Recent history

Until Edward Cox’s death in 1868, prized merino sheep were bred on the estate. From the late 1800s, the property changed hands and was used variously as a chicken, dairy and pig farm; as a private zoo and, more recently, as a venue for races, rock concerts and other events.

In the 1960s, the house gardens were reworked by renowned landscape designer Paul Sorensen and, in the 1980s, a racetrack was added. A bushfire in the year 2000 caused extensive damage to fences and trees.

Fernhill Estate includes areas of natural bushland that have been biobanked to ensure the estate’s biodiversity and conservation values are protected forever.

Fernhill Estate was acquired by the NSW Government in 2018. The government is preparing a Plan of Management that, when complete, will set out future uses and requirements to preserve and manage Fernhill Estate for the benefit of the community.
Western Sydney’s Jewel

The 412-hectare Fernhill Estate is nestled in the Western Sydney village of Mulgoa, which takes its name from the traditional custodians of the area, the Mulgoa people who shared the Mulgoa Valley with Gandangara tribes.

Fernhill Estate’s European history began with an 1810 land grant to Edward Cox, the four-year-old son of local magistrate, William Cox.

The estate’s grand, Greek revival sandstone homestead was built in the 1840s, with a ballroom and eight bedrooms, as well as sitting, dining and dressing rooms.

Alongside the manor are stables, originally including a coach house and living quarters, which were later converted into an office.

COVID-19 restrictions

NSW Government public health orders for outdoor gatherings and social distancing during the COVID-19 pandemic apply.
Fernhill Walking Trail

Fernhill Estate is being opened for limited weekend access, via a 2.6-km scenic walking trail.

To find out more about Fernhill Estate and to register to take part in the weekend walk, visit www.planning.nsw.gov.au/fernhillestate.