

22 September 2023

Our ref: 600-23MEL6111

Parks Victoria
Level 10, 535 Bourke Street
Melbourne Victoria 3000
Australia

Attention: Matthew Bradshaw

Archaeological Impact Statement, Werribee Park Mansion

1. Introduction

Parks Victoria (PV) engaged Eco Logical Australia (ELA) to prepare an Archaeological Impact Statement (AIS) in support of proposed fire-service upgrade works within the grounds of Werribee Mansion, located at 170 K Road, Werribee South, within property allotment 3B (SPI 3B-5\PP2518). This AIS considered Aboriginal and historical cultural heritage that may be impacted by the proposed works. This AIS will be an appendix to a Heritage Impact Statement that address the development and associated impacts to archaeological values within the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) site: H1613, Werribee Park.

The principal objective of the assessment is to determine that potential for these works to impact archaeological deposits, and to describe the nature of archaeological deposits that may be impacted by the works.

The report also details protocols for the management of heritage discoveries in accordance with relevant state legislation, namely the *Heritage Regulations 2017* (Vic), as well as the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* (Vic).

2. Proposed Works

PV will be installing subsurface utilities within the extent of H1613, which will result in impacts to the grounds surrounding Werribee Mansion (layout shown in Figure 1, Figure 2). The utilities comprise:

- in-ground fire hydrant System Main alignment options A, B, C
- in ground fire sprinkler system alignment
- in-ground dry fire conduit alignment

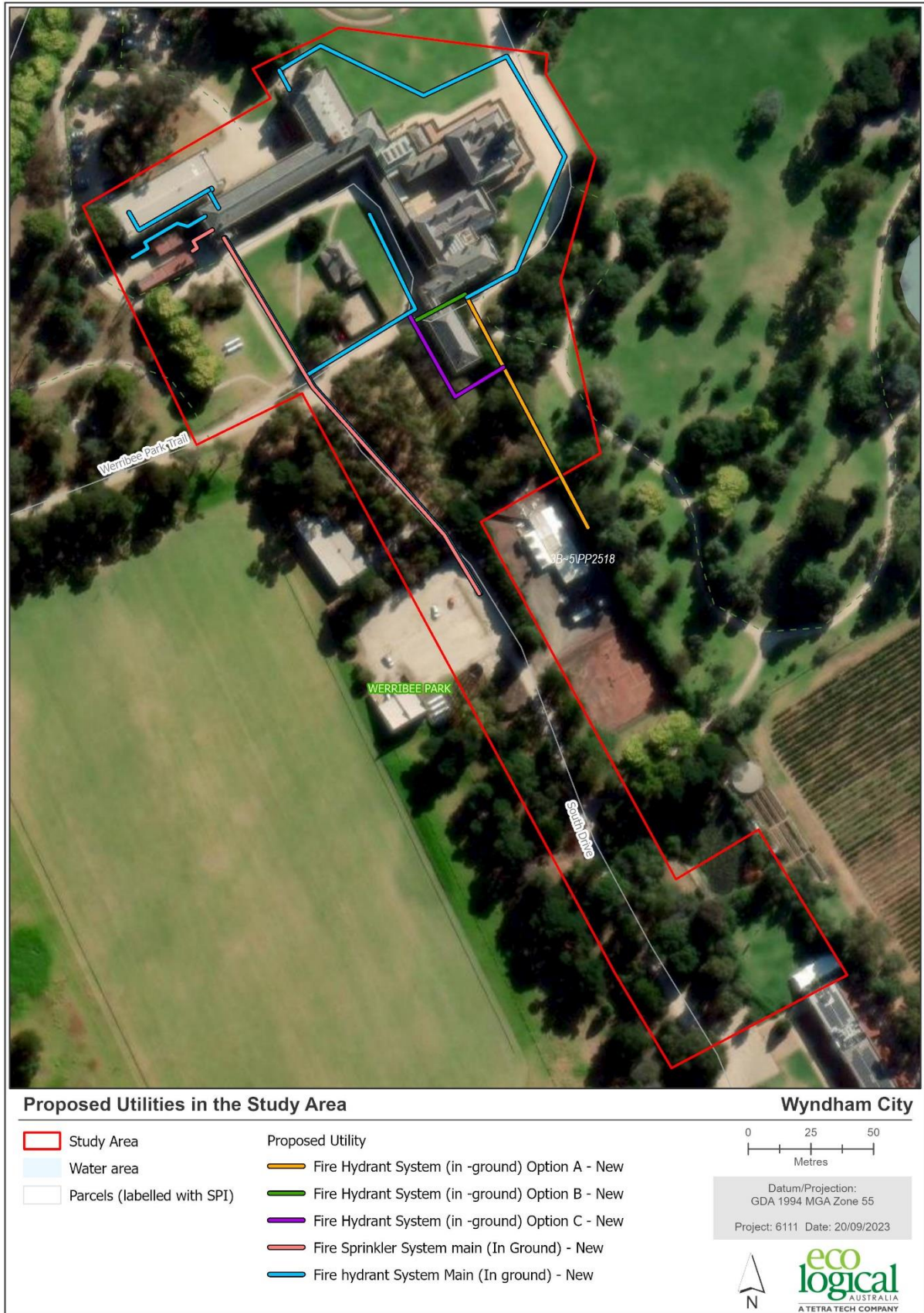


Figure 1: Map of the study area, proposed utilities

3. Desktop Assessment

A desktop assessment of Aboriginal and historical cultural heritage constraints was undertaken for the study area which included:

- An inspection of aerial imagery and key statutory Victorian databases relating to Aboriginal cultural heritage planning matters, including searches for registered Aboriginal cultural heritage places, culturally sensitive landforms and other resources (e.g., consultancy reports, academic research) in the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register. Databases were accessed through the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Register and Information System (ACHRIS)¹ online tool managed by First Peoples – State Relations, on 19 June 2022.
- A review of relevant Aboriginal cultural heritage legislation and planning permit requirements including government online mapping resources and planning schemes.
- A review of the Victorian Heritage Database and local government planning schemes for information relating to the study area.

The outcomes of the desktop assessment and site inspection are detailed below.

3.1. Outcomes of the desktop assessment

The study area is located in Werribee Park, Werribee South within the Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Area (CMA), the Victorian Volcanic Plain bioregion, and the City of Wyndham. The findings of the desktop assessment are summarised in Table 1 below and mapped in Figure 1 and Figure 3.

Table 1: Findings and implications of the desktop due diligence assessment

Feature	Assessment results	Implications
Victorian Heritage Register	One listing on the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) is situated within the study area: H1613, Werribee Park. The proposed works may impact the significance of this heritage place.	A permit is required from Heritage Victoria if the project is likely to harm the heritage significance of any place listed on the VHR. The proposed developments are not covered by existing exemptions for external water drainage installation works due to their scale. These works may not occur without a permit from Heritage Victoria.
Victorian Heritage Inventory	No listing	NA
Local government planning scheme heritage overlays:	HO64, Werribee Park	The study area is covered by a Heritage Overlay and therefore a permit may be required from Council for the proposed works.

¹ <https://achris.vic.gov.au/#/dashboard> - accessed August 2023.

Feature	Assessment results	Implications
Aboriginal cultural heritage	<p>No previously registered Aboriginal cultural heritage places are within the study area.</p> <p>The study area does not intersect any areas of Aboriginal cultural heritage sensitivity defined in the <i>Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2018</i> (Vic).</p>	<p>A cultural heritage management plan (CHMP) is required under reg 7 of the <i>Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2018</i> (Vic) if a high impact activity is undertaken in an area that includes an area of Aboriginal cultural heritage sensitivity.</p> <p>On this basis the proposed works do not trigger the requirements for a mandatory CHMP.</p>

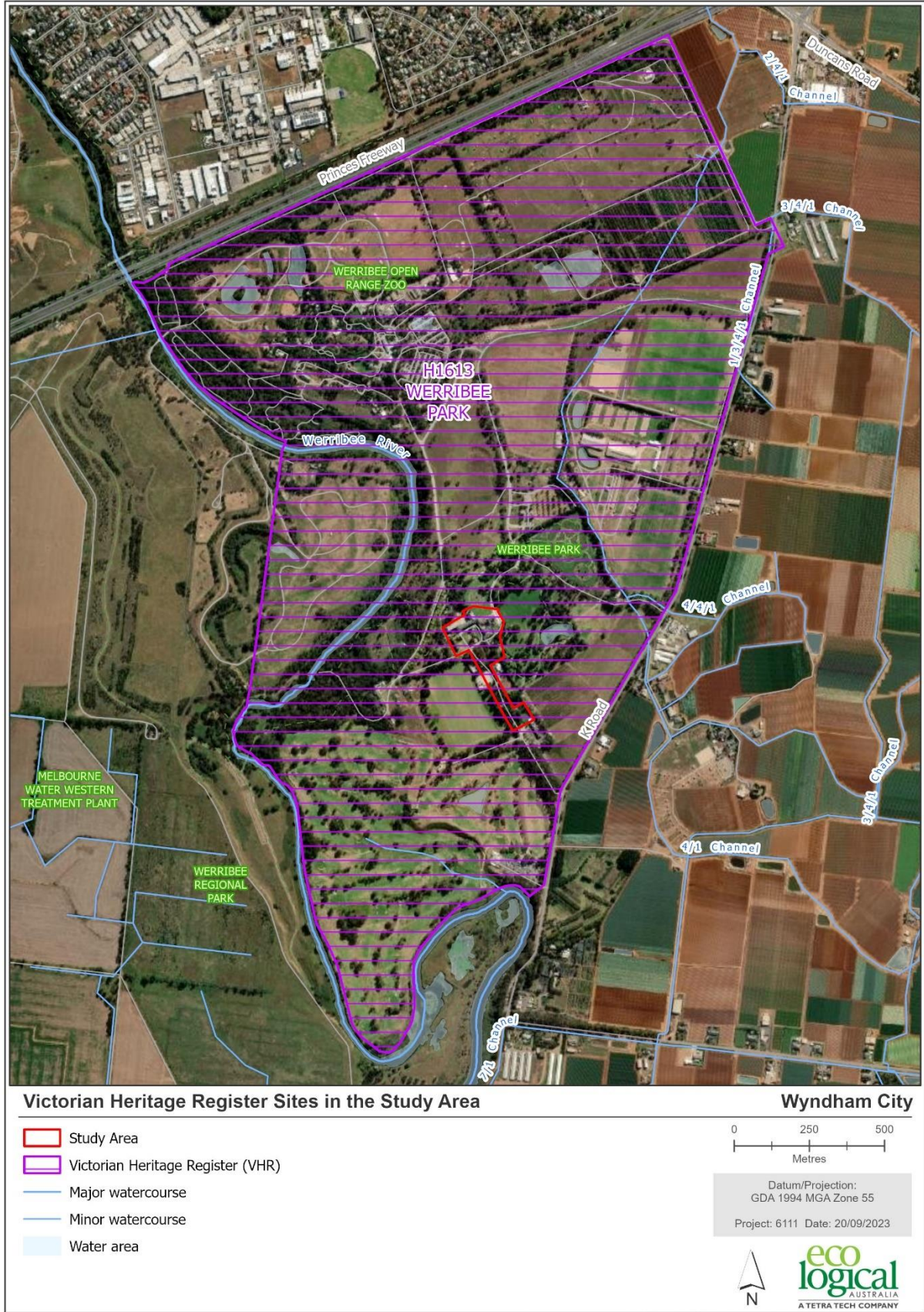


Figure 3: Map of the study area, proposed utilities, and historical heritage places

3.1.1. Victorian Heritage Registered site H1613

The proposed works are wholly within the extent of H1613: Werribee Park (Figure 3).

The extent of the registered site encompasses park grounds, buildings and structures associated with Werribee Park and surrounding land. The site is described on the Victorian Heritage Database (VHD) as follows:

1. *All of the land marked L1 on Diagram 1613A held by the Executive Director being all of Crown Allotments 1, 2, 3A and 3B Section 5 Parish of Deutgam, all of Crown Allotment 5 and part of Crown Allotment 6 Section A, Parish of Mambourin.*
2. *All of the buildings and features marked as follows on Diagrams 1613A, 1613B, 1613C and 1613D held by the Executive Director:*

B1 Woolshed

B2 Shearers' house

B3 Hastie's house

B4 Werribee Mansion

B5 Mansion laundry, covered cistern and drying yard

B6 Mansion gate lodge

B7 Chirnside homestead

B8 Bellenger's house

B9 Implement shed

B10 Stables

B11 Blacksmith's shop

B12 Men's quarters

B13 Ration store

B14 Glasshouse (sunken)

B15 Glasshouse

F1 Sheep dip

F2 Mansion gates

F3 Victoria State Rose Garden

F4 Parterre and fountain

F5 Lake and grotto

F6 Water tank

F7 Chirnside homestead ha-ha wall

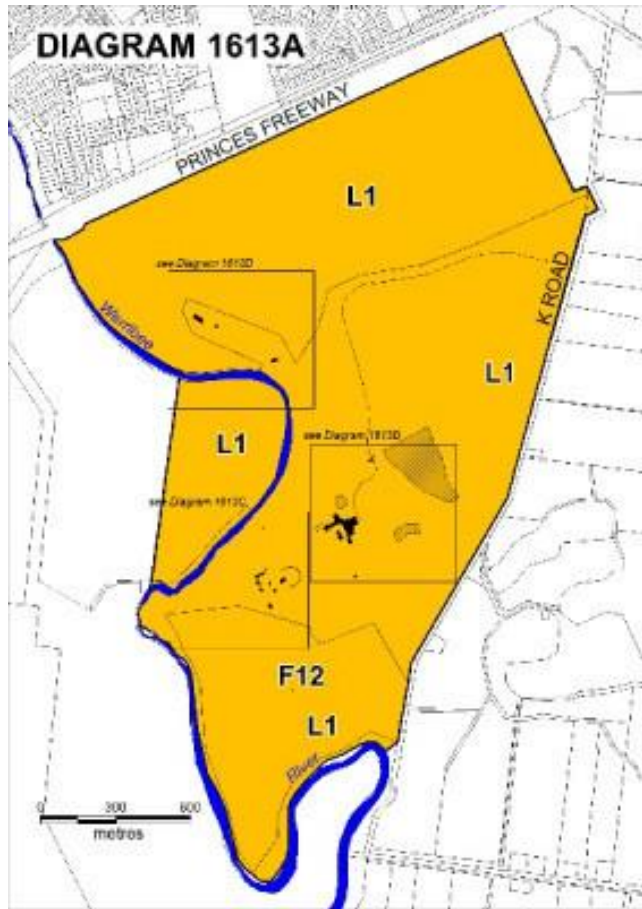
F8 Former duck pond

F9 Covered cistern

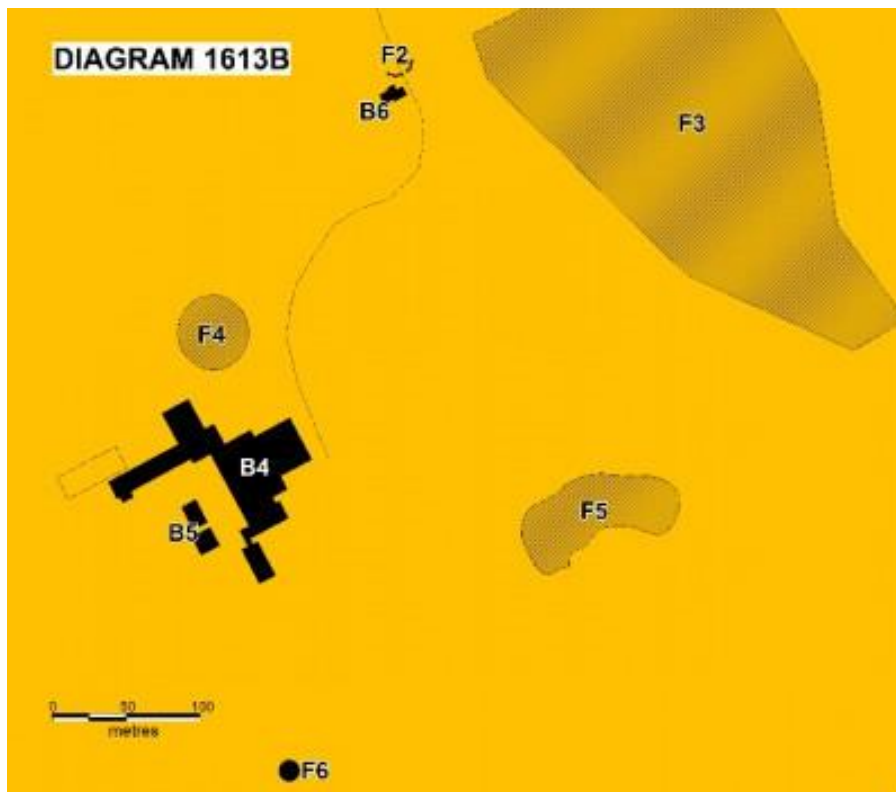
F10 Ruins in the orchard

F11 Ford

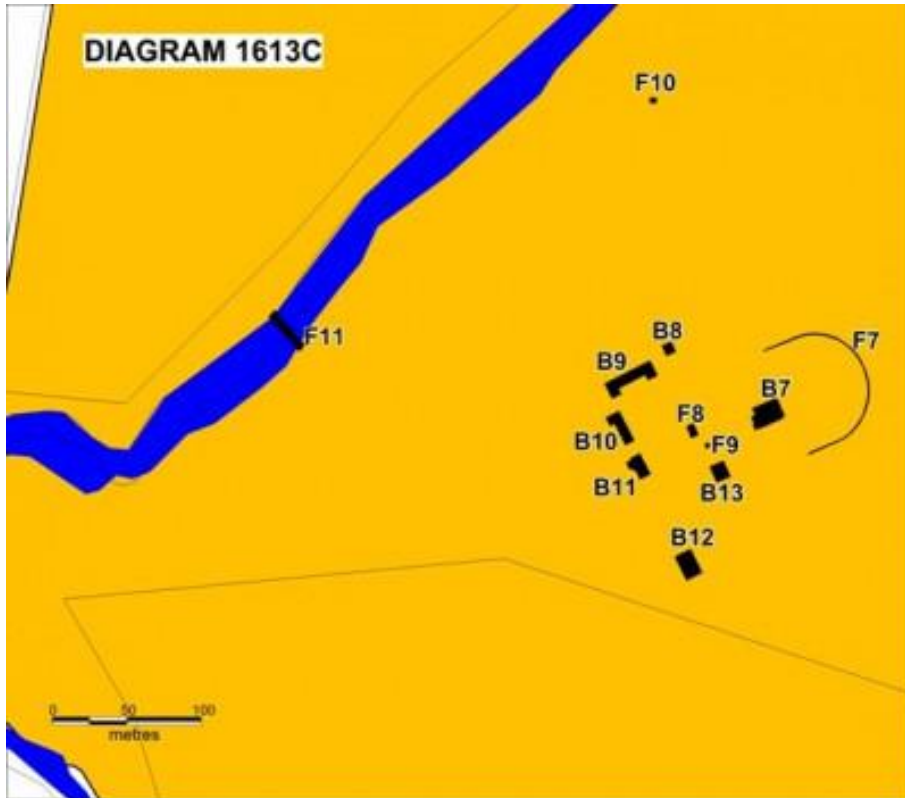
F12 Burial site



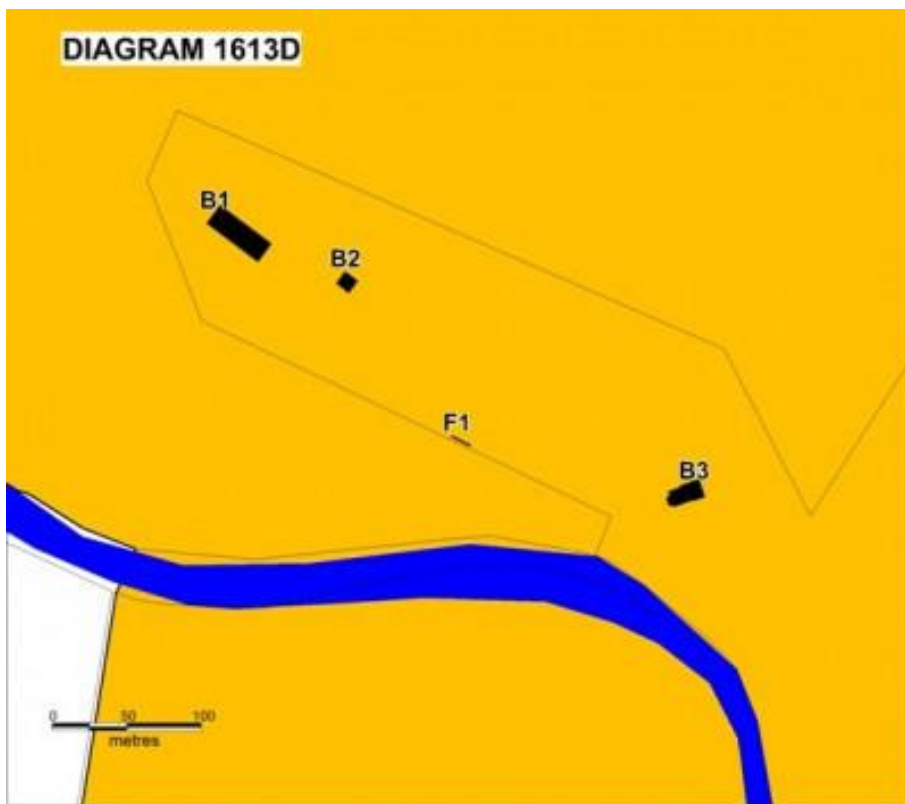
Werribee Park Plan A - Extent of Registration 2012



Werribee Park Plan B 2012



Werribee Park Plan C 2012



Werribee Park Plan D 2012

3.1.2. Werribee Park H1613, site history

The following account of the site's history is derived from the existing VHD report for H1613 ([VHD \(heritagecouncil.vic.gov.au\)](http://heritagecouncil.vic.gov.au)).

Original structures

Edward Wedge, brother of John Wedge (John Batman's surveyor), was the first to establish European settlement at Werribee Park (by 1836). In 1852 a devastating flood claimed the life of Edward, and his wife and daughter. In 1853, the remaining Wedge family members left the Port Phillip District, and the land was transferred to their neighbour, Scottish pastoralist Thomas Chirnside.

Thomas Chirnside arrived in Australia in 1839 to invest in sheep. By 1875, Thomas and his younger brother Andrew owned 250,000 acres of freehold land, and large areas of leasehold land, in Victoria. In addition to running the 93,000-acre Werribee Park sheep station, the Chirnsides also hosted numerous sporting events, hunts, picnics, balls, vice-regal visits, and the first Volunteer Military Encampment in Victoria (1857).

The Chirnsides built a complex of bluestone buildings in the 1850s and 1860s, the oldest being a bluestone four room ration store, with each room only accessible externally, and a four-room bluestone house, known as Bellenger's house. Both are believed to have been built sometime in the late 1850s or early 1860s, based on the style and materials available at that time. A large bluestone



woolshed (1861-2) saw 45,000 sheep produce 506 bales of wool in one year. Originally a one-room building, the simple four-room bluestone shearers' house, just east of the woolshed, and the basalt and brick sheep dip, just southeast of the woolshed, are likely to have been built in the early 1860s.

Bellinger's Cottage at Werribee Park Mansion ([Home - Trove \(nla.gov.au\)](http://Home-Trove.nla.gov.au)).

The bluestone Chirnside homestead (1865), with associated ha-ha wall (1867), was built primarily as a permanent base for Thomas's nephew Robert, who managed the sheep station from 1859 until 1866 and was then a lessee until 1873. The garden surrounding the homestead features an impressive *Ficus macrophylla*, and framing the central view are two *Lagunaria Patersonia*, near the ha-ha wall. The bluestone stables (built by 1868) housed prize winning stallions and the winners of the Melbourne, Caulfield and Geelong Cups. The men's quarters (1880s) are a large rectangular bluestone building with a bell turret. The large rectangular bluestone blacksmith's shop (post 1880) retains its original forge. The U-shaped brick implement shed (1890s) reflects the Chirnsides' move away from pastoral activities to farming. The burial area, surrounded by a near-square bluestone wall, contains the graves of Patrick Logan Edgar, who died in 1858, and John L. Hamilton, who died in 1863.

Construction of the Werribee Mansion

Thomas and his brother Andrew went into partnership at Werribee in the early 1870s and constructed a mansion at Werribee Park from 1873, largely for the use of Andrew's family. Thomas, Andrew and his wife, Mary and three youngest children, moved into the mansion in late 1876 or early 1877. Through the late 1870s and 1880s the estate was the centre of social life for the brothers, and they hosted sporting events, hunts, balls, vice-regal visits and military displays.

The commanding bluestone mansion, faced on three sides with sandstone, was designed in the Renaissance Revival style. A number of architects have been associated with the design, including James Henry Fox, who claimed he built the mansion; however, this has not been substantiated.

The building comprises a two-storey central block with symmetrically conceived east facade and dominant central tower. An arcade surrounds three sides of this block and provides an open balcony to the upper storey. Adjoining the block at the rear are two unfaced bluestone wings, which enclose a large service courtyard. The exterior detailing of the mansion is generally restrained, ascending from the ground floor Doric, to the Ionic of the first floor and the Corinthian of the tower above. Interior decoration is opulent with the richly decorated entry hall, containing an encaustic tiled floor, niches, Corinthian pilasters and free-standing columns, leading to a grand staircase and providing access to the main reception rooms.

The mansion is set in a landscape which Thomas Chirnside developed from the 1860s. Begun in 1877, the formal garden was conceived to complement the building, with the inclusion of a lake and grotto, parterre and fountain, meandering paths and trees to frame views (Figure 4 and Figure 5).

Werribee Park was used for this purpose until the college was relocated in 1972. In 1973 the estate was acquired by the government of Victoria and the property opened for public viewing in 1977. The Melbourne Metropolitan Board of Works assumed management responsibility in 1985.



Figure 4: South East View of Werribee Park Mansion, Date 1880 ([Home - Trove \(nla.gov.au\)](#))



Figure 5: North view of Werribee Park Mansion. Circa 1870-80s ([Home - Trove \(nla.gov.au\)](https://nla.gov.au))

Surviving buildings were constructed between 1870 and 1890, including the gate lodge (1877) and gates (presumably of similar date), laundry (by 1875), men's hut (1880s) and blacksmith's shop (post 1880).

In 1887 Thomas took his own life and three years later Andrew died. The majority of the land at Werribee Park was divided between Andrew's two youngest sons, with George acquiring about 34,000 acres including the mansion and grounds. Mary Chirnside resided at the mansion until her death in 1908, followed by George's family from about 1911 until 1921.

George diversified the use of the property, which had been used largely as a sheep station, and he introduced tenant farming. The dissolution of the Chirnside estate began in 1893 when 8,847 acres were sold to the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works, and this was perpetuated in 1906 when the government acquired 23,485 acres for closer settlement. At this time, Werribee Park was reduced to 2270 acres.

In 1921 George Chirnside sold the remains of the estate to grazier, Philip Lock, and the following year it was sold again to the Catholic Bishops of Victoria. The mansion, and 998 acres of land, was purchased and a Jesuit seminary, known as Corpus Christi College, was established for the training of priests.

The development of the seminary involved the construction of a series of major additions to the mansion, part of a larger scheme, which altered its character from domestic to institutional. Designed by William P. Connolly, St Joseph's wing and library (1925-28) was constructed to the north west of the mansion, and the refectory (1925-28) and the theatre wing (1936-7) to the south.

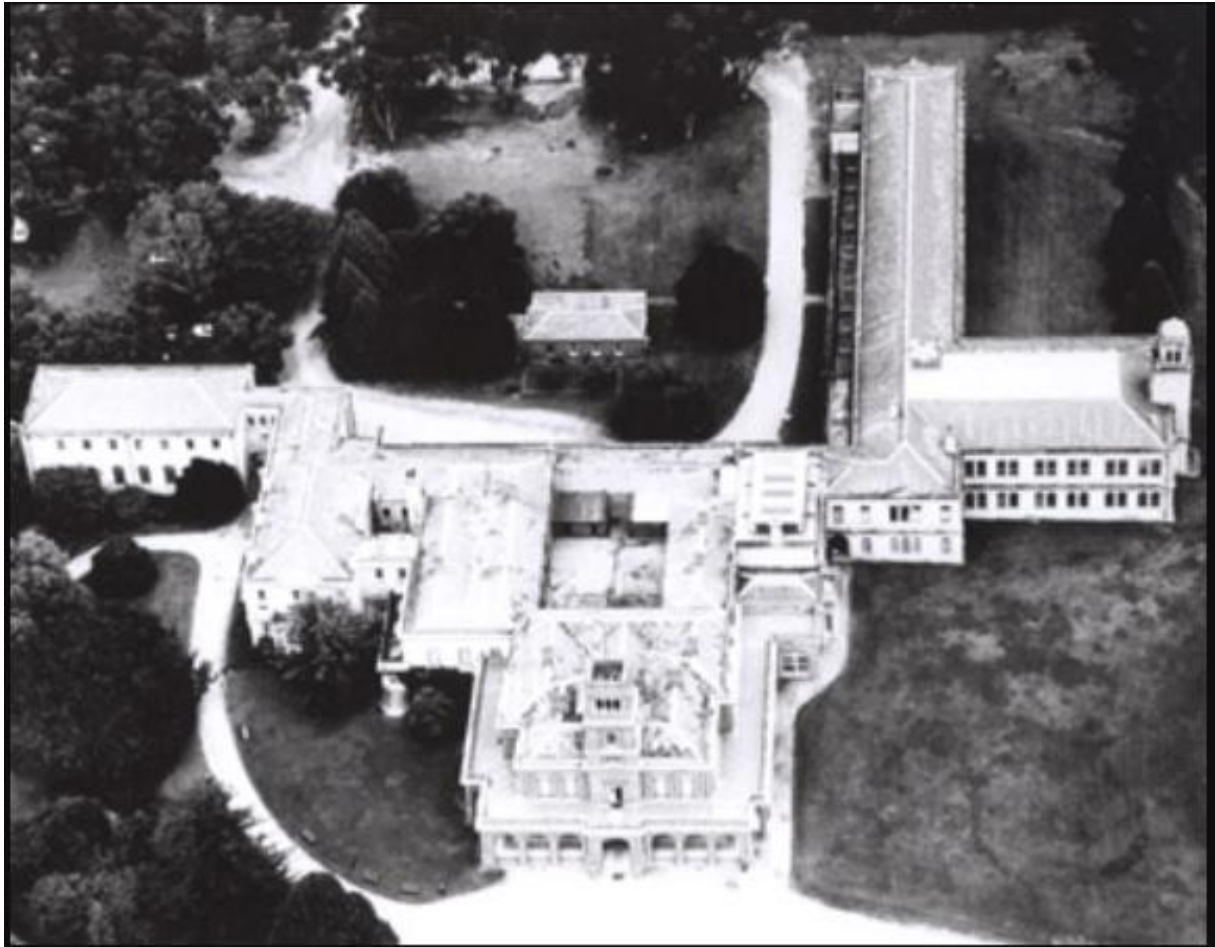


Figure 6: Aerial view of Werribee Mansion following the 1920s addition of wings to the mansion (*Wyndham History*, accessed September 14).

3.2. Statement of Significance: H1613 Werribee Park

The existing statement of significance for the site, as detailed on the VHR, is included below.

3.2.1. What is significant?

Werribee Park is set on approximately 1,000 acres of land 35 kilometres southwest of Melbourne. The area includes the Werribee Mansion (1873) with formal garden, grotto, mansion gates and gate lodge, freestanding laundry, the Chirnside homestead (1865) with ha-ha wall, ration store (built by 1861), blacksmith shop, men's quarters, stables, implement shed, Bellenger's house, ford, woolshed, shearers' house, Hastie's house, sheep dip, and burial site.

Edward Wedge, brother of John Wedge (John Batman's surveyor), was the first to establish European settlement at Werribee Park (by 1836). In 1852 a devastating flood claimed the life of Edward, and his wife and daughter. In 1853, the remaining Wedge family members left the Port Phillip District, and the land was transferred to their neighbour, Scottish pastoralist Thomas Chirnside.

Thomas Chirnside arrived in Australia in 1839 to invest in sheep. By 1875, Thomas and his younger brother Andrew owned 250,000 acres of freehold land, and large areas of leasehold land, in Victoria. In addition to running the 93,000-acre Werribee Park sheep station, the Chirnsides also hosted

numerous sporting events, hunts, picnics, balls, vice-regal visits, and the first Volunteer Military Encampment in Victoria (1857).

The Chirnsides built a complex of bluestone buildings in the 1850s and 1860s, the oldest being a bluestone four-room ration store, with each room only accessible externally, and a four-room bluestone house, known as Bellenger's house. Both are believed to have been built sometime in the late 1850s or early 1860s, based on the style and materials available at that time. A large bluestone woolshed (1861-2) saw 45,000 sheep produce 506 bales of wool in one year. Originally a one-room building, the simple four-room bluestone shearers' house, just east of the woolshed, and the basalt and brick sheep dip, just southeast of the woolshed, are likely to have been built in the early 1860s.

The bluestone Chirnside homestead (1865), with associated ha-ha wall (1867), was built primarily as a permanent base for Thomas's nephew Robert, who managed the sheep station from 1859 until 1866 and was then a lessee until 1873. The garden surrounding the homestead features an impressive *Ficus macrophylla*, and framing the central view are two *Lagunaria Patersonia*, near the ha-ha wall. The bluestone stables (built by 1868) housed prize winning stallions and the winners of the Melbourne, Caulfield and Geelong Cups. The men's quarters (1880s) are a large rectangular bluestone building with a bell turret. The large rectangular bluestone blacksmith's shop (post 1880) retains its original forge. The U-shaped brick implement shed (1890s) reflects the Chirnsides' move away from pastoral activities to farming. The burial area, surrounded by a near-square bluestone wall, contains the graves of Patrick Logan Edgar, who died in 1858, and John L. Hamilton, who died in 1863.

Hastie's house (1890s), named after Adam Hastie who managed Werribee Park for George Chirnside, is a 10-room double fronted building located near the shearers' house. It is the last surviving substantial weatherboard building associated with the Chirnsides on the property, and one of the few known to be occupied by staff.

Thomas and his brother Andrew began construction of the mansion in 1873, primarily for Andrew and his family. The large basalt and sandstone mansion, built in a Renaissance Revival style, is a two-storey central block, with dominant tower and an arcade surrounding three sides of the block. The fine interior with some original furniture features a richly decorated entry hall, containing a Minton encaustic tiled floor, niches, Corinthian pilasters and free-standing columns, leading to a grand staircase and providing access to the main reception rooms. The library and dining room have heavy pedimented polished timber architraves, and tongue and groove Kauri pine floors with deep polished parquet borders. A detached bluestone laundry, with its own cistern and drying yard, was built in the mid-1870s. The gates and gate lodge were built in 1877. It was reported that by completion of works, the mansion cost over £60,000.

The flat open plains contain scattered River Red Gums, Lightwood and She-oak, windbreaks of Monterey Cypress, Monterey Pine, Aleppo Pine and Sugar Gum trees and an orchard, enclosed by a post and rail fence with an English Hawthorn hedge.

The Chirnsides' active membership in the Acclimatization Society is reflected in the mansion's large formal garden (from 1877). Features within the garden include a man-made lake and grotto (1870s), large circular parterre (1882) and a rustic fountain, two glasshouses (1880 to 1890s - the sunken glasshouse was replaced by an identical structure in the 1970s), and an iron hurdle fence and Pittosporum hedge. The intact rock-work grotto is lined with decorative seashells, fragments of mirrored glass, pebbles, and sheep bones and teeth. The outside of the grotto is covered by a large *Aloe arborescens*.

The formal garden's meandering paths, shrubberies and trees were used to frame views, illustrating the influence of the 18th century English landscape movement. There is a dominance of conifers and evergreen trees, especially Araucaria, Pinus, Cupressus, Ficus, Cedrus, Schinus, Lagunaria, Corymbia and Eucalyptus. Deciduous Ulmus, Quercus Phytolacca, and the palms, Phoenix canariensis, P. reclinata, Trachycarpus fortunei have been planted to provide foliage contrast in the landscape.

The Park also contains a significant collection of cypress (Cupressus now Hesperocyparis), including the State's largest and finest Cupressus torulosa, rare and outstanding Cupressus macrocarpa 'Filipendula', 'Aurea Saligna', and 'Horizontalia Aurea', large and outstanding Ficus macrophylla, Lagunaria patersonia, Phytolacca dioica, Elaeodendron croceum, Quercus bicolor, Ulmus minor 'Variegata', and Corymbia citriodora. The garden includes Victoria's only known example of Plagianthis betulinus, and one of 6 plants of Dovyalis caffra.

Following the deaths of Thomas, in 1887, and Andrew, in 1890, the property was passed on to Andrew's sons, George and John Percy. The dissolution of the Chirside estate began in 1893, when 8,847 acres were sold to the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works. A further 23,485 acres was acquired by the Victorian Government in 1906 under the Closer Settlement Scheme, reducing Werribee Park to 2,270 acres.

The scaled down area of Werribee Park remained in the ownership of the Chirside family until George Chirside sold the land to grazier Phillip Lock in 1921. The following year, Lock sold the property to the Catholic Bishops of Victoria. The mansion was converted into a seminary, Corpus Christi College, for the training of priests. Major additions to the mansion at this time included the St Joseph's wing, a library and the refectory (1925-28), and the theatre wing (1936-37), altering the mansion's function from domestic to institutional. Imitative detail was used externally to unite the early and modern work.

The Catholic Church owned the property until it was acquired by the Victorian Government in 1973. Approximately 130 acres was reserved for the Werribee Park Golf Course, which opened in 1976. In 1977, the Victorian Government opened the mansion and gardens for public viewing. At that time a substantial part of the original furnishings supplied by Taylor & Sons, Queen Victoria's Edinburgh cabinetmaker remained in the house, together with a significant collection of nineteenth century decorative arts provenanced from elsewhere.

The northern section of Werribee Park was handed to the management of the Zoological Board of Victoria, who opened the Werribee Open Range Zoo in 1983. A further portion was designated for the development of the Werribee Park National Equestrian Centre, officially opened in 1984 as the state centre for equestrian activity. The Melbourne Metropolitan Board of Works assumed management responsibility of the 1870s mansion in 1985. Another six acres of the Werribee Park property was developed as the Victorian State Rose Garden (1986), which contains over 5,000 locally and internationally bred roses. It was the first garden outside of Europe awarded the International Garden of Excellence by the World Federation of Rose Societies (2003).

In 1996, management of the mansion was transferred from the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works to Parks Victoria. In the late 1990s, the seminary wings were converted for hotel use and a hotel building was added between 1998 and 2000. The hotel opened in June 2000. A vineyard and winery, and polo pavilion were also added at this time.

Werribee Park is the traditional land of the Wurundjeri on the east side of the Werribee River and the Wathaurung Aboriginal Corporation (trading as Wadawurrung) on the west side of the river.

3.2.2. How is it significant?

Werribee Park is of architectural, historical, scientific (horticultural), archaeological, and aesthetic significance to the State of Victoria.

3.2.3. Why is it significant?

Werribee Park is of architectural significance for the number of intact buildings and features constructed during the late 19th century, under the ownership of the Chirnside family. The mansion, with its fine interiors and some original furniture, is one of Australia's grandest and most finely designed English country houses. Since its construction in the 1870s, little has been altered internally and externally. The mansion demonstrates the finest application of renaissance detailing in Victoria. It is also the largest and most intact example of the use of Barrabool Hills sandstone applied to a domestic building in Victoria. The Chirnside homestead and associated buildings are one of the most intact groups of homestead buildings in Victoria. Their relationship is visually discernable in design and date and historic use. The intact mansion laundry is architecturally significant as a rare example of a late 19th century freestanding purpose-built laundry facility. The remarkably intact grotto (1870s), a traditional component of 17th century garden design, is the only known example of its type in Victoria if not Australia. The sunken glasshouse, although not the original, is one of only two known in Victoria.

Werribee Park is of historical significance for its association with the early establishment of permanent European settlement of the Port Phillip District, dating to 1836 by Edward Wedge. It is significant for its association with prominent Victorian pastoralists Thomas, Andrew and Robert Chirnside. In addition to using Werribee Park as a sheep station, it was also a centre for numerous and lavish social activities in the 19th and early 20th century.

Werribee Park is of historical significance for the mansion's conversion into the first major Catholic seminary for secular priests in Victoria, Corpus Christi College. The foundation of the College in 1923 was an important achievement by Daniel Mannix, Catholic Archbishop of Melbourne, who established the seminary to train Australian-born students.

Werribee Park is of scientific (horticultural) significance for its rare and outstanding collection of trees, especially conifers comprising of *Pinus Araucaria*, *Cedrus* and cypress (*Cupressus* now *Hesperocyparis*). The garden includes Victoria's only known example of *Plagianthis betulinus*, and one of 6 plants of *Dovyalis caffra*.

Werribee Park is of archaeological significance for its demonstrated and potential archaeological values relating to the Wedge family occupation, and the occupation and pastoral activities of the Chirnside family.

Archaeological surface deposits have been identified in the area of the 1865 homestead, ration store, men's quarters, stables and Bellenger's house, as well as the orchard remnants, ruins within the orchard, the ford and the burial site.

Werribee Park is of aesthetic significance for its extensive size and collection of planting, landscape styles and features. The formal garden contains a number of well-established specimen trees, rows, avenues and groups of trees to create a landscape of outstanding quality and diversity. The garden has contrasting informal and formal areas with layers of 19th and 20th century planting and development. The colourful circular parterre is the best example of this design feature in Victoria.

Werribee Park mansion and formal garden are of aesthetic significance as one of the few places in the State to retain the characteristics of a 19th century English country house and landscape. The retention of the original layout, boundaries, early plantings and garden features are fundamental to

the significance of the mansion. The landscape of the property including its relationship with the Werribee River and the formal presentation of the Mansion are also significant.

4. Site Inspection

A visual inspection of the study area was undertaken on 11 March 2022. The purpose of the inspection was to:

- to assess ground surface conditions along the proposed works alignment.
- Identify evidence of previous development.
- To determine if any surface expressions of historical archaeological features were present along the proposed development alignments. Provide information on the nature of archaeological deposits that may be impacted by the proposed works.

4.1. Outcomes of the site inspection

Photography of surfaces along the proposed works alignment are included below (Figure 7 - Figure 20). The alignments are situated within modified surfaces surrounding the mansion, extending primarily through manicured lawns, gravel pathways, and gardens.

No surface expressions of historic heritage were identified during the site inspection. The proposed utility alignments comprised landscaped surfaces within the Werribee Mansion grounds including lawn surfaces, gravelled pathways, gardens, and unsealed roadways, as well as surfaces adjacent to built structures.

The study area displayed evidence of substantial modification impacts regarded as significant ground disturbance attributed to broad-scale landscaping and land development across surfaces immediately adjacent to the mansion.



Figure 7: Lawn surfaces facing the north wing of Werribee Mansion. Proposed new in-ground fire hydrant system main alignment



Figure 8: Lawn surfaces along eastern (front) of the mansion. Proposed new in-ground fire hydrant system main alignment



Figure 9: Proposed new in-ground fire hydrant system main alignment, extending through gravel path surfaces adjacent to eastern (front) of the Mansion



Figure 10: Proposed new in-ground fire hydrant system main alignment extending through lawn and gravel pathway surfaces along eastern margin of the Mansion and adjacent to the Refectory



Figure 11: Proposed new in-ground fire hydrant system main alignment extending through lawn surfaces along southern margin of the mansion adjacent to the Refectory



Figure 12: Proposed junction of two in-ground fire hydrant mains and an in-ground sprinkler system main directly north of Tennis Courts



Figure 13: Location of new fire pump and water storage tanks, outlet adjacent to pool at north-western extent of Mansion grounds



Figure 14: Location of new fire pump and water storage tanks, outlet adjacent to pool at north-western extent of Mansion grounds



Figure 15: Gravel path and lawn surfaces between Werribee Mansion and mansion laundry. Location of proposed in-ground fire hydrant, inground sprinkler main, and in-ground dry fire conduit alignments



Figure 16: Gravel path and lawn surfaces between Werribee Mansion and mansion laundry. Location of proposed in-ground fire hydrant, inground sprinkler main, and in-ground dry fire conduit alignments



Figure 17: Location of new fire hydrant riser at rear of Refectory



Figure 18: Southern Drive, a gravel roadway leading from Werribee Manion towards Shadowfax Winery. Location of proposed in-ground fire hydrant, inground sprinkler main, and in-ground dry fire conduit alignments



Figure 19: Southern Drive, a gravel roadway leading from Werribee Manion towards Shadowfax Winery. Location of proposed in-ground fire hydrant, inground sprinkler main, and in-ground dry fire conduit alignments



Figure 20: Southern Drive, a gravel roadway leading from Werribee Manion towards Shadowfax Winery. Location of proposed in-ground fire hydrant, inground sprinkler main, and in-ground dry fire conduit alignments

5. Findings

The results of the desktop assessment and site inspection determined that the proposed in-ground utility installation works will be within surfaces adjacent or abutting the Werribee Mansion structure. These surfaces were historically part of the grounds surrounding the mansion, comprising lawns, gardens, and pathways, a usage that continues today.

The history of the site indicates that surfaces surrounding the mansion have been impacted historically and recently due to numerous phases of development. Initial modifications during the 1870s are associated with the construction of the early mansion. Further developments occurred from 1877 when the formal garden was established. Subsequent additions to the mansion during the late 1800's and again in the 1920 extensions under the Catholic Bishops of Victoria resulted in additional impacts associated with ground-surface preparation and construction.

Changes to the grounds surrounding the mansion appear to have been substantial, including broadscale landscaping at the time of the original construction phase (Figure 4), and changes to the grounds and pathways following early 1900s constructions of the mansion wings (Figure 6). Current pathway alignments appear to be relatively consistent with the mid-1900s layout.

More recent developments have included the construction of new ancillary buildings adjacent to the mansion and the installation of substantial in-ground utilities. This is evident in design plans showing the position of utilities (Figure 2), and in modern aerial photography showing the position of new free-standing buildings. Further modification to ground surfaces include tree removal, particularly at the rear of the mansion.

5.1. Potential archaeology deposits

The history of development suggests that ground surfaces along the proposed utility alignments have been subject to a moderate degree of impact associated with prior utility installation, recent structural additions to the mansion complex, and landscaping works. This assessment has determined there is a low-moderate potential for archaeological deposits associated with the Werribee Mansion to be impacted by the proposed works.

Archaeological deposits may include small finds associated with the occupation of the site from the 1870s onwards which may be linked to key phases of occupation including residential occupation from the 1870s onwards, and institutional archaeology associated with its use by the Jesuit seminary. Archaeological deposits may also be attributed to the general use of the site to host events during the 1800s and 1900s, as is documented in the historic record.

The works may result in impacts to structural components associated with the foundations of the mansion where in-ground fire hydrant systems are proposed in proximity to the built structure. The works may also impact features associated with former garden and grounds features including garden-beds, built features and pathways.

5.2. Recommendation for archaeological management protocols

Based on the potential for archaeological deposits to be impacted by the proposed works, the following protocols are recommended to provide appropriate management of cultural heritage where identified.

6. Archaeological Management Protocols for Cultural Heritage

The following Archaeological Management Protocols are recommended to provide for the management of any unexpected archaeological discoveries during the proposed works.

These protocols are to accompany a Heritage Impact Statement supporting a permit application to Heritage Victoria for the proposed utility installation and upgrade works. Approval of these protocols by Heritage Victoria is required prior to their implementation.

6.1. Historic Heritage Management

The processes detailed under sections 6.2.2 *Establishment of Heritage Significance* and 6.2.3 *Archaeological Management Measures* below must be conducted or supervised by a suitably qualified archaeologist.

6.1.1. Discovery of unexpected historical archaeological deposits

If historic archaeological materials are identified during the utility installation and upgrade works, the following measures are to be followed.

1. Works at the immediate location of the identified feature or materials must cease and the area must be protected from further impacts.
2. The archaeologist must be notified of the feature or materials.
3. The archaeologist is to attend the site within two days of notification to assess the location and to determine if the feature or materials are of heritage significance in accordance with Section 6.2.2 below.
 - a. If the materials are determined not to be of heritage significance, works may continue.
 - b. If the materials are determined to be of heritage significance, the archaeologist must:
 - Determine the significance of the feature in accordance with the measures detailed below.
 - Undertake appropriate archaeological management measures in accordance with the measures detailed below.
 - Confirm when the appropriate archaeological management measures have been completed and works can continue at the location.

6.1.2. Establishment of Heritage Significance

The establishment of significance of the identified deposits or materials will inform a suitable approach to the investigation and recording of archaeological features or materials identified during the project works program. The significance ratings (low, moderate, high) are informed by the physical attributes and context of the feature or object.

6.1.2.1. Features regarded as of low significance include:

- Diagnostic and undiagnostic historical artefacts or materials in unstratified or disturbed deposits, such as ceramics, glass, metals, building rubble in introduced materials or disturbed soils.

6.1.2.2. Features regarded as of moderate significance include:

- A concentration of diagnostic historical artefacts within a stratified deposit.

6.1.2.3. Features regarded as of high significance include:

- Intact or partially intact historical structural features or other archaeological deposits of rare occurrence

6.1.3. Archaeological Management Measures

Following the determination of significance, the following archaeological measures must be undertaken.

All archaeological excavations must be conducted in accordance with *Heritage Victoria's Guidelines for Investigation Historical Archaeological Artefacts and Sites*. All archaeological excavations will be undertaken in accordance with the methods detailed below. These excavation methods will not be varied without the prior approval of Heritage Victoria.

6.1.3.1. Management Measures for features or deposits of Low Significance

If the materials or feature are determined to be of low significance, the following must occur:

1. The materials must be noted and photographed by the archaeologist.
2. All artefacts identified will be processed and catalogued in accordance with Heritage Victoria's *Guidelines for Investigating Historical Archaeological Artefacts and Sites* and using the Heritage Victoria Catalogue Template.

6.1.3.2. Management Measures for features or deposits of Moderate Significance

If the materials or feature are determined to be of moderate significance, the following must occur:

1. Heritage Victoria must be notified of the discovery.
2. All artefacts identified will be processed and catalogued in accordance with Heritage Victoria's *Guidelines for Investigating Historical Archaeological Artefacts and Sites* and using the Heritage Victoria Catalogue Template.
3. The feature or object must be appropriately investigated to provide an understanding of the feature or object's extent and function. The investigation works may be limited to the extent of impacts associated with the proposed developments at that location.
 - a. Controlled mechanical excavation is permitted to enable the identification and excavation of archaeological interfaces (e.g., the removal of overburden, deposits of low integrity, concrete surfaces etc).
 - b. Archaeological hand excavation will commence where archaeological deposits/features are detected.

- c. Recording is to be undertaken, including a photographic record, base recording of stratigraphy/features (e.g., context sheets and register), locational and dimensional information (e.g., excavation units and elevation data).
4. Heritage Victoria will provide consent for works to continue at the location once it is satisfied that on-site recording of the feature or object has been completed in accordance with these management protocols.

6.1.3.3. *Management Measures for Sites of High Significance*

1. If the materials are determined to be of high significance, the following must occur:
 - a. Heritage Victoria must be notified of the discovery.
 - b. The scope of archaeological works and recording will be determined through consultation between the archaeologist, the proponent, and Heritage Victoria.
 - c. If during the exploration evidence comes to light that prompts a re-evaluation of the significance rating to either moderate or low, the archaeologist will
 - i. Notify Heritage Victoria
 - ii. Revert to, and implement, the appropriate management measures for low or moderate significance-sites.
2. Heritage Victoria will provide consent for works to continue at the location once it is satisfied that on-site recording of the feature or object has been completed in accordance with the management protocols.

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management

If Aboriginal cultural heritage material is identified during works, all works at the location will cease immediately and the project archaeologist will contact First People-State Relations and the Registered Aboriginal Party (if relevant), in accordance the requirements of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* (Vic).

References

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Register and Information System

<https://achris.vic.gov.au/#/dashboard>

First Peoples-State Relations. 2018. Aboriginal Heritage Regulations. Accessed 29 July 2023:

<https://www.legislation.vic.gov.au/in-force/statutory-rules/aboriginal-heritage-regulations-2018/001>

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Trove, national Library of Australia. Accessed 20 August 2023:

[Home - Trove \(nla.gov.au\)](https://nla.gov.au)

Victorian heritage Database [online resource]. Accessed 27 July 2023:

[VHD \(heritagecouncil.vic.gov.au\)](https://heritagecouncil.vic.gov.au)

Werribee and District Historical Photograph Collection – online

<http://www.wyndhamhistory.net.au/items/show/1470>