of 92,843. Of the overseas-born population the dominant country of birth is the Philippines, followed by the United Kingdom, India, New Zealand and Fiji. Overall nearly 35 per cent of the population was born overseas and 28 per cent are from a non-English speaking background.

The North West Growth Centre, which includes part of Rouse Hill, is targeted to provide 60,000 new dwellings in 30 years with 100,000 in the nearby South West sector. Infrastructure will be required to service these growth areas such as roads, rail, bus networks, schools, hospitals and parks.⁹

The heritage values of Area 20 and its relationship to the Rouse Hill Regional Park are a vital feature of this fast growing area. Communicating the significance of the site's heritage values to current and future residents in the Rouse Hill area will be most successful when it is targeted specifically to audience needs in terms of orientation, information and personal safety and when it responds to known audience behaviour.

Projected audience groups include:

- residents of the new Area 20 precinct (mostly families);
- other residents and workers from nearby areas;
- relatives and friends visiting residents in Area 20;
- people with associations including: Historic Houses Trust; former/current landowners; local historical society; Friends of Vinegar Hill; Blacktown City Council Council; Hills Shire Council;
- heritage enthusiasts; and
- learning audiences including primary, secondary, tertiary and lifelong learners.

5.5 Heritage Interpretation

There are a number of heritage places and projects in the vicinity of Area 20 and in nearby Baulkham Hills that have already been interpreted. They can inform planning for interpretation within Area 20. Some of the nearby sites are discussed below.

Rouse Hill House and Farm (within Area 20)

Rouse Hill House and Farm is located to the northwest within the study area bordered by the Rouse Hill regional park see figure 5.51). Guided tours of the house, grounds and outbuildings are available through the HHT, a range of public programmes ranging from feeding the animals “Earn Your Tucker when you feed the cows and chickens”, collecting eggs and grinding corn to specialist tours of the house interior. Open *Wed to Sun 9.30am – 4.30pm*.

Rouse Hill Regional Park (partially within Area 20)

Rouse Hill Regional Park, a public recreation area, is located within Area 20 bordering Rouse Hill House and Farm (see Figure 5.52). There are a number of activities and walking trails offered for the public to interpret the area. These include: play spaces for children and teenagers, cycling and rollerblading, horse riding, dog walking and walking trails along Second Ponds Creek and up the ridgeline. The walking trails offer interpretive signs marking Aboriginal and European history and flora and fauna near the creek.

Merriville House and Gardens (in the vicinity)

Built in the 1820s, Merriville House is located to the south of Area 20 on Vinegar Hill Road (see figure 5.53). The house hosts an annual community heritage day, which began on 21 May 2006. The day is filled with events including, vintage car displays, whip cracking events, cricket matches, battle enactments, sheep shearing, food and tours of Merriville House.

Battle of Vinegar Hill Memorial (in the vicinity)

Located at Castlebrook Memorial Park in Rouse Hill, the memorial is in the form of a wall designed by I Polak and V Sitta with relief sculpture commemorating the 1804 Rebellion in which Irish patriots rebelled against the NSW Corps (see Figure 5.54 and 5.55). The battle, named after a similar uprising in Ireland, was the first armed conflict between Europeans to take place on Australian soil.

The memorial was unveiled in 1988 as part of the Australian bicentennial celebrations. It was erected by the Irish community in New South Wales, the Mineworker’s Trust, the Blacktown City



Figure 5.51 View of the south-facing elevation of Rouse Hill House, which is located within the study area. (Source: GML 2009)



Figure 5.52 View looking south from Rouse Hill House across the regional park towards the knoll at Castlebrook Cemetery. Note that the fence line (bottom of picture) marks the boundary between Rouse Hill Estate and the regional park. (Source: GML 2009)



Figure 5.56 The Money family owned Aberdoon House, Rouse Hill from 1947 until 9 August 2000, when it was bought by Baulkham Hills Shire Council. Today it operates as an art gallery and coffee shop. (Source: <www.baulkhamhills.nsw.gov.au>)



Figure 5.57 The Baulkham Hills Heritage Trail (Source: <<http://www.thehills.nsw.gov.au/Finding-Out-More-About-Heritage.html#BHTrail>>)

Council and the Government and people of Ireland.

The bicentenary re-enactment of the Battle of Vinegar Hill in 2004 took place at the Rouse Hill Regional Park. In March 2005, the State Minister for Lands announced that the land at Rouse Hill would be renamed as Vinegar Hill Historical Site in recognition of the significance of the locality.

Heritage Sites within Baulkham Hills Shire

Baulkham Hills Shire Council owns a number of heritage sites in the vicinity. The sites are listed below with a brief description of the interpretation product that is offered.

Aberdoon House

Aberdoon House is located at the corner of Aberdour and Clower Avenues, Rouse Hill (see Figure 5.56). It is a historic cottage dating from 1887, which has been adaptively re-used as a cafe and gallery. The cottage offers a changing exhibition program and light lunches or morning/afternoon teas. It is open Tuesday to Friday from 9.30am–4.00pm.

Baulkham Hills Heritage Trail

The Baulkham Hills Heritage Trail is 6km long beginning at Alfred Henry Reserve and finishing at Mackillop Reserve (see figure 5.57). It is a self-guided walk and explores the history of the area passing Crestwood Reserve among others on the way through. Information about the area is placed at each significant point along the way.

5.6 Endnotes

- ¹ Godden Mackay Logan, North West Growth Centre Area 20 Precinct Non-Indigenous Heritage Assessment September 2009, p 59
- ² Godden Mackay Logan, North West Growth Centre Area 20 Precinct Non-Indigenous Heritage Assessment September 2009, p 60
- ³ Kelleher Nightingale Consulting Pty Ltd, Area 20 Precinct Aboriginal Heritage Assessment, October 2009
- ⁴ Kelleher Nightingale Consulting Pty Ltd, Area 20 Precinct Aboriginal Heritage Assessment, October 2009, p 84
- ⁵ Godden Mackay Logan, North West Growth Centre Area 20 Precinct Non-Indigenous Heritage Assessment September 2009, p 61
- ⁶ NSW Heritage Office, Design in Context – Guidelines for infill development in the historic environment, 2005
- ⁷ Godden Mackay Logan, North West Growth Centre Area 20 Precinct Non-Indigenous Heritage Assessment September 2009, p 61
- ⁸ Blacktown City Council, Community Profile, 2006 and 2001, enumerated census information for Blacktown City,
<<http://www.id.com.au/profile/Default.aspx?id=211&pg=138&gid=10&type=enum>> accessed 17 June 2009.
- ⁹ Historic Houses Trust, Rouse Hill House and Farm: planning for the future, 2009
<http://www.hht.net.au/discover/highlights/insites/rouse_hill_house_and_farm_planning_for_the_future> accessed 10 Dec 2009

6.0 Interpretation Recommendations

6.1 Interpretive Resources

In order to interpret Area 20 it is essential to identify all the resource materials, actual and documented, that have the capacity to inform one or all segments of the potential audiences about their significant values.

The available interpretive resources include:

- historic maps and plans;
- historic photographic images (subject to copyright of images and documentation);
- historical research, curatorial staff and brochures and publications produced by the Historic Houses Trust of NSW for Rouse Hill House;
- National Parks staff and brochures prepared by DECCW for Rouse Hill Regional Park;
- research collections and publications compiled by the Blacktown and District Historical Society;
- the extant fabric associated with the former use of the site, including archaeological remains and landscape elements, such as planning;
- historical resources in library and archival collections including photographic collection, publications, newspaper articles etc; and
- movable heritage documents or stories which may be held within the community;

Further resources may be identified as associated people are contacted for input and participation in the interpretation planning process.

6.2 Interpretation Recommendations

6.2.1 Interpretive Objectives to Engage and Stimulate Audiences

A range of possible interpretive initiatives are outlined below which are proposed for interpreting the history and heritage of Area 20.

6.2.2 Interpretive Aims or Objectives

By interpreting the many and diverse heritage values of Area 20 there is an opportunity for people to enjoy and experience the historic themes and stories of the place. By making connections with the past, visitors will better understand the context of their surroundings and value them. A range of potential interpretive initiatives have been identified in order to communicate the history and heritage of the site with authenticity and sophistication to the key audiences identified.

The range of potential initiatives to include interpretation are listed below:

- walking trail along Second Ponds Creek Riparian corridor;
- bicycle and walking trail beside Old Windsor Road;

- conservation of original site of plantings along historic alignments and fencelines;
- interpretation of rural character through scale, character, form, siting, materials, colour and detailing of new built elements;
- interpretive signage;
- play equipment;
- public art; and
- historic naming and precinct places.

6.3 Interpretive Initiatives

The following range of initiatives has been developed to interpret the area's historic themes to potential audiences (see Section 5.4). The initiatives proposed are simple and cost effective.

The interpretive devices aim to convey information about all the heritage values significant to the place, as well as creating opportunities for people to experience the places and stories first-hand. The initiatives provide many unique opportunities for people to experience the heritage values of Area 20.

A large array of materials and techniques can be used to interpret places. The appropriate method for interpreting different messages and stories depends on the nature of the information to be communicated. Where the use of signs would be appropriate for communicating the history of a particular local place, this technique may not be appropriate for interpreting cultural landscapes.

Opportunities for interpretation exist as part of the future macro precinct planning of the study area. Street layouts, subdivision patterns, use of different building and landscaping materials and varied built form can all be innovative ways of interpreting the history of the place.

To ensure best practice for interpretive media, all initiatives must be authentic and site-specific. A commitment to high-quality design development and consistency, as well as rigorous evaluation in the development stages, is also vitally important.

Proposed locations are indicated in Figure 6.1. Initial concepts and locations will naturally be subject to consultation and content/design development and forward commitments in the DCP.




6.3.1 New Built Development

New development in Area 20 may also enhance the appreciation of heritage values through the measures outlined below. Such measures will help reinforce the character of the rural landscape:

- **Materials and colours:** Materials of new buildings, roof and wall colours should be recessive—neutral and non reflective to ensure minimal visual impact on the cultural landscape of the wider setting of the Rouse Hill House Estate.
- **Height, bulk, scale:** The location and design of new buildings should minimise the impact of future urban development on the cultural landscape character of the area through management of height, bulk and scale.

6.4 Interpretive Media and Locations

On-site Interpretive Initiatives

Interpretive Initiative	Media & Discussion	Location
<p>Play Equipment</p>  <p>Redfern Park, Redfern, Sydney.</p>  <p>Public art sculptures in a landscape setting interpreting pastoral history. <i>Sheep on the Road</i>, by Deborah Brown, Belfast, Ireland.</p>  <p>Children's play equipment at Redfern Park, Redfern, Sydney.</p>	<p>Use the natural and cultural landscape as inspiration in the design of play equipment within Area 20.</p> <p>Commission a public artist to work in conjunction with a playground design specialist to design play equipment for a broad range of ages and abilities that draws on the natural and cultural heritage of the site.</p> <p>Natural elements and farm animals from agricultural history may form the basis for design.</p> <p>Media: timber, steel, stone and water.</p>	<p>As appropriate, within select Area 20 parks.</p>

Interpretive Initiative

Walking Trails



Walking trail and Interpretive media, Centennial Park, Sydney



Walking trail, Centennial Park, Sydney



Interpretive media, Centennial Park, Sydney

Media & Discussion

A walking trail communicates the history of the area to new residents and established locals alike. The landscape of the study area, with its remnant Cumberland Plain Woodland, picturesque Second Ponds Creek and connection with Rouse Hill Regional Park, provides a great opportunity to create a walking/cycling trail. Aboriginal cultural values associated with Second Ponds Creek may also be interpreted via this initiative.

The trail could connect to the existing trails in Rouse Hill Regional Park to provide a site link to the study area and beyond. It could also include a connection with the heritage trail currently being developed by WSROC between Parramatta and Windsor along Old Windsor Road.

The trail would incorporate interpretive text and imagery at nodes along the trail. Interpretation may be combined with proposed seating, route markers and/or pathway surfaces.

A shared cycle path along Windsor Road would also contribute to interactive interpretation.

Location

Riparian Corridor.
 Second Ponds Creek.
 Old Windsor Road buffer zone.
 Shared cycle path along Windsor Road.

Interpretive Initiative

Planting program to maintain rural character and subdivision pattern



Rouse Hill House and Farm fence line
(Source, Alan Croker 2008)



Fencing treatments and area of domestic plantings to the rear of Experiment Farm Cottage, Harris Park.

Media & Discussion

Existing plantings in the area to be reinforced with complementary new plantings.

Within Area 20 and other designated planting zones use plants identified in the DCP.

Where possible, area to be defined by fencing reflective of domestic nineteenth-century timber fencing.

Maintain the rural character of the setting of Rouse Hill House, with its gardens, outbuildings and flanking paddocks, as it is an important aspect of the heritage significance of Area 20.

Respond to an identified planting palette for the study area, to strengthen and retain remnant Cumberland Plain vegetation, particularly along property boundaries and in roadside verges and to respect the exotic cultural plantings of the major estates.

Interpret the current historic road and subdivision patterns of the Rouse Hill Estate through changes of density, landscape treatments and built form (height, colour etc).

Where possible, augment historic boundary/fence line planting.

Location

Throughout Area 20 precinct, landscape buffer along Windsor Road, where rural historic character of Rouse Hill Estate and subdivision pattern may be interpreted.

Interpretive Initiative

Media & Discussion

Location

Historic Naming



A core-ten sculptural screen entitled *Deepening Crisis* by Michael Snape, *Sculptures by the Sea*, Bondi, 2005. This idea could be adapted for picnic areas or zones requiring some screening



Brooklyn-Hawkesbury River, place name



Nomenclature installation concept developed by Cecilie Knowles from work by David Barker of Kaleidescope

A simple method of interpretation involves naming places within the study area with words that have a historical or cultural connection with the place. Suitable names could include words from the local Indigenous language or names of prominent landholders in the area, historically important figures connected to the area or of the local native plant types. This type of interpretation allows a straightforward connection between the new identity of the place and its distinctive history and culture. Names of former owners and other owners of the site.

Continue practice of naming streets to reflect the history of Blacktown.

Park, estate and walking trail naming within Area 20.

Interpretive Initiative

Public Art



Reconciliation Place, Canberra.



A grouping of three bronze casuarina-pod sculptures within Casuarina Grove, Arts ACT 'Art and Soul' City Sculpture Walk, Binara Park, ACT.



Public Art, Goulburn, NSW.



The Inside Out program where artists recontextualised furnishings from a historic house in Northumberland, UK, by Carl von Weiler.

Media & Discussion

Public art for the site should be recognised for its excellence and provide a source of inspiration and pride for the citizens of Blacktown.

Public artwork presents an opportunity to enliven and distinguish the identity of the future suburb within the study area. The historically rich cultural landscape can be expressed through sculpture, stencils, murals and other creative media. Public art can be integrated along trails, cycleways and walks and can form part of a signage strategy or can be used as landmarks or as interpretation in key public spaces.

Public art should communicate the historical identity, local character and distinctiveness of the site and start conversations about the urban environment.

The concept should be inspired by the historic layering and evolution of the site. The artwork should communicate with sophistication and complexity the evolution and transformation from traditional country of the Darug people to a rural agricultural landscape.

The materials, textures, details and scale of the past should inform the creative process.

The people and the activities associated with the site should inform the artwork.

Appropriate media would be sculpture, soundscape, lighting, plantings, water, steel, stone, glass, etc.

Location

Windsor Road Landscape buffer.

Rouse Hill entry point, major parks, and proposed neighbourhood centres.

Interpretive Initiative

Media & Discussion

Location

Interpretive Signage



Core-ten interpretive signage at Brooklyn with see-through sections featuring historic photographs.



Interpretive signage at Tingira Memorial Park, Rose Bay.



Low-level plinth signage, Coal Mines Historic Site, Tasmania.



Signage at Castle Hill Heritage Park designed by Spackman Mossop Michaels.

Interpretive signage for the site should be situated at key locations to communicate historical information that reflects the layers and significance of the site.

Directional signage will be provided for orientation and wayfinding.

A clear hierarchy needs to be developed using a consistent palette of materials. The signage should be in keeping with the rural landscape character of the site. The signs may be a combination of stone, concrete, recycled timber, galvanised rolled steel, stainless steel, transparent, core-ten steel or etched glass, timber fence posts.

Careful siting and design is important and avoiding too much signage is absolutely essential.

The signs may include maps, text and quotations. Consider including historic photographs as digital prints on toughened glass as part of the signage design.

Ideally, signage could be incorporated into a council wide wayfinding interpretation system which is generated beyond Area 20, particularly at key locations at recreational areas, parks and open space.

Digital print on toughened glass fixed to steel posts with core-ten blades or recycled timber uprights, to emulate fence posts, with rolled steel signs with digital print applied.

Walking trails and parks.

Interpretive Initiative

Public Programme and Events



Rouse Hill Estate Garden Workshops
(Source: Historic Houses Trust of NSW, Events brochure, Dec 2001-Feb, 2002, p 12)



Events at Rouse Hill (Source: Insites, The magazine of the Historic Houses Trust, autumn 2009, p 3)

Media & Discussion

Fairs, festivals, performances, music or re-enactments can bring aspects of the past to life and emphasise particular themes or events in the past. 'Back to' or commemorative events can help reconnect people and communities and keep alive important associations, memories and experiences of a place. They can provide an opportunity for people to be part of the past and engage broader audiences that might be drawn to visit a place because an event appeals to them.

A positive experience may mean they return on another occasion to visit. Food, wine, art, music, craft and children's activities can appeal to different people and build different sectors of the audience for a place. Rouse Hill House and Farm has an exciting range of public programs and events in place—such as guided walking tours of the gardens, moonlight tours of the house and farmyard helpers programs for children—that the study area could connect with or enhance/expand.

Events and programs are highly flexible and can be planned and changed on a monthly or seasonal basis. Where an area is newly developed, a large event could kickstart people's feeling of connection with Area 20.

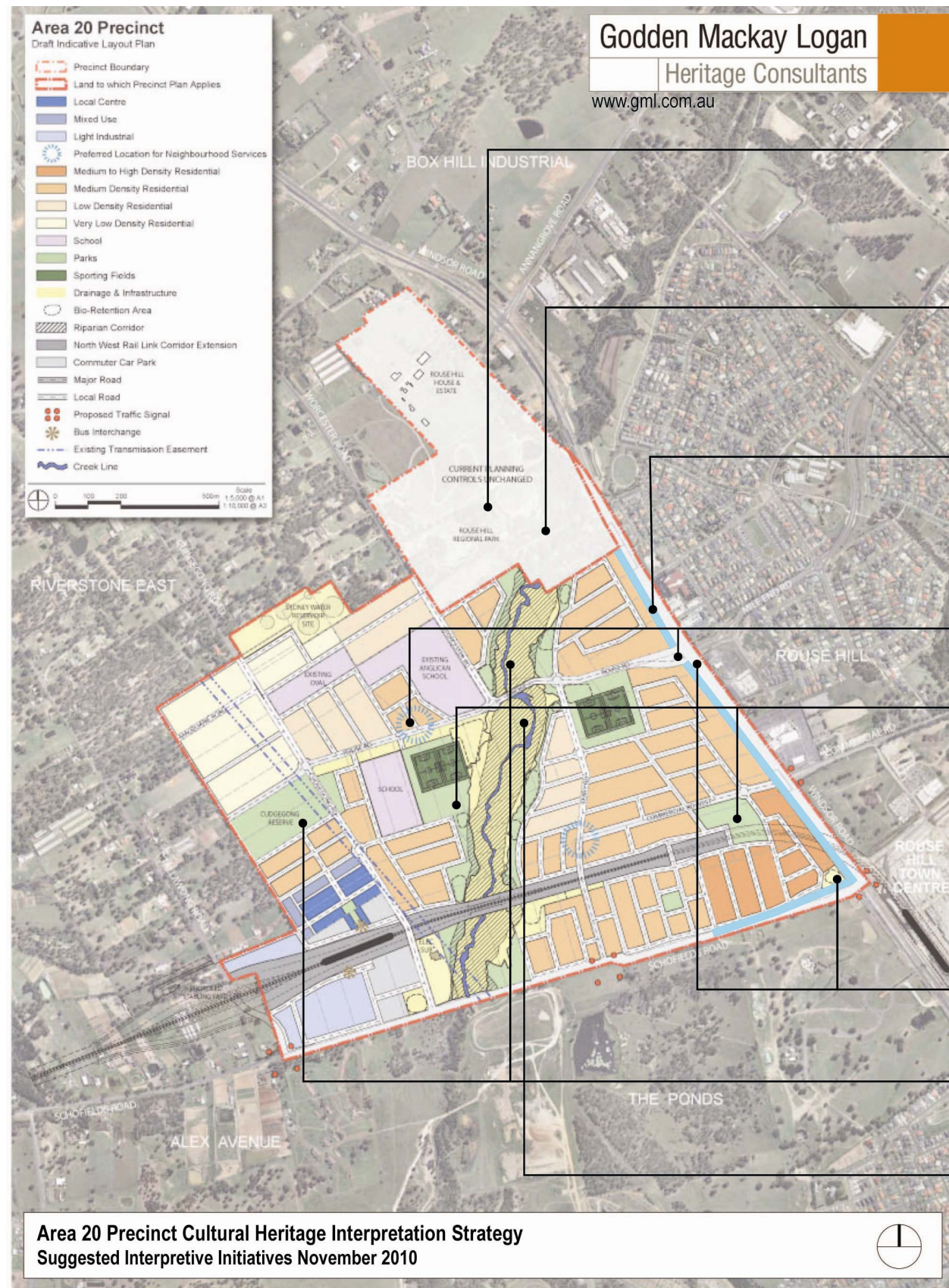
Location

Rouse Hill Regional Park and Rouse Hill House.

6.5 Conclusions

Interpretation of the history and significance of Area 20 is an integral part of the future planning for the site. Interpretation on the site may contain the following elements:

- Acknowledgement of the local Aboriginal people's use of the site and its Aboriginal cultural values.
- Integration of interpretive stories at key locations within Area 20 through walking trails and signage.
- Use of natural and cultural landscape and important aspects of the site's history in design of play equipment and public facilities.
- New built form should help interpret the rural history and heritage of the area through contemporary architecture that uses features such as verandahs, extended eaves etc. Colours should be drawn from the muted tones of the natural woodland so they are visually recessive.
- Strengthen existing cultural plantings to convey former rural landscape qualities of Area 20.
- Use of aspects of the area's heritage significance in place naming.
- Integrate high-quality public art that interprets the history and significance of the precinct.
- In conjunction with HHT and DECCW, support public heritage programmes such as children's events, fairs, performances or re-enactments to emphasise local/regional heritage themes and stories.



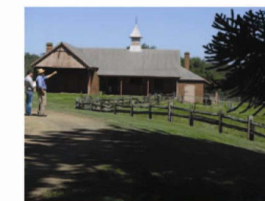
Events

Support public programmes to interpret the area at the Regional Park or Rouse Hill House



Layers of history where possible

Interpret historic subdivision pattern by retaining existing mature planting along property alignments in new subdivision layout planning



A colonial rural estate

Windsor Road landscape buffer provides an opportunity to develop the historic rural character associated with Rouse Hill Farm through plantings and public art



A layered landscape

Interpret the historic cultural landscape including convict stories and inform the future identity of Area 20 with public art works such as sculptures, stencils and other creative media as well as community centres



An agricultural heritage

Opportunity to interpret visual connections and agricultural history through interpretive play equipment in select public parks

and

Naming parks and public spaces with words that have a historical or cultural meaning associated with Area 20



You are entering a heritage precinct

Gateway signage for Area 20 can be situated at key arrival locations to reflect the layers and heritage significance of the area



The natural environment

Second Ponds Creek Riparian Corridor walking trail - interpret natural values associated with Cumberland Plain Woodlands



Aboriginal stories

Aboriginal people's relationship to water and natural landscape to be developed by local Indigenous representation. Interpretive signage and/or seating at select nodes along the Riparian Corridor

Figure 6.1 Draft Area 20 Precinct Interpretation Strategy, suggested interpretive initiatives. (Source: Base map Department of Planning NSW, with GML mark-up interpretation strategies November 2010)

7.0 Development & Implementation Tasks & Responsibilities

As the planning for the precinct takes place through the ILP and DCP, the initiatives outlined in this Interpretation Strategy will be implemented through more detailed design responses and content development phases. Requirements to incorporate interpretation initiatives are outlined in the DCP public domain policies and guidelines. The objectives for the public domain will ensure that the cultural heritage associated with Area 20 and Rouse Hill Estate will be interpreted.

Tasks	To be carried out by
Interpretation Plan: Stage 2—Content Development	
Confirm funding and management / responsibilities options	Qualified heritage consultant, Blacktown City Council, Department of Planning
Review client and stakeholder comments on interpretation strategy	Qualified heritage consultant
Confirm appropriate media and forms for interpretive initiatives	Qualified heritage consultant
Confirm appropriate locations for interpretive initiatives	Qualified heritage consultant
Develop concepts for interpretive initiatives and media	Qualified heritage consultant
Select images for use on interpretive media; seek permission to use or copyright for selected images	Qualified heritage consultant
Prepare text for interpretive media	Qualified heritage consultant
Provide summary of installation tasks and an overview maintenance strategy for interpretive media	Qualified heritage consultant
Interpretation Plan: Stage 3—Implementation	
Detailed design of interpretive media	Graphic designer, briefed by qualified heritage consultant
Produce interpretive media	Producer/fabricator in collaboration with qualified heritage consultant and graphic designer
Install interpretive media	Installation staff overseen by qualified heritage consultant and graphic designer

