

# AREA 20 PRECINCT

## PUBLIC DOMAIN AND LANDSCAPE STRATEGY

August 2011



Prepared by LFA (Pacific) Pty Ltd for:



Planning &  
Infrastructure

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### Cultural Heritage Interpretation Strategy

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## 1.0 Introduction

The requirement for a Public Domain and Landscape Strategy is identified in the Schedule 4 of the Blacktown Growth Centre Precincts Development Control Plan (DCP) 2011 as a means of dealing with, and building upon the opportunities presented by, the significant historic and landscape context of Rouse Hill House Estate (RHHE). The emphasis of the Strategy was seen to focus on the open space and recreation strategy, the visual mitigation measures to be adopted, and the interpretation strategy work initiated by Godden Mackay Logan Pty. Ltd. (GML), refer to **Attachment 1**.

### 1.1 Purpose of the Report

The purpose of the Public Domain and Landscape Strategy is to outline public domain requirements to ensure the ongoing intent of the design philosophy and principles which guide the development of Area 20 Precinct.

The Strategy is intended to assist future developers and Blacktown City Council in planning and developing public and semi-public domains within the Precinct.

The Strategy applies to all development within the Area 20 Precinct, as defined in the DCP. A separate public domain strategy will need to be prepared for the Cudgegong Station Area.

The Strategy has been produced in conjunction with, and in support of, Schedule 4 of the DCP.

### 1.2 Site Context

The Area 20 Precinct is located to the east of the North West Growth Centre, situated at the intersection of Windsor and Schofields Roads. The Precinct has the potential to provide for a range of residential development and community services to support the new Rouse Hill Town Centre.

The vision for the Precinct is to create a series of new, walkable residential neighbourhoods supported by local retail, community, open space and recreational opportunities. The Precinct will provide for a range of densities, dwelling types and affordability options including larger lots and standard detached houses, with apartments in close proximity to Rouse Hill Town Centre.

The future extension of the North West Rail Link (NWRL) truncates the Precinct in the southern sector and a new station and stabling yards are proposed between Cudgegong and Tallawong Roads.

The Precinct is closely associated with the nationally significant Rouse Hill House Estate and the adjacent Rouse Hill Regional Park. New development will incorporate ecological sustainability principles as well as measures to ensure that important historic, environmental and visual sensitivities are recognised and protected for future generations.

Public domain opportunities will respect and interpret the cultural heritage of the Precinct and its relationship to the indigenous and rural past (especially Rouse Hill House Estate), as well as conserve significant stands of remnant vegetation and the Second Ponds Creek Corridor. This will preserve biodiversity and contribute to a strong woodland character.



Rouse Hill House Estate



Rouse Hill Regional Park

### 1.3 Scope

The general scope of the Strategy includes:

- definition of the Public Domain and visual and landscape qualities with character statements for sub-precincts
- identifying opportunities for tree retention and new planting in key locations, and aims to enhance the visual outlook from Rouse Hill House and to conserve landscape character
- identifying opportunities for planting within RHRP to conserve its visual setting and to further develop and detail the initial work related to Cultural Heritage Interpretation
- the design strategy which details the public domain network including street / linkages / pathways / trails along Second Ponds Creek to RHRP and The Ponds including plan sketches for key elements
- the provision of guidelines for planting in streets and parks, character of parks, location and character of playgrounds, street furniture, approach to materials, and augmentation of Council's tree planting list.

### 1.4 Public Domain Principles & Objectives

The planning principles which apply to the design of the public domain are:

- ensuring a public domain framework of streets and open space that creates a connected network linking places within the site and places adjoining the site, particularly to Second Ponds Creek, Rouse Hill Regional Park, the proposed rail station and associated centre, The Ponds development to the south, Rouse Hill Town Centre to the east, and Riverstone East Precinct to the west
- creating a strong neighbourhood structure focused on activity centres, particularly Rouse Hill Town Centre and the new station sub-precinct on Cudgegong Road. Each neighbourhood has a community based activity node within walking distance, and these neighbourhood nodes are linked by the open space and road networks
- local and neighbourhood parks to take advantage of and retain the key environmental features of the Precinct, including high points, the riparian corridor and existing vegetation
- the Second Ponds Creek corridor will be publicly owned and managed, and will be integrated with the drainage and open space network to create a spine of recreational open space
- areas of biodiversity value and high Aboriginal cultural heritage importance are protected by their location within the public open space and trunk drainage networks.

Public domain and landscape character objectives stated in the DCP for Area 20 Precinct are:

- to establish a public domain and urban character that respects and interprets the cultural heritage of the farmland and historic context and linkages of the Precinct and the nationally significant Rouse Hill Estate
- to minimise the visual impact of development on Rouse Hill House Estate and its landscape context through sympathetic architectural design and the retention of existing woodland canopy trees in prominent locations (e.g. the northern ridgeline) and additional native tree planting within subdivisions and along key road corridors
- to retain elements of the existing rural landscape character at the interface with Rouse Hill Regional Park and to establish a visually appealing approach to Rouse Hill House Estate as viewed from the historic Windsor Road travelling north-west
- to create a consistent and co-ordinated landscaped gateway at the Rouse Road entrance to the Precinct (at Windsor Road) and to retain elements of the rural landscape character along this section of Rouse Road
- to improve amenity for residential development adjacent Windsor Road through the provision of a landscape buffer and architectural facade treatments within dwellings.



## 1.5 Relationship to Other Documents

The Strategy contains objectives, principles and requirements for the design of public spaces including streets. The Strategy is consistent with the detailed development controls for Area 20 Precinct comprised in the Blacktown City Council Growth Centre Precincts Development Control Plan (DCP) 2011. This includes specific public domain and landscaping controls contained within Section 3.2.2 of Schedule 4 of the DCP.

The Strategy will need to be considered in light of other Council policies, such as:

- Crime Prevention Plan 2009-2013
- Playground Strategy (2007)
- The Section 94 Contributions Plan prepared for Area 20 Precinct
- Manual of Best Practice: Access for People and Mobility Disabilities

## 1.6 Implementation

The purpose of the Strategy is to establish an overall vision and guiding principles for the development of consistent public domain initiatives and landscaping treatments within the Area 20 Precinct in support of the detailed development provisions contained in Schedule 4 of the DCP in particular.

The strategy applies to both public and private lands, the latter being those areas visible from the public realm. Subsequently, the main stakeholder involved in its implementation will be Blacktown City Council, given its role in establishing the proposed open space, drainage and major road network, as well as through its function as the development consent authority. The other main stakeholder, in a general sense, will be the future developers of the Precinct. It is anticipated that the detailed design of individual elements will involve a wide range of technical experts, including landscape architects, heritage consultants, artists and industrial and graphic designers, as well as the various Government, community and Aboriginal stakeholders.

The Strategy should be utilised by developers of the Precinct as a guiding resource when planning subdivision and residential development and will be one of numerous considerations for Council when determining development applications.

The Strategy establishes concept-level landscape sketches for the main elements of the public domain, which should be seen as the first step in developing detailed master plans for parks, roads and pedestrian/cyclist links etc. The cost of implementation and maintenance should be a consideration in furthering urban design and landscape plans for the public domain. Council will utilise its considerable expertise and experience in designing and maintaining public assets to ensure that the initiatives proposed in the Strategy are suitable and meet the various standards and guidelines.

Other factors that will influence the implementation of public domain strategies include the topographical and environmental constraints of the site, the funding mechanisms and the availability and timing of revenue. An important consideration in this regard will be Government policy relating to the nature of local development contributions and whether other sources of revenue are available to fund the public domain initiatives outlined in this Strategy. For example, current policy limits the type of infrastructure and embellishments that may be levied via local development contributions and this may affect the delivery of the Strategy itself.

A coordinated Precinct-wide outcome is better than a piecemeal approach and the limitations and opportunities should be identified early in the planning process to determine which components of the public domain may be modified and/or prioritised over others. A coordinated and staged plan may then be implemented as the Precinct is developed.

It is envisioned that the future character of the Precinct will build upon its unique historical context to create an urban area that is sympathetic and interprets its cultural heritage and environmental aspects, with tangible benefits for both developers and the incoming community.

## 2.0 Definition of the Public Domain

The public domain is generally considered to be publicly owned spaces including streets, parks and squares i.e. the shared spaces between buildings.

The public domain is also considered to include publicly accessible privately owned spaces, such as arcades, building forecourts and other semi-public spaces. These spaces are frequently used by the public and thus also influence the public domain.

A high quality public domain contributes to the vitality, appearance, safety and feel of an area. Special consideration is given to matters affecting the Rouse Hill House Estate and Regional Park particularly visual impact from various high points within the Precinct, e.g. Quarry Hill / Knoll Park, Rouse Road pocket park, Windsor Road, large lots / northern ridgeline etc (refer to **Section 7.6**).

### 2.1 Public Open Space Network

The public domain comprises a framework of new high order streets, a significant regional open space and drainage corridor supporting pedestrian, cycle and recreational activities together with existing reserves, new public parks and playing fields.

The public domain framework of streets and open spaces creates a connected system for movement within the Precinct and adjoining areas including Riverstone East, The Ponds and Rouse Hill.

Conserving the Seconds Ponds Creek corridor vegetation and increasing the corridor width with stormwater drainage provision and linear parks is intended to strengthen the landscape linkages to Rouse Hill House Estate and Regional Park.

The proposed public open space network not including RHRP for the Precinct comprises of (as indicated in the ILP):

- 5 hectares of multi-use stormwater drainage land
- more than 17 hectares of environmental corridor suitable for passive activities including the riparian corridor associated with Second Ponds Creek
- 19 hectares of local parks, including the existing Cudgegong Reserve.

Secondary streets, although included in the public domain, are not listed specifically in this report.

Refer to **Figure 1**.

### 2.2 Semi-Public Domain

It is noted that many spaces included in this category can not at this stage be defined, being dependent on future site development, possible amalgamation of lots, developer preference etc.

Notwithstanding future development layout, the semi-public domain includes the local streetscape and front setbacks of future development, e.g. allotments adjoining Windsor Road, allotments fronting north-south local street on the east side of the Precinct and allotments fronting east-west collector road north of Knoll Park.

Other specific landscaping controls will apply to some of the sensitive areas of the Precinct, as identified in the DCP, e.g. large lots / northern ridgeline (north-west of the Precinct), medium to high density area (corner of Windsor and Schofields Roads) and north-east neighbourhood adjoining RHRP.

Refer to **Figure 1**.

### 2.3 Rouse Hill House Estate

The Rouse Hill House Estate (RHHE) is located in the north-west corner of the Precinct. It is one of the most significant estates of the early European era with continuous family occupancy of rural living. The buildings and grounds are listed on the State Heritage Register, Council's Local Environmental Plan 1988, Register of the National Estate and National Trust Register.

The Estate was acquired and managed by the Historic Houses Trust since 1986 and open to public since 1999 after progressive restoration works to the buildings and gardens.

RHHE site has retained a core curtilage of surrounding gardens and outbuildings in the immediate vicinity of the house and is located within the Rouse Hill Regional Park (RHRP) curtilage which maintained the landscape of historic pastureland and vegetation along the Second Ponds Creek. The curtilage will ensure that the integrity of the Estate is maintained.

RHHE is currently zoned Public Recreation – Regional under the Growth Centres SEPP and is afforded protection through a permanently conserved curtilage in the Rouse Hill Regional Park.

The 13 hectares Estate was established in 1813, resonates the historic estate of six generations of Rouse-Terry family. The first series of subdivision was undertaken in the 1950s under the County of Cumberland Planning Scheme which allowed for minimum 2.5 acres allotments for rural sites which remain relatively intact today.



Rouse Hill House



Summer House in Garden Setting



Outbuildings within the Estate



### Public & Semi-Public Domain

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Precinct Boundary</li> <li> Cudgegong Station Area - Subject to review</li> <li> Creek Line</li> <li> Second Ponds Creek Corridor</li> <li> Public Domain Area</li> <li> Semi-Public Domain Area</li> <li> Key Roads (described in this document)</li> </ul>	<p><b>PUBLIC DOMAIN</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Rouse Hill Regional Park</li> <li> Rouse Road Gateway</li> <li> Rouse Road School Park</li> <li> Second Ponds Creek Corridor</li> <li> Rouse Road Pocket Park</li> <li> Cudgegong Reserve</li> <li> Sports Field and Drainage Reserve</li> <li> Knoll Park</li> </ul>	<p><b>SEMI-PUBLIC DOMAIN</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Rouse Hill House &amp; Estate</li> <li> Allotments adjoining Windsor Road</li> <li> Allotments fronting east-west collector road</li> <li> Allotments fronting north-south local road</li> <li> Anglican School Oval</li> </ul>
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Figure 1: Public and Semi-Public Domain

## 3.0 Existing Landscape

To a significant degree, the future landscape character of the public domain is dependant on its existing condition and will emphasise and interpret these opportunities.

### 3.1 Visual & Landscape Qualities

The existing visual and landscape environment is predominately rural / rural residential and is a significant determinant of visual and landscape character. The topography and degree of vegetation cover also make important contributions to the character of the area, and the extent to which it relates to the surrounding landscape.

In broad terms, the landscape character provided by the existing vegetation is represented by:

- dense to medium tall forest which extends along the ridgeline of Second Ponds Creek
- side and foot slope vegetation between the higher ground and the creek corridor
- dense to medium / moderate height riparian forest associated with flood prone land along Second Ponds Creek.

In effect, the whole Precinct including Rouse Hill Estate has been subjected to disturbance from early colonial times. Unfortunately much of the Precinct's recent history as rural lifestyle acreage has resulted in deterioration of landscape qualities in each of the above categories.

#### 3.1.1 Landscape Character Units

The Precinct is divided into nine landscape character units (LCU) based on the Indicative Layout Plan (ILP), Landscape and Visual Analysis Report and is summarised in the **Table 1** and **Figure 2**.

Landscape character units represented are assembled using a combination of topographical and vegetative divisions. Buildings do not generally form part of the character of each unit unless specifically mentioned.

**Table 1:** Summary of Landscape Character

Unit	Location	Character Statement
LCU 1	Rouse Hill	Land with direct visual association with Rouse Hill Estate is identified by distinctive heritage buildings, mature trees and a magnificent hill top setting. The landscape is characteristically pastoral with predominately open grassland and uninterrupted views to and from the homestead.
LCU 2	Worcester Road	This unit is 'contained' by the ridgeline together with its tall forest on the north-western side and dense riparian forest associated with the creek line in the south-east.
LCU 3	Rouse Road	This unit is delineated by the valley formation centred on the western half of Rouse Road. Together with scattered and open forest trees, it is tightly contained between the steeper ground and tall forest on the ridgeline and dense forest associated with the creek corridor.
LCU4	South-West Ridge	Although vegetation cover varies greatly within its length, this unit is defined by its positioning along the ridge which follows the western 2/3 of the site boundary. The most dense and least disturbed bushland occurs at a saddle on the ridge at Cudgegong Reserve.
LCU 5	Electrical Easement & Switching Station	Characterised by electricity lines and cleared land and runs from Schofields Road across the entire site.

<b>LCU 6</b>	South-West Slopes	The majority of this unit is visible from Schofields and Cudgegong Roads. It is generally characterised as having gentle slopes and scattered vegetation of variable density, typical of rural residential usage.
<b>LCU 7</b>	Second Ponds Creek	Characterised by scrubby, medium height forest consisting of typical Cumberland plain species with occasional Casuarina or Melaleuca closer to the creek banks.
<b>LCU 8</b>	South-East Slopes	The unit is sufficiently uniform for inclusion as one single LCU, partly due to the land use (rural residential) and the scattered nature of remnant and exotic trees. The character of the unit comprises flat, undulating grassland with scattered, isolated stands of trees.
<b>LCU 9</b>	Quarry Hill	It is not the Quarry which characterises this unit but its hilltop setting similar in elevation to the Rouse Hill Estate. The hilltop occupies the south-west corner of the site and defines the eastern ridgeline / catchment.



### Landscape Character Units

- |                   |                                  |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|
| Precinct Boundary | Electrical Easement / Substation |
| Rouse Hill        | South West Slopes                |
| Worcester Road    | 2nd Ponds Creek                  |
| Rouse Road        | South East Slopes                |
| South West Ridge  | Quarry Hill                      |



Figure 2: Landscape Character Units

## 3.2 View Corridors

Views have been considered under the following two sub-headings.

### Internal views within the proposed development area

The majority of views are framed within a basin-like valley formation, flanked on the west by a heavily wooded ridgeline and on the east by a sparsely wooded ridge where views are limited essentially to the Quarry Hill by the shape of the site.

Both Windsor and Schofields Roads cross each of these ridgelines as well as the creek valleys between them. A basic appreciation of the landform and the pattern of views is completed by travelling Rouse Road which does the same thing (i.e. crosses the valley) but inside the central basin area.

Within the western half of the Precinct, views tend to be framed and / or channelled along existing road corridors because of the nature of the existing vegetation which on this side is taller and denser. There are pleasant views from higher ground towards the forested creek corridor. Views from east to west are limited by the relatively small extent of higher ground at Quarry Hill generally toward the western ridge. It is noted that from Quarry Hill, Rouse Hill Estate is visible approximately 2 kilometres away.

### Views from Rouse Hill House Estate and potential impact of proposed development

From Rouse Hill Estate, views in all directions are obtainable owing to the hilltop location and surrounding cleared land. For example, the Blue Mountains are clearly visible as a backdrop to an iconic pastoral vista to the north-west.

To the south-east, views of suburban Rouse Hill some 700m in the distance are screened (until development climbs to the low ridgeline in the vicinity of the now obliterated Aberdoon Homestead) by vegetation on the creek line.

The combined screening effect of the same creek line vegetation and remnant planted trees (including NPWS work) have the effect of obscuring all ground except in the proximity of Quarry Hill. Roofs of commercial buildings in the Rouse Hill Town Centre are barely discernable. Beyond the south-eastern sector the horizon in the direction of Sydney City is visible.

To the south the horizon is also visible in a small 10 degree sector, up the creek corridor on either side of the western and eastern ridgelines.

Further south and south-west, taller and closer trees on the western ridgeline effectively obscure all the remaining developable portions of the Area 20 Precinct site. It should be noted however that Sydney Water has located one water reservoir (top of tank at RL 90m) with plans to locate additional pressure towers and water reservoirs on this ridgeline, are likely to impact severely on an otherwise treed skyline.

### 3.2.1 Visual and Landscape Curtilage

Rouse Hill House Estate with its outbuildings, associated farm structures, garden and the Rouse Hill Primary School is one of the most significant heritage sites in Australia (GML, 2009). This significance is related to the cultural landscape setting and is therefore of high importance to the visual and landscape assessment of the Precinct. The majority of the Precinct lands were once within the boundaries of the land occupied by RHHE between 1801 and 1950.

Various studies have been undertaken to define the area of special protection associated with RHHE including Conybeare Morrison's 2001 *Rouse Hill House Estate Curtilage Study* in which an expanded Heritage Curtilage establishes a wider area to protect the landscape setting and maintain the heritage significance of RHHE.

Conybeare Morrison recommended that all development within the Expanded Heritage Curtilage be considered for potential impacts on the cultural landscape of RHHE and RHRP.

The visual effect of development is inevitably related to its proximity to RHHE. Developments in Area 20 Precinct and Box Hill are likely to have higher effect than those further away, although the scale of The Ponds development may also affect RHHE viewsheds, refer to **Figure 3**.



The existing Cumberland Plain Woodlands on ridgelines and in the Second Ponds Creek Corridor are important visual buffers to potential development and should be maintained. Development in areas which are visible from RHHE and RHRP should be carefully assessed and controlled to mitigate the effects of development on the Estate.



View from RHHE looking south



View from RHHE to south-east of the Precinct



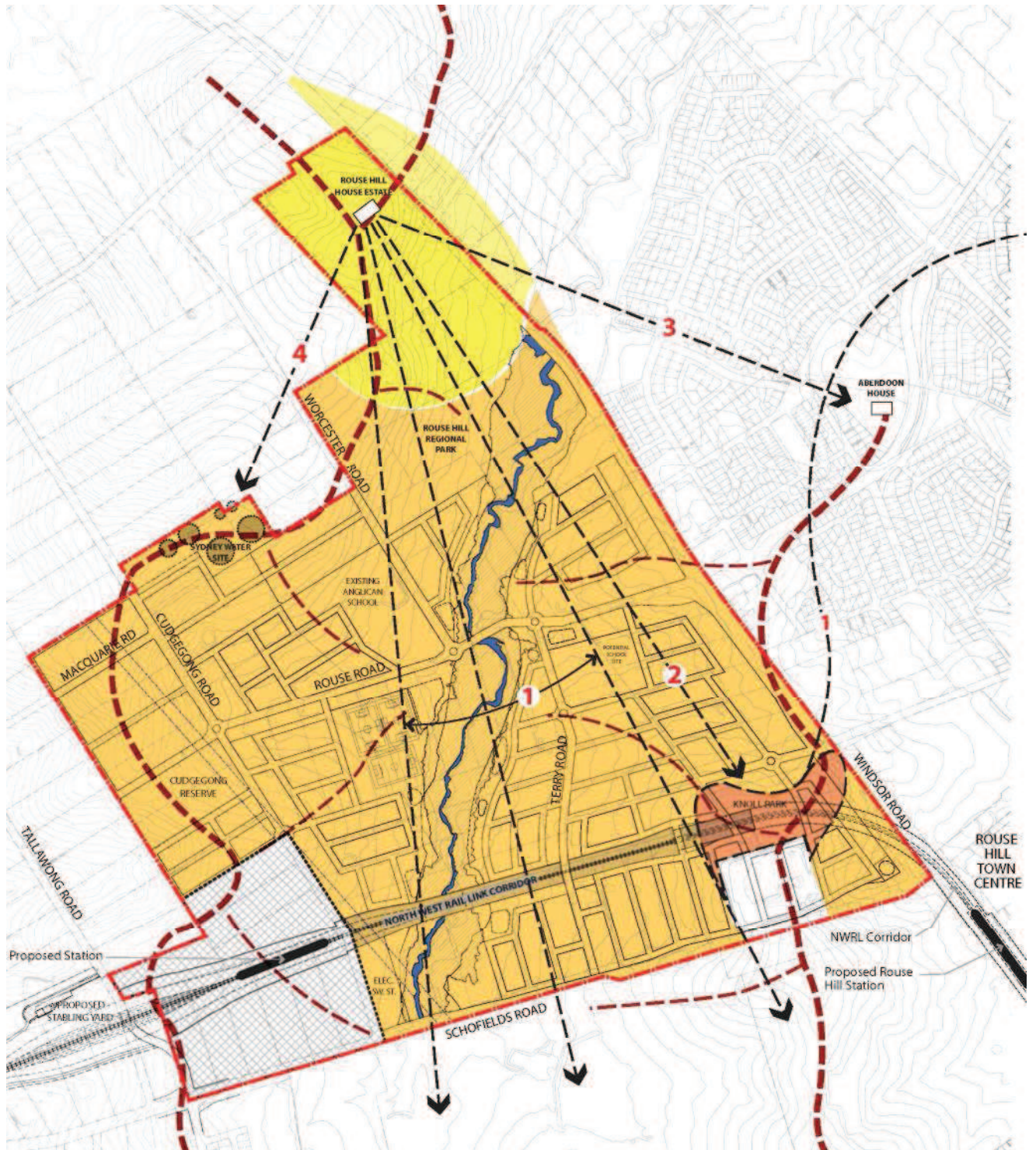
View from RHRP looking north



View through transmission line easement looking south



View from south-east corner to Windsor / Schofields Roads intersection, with Rouse Hill Town Centre at background



### Views

- Precinct Boundary
- Cudgegong Station Area - Subject to review
- Creek Line
- Second Ponds Creek Corridor
- Ridgelines (important in determining extent of views from Rouse Hill House Estate)

- Directly visible from Rouse Hill House Estate (ground level at homestead)
- Not directly visible from Rouse Hill House Estate (blocked by existing local tree canopy)
- Directly visible above tree canopy from Rouse Hill House Estate

- 1** Views to horizon from Rouse Hill House Estate
- 2** Views to Quarry Hill / Knoll Park from Rouse Hill House Estate
- 3** Views to Aberdoon House
- 4** Potential visual impact from Sydney Water Reservoir Site



Figure 3: Views

### 3.3 Future Desired Character

Strategies in the exhibited Precinct Planning Report and ILP for the open space network include:

- The Second Ponds Creek corridor is to be placed in public ownership (Sydney Water) and managed as a natural creek corridor. Further to this, there are identified Aboriginal archaeological sites and groupings which will be protected within the corridor.
- The dry stormwater bio-retention areas will be utilised for passive recreation and are contained within broader areas of open space land linked to one another by walking trails and linear open space.
- A publicly accessible riparian corridor will be established along Second Ponds Creek. Walking, cycling and other activities will be encouraged along the fringe of the riparian corridor and 1:100 year flood line. Access will be from adjacent residential streets.
- Playing fields are to be established lower in the catchment adjacent to flood prone land and co-located with drainage land and educational opportunities, and in highly visible areas along the Rouse Road corridor.
- A Quarry Hill Park (also known as Knoll Park) will be established to protect views from Rouse Hill House Estate to the south-west neighbourhood and will provide a significant area of open space for those residents within the higher density area.
- The east / west drainage and vegetation corridors will border streets and contribute to pedestrian and open space networks.
- Neighbourhood and local parks take advantage of local features – stands of remnant trees, views, environmentally significant land etc.
- The majority of residents are to have access to useable open space within a 400 metre walk of their home.
- Children’s playgrounds will be located to that they are accessible to all residents, with a larger playground located in the Knoll Park in the south-east.
- Parks will include walking tracks, picnic areas, interpretive media and public art relating to the heritage and environmental values of the site.

## 4.0 Opportunities for Tree Retention & New Planting

### 4.1 Creek Corridor

#### Retention

The most significant areas of vegetation will be conserved within and at the fringes of the Riparian Protection Area (non-certified area), within Cudgegong Reserve and on private land on the larger lots in the north-west. The Area 20 Precinct Plan does not apply to Rouse Hill Regional Park, but significant stands of vegetation will continue to be managed and conserved within the parklands.

A native vegetation Protection map is proposed in the SEPP Amendment to ensure that Existing Native Vegetation is retained along the creek line and in parks.

#### New Planting

Within the creek corridor zone, opportunities to consolidate and augment planting exist between the Riparian Zone and the proposed adjacent roads and / or development boundaries.

Planting should consist of locally endemic species, preferably taller examples of typical Cumberland forest trees. Such plantings should extend into playing fields and drainage basin surrounds where the and in the case of parallel roads, should provide the basis for street tree planting proposals.

This will assist in maintaining a “rural” character and a more successful landscape gradation at urban edges.

Refer to **Figure 4** showing indicative additional creek corridor planting opportunities.

### 4.2 Open Spaces

The outline of the ILP superimposed on an aerial photograph of existing vegetation indicates the potential for retention of trees in open spaces, in particular:

- Cudgegong Reserve will continue to be managed by Council as a conservation reserve with the likely additional status of “environmental protection”. It is also likely due to intensified usage that management practices will need to be modified over time
- Rouse Road Pocket Park which includes a number of good quality trees in association with a minor drainage line. Opportunity exists to develop a (partly existing) water body along with new feature planting appropriate to passive use situations. Note that this south facing slope is naturally shady and should not be planted too densely
- Rouse Road School Park contains few useful existing trees and will likely be utilised for “spill-over” open space activity associated with the school, together with the adjacent detention basin. It is recommended that its perimeter form an extension of the creek corridor approach described in **Section 4.1** above.

### 4.3 Key Road Corridors

Rouse Road, Cudgegong Road, Worcester Road, Macquarie Road and Terry Road all occupy existing alignments and contain trees which vary both in terms of number and condition. Individual surveys would be required to determine the extent to which these might be retained. However, in view of the general nature of street planting and the desired character of Area 2 Precinct, it is recommended that on these roads existing trees should be retained where possible and used more or less as a catalyst for a “clumped” effect (as opposed to an avenue) in street planting design.

Such an approach benefits local continuity as well as the desired maintenance of a rural character. .

Practicality will be an issue with regard to installation of street services and the tree retentions may require use of single sided service easements to avoid root damage especially to desirable groups of trees.

Noted also that Rouse Road has a broad parallel drainage channel on the south side.

Opportunities for planting in this zone should be used to accentuate the “rural” character and at the same time visually connect to Second Ponds Creek as a riparian tributary.

Other streets, including secondary roads on new alignments (particularly those where retention of existing canopies for screening purposes is preferable, e.g. Commercial Road and its vicinity), will require detailed survey and a degree of flexibility in planning to achieve retention of existing trees which are presently concentrated on fence lines. These correspond with the current lot boundaries which in most cases govern new street centrelines. This is further discussed in **Sections 7.0** of this report.

New planting in this location should in any case reflect the indigenous mix of local remnants.

#### **4.4 Rouse Hill Estate – Conservation of Visual Setting**

Existing conditions for planting within the Rouse Hill House Estate lands are controlled by the Plan of Management, and with its pastoral heritage opportunities for additional plantings are unlikely to extend beyond replacement measures. Views outward are also important to the extent that urban encroachment increases their desirability.

The Rouse Hill Regional Park area on the other hand (although also subject to Plan of Management requirements) has been planted extensively, particularly in the southern portion towards Second Ponds Creek.

Further plantings with taller forest trees should be initiated to take advantage of the screening effect of the minor ridge (see **Figure 4**) especially in the direction of the Sydney Water Towers and the proposed Village Centre and associated high density development on the Cudgegong Road ridgeline.

#### **4.5 Within Lots**

Due to limitation on the area of open space that can be justifiably acquired and maintained by Council, some areas of remnant native vegetation will be within developable parts of the Precinct. In areas where this vegetation makes an important visual or ecological contribution, site specific controls have been incorporated in the DCP to maximise the retention and long term management viability of the vegetation. Retention of as much vegetation as possible around the north-west ridgeline is desirable.

To this end, the north-west neighbourhood (north of Cudgegong Reserve) will contain lower density housing, including some larger lots around the ridgeline. These lots, with the maintenance of vegetation cover, will provide a different housing product to that available elsewhere in the Precinct (see **Section 7.0** of this report).

These and other areas may require Plans of Management to be prepared and implemented following rezoning to manage existing vegetation.

From an ecological point of view, connection to Cudgegong Reserve and other good quality vegetation outside the site in Riverstone East would provide for a better outcome.

Within lots generally and elsewhere, it is anticipated that Council's “tree preservation orders” will apply, together with recommended species lists (see **Section 8.0** of this report) for new planting in both public and private land.



### Opportunities for Tree Retention & New Plantings

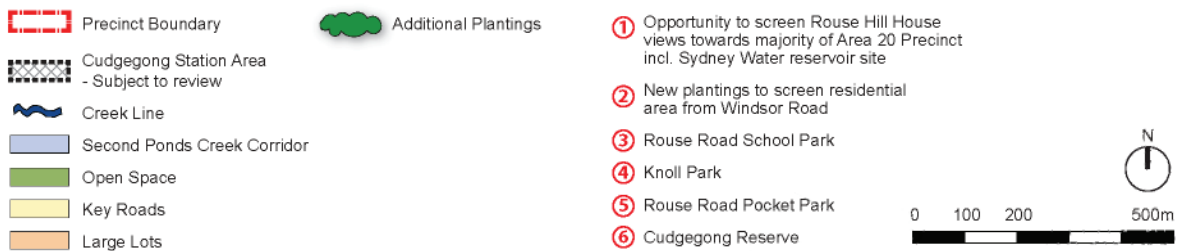


Figure 4: Opportunities for Tree Retention and New Plantings

## 5.0 Public Domain Network

This Section outlines the approach to the design of individual elements within the overall network against the background discussed in previous Sections and the framework established by the ILP.

### 5.1 Streets & Linkages

#### 5.1.1 Key Streets / Roads

Initial determinants for the character of these roads are:

- relatively wide (rural) street reserves
- retained trees where possible or available leading to the following
- clumped (informal) approach to street tree planting.

Once established these character determinants have a flow on effect for other associated detailing:

- footpaths (preferably on both sides) allowed to “meander” to the advantage of existing and new informal plantings
- flexible driveway locations (for similar reasons) best served with use of lay-back kerb and gutter
- surface treatments in verges to be similarly informal e.g. use of native grasses, mulches and other low maintenance materials.

It should be noted that the character outlined above is best expressed in relation to key roads only, and that a blanket approach to all streets especially in tighter spatial conditions, is likely to lead to an untidy effect.

Purposeful design is necessary for the streets to acquire an intentional degree of informality.

Refer to **Figure 6** for Rouse Road and **Figure 7** for Cudgegong Road (note: Worchester Road should be similarly detailed).

#### 5.1.2 Roads Parallel to Creek Corridor

Roads paralleling Seconds Ponds Creek have also been referred to in **Section 4.1** of this report.

Relevant objectives in this particular context are:

- to strengthen the screen effect provided by the existing creek corridor vegetation
- in this regard to use taller species to reinforce the often “scrubby” mix in the riparian zone
- to provide an appropriate gradation into adjacent suburban development.

Design response to these objectives at roadways should be:

- informal planting on the creek side including taller species closer to the road pavement. This may be associated with other “infill” planting in and around drainage basins or other public use areas
- standard kerb on the creek side to discourage indiscriminate vehicle usage (parking bays may be provided at appropriate locations)
- informal planting (i.e. not avenue) on the residential side of the street using the same taller species, located in bays
- linear footpath on the residential side only (trails will provide this function on the creek side). **Figure 5** shows the path and trail networks
- standard kerb and gutter parking bays

- standard surface treatment, possibly turf, to match the majority residential street condition on the one side and informal treatments (e.g. native grass) on the other. Refer to **Figure 8** for typical street cross section in Terry Road Precinct.

### 5.1.3 Minor & Secondary Streets

With the exception of some atypical streets which are generally illustrated in plan sketches along with key elements (e.g. Village Centre, Knoll Park) the majority of secondary streets should be standardised with respect to road details.

Note: Refer also to further discussion in special areas under **Section 7.0** of this report.

Subject to further detail on location of good quality existing vegetation in proposed road reserves, there are no compelling reasons for not using relatively standard road detailing as follows:

- 16m reserve (some may be narrower)
- 6m pavement with parking bays, possibly on one side only or alternating where opportunity exists for retention of valuable trees
- standard linear footpaths on both sides against parking bays or front boundaries
- standard upstand kerb and gutter.

Refer to **Figure 9** for 16m local road cross section which demonstrates typical sections applicable to most secondary streets.

## 5.2 Pathways & Trails

Refer attached plan **Figure 5**.

Pathways and trails includes pedestrian and cycle systems other than street footpaths unless footpaths are part of a dedicated or connecting route e.g. off-road bike path or shareway.

In priority order these routes are listed as follows:

- existing RTA shared pedestrian and bike way on Windsor Road. It is not intended that any changes will occur to this route except at new intersections (Commercial Road) and at reconstructed intersections (Schofields and Rouse Roads)
- recommendations for RHRP (see **Section 5.3** of this report) also include upgrading of the intersection underpass facilities at Second Ponds Creek and Windsor Road
- planned regional cycle routes by Blacktown City Council on Rouse, Cudgegong and Worcester Roads
- for Rouse Road the majority of this route is able to take advantage of increased width at adjacent drainage reserves and open space provisions, where previous descriptions for paths should be incorporated in the design. This would see the route meandering to avoid existing trees, offset to assist access to other features e.g. interpretation etc
- materials should compliment other “natural” elements in the landscape e.g. coloured bitumen or fine water washed concrete, to simulate gravels forming part of informal trail systems
- other regional cycle routes (Cudgegong and Worcester) where shared with pedestrians should (apart from increased width) follow detailing and material selections established for those roads (see **Section 5.1.1** of this report)
- other main shared pedestrian and cycle roadside routes, primarily in the eastern part of Schofields Road, the Commercial / Terry Roads connection to the Ponds and the northern part of Cudgegong Road (to Riverstone East), should follow detailing and material selections established for those roads (see **Section 5.1.1** of this report). Note that except for Cudgegong these would be linear, not curvilinear
- secondary shared routes would be standard linear off-road footpaths with increased width for shared functionality



- longitudinal open space links partially exist within the RHRP along the Seconds Ponds Creek Corridor, connecting through to Rouse Hill suburbs via an underpass at Windsor Road. Pathways are gravel in keeping with the bushland character favoured by National Parks and Wildlife Service and it is anticipated that this will continue in the extended links southwards towards The Ponds. Harder materials (though favoured for other reasons) are generally no less prone to costly maintenance when subjected to major flooding. However it is also anticipated that extensive sections of timber (or other equivalent) boardwalk will need to be constructed to negotiate boggy sections
- in addition, foot bridges will be required across the Creek in up to three separate locations (not including the Rouse Road Bridge which will incorporate pedestrian / bike requirements) in order to facilitate cross links. These should be boardwalk type bridges with handrails, lighting and balustrades and signposted to warn of danger in flood conditions. These will likely have collapsable rails for flood purposes
- these longitudinal links are primarily aimed at passive use and in this regard will incorporate breakout nodes for seating and interpretation facilities (see also **Section 6.0** and **9.0** of this report).

### 5.3 The Ponds & External Links

Subject to further design associated with the NWRL Corridor, a pedestrian underpass may be provided where Second Ponds Creek flows under the rail corridor. This would be similar to where the creek flows under Windsor Road, but with better attention to safety, i.e. better surveillance and lighting.

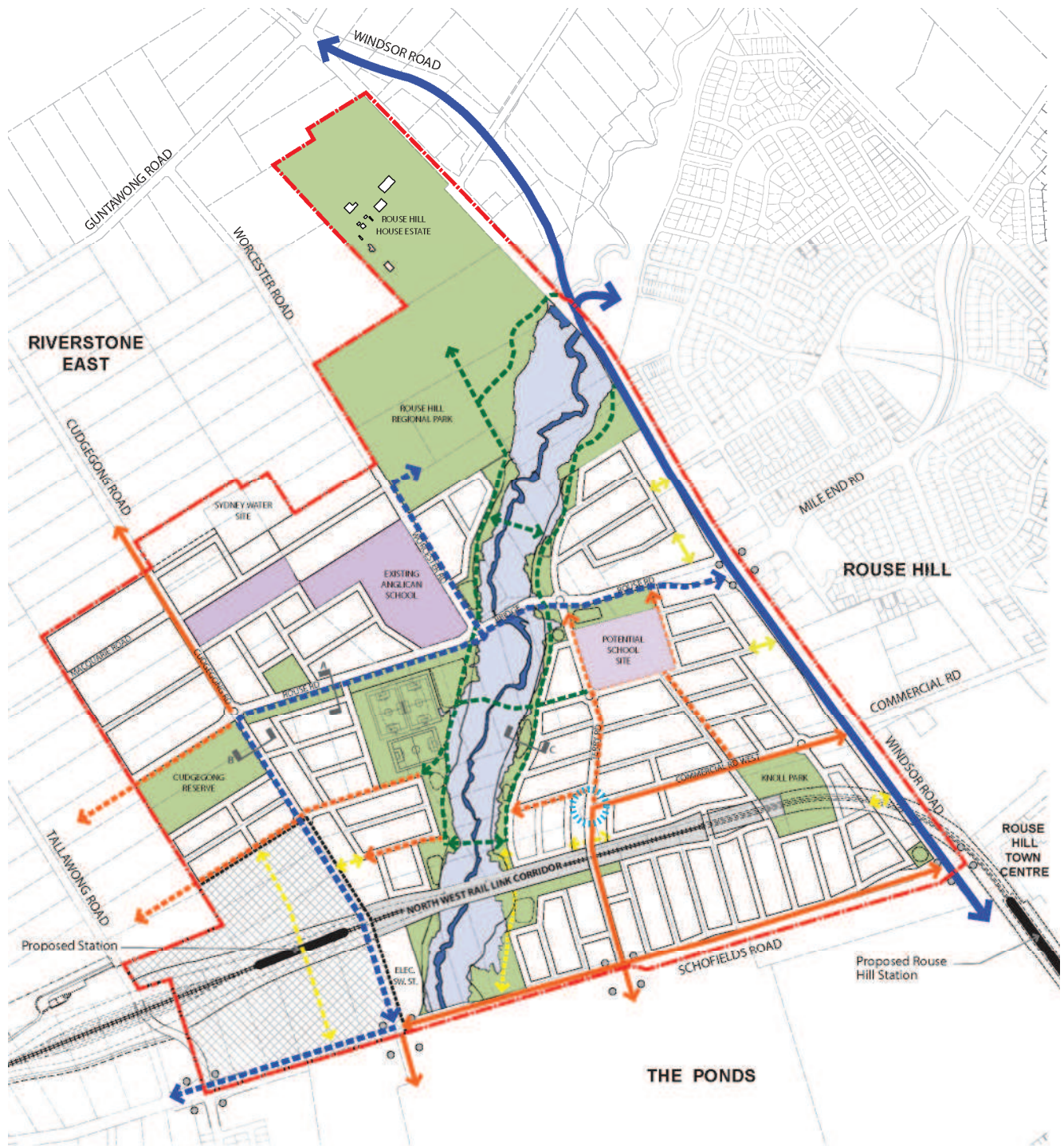
It is recommended that the present link under Windsor Road to Rouse Hill should be upgraded with the inclusion of handrails, better lighting (vandal proof) and a more legible system of ramps and intersection details where it crosses the RTA bike path.



Pedestrian and Cycleway under Windsor Road

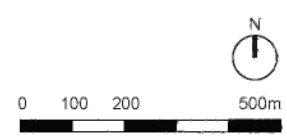


Boardwalk at Nelsons Ridge



### Paths and Trails

- Precinct Boundary
- Cudgegong Station Area - Subject to review
- Creek Line
- Second Ponds Creek Corridor
- Open Space
- School
- Preferred location for neighbourhood services
- Regional Route (RTA)
- Regional Route
- Main Route
- Secondary Route
- Open Space Link
- Potential Link
- Signalised intersections



**Figure 5: Pathways and Trails**



Figure 6: Rouse Road Concept Plan and Section A

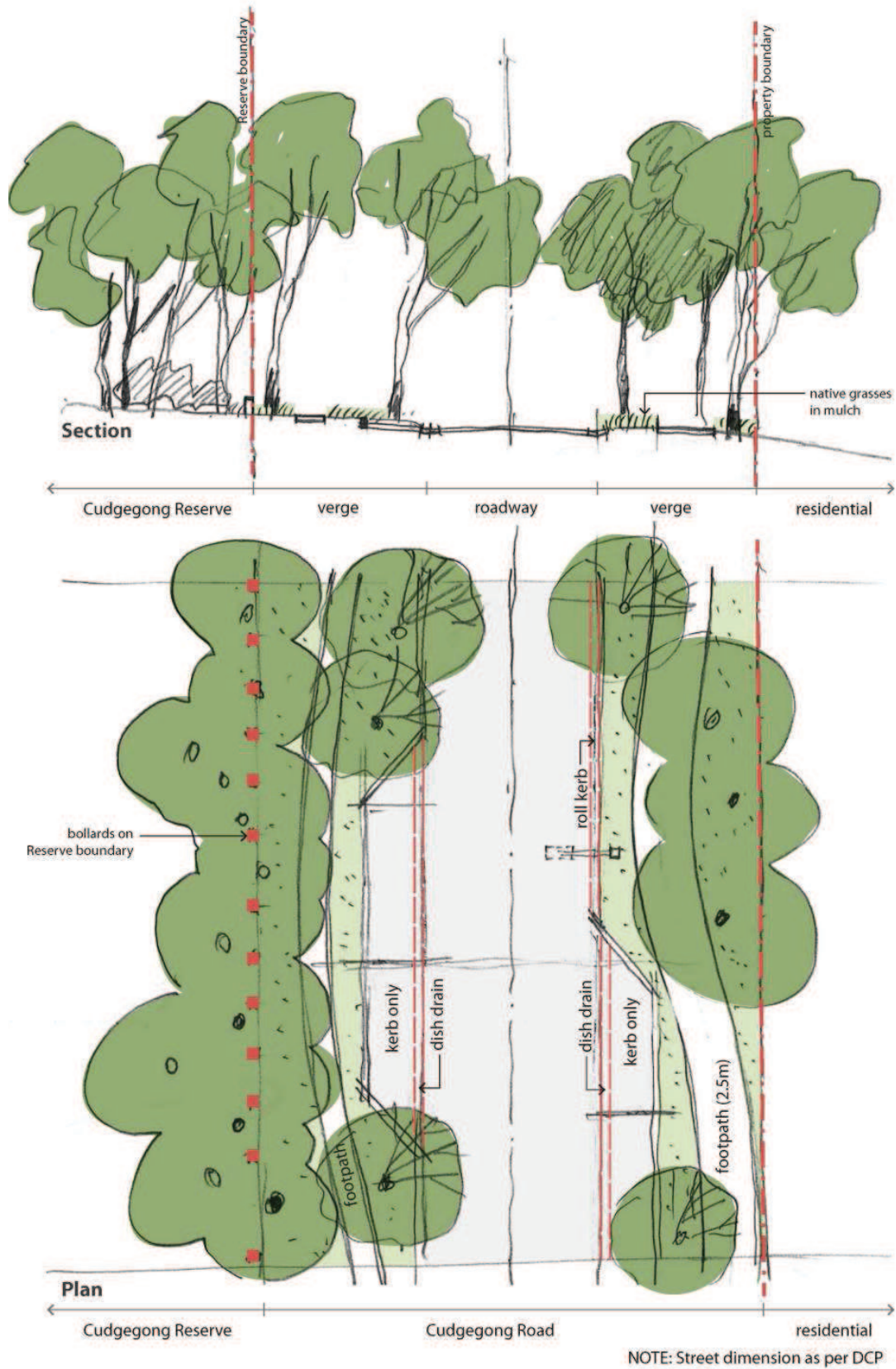


Figure 7: Cudgegong Reserve / Road Concept Plan and Section B

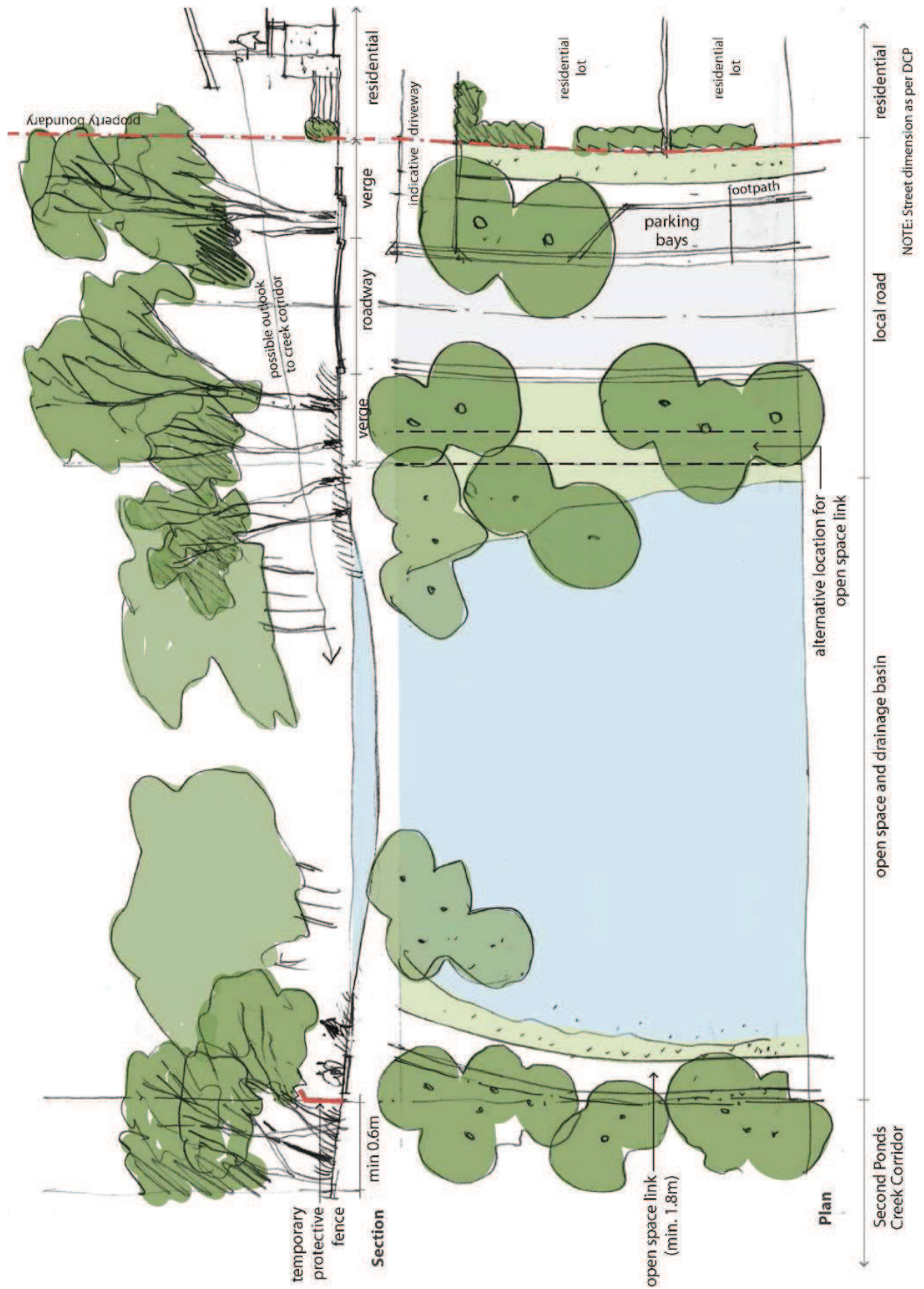


Figure 8: Creek Corridor Concept Plan and Section C

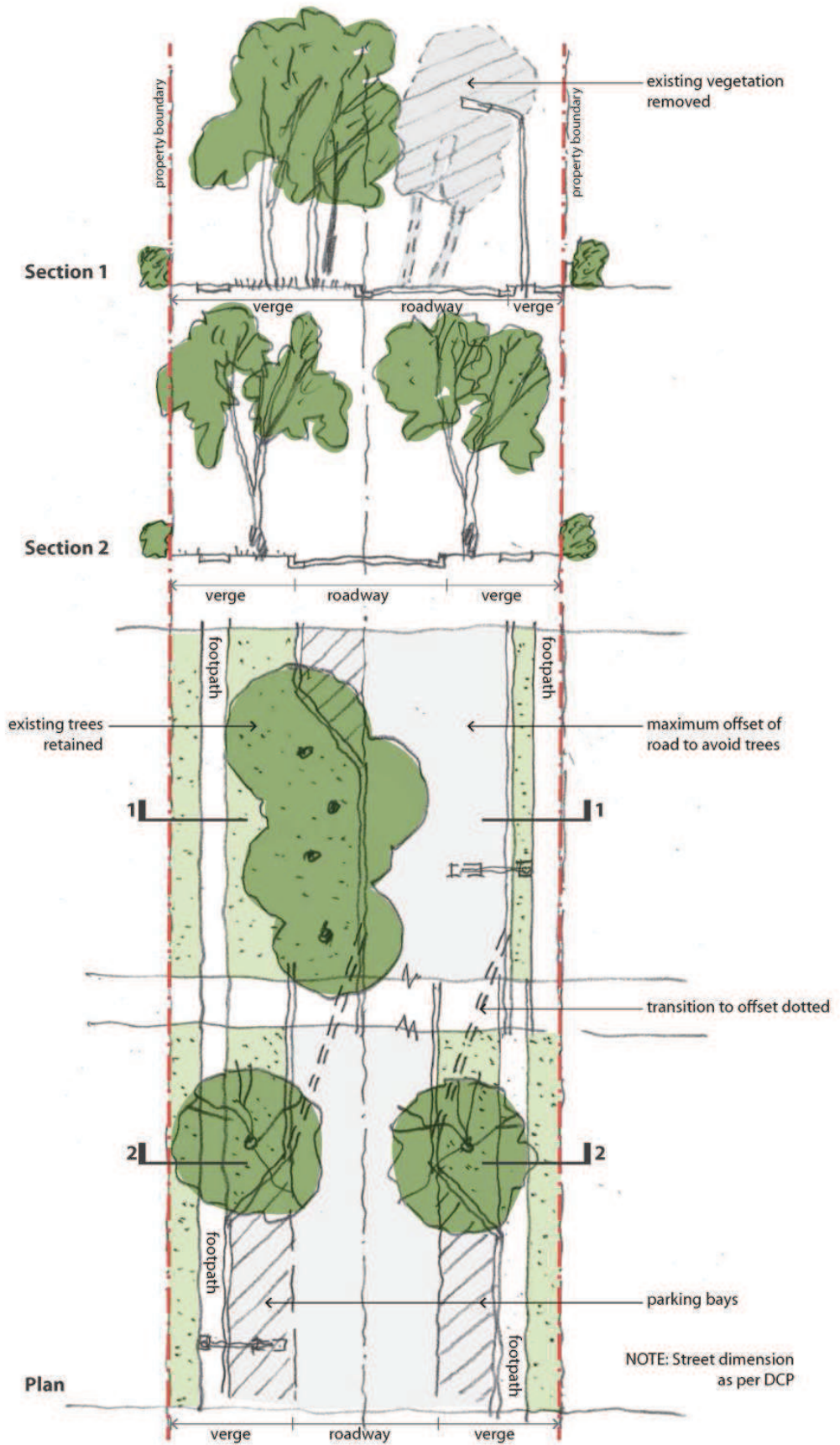


Figure 9: Typical Local Road Concept Plan and Section

## 6.0 Cultural Heritage Interpretation

The following is based on recommendations provided in studies undertaken by Godden Mackay Logan (GML) divided into locational opportunities under the following headings:

- Walking Trails
- Place Naming
- Public Art
- Indigenous Heritage Values

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

Interpreting Area 20 Precinct will contribute an important aspect to the planning and development of the area. The Precinct's history includes 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.

The following is a list of recommendations for interpretation of the Area 20 Precinct based on the Cultural Heritage Interpretation Strategy (GML November 2010). Also refer **Figure 10**.

1. Acknowledgement of the local Aboriginal people's use of the site and its Aboriginal cultural values.
2. Integration of interpretive stories at key locations within Area 20 Precinct through walking trails and signage.
3. Use of natural and cultural landscape and important aspects of the site's history in design of play equipment and public facilities.
4. 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.
5. Strengthen existing cultural plantings (Rouse Hill House) to convey former rural landscape qualities of Area 20 Precinct.
6. Use of aspects of the area's heritage significance in place naming.
7. Integrate high-quality public art that interprets the history and significance of the Precinct.
8. In conjunction with Historic Houses Trust and Office of Environment and Heritage, support public heritage programmes such as children's events, fairs, performances or re-enactments to emphasise local / regional heritage themes and stories.

*Note:* Item 5 replanting has been covered in other recommendations. Item 4 is also acknowledged in the DCP for Area 20 Precinct. Item 8 concerns matter included in the Plan of Management for the Rouse Hill House Estate.

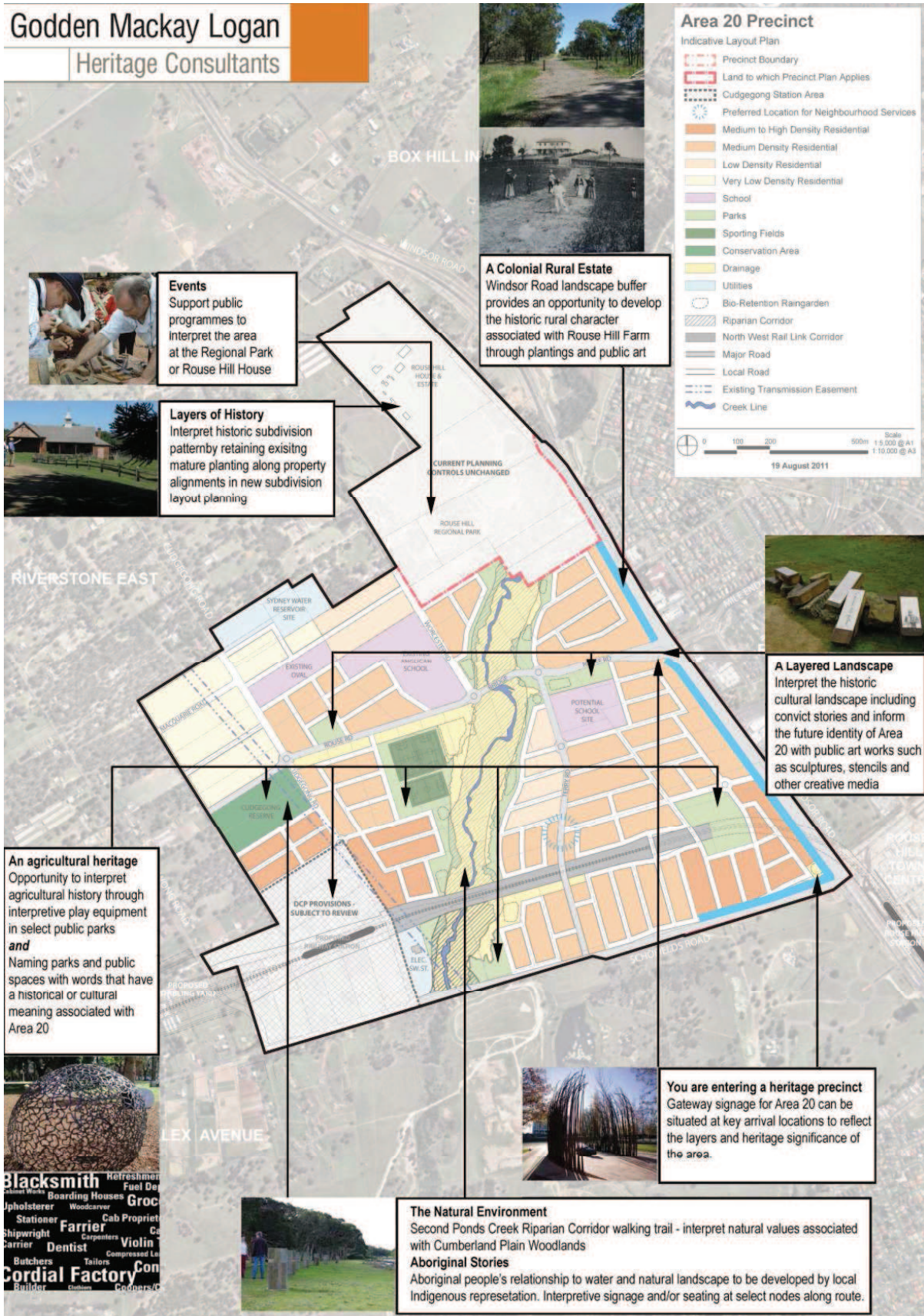


Figure 10: Cultural Heritage Interpretation Strategy  
 (modified plan source: Godden Mackay Logan, 2010)



## 6.1 Walking Trails

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 RHRP, provide excellent opportunities for walking and cycling trails.

Walking trails are incorporated in the ILP on both sides of Second Ponds Creek connecting RHRP to the Ponds along the edges of the riparian corridor. It is noted that an RTA shared cycle path is already incorporated in the Windsor Road Reserve

Interpretation text concerned with both indigenous and european heritage should be incorporated as an extension of similar existing text within the RHRP.

Texts, graphics and other signage should be developed whether within nodes, along with seating, trail sports equipment with and/or at event locations, for instance marked tree and historic road crossing.

The design of trails, bridges, signage, planting should be subject to a specific landscape brief to be commissioned for the Second Ponds Creek.

## 6.2 Interpretive Signage

Interpretive signage for the Precinct should be situated at key locations (walking trails and parks) to communicate historical information that reflects the layers and significance of the Precinct.

Directional signage will be provided for orientation and way-finding.

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 Precinct (rusticity should be avoided). The signs may be a combination of stone, concrete, recycled timber, galvanised rolled steel or etched glass and 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 way-finding interpretation system which is generated beyond Area 20 Precinct, particularly at key locations, e.g. at recreational areas, parks and open spaces. Combination with way-finding, e.g. at intersections may avoid signage “clutter” (refer to Sections 6.4 and 6.5)



Interpretative Signage at Cudgong Reserve



Interpretative Signage, Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park

### 6.3 Place Naming

At all locations (in parks, walking trails, schools etc.) within Area 20 Precinct a simple method of interpretation involves naming places 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 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.



Rouse Hill Regional Park Signage



Entry Signage, Lizard Log

It is recommended that the practice of naming streets to reflect the history of Blacktown should be continued.

Named roads shown on the ILP with the exception of Commercial Road West, are on existing alignments and should be retained complete with names. Consider renaming Commercial Road West

### 6.4 Public Art

Public art for the Precinct 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, cycleway 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 Precinct and start conversations about the urban environment.



Public Art with Aboriginal Theme, Yarra River Vic



Old Machinery Art, Homebush

The concept should be inspired by the historic layering and evolution of the Precinct. 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 Precinct should inform the artwork.

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

**Figure 11** indicates Rouse Road entry point, Cudgegong Reserve, Knoll Park and the proposed Village Centre as appropriate locations for major public artworks as well as within the RHRP.

## 6.5 Indigenous Heritage Values

The majority of archaeological material is within the Second Ponds Creek Corridor. Lower numbers of artefacts were also observed away from the drainage line, on raised areas above the creek and along the ridgeline near the western boundary of the study area including Cudgegong Reserve.

One area at the northern alignment of Second Ponds Creek within RHRP is of High Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Significance. The site will remain within the confines of RHRP and will not be impacted by Precinct development.

Because the majority of archaeological material is concentrated along the Second Ponds Creek corridor, including adjoining open space / drainage areas, retention and conservation of the riparian corridor and non-certified vegetation along the creek will retain the majority of sites.

Opportunities for interpretation of these sites should be investigated along with those outlined under **Section 6.2** above.

It should be noted that an area of Moderate Aboriginal Significance is situated where it will be impacted by the railway / Village Centre proposals. There are in this location however good opportunities for interpretation and public art initiatives, in particular in the Village Square and within the public accessway to the Station.

Further information from GML's report is attached providing information relevant to play equipment and rural character, particularly near the RHHE.

The general locations of the above interpretative initiatives are shown on the following **Figure 11**.



Retention of Second Ponds Creek, RHRP



Play equipment with rural character, RHRP



### Cultural Heritage Interpretation

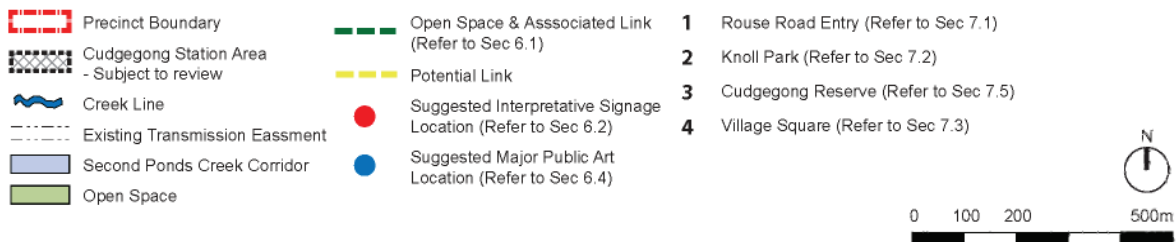





Figure 11: Cultural Heritage Interpretation

On-site Interpretive Initiatives

Interpretive Initiative	Media & Discussion	Location
<p><b>Play Equipment</b></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>

(extracted from GML's Cultural Heritage Interpretation Strategy November 2010)

Figure 12: Play Equipment Interpretive Initiative

On-site Interpretive Initiatives

Interpretive Initiative	Media & Discussion	Location
<p><b>Planting program to maintain rural character and subdivision pattern</b></p>  <p>Rouse Hill House and Farm fence line (Source, Alan Croker 2008)</p>  <p>Fencing treatments and area of domestic plantings to the rear of Experiment Farm Cottage, Harris Park.</p>	<p>Existing plantings in the area to be reinforced with complementary new plantings.</p> <p>Within Area 20 and other designated planting zones use plants identified in the DCP.</p> <p>Where possible, area to be defined by fencing reflective of domestic nineteenth-century timber fencing.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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).</p> <p>Where possible, augment historic boundary/ fence line planting.</p>	<p>Throughout Area 20 precinct, landscape but along Windsor Road, where rural historic character of Rouse Hill Estate and subdivision pattern may be interpreted.</p>

(extracted from GML's Cultural Heritage Interpretation Strategy November 2010)

**Figure 13:** Planting Program to Maintain Rural Character and Subdivision Pattern

## 7.0 Key Elements & Concept Plans

Concept plans for important locations within the public domain follow. Each is generated by known constraints and opportunities assembled during the ILP process and subsequent field checks.

The opportunities as noted below are developed and shown on the following concepts. Note that the residential components indicated on the drawings are hypothetical and included for context only.

### 7.1 Rouse Road Entry

#### Constraints:

- Windsor Road; major intersection with 6 traffic lanes and attendant traffic signage.
- Very few useful existing landscape elements, e.g. trees combined with adjacent land uses and resulting disturbed landscape.



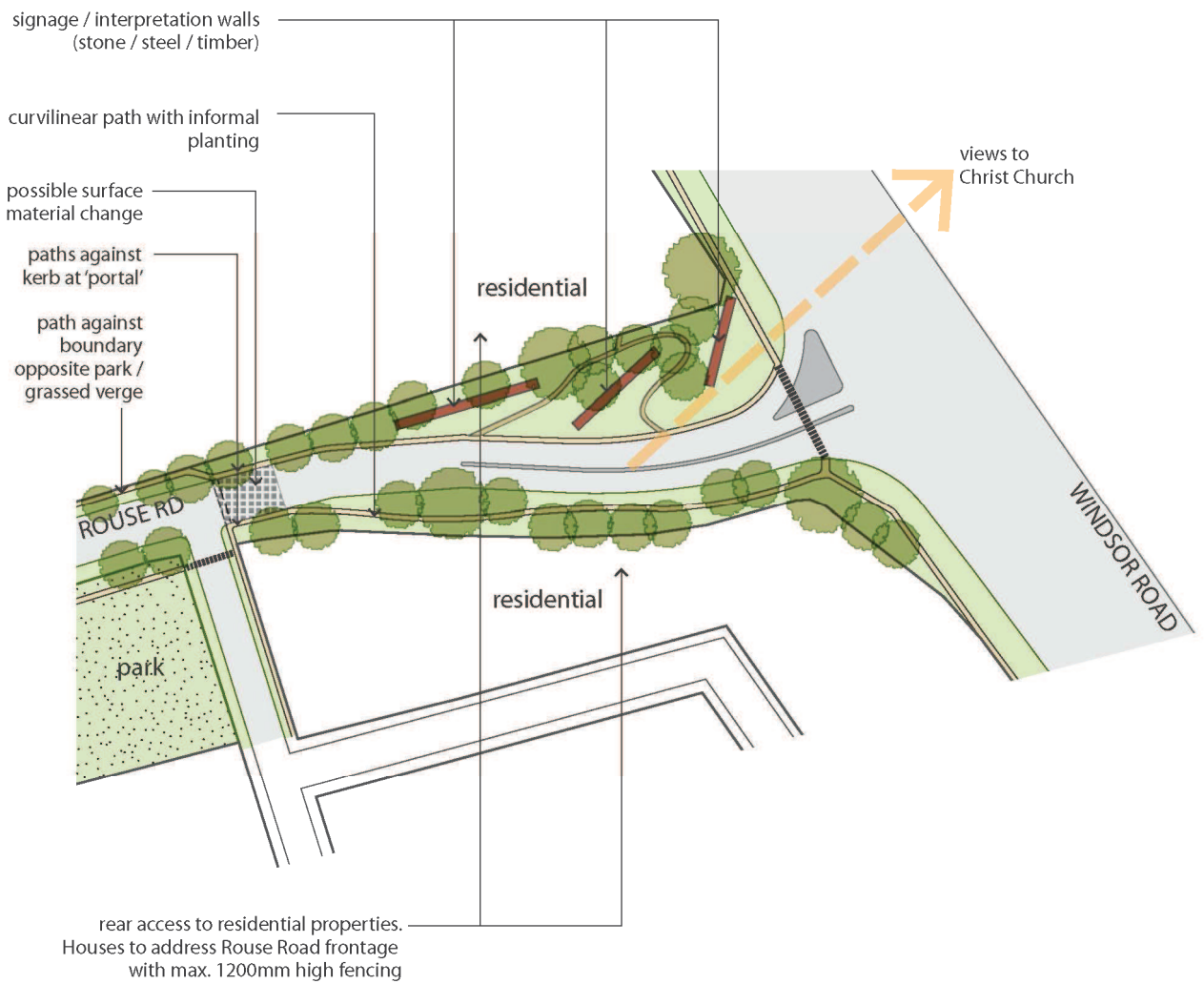
Windsor and Rouse Roads Intersection



Rouse Road Entry

#### Opportunities:

- As major entry, presents opportunities to develop gateway theme/ interpretation imagery/ public art etc
- Historic road alignment associated with Queens Arms Inn site and existing Christ Church opposite.
- Co-location of pocket park near entry on south side of Rouse Road.



**Figure 14:** Rouse Road Entry Concept Plan



## 7.2 Knoll Park

### Constraints:

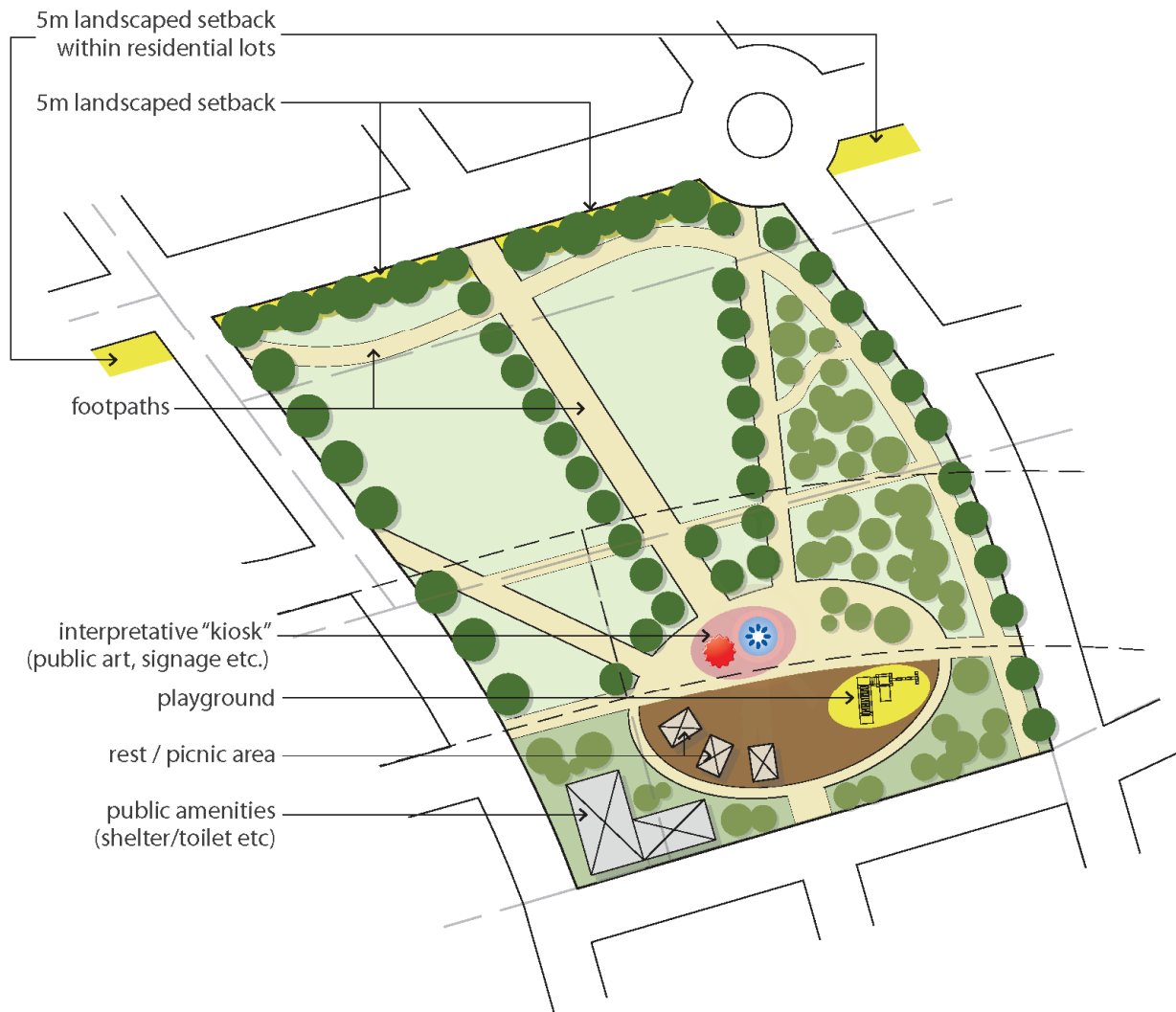
- May be compromised by short and / or long term plans for underground rail easement which accounts for approximately 25% of park area.
- Short term; adjacent location of quarry.
- Lack of useful existing trees in area likely to remain undisturbed.



Quarry Site, Rouse Road

### Opportunities:

- Occupation of the knoll has excellent potential to provide good views and interpretation opportunities vis-à-vis from Rouse Hill House Estate on opposite ridge and Aberdoon House in suburban Rouse Hill.
- Subject to opportunities from previous point being realised, provides scope for screening possible views of adjacent high density residential development from Rouse Hill House Estate.
- Possible association with historic Vinegar Hill 400m to the south on opposite side of Schofields Road (scope to include in interpretation package).
- Consider housing major interpretative facilities under cover or enclosed in special purpose “kiosk” or sculptural building element.



**Figure 15:** Knoll Park Concept Plan

### 7.3 Cudgegong Station Area

#### Constraints:

- Adjacent to deeply incised railway corridor.
- Location and width of TNSW owned site.
- Traffic movements associated with the same.
- Adjacent electrical easement.

#### Opportunities:

- Activity generated by proposed railway station.
- Possible partial incorporation of some good quality remnant forest to south side of railway corridor.
- Interpretation and public art site, especially regarding indigenous heritage, e.g. interrelationships with Cumberland Plain Woodland and ridgeline pathways.
- In same context, opportunity to develop good connections to Cudgegong Reserve.

### 7.4 Windsor Road Setback

#### Constraints:

- Setback included within lots for private sale.
- Management dependent on individual owners.

#### Opportunities:

- Incorporate / conserve existing vegetation wherever possible.
- Combine new vegetation with possible requirements for noise attenuation of open spaces.
- Deep lots provide opportunity to incorporate secondary built elements, e.g. garages in noise attenuation strategy.

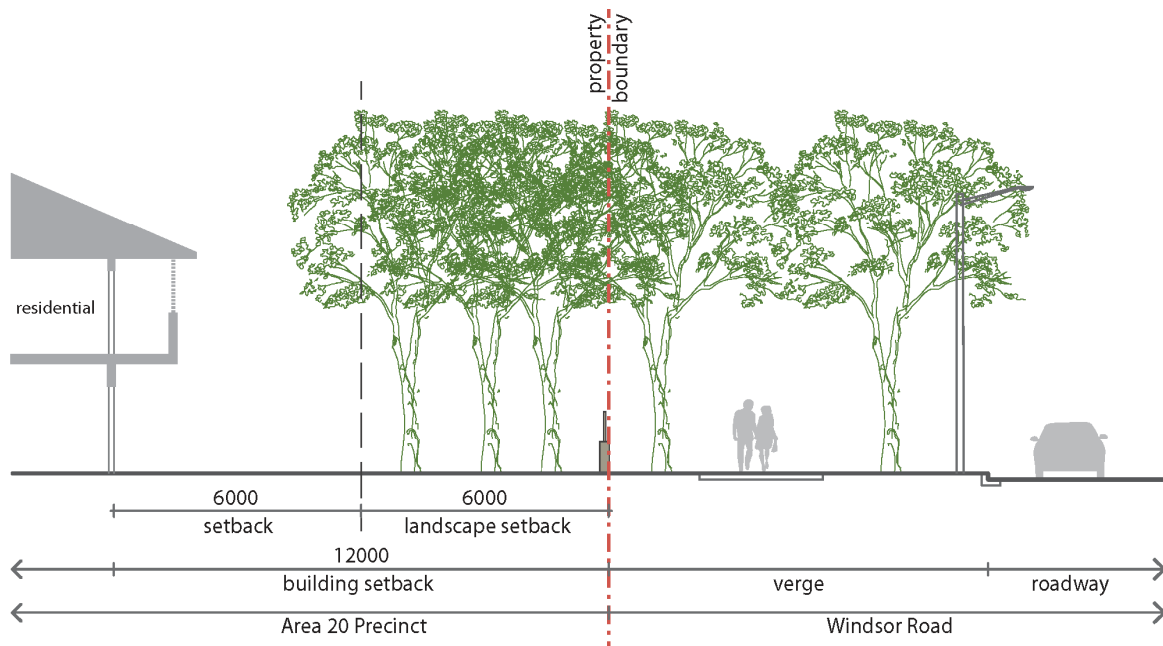


Figure 16: Section D - Windsor Road Corridor Section

## 7.5 Cudgegong Reserve

### Constraints:

- Intersected by major electricity easement.
- Sub-storey vegetation layer not easily translated into public park situation.
- Likely protection upgrade to “Environmental Protection”.



Cudgegong Reserve

### Opportunities:

- An existing reserve in Council ownership.
- Contains excellent representative sample of Shale Plains Woodlands.
- Associated with other quality existing vegetation on neighbouring sites, i.e. has wider ecological benefits.
- Relatively close to Village Centre.
- Interpretation and public art site associated with indigenous heritage and Woodland vegetation.

## 7.6 Visual Mitigation of Adverse Impacts on Rouse Hill Regional Park

The Precinct Planning for Area 20 Precinct was undertaken in consultation with the Historic Houses Trust and incorporated some of the key mitigation measures recommended by Conybeare Morrison's Landscape and Visual Analysis, 2010.

Some of the key measures to inform the development of the ILP include:

- enhancement of the Second Ponds Creek riparian corridor and associated vegetation
- retention of vegetation in visually sensitive situations
- strategically locating parks at high points in the landscape
- additional plantings in widened road reserves.

These measures where relevant have been incorporated in the strategies proposed in this report, and in concept drawings (see also **Figure 19**).

### 7.6.1 Conservation of Rural Landscape Character

The purchase by Government of RHRP and its proposed extension to the north, provides an important visual and strong rural / landscape context for RHHE.

In addition, the following has been incorporated in the SEPP Amendment and DCP related to the public domain and landscaping to conserve and enhance the rural landscape character of the Precinct:

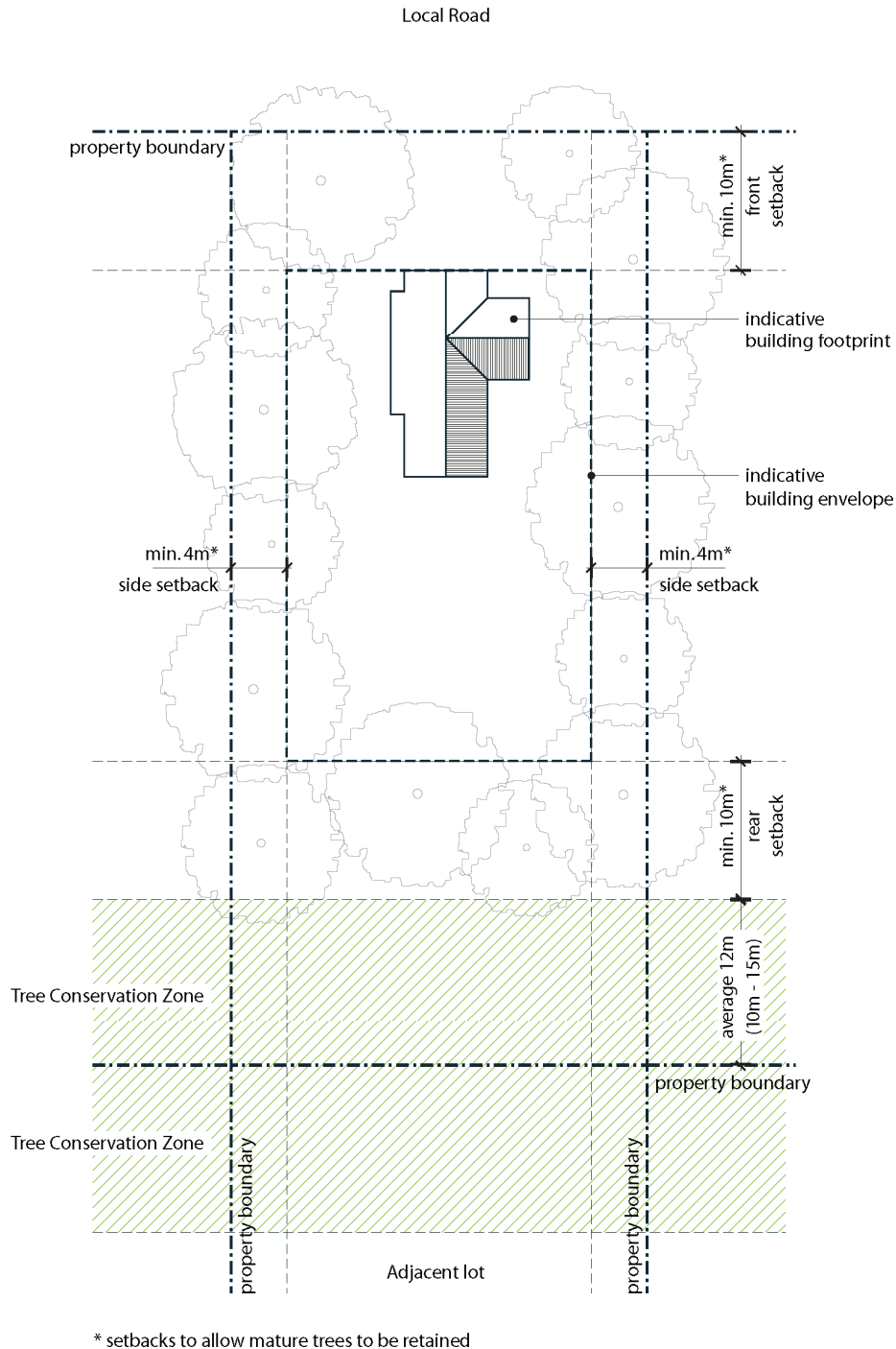
- vegetation protection controls for Second Ponds Creek, Cudgegong Reserve and other parks
- design controls to encourage visually integrated and recessive housing
- controls for retention of existing significant trees and new landscape planting on public and semi-public spaces
- guidelines for a landscaped gateway to the Precinct at the Rouse Road entrance
- controls for retention of existing mature trees within larger individual lots located on the northern ridgeline, north-west of the Precinct to minimise visual impact on RHRP
- informal landscape setback zone (12 metres) to Windsor Road to enhance rural qualities on approach to Rouse Hill House Estate (see to **Section 7.4**)
- guidelines for informal landscape setback zone for allotments located along specified collector and local roads
- interpretation strategy.

It is also likely that new plantings will be required within Rouse Hill Regional Park to screen potential impactful views of the new water reservoir and urban development around the south-east knoll (see to **Section 4.4**).

### 7.6.2 Large lots in north-west neighbourhood

The ILP has identified the north-west neighbourhood for very low residential densities in the most sensitive wooded ridgeline to preserve tree canopy and landscape character.

Each of the large lots will be required to conserve mature trees and establish a development footprint. An indicative subdivision concept is illustrated in **Figure 17**.



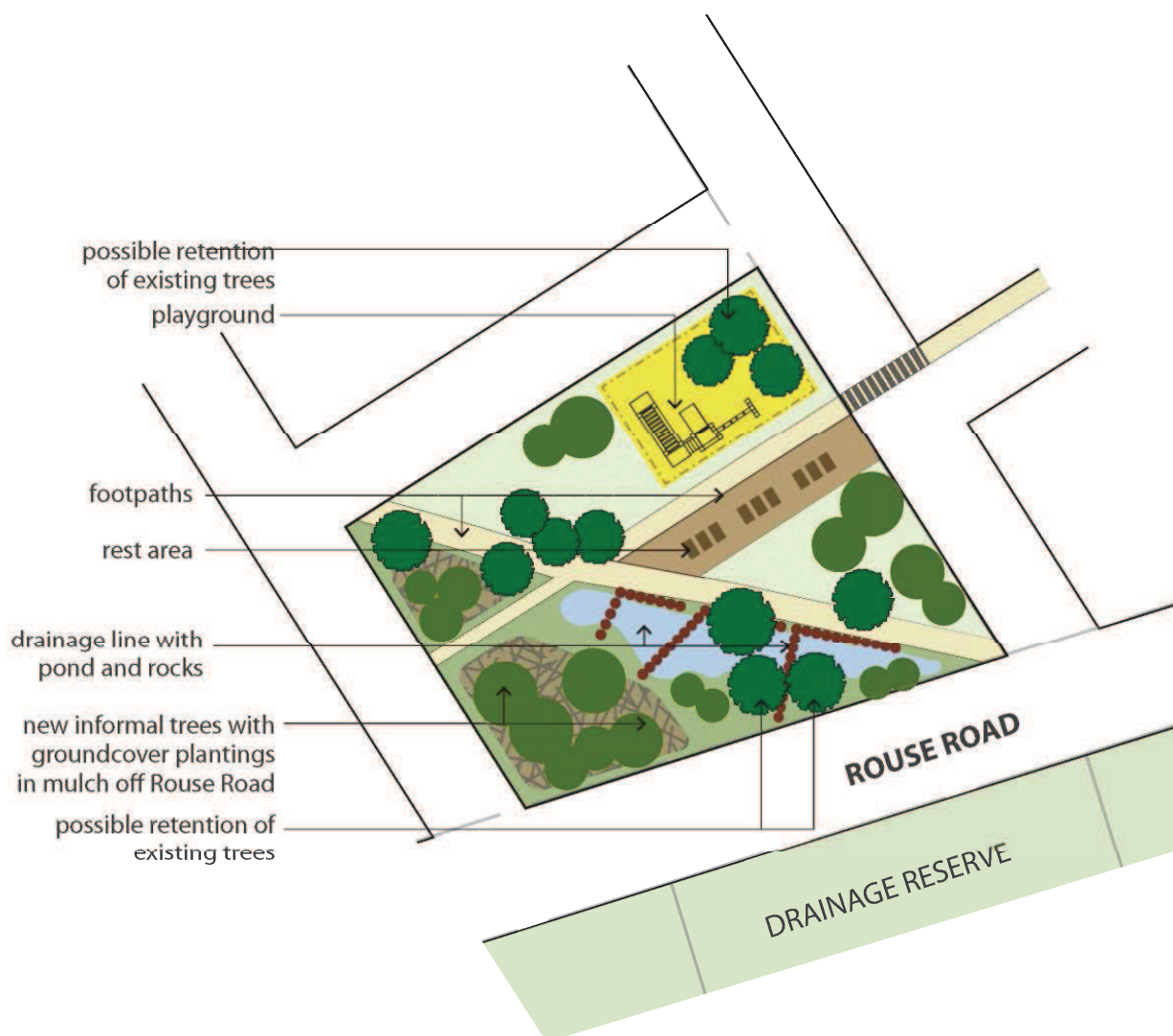
**Figure 17:** Northern Ridgeline Indicative Subdivision Concept Plan

### 7.6.3 Pocket Parks / Knoll Park

The ILP locates a major parkland on the knoll in the most visually exposed area (as seen from Rouse Hill House Estate) in the south, above the Quarry. The park will retain existing vegetation and be planted with endemic woodland species.

In addition, mature trees along the existing cadastre on the east / west ridgeline from Knoll Park to creek line (generally along collector road abutting north of Knoll Park) should be retained. Residential development along this road will incorporate a 5 metre front setback to retain existing vegetation and for new ridgeline planting to form a backdrop for new urban development. This applies to the second north / south local road to break up the visual impact of new urban development.

Two pocket parks are located off Rouse Road which will, together with specific landscape treatments, ensure a rural character is most evident where it will have the greatest impact. A concept example of the Rouse Road Pocket Park is illustrated in **Figure 18**. It presents an informal character as seen from Rouse Road.



**Figure 18:** Rouse Road Pocket Park Concept Plan

#### 7.6.4 Second Ponds Creek Corridor

The conservation of vegetation in the Second Ponds Creek floodplain will provide a strong vegetated corridor which will subdivide the site into precincts and provide immediate middle distance screening of development.



Second Ponds Creek Corridor





Figure 19: East Side Landscape Concept Plan

## 8.0 Landscape Guidelines

The following guidelines are aimed at consolidating what has been previously described as a woodland suburb with a contemporary rural character that respects and interprets the cultural heritage of the farmland, historic context and linkages and the nationally significant Rouse Hill House Estate.

Character objectives are summarised for the following locations.

### 8.1 Streets & Park Planting

- In general, existing indigenous trees are to be reinforced with complementary new plantings.
- In the key road corridors (Rouse, Worcester, Cudgegong, Macquarie, Terry and Commercial Roads) widened reserves are to accommodate existing trees where possible, together with new plantings in informal “clumped” groupings.
- New plant choice for the above streets should be restricted to a single species for each which respects its general location within the site e.g. Rouse Road east may well use Cabbage Gum (associated with creek line) and in the west Grey Box or Forest Red Gum (examples associated with ridge).
- Street planting elsewhere should be similarly selected, though likely used in more formalised arrangements (see also **Section 5.0** of this report).
- New plantings in Cudgegong Reserve should seek to maintain the present mix of tree species.
- Tree plantings in new parks, e.g. Knoll Park, should use locally endemic stock restricted to single or alternating species in formal arrangements. This would assist interpretation of existing tree group retention in situations where they can be readily distinguished.

### 8.2 Character of Parks

#### Cudgegong Reserve

As suggested by the name, Cudgegong Reserve is a reservation of native bushland, approximately 4 hectares in size. It is the intention that the Reserve will be maintained as a “natural park” by Council to conserve the remnant native vegetation, to provide a natural park amenity for future residents and to provide possible use that is consistent with its function.

Over time, it will be a challenge to minimise impacts of intensified usage from surrounding new development and thus mitigation measures are essential. Such measures would require scale-proof fencing, ideally of a recessive nature and set back from the boundary sufficiently to enable vegetative screening of the fence. Suitable materials would include black or dark green coated chain mesh or steel palisade although the latter may not sufficiently inhibit movement of cats and dogs and could be cost prohibitive if built to a standard that does.

It is anticipated that fenced enclosure as described above would also include controlled gate opening for managed public access. Non-controlled public access could still apply to areas beneath and east of the existing electricity easement which traverses the reserve adjacent to Cudgegong Road.

Opportunities for cultural heritage interpretation such as signage, public art, paths and trails for informal pedestrian movement within the Reserve, where possible (possibly within the transmission easement) and that will not hinder the conservation of the natural environment (see **Section 6.0**).

Seats and tables, bollards, lighting etc. should use natural materials (e.g. unpainted timber, corten steel) rather than stainless or painted steel, but should avoid an overly rustic appearance.

The Reserve will be protected under the Area 20 Precinct Plan and the existing Plan of Management for Cudgegong Reserve.

## Knoll Park

Knoll Park is an entirely new park in the order of 2.5ha, and will accommodate all of the typical requirements of a major suburban park, e.g. casual recreation, local gatherings, relaxation, family and friends BBQ's etc.

It is also a major observation point with good views to the creek corridor and Rouse Hill House and the Blue Mountains beyond, and is therefore one of the best sites for an interpretation facility, which could either be in the open to take advantage of the park setting, or enclosed as a kiosk depending on the nature of the interpretation media.



Rest area with rural character, RHRP

The park will be a contemporary park and should be designed by a Landscape Architect with a well considered brief.

Materials selection should repeat the same general characteristics of the suburb (i.e. contemporary rural) but should leave room for imagination.

Ground surfaces should be conscious of Council's standards and maintenance requirements (simple turf, coloured concrete etc. would be suitable) and furniture should be contemporary sensible.

Trees should however reflect the locally endemic background species in the area (see also **Section 8.5** and **8.6** of this report).

### Second Ponds Creek & Surrounding Linear Open Space

The best example of the character of the creek corridor is found in the RHRP which is managed and maintained by the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

The canopy and the under-storey are relatively dense, mostly weed free and contain a reasonably good representative example of the typical mix of species found in coastal alluvial woodland in the Sydney Basin (but paths tend to be muddy or flood eroded).

With some exceptions (mostly in the central portion of the site) the rest of the riparian corridor is not as good or extensive as that, however it is the intention that it will be managed as a more or less continuous "natural watercourse" by Sydney Water with riparian protection areas (edges) managed by Council. In order to achieve the desired character in the riparian corridor, the following may be required:

- removal of weeds / general rehabilitation
- replanting from local stock in areas requiring vegetation
- consider fencing the riparian corridor components
- locate pedestrian / bike paths within linear open space at the edge of the riparian corridor and within the corridor, where possible

- boardwalks at crossing points to bridges
- implement a Plan of Management for flood prone land and riparian corridor vegetation.



Second Ponds Creek & Surrounds

Riparian Protection Zones (up to the nearest road kerbs) and adjoining casual and formal recreational areas should seek to approximate the character of the riparian corridor by extending the canopy species outwards while modifying the ground plane (see also in **Sections 8.5** and **8.6** of this report).

### **Pocket Parks**

Pocket Parks not associated with the creek corridor are proposed only off Rouse Road with a minimum half a hectare in size. As suggested earlier, the character of these parks should be linked to the character of Rouse Road (see **Section 5.1** of this report). The purpose is to broaden the spatial characteristics of the landscape which the street traverses wherever the opportunity arises.

Details of furniture, playgrounds, lighting etc. should follow the general pattern discussed above but should also seek to benefit from interpretive initiatives (see **Section 8.3** of this report) and existing natural features e.g. watercourse, rocks, trees etc which new features will also reflect.

### 8.3 Playground Location & Character

Playgrounds should be located generally in accordance with the Growth Centres Development Code requirements as follows:

- within a walking distance of 400m from residential properties
- as shown in **Figure 20**
- natural and cultural landscape may be used for inspiration in the design of play equipment
- in specific locations such as Knoll Park, consider commissioning 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. Natural elements and farm animals from agricultural history may form the basis for design (also refer to Section 6 of GML's *Cultural Interpretation Strategy*)
- media – timber, corten steel, stone and water may be used. Avoid rusticity.



Seating with Shelter, Lizard Log



Play equipment, Lizard Log



Playground with rural character, Murrays Beach



### Kid's Playgrounds

- Precinct Boundary
- Cudgegong Station Area - Subject to review
- Creek Line
- Second Ponds Creek Corridor
- Open Space
- Possible Kid's Playground Location (Refer to Sec 8.3)
- 400m walking distance
- ↔ Creek Crossings

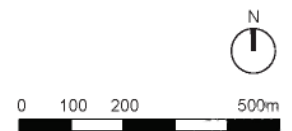


Figure 20: Kid's Playground Indicative Location Plan

## 8.4 Street Furniture

Street furniture will be purchased and maintained by Blacktown City Council and is therefore unlikely to include exotic examples that are difficult to replace or maintain. However, it is important that good quality, robust and maintenance effective furniture is installed at Area 20 Precinct which is in keeping with the thrust of streetscape design outlined elsewhere in this report.

It is especially important that street lights, signage, bollards etc do not attempt to emulate 18<sup>th</sup> century gas lamps or other interesting examples that may have some specific relevance to Rouse Hill House Estate.

Suitable examples include:

- simple galvanised light standards with similar finish, very low maintenance lamps (e.g. LED)
- street names should be on Council standard poles but with the addition of a special logo or coloured signage plate which is reflected in other more specific way-finding or interpretation signage (see also Section 7.6.3 of this report)
- bollards and other barriers may be simple galvanised or where associated with other specific design elements (e.g. parks or interpretation node) may include unpainted timber, corten steel, stone, etc
- fences where required as barriers or divisions in public areas should be simple “arris” post and rail park fencing unpainted or painted with recessive colours or other simple variants such as post with cable. Rustic examples such as split post with rail should be avoided.



Rural Style Fencing, Murrays Beach



Post and Cable Barrier, Lizard Log

## 8.5 Landscape Materials & Design

As outlined throughout this report, landscape materials and design should respond to an identified planting palette for the whole Precinct, 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. In the case of the latter, copying of the largely exotic plantings should be avoided within sightlines of the RHHE.

Where possible, historic boundary and fence line planting will be augmented with locally endemic material.

Implications for the Precinct generally (a tree planting list follows) are that tree and shrub / screen planting in the Precinct will depend primarily on species which fall into the 2 main vegetation communities found on the site being:

- Shale Plains Woodland
- Alluvial Plains Woodland



Shale Plains Woodland



Alluvial Plains Woodland

Since both the above communities occur more generally within Cumberland Plain Woodland, some flexibility may be tolerated and a wider range of species is desirable to suit particular circumstances, e.g. Village Centre, railway station etc where specific functional requirements such as clean trunk / wide shade canopy etc. may be necessary.




As a rule, street planting under the above category headings would be located as follows:

Zone A	Zone B
<p><b>Shale Plains Woodland</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Rouse Road (west of playing fields)</li> <li>▪ Worcester Road</li> <li>▪ Cudgegong Road West</li> <li>▪ Macquarie Road</li> <li>▪ Commercial Road</li> <li>▪ Elsewhere generally</li> </ul>	<p><b>Alluvial Plains Woodland</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Rouse Road (east of playing fields)</li> <li>▪ Terry Road</li> <li>▪ Street adjacent to Riparian Protection Area (including playing fields)</li> <li>▪ Streets between Terry Road and the creek lines</li> </ul>



## 8.6 Tree Planting List and Location

Zone A		
Grey Box	Eucalyptus moluccana	
Forest Red Gum	Eucalyptus tereticornus	
Narrow Leaved Ironbark	Eucalyptus crebra	

<p>Broad Leaved (or Red) Ironbark</p>	<p><i>Eucalyptus fibrosa</i></p>	
<p>Thin Leaved Stringy Bark</p>	<p><i>Eucalyptus eugenioides</i></p>	
<p>Grey Gum</p>	<p><i>Eucalyptus punctata</i> (various punctata)</p>	

**Zone B**

Cabbage Gum

*Eucalyptus amplifolia*



Forest Red Gum

*Eucalyptus tereticornus*



Rough Barked Apple

*Angophora floribunda*



Swamp Oak

*Casuarina glauca*



**Other (supplementary species for specific use purposes)**

Spotted Gum

*Corymbia maculata*



Pink Flowering Ironbark

*Eucalyptus sideroxylon*



Blackbutt

*Eucalyptus pilularis*



## 9.0 Conclusion

The Strategy together with the DCP provides public domain, open space and landscaping provisions for future development within the Precinct which will achieve the following outcomes:

- A well-connected open space network and movement system within the Precinct and adjoining areas including Riverstone East, The Ponds and Rouse Hill.
- A public domain and urban character that respects and interprets the cultural heritage of the farmland and historic context and linkages of the Precinct and the nationally significant Rouse Hill House Estate.
- Mitigation measures to minimise the visual impact of future development on Rouse Hill House Estate and its landscape context.
- Retention of elements of the existing rural landscape character.
- A consistent and co-ordinated approach to public domain and landscaping strategies.



## **ATTACHMENT 1**

### **CULTURAL HERITAGE INTERPRETATION STRATEGY**

prepared by Godden Mackay Logan, November 2010

Godden Mackay Logan

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

The following report register documents the development and issue of the report entitled North West Growth Centre: Area 20 Precinct—Interpretation Strategy, June 2010, undertaken by Godden Mackay Logan Pty Ltd in accordance with its quality management system. Godden Mackay Logan operates under a quality management system which has been certified as complying with the Australian/New Zealand Standard for quality management systems AS/NZS ISO 9001:2008.

Job No.	Issue No.	Notes/Description	Issue Date
09-0134	1	Draft Report	December 2009
09-0134	2	Final Report	June 2010
09-0134	3	Area 20 ILP 11 inserted	November 2010

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## 1.0 Introduction

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### 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.

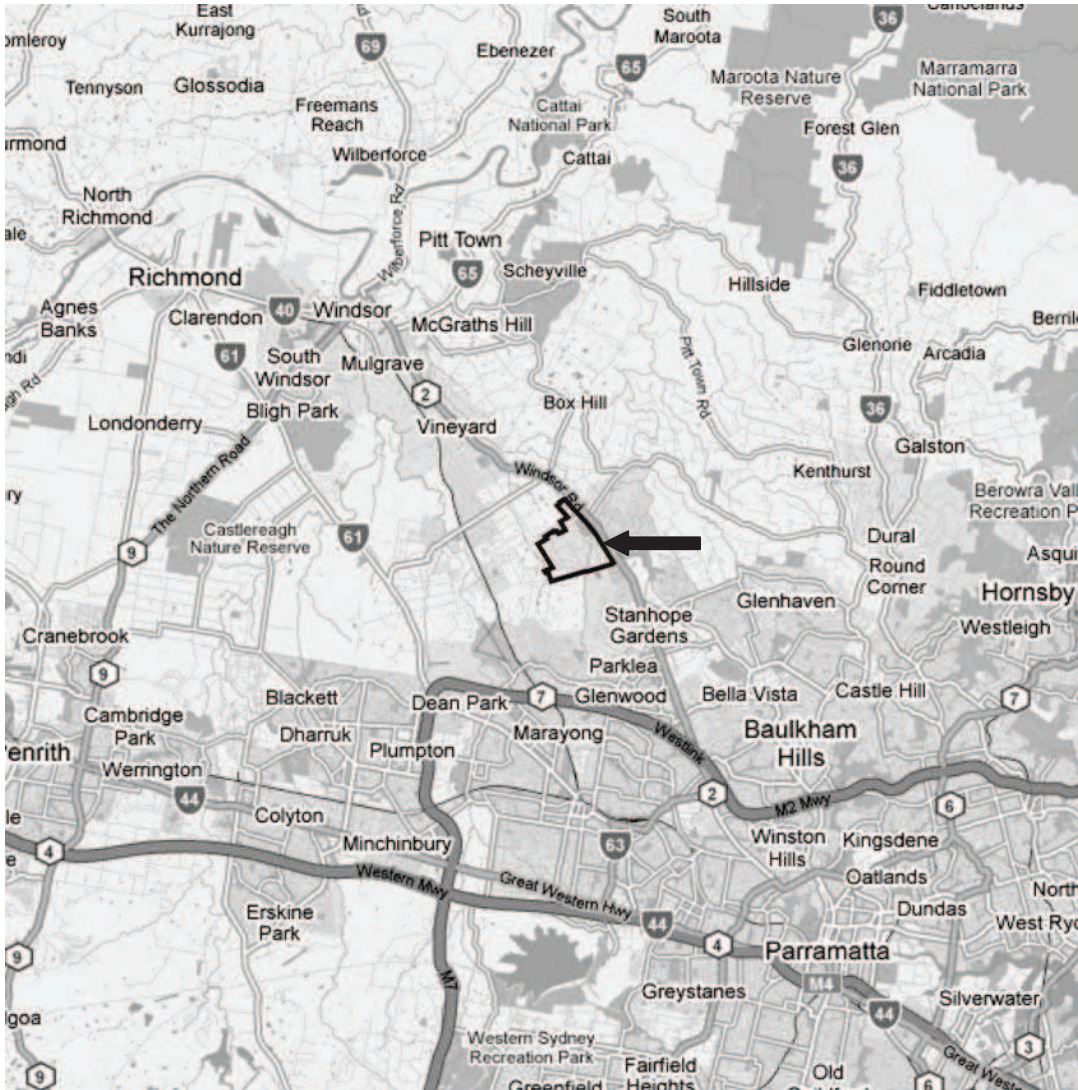


Figure 1.1 Map showing approximate location of the Area 20 Precinct. The arrow marks the study area boundary. (Source: Google maps with addition by Godden Mackay Logan 2009)



**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)





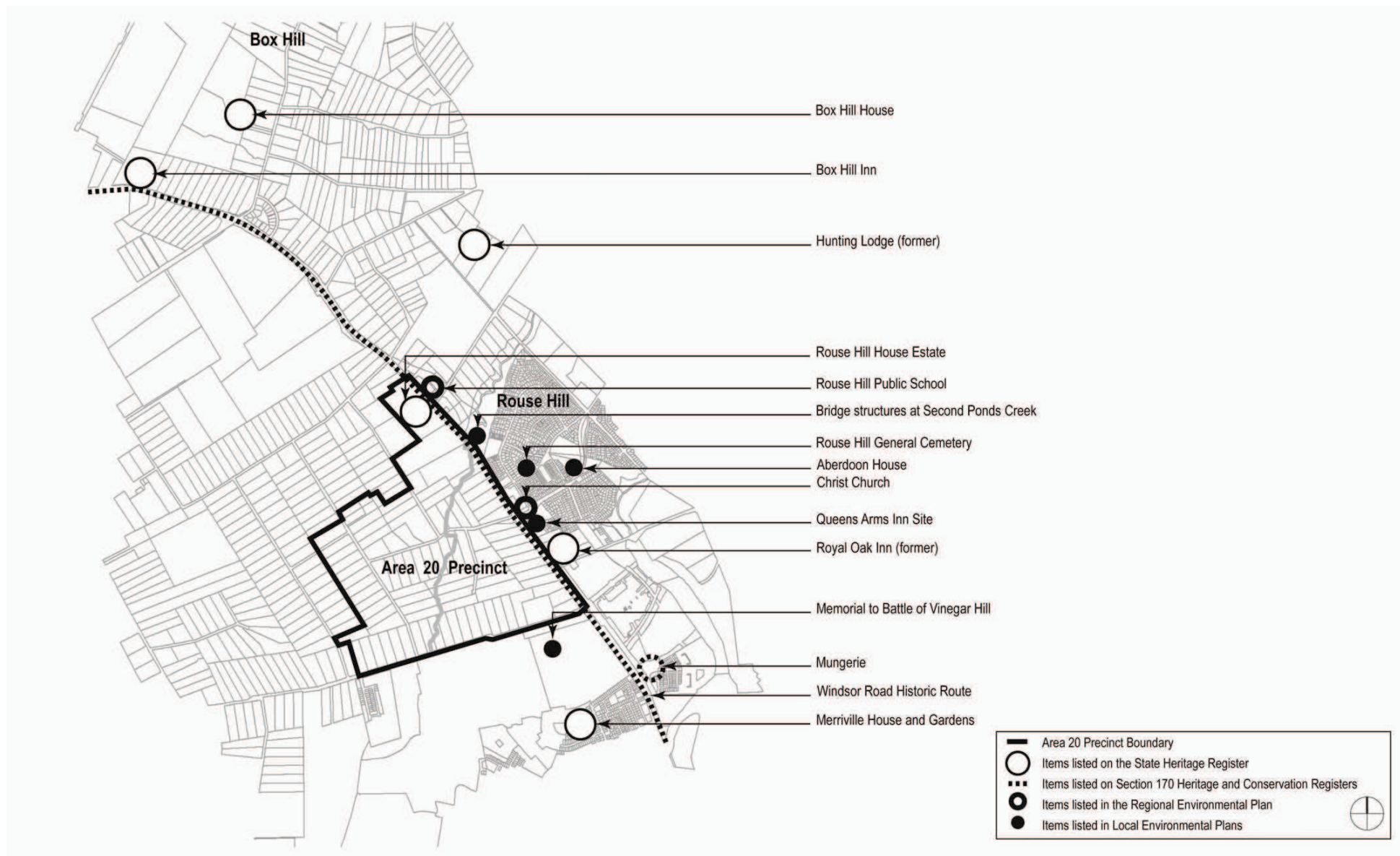


Figure 1.3 Plan of the study area and surrounding area showing approximate locations of listed heritage items. (Source: Base map Department of Planning NSW with GML mark-up of locations 2009)



## 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.

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


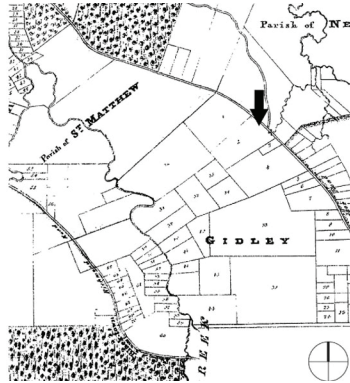
This section provides a brief overview of the site's historical development. The historical overview is an important step in the development of themes and messages for interpretation.

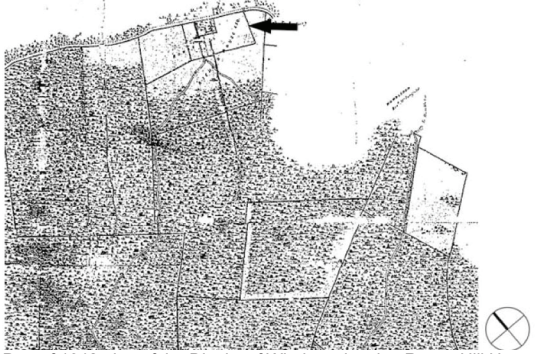
Year	Event	Image Reference
<b>Pre European settlement</b>		
	<p>Area 20 is connected to the Aboriginal history of the Cumberland Plains.</p> <p>The traditional owners of the area are the "Dharuk [Darug] speaking people [who] adjoined the Thurrawal on the north, extending along the coast to the Hawkesbury River, and inland to what are now Windsor, Penrith, Campbelltown and intervening towns".<sup>1</sup></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>	
<b>Early European settlement</b>		
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.	



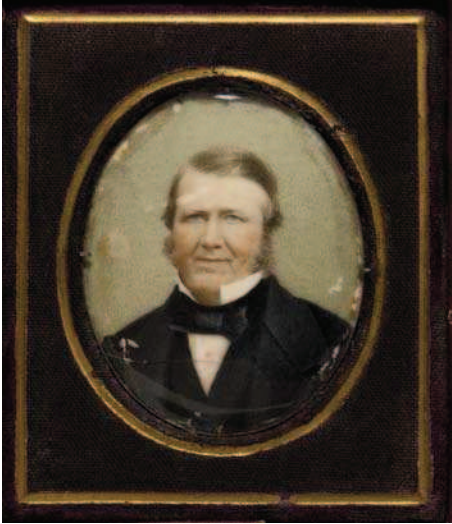
Year	Event	Image Reference
1801	<p>A government farm was established at Castle Hill on 34,539 acres to the south and east of the study area.</p>	 <p>View of Castle Hill Government Farm, c1806, an unsigned watercolour that has been attributed to convict artist John Lewin. This shows the extensive clearing, 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.<sup>2</sup></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.<sup>3</sup> 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).<sup>4</sup> Other early inns such as</p>	

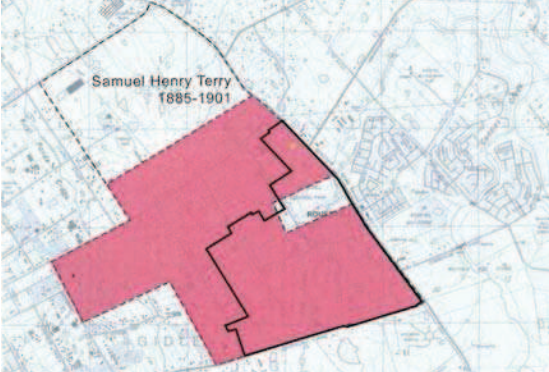

Year	Event	Image Reference
	the Bird-in-Hand and the White Hart Hotel faced Windsor Road to the south of the study area.	
<b>Richard Rouse and Rouse Hill House</b>		
1801	Richard Rouse arrived in NSW	 <p data-bbox="858 947 1401 1052">Portrait of Richard Rouse, 1847 / W. Griffith, 1947 (Source: Historic House Trust &lt;<a href="http://collection.hht.net.au/firsthhtpictures/picturerecord.jsp?ecno=31474">http://collection.hht.net.au/firsthhtpictures/picturerecord.jsp?ecno=31474</a>&gt;)</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 1257 1695">Portrait of Governor William Bligh, c1875 (Source: State Library of Victoria &lt; <a href="http://www.slv.vic.gov.au/pictoria/gid/slv-pic aab61065/1/a15233">http://www.slv.vic.gov.au/pictoria/gid/slv-pic aab61065/1/a15233</a>&gt;)</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 &lt;<a href="http://collection.hht.net.au/firsththpictures/picturerecord.jsp?r.ecno=35622">http://collection.hht.net.au/firsththpictures/picturerecord.jsp?r.ecno=35622</a>&gt;)</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.<sup>5</sup> 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.<sup>6</sup></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	<p>Property increased to 1200 acres</p>	
1825-1828	<p>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.</p>	
1831	<p>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.</p>	
1830s	<p>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.</p>	

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 1401 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. <sup>7</sup> 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 1415 1657">Edwin Rouse (1806-1862) / photographer unknown c1865 (Source: Historic House Trust &lt;<a href="http://collection.hht.net.au/firstthtpictures/picturerecord.jsp?ecno=37182">http://collection.hht.net.au/firstthtpictures/picturerecord.jsp?ecno=37182</a>&gt;)</p>
1860	Merrville 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. <sup>8</sup> 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. <sup>9</sup>	
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.<sup>10</sup></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.<sup>11</sup></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. <sup>12</sup>	
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. <sup>13</sup>	

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

- <sup>1</sup> Kelleher Nightingale Consulting Pty Ltd, Area 20 Precinct Aboriginal Heritage Assessment, October 2009, p 10
- <sup>2</sup> *Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser*, March 11, 1804.
- <sup>3</sup> *ibid.*
- <sup>4</sup> Heritage Branch, Department of Planning, SHR listing Card Box Hill Inn, Royal Oak Inn (former).
- <sup>5</sup> Conybeare Morrison and Partners, *Rouse Hill Estate Curtilage Study*, prepared for the Historic Houses Trust of NSW, October 2003, p 8.
- <sup>6</sup> *ibid.*, p 8.
- <sup>7</sup> Lenehan, M 1967, 'Richard Rouse 1774-1852', *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Volume 2, University of Melbourne Press.
- <sup>8</sup> Proudfoot, H, 1987, *Exploring Sydney's West*, The Heritage Council of NSW, Sydney, p122.
- <sup>9</sup> Rouse Hill House and Farm Guidebook, Historic Houses Trust of NSW.
- <sup>10</sup> *ibid.*
- <sup>11</sup> Information provided by Blacktown City Council.
- <sup>12</sup> Conybeare Morrison op cit, p 12.
- <sup>13</sup> *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
<b>NSW: Aboriginal Cultures and Interactions with Other Cultures</b>	
	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.
<b>NSW: Environment – Naturally Evolved</b>	
	The site contains areas of remnant Cumberland Plain Woodlands which is formally protected as an Endangered Ecological Community.
<b>NSW: Environment (Cultural Landscapes)</b>	
	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.
<b>NSW: Convict</b>	
	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.
<b>NSW: Agriculture and Pastoralism</b>	
	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 <sup>th</sup> 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

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### 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.<sup>1</sup>*

#### 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.<sup>2</sup>*

In October 2009, Kelleher Nightingale undertook an Indigenous Heritage Assessment of the study area.<sup>3</sup> 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.<sup>4</sup>

### **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.<sup>5</sup>*

### **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.<sup>6</sup>

### **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.*<sup>7</sup>

### **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.<sup>8</sup> 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.<sup>9</sup>

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](http://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

- <sup>1</sup> Godden Mackay Logan, North West Growth Centre Area 20 Precinct Non-Indigenous Heritage Assessment September 2009, p 59
- <sup>2</sup> Godden Mackay Logan, North West Growth Centre Area 20 Precinct Non-Indigenous Heritage Assessment September 2009, p 60
- <sup>3</sup> Kelleher Nightingale Consulting Pty Ltd, Area 20 Precinct Aboriginal Heritage Assessment, October 2009
- <sup>4</sup> Kelleher Nightingale Consulting Pty Ltd, Area 20 Precinct Aboriginal Heritage Assessment, October 2009, p 84
- <sup>5</sup> Godden Mackay Logan, North West Growth Centre Area 20 Precinct Non-Indigenous Heritage Assessment September 2009, p 61
- <sup>6</sup> NSW Heritage Office, Design in Context – Guidelines for infill development in the historic environment, 2005
- <sup>7</sup> Godden Mackay Logan, North West Growth Centre Area 20 Precinct Non-Indigenous Heritage Assessment September 2009, p 61
- <sup>8</sup> 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.
- <sup>9</sup> 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](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

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### 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 data-bbox="252 416 491 459"><b>Play Equipment</b></p>  <p data-bbox="252 752 507 779">Redfern Park, Redfern, Sydney.</p>  <p data-bbox="252 1012 639 1088">Public art sculptures in a landscape setting interpreting pastoral history. <i>Sheep on the Road</i>, by Deborah Brown, Belfast, Ireland.</p>  <p data-bbox="252 1384 592 1438">Children's play equipment at Redfern Park, Redfern, Sydney.</p>	<p data-bbox="686 416 1102 504">Use the natural and cultural landscape as inspiration in the design of play equipment within Area 20.</p> <p data-bbox="686 515 1142 667">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 data-bbox="686 678 1091 766">Natural elements and farm animals from agricultural history may form the basis for design.</p> <p data-bbox="686 817 1054 844">Media: timber, steel, stone and water.</p>	<p data-bbox="1168 416 1382 474">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**

**Media & Discussion**

**Location**

**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.

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.

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**

**Media & Discussion**

**Location**

**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.

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.

Windsor Road Landscape buffer.

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

**Interpretive Initiative**

**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.

**Media & Discussion**

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.

**Location**

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**

**Media & Discussion**

**Location**

**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)

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 helps programs for children—that the study area could connect with or enhance/expand.

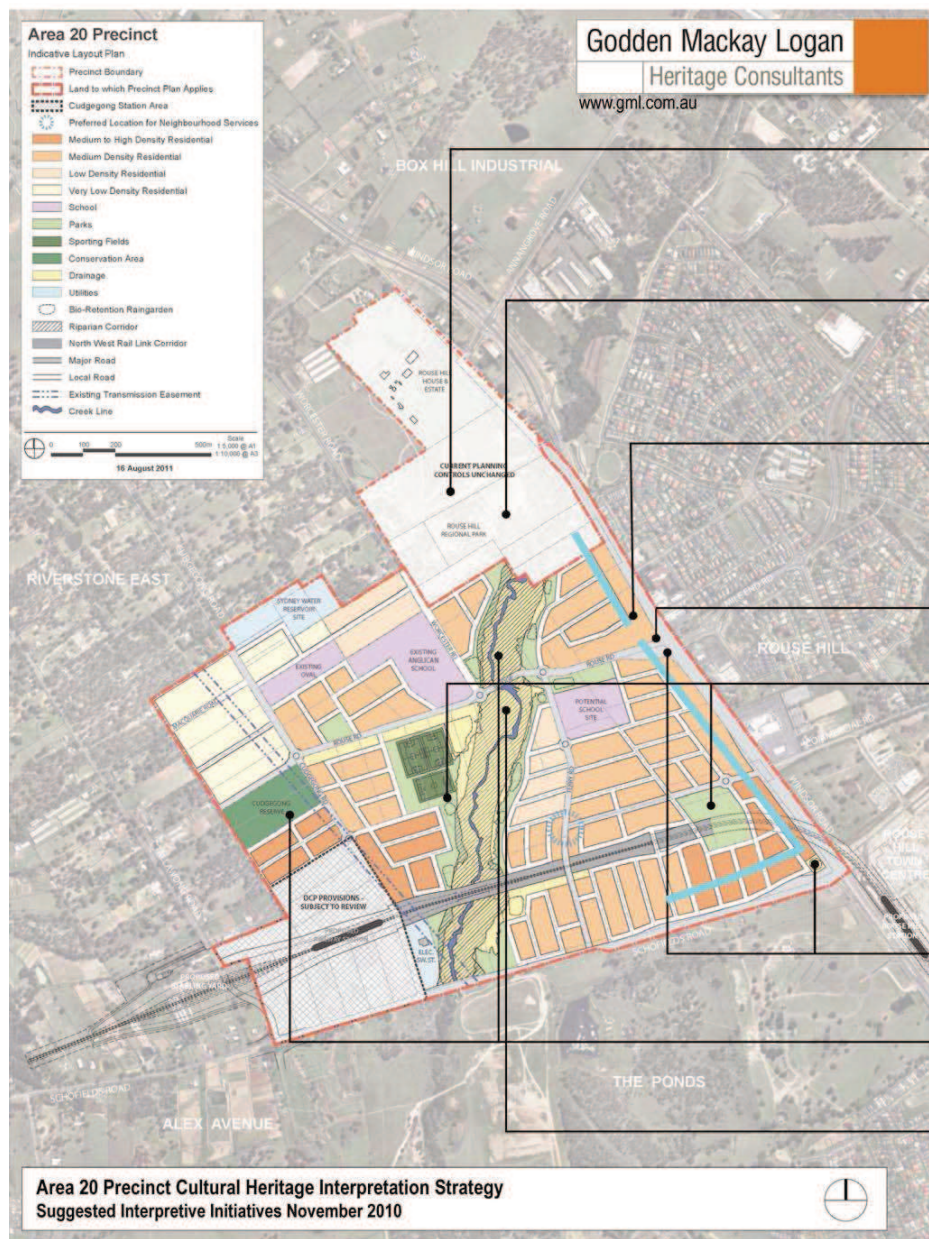
Events and programs are highly flexible and can be planned and changed on a monthly or seasonal basis. Where an area is newly developed, a large event could kickstart people's feeling of connection with Area 20.

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.



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**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
<b>Interpretation Plan: Stage 2—Content Development</b>	
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
<b>Interpretation Plan: Stage 3—Implementation</b>	
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



