

Godden Mackay Logan

Heritage Consultants



Catherine Fields (Part) Precinct Interpretation Strategy

Report prepared for NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure

October 2013

Godden Mackay Logan Pty Ltd

ABN 60 001 179 362

Sydney

78 George Street Redfern

NSW Australia 2016

T +61 2 9319 4811

Canberra

2A Mugga Way Red Hill

PO Box 3171 Manuka

ACT 2603

T +61 2 6273 7540

www.gml.com.au

Report Register

The following report register documents the development and issue of the report entitled Catherine Fields (Part) Precinct—Non-Indigenous Heritage Assessment, 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
13-0120	1	Draft Report	June 2013
13-0120	2	Revised Draft Report	July 2013
13-0120	3	Final Report	October 2013

Copyright and Moral Rights

Historical sources and reference material used in the preparation of this report are acknowledged and referenced at the end of each section and/or in figure captions. Reasonable effort has been made to identify, contact, acknowledge and obtain permission to use material from the relevant copyright owners.

In accordance with the contract terms for this project GML:

- vests copyright in all material produced by GML (but excluding pre-existing material and material in which copyright is held by a third party) in the client for this project (and the client's successors in title);
- retains the right to use all the material produced by GML for this project for GML's ongoing business and for professional presentations, academic papers or publications; and
- waives the Moral Rights <of both GML and the project team members> in this work, in accordance with the (Commonwealth) *Copyright (Moral Rights) Amendment Act 2000*.

Contents	Page
1.0 Introduction	1
1.1 Context	1
1.2 Site Description	1
1.3 Heritage Listings	2
1.3.1 NSW State Heritage Register	2
1.3.2 Camden Council LEP 2010	2
1.3.3 Non-Statutory Listings	2
1.4 Approach	3
1.5 Methodology and Terminology	4
1.6 Limitations	4
1.7 Author Identification	4
1.8 Acknowledgements	4
2.0 Approach to Interpretation—Why Interpret?	7
2.1 Interpretation as a Conservation Process	7
2.2 Interpretation Principles for Catherine Fields (Part) Precinct	7
3.0 History Overview and Significance—What’s the Story?	9
3.1 Summary History of the Precinct and its Context.....	9
3.1.1 Background	9
3.1.2 Aboriginal History	9
3.1.3 ‘Oran’ is Established	11
3.1.4 A House Begins	11
3.1.5 A House is Built.....	12
3.1.6 A House is Leased; an Inheritance Questioned	12
3.1.7 A Country Retreat; Subdivision Begins	12
3.1.8 Grazing; Fringe Subdivision for Hobby Farming	13
3.1.9 A Recreation Facility.....	13
3.1.10 A Country Retreat	13
3.1.11 Growth Centre Subdivision	13
3.2 The Significance of Catherine Fields (Part) Precinct	14
3.2.1 Statement of Significance Catherine Fields (Part) Precinct.....	14
3.3 Implications for Interpretation.....	15
3.4 Historic Themes, Key Stories and Messages.....	15
3.5 Key Stories and Messages for Interpretation	17
3.6 Endnotes.....	20
4.0 Interpretation Policy Development—What Resources Are Available?	21
4.1 Opportunities for Interpretation	21
4.1.1 Catherine Fields (Part) Precinct Context.....	21
4.1.2 Historical Archaeology	23
4.1.3 Aboriginal Cultural Heritage	24
4.1.4 Built Heritage.....	25
4.1.5 Cultural Landscape.....	25
4.1.6 Natural Heritage Values	26

4.2 Potential Audiences for Interpretation of the Catherine Fields (Part) Precinct 27

4.3 Endnotes..... 28

5.0 Draft Interpretation Strategy—What’s Proposed? 29

5.1 Interpretation Recommendations 29

 5.1.1 Interpretative Objectives to Engage and Stimulate Audiences 29

 5.1.2 Interpretation Objectives..... 29

 5.1.3 Potential Interpretative Media..... 29

 5.1.4 Potential Interpretative Media Locations 30

5.2 Implementation..... 31

5.3 Suggested Interpretative Media and Locations 33

6.0 Appendices..... 41

 Appendix A

Suggested Interpretive Street and Place Names for the Catherine Fields (Part) Precinct

 Appendix B

Interpretation Tasks and Responsibilities

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Context

Catherine Fields (Part) Precinct was released for planning as a Camden growth centre precinct by the NSW Government in August 2011. The vision for the area's development is a well-connected and diverse residential community, supported by local services, amenities, parks and infrastructure, in a manner that responds to its unique characteristics. The precinct will be an integral component of the local area, linking the surrounding suburbs and housing estates, and providing public transport connections to Oran Park Town Centre and the future Leppington Town Centre.

Catherine Fields (Part) Precinct is dominated by Oran Park House (OPH), a mid-nineteenth century house set in a mature garden on the main hilltop with an associated coach house, outbuildings and silo. The landscape setting of OPH and Garden, its associated outbuildings and historic driveways will be respected and interpreted within the development layout.

This Interpretation Strategy (IS) report has been prepared to provide guidance for the development of the Public Domain and Landscape Strategy for the precinct. It is the first stage of the Interpretation Plan to comply with Principle 7.4.4 of the Catherine Fields (Part) Precinct Non-Indigenous Heritage Assessment (HA) 2012, as follows:

7.4.4 Interpret the Heritage Values and Cultural Landscape of the Precinct

Opportunities to incorporate heritage interpretation into the planning of the precinct should be developed in detail as a Precinct Interpretation Plan, and integrated as part of the precinct planning processes.

Interpretation opportunities include:

- *the original Cobbitty Road driveway, retaining the line of trees beside interpret the historic links to Harrington Park to be called 'Dawson-Damer Drive';*
- *the later driveway and trees to Camden Valley Way along the creek will interpret the historic links to Badgally Hill, and be called 'Moore's Prospect';*
- *remnant and early layout and planting of the garden of Oran Park House will be used to interpret the lives and hopes of the house occupants;*
- *the two 1815 Harrington Park grant boundaries—Camden Valley Way and the northern boundary of the Catherine Fields precinct will be interpreted; and*
- *the upgraded CMP for Oran Park House will include an interpretation framework specifically for the SHR curtilage.*

This Interpretation Strategy (IS) identifies the overarching non-Indigenous heritage themes for the precinct, and suggests interpretation devices and locations to best convey its heritage stories within the context of the new residential redevelopment.

1.2 Site Description

The area is in the South Western Growth Centre, close to Narellan, within the Camden Local Government Area (Figure 1.1). The site is in the vicinity of a number of heritage items listed on the NSW State Heritage Register (SHR), including Denbigh, Gledswood, Harrington Park, Orielson, and Raby—all colonial homesteads in landscaped settings of various scales.

Although dominated by the hilltop prominence of OPH and its landmark garden, the Catherine Fields (Part) Precinct comprises a number of lots and owners. The study area is shown on Figure 1.2 and includes:

- the OPH site, owned by Harrington Estates Pty Ltd, which comprises Lot 27 and 28 of DP 213330 and Lots 24, 25, and 26 of DP 31996. The major features and components of the site include the house, the carriage loop in front of the house, the tennis court and pool, the two caretakers' houses, the coach house, the dairy sheds, dams, the two driveways and paddocks. The orientation of the principal façade of the house is south, terminating at the carriage loop and driveway off Oran Park Drive. The house and associated elements are still appreciably dominant in the setting, sited on a small knoll within a semi-rural landscape;
- the Greenfields Development Company No. 2 Pty Ltd site, which comprises Lot 7 DP DP1173813 to the north of OPH;
- the Dandaloo Pty Ltd site, which comprises Lot 293 DP 708154 to the east of OPH; and
- a number of small hobby farms and dwellings along Oran Park Drive and Camden Valley Way. The Trustees of the Roman Catholic Church own five of these properties along Cobbitty Road and have current development approval for a proposed primary school.

The Catherine Fields (Part) Precinct is planned to be developed as a community of dwellings with associated education, recreational, neighbourhood and business facilities.

1.3 Heritage Listings

1.3.1 NSW State Heritage Register

In 2004 the Heritage Branch proposed to nominate OPH for inclusion on the NSW State Heritage Register (SHR) to ensure management and long-term conservation of its cultural heritage values. The former owners agreed to support the SHR listing, and an appropriate SHR curtilage was agreed with the NSW Heritage Council in May 2012.

During the development of the master plan, discussions have taken place with the Heritage Branch regarding the use of a Heritage Agreement and/or a Development Application and conditions of consent to secure appropriate financial investment/support for the conservation of the property in the context of its surroundings. Finalisation of the listing will be a matter of negotiation between the new owners Harrington Estates and the Heritage Council.

1.3.2 Camden Council LEP 2010

The precinct is located within the Camden Local Government Area. Under the Camden Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 2010, the property is listed as a heritage item called 'Oran Park', and described as 'including homestead, grounds, outbuildings, old cottage, silo, stable buildings, carriage house, drive and circular carriage drive.'

1.3.3 Non-Statutory Listings

National Trust of Australia (NSW)

OPH has been classified by the National Trust of Australia (NSW) Item 9174.

1.4 Approach

The preparation of integrated, multi-faceted interpretation for a site that has heritage value should be carried out as part of a three-stage process, as summarized in Table 1.1 below.

Table 1.1 Interpretation methodology.

Interpretation Plan: Stage 1—Interpretation Strategy (this report)
1.0 Introduction
Context of report, study area, approach.
2.0 Approach to interpretation—<i>Why interpret?</i>
Interpretation as a conservation process. Interpretation principles for the precinct.
3.0 Historic overview and significance—<i>What's the story?</i>
Summary history of the precinct and its context. The significance of Catherine Fields (Part) Precinct. Implications for interpretation. Historic themes, key stories and messages for Catherine Fields (Part) Precinct.
4.0 Interpretation policy development—<i>What resources are available?</i>
Opportunities for interpretation. Potential audiences of the Catherine Fields (Part) Precinct.
5.0 Draft interpretation strategy—<i>What's proposed?</i>
Interpretative objectives. Potential interpretative media and locations. Implementation tasks and responsibilities. Suggested interpretative media and locations.
Interpretation Plan: Stage 2—Content Development (at application for subdivision)
Development of content, materials and media
Review client/stakeholder/community comments on the Interpretation Strategy. Develop interpretative stories, key texts and illustrations (consider copyright and approvals). Develop interpretative media. Design/production/fabrication/construction overview. Staged summary of activities, installation tasks, timing and responsibilities. Recommendations for maintenance and review.
Interpretation Plan: Stage 3—Implementation (During Construction)
Implementation of interpretation plan
Review client/stakeholder/community comments on content. Detailed design of interpretative media. Image use or copyright clearances. Production of interpretative media. Installation of interpretative media. Finalise maintenance and review plan.

This report represents Stage 1 of the interpretation planning process and will provide specific recommendations on how the cultural heritage significance of the Catherine Fields (Part) Precinct might be interpreted as part of the proposed development.

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 Limitations

The opportunities for interpretation in this IS are based upon the layout of the revised Indicative Layout Plan (ILP) prepared for the Catherine Fields (Part) Precinct Plan dated 19 July 2013. We understand that the ILP may be subject to further revision.

This report does not include interpretation of the Aboriginal heritage and history of the area, which requires consultation with local Aboriginal community groups. An Aboriginal interpretation strategy is recommended to provide essential input into the precinct master plan.

1.7 Author Identification

This report was prepared by Nina Pollock, Consultant; and Michelle Richmond, Senior Consultant. Sheridan Burke, Partner, reviewed the report and provided strategic input.

1.8 Acknowledgements

Godden Mackay Logan acknowledges the assistance of the following people in the preparation of this report:

- Messrs Carlos Frias, Mark Blanche and Kester Ko, of Master Planners AECOM;
- Mr Lee Mulvey and Nathan Herborn, NSW Department of Planning & Infrastructure;
- Ms Lisa Howard and Mr Jeff Williams, Camden Council; and
- Ms Lucy Moore, NSW Heritage Division.

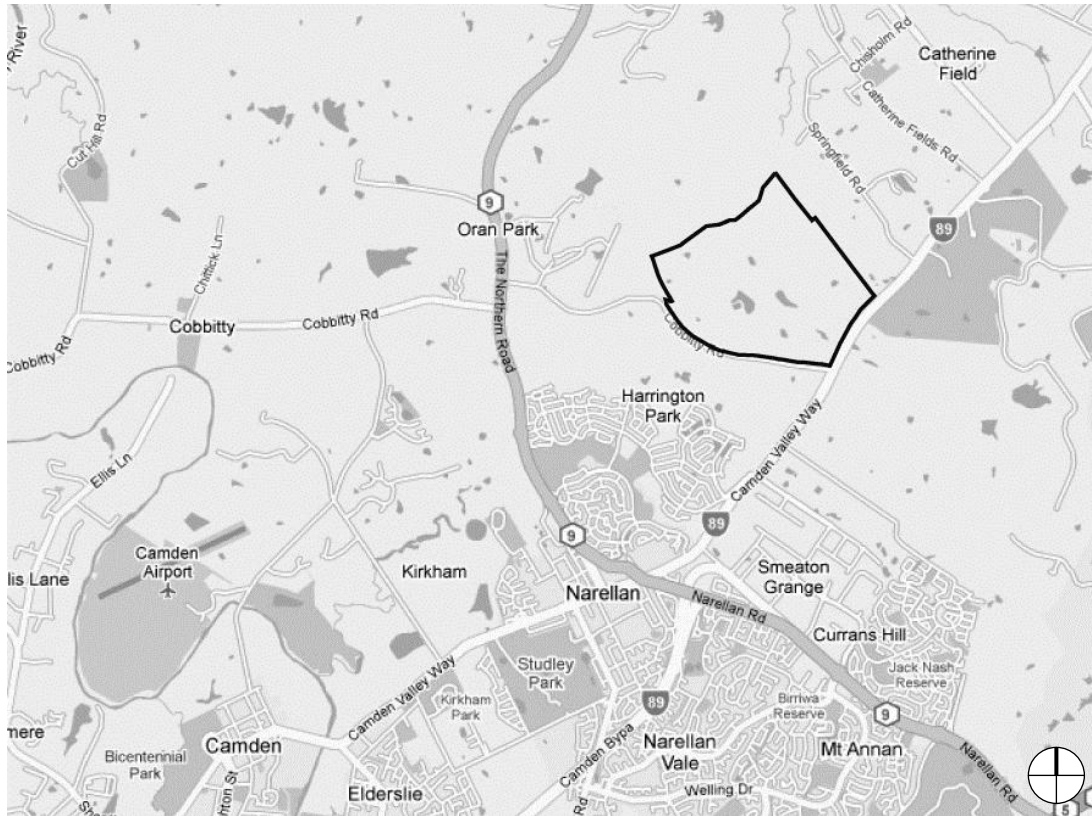


Figure 1.1 Study area, Catherine Fields (Part) Precinct location plan. (Source: Google Maps)



Figure 1.2 Study area. (Source: AECOM)

2.0 Approach to Interpretation—*Why Interpret?*

2.1 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 community recognition, enjoyment and understanding of a site's value and significance.

The *Burra Charter: The Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance 1999* (the Burra Charter) explains:

...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 and 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 of 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.

Catherine Fields (Part) Precinct has a fascinating and layered history. It is important that the stories associated with the history and significance of the precinct be interpreted so that the heritage values may be understood, enjoyed and appreciated by current and future audiences.

2.2 Interpretation Principles for Catherine Fields (Part) Precinct

Key interpretation principles for Catherine Fields (Part) Precinct include the following:

- focus on the history and significance of the precinct and develop site specific themes, stories and key messages;
- use documentary research and graphic material to convey and interpret the history and significance of the precinct and its future residential use;
- ensure that interpretive devices are accessible and compatible with the significance of the precinct;

- integrate the proposed interpretive initiatives with the key public spaces of the precinct with a variety of responses reflecting different audiences and contexts;
- ensure that interpretation recommendations and devices have the potential to engage key audiences and stimulate interest;
- ensure the proposed interpretive initiatives are well integrated into the landscape and reflect the heritage character of the precinct;
- involve people with skills and experience in heritage interpretation planning and design; and
- plan for continuing maintenance and regular review of interpretive media.

To apply these principles well, an analysis of the history of the precinct (Section 3.0) includes the identification of key state historic themes that are represented within the area. From these themes, stories and key messages are identified.

3.0 History Overview and Significance—*What's the Story?*

3.1 Summary History of the Precinct and its Context

3.1.1 Background

The Catherine Fields (Part) Precinct is within the historic boundary of the Oran Park Estate, established in 1829. This estate was initially the northern half of the Harrington Park Estate which was granted to William Campbell in 1815. Cobbitty Road (now Oran Park Drive) divided the Harrington Park Estate in two.

Unlike its larger more prosperous neighbours, Oran Park does not have a long tradition of single family ownership and successful farming. For many years it has been in use as a rental property. Its most recent owners, the Dawson-Damer family, embarked on a comprehensive restoration of the property and re-established Oran Park as a rural estate.

This historical outline is based on the history of the site prepared in the 'Catherine Fields (Part) Precinct Non-Indigenous Heritage Assessment' by Godden Mackay Logan in June 2012, with the exception of Section 3.1.2 below.

3.1.2 Aboriginal History

The 'Catherine Fields (Part) Precinct South West Growth Centre Aboriginal Heritage Assessment' prepared by Kelleher Nightingale Consulting in July 2012 includes the following ethnohistorical and historical background for the precinct:

The study area was located in somewhat of a transitional area between different language groups. The Georges River/Appin/Camden area has been used as an arbitrary boundary between the Darug, Dharawal and Gundungurra language groups (Attenbrow 2002: 34). The Darug language was divided between coastal and hinterland dialects and spread from Port Jackson west to the Cumberland Plain, the Gundungurra language was predominantly associated with the hinterland and spread from the southern Cumberland Plain across the southern Blue Mountains and the Dharawal language was largely associated with coastal groups and spread from Botany Bay south to the Shoalhaven River and west to the Georges River area (Attenbrow 2002: 34).

None of the British observations from the late 18th and early 19th Century make reference to any name for the different dialects or wider language groups that they noted (Attenbrow 2002:33). It was only in the late 19th Century that the names Dharawal (also referred to as Turuwal, Thurrawal and Thur'rawal), Gundungurra (also referred to as Gun'dungur'ra, Gun'-dung-ur'ra and Gun'-dung-ur-ra) and Darug (also referred to as Dhar'-rook, Dharrook, Dhar'rook, Dharruk, Dharook and Dharuk) were used to refer to the language of the traditional inhabitants of the Cumberland Plain (Attenbrow 2002:31). Attenbrow (2002: 34-35) notes that the boundaries of 'languages or dialects can only be indicative at best', partly because 'boundaries between language groups are not always precise lines'.

As well as differences in the dialect spoken between the coastal inhabitants and those further inland, the British also observed differences in subsistence activities. Brook and Kohen (1991:3) noted that 'the Dharug people were apparently divided into two distinct sub-tribes: those along the coast, who lived on fish; those inland, who were frequently referred to as the 'woods tribes'. Captain Tench recorded differences in the food eaten and methods used to acquire these resources between the inhabitants of the coast and those to the west of Rose Hill (Parramatta). On one occasion Tench observed a method of climbing trees for animals that involved cutting notches in the trunk and using these as toe-holds to climb the tree (Tench 1793:82). The

ease with which the individual carried out this activity impressed the British and, Tench noted, also the two Aboriginal men from the coast who 'allowed that he was a capital performer, against whom they dared not to enter the lists; for as they subsist chiefly by fishing they are less expert at climbing on the coast than those who daily practice it' (Tench 1793:82).

Kohen (1986:77) explains that the Aboriginals who lived between Parramatta and the Blue Mountains were not as dependent on fish and shellfish as groups closer to the coast, but relied on small animals and plant foods in addition to seasonally available freshwater mullet and eels. Tench (1793:230) observed that 'they depend but little on fish, as the river yields only millets and that their principal support is derived from small animals which they kill and some roots (a species of wild yam chiefly) which they dig out of the earth'. These wild yams were found in considerable quantities along the banks of the Nepean and Hawkesbury Rivers. Berries, Banksia flowers and wild honey were also recorded as foods of the local inhabitants (Collins 1798 [Kohen 1985:9]). A particularly important plant food was the Burrawong (*Macrozamia communis*), which provided a nutritious nut that was pounded and soaked in running water to leach out toxins before the flour-like extract was made into small cakes and baked over a fire (Kohen 1993:8).

Small animals provided the protein component of the Aboriginal diet on the Cumberland Plain, with hunting comprising a major economic role of the men. Along the river, traps and snares were set for bandicoots and wallabies, while decoys for snaring birds were also a commonly employed technique, 'these are formed of underwood and reeds, long and narrow, shaped like a mound raised over a grave, with a small aperture at one end for the admission of the prey' (Tench 1793 [Kohen 1985:9]). Possums and gliders were particularly common in the open woodland across the Cumberland Plain and probably formed the main sources of animal food. These were hunted in a number of ways, including smoking out the animal by lighting a fire in the base of a hollow tree, burning large tracts of land and gathering the stranded animals, as well as cutting toe-holds in trees mentioned above (Kohen 1993:10; Tench 1793:82).

Some of the earliest British interest in the vicinity of the study area revolved around a herd of runaway cattle that escaped from the colony in July 1788. The cattle were extremely valuable to the fledgling colony and after numerous attempts to locate them they were finally tracked down in 1795 to an area south of the Nepean (Liston 1988: 4). It was evident that in the seven years the cattle were missing from the colony, the local Aboriginal inhabitants of the Nepean area had come into contact with the cattle numerous times. There was a reported sighting of the cattle with Aborigines in 1790 and large paintings of cattle in a rock shelter site near Campbelltown, called 'Bull Cave' (Liston 1988:3-4).

The search for the cattle revealed to the colony administration the quality of grazing land in the area and the area became known as 'The Cow Pastures' (Liston 1988:5). The first land grant in the area was in 1805 to Lieutenant John Macarthur, who was given a grant of 5,000 acres to breed sheep and export wool to England. The grant covered an area bordering the Nepean River at what is now called 'Camden Park'. Further land grants in the area followed, including Edward Cooper in 1812, Edward Lord in 1815 and Charles Hook in 1815 (purchased by Thomas Hassall in 1827).

There were numerous interactions between the local Aboriginal population and the first European farmers in the region, with tension increasing during periods of drought, when conflict arose because traditional hunting and gathering areas were subsumed by the expansion of farmland. Many officials, including Governor Macquarie, often recognised that these issues were started by the settlers, but with the colony on a tentative footing, especially during periods of drought, he was more inclined to protect the interests of the farmers.

Violence escalated between settlers and the local Aboriginal people during a drought through the years 1814 – 1816 (Brook and Kohen 1993). Each case of violence reported from farms dotted around the Sydney region at Bringelly, Appin, along the Nepean and the Hawkesbury Rivers was similar in that the local Aboriginal

people had gone to their traditional food gathering areas and when they found their usual resources gone, they used the resources that had replaced them, namely crops such as corn and animals including sheep and cattle. The settlers, seeing this as theft, often shot the Aborigines. In retaliation, a number of settlers were also killed.

In response to the violence between the settlers and the local Aboriginal people across the Sydney region, in April 1816 Governor Macquarie ordered a punitive expedition to capture or kill those Aborigines involved in the skirmishes with settlers (Brook and Kohen 1993: 23). Three groups of soldiers were sent from Sydney to Cowpastures, the Airds and Appin district and to Parramatta, Windsor, the Grose and the banks of the Nepean respectively (Brook and Kohen 1993:23).

Following the punitive expeditions of 1816, the Dharawal stayed in the Cowpastures, south of the Nepean River, where the country remained largely grazing land not as populated as the area north of the river (Liston 1988:24). Friendly contact was maintained between the Dharawal and a number of the local landholders, especially the Macarthurs.

This documented contact between the Dharawal and local landholders provides evidence of direct links between the Dharawal and the Minto area as well as continued traditional activities in the years following first settlement. The Macarthur's documented corroborees taking place on their property and Liston (1988:24) noted that 'in March 1818 James Meehan marked out some land on the Macarthur estate for Aborigines who wanted to live there under the protection of the Macarthurs.

Corroborees and other large gatherings of local Aboriginal people were documented at other properties in the area, including at Denham Court, located to the north east of the study area (Liston 1988:24), as well as on the Denbigh property, to the west of the study area (Kohen 1993:18). It is worth noting that, while Lady Macarthur documented corroborees taking place near Camden Park House up until 1850, there is no mention of corroborees in the Camden area after this date (Atkinson 2008:33-36).

The direct connection and historical association of the area with members of the contemporary local Aboriginal community was documented by Glenda Chalker, Hon. Chairperson of the Cubbitch Barta Native Title Claimants Aboriginal Corporation, in a letter dated 7 July 2012, which stated that:¹

my family of the Cubbitch Barta Clan, who were also known as the Cowpastures tribe, where the Aborigines that moved onto the Macarthur property and continued to live work and die there up until 1973. My grandfather and uncle were the last of the family to work there. We have continued our connection to the land on and surrounding Camden Park, and we still play a very important role in the protection of our culture and heritage in the area.

3.1.3 'Oran' is Established

The Catherine Fields (Part) Precinct was originally part of an 1815 grant of 2000 acres to William Douglas Campbell, known as 'Harrington Park'. Between 1817 and his death in 1827, Campbell stayed mainly at Harrington Park, on the southern side of Cobbitty Road, living in the house that he built there and which still exists today. On William Campbell's death, the portion of the Harrington Estate on the northern side of Cobbitty Road, containing 1000 acres, was inherited by a nephew, Robert Mackay Campbell. Documents relating to this transfer in 1829 already use the name 'Oran' or 'Oran Farm' when referring to this land, but it is not known where the name originated.

3.1.4 A House Begins

In 1832 Robert Campbell sold the eastern portion of Oran Park, containing 300 acres, to George Graham, and this land became known as Graham's Farm. George Graham and his family owned

this property until 1878 (when it again became part of Oran Park) but do not appear to have built any structures on the land.

John Douglas Campbell (another nephew of the original owner) who had made arrangements to buy the Oran Park land, decided in 1839 to lease the property for eight years to Sydney gentleman Henry Keck Esq, the Governor of Darlinghurst Gaol. The terms of that agreement confirm that John Douglas Campbell had commenced building a house at Oran Park before 1839, and the price of the property and the details of the lease documents indicate an established messuage (dwelling house with outbuildings) on the property. No trace of this original construction has so far been found on the site. In 1842, Keck transferred the remainder of his lease on Oran Park and the option to buy the house and land to Henry William Johnson.

3.1.5 A House is Built

Johnson raised a mortgage from John Douglas Campbell in 1842, which he repaid in 1852. He took out a second mortgage from neighbour Thomas Barker in 1858 but was unable to keep up his payments and Barker foreclosed on him in 1867. Much of the physical fabric and original style of Oran Park House appears to date from this period and it would seem that Henry Johnson took out his two mortgages in order to construct Oran Park House. It has been alleged that Johnson built the house to impress a lady, but he died tragically.

In 1871 the 700 acres of Oran Park and the 1140 acres of the adjoining property to the west, Netherbyres, were sold to Campbelltown grazier, Edward Lomas Moore. Moore also purchased Graham's Farm in 1878. Edward Lomas Moore was a wealthy grazier who became one of the largest landowners in the Campbelltown district. He adapted Oran Park House for his family to live in but after ten years they had outgrown the house and Moore constructed a new residence, Badgally, on his former property at nearby Molles Maine.

3.1.6 A House is Leased; an Inheritance Questioned

In 1882 Edward Moore leased Oran Park to farmer Thomas Cadell, who established a substantial dairying operation from Oran Park. This enterprise only lasted around five years and by 1888 the property was leased by Mr and Mrs Payne.

When Edward Lomas Moore died in 1887, Oran Park was inherited by William Inglis and Alexander Lomas Inglis (sons of Edward Lomas Moore's daughter Elizabeth, from Moore's first marriage). This inheritance was questioned and not resolved until 1904. Graham's farm was left to Essington Moore and in 1907 he also purchased Oran Park and Netherbyres from his brothers, John Edward Moore and Frederick Moore. As he was mostly residing in England, Essington leased his properties; however, in the early 1930s he returned to Australia permanently and established himself in Oran Park House. He was tragically killed in 1937.

3.1.7 A Country Retreat; Subdivision Begins

In 1939 Oran Park, Graham's Farm and Netherbyres were purchased by Hubert Harry Robbins who used the property as a country retreat from his main residence in Strathfield. Robbins undertook considerable modifications and additions to the house to give it the appearance of a Georgian Revival homestead. Cowpastures Road became iconic in the early twentieth century as the location of Sydney's grand Georgian estates. Robbins also laid out a formal garden at the front of the house and established a new entrance drive from Camden Valley Way lined with trees.

Robbins died in 1945 and the property was sold to local grazier Daniel Cleary, who subdivided Oran Park and Graham's Farm into two lots of around 500 acres each. He also established Oran Park Raceway on part of Netherbyres to the west. Cleary retained ownership of Lot 1 until 1985 and used the land for grazing. This land was then purchased by the Leppington Pastoral Company and is included within the Catherine Fields (Part) Precinct. It remains pastoral land.

Lot 2, which contained Oran Park House, was sold to Arthur Raymond Booth and Robert Leslie Booth, and then to John Thomas Vivian Frost in 1947.

3.1.8 Grazing; Fringe Subdivision for Hobby Farming

John Frost ran the 500 acres of Oran Park as a farm until June 1960. In 1960, Frost sold Oran Park to a company called Cobbitty Investments Pty Ltd. They subdivided 26 hobby farms of around five acres each fronting Cobbitty Road and Camden Valley Way and divided the remainder of the land into three lots (Lot 27—229 acres, Lot 28—20 acres, Lot 29—112 acres in DP 213330). Little of this subdivision was sold and the majority of the property was purchased by investors Edward and Emily Star in 1961, who continued with the sale of the various allotments. They retained ownership of Lot 29 until 1984, which they leased as grazing land. A further two five-acre hobby farm lots were subdivided from Lot 29 in 1984 and houses were built on each site. The former Lot 29 is now owned by Dandaloo Pty Ltd.

3.1.9 A Recreation Facility

Oran Park House, now on approximately 250 acres, was purchased by a consortium in 1962. They constructed a trotting track at the rear of the site and converted Oran Park into an 18 hole golf course, using Oran Park House as the club house. This was not a successful venture and it closed in 1969.

3.1.10 A Country Retreat

In June 1969, the 250 acres of Oran Park were sold to engineer and motor racing personality, the Honourable Lionel John Charles Seymour Dawson-Damer. John Dawson-Damer was attracted to the site because of its close proximity to Oran Park Raceway, and he constructed several sheds to house his vintage racing cars on the site. The Dawson-Damers undertook considerable works to the house and garden and reinstated the original entrance drive to the house from Cobbitty Road. They used the property as their country retreat and remained its owners until 2008.

Development on the surrounding five-acre hobby farm lots continued slowly during the 1970s and 1980s.

3.1.11 Growth Centre Subdivision

Since the 1970s, this area has been identified by the state government as a growth area under the Macarthur Growth Centre Plan (1973). Gradually the cultural landscape has changed through intensive re-subdivision of rural estates, such as Harrington Park and nearby Elderslie. In 2008 the 250 acres of Oran Park were purchased by Valad and investigations commenced into the potential of the site for residential subdivision.

In 2011 the Department of Planning and Infrastructure commenced precinct planning for the Catherine Fields (Part) Precinct as part of the release of Catherine Fields pursuant to the NSW Government's Precinct Acceleration Protocol. Valad sold their land to Harrington Estates Pty Ltd in 2012.

The Catherine Fields (Part) Precinct Draft Precinct Plan and Planning Agreement, including the Indicative Layout Plan (ILP), were exhibited for public comment between 21 November and 21 December 2012. A total of 24 submissions were received from landowners and community members in response to the plan.

The Department of Planning and Infrastructure is currently reviewing all of the submissions received and will continue to work with council, agencies and technical consultants to finalise the Precinct Plan and progress to the next phase of design development, the public domain master plan.

3.2 The Significance of Catherine Fields (Part) Precinct

The heritage significance of the Precinct, as summarised in the Statement of Significance in the Catherine Fields (Part) Precinct HA 2012, is set out below.

3.2.1 Statement of Significance Catherine Fields (Part) Precinct

The Catherine Fields (Part) Precinct is significant as a representative example of the historic evolution of a Sydney fringe pastoral estate from the early decades of the nineteenth century; initially used for pastoral activity, small-scale dairying, grazing and occasional cropping, the site has had several subdivisions and has most recently been used for recreational facilities, a country retreat and hobby farms.

Catherine Fields (Part) Precinct has historical associations with Harrington Park, the land grant of which it was once part, as evidenced by two original 1815 grant boundaries—Camden Valley Way and the northern Precinct boundary. Catherine Fields (Part) Precinct has associations with Edward Lomas Moore, a wealthy local grazier, who became one of the largest land owners in the Campbelltown district, and his family; and in more recent years with the Dawson-Damer family.

Within the Catherine Fields (Part) Precinct, Oran Park House, its outbuildings and gardens form a representative example of a mid-nineteenth century Victorian homestead complex which has retained important elements of its original form and fabric (including its partially reconstructed coach house and its later silo) as well as its mature hilltop garden. The areas around Oran Park House, along its two approach driveways, and its outbuildings have historical archaeological potential.

The interwar remodelling and extension of Oran Park House to create a Georgian Revival style country residence, and its refurbishment in the 1980s (which also substantially changed the gardens and grounds), have undoubtedly affected the intactness of the mid-nineteenth century architecture. However, these layers have also added to the wider historical record that the house in its prominent hilltop setting provides, as one of a group of increasingly rare nineteenth-century farming areas within the cultural landscapes of the Camden area.

Catherine Fields (Part) Precinct demonstrates aesthetic significance in the hilltop prominence of the location and siting of Oran Park House. Oran Park House, its garden, silo, coach house and associated driveways are considered to be of State significance within an identified curtilage.

The house and its immediate setting, located on the knoll, are visually dominant in the rural landscape of the Precinct. Within the Catherine Fields (Part) Precinct, remnant nineteenth-century views and vistas to and from the house remain between Oran Park House and Cobbitty Road towards Harrington Park; and from Oran Park House towards prominent landforms and building sites such as Denbigh Hill and Badgally Hill.

3.3 Implications for Interpretation

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 history and development of the Precinct. The themes below have been derived from the historical overview and significance of the Catherine Fields (Part) Precinct.




3.4 Historic Themes, Key Stories and Messages

The following table considers the Catherine Fields (Part) Precinct in relation to 'Australian Historic Themes' identified by the former Australian Heritage Commission; and State Historical Themes developed by the NSW Heritage Branch of the Office of Environment and Heritage.

The following themes have been identified as relevant for presenting the history and significance of the Catherine Fields (Part) Precinct. They provide a thematic context which informs the development of key stories and messages as the next step of the interpretation process (Section 3.5).

A short commentary relating the precinct to each of the historical themes has been provided below.

Table 3.1 Australian Historic Themes, NSW State Themes and their relation to the Catherine Fields (Part) Precinct.

Australian Historic Theme	Tracing the Natural Evolution of Australia
NSW State Theme: Environment—Naturally Evolved	
	The riparian corridor on the Catherine Fields (Part) Precinct contains various species of flora and fauna remnant of the Swamp Oak floodplain forest, and is home to an endangered waterbird known as Australasian Bittern. (Source: Catherine Fields Precinct Masterplanning Landscape and Visual Analysis Report, Aecom, 18 June 2012 & Catherine Fields (Part) Precinct: Australasian Bittern Habitat, Ecological, October 2013)
Australian Historic Theme	Peopling Australia: Living as Australia's Earliest Inhabitants
NSW State Theme: Aboriginal Cultures and Interactions with other Cultures	
	The local Aboriginal people of this area include the Darug, Dharawal and Gundungurra language groups. Today Aboriginal life and culture continues to make a significant contribution to the life and vitality of the Precinct. (Source: Catherine Fields (Part) Precinct South West Growth Centre Aboriginal Heritage Assessment, Kelleher Nightingale Consulting, July 2012)
Australian Historic Theme	Developing Local, Regional and National Economies
NSW State Theme: Environment—Cultural Landscape	
	The cultural landscape of Oran Park House includes its outbuildings and gardens, its mature hilltop garden and two approach driveways. (Source: Oran Park House Conservation Management Plan, GML, June 2010)

Australian Historic Theme Developing Local, Regional and National Economies

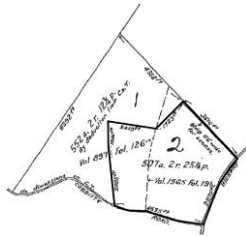
NSW State Theme: Pastoralism



The area was a Sydney fringe pastoral estate from the early decades of the nineteenth century, initially used for pastoral activity, including small-scale dairying, grazing and occasional cropping. (Source: Oran Park House Conservation Management Plan, GML, June 2010)

Australian Historic Theme Building Settlements, Towns and Cities

NSW State Theme: Land Tenure



The Catherine Fields (Part) Precinct retains evidence of the original and early road, and subdivision patterns of Camden. The two 1815 Harrington Park grant boundaries remain—Camden Valley Way and the northern boundary of the Catherine Fields (Part) Precinct. (Source: Oran Park House Conservation Management Plan, GML, June 2010)

Australian Historic Theme Building Settlements, Towns and Cities

NSW State Theme: Accommodation



The role of Oran Park House as a reflection of its socio-economic context; its relationship to its immediate and wider pastoral setting; and its current relationship to housing development in Camden as a South Western Growth Centre. (Source: Oran Park House Conservation Management Plan, GML, June 2010)

Australian Historic Theme Developing Australia's Cultural Life

NSW State Theme: Creative Endeavour



A representative example of a mid-nineteenth century Victorian house. The interwar Georgian Revival alterations and additions to the house represent an important and substantial overlay. (Source: Oran Park House Conservation Management Plan, GML, June 2010)

Australian Historic Theme Marking the Phases of Life

NSW State Theme: Persons



Oran Park's association with Edward Lomas Moore, one of the largest landowners in the Campbelltown district; and John and Ashley Dawson-Damer, prominent in Australian and international motor racing. (Source: Oran Park House Conservation Management Plan, GML, June 2010)

3.5 Key Stories and Messages for Interpretation

Key stories are developed through the analysis of the historic themes outlined above. The stories convey the layered history of Catherine Fields (Part) Precinct 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 reflection on 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 over time. These resources are the key ingredients of interpretive planning. We can use the Precinct, its features and the changes that have occurred over time to tell the stories of the Catherine Fields (Part) Precinct.

This narrative framework captures and expands upon the historic themes; and reflects the evolution of the Catherine Fields (Part) Precinct 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.

Some of the stories for Catherine Fields (Part) Precinct that may be interpreted include:

A Home for the Bittern—The riparian corridor contains remnant species of Swamp Oak floodplain forest and has been identified as a habitat of the endangered water bird, the bittern. This ashy bird roosts on the ground amongst dense roots. It has found a habitat in the reeds and swampy areas of the riparian corridor within the Catherine Fields (Part) Precinct. Look out for water birds.

Key Message: Endangered flora and fauna species within the Precinct.



Figure 3.1 Left to right: Australian Bittern. (Source: Richard Hill images); Looking north from Oran Park House towards habitat. (Source: GML 2010); Location where Australasian Bittern were observed within the Catherine Fields (Part) Precinct. (Source: *Catherine Fields (Part) Precinct: Australasian Bittern Habitat* by Eco Logical Australia for the NSW Department of Planning & Infrastructure, October 2013)

Layers of our Past—Cowpastures Road and Cobbitty Road remain markers of the area’s first layers of subdivision. Established along the boundaries of the Macquarie era land grants, Cowpastures Road became iconic in the early twentieth century as the location of Sydney’s grand Georgian estates. However, the names of these roads have now been lost to history, with this section of Cowpastures Road now called Camden Valley Way, and Cobbitty Road now called Oran Park Drive. Small five-acre hobby farms along Cowpastures Road and Cobbitty Road were subdivided from the large estate in the 1960s. Further subdivision is about to begin as part of the Catherine Fields (Part) Precinct development.

Key Messages:

- Early European occupation of the site.
- Historic road alignment associations with early land grants.
- Changing uses within the Precinct.
- Transformation of the landscape from rural retreat to urban growth centre.



Figure 3.2 Left to right: 1840 sketch depicting the Cowpastures. (Source: *Camden History* by John Wrigley); 1928 view of Cobbitty Road. (Source: Camden Local Studies Library); and the internal roads of the Oran Park Estate in 1972. (Source: Camden local Studies Library)

Rural Retreat—Although established in 1829 (with Oran Park House constructed in the 1860s), the site was leased to many different people and had a variety of uses including a dairy farm, a golf course and a trotting track. From 1968 it was owned by the Dawson-Damer family who embarked on comprehensive restoration of the property and re-established Oran Park as a rural retreat, housing John Dawson-Damer’s vintage racing cars in adjacent sheds. The Catherine Fields (Part) Precinct development will add a new layer of residential, community and commercial use.

The land use pattern of large rural estates and small towns, established in the early nineteenth century, remained the pattern of development up until the late 1990s.

Key Messages:

- OPH as a rural retreat.
- The transforming appearance of OPH and the Precinct as a reflection of use.

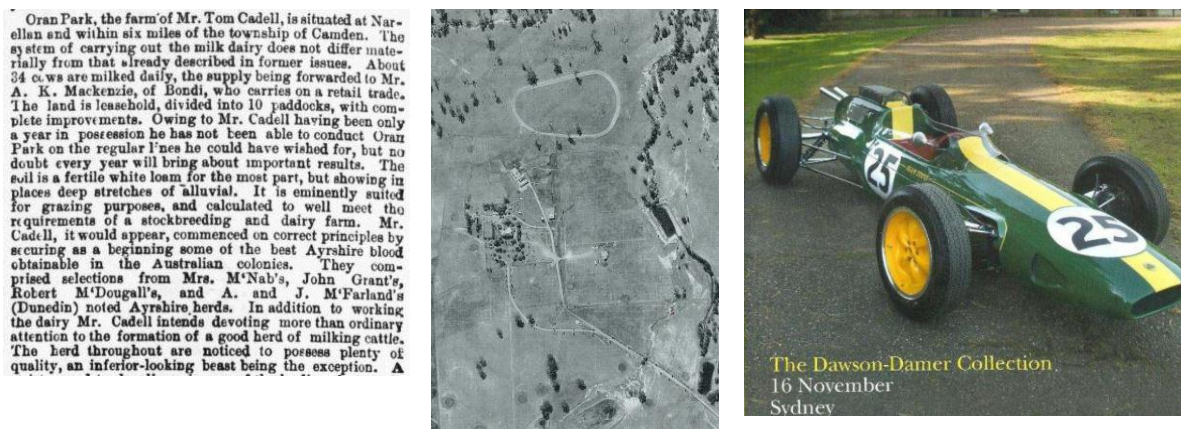


Figure 3.3 Left to right: Article about Oran Park Dairy. (Source: *Sydney Mail* 1883); 1965 aerial view of Oran Park when in use as a golf course and trotting track. (Source: Department of Lands); and one of John Dawson-Damer’s Vintage racing cars. (Source: <<http://www.hsrca.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/M-O-Newsletter-19.pdf>>)

Aboriginal Stories—The local Aboriginal people in this area include the Darug, Dharawal and Gundungurra language groups. Stories and messages regarding the Aboriginal pre-contact history and post-European contact relationships between Aboriginal and European people need to be developed in consultation with the local Aboriginal community as part of the development of an Aboriginal Interpretation Strategy for the Precinct.

3.6 Endnotes

- ¹ Letter from Glenda Chalker, Hon. Chairperson of Cubbitch Barta Native Title Claimants Aboriginal Corporation, 7 July 2012, Appendix B, Catherine Fields (Part) Precinct South West Growth Centre Aboriginal Heritage Assessment, Kelleher Nightingale Consulting, July 2012.

4.0 Interpretation Policy Development—*What Resources Are Available?*

4.1 Opportunities for Interpretation

Interpreting the history and significance of Catherine Fields (Part) Precinct will help sustain its significance, character and authenticity as part of the new development. Before decisions about future interpretation can be made, it is important to understand the physical and other practical opportunities and constraints that will have a bearing on the future of the Precinct. Elements that may inform or constrain future opportunities for interpretation are outlined below.

Resources available to inform the interpretation of the Catherine Fields (Part) Precinct include not only the physical evidence associated with the site, but also historic records; such as photographs, any archaeology, drawings and plans, stories held within the community, published histories and unpublished research and reports (eg CMP and HA reports).

4.1.1 Catherine Fields (Part) Precinct Context

Proposed SHR Curtilage for Oran Park House (OPH)

Extensive negotiations over recent years between the NSW Heritage Council, the previous owner of OPH (Valad), Camden Council and DP&I, have evolved the configuration and detailing of the exhibited SHR curtilage for OPH. It relates to the surrounding development layouts, scale and planning controls which were incorporated in the Indicative Layout Plan (ILP). The final details of the SHR curtilage for OPH will be negotiated by the current owners with the Heritage Branch. This will include the development of detailed Heritage Act exemptions, as necessary, to remove any unnecessary administration and the finalisation of various reports.¹

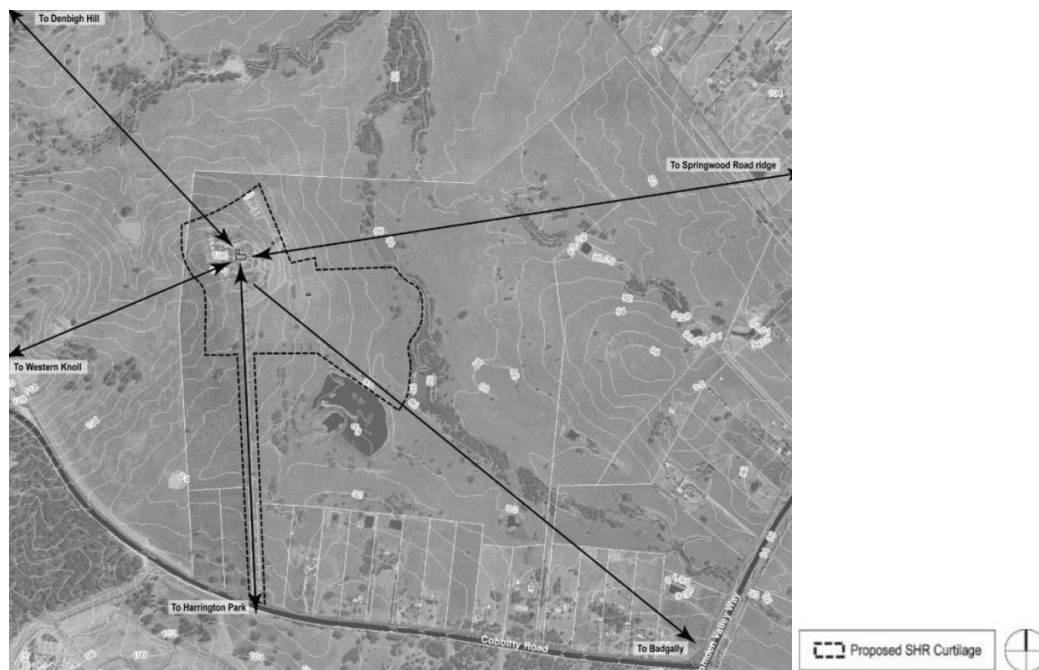


Figure 4.1 Recommended SHR curtilage for OPH and garden (with views). (Source: 2012 GML Non-Indigenous Heritage Assessment)

Existing Interpretation—Indicative Layout Plan

Interpretation of the Precinct's heritage values was a key aspect in preparing the Indicative Layout Plan (ILP). The following interpretive initiatives in the exhibited ILP provide for interpretation of the Precinct's heritage values at a master planning level. The opportunity for further interpretation through implementation of specific interpretive devices is part of the next phase of design development:

- The prominence of OPH as a local hilltop landmark will be retained through a detailed subdivision layout design and development management mechanisms within the new residential development that will surround the house and garden.
- Cycleways/pedestrian paths along both former driveways will avoid disturbing the archaeological evidence of the historic driveways, with vehicular roads to run in parallel and minimal vehicular crossings.
- Retention of existing trees along the full length of the eastern side of Oran Park Drive (former Cobbitty Road) driveway are to be strengthened and driveway crossings minimised to avoid a loss of trees.
- Avenue planting of the driveway to Camden Valley Way is to be strengthened through the replacement of trees, as needed, between the house and South Creek; and driveway crossings are to be minimised and designed to avoid avenue trees.
- The coach house is to be retained within a separate ownership allotment of at least 10m to each side, maintaining its visual links.
- Public open space between the coach house and OPH is to retain the visual connection with the house.
- The cultural landscape, historic views and linkages are to be interpreted in the Precinct street layout.

Subject to proposed uses and accessibility, the initiatives identified above provide opportunities for the further implementation of interpretive devices.

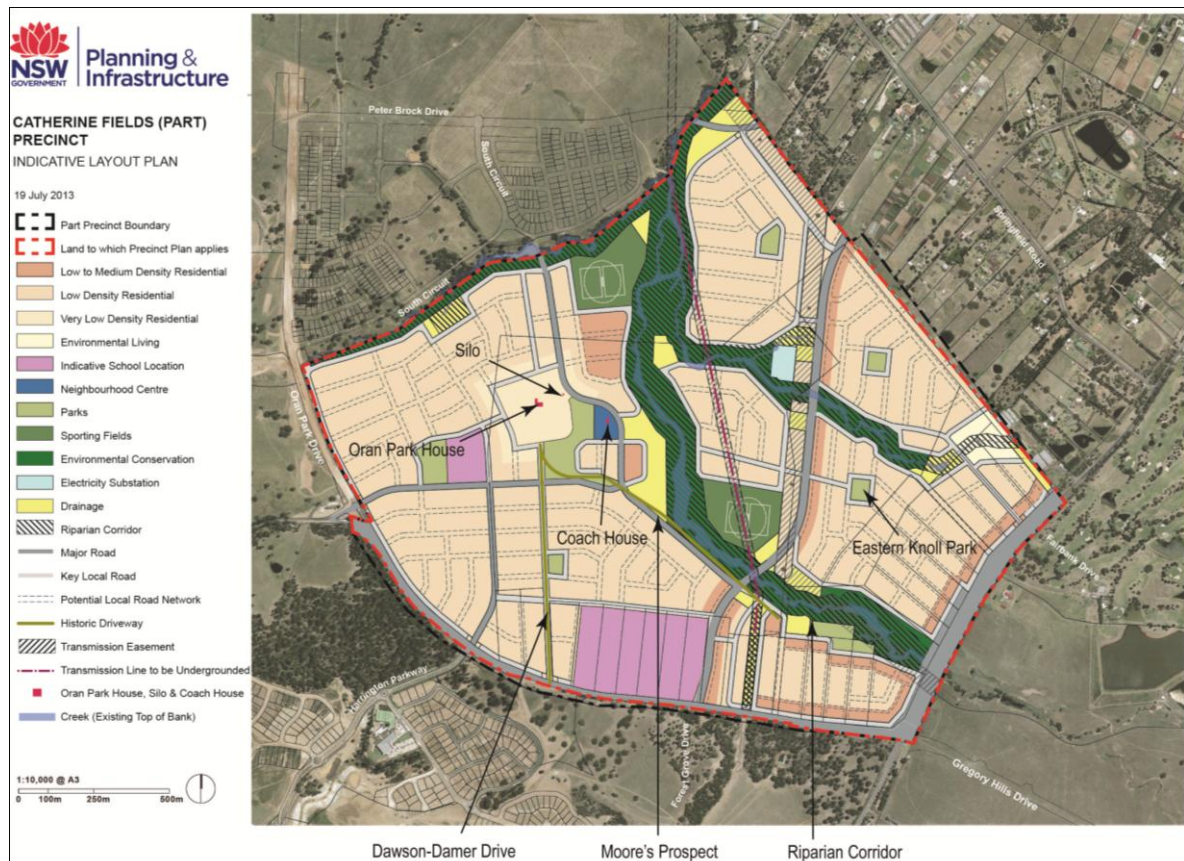


Figure 4.2 Catherine Fields (Part) Precinct Indicative Layout Plan, 19 July 2013, showing proposed locations for interpretation initiatives. (Source: NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure with GML overlay)

Opportunities

Preferred locations are generally within areas proposed for public use, such as the neighbourhood centre (proposed reuse of the coach house), roadways (particularly Dawson-Damer Drive and Moore's Prospect), environmental conservation zones and areas of passive and active open space (outbuildings and elements within the SHR curtilage and the eastern knoll park).

4.1.2 Historical Archaeology

The historical archaeological resources of Catherine Fields (Part) Precinct are generally associated with OPH, such as archaeological evidence of former buildings and other features or infrastructure (eg driveways or outbuildings). Potential types of archaeology found may include (refer to Figure 3.2 for possible locations within the Precinct):

- Evidence of the original c1830s dwelling house—in the area surrounding the existing OPH. This evidence may include structural remains (post holes, stone or brick foundations), paving, pits, occupation deposits, artefacts, and other features and/or deposits.
- Evidence of nineteenth-century outbuildings and other farm buildings and infrastructure—concentrated around OPH and the coach house. This evidence may include structural remains (post holes, stone or brick foundations), paved floors or paths, occupation deposits (internal or yard deposits), garden features (garden bed edging, paths, botanical evidence), privies, wells, cisterns, and/or other features and deposits.

- Evidence of early driveways—the existing Cobbitty Road entrance drive appears to follow the alignment of the original driveway, so earlier driveway surfaces (eg packed earth, gravel, paving, cobblestones), including the original driveway, may survive beneath the existing surface. Sections of a second entry drive, which extended from OPH to the intersection of Cobbitty Road and Camden Valley Way, also survive in the study area.



Figure 4.3 Areas of historical archaeological potential. (Source: GML HA 2012)

Opportunities

Due to the retention of OPH (and silo) as a private residence, it is unlikely that public interpretation of historic archaeology will be implemented in the area directly surrounding the house. A more public opportunity to interpret the site archaeology is in the passive open space to the south and southeast of OPH, along Dawson-Damer Drive and Moore’s Prospect, and at the coach house, which is proposed for community/commercial use.

4.1.3 Aboriginal Cultural Heritage

One of the core principles of planning Aboriginal heritage interpretation is that Aboriginal people are involved and have the opportunity to tell their own stories.

The consideration of Aboriginal cultural heritage interpretation will require engagement with the local Aboriginal community who are the rightful interpreters of their heritage. Further research into Aboriginal and European relations during the post-European contact period is also required. There may be opportunities to provide interpretive signage that acknowledges the traditional owners. It

may be possible to incorporate the names of plants and animals in traditional language into street and place names within the development.

Prior to the development of interpretive initiatives for Aboriginal cultural heritage (such as naming in traditional language or public art commissions), an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Interpretation Strategy should be prepared in consultation with Aboriginal stakeholder groups.

4.1.4 Built Heritage

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

The built heritage in the Catherine Fields (Part) Precinct is mainly confined to items within the proposed SHR curtilage including OPH, the silo, the coach house, the two main entry roads (Dawson-Damer Drive and Moore's Prospect), as well as items throughout the Precinct such as retained country roads, fences and tracks.

Opportunities

The heritage conservation strategies provided in the 'Catherine Fields (Part) Precinct Non-Indigenous Heritage Assessment' are intended to guide the future subdivision and residential development of the Catherine Fields (Part) Precinct and interpret its heritage values through the provision of built form, scale, setback and landscaping requirements, open space areas to maintain a sense of Oran Park's former rural character, and key views and vistas to and from OPH and the coach house.

Due to the retention of OPH, limited public interpretation of its built heritage significance is likely to be implemented within the house itself. There is the opportunity to interpret OPH through events such as an annual heritage open day, potentially providing access to the house, or to its garden and outbuildings, with guided tours and picnics in the gardens of OPH, such as the Open Gardens Scheme, or Sydney Open days.

The interpretation of the built heritage values of OPH as part of the larger estate could be provided through the implementation of interpretive devices in the coach house, in public open space in the vicinity of the silo, or in the park area adjacent to southeast of OPH.

4.1.5 Cultural Landscape

Cultural landscapes are important references to the history of the Precinct's development. 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.

Cultural landscape interpretation has been integrated into the ILP, and will be conserved and interpreted in the layout and design of the Precinct by:

- Responding to the historic views and linkages to OPH in the Precinct street layout, with the original Cobbitty Road driveway being retained and reused as a bicycle/pedestrian track, sustaining its archaeological values. A new local road (to be named Dawson-Damer Drive to commemorate the family's conservation of OPH) is proposed to run parallel to interpret the archaeological values of the driveway, and reinforce the major historic and axial views to and

from the house and the approach from its 'home farm', Harrington Park. The existing entrance arrangements at the Cobbitty Road intersection will be retained and enhanced, offering interpretive signage opportunities for the Precinct.

- Retaining continuity of the existing line of eucalyptus in the landscaping of the Cobbitty Road driveway by designing the allotment layout to minimise driveway crossings through shared driveways and alternate access from side roads.
- Adapting the former Camden Valley Way driveway to also function as a pedestrian/bicycle track, reaching as far as South Creek with an interpreted path through the riparian corridor beyond. It is to be named Moore's Prospect to commemorate the Moore Family who moved from Oran Park to Badgally House and the historic prospect from OPH in that direction.
- Creating and interpreting new views of the house from the knoll in the eastern precinct. A park is planned for this location, with an axially located roadway and an avenue of trees framing the view to the house.
- Ensuring that the public domain planting palette for the Precinct does not mimic the historic exotic plantings of OPH (other than reinforcing the historic plantings of the two driveways mentioned), and remains low in scale relative to the OPH garden.
- Retaining (where possible) views to, from and through the Precinct; for example, towards Denbigh Hill from OPH, from Oran Park town centre to the rear of OPH, to and from the western knoll to OPH, and the Springfield Road ridge glimpses.
- Conserving the remnant stand of trees in the paddock southeast of OPH adjacent to the large dam as part of the proposed streetscape.

Opportunities

These design concepts have been integrated into the ILP and will be enhanced through specific interpretive devices such as signage, place names and public art, to tell the story of the cultural landscape.

4.1.6 Natural Heritage Values

Natural heritage interpretation often emphasizes individual species and vegetation communities in isolation; however, it is important to tell the story of the natural environment in a broader context of human impact (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 most dense and extensive vegetation within the Catherine Fields (Part) Precinct is the riparian vegetation formed by thickets of swamp oak (*Casuarina glauca*), mainly along the riparian corridor and also along several of its tributaries. Associated with the swamp oak are some *Melaleuca decora* and prickly-leaved tea tree (*M. styphelioides*). Examples can be seen along the riparian corridor.

The Precinct is also a habitat for the fauna species *Botaurus poiciloptilus* (Australasian Bittern), which has been observed within the riparian corridor.² Australasian Bittern is a threatened species listed as endangered under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity*

Conservation Act 1999 and endangered under the *NSW Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*.

Opportunities

There is an opportunity to interpret native riparian vegetation and the remnant Swamp Oak floodplain forest; however, natural heritage values have been extensively cleared since European occupation. The riparian corridor and adjacent environmental conservation zones are publically accessible areas that provide a great opportunity for interpreting these values.

Interpretation of endangered flora and fauna (specifically the Bittern) can help conservation through incorporation of information into walking trails for the public and school environmental education programs. Careful consideration of the location of such information is essential to avoid focusing possible disturbance.

4.2 Potential Audiences for Interpretation of the Catherine Fields (Part) Precinct

The Camden Council area has a population of over 56,700.³ There are over 5323 people living within the Leppington–Catherine Fields area.

The Catherine Fields (Part) Precinct is targeted to provide over 3000 new dwellings and the expected population is 10,000 people. The demographic is anticipated to consist mainly of young families with children and younger couples.⁴

The heritage values of Catherine Fields (Part) Precinct and its relationship to OPH provide opportunities to create an identity for the incoming community in this fast growing area. Communicating the significance of the Precinct's heritage values to current and future residents in the Camden Council 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 Catherine Fields (Part) Precinct, predicted to be mostly first home buyers, younger families with children;
- learning audiences such as K-12 students at the proposed school locations;
- visitors from nearby suburbs (such as Liverpool, Campbelltown and Narellan) using bike/walking trails, sporting facilities and/or the community centre;
- relatives and friends visiting residents in the Catherine Fields (Part) Precinct;
- people with associations including former/current landowners; members of the Camden Historical Society and Camden Council; and
- heritage enthusiasts.

Opportunities

Given that the majority of public space will include recreational facilities such as parks and playing fields, the primary potential audience is likely to comprise of mostly young families and children.

Family-friendly tactile and visual interpretive devices are therefore recommended, such as interpretive play equipment, walking/bike trails, and family oriented activities and events.

4.3 Endnotes

- ¹ Reports to be finalised include Oran Park House Conservation Management Plan and the Catherine Fields (Part) Precinct Landscape Management Plan.
- ² Catherine Fields (Part) Precinct: Australasian Bittern Habitat, Ecological, September 2013.
- ³ Profile ID, Camden Council Area Profile, 2013 <<http://profile.id.com.au/camden/population>> accessed 8 May 2013.
- ⁴ Department of Planning & Infrastructure, *Catherine Fields (Part) Precinct Planning Report*, November 2012 pp 48–49.

5.0 Draft Interpretation Strategy—*What's Proposed?*

5.1 Interpretation Recommendations

5.1.1 Interpretative 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 Catherine Fields (Part) Precinct, and are to be integrated into the Public Domain Plan.

5.1.2 Interpretation Objectives

By interpreting the many and diverse heritage values of Catherine Fields (Part) Precinct there is an opportunity for people to enjoy and experience the historic themes and stories of the Precinct. By making connections with the past, visitors will better understand the context of their surroundings and value them. A range of potential interpretive initiatives and locations has been identified in order to communicate the history and heritage of the Precinct to the key audiences identified with authenticity and sophistication.

It is not anticipated that all the initiatives identified in this IS will be selected for implementation. Rather, they are intended to help identify the key interpretive concepts before proceeding to detailed development, design and content. As such, the initiatives will be subject to further client and stakeholder review and refinement, particularly in relation to the public domain and landscaping plan.

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.

Resources will need to be set aside for detailed design, content development and evaluation to ensure a unified, accessible and consistent interpretive experience for the Catherine Fields (Part) Precinct.

5.1.3 Potential Interpretative Media

The range of potential initiatives include:

- interpretive signage;
- public art;
- artefact displays (if uncovered);
- interpretive play equipment;
- annual events/open days at OPH or the coach house;
- interpretive publication (web based or printed), integrated into the estate sale;
- street and place naming;
- walking/bike trails; and

- the heritage items: the driveways, the silo, the coach house, Oran Park House and views to Oran Park House.

5.1.4 Potential Interpretative Media Locations

Suggested locations for interpretive media are described below, generally located on Figure 5.1, include:

- **Location 1:** Adjacent OPH allotment (including gardens and silo)—annual open day, guided tours, annual family picnics.
 - **Key message:** OPH as a rural retreat.
 - **Key story:** Rural Retreat.
 - **Historic themes:** Persons, Creative Endeavour, Accommodation and Cultural Landscape.
- **Location 2:** Cycleway/pedestrian paths along both former driveways—public art, interpretive signage.
 - **Key message:** Historic road alignment associations with early land grants and transformation of the landscape from rural retreat to urban growth centre.
 - **Key story:** Layers of our Past.
 - **Historic themes:** Land Tenure, Pastoralism and Cultural Landscape.
- **Location 3:** Public open space between the coach house and OPH—interpretive signage, public art, play equipment and historic naming for the public open spaces.
 - **Key message:** Early European occupation of the site, and transformation of the landscape from rural retreat to urban growth centre.
 - **Key story:** Layers of Our Past.
 - **Historic themes:** Land Tenure, Pastoralism and Cultural Landscape.
- **Location 4:** Riparian corridor—nature walking/bike trail, public art, signage.
 - **Key message:** Endangered flora and fauna species within the Precinct.
 - **Key story:** A Home for the Bittern.
 - **Historic themes:** Environment—Naturally evolved.
- **Location 5:** The coach house—depending on use, interpretation of historic archaeology surrounding the coach house (if any), interpretive signage, artefact displays.
 - **Key message:** Early history and pastoral use, the transforming appearance of the Precinct as a reflection of its historic uses, and changing uses within the Precinct.
 - **Key story:** Layers of Our Past and Rural Retreat.

- **Historic themes:** Persons, Land Tenure, Pastoralism and Cultural Landscape.
- **Throughout:** historic naming—place, park and street names to be drawn from all of the above identified themes.

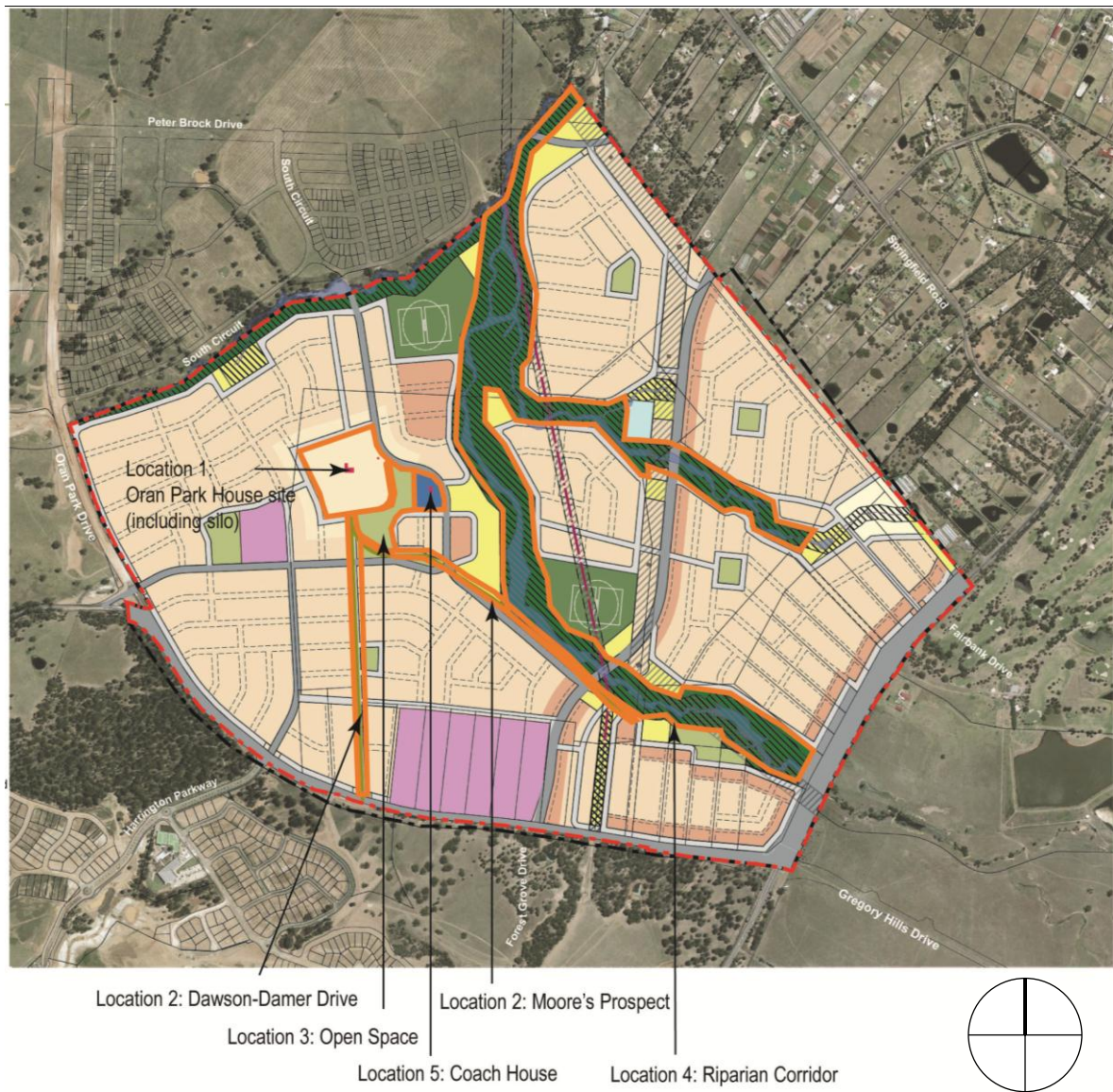


Figure 5.1 Catherine Fields (Part) Precinct ILP with potential interpretative media locations highlighted in orange. (Source: NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure with GML overlay)

5.2 Implementation

Interpretation of the history and significance of Catherine Fields (Part) Precinct is an integral part of the future planning for the development of the Precinct, providing a context for the new community.

As discussed in Section 1.4, this report represents Stage 1 of the three stage interpretation planning process. Subsequent stages to develop and implement the recommended interpretation initiatives would be carried out by a qualified heritage consultant in collaboration with an interpretive designer when preparing the initial development applications. A table identifying potential interpretation tasks and responsibilities is included in Appendix B.

5.3 Suggested Interpretative Media and Locations

Interpretative Device 1—Public Art and Play Equipment

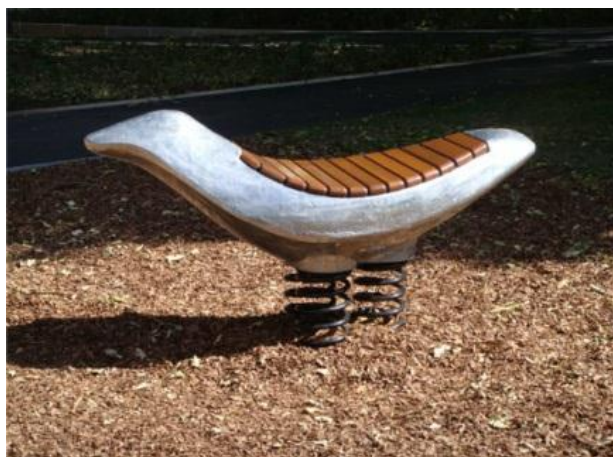
Location	Eastern Knoll Park. Open space between the coach house and OPH. Along walking and bike trails.
Audience	Residents, visitors, specifically families and children.
Stories	Aboriginal Stories, A Home for the Bittern, Layers of our Past.
Potential Interpretation Initiatives	Play equipment. Public art sculptures.
Examples	As below.



Hamilton North Parkland, Newcastle.



Public art sculptures in a landscape setting interpreting pastoral history. Sheep on the Road, by Deborah Brown, Belfast, Ireland.



Children's play equipment at Redfern Park, Redfern, Sydney.



Public art sculptures interpreting natural environment, Centennial Park, Sydney.

Interpretative Device 2—Walking and Bike Trails

Location	Riparian corridor Dawson-Damer Drive Moore's Prospect
Audience	Residents and visitors .
Stories	A Home for the Bittern, Layers of Our Past.
Potential Interpretation Initiatives	Walking/cycling trail. Interpretive signage. Seating, route markers and/or pathway surfaces.
Examples	As below.



Walking trail and interpretive media, Centennial Park, Sydney.



Walking trail, Centennial Park, Sydney.



Interpretive media, Centennial Park, Sydney.



Botany Bay National Park walking trail and interpretive signage.

Interpretive Device 3—Street and Place Naming

Location	Street names within Precinct. Eastern Knoll Park. Open space between the coach house and OPH. Neighbourhood centre (the coach house).
Audience	Residents, visitors and workers.
Stories	All stories.
Potential Interpretation Initiatives	Suitable names could potentially include words from the local Indigenous language or names of prominent landholders in the area, historically important figures connected to the area or names of local native plant types (refer to Appendix A).
Examples	As below.



A coreten 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, associated place name.



Place naming with poetry excerpts in Kings Cross, Sydney.



Place naming for the former Lidcombe Hospital site, Sydney, reflects former use of area.

Interpretative Device 4—Interpretive Signage

Location	Walking/bicycle trails. Riparian corridor. The coach house. Eastern Knoll Park. Open space between the coach house and OPH. Adjacent to OPH and the silo.
Audience	Residents, visitors and workers.
Stories	All stories.
Potential Interpretation Initiatives	Interpretive signage for the Precinct should be situated at key locations to communicate historical information that reflects the layers and significance of the Precinct.
Examples	As below.



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



Coreten interpretive signage at Brooklyn with see-through sections featuring comparative historic photographs.



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



Signage at Botany Bay National Park, La Perouse

Interpretative Device 5—Artefact Displays

Location	The coach house (historic). Eastern Knoll Park (Aboriginal).
Audience	Residents, visitors and workers.
Stories	Aboriginal Stories, Layers of Our Past.
Potential Interpretation Initiatives	Aboriginal or historical artefacts uncovered in archaeological salvages (if any) could be presented as part of a display in the coach house or Eastern Knoll Park (depending on use).
Examples	As below.



Artefact displays at The Rocks Discovery Centre, Sydney.



Historic archaeological display cases, the Big Dig site, YHA Sydney Harbour.



Artefact display from the on-site excavation in Little Lonsdale Street, Melbourne.



Artefact display from the on-site excavation at Bullecourt Place, Pyrmont.

Interpretative Device 6—Interpretive Events

Location	OPH allotment (including gardens and silo).
Audience	Residents and visitors, specifically families and children.
Stories	Rural Retreat, Layers of Our Past.
Potential Interpretation Initiatives	Annual open day providing access to the house, its gardens and outbuildings, guided tours and picnics in the gardens of OPH (possibly as part of Sydney Open). Publicity material.
Examples	As below.



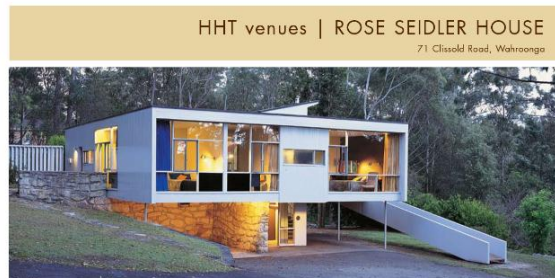
Old Government House Open Day, Victoria.



Re-enactment of historic events, Castle Hill Convict Site, Sydney.



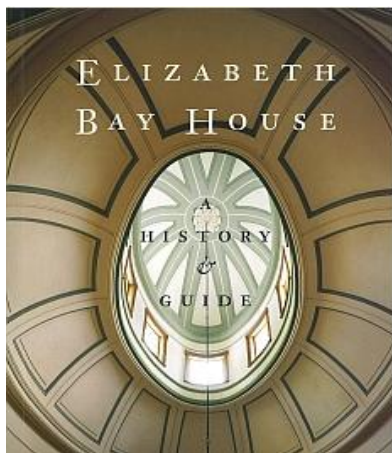
Sydney Opera House Open Day publicity material.



Rose Seidler House Open Day promotional material, as part of HHT Sydney Open 2012.

Interpretive Device 7—Interpretive Publications

Location	Off site, printed and/or web based content able to be delivered in a variety of formats.
Audience	Broad audience including special interest groups and others wanting to engage with detailed content.
Stories	All stories.
Potential Interpretation Initiatives	History of OPH publication. Web based history and significance material on Catherine Fields promotional website. Site hoardings during the construction period.
Examples	As below.



Historic House Trust publication for Elizabeth Bay House.



Web based interpretation of Harrington Park, Harrington Grove



Site hoarding with interpretation messages during construction, Canberra Glassworks.



Historical publications and events by local societies and community groups.

Interpretative Device 8—Oran Park House and Associated Heritage Items

Location	OPH and garden, coach house, Dawson-Damer Drive and Moore's Prospect.
Audience	Residents, visitors, historians, heritage enthusiasts.
Stories	All stories.
Potential Interpretation Initiatives	ILP and Public Domain and Landscape Strategy retain views to and from heritage items. Conservation Management Plans to direct conservation work for OPH, silo and gardens and adaptive reuse of coach house. Landscape Management Plan to manage OPH Gardens to retain visual prominence. Archaeology monitoring, management and adaptive reuse of Dawson-Damer Drive and Moore's Prospect as pedestrian and bicycle routes.



OPH silo, to be conserved and adapted.



The coach house, a robust adaptive re-use opportunity for in community/commercial use



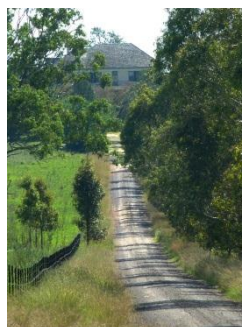
OPH and its gardens, to be conserved.



Views of OPH from Oran Park town , conserved through ILP. (Source: Aecom)



Potential design for walking and bicycle paths along Dawson-Damer Drive. (Source: Aecom Landscape and Visual Analysis)



Proposed Dawson-Damer Drive to be conserved as a pedestrian path/bicycle route retaining archaeology and axial views to OPH.

6.0 Appendices

Appendix A

Suggested Interpretive Street and Place Names for the Catherine Fields (Part) Precinct

Appendix B

Interpretation Tasks and Responsibilities

Appendix A

Suggested Interpretive Street and Place Names for the Catherine Fields (Part) Precinct

Appendix A: Suggested Interpretive Street and Place Names for the Catherine Fields (Part) Precinct

Former owners/occupiers of OPH:

- *Dawson-Damer Drive*: Longest owners/occupiers of OPH from 1969–2008.
- *Moore's Prospect*: OPH was owned by the wealthy Moore family from 1871–1939.
- *Campbell Street*: Oran Park Estate was originally part of an 1815 grant to William Douglas Campbell.
- *Graham's Drive*: George Graham purchased 200 acres on the corner of Cobbitty Road and Cowpasture Road in 1829, which became known as 'Graham's Farm'.
- *Johnson Avenue*: Henry William Johnson and the Johnson family owned/occupied OPH from 1842–1867.
- *Robbins Lane*: The Robbins family owned/occupied OPH from 1939–1945.
- *Essington Place*: Essington Moore was born at OPH in 1881, to Edward Lomas and Francis Moore.
- *Francis Place*: Francis Margaret Hartley, second wife of Edward Lomas Moore.
- *Lionel Place*: The Hon. Lionel John Charles Seymour Dawson-Damer, motor racing enthusiast and owner/occupier of OPH from 1969 until 2000.
- *Ashley Street*: Ashley Dawson–Damer, wife of the Hon. Lionel John Charles Seymour Dawson-Damer, longest owner/occupier of OPH from 1969–2008.
- *Cadell Circuit*: Thomas Cadell, farmer, who leased and operated Oran Park as a dairy in the 1880s.
- *Cleary Road*: Daniel Cleary, a local grazier and contractor re-subdivided the land of Oran Park and Graham's Farm to form two large allotments in 1946.
- *Booth Street*: Arthur Raymond Booth and Robert Leslie Booth purchase Oran Park in June 1946. They sold the property just over a year later.
- *Frost Avenue*: John Thomas Vivian Frost owned the property from 1947–1960.
- *Inglis Street*: OPH was inherited by William Inglis and Alexander Lomas Inglis. However, the bequest was not settled until in 1904, when William Inglis had died.
- *Star Street*: Edward Star of Rose Bay, hotel proprietor, and his wife Emily Laura Star purchased the property as an investment from 1961–1962.
- *Joyce Avenue*: Joyce Edith Robbins, wife of Hubert Robbins, inherited OPH in 1945.

Dairy Farm/ Pastoral Use: In the 1880s Thomas Cadell operated Oran Park as a dairy. Mr Cadell devoted attention to forming a good herd of milking cattle. Cultivation on the property consisted of

12 acres including imphee, oats and barley. Mr Cadell was also considered an authority on pig and poultry breeding which formed an important feature of his farm.

- *Dairy Road*
- *Imphee Street*
- *Barley Avenue*
- *Oat Lane*
- *Pasture Road*

Golf Course: In the 1960s Oran Park was converted into an 18-hole golf course using OPH as the club house. The coach house was used as a function room for visiting clubs and barbeque areas were attached to both the coach house and the rear of OPH.

- *Golf Place*
- *Putt Lane*
- *Fairway Close*
- *Backswing Alley*
- *Caddie Street*

Motorsports/Vintage racing cars: John Dawson-Damer (as he was known), a motor racing enthusiast, was attracted to Oran Park partly because of its proximity to Oran Park Raceway. In the old milking sheds and stables at the rear of the property he housed his racing and vintage cars, later, c1990, constructing larger modern shed for his new purchases. He collected vintage Lotus cars.

- *Lotus Road*
- *Victory Lane*
- *Lap Street*

Flora and Fauna:

- *Angophora Street:* remnant broad-leaved apple (*Angophora Subvelutina*) were located in the eastern paddock precinct.
- *Casuarina Avenue:* The most dense and extensive vegetation within the precinct is the riparian vegetation formed by thickets of swamp oak (*Casuarina Glauca*).
- *Melaleuca Avenue:* Associated with the swamp oak are prickly leaved tea-tree (*Melaleuca Decora*).
- *Eucalyptus Avenue:* Remnant forest red gum (*Eucalyptus Tereticornis*) located in the eastern paddock precinct.
- *Red Gum Avenue:* as above.

- *Woodlands Drive*: The precinct is located within the Cumberland Plain.
- *Wetlands Road*: Wetland environments surround the Riparian Corridor.

Aboriginal words: should also be incorporated into street and place names, subject to consultation with Aboriginal Stakeholder groups as part of the Aboriginal Interpretation Strategy for the precinct.

Appendix B

Interpretation Tasks and Responsibilities

Appendix B: Interpretation Tasks and Responsibilities

Tasks	To be carried out by
Interpretation Plan: Stage 2—Content Development	
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 and interpretive designer
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 and interpretive designer
Interpretation Plan: Stage 3—Implementation	
Detailed design of interpretive media	Interpretive designer, briefed by qualified heritage consultant
Produce interpretive media	Producer/fabricator in collaboration with qualified heritage consultant and interpretive designer