

An initial assessment of the archaeological heritage of *Greenhills* Nowra, NSW.

September 1999



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Acknowledgments

This report of the initial assessment of the archaeological heritage of *Greenhills*, Nowra, NSW, is provided to Shoalhaven City Council in response to a brief issued on 15th July 1999.

Heritage Archaeology acknowledges the assistance and cooperation of Robyn Florance, Trish Todd, Colin Burgess and Ken Wills.

Shoalhaven City Council officers, Wayne Brighton and John Flett, provided advice and facilitated the completion of the initial assessment.

1.0 Introduction: Initial Archaeological Assessment of *Greenhills*

This report is based upon an initial archaeological assessment of *Graham Lodge* and the precinct of the historical *Greenhills* property, Nowra, NSW. The assessment was undertaken between the 7th September 1999 and 11th September 1999. Further research on archival materials was also conducted following these dates.

Important Notice

Please note that this report contains advice to Shoalhaven City Council (SCC) that is obligatory and subject to the statutory requirements of the *Heritage Act (NSW) 1977*. Statutory obligations to be observed by SCC exist, unless any statements made in this report are specifically qualified to be a 'recommendation' of the Archaeologist or Heritage Consultant.

This initial archaeological assessment does not authorise, infer or recommend to SCC any approval or permission to disturb, to destroy, to alter or renovate or to excavate any land, structure, geophysical feature, garden, vegetation or roadway within the precinct of the property known historically as *Greenhills*.

1.1 Aspects of this report

The report contains advice that addresses several issues:

1. initial archaeological assessment;
2. advice and recommendations regarding the management of relics *in situ* considered significant to the heritage of the Shoalhaven;
3. recommendations for educational purposes to maximise the public interest potential and exploitation of the heritage of the Shoalhaven (Appendix 1);
4. advice on the requirements of the *Heritage Act (NSW) 1977* to be met by SCC in relation to *Greenhills*;

The initial archaeological assessment was undertaken while monitoring the demolition of the disused Nowra Bomaderry Leagues Club (NBLC) and concentrated upon the area immediately surrounding *Graham Lodge*. During the initial archaeological assessment, the NBLC was partly demolished and undergoing refurbishment to become the Tourist Information Centre. Other remains of demolished buildings at the

time of initial assessment comprised the floor and foundations of *Prague Lodge*, pathways and gardens associated with the continued occupation of *Greenhills*.

Themes central to this report:

1. identification of any archaeological relic located during the initial archaeological assessment as defined by the Heritage Council of New South Wales and the New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service;
2. advice to SCC as to their obligation for the protection and security of any archaeological remains identified during the initial archaeological assessment;
3. advice to SCC as to the statutory requirements to be observed and procedures to be followed for the further investigation of any archaeological relics identified during the initial archaeological assessment and considered being of archaeological significance;
4. advice to SCC for the further investigation by test excavation, of the archaeological relics as identified during the initial assessment,;
5. recommendations to SCC for future possible use of the archaeological relics eg. educational, tourism and academic research;

Preliminary advice to Shoalhaven City Council

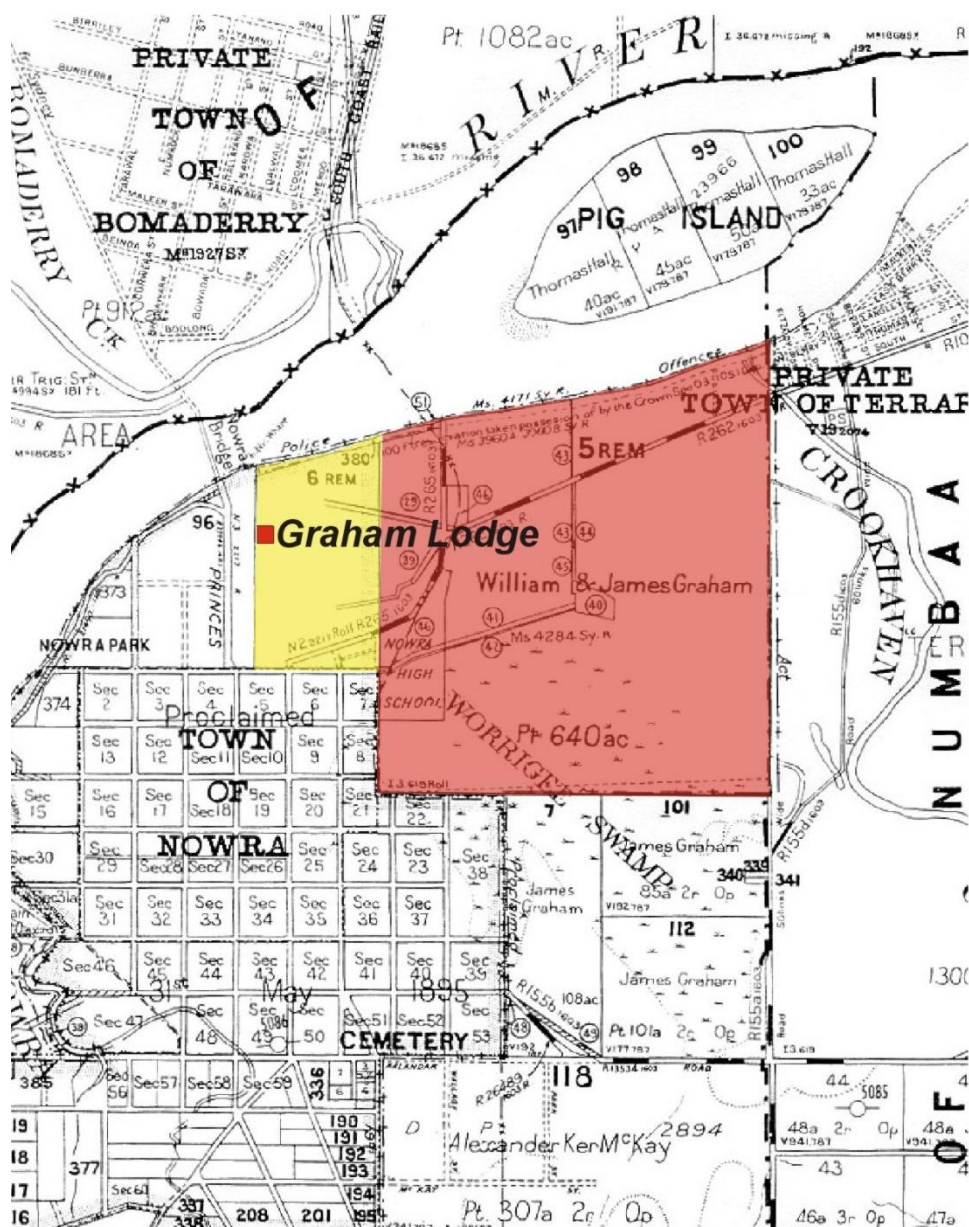
Preliminary advice, in accordance with the *Heritage Act (NSW) 1977*, was provided to Shoalhaven City Council (SCC) on 2nd August 1999, advising Council of its responsibilities for the conservation of archaeological resources on the property. Also, Council was advised of its obligations to have qualified, practising archaeologists undertake an archaeological assessment where 'development, building ... activity on the site could disturb archaeological features' [Section 1.7 *Archaeological Assessment Guidelines* 1996.]

1.2 The site of *Greenhills*

The portions comprising the original *Greenhills* property are:

1. shown in Figure 1;
2. defined in *Graham Lodge Precinct: Nowra; Conservation Management Plan, Volume 1 of 3, Conservation Analysis: Report* (Freeman et al 1999:1);

Location of the Greenhills property c1827 and Graham Lodge



(after: *Parish of Nowra, County of St. Vincent Edition 10*
Scale 20 chains = 1 inch)

Figure 1: Location of *Greenhills* property c1827.

The central issue of the initial archaeological assessment was the identification of any archaeological relics and the monitoring of the demolition of the remainder of the

NBLC, *Prague Lodge* and the paths associated with *Graham Lodge*. However, as construction and earthworks had commenced on site, it was necessary to extend the parameters of the initial archaeological assessment of the area to include the surrounding features associated with *Greenhills*. This reassessment was necessary to include the car park and surrounds associated with the redevelopment of the Tourist Information Centre.

As accurately as possible the original property boundaries were traced out and the existing landscape noted. Despite considerable development in the area many archaeological relics are present within the boundaries of the original 1827 property. These relics are not the central issues of this report however, they are noted and some comment is provided.

- These relics must be subject to future archaeological assessment prior to any development of these areas.

Greenhills was selected as the central identifying archaeological site for this report. An explanation of why the identifier was adopted is included in later section of the report.

1.3 Condition of *Greenhills* upon initial inspection

(a) The initial archaeological assessment commenced on 7th September 1999. The demolition by mechanical excavator of the remains of the Nowra Bombaderry Leagues Club (NBLC) had commenced.

(b) Construction work and refurbishment had commenced on a remaining section of the NBLC for conversion of this building into a Tourist Information Centre. The work had commenced prior to any archaeological assessment. Current planning supports that the NBLC is to be refurbished modified and converted into the Tourist Information Centre.

Previous advice received from SCC prior to arrival on site indicated that the NBLC building was to be totally demolished. It was understood that the demolition of the NBLC building would have been completed to concrete floor. The concrete floor was

then to be demolished with an archaeologist present. Any archaeological relics would be identified during the removal of the concrete floor. A determination would then have been made as to the significance of the relics and a research plan prepared if considered necessary.

(c) Immediate to the northern frontage of the remaining structure of the NBLC fronting Pleasant Way, a car park had been graded, in-filled with gravel and prepared for hard resurfacing. Garden plots for landscaping purposes complete with concrete kerbing, had been constructed and in-filled with soil and mulch prior to archaeological assessment.

(d) Telecommunication and electrical cables had been laid in the ground. Trenches for cables and conduits had been excavated and backfilled prior to archaeological assessment.

(e) Soil had been removed from the car park area and was redeposited on the verge of the footpath adjacent to Hawthorne Avenue. Also, a trench had been dug along this section to install underground electrical cables. Archaeological relics, considered significant, are present. It is impossible to confirm whether these relics have been disturbed from the sub-surface by the digging of the trench for the installation of the electrical cables or whether they were deposited in this location in scree produced by the grading of the car park or the digging of the garden plots. Considering the disturbance to these relics an accurate archaeological siting could not be concluded. However, the relics are considered to be in excess of 50 years old and associated with the early occupation and settlement of *Greenhills* (Figure 1).

(f) Modifications to the remaining structure of the NBLC to provide handicapped access for the proposed Tourist Information Centre had been completed prior to archaeological assessment (Figure 2). Trenches for footings for foundations had been excavated, backfilled or had concrete poured for footings or floors prior to archaeological assessment.

(g) Footings for the construction of extensions to the rear of the refurbished Nowra Bombaderry Leagues Club and approaching the curtilage of *Graham Lodge* had been dug and backfilled. Concrete footings and floors had been laid prior to archaeological assessment.

(h) Soil from the trenches dug for the footings of the building to construct the disabled persons entrance for the Tourist Information Centre had been deposited on the western side of the building on a grassed area. This grassed area contains archaeological relics and is considered to be the original ground surface associated with *Graham Lodge* (Figure 3).



Figure 2: Additions to the Tourist Information Centre to provide disabled person's access (8th September 1999).



Figure 3: Soil from footings for additions to the Tourist Information Centre to provide disabled person's access (8th September 1999).

(i) Inspection of *Graham Lodge* revealed that the original roof of the main building, as noted during inspection on 15th June 1999, had been modified. It also had been re-slatted.

Construction work was in progress on the Tourist Information Centre upon commencement of the initial archaeological survey and continued for the duration of the initial archaeological assessment.

1.4 Advice for further archaeological research

The area associated with *Greenhills* has been greatly affected by recent domestic, industrial and governmental development. Large swathes of the original *Greenhills* landscape, including areas of early settlement, have been destroyed by industrial, commercial and domestic development activities. The construction of the Nowra bypass road, the building of the present SCC Administration Centre and the Mavromattes residential development would be typical examples. Commercial development has also greatly impacted on the heritage integrity of *Greenhills* as evidenced by the construction of *Prague Lodge* and the NBLC.

Research indicates that no archaeological investigation of any of these areas was undertaken prior to the destruction of the sites and subsequent construction work. Such investigations are a requirement of the *Heritage Act (NSW) 1977* to which the SCC is obligated.

The document, *Graham Lodge Precinct: Nowra: Conservation Management Plan*, 3 vols. (Freeman et al. 1999) was prepared and presented to Shoalhaven City Council. It appears that SCC has not adopted or has disregarded several of the recommendations included in this report. No formal archaeological assessment of the indigenous occupation or subsequent European settlement was undertaken as part of the Conservation Management Plan.

The SCC was responsible under the *Heritage Act (NSW) 1977* to have an archaeological assessment undertaken and completed prior to the commencement of redevelopment of the NBLC into the Tourist Information Centre.

The SCC is responsible, to ensure that an archaeological assessment of *Greenhills* be completed before any further development or construction occurs in these areas (Figure 1).

1.5 Response to brief

Liase as required with other consultants employed by Council. Presently this is Council's Surveyor, Structural Engineers, Consultant Heritage Architect (and his local representative Architect) Architect for the change of use proposal.

A brief for the 'archaeology engagement' was received on 15th July 1999 following discussions and visits conducted to the site on the 15th June 1999 in accordance with the *Graham Lodge Precinct: Nowra: Conservation Management Plan*, recommendations.

Ken Wills advised that attendance on site was required on Tuesday 7th September 1999. This was to allow for the commencement of the initial archaeological assessment and the monitoring of the demolition of the remainder of *Prague Lodge* and the NBLC. Further advice confirmed that Colin Burgess would be on site with an end-loader to carry out the lifting of the cement slabs to enable the archaeological assessment to commence.

Liaison with SCC officers or consultants mentioned was not immediately possible because of urgencies arising from matters relating to the disturbance of relics present on site prior to the initial archaeological assessment. These issues needed to be addressed 'on site' as a priority.

It was previously advised that the building known as NBLC was to be totally demolished and replaced. The archaeological assessment of any remains exposed during demolition of the NBLC building and the remainder of the *Prague Lodge* was considered the primary purpose of this engagement.

SCC had altered plans for the change of use proposal for the NBLC without notification to Heritage Archaeology. The redevelopment of the NBLC into the Tourist Information Centre was continuing. This redevelopment was not in accordance with the recommendations of the *Graham Lodge Precinct: Nowra: Conservation Management Plan*,

Ken Wills advised on 7th September 1999 that the Tourist Information Centre was to be completed and in operation by 24th September 1999. This completion date would

not allow for any further archaeological testing that may have been considered necessary following the completion of this initial archaeological assessment.

Construction work had commenced on the redevelopment of NBLC to the Tourist Information Centre. Demolition was also in progress of the remainder of *Prague Lodge* and the NBLC prior to the commencement of any archaeological assessment (Figure 4).



Figure 4: *Graham Lodge* site on commencement of initial archaeological assessment 7th September 1999.

Construction work and excavation dug for footings for foundations and floors, and utilities had caused considerable ground disturbance and had impacted upon or destroyed areas where archaeological relics were identified.

Consultant Heritage Architect:

Peter Freeman, of Peter Freeman Pty. Ltd. who had prepared the *Graham Lodge Precinct: Nowra: Conservation Management Plan*, was contacted and advised of the interim findings of the preliminary archaeological assessment on 14th September 1999.

His local representative:

Phill Gant, Architect, Vincentia NSW, was contacted on 14th September and the refurbishment of the roof of *Graham Lodge* was discussed.

Council's Surveyor:

Advice received on-site indicated that the property containing the archaeological relic, *Graham Lodge*, had been surveyed, however, no survey pegs were could be located. Further advice received on 9th September 1999 indicated that a formal survey for SCC would not be completed until 21st September 1999.

The consultant surveyor;

Simon Apperley, Watkinson Apperley Pty. Ltd. Nowra, advised Heritage Archaeology on 17th September 1999, that the survey had now been completed, survey pegs had been placed in position, and a plan had been forwarded to SCC that day.

Structural Engineers;

Greg Westlake of Robert McDonald & Associates, Nowra was advised that further archaeological investigation was required on *Graham Lodge*. This archaeological assessment was required prior to any further reconstruction or refurbishment. Westlake advised on Friday 17th September 1999 that he would require a brief from SCC to provide an opinion of the safety of the building for the conducting of an archaeological assessment.

Investigate requirement for archaeological licensing and advise our minimum requirement.

The SCC is bound by the *Heritage Act (NSW) 1977* and the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*. There are no minimal requirements that apply in either Act. Procedures set out in the Acts are to be followed if relics are considered present on site.

Archaeological relics are present on site.

Provide excavation advice in respect of building modifications.

No excavation of any nature for building construction purposes should have occurred prior to the completion of the initial archaeological assessment. The SCC was advised on 2nd August 1999 that ‘an archaeological assessment was obligatory where ‘development, building ... activity on the site could disturb archaeological features [Section 1.7 *Archaeological Assessment Guidelines* 1996].

The *Heritage Act (NSW) 1977* s.4 (1) states that: ‘Any deposit, object or material evidence: (a) which relates to the settlement of the area that comprises New South Wales, not being aboriginal settlement, and, (b) which is 50 or more years old’ ... may not be disturbed without an excavation permit issued by the Heritage Council of NSW. This assessment and excavation if considered essential, must be completed prior to commencement of construction work.

The SCC were notified of the archaeological potential in the *Graham Lodge Precinct: Nowra: Conservation Management Plan, Conservation Analysis: Report Vol.1*, prepared by Peter Freeman Pty Ltd. March 1999. Freeman (1999:87) advised SCC that: ‘The site has potential archaeological significance...’

It was not possible to advise SCC in relation to any excavation for construction purposes, prior to the completion of archaeological investigations. These investigative processes and the relevant heritage permits if required should have been completed and in force prior to the commencement of any earthwork or construction.

The ground surface and sub-surface area in the vicinity of *Graham Lodge* contains archaeological relics. It is considered that there are relics of significance in some areas. This will require that a series of test excavations be conducted to confirm these opinions. Additional excavation may also be required based upon findings of the test excavations. SCC is advised that no further disturbance of ground is to be undertaken until the archaeological test excavations are completed.

Following initial archaeological assessment of the site, interim permissions to proceed with construction work in certain areas has been given to SCC. Details of these interim permissions, given prior to the completion of the initial archaeological assessment, are detailed in this report.

The reasons prompting these decisions have been:

1. there are no archaeological relics present;
2. there are relics present, although their significance is minimal;
3. the site in question has been so disturbed by previous construction work associated with the construction of *Prague Lodge* and the NBLC (excluding current construction of the Tourist Information Centre) that the archaeological viability of the site has been destroyed;
4. the site in question has been so disturbed by construction work associated with the redevelopment of the NBLC into Tourist Information Centre undertaken prior to initial archaeological assessment, that the archaeological viability of the site has been destroyed;

Site measure the existing to prepare sketch drawings. Document your procedure and retain records - Provide a copy of your records to Council, (City Services and Infrastructure Development Group).

Site sketches have been prepared. The areas where archaeological relics were observed, or areas where archaeological relics are considered to be present are noted on the sketches. The sketches with site identified are included with this report.

It is not a requirement of the Act that a surveyed site plan be prepared at the time initial archaeological assessment. However, should test excavation be considered necessary, the Heritage Council of New South Wales requires an archaeological research plan and site plan to be prepared.

Meet with Council representatives if and as required.

Council representatives and other personnel associated with the demolition and construction processes were consulted and advised of the progress of the initial archaeological assessment.

SCC should note that a great deal of confusion was encountered on site by the lack of understanding or non-appreciation of the requirements of the *Heritage Act (NSW) 1977*. This resulted in considerable time being lost on site by Heritage Archaeology, Council's employees, contractors, sub-contractors and service providers such as

telecommunications and public utility authorities. The delays occurred because it was often necessary to explain and confirm what could be undertaken and how various activities should be completed.

Such 'on site' explanations and interim permissions often placed Heritage Archaeology in situations that verged on being unethical and contrary to the *Heritage Act (NSW) 1977* requirements.

It is strongly recommended that Appendix 1 to this report defined as ***Institutional Education Program and Public Education Program*** be read and understood in the interests of the ethical, economical, safe and publicly responsible conducting of any future development projects undertaken by SCC requiring heritage assessment.

Comply with the program attached, unless hindered by other influences.

This section of the brief was maintained when possible. However, the previous comments equally apply to this section. It was often difficult to maintain concentration on and commitment to the initial archaeological assessment when confronted with problems breaching the *Heritage Act (NSW) 1977* that should have been settled prior to any construction work commencing.

Provide in suitable containers the findings of the Archaeological survey.

The initial archaeological assessment is presented forthwith. Also copies of the report have been provided on CD and are in a format (Word 6 and Word 7 and *.txt) suitable for most word processors using PC format. All photographs, documents and other archival material has been written to CD storage in PC format and is available upon request.

2.0 An initial assessment of the archaeological heritage of *Greenhills*, Nowra, NSW.

Initial Archaeological Assessment

Thomas (1999:1) while referring to Neolithic housing in Britain argues the following: '... The way in which we 'read' the evidence for this period is conditioned to a great extent by a series of expectations and prejudices'. While 'this period', the Neolithic, in Thomas' hypothesis may be clearly defined and delineated in the archaeological record, his main argument may be applied to any time period. A history of the establishment, settlement and development of *Greenhills* has been researched and presented in a professional report (Freeman et al. 1999 vol 1). In effect this historical report, which comments on the heritage value of the site, provides many 'expectations and prejudices'.

The report does not include an archaeological interpretation of the physical remains on the site. This omission may lead to biased interpretation of the process of settlement, a misunderstanding of the applied technology and building methods employed and to the 'history'. A preconceived model of what may present in the landscape must be avoided by the archaeologist. Equally any archival material, personal documents, ethnology, paintings and historical photographs must be treated with considerable caution when used in conjunction with the interpretation of the archaeological remains.

The 'expectations and prejudices' may also be biased from the perspective of the discipline of the researcher. In this case the principal relic remaining in landscape is a mid 19th century building known as *Graham Lodge*. This structure provides the primary focus for the historical events detailed in the historical report. This building may be vital to the architectural history and industrial development of the area.

However, *Graham Lodge* is simply one relic in an extensive archaeologically rich landscape. Presenting an interpretative history based centrally upon *Graham Lodge* is subjective and would unquestionably prejudice the general understanding of European settlement and development at *Greenhills*.

Graham Lodge emerges as an extremely important relic considering the destructive impact that subdivision, housing and development has had on the landscape without any archaeological or heritage research being undertaken in the area. However, the primary research interest to any archaeologist is not the relic but the human influence behind the relic, and that impact on the defined landscape. This important principle, central to the discipline of archaeology, will provide the basic philosophy of this initial archaeological assessment.

2.1 An archaeological site or 'Site'

During the initial archaeological assessment relics were located and when possible, their position recorded. Specific areas that were considered to have the potential to contain relics were also noted.

In order to simplify and to catalogue the location of the relics observed and to assess their potential, it was necessary to confine certain areas to 'sites'. Often these sites can be established because of relics visible on the ground surface, structures present, earthworks or other humanly induced landscape feature. The site will be afforded a reference number for the future cataloguing of research material, archival material and future surface collections or relics recovered, should excavation be considered necessary.

The reference index for this archaeological assessment will be '**GH**' eg. *Greenhills*. **GH01** shall represent the original Butler's Grant of 100 acres taken up by William Graham [The Elder] in 1826. *Graham Lodge*, an archaeological relic within **GH01** shall be known as **GH02** and so forth, for other relics or site features. Objects or relics of significance within the site reference index number shall be known as 'relics reference numbers'. An object of significance as part of *Graham Lodge* **GH02**, shall be recorded as **GH02/1** in numerical progression. Although it not essential to establish this site reference system during the initial archaeological assessment, it is considered advisable to do so and to also establish a database numbering system. Some references

may change if future research renders a relic or site to have minimal or no significance.

2.2 Human occupation prior to European settlement

The initiation and dating of human migration into Sahul has long provided contentious debate. It is argued from many sources to have occurred from 40,000 years Before Present (BP) to 150,000 BP. Settlement of the coastal extremes, where known resources supported occupation, is perhaps the plausible hypothesis. During the Holocene, about c 6,000 BP, sea levels stabilised and one-seventh of Sahul's existing landmass was inundated. Occupants of the coastal extremes may have been forced to retreat to areas further inland. These areas are now on the immediate coast. Large river systems such as the Shoalhaven River provided a conduit to the interior and exploitable food resources to sustain occupation.

It is arguable that the area later 'taken up' as *Greenhills* (c.1827) was exploited for hunting purposes and was previously occupied. However, no indigenous relics were observed while conducting this initial archaeological assessment.

2.3 *Greenhills* (GH01)

Greenhills (GH01) comprised the original Butler's Grant of 100 acres taken up by William Graham [The Elder] in 1826. This land extended along the southern bank of the Shoalhaven River and adjoined Prosper de Mestre's 1,300 acre grant *Terara*, and Alexander Berry's 2,000 acres comprising *Jindyandy* and *Pyree*. In addition, James and William Graham, sons of William Graham [The Elder] applied for a 640 acre grant, originally promised to John Layton. It was further promised to James and William Graham on 16th July 1827. The eastern boundary of the historical *Greenhills Estate* is now evidenced by Mayfield Road to its junction with the extension of Kalandar Road, defining the southern boundary of the property adjoining land held by Alexander McKay. Primary landscape features included an easy access to the Shoalhaven River for transport and water supply purposes (Figure 1).

2.4 *Graham Lodge (GH02)*

The principal relic featured in the area defined for this study is the building known as *Graham Lodge*. An adequate and well-researched history related to this relic has been prepared and is presented in *Graham Lodge Precinct: Nowra; Conservation Management Plan, Conservation Analysis: Report* (Freeman et al 1999). This history will be reviewed and amended if necessary following the completion of the archaeological investigation and archaeological interpretation of the settlement of *Greenhills*.

However, for the purposes of this initial archaeological assessment the history as presented in the *Conservation Analysis Report* will be observed.

Graham Lodge as a 'relic'

Graham Lodge, a two-storey Victorian residence, brick rendered and featuring four prominent hexagonal chimneys, was erected c.1860. Construction was undertaken by Charles Moore and Willet Burrey for James Graham. The complete remaining fabric of *Graham Lodge* is considered archaeologically viable and significant. The extant remains of the building must be considered an 'object or material evidence ... which relates to the settlement of the area that comprises New South Wales, not being aboriginal settlement, and, which is 50 or more years old'.

This qualification is confirmed in the NSW Heritage Office publication *An Introduction to Historical Archaeology Revealing the Past* (1998) where it states:

'Archaeological relics may be part of an historic building or site and can be used to shed light on its development, or add to our understanding of its past use ... The Heritage Act protects archaeological relics by requiring that any disturbance to those relics is carried out in accordance with an excavation permit issued by the Heritage Council of NSW.'

The fabric or structure of a standing building or the building itself eg. *Graham Lodge* is protected by the Act as stated by the Heritage Council (1999):

'The Heritage Act (NSW) 1977 protects archaeological and historical remains and relics from being moved, demolished, destroyed or harmed in any way. It also provides that no land is to be excavated for the purpose of finding relics without an

Excavation Permit from the Heritage Council of New South Wales, which administers the Heritage Act. A relic is defined as anything over fifty years old. Therefore, virtually every archaeological item of heritage significance in NSW is protected.

(Heritage Council of NSW http://www.heritage.nsw.gov.au/about/abus_5_2.htm).

The extant and highly modified structure, *Graham Lodge*, presents many interesting archaeological features. These features include methods of working employed by the tradespersons, the technology of the era, the materials used, some of which may have been manufactured on the *Greenhills* property, eg. nails, bricks, and lime for mortar and render. An interpretation of the extant remains of *Graham Lodge* and surrounds will provide a unique insight to the social, economic and cultural issues that prompted and provided the driving force for early settlement in the Shoalhaven district.

The slate roof of *Graham Lodge*

The initial archaeological investigation undertaken of the structure of *Graham Lodge* revealed that the roof of the building had been modified since the first inspection of the premises. Such modifications would have required a permit under the *Heritage Act (NSW) 1977*. Slate tiles, guttering and eaves had been replaced.

As the building itself qualifies as a relic, an archaeological assessment should have been carried out prior to the commencement of any work on the building.

Rose-head nails were observed on the surface of unbroken ground on all perimeters of *Graham Lodge*. The nails are valued diagnostic material evidence that would have provided information as to working methods during the construction stage of the

Nails from Roof - Located on GH09, GH10 and GH13



Figure 5: Nails from roof and possibly the front verandah of *Graham Lodge*.

building. The nails are hand drawn steel, approximately 60 x 5 x 3 mm, with square heads (Figure 5).

Nails were obviously removed during the replacement of the slate roof, and were dropped onto the ground. This, in turn, has biased the integrity of archaeological evidence near the building. It has been confirmed on 15th September 1999, by Phil Gant, Architect, Vincentia, that the roofing material removed from *Graham Lodge* has been dumped in the Nowra rubbish tip. Further advice indicates that the original cedar battens used for securing the slate were also removed and replaced (Figure 6).

Batten and nail from Roof - Located on GH06



Figure 6: A remnant of a cedar batten with nail from roof of *Graham Lodge*.

Guidelines for the archaeological investigation of the fabric of building are outlined in *Investigating Fabric* (Heritage Office and Department of Urban Affairs and Planning 1996). The fabric of a building refers to all the physical material of a place, including its surrounds and contents (Australia ICOMOS *The Burra Charter* Articles 1.1 and 1.3 [See Appendices 2 & 3]).

Valued archaeological indicators of early building methods are present on the external and internal walls of the building. These include a probable dedication brick, sandstone foundations, exposed methods of plastering, materials used for the manufacture of render, painted surfaces, materials used for the manufacture of bricks, and in some areas exposed fixings and other building hardware. Limited access was available to *Graham Lodge* during the initial archaeological assessment.

Structural engineering advice

Greg Westlake of Robert McDonald & Associates, Structural Engineers of Nowra was advised that further archaeological investigation is required on *Graham Lodge*. This archaeological assessment is required prior to any further reconstruction or refurbishment. Westlake advised on Friday 17th September 1999 that a report to SCC on the safety of *Graham Lodge* for the conducting of an archaeological assessment should be obtained before such investigation proceeded.

Incised Brick (GH02/1)

A section of render on the north eastern corner of *Graham Lodge* has been removed from the brickwork during the construction of additions associated with *Prague Lodge*. A small section of brickwork has been exposed.

One of the bricks is marked ' ... ARDNER' (Figure 7). The principal word on the brick can be interpreted as 'GARDNER'. The lettering appears to have been incised into the clay prior to firing of the brick. James Graham conducted business transactions with Robert Gardner and in due course married Mary Gardner on 27th September 1857 (*pers. comm.* G. Manwaring 1999; *Greenhills Account Book* per R. Florance).

It is reasonable to assume that the space on the brick before the word ' ...ARDNER ' could accommodate the initial 'M' (Figure 7). Unfortunately, during construction of the 1960s additions, a hole for a fastener had been drilled into the brick and has obliterated the first initial and part of the 'G'. The space could have accommodated an 'R' for Robert Gardner. Robert Gardner may have been associated with the manufacture of the bricks used during construction of the house. However, brick manufacturers usually resorted to incising their bricks with frogs of various symbols eg. such as hearts, clubs, stars, etc.

Arguably this brick is one of dedication to Mary Gardner whom James Graham had married prior to the construction of *Graham Lodge*. The dedication brick was positioned during the construction of the house. The external walls of the house were then rendered and tooled to appear as ashlar masonry, and the brick with '? GARDNER' incised on its surface covered with render.

It is important that this brick is conserved *in-situ*. It is recommended that the brick not be re-rendered, and that it be made an historical feature of *Graham Lodge* for educational and interpretive purposes of the building. It is suggested that the brick be covered with an appropriate protective glass cover to prevent damage from weathering. The glass may be drilled and held in place on the wall by suitable fixing screws and locks. As this will require further drilling of holes into the surrounding brickwork for mounting purposes, further archaeological investigation of the surrounding bricks is necessary.

Possible dedication brick *Graham Lodge GH02/1*



The lettering appears to have been incised into the brick surface while the clay was damp and before firing.

Also within in the area of the brick damaged by the drilling for the fastening, it was possible that an initial 'M' for Mary Gardner or 'R' for Robert Gardner was also incised into the brick's surface.

Sandstone Foundations (GH02/3)

Investigation revealed that *Graham Lodge* was constructed upon foundations or footings of cut sandstone blocks. The source of the sandstone is obviously from a local quarry as the geology of the area supports extensive sandstone deposits. As a project in association with the later research on the construction of *Graham Lodge*, an effort should be made to locate the quarry used for early quarrying purposes. This has been achieved at *Retreat Farm* where the present *Murramarang House* was built in 1841. This house is also within the SCC area and is in private ownership. The sourcing of the sandstone quarry has, in this instance, led to a more complete interpretation of the construction methods adopted in the building of *Murramarang House* and the skills of the convict tradespersons.

The sandstone blocks in the foundations of *Graham Lodge*, apart from their importance as an indicator of early construction methods, contain various fossils such as brachiopods (Figure 8). This feature needs to be given important consideration as to its educational qualities.



Figure 8: Fossils in the sandstone footings of *Graham Lodge*. An interesting

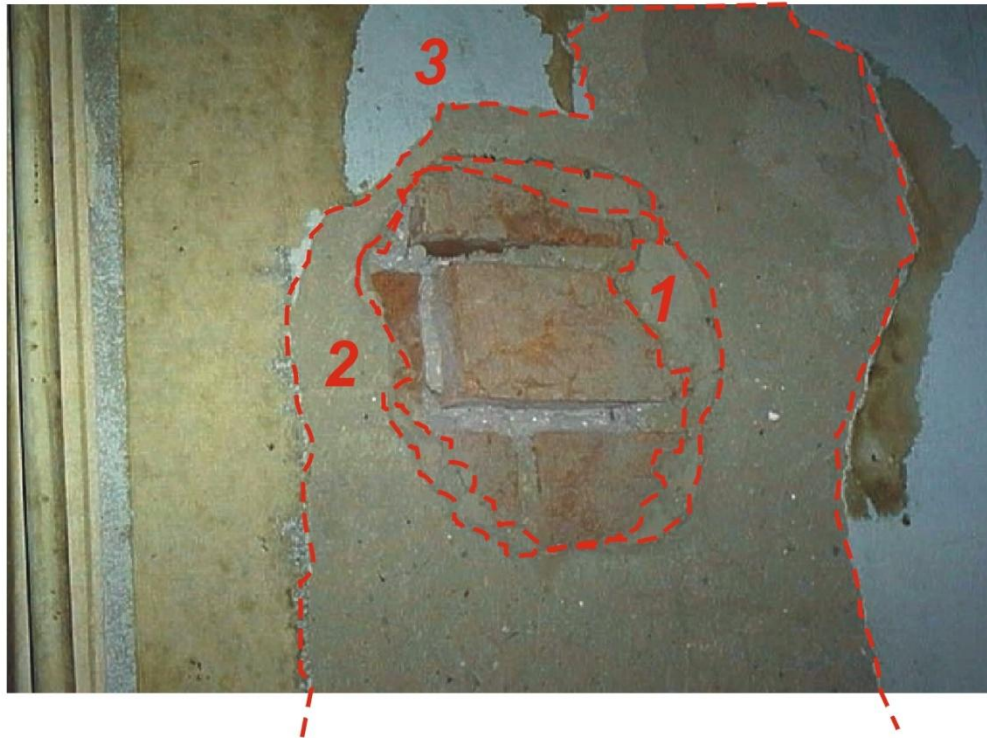
It was reported that these foundations were to be covered by backfilling and possible landscaping during the redevelopment of the Tourist Information Centre. Backfilling that would cover these foundations is not advised, and should not be undertaken. Backfilling and retention of moisture may lead to a situation of rising damp that would eventually cause deterioration of the sandstone foundations. When the archaeological assessment is completed, it is suggested that the backfilling be taken to the level of the concrete retaining wall that was poured as part of the 1960s additions *Prague Lodge*.

Cement Render and Mortar (GH02/4 & GH02/5)

In an internal room (described as the lower floor sitting room or the storage room of NBLC) of *Graham Lodge* some areas of the walls have been degraded for the purposes of additional shelving. This has caused sections of the internal lining, eg. render, to be broken away from the internal brick walls (Figure 9). This degradation has exposed bricks and therefore the materials used in the manufacture of the bricks, the mortar, and the three coats of render demanded by James Graham from Charles Moore during the construction of the house in 1861. According to a *Memorandum of Agreement* between James Graham of Greenhill and Charles Moore of Nowra, Moore agreed to '... to do all the plastering of his new house at Greenhill ... giving the same three coats of plaster ... at the rate of 1/- per square yard ...'. (Florance in Freeman et al. 1999).

Moore obviously carried out Graham's instructions, as the three coats of render are clearly visible. The first has been applied with a rough trowel and was intended to smooth the brick surface for the second coat. This first coat of render appears to be comprised of coarse sand with many intrusions shell and shell particles. It is approximately 15 mm thick. The shells appear to be of an estuarine species such as *Anadara* suggesting that the source of the sand was possible from the swampland east of the house.

**Sequence of render and plaster on internal walls
Graham Lodge**



The second layer of render is approximately 10 mm thick and is a less coarse composition with less shell content than the first layer. The sand may have been sourced from the finer sediments of Pig Island. Identification of the shellfish remains present in the render may indicate the source of the sand. It is important to identify the properties of the primary material used in the render to establish the sources of material. This in turn would establish areas of resources that were exploited in the landscape during the establishment of *Graham Lodge*. Establishing these locations may lead to the locations of other archaeological sites such as quarries, clay pits for brick making etc.

The third and finer layer of render is primarily a plaster or Portland cement. It is smooth in texture and white in colour. Several coats of paint (and wallpaper, in certain areas) have been applied to the surface.

Samples of the bricks and mortar used in the internal walls should be taken and analysed for their composition. Similarly, samples of all three layers of plaster should be analysed. Samples of paint should be removed and a chronology of colour determined for the internal walls. The wallpaper should be sampled and the supplier and pattern identified.

The above sampling will provide accurate details for the archaeological interpretation of the construction methods and the technology adopted during the period of construction. Analysis of these materials, together with the archaeological interpretation, will provide essential information for the conservation of the building (Figure 27). The results, samples and reporting of analysis will also provide an excellent educational feature for inclusion in the proposed interpretive centre.

Display of archaeological relics

It is recommended that one of the rooms of *Graham Lodge* should be set aside in the condition in which it remains today. It should be set aside as a display room for the building methods employed in the construction of *Graham Lodge*. Areas that clearly show construction methods and examples of paint and wallpaper over the entire period of the occupancy of *Graham Lodge* should be preserved. Sections of slate, battens and nails from the original roof should be included in the display. A reconstruction of the method of fixing and fitting the original roof should be included.

Areas of a wall and the ceiling should be intentionally exposed by an archaeologist to reveal construction methods and the changes over the years. This would include an interpretation of the colours of paint used, the pattern of wallpaper etc.

A display in this room may include a collection of archaeological relics associated with the construction of the building and other items of archaeological interest from the sites identified. Selected relics from various sites are shown in this report. It is considered that these relics are representative of the diversity of material evidence expected to be located and / or recovered during test excavations or subsequent excavation. These relics are to be catalogued and stored for use in the restoration process or for display.

It is recommended that the display room be set aside for this purpose, and be similar to and complement the archaeological display at Hyde Parks Barracks, Sydney (Collins 1994). As the building is to be kept and maintained for interpretive use and not re-fitted for commercial or institutional purposes, it would complement the Hyde Park Barracks display as an example of the building methods of a later period. The recently renovated Great Southern Hotel in George Street, Sydney also has areas set aside to 'expose' the original fabric of the old hotel in the refurbished building.

Occupation through time

It should be remembered that the existing building archaeologically represents occupation through time eg. from the year *Graham Lodge* was built to the present. The *Heritage Act (NSW) 1977* covers all aspects of the building up to 1950.

It has been recommended that *Graham Lodge* be 'restored' to the fabric displayed in 1930 (Freeman et al. 1999). From an archaeological perspective this recommendation is not strongly supported.

The human past is one of a continuum, where applied technology gradually, or sometimes abruptly, causes changes that are evident in the archaeological record. Any single year, decade or century of the human continuum cannot be judged more or less important than any other. The same as the archaeological importance of any one group of humans cannot be adjudicated of greater importance than any other group. Such an approach to the historic and archaeological past is highly subjective. It could be

argued as being historically discriminating to present one aspect of the past in preference to another.

A point in question is restricting the fabric of the building to 1930. It was in 1928 that the Bourne family took up occupancy of *Graham Lodge*. The Bourne family were related by marriage to the original owner of *Graham Lodge*. Charlotte Gardner the sister of Mary Gardner [wife of James Graham] married Henry Bourne (*pers. comm.* G. Manwaring 1999).

Another important technological event occurred around this time in that electric light replaced kerosene lamps. This event has not been investigated from an archaeological perspective. The analysis of carbon deposition on ceilings and walls from open flame lamps and paint types on walls and ceilings may assist to establish, from an archaeological perspective, when such changes of technology took place.

However, the period of the conversion from flame to electric lamp in 1930 falls within the 50 year time boundaries of the *Heritage Act (NSW) 1977*. Therefore any electrical installation of this period, while it may be considered very common, is covered by the Act. Such electrical paraphernalia is of equal importance to any other relic found on site. The technological advance from flame to electricity may be compared to the change from sail to steam in marine transportation including the resultant effect on society and the cultural changes such a transition prompted. It would therefore be in neglect to ignore relics that supported or prompted such social changes.

Across Australia there are many restored 'pretty' houses locked in time and trust. The ugly 'parts' edited out of existence by conservation, refurbishment or restoration. It must be questioned if such editing is truly representative of the occupation of *Graham Lodge*. It may be representative of the house at a point in time, but certainly not the human occupants across time. Archaeology is the study of the human past. The discipline does not support a study of relics nor specific time periods.

The concept proposed for the retention of *Graham Lodge* is for the purpose of 'an interpretive centre'. If such an interpretative centre is to be based upon archaeological findings, it must represent human impact across time. This encompasses the earliest human impact on the landscape known as *Greenhills* and the relic of *Graham Lodge*

to the renovation by SCC of the house into an interpretative centre. It should not be 'locked in any given time.'

It is strongly recommended that an interpretative model of *Greenhills* be part of the archaeological display.

Obligations and recommendations for GH02

1. as defined in the *Heritage Act (NSW) 1977* *Graham Lodge* is protected as an archaeological relic under the Act;
2. SCC is advised that any disturbance, destruction, alteration refurbishment or other procedures to the building must only be undertaken when the archaeological assessment of the building has been completed. No further construction or refurbishment is to be carried out on *Graham Lodge* until an archaeological assessment has been completed;
3. the SCC is advised of their obligation to ensure that any work conducted on the structure of *Graham Lodge* must adhere to the guidelines of the Australia ICOMOS *The Burra Charter*;
4. that SCC issues a brief to structural engineers to provide an opinion of the safety of the building for the conducting of an archaeological assessment;
5. a permit must be obtained from the Heritage Council of NSW to:
 - collect the remaining nails (used in the roof) from the site;
 - take samples of the original roofing materials or recover same from the tip;
 - take samples of internal plaster for analysis;
 - take samples of external rendering for analysis;
 - take samples of mortar for analysis.
 - take samples of brick for analysis;
 - to collect any other relic considered to be associated with the construction or building of *Graham Lodge* eg. remnants of sandstone paving, remnants of wrought iron lace work etc;
6. a detailed archaeological investigation of **GH02** including building material, construction methods and a detailed plan of the structure in its present condition be completed;

2.5 Sites adjoining *Graham Lodge* (GH02) - GH03 & GH04

'Crescent' frog

A fragment, approximately one third, of a red clay brick was located on the southern side of the *Graham Lodge* near the external laundry. The 'frog' on this brick, ie. the brickmaker's mark, appears to be a portion of a crescent. No comparison of the bricks used in *Graham Lodge* and the frog on this brick was possible as:

1. no areas of the brickwork were exposed where the surface of the brickwork used in construction of *Graham Lodge* could be inspected;
2. no access was available to rear rooms, second floor rooms of the house or to the roof;

A brief assessment of the land adjacent to the apartments on the southern side of *Graham Lodge* was conducted. The remains of several fireplaces considered to be associated with the buildings depicted in the various paintings of *Greenhills* were located. The extant remains of a fireplace and associated relics, **GH03**, is clearly visible south of the apartments and adjoining the earthwork cutting for the Nowra by-pass road.

The remains of another building, **GH04**, were located in a pile of rubble of sandstone and bricks on the southern boundary of the property. The remains appear to have been bulldozed into this position. The remains contain red clay bricks of approximately 230 x 110 x 65 mm complete with a crescent shaped frog (Figure 10).

Clay Brick with Crescent frog - GH03



Figure 10: The extant remains of a building **GH04**, were located and comprise a pile of broken sandstone and bricks bearing the crescent shaped frog. A remnant of a similar brick was located on **GH06**.



Figure 11: The remains of a building **GH04**, containing the bricks with the crescent shaped frog.



Figure 12: The remains of a building, containing bricks with the crescent shaped frog. Also present is a section of split rail fencing. Split rail fencing is included on several of the historical paintings of *Graham Lodge*.

The remains of several other buildings in this area also contain similar red clay bricks with a crescent shaped frogs (Figure 12). Arguably the fragment of red clay brick,

bearing the crescent shaped frog, found immediately adjacent to *Graham Lodge* may have been carried to this vicinity at some time. The frog in a brick usually represents the manufacturer. The use of identifiable and sometimes personalised designs may be compared to brands used on stock and horses. In such instances, it is not unusual for the property owner or brickmaker to include the name of the owner or the name of the property or any other symbol to which the designer of the brand is associated. A brand is also a legal mark of manufacture. The design may also be indicative of a special interest or cultural group. The crescent shaped frog in the bricks may have had such a meaning to the manufacturer. The interpretation of the design and any meaning derived may lead to a better understanding of the social relationship and practises of the person who manufactured the bricks and those who used the final product.

It is considered essential to establish the identity of the manufacturer who used the crescent shaped frog and to investigate if these 'brand' bricks were used in the construction *Graham Lodge*. This will also assist in establishing a chronology of the industrial history of the Shoalhaven and would provide a valuable tool for the archaeological assessment of other areas outside *Greenhills*, associated with early settlement.

Sites GH05, GH06, GH07 & GH08

On the southern side of *Graham Lodge* facing the apartment block there is an area containing the remnants of a garden, **GH05**. It is also possible in this area that the remainder of the foundations of what is described in the history as a 'barn' is present. There is a concrete pathway, part of which towards the east [front] of the building, was removed during the demolition process. There are archaeological relics present in this area.

In site **GH05** there are several trees present: *Cinnamomum camphora*, *Howea* sp., and *Acacia* sp. The *Howea*, believed to be in excess of 50 years old, may be important to the reconstruction of the garden of *Graham Lodge*. It should be investigated and its species identified by a qualified person and an estimate of the age obtained.

The *Acacia* has grown in such a way that its roots now cause damage to the existing building and possible damage to area of sandstone block laid as pathway to the rear of

the premises. The roots of the *Acacia* have grown around several blocks of concrete. The origin of the concrete is difficult to identify.

Several *C. camphora* are growing in this area and are causing damage to potential archaeological relics and the remnants of early gardens associated with *Graham Lodge*.



Figure 13: The southern side of *Graham Lodge*



Figure 14: Site GH05

Relics from GH05 - (Remnant of Garden)



Figure 15: Examples of relics of domestic use digitised on site. Leaf litter covers many relics on site.

Recommendations

1. it is recommended that a qualified person identify the *Howea* sp. and its relationship to the garden landscape of *Graham Lodge* established. If research indicates that the tree may be in excess of 50 years, it should remain undisturbed;
2. the *Acacia* should be poisoned and cut off to ground level or as close to ground level as possible. The tree is impacting on potential archaeological relics and must not be dug out or pulled from the ground thus disrupting the surrounding ground and sub-surface;
3. the *C. camphora* should be poisoned and cut off to ground level or as close to ground level as possible. All these trees are impacting on known archaeological relics and potential archaeological relics. The remaining roots of these trees must not be dug out or pulled from the ground, thus disrupting the surrounding ground and sub-surface and existing archaeological relics;
4. the remaining concrete pathway should be removed as carefully as possible as it is impacting upon potential archaeological relics;
5. the area of this site to be cleared of debris, leaves and building material to allow safe and effective evaluation of the area. (NOTE: No sandstone or rocks are to be removed).

Sandstone pathway and surrounds GH06



Figure 16: Show the sites **GH06** and **GH07**. The sandstone pathway is immediate to the rear of *Graham Lodge*.

Immediately behind *Graham Lodge* two buildings used as a toilet and storeroom (Figure 16). Immediately beside this structure is a concrete path that partially covers

some sandstone flagging. Relics are present in and around the pathway and the concrete flagging. Test excavation must be conducted and completed in this area prior to the demolition of any building or feature in the area.

Obligations and recommendations GH06

1. test excavation must be undertaken and disturbance kept to minimum until such excavations are completed.

Possible floor or pathway GH07

This is an area behind the garage or storage shed where relics are present. There may also be a relic earthen floor or pathway present. This area should not be disturbed until test excavations are completed.

Also in this area is a *Jacaranda mimisofolia*. It is believed that this tree is remnant of the early garden associated with *Graham Lodge* (seen beside the storage shed in Figure 13). The tree is believed to be in excess of 50 years old. There is an ivy type creeper growing on the tree. A tree surgeon or qualified person should be briefed as the poisoning of this ivy type creeper and measures taken to rehabilitate the tree.

Obligations and recommendations GH07

1. test excavation must be undertaken in this area;
2. ground disturbance kept to minimal and monitored by an archaeologist until such excavations re completed;
3. this area should be cleared of debris, leaves and building materials to allow safe and effective evaluation of the area. (NOTE: No sandstone, rocks or relics are to be removed);

Rear garden GH08

There is a open grassed area immediately to the west of *Graham Lodge* (Figure 17). Relics are present in most areas. Disturbance must be kept to a minimum until test excavations are completed in this area.



Figure 17: The rear garden site **GH08**. The removal of the concrete slabs should be undertaken as part of the test excavations. Relics are present in the grassed area.

Relics from GH08 - (Rear Garden)

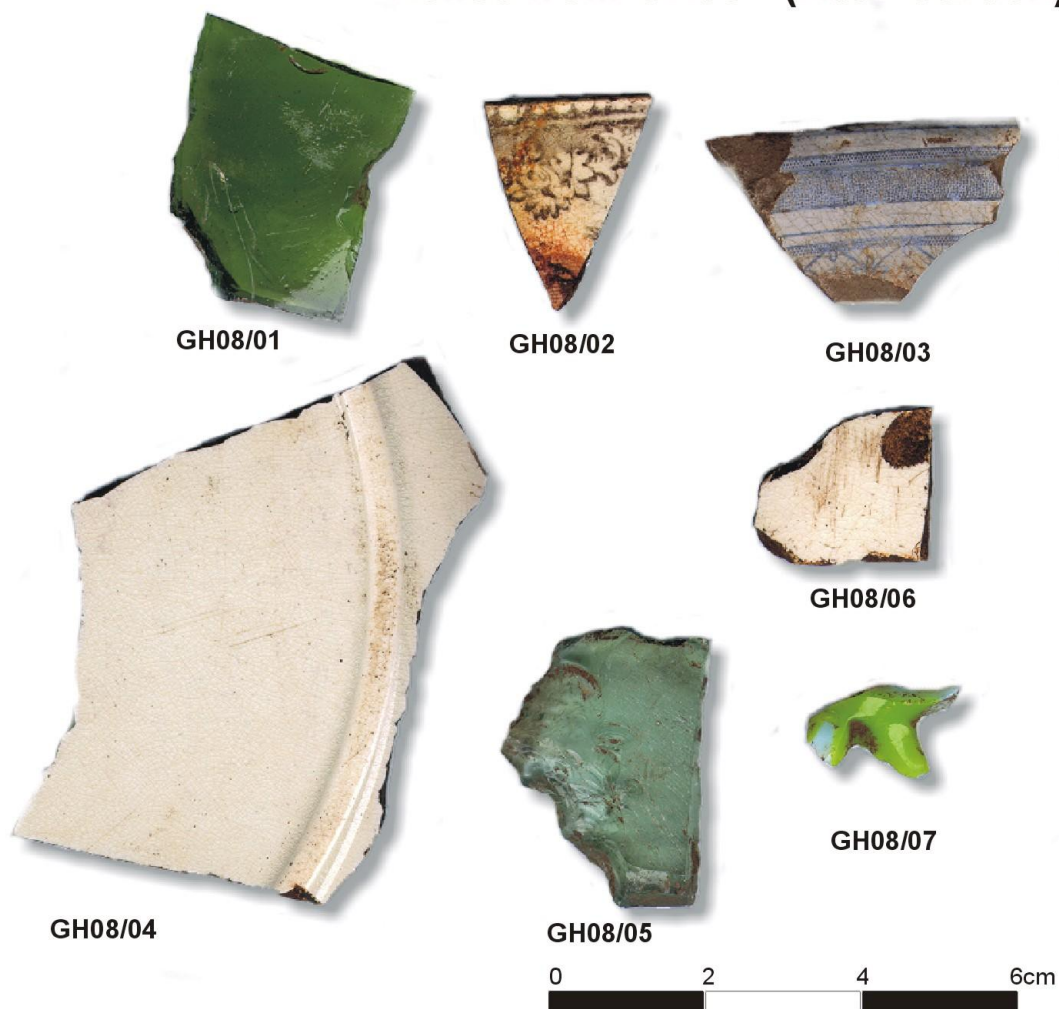


Figure 18: Relics of domestic use including, glass that has been molten **GH08/05** and a fragment from a decorative lamp **GH08/07**.

Sandstone barbecue.

In the area defined as **GH08** and close to the storage shed, a barbecue has been constructed. It is believed that the sandstone used in the construction of the appliance may have been removed from *Graham Lodge* or other buildings associated with *Greenhills*. These sandstone blocks have been removed, and are now out of their archaeological context. It would be difficult to ascertain their original position. However, the barbecue is not associated with any historical event or has any archaeological significance. It is degrading to the curtilage of *Graham Lodge* and the historical *Greenhills* landscape. The structure should be demolished and the sandstone stored for future reconstructive use. Relics are present in the soil surrounding the

barbecue. The barbecue should be demolished with care not to disturb the ground surface or the sandstone. If possible this should be done in association with the test excavation with an archaeologist present on site. The removal of the concrete footings for the barbecue would assist in the test excavation of the area and limit the destruction of original ground surface on site.

Obligations and recommendations

1. test excavation must be undertaken in this area;
2. the barbecue and footings should be removed from site with minimal ground disturbance; preferably this should be done during the test excavation program, where the removal would be monitored by the archaeologist;

Remnants of garden

Beside the barbecue is a *Cupressus sempervirens*, **GH08/1**. It is believed to be contemporary with the occupation of *Graham Lodge* by the Bourne family.

Another *C. sempervirens* is also growing in the area, **GH08/2**. It is estimated to be in excess of 50 years and should remain on site. Close to this tree is the remnant of garden containing a *Camellia japonica* and a pomegranate. The historical value of these plants is considered important and should be further investigated prior to any removal.

There are relics present in the area surrounding the *C. sempervirens* and garden. These relics must not be disturbed until they have been archaeologically assessed.

Obligations and recommendations GH08

1. test excavation must be undertaken and disturbance kept to minimal until such excavations are completed;
2. the vegetation in the area to be identified, age ascertained and discussion as to its removal or retention be undertaken;

Possible well GH08/3

In the immediate vicinity of this garden and to the west, is an indentation, approximately one metre in diameter, in the ground. The indentation has been backfilled. It is considered that this indentation is part of an early disused well. The 'domed' well is depicted in the painting, *Greenhills* c. 1869. An example of the construction of a domed well of a similar period is shown in Figure 19.

This area will be included in the research program for test excavation and must remain undisturbed until the archaeological investigation is completed.

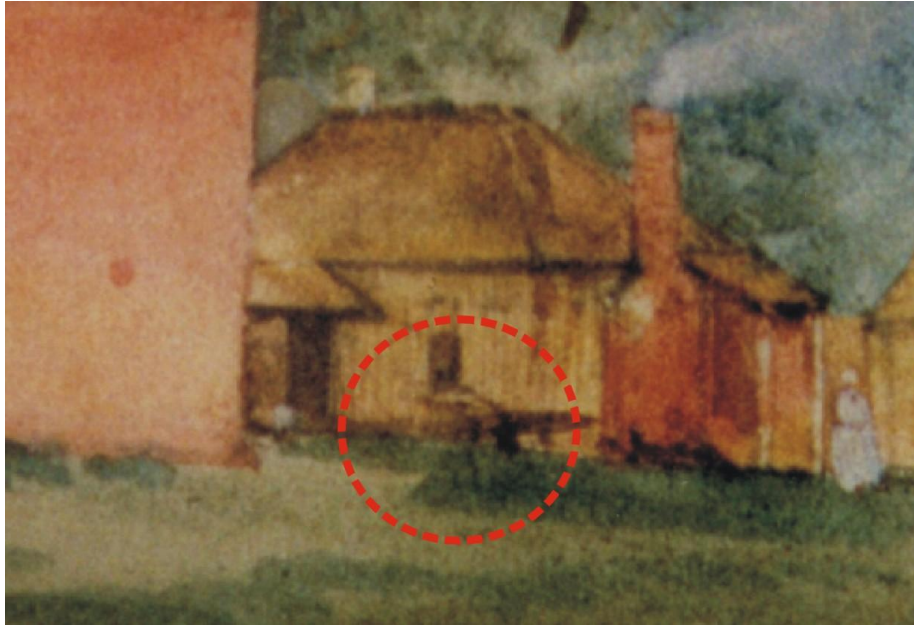


Figure 19: (above) An extract of the painting c1869 shows a feature that appears to be a domed well. This feature is to the rear of *Graham Lodge*.

Figure 19: (below) An example of domed well of a similar period on *Kirndeem, Culcairn NSW*.



Test excavation in this area may also reveal the presence of the earthen floor of an early structure in close association with the well. This may have been the original dwelling of James Graham and Mary Gardner, later possibly used as a kitchen / quarters for *Graham Lodge*. Such a structure is depicted in the painting noted above (Figure 19).

Also located within **GH08** are six concrete slabs previously used as the footings for umbrella tables during the operation of the NBLC. As this area was known to have contained historical structures, it will be subject to test excavation. Careful removal of the concrete slabs would greatly assist the archaeological excavation process (Figure 17). It would also assist limit disturbance to areas of unbroken ground, that may be essential to future research.

Some areas of concrete pathway adjacent to the western wall of *Graham Lodge* may need to be removed to assist archaeological assessment.

Obligations and recommendations GH08

1. test excavation must be undertaken in several areas, and also in association with the removal of the concrete slabs;
2. an accurate plan should to be provided to the archaeologists prior to the commencement of test excavations, noting any planned alteration, removal of concrete, refurbishment or other procedures to main structure, building of public utilities, roadways or proposed landscaping in this area.
3. no ground disturbance is to occur until such test excavations are completed.
4. no further dumping of any building material or soil is to be carried out;

Front garden GH09

To the eastern frontage of *Graham Lodge* is an area that, according to historical oral

reports, contained a formal garden. This garden appears to be a later addition, c. 1890

(Shoalhaven Historical Society No. 5906) as it does not feature in the painting of

c.1869. The area was partially covered with concrete (with sections up to four layers

thick (see Figure 21) associated the building of the NBLC, *Prague Lodge*, driveways

and delivery bays associated with this later commercial operation. Construction in this

area in the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s has caused considerable disruption and destruction of extant archaeological remains. Footings for concrete bases etc have been dug into the ground that comprised the original garden. Infill soil has been transported to the

Relics from GH09 - (Front Garden [north])



Figure 20: Relics of domestic use, garden edging and a possible iron spur site for the backfilling of concrete pads for the various constructions.

The demolition of the concrete bases during the initial archaeological assessment was achieved without excessive impact on the remaining areas of unbroken original ground level. This was largely due to the skill and care demonstrated during the demolition stage by Colin Burgess while operating the end loader.

As stated areas of the ground surface had been greatly disturbed by previous construction on the site. However, relics in the form of fragments of patterned crockery, ceramics, fired clay, glazed earthenware, broken glass and steel and iron were observed *in situ* in segments of unbroken ground. These relics are considered to be in excess of fifty years of age.

Also in association with the relics is an area of original ground surface that appears to have been purposely compressed as if in the construction of an earthen floor. This compressed area is also associated with several backfilled indentations that may be postholes (Figure 21). It is possible that an older building or structure had been erected in this area before *Graham Lodge* was constructed.

Secondary historical evidence in the form of painting from the estate of Alice Elyard was noted. The painting was loaned for evaluation and copying (Figure 22). The painting depicts a structure reputed to be the original building on the site occupied by *Graham Lodge*. While some contention exists as to this painting representing the *Graham Lodge* site the position of the main fireplace must be considered in respect to the archaeological remains noted on site. The position of the fireplace in the painting closely aligns with the location of the archaeological relics exposed when the concrete was lifted from the garden area **GH09** (Figure 21).



Figure 21: (top) Shows the four layers of concrete covering most of the site. The original ground layer and possible posthole can be seen in the lower right of the photograph near the trowel.



Figure 21: (middle) The lowest layer of concrete. The original ground surface can be seen to the left and right of the slab of concrete remaining in place.



Figure 21: (bottom) The remaining slab was carefully removed. Domestic relics were located under this slab. Holes filled with a charcoal mixture are seen in the lower right hand corner of the photograph. It is possible that this may represent an early building site.



Figure 22: Painting from the estate of Alice Elyard, considered to be the first building on *Greenhills*. The postholes present (see Figure 21) may be associated with a building located where the structure is depicted in the painting.

Test excavation may confirm the presence of an early structure.

Sections of split rail fencing are present on **GH03**.

(Painting loaned for copying by T. Todd).

Front garden (south) GH10

Relics of various material types were noted throughout this area when the concrete slabs were removed. Some relics observed along the edge of the house immediately below the roof line were considered potentially significant. While relic nails had been dropped on this area during the recent replacement of the slate roof of *Graham Lodge*, other nails, fastenings and metal items remain in the ground. Relics are particularly obvious on the southern side of *Graham Lodge* where much less disturbance from building construction has occurred.

The glass relics (Figure 23) are most likely remnants of gin bottles. One relic is fired pottery. This is the only piece of fired pottery observed on the ground surface during the initial archaeological assessment.

Relics from GH10 - (Front garden [south])



Figure 23: The relics are interesting in that they do not represent domestic use. The steel and iron relics are building fixings. The glass and pottery (the only piece of fired clay pottery located on site) are associated with alcoholic beverages.

Front garden (east) GH11

Towards the Hawthorne Avenue frontage and to the front of *Graham Lodge*, a grassed area remains that appears largely undisturbed by previous building activities. It is evident that this area has supported a driveway used during the operation of the NBLC. However, there are several indentations in the ground in this area. These may contain relics or may be features associated with an early garden. This area represents

the most logical location to attempt to establish an archaeological perspective of the garden.

Stone placement GH12

To the south of *Graham Lodge* on a frontage to Hawthorne Avenue and on the extremes of the property boundary, another potentially significant relic is extant. It was not possible to accurately identify the property boundary during the initial archaeological assessment, as the survey pegs were not present. However, it is believed that this feature lies within the boundaries of the *Graham Lodge* property. The archaeological feature presents as a possible circle of rocks. Many glass and ceramic relics are associated with this stone feature (Figure 23).

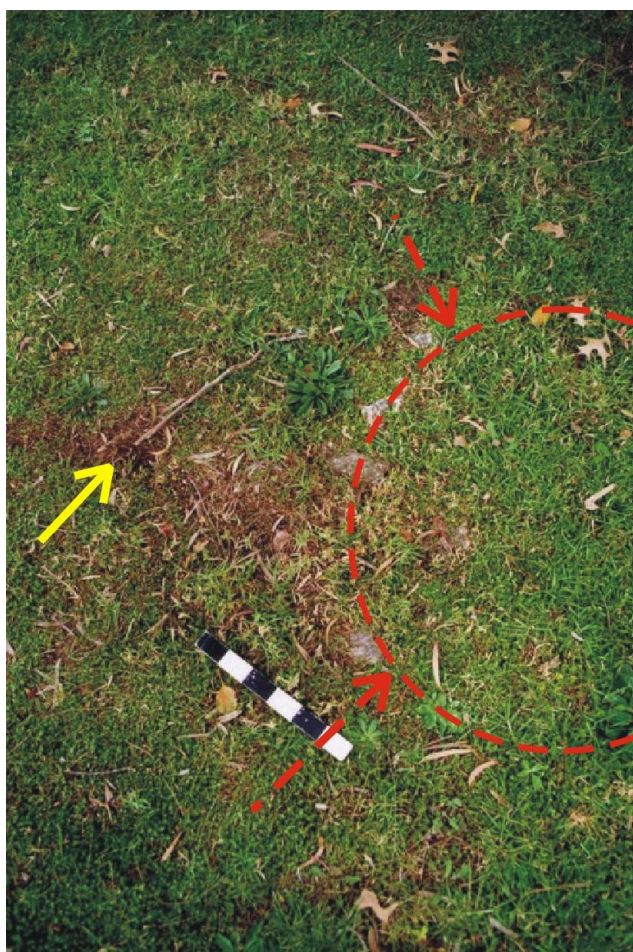


Figure 24: A circular stone placement on the boundary of the *Graham Lodge* property and the adjoining apartments. A possible fireplace or the edge of a garden edging.

Relics are present (marked with yellow arrow). Test excavation is required in this area.

Obligations and recommendations for GH09, GH10, GH11 and GH12

1. archaeological relics are present in all areas discussed and no further disturbance to the ground surface should occur until the archaeological assessment is complete;
2. it is recommended that the property boundaries be surveyed and clearly identified. It should be established if **GH12** is within the property boundary of *Graham Lodge*.
3. test excavations must be conducted at **GH09, GH10, GH11** and **GH12** to clearly identify the remaining relics and examine the earthworks;
4. that no further infilling or removal of soil occurs until test excavations are completed;
5. that no further building materials be dropped, discarded or stored on the area until the test excavations are completed;

The old *Prague Lodge* Site GH13

To the northern side of *Graham Lodge* an area can be defined that was associated with the construction and operation of *Prague Lodge* (Figure 25).



Figure 25: The footings of the foundations of the old Prague Lodge were left in place during the demolition. It is considered that the original ground layer associated with *Graham Lodge* is present. Relics are present in this area.

This area has been subject to previous disturbance during the construction of *Prague Lodge* and other construction events. This area has been greatly disturbed on the surface and rubbish from various commercial activities is present. However, there are several areas in which the original ground surface considered to be associated with the occupation of *Graham Lodge* can be identified (Figure 25).

Relics from GH13 - (Old Prague Lodge Site)



Figure 26: Relics are present on the surface in this area. They include relics of domestic use, alcoholic beverage bottles and animal bones. Test excavation in this area is essential.

It is known, due to the disturbance of the sub-surface for the digging of footings for of the Tourist Information Centre, that many archaeological relics are present. Several historical paintings also show building were present in this area.

Fastening from GH13 - (Old Prague Lodge Site)

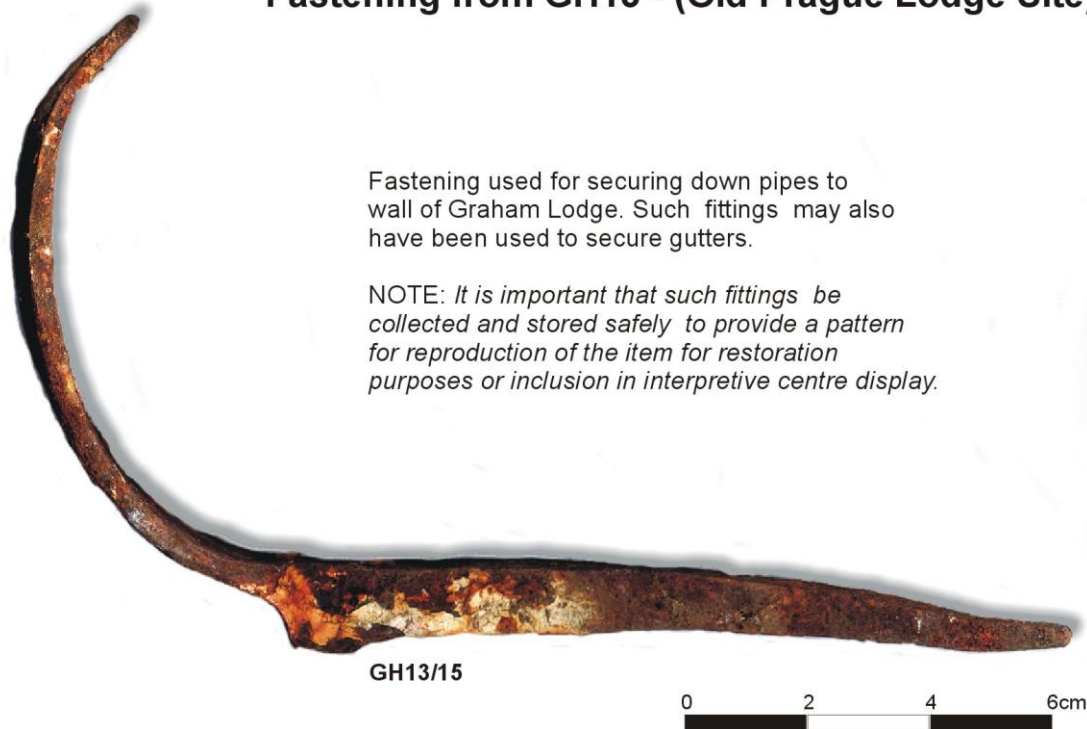


Figure 27: Several relics used in the construction of the building were observed during the initial assessment. These relics should be collected and stored for use in future *in situ* conservation on *Graham Lodge* or as models for replacement

Archaeological relics are present in this area and are considered to be associated with the early occupation of *Graham Lodge*. The exposed sandstone footings of *Graham Lodge* and the dedication brick are located in close proximity to this site.

The concrete and brick foundations associated with *Prague Lodge* were noted. It was considered during the demolition process that the removal of these piers would cause considerable damage to this potential archaeological site. Therefore they were left *in situ*.

Obligations and recommendations for GH13

1. archaeological relics are present in all areas discussed and no further disturbance to the ground surface should occur;
2. test excavations must be conducted to clearly identify the remaining relics;
3. that no further infilling or removal of soil occurs until test excavations are completed;
4. that no further building material be dropped, discarded or stored on the area until the test excavations are complete;
5. at the completion of the initial archaeological assessment an area of backfilling from a foundation associated with *Prague Lodge* remained on site. It is believed that this backfill is contaminated. It should be tested and if found contaminated, be appropriately removed from site
6. **NOTE: No further disturbance of the original ground surface must occur in this area.**

Outbuildings GH14

The site **GH14** is located near the south western corner of the Tourist Information Centre. It is a grassed area behind *Graham Lodge*. During construction for the Tourist Information Centre footings for foundations were dug. The soil that was removed was then deposited upon this potential archaeological site. This removal of soil for the footings of the building occurred prior to the commencement of the initial archaeological assessment.

Relics were present in the soil that was removed. The relics were subsequently noted, however, the disturbance and removal of the soil destroyed any archaeological integrity or association. It was recommended that the soil be removed from the site and not be deposited anywhere within the *Graham Lodge / Greenhills* precinct to avoid further contamination of sites that may remain archaeologically viable.

Also, the soil was dumped on an area where an outbuilding of *Graham Lodge* was known to have stood. It was strongly advised during the initial archaeological assessment that the dumping of building rubble in this area cease and that no further soil disturbance should occur. The dumping of building rubble and rubbish continued.

Obligations and recommendations for GH14

1. archaeological relics are present in all areas discussed and no further disturbance to the ground surface should occur;
2. test excavations must be conducted to clearly identify the remaining relics and examine the earthworks;
3. that no further infilling or removal of soil occurs until test excavations are completed;
4. that no further building material be dropped, discarded or stored on the area until the test excavations are complete;

Verge to Hawthorne Avenue GH15

The verge area adjacent to the eastern perimeter of the car park has been impacted upon by the depositing of grader scree during the refurbishment of the NBLC. Archaeological relics, possibly from the area of the car park, and from the landscaping of garden beds within the car park area, have been deposited on the verge.

Further, prior to archaeological assessment, a trench for cables was dug for the length of the area, **GH15**. Numerous relics have been upheaved and were later observed in the disturbed soil along the entire length of the backfilled trench.

Obligations and recommendations for GH15

1. archaeological relics are present in the area and no further disturbance to the ground should occur;
2. test excavations must be conducted to identify the location of any relics that remain *in situ*;
3. no further depositing or removal of soil should occur until test excavations are completed;

Relics from GH15 - (Verge to Hawthorne Ave)



Figure 28: Installation of electrical cable or grading of the car park has disturbed relics in this area. Test excavation may confirm the original context of the relics.

Initial Archaeological Assessment

2.6 Summary

The purpose of this report is not to notify SCC of the *Heritage Act (NSW) 1977* but to confirm that relics considered significant, according to the Act, are extant on the site investigated.

It was considered that prior to the instigation of this initial archaeological assessment, SCC was aware or had been advised of their responsibility and obligations under the *Heritage Act (NSW) 1977* or *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* if applicable.

Under the *Heritage Act (NSW) 1977* the conservation of archaeological resources is the responsibility of the owner of the land that contains them and / or the proponent of any new building or development. The obligations of the owner or developer are clearly presented in the booklet *Archaeological Assessments: Archaeological Assessment Guidelines*, Heritage Office, NSW Department of Urban Affairs and Planning.

These obligations under the Act apply to all development and building proposals within the area of administration of SCC. A schedule outlining the archaeological assessment process in relation to building and development proposals is included on pages 18 – 19 of the above publication.

SCC is advised that the recommended schedule was not observed during the redevelopment of the Tourist Information Centre site. Non-adherence to this schedule, and lack of understanding of the requirements of the Act has resulted in the disturbance and possible destruction of potentially significant relics.

It is noted that a heritage grant of \$40,000 for the conservation of *Graham Lodge* has been recently approved. The conservation and redevelopment of *Graham Lodge* and its curtilage obviously infers interest in the tourist potential of the heritage of the Shoalhaven. It is difficult to comprehend why such relics

were damaged or destroyed when they are the extant heritage integral to the redevelopment of this site as a tourist location and interpretive centre.

It is strongly recommended that a moratorium on development planning, redevelopment or alterations be observed until the obligations of the *Heritage Act (NSW) 1977* are understood and have been complied with by SCC.

3.0 Archaeological and Heritage Significance Considerations

3.1 STAGE 1: Initial Assessment

The history of the establishment of *Greenhills* and the construction *Graham Lodge* is well documented in the *Conservation Analysis Report*. The history is based upon archival and ethno-historical evidence. None of the history is based upon or derived from archaeological investigation. The structure of *Graham Lodge* and its surrounds hold significance of regional importance from an archaeological perspective. The *Greenhills* historical landscape represents an example of the early attempts of European settlement outside the Sydney area. The building of a suitable, noticeable and elite residence, *Graham Lodge*, represents the 'marking his mark' by a noted member of society.

Much of the original *Greenhills* property has been destroyed or impacted upon by development without any archaeological assessment or investigation. Therefore the remaining sections of the undisturbed landscape of the original property, including the Graham family's private cemetery, are extremely important to the heritage of the Shoalhaven and possibly the State of New South Wales. This opinion is derived from the initial archaeological assessment.

There are archaeological theories, arguments and hypotheses that would support an earlier occupation before European settlement in this particular area. The land is elevated, with vista across a swampland and open plain and in close proximity to a good water supply. The area would have provided an ideal campsite for early human hunting activities. Development has greatly disturbed the original ground surface, however, it is considered that a program of test excavations is likely to reveal stone tools and other artefacts of indigenous occupation.

Further test excavations are essential in respect to the European relics observed on site for the following reasons:

- (a) it is confirmed that relics are present in many areas of the property. The property and location of the relics are shown in the series of location sketch maps in this report;
- (b) it is considered that some of these relics may be related to the original settlement of *Greenhills* and the occupation of *Graham Lodge* and are therefore be of regional significance;

Examples of relics considered to be important for diagnostic purposes have been digitised on site and have been presented in this report. Intact relics, including two unbroken bottles, had been upheaved during the digging of trenches for building foundations (Figure 29). Therefore it is probable that test excavations will reveal further intact relics.

Intact bottles recovered from fill dug from footings for foundations



Figure 29: Complete relics were identified on site. The digging of trenches for footings for buildings had exposed these relics.

The SCC is therefore obliged by the *Heritage Act (NSW) 1977* to implement the next stage of the archaeological investigation if redevelopment or adaptive reuse is to proceed.

3.2 STAGE 2: Test Excavations

1. SCC is advised that relics are present in the areas marked on the site sketches (Pages 66 - 72).
2. no further disturbance of any ground is to be undertaken for any purpose until the archaeological investigation is complete;
3. the physical condition and size of the relics are such that any archaeological excavation must be undertaken by hand;
4. a permit eg. an '*Application to Carry Out Historical and Maritime Archaeological Investigations*' pursuant to Section 57(1) (c) or Section 139 of the *Heritage Act (NSW) 1977* is required;
5. a research design proposal must be completed based upon the initial archaeological assessment to explain the basis on which the testing will be undertaken. This research design proposal must be submitted to the Heritage Council of New South Wales when applying for the above permit;
6. **NOTE: It is essential that the sites to be included in the test excavation stage of the archaeological investigation, including *Graham Lodge* be made secure.**

Should any indigenous stone tools or other relics be exposed by these test excavations, it will be necessary to comply with Clause 14 of the Conditions of Approval in the *Application to Carry Out Archaeological Investigations* as issued by the Heritage Council of New South Wales. This would require that the excavation in progress be ceased, and that the New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service be advised. This action is necessary to comply with the provisions of Section 86 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*.

Suggested schedule for the above

Any schedule depends upon the acceptance of the initial archaeological assessment by Shoalhaven City Council:

1. a brief is required from SCC for the archaeologists to continue the archaeological investigation to the test excavation stage;

2. two days will be required by the archaeologists to prepare the research design proposal and submit the permit;

NOTE: The permit is issued to the director of the archaeological excavations. However, SCC or its representative has to sign the completed application to the Heritage Council of NSW as the owner / developer of the property.

A permit application usually takes approximately 30 days to be approved from the time of submission.

If the permit is approved, the test excavations will take a minimum of three days to complete the fieldwork, provided:

- that no significant archaeological relics are uncovered during the excavation;
- that no human remains are uncovered during the test excavations;
- that no indigenous relics are uncovered during the excavation. If such relics are located, a separate permit must be applied for eg *An Application for a Consent to Destroy Aboriginal Relics or a Research Permit* under Section 87 (1) or 90 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*. A research design plan must accompany the application and the research proposal must be approved by the Local Aboriginal Land Council;
- it is not possible to comment on a time schedule in relation to these later applications and negotiations should they be necessary;

Examination, recording, cataloguing, interpretation of the relics will take a minimum of five days.

The report to the Heritage Council of New South Wales, as required under the conditions of the approval of the permit, will require approximately three days depending on content, to complete.

Result of test excavations

Two possible scenarios arise from the result of any test excavation.

(1) that no relics considered significant are identified during the process of test excavation. In this case the completion of the test excavation and report to the Heritage Council of NSW would finalise the archaeological assessment.

NOTE: Any disturbances of the ground surfaces may then be undertaken by the SCC for construction purposes or tourist facilities.

OR

(2) Relics considered significant are located during the test excavation process.

If the test excavations reveal significant relics, SCC are obliged to proceed to Stage 3 of the archaeological assessment process eg. archaeological excavation.

3.3 STAGE 3: Archaeological Excavation (may or may not be required)

The archaeological excavation will require a detailed research plan to be prepared and submitted with an application for an *Application to Carry Out Historical and Maritime Archaeological Investigations* pursuant to Section 57(1) (c) or Section 139 of the *Heritage Act (NSW) 1977* from the Heritage Council of New South Wales.

If an indigenous relic is present, an *Application for a Consent to Destroy Aboriginal Relics or a Research Permit* under Section 87 (1) or 90 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*, will also be required.

Such a detailed archaeological examination would require a comprehensive research plan for either permit. Additional qualified and experienced archaeologists may need to be to be involved on site.

If archaeological excavation were to be considered necessary, and the Heritage Council of New South Wales gave favourable consideration to a permit, it would be difficult to predict a time schedule. However, it would be reasonable to state that such detailed investigations may take up to three months or longer to complete from excavation to report.

3.4 *In Situ* Conservation

The principal archaeological feature on the site is **GH02 Graham Lodge**. The initial archaeological assessment indicates that this is an archaeological relic of such significance or research value that it warrants retention and conservation *in situ*. This determination is supported by the Section 5.3 *Assessment Against the Criteria* ([Freeman et al 1999:85] *Graham Lodge Precinct Nowra Conservation Management Plan*).

The procedures for determining appropriate management strategies for such archaeological features is in the form of a conservation management plan. A conservation management plan for *Graham Lodge* eg *Graham Lodge Precinct Nowra Conservation Management Plan* (Freeman et al 1999) has been prepared and accepted by SCC.

NOTE: The Conservation Management Plan does not include an archaeological assessment of *Graham Lodge*.

A limited archaeological investigation was conducted on *Graham Lodge* during the initial archaeological assessment as noted in this report. A complete archaeological assessment is required before the *in situ* conservation may proceed (Section 3.3.5 *In Situ Conservation Archaeological Assessment Guidelines*). Archaeological relics may be part of an historic building. The *Heritage Act (NSW) 1977* protects archaeological relics by requiring that any disturbance to those relics is carried out in accordance with an excavation permit issued by the Heritage Council of NSW.

NOTE: Any refurbishment, alteration, maintenance or demolition of any feature of this relic, eg *Graham Lodge*, must be done with an appropriate excavation permit in place.

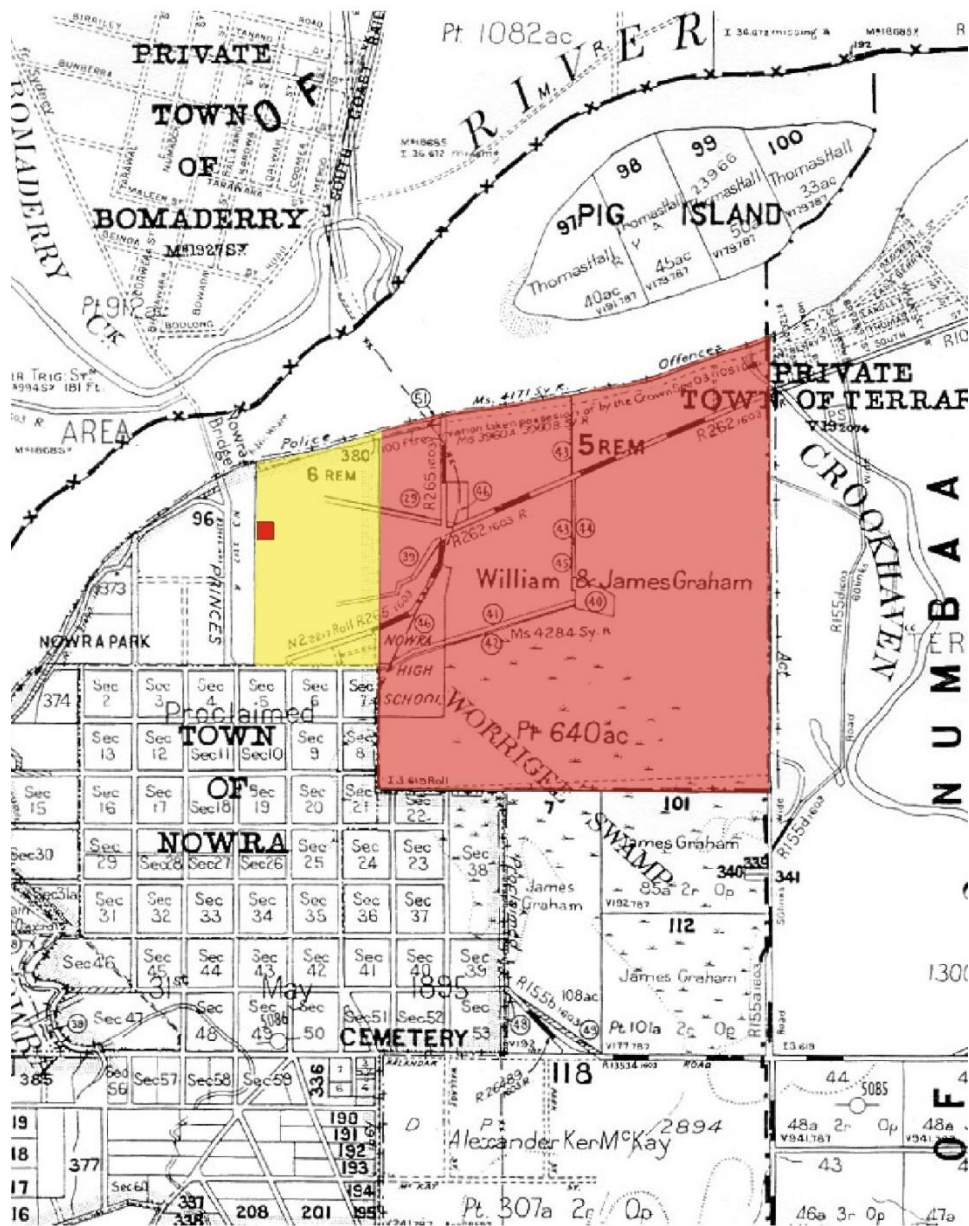
4.0 Site Illustrations

The following location sketches are of areas where relics were observed on the surface. Test excavation will be required on these sites within the areas indicated. The method of excavation will be determined by the archaeologist on site. However, it is considered that hand excavation will be necessary in most cases. The excavations on all sites will be in 1 metre squares or smaller sections as is considered necessary.

Location sketches for sites **GH03** and **GH04** are not included. A brief investigation of these sites was undertaken during the initial assessment. However, the ownership of the land must be established and permission sought to enter. The sites identified in the area are considered essential to the archaeological investigation of *Greenhills* and *Graham Lodge*.

4.1 Site location sketches

Location Sketch of GH01



GH01 Greenhills property c 1827

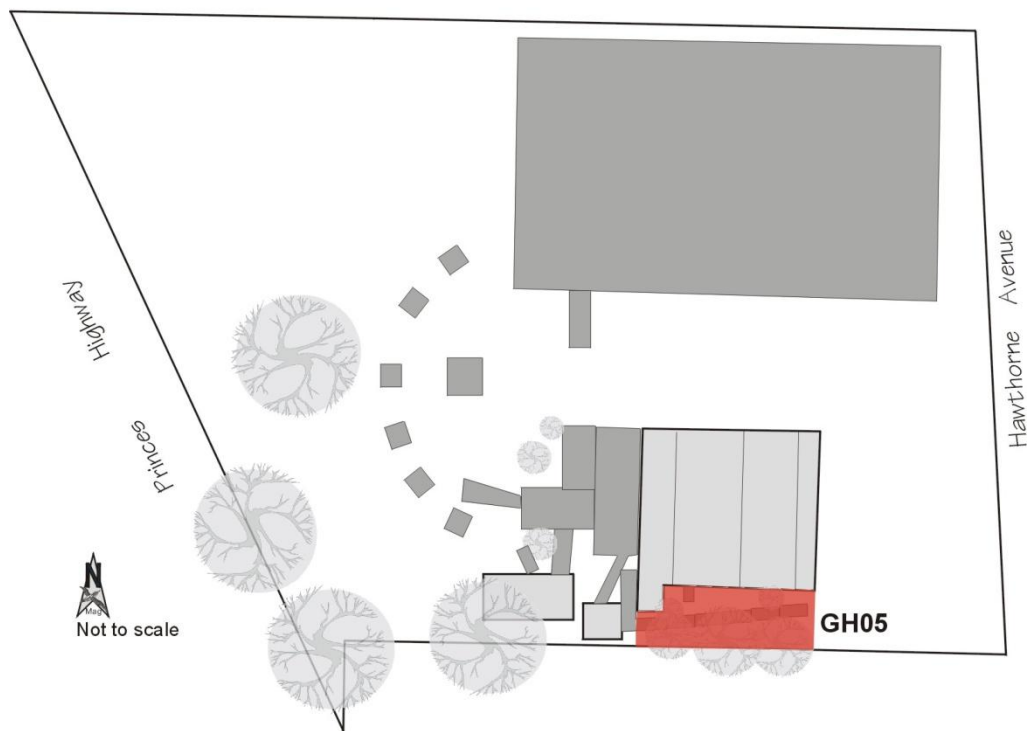
(after: *Parish of Nowra, County of St. Vincent Edition 10*
Scale 20 chains = 1 inch)

Location Sketch of GH02



GH02 Graham Lodge:
Relics are present on the surface in this area.

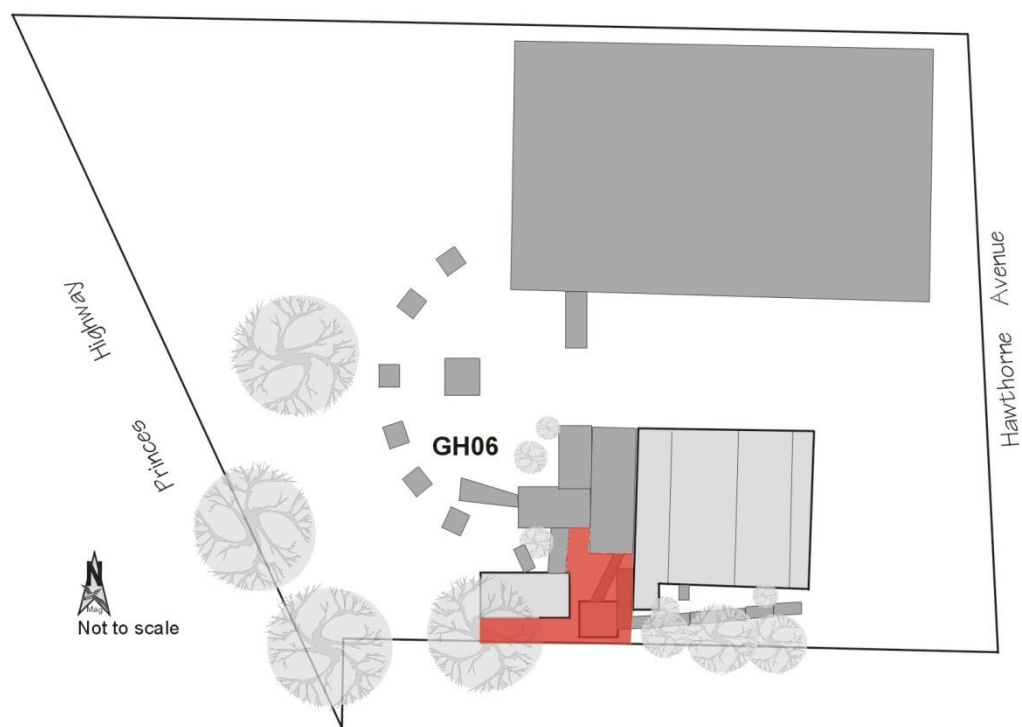
Location Sketch of GH05



GH05 Remnant Garden:

Relics are present on the surface in this area. The remains of a small garden is present. The garden has been edged with rocks. Also an earthen floor from a larger building may be present. Several trees will have to be removed from this area.

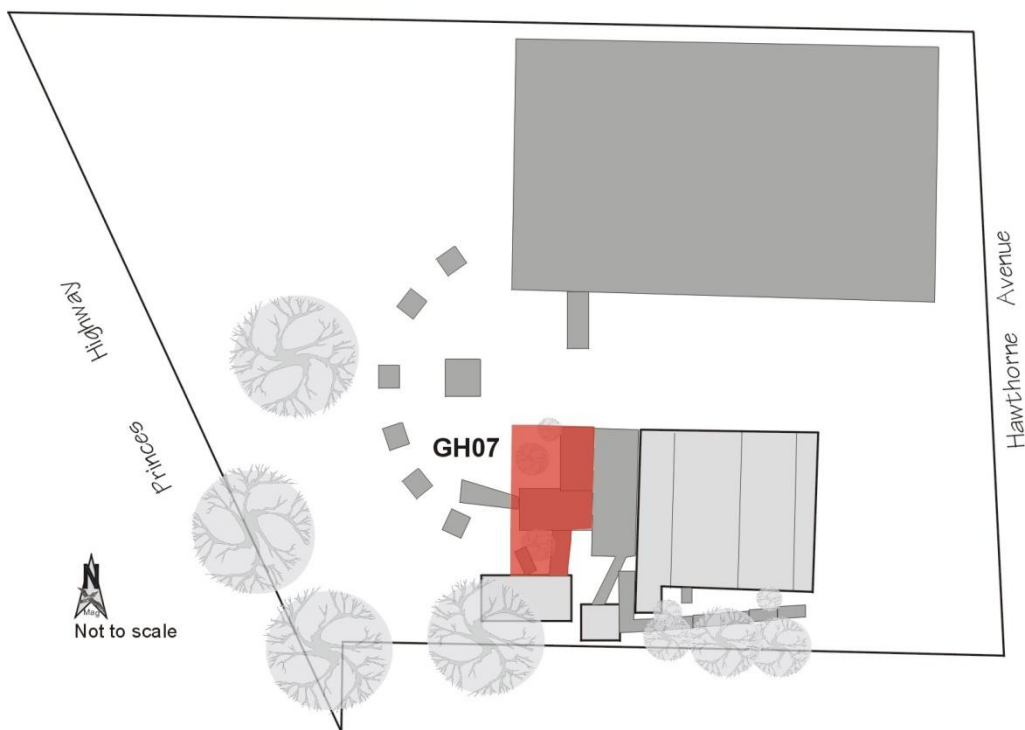
Location Sketch of GH06



GH06 Sandstone Pathway:

Relics are present on the surface in this area. This area may also contain the remains of a sandstone pathway associated with the early occupation of *Graham Lodge*. Concrete covers much of this area and should be carefully removed with an archaeologist on site, as part of the test excavation.

Location Sketch of GH07



GH07 Floor or pathway:

Relics are present on the surface in this area. This area may also contain the remains of a well associated with the early occupation of *Graham Lodge*. Concrete covers much of this area and should be carefully removed with an archaeologist on site, as part of the test excavation.

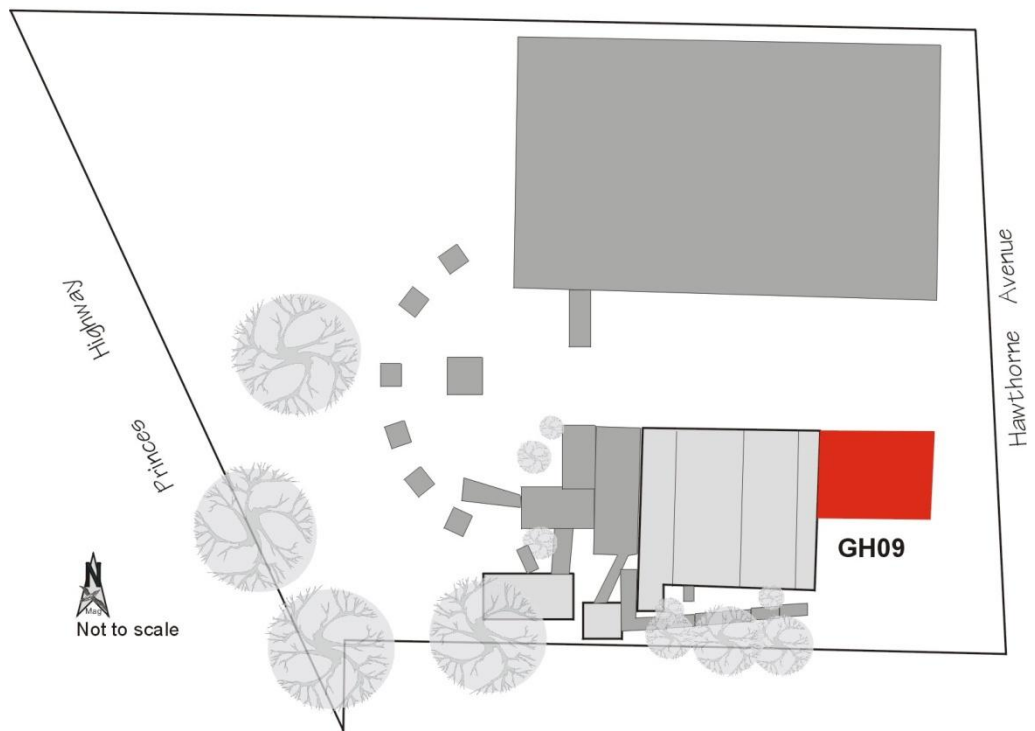
Location Sketch of GH08



GH08 Rear Garden:

Relics are present on the surface in this area. This area is comprised of a large open grassed area with the remains of six concrete slabs formerly used to support umbrella tables. The slabs should be removed while an archaeologist is present, and preferably as part of the test excavations. Testing should also be undertaken near the existing garden. Several historical paintings depict outbuilding in this location.

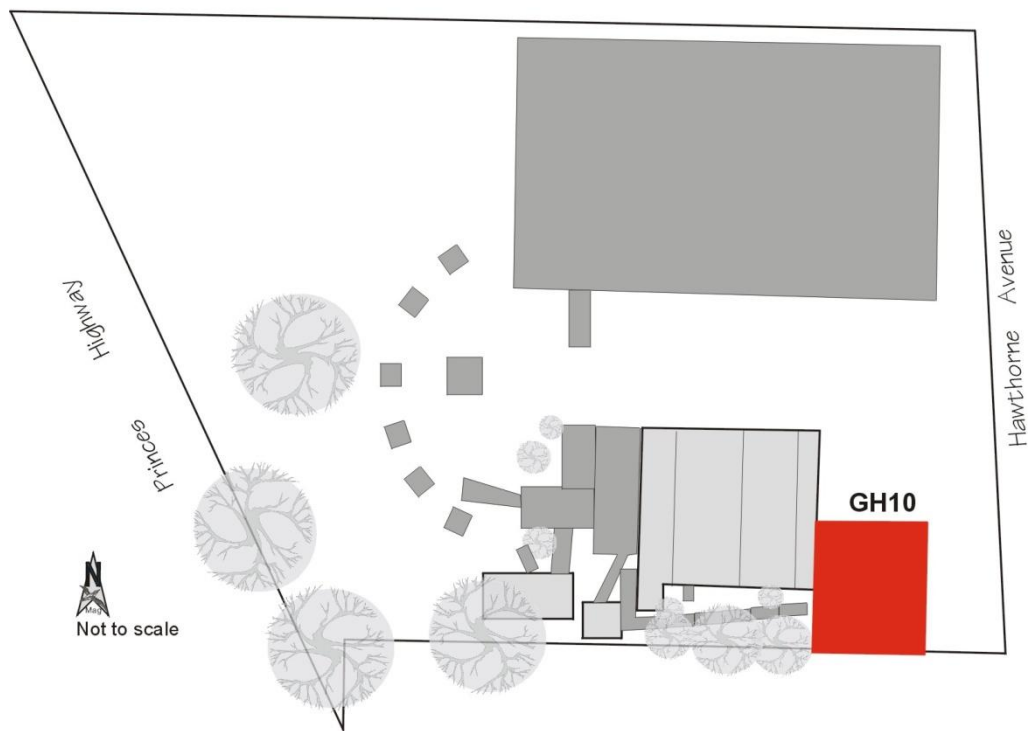
Location Sketch of GH09



GH09 Front Garden (north):

Relics are present on the surface in this area. Also the original ground surface is visible. Several holes are present and may be relic postholes or the remains of garden plants. The extant remains of an earthen floor may also be present.

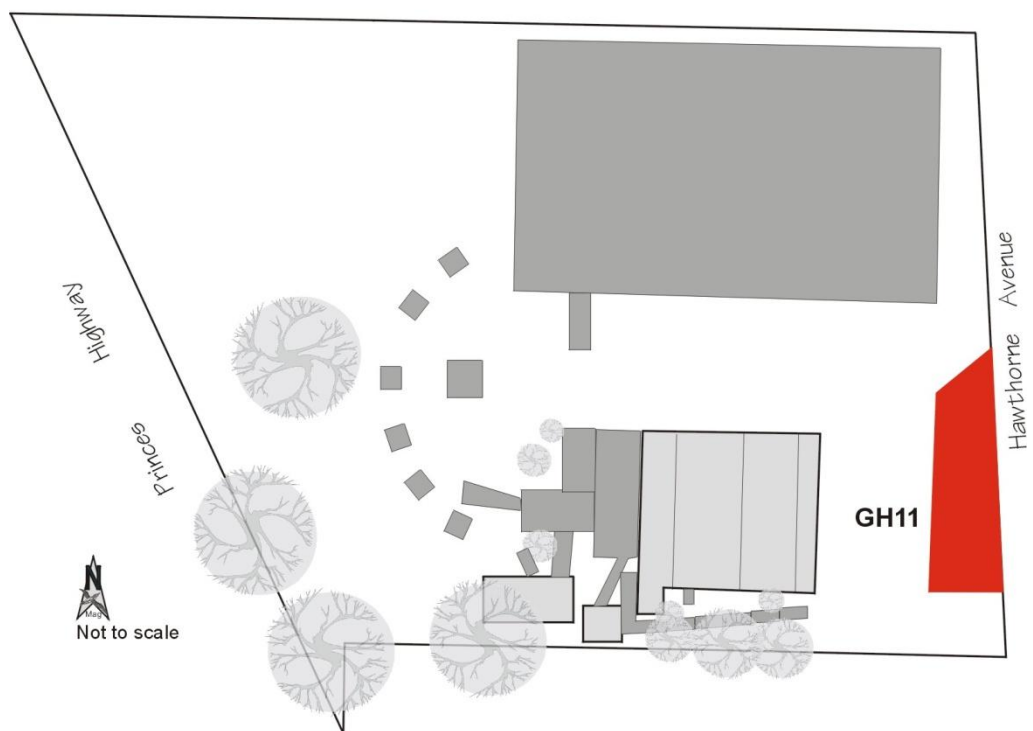
Location Sketch of GH10



GH10 Front Garden (south):

Relics are present on the surface in this area. Several relics were sighted along the building line. Nails and other fittings are also present. They are not the nails that were recently dropped on the site from the renovation of the roof.

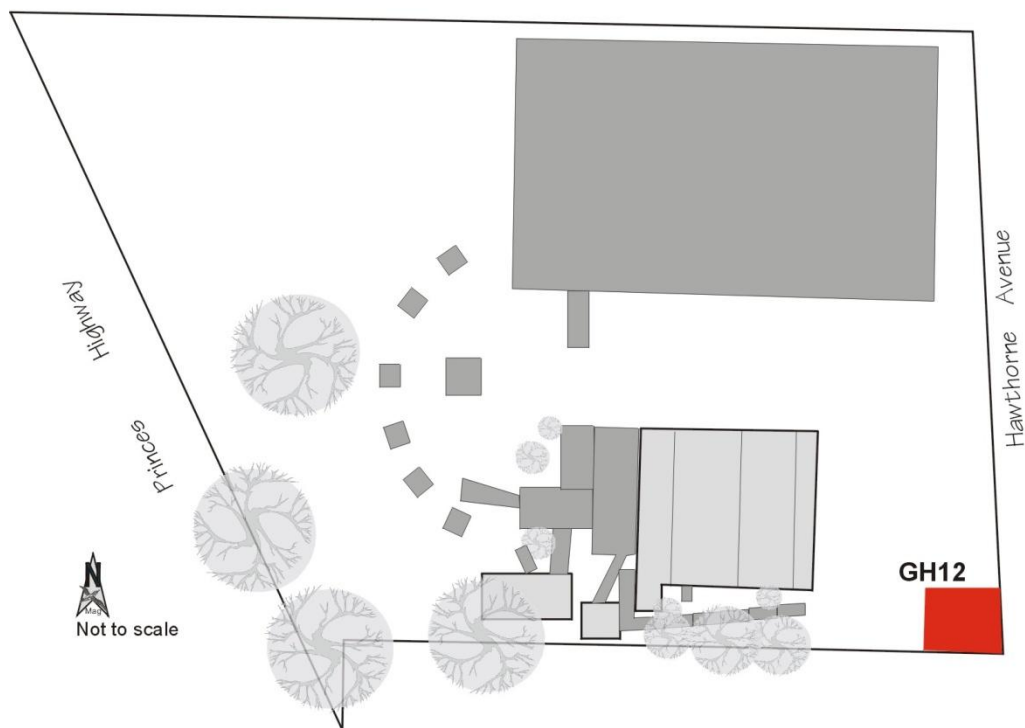
Location Sketch of GH11



GH11 Front Garden (east):

This grassed area may contain some undisturbed ground associated with the original ground level of *Graham Lodge*. Several shallow depressions in this area may be remnants of the front garden.

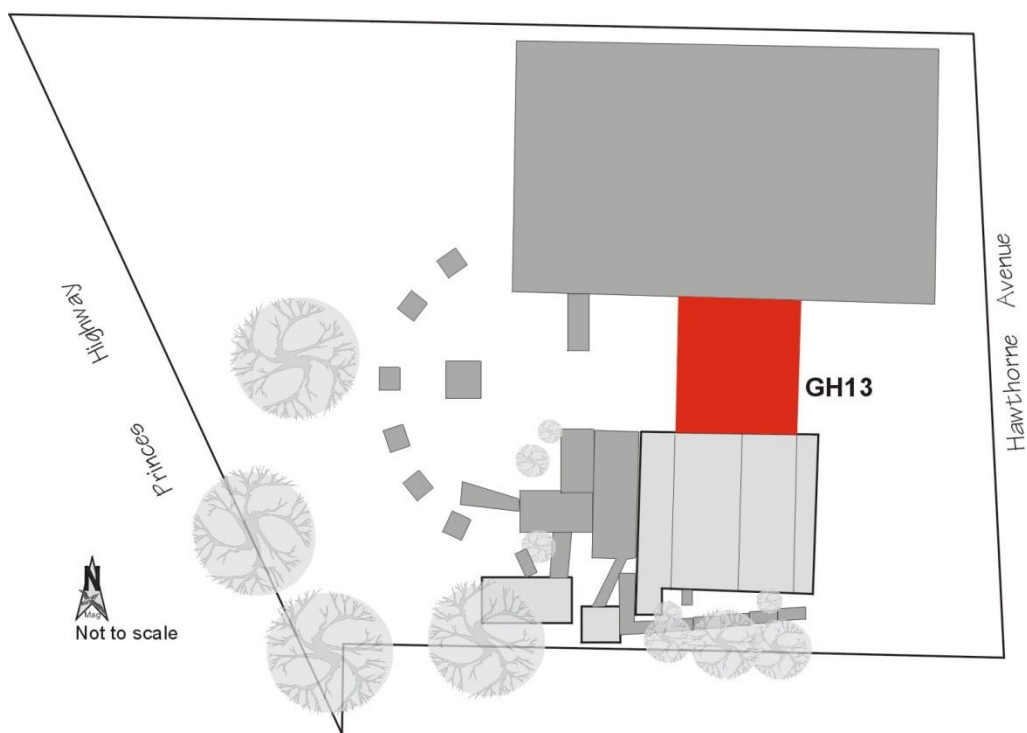
Location Sketch of GH12



GH12 Stone Placement:

Relics are present on the surface in this area, including a series of stones in a circular pattern. These are closely aligned with the boundary of the property. The formation of stones should be investigated by excavation.

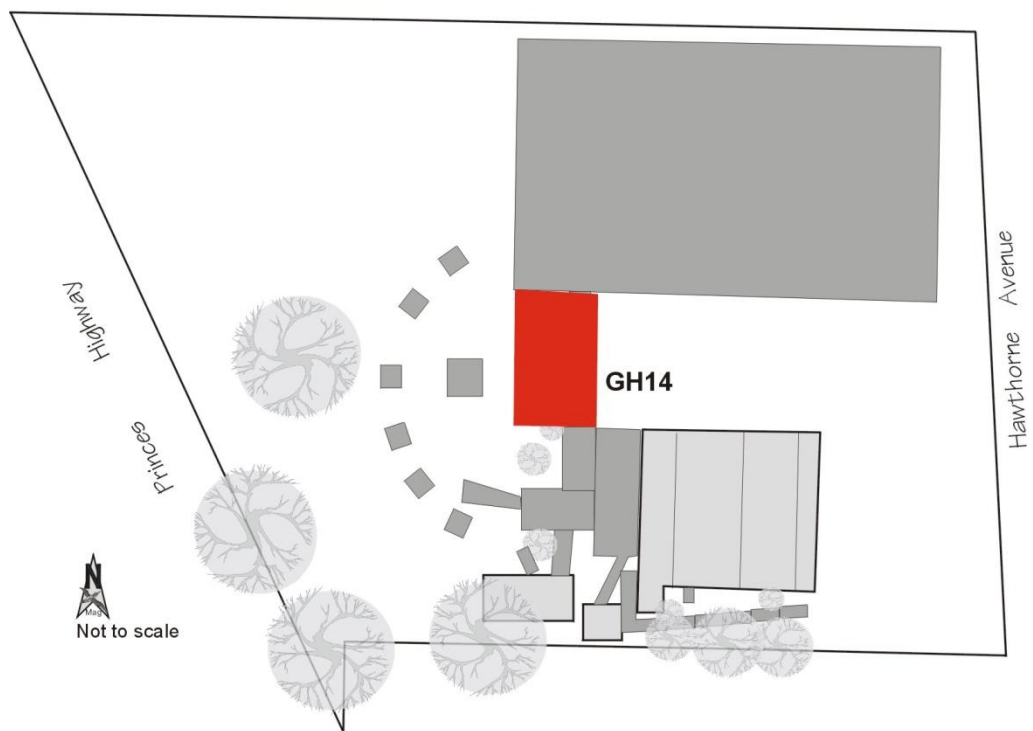
Location Sketch of GH13



GH13 Old *Prague* Lodge site::

Relics are present in this area. The ground level around the piers remaining in the ground from the floor of *Prague Lodge* may be the original ground level. A test excavation should be conducted. Trenches dug for the foundations of the Tourist Information Centre disturbed relics in this area confirming that relics are present in the sub soil layers.

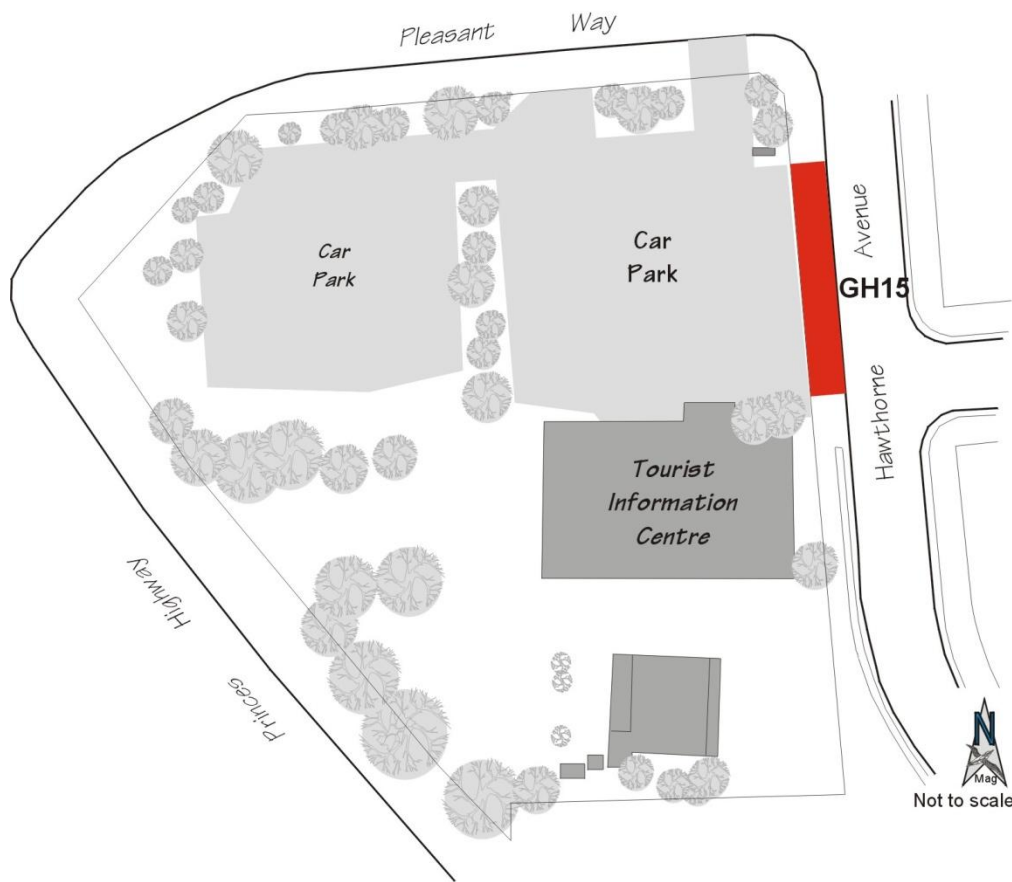
Location Sketch of GH14



GH14 Outbuildings:

Relics are present in this area. Trenches dug for the footings revealed relics in this location. Several outbuildings are shown in the various historical paintings. The compressed earth may be part of the floor associated with these structures.

Location Sketch of GH15



GH15 The Verge to Hawthorne Avenue

4.2 Historical paintings of *Greenhills*

Paintings showing the historical landscape of *Greenhills* used for reference during the initial archaeological assessment.



Elyard, S., c. 1877, *Graham Lodge and associated Graham Farm buildings* per R. Florance and Shoalhaven Art Society Nowra. Watercolour.



Elyard, S., Copy of a painting of the *Greenhills* landscape supplied by R. Florance, Nowra.



Artist Unknown (Initials "C. G.") 1869, *Graham Lodge Nowra NSW*. Watercolour 88 x 37 cm., per R. Florance, Nowra.



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Thomas, J, 1999, 'Neolithic houses in mainland Britain: A sceptical view', *The house in Neolithic Britain and beyond*, T. Dargavel and J. Thomas (eds), Oxford, England.

(http://aveburyarchsotonacu/Journal/Thomas/neohouse_gh.html)

Maps

Parish of Nowra, County of St. Vincent, ed. 10, 1967.

Unpublished Material

Greenhills Account Book 1848 - 1854, Details of transactions relating to the *Greenhills* property written by members of the Graham family. per R. Florance, Nowra.

Paintings

Artist Unknown (Initials "C. G.") 1869, *Graham Lodge* Nowra NSW. Watercolour 88 x 37 cm., per R. Florance, Nowra.

Elyard, S., c. 1877, *Graham Lodge and associated Graham Farm buildings* per R. Florance and Shoalhaven Art Society Nowra. Watercolour.

Elyard, S., n/d., Painting from the estate of Miss Alice Elyard loaned for copying by T. Todd, Nowra.

Elyard, S., Copy of a painting of the *Greenhills* landscape supplied by R. Florance, Nowra.

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