

**12 NOVEMBER 2018**

Angus Moreton  
Senior Project Manager  
Lendlease, Building

Dear Angus,

**RE: WESTERN SYDNEY STADIUM, PARRAMATTA  
HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY – SSD 8175  
PUBLIC DOMAIN STADIUM BUILDING WORKS**

This letter is written in response to the requirements from CoA B27 in relation to the 'public domain stadium works' associated with 'landscaping, and tree planting works':

B27 Prior to commencement of above ground stadium buildings works and public domain works associated with this consent, a report endorsed by a suitably qualified and experienced excavation director who fulfils the Heritage Council's Excavation Director Criteria for the excavation of state significant archaeology must be submitted to the satisfaction of the Secretary demonstrating that the detailed design of Western Sydney Stadium, and all proposed interpretation, landscaping and tree planting works have been sensitively designed to avoid impacts on identified archaeological items of significance.

The main archaeological program of testing for the Western Sydney Stadium has been completed. Stages 1 and 2 testing programs ran from late May 2017 to 25 August 2017. A third stage of testing works was undertaken in the Southern Carpark on 23/7/2018:

- **STAGE 1:** Testing to remove fills with asbestos down to the top of natural or surviving asbestos-containing material (ACM) which did not need to be removed.
- **STAGE 2:** Testing within the area of the basement where natural material was to be removed.
- **STAGE 3:** Testing in the southern carpark to determine survival of archaeology and the need for redesign.

**TESTING STAGE 1**

Stage 1 testing was undertaken to confirm the depth at which the natural soil profile survived across parts of the site where the ACM was to be removed. Both the Aboriginal and Historical archaeology would be contained within these deposits. This methodology allowed us to ensure a conservation outcome within the area of the State and Nationally-significant values of the Government Farm, to the south of the basement and within Parramatta Park. Some of the removal of ACM was also undertaken within the basement, stopping at the top of the natural soil profile. Determining the soil profile was the subject of the archaeological testing program within the basement area. Stage 1 stopped at this point.

We also monitored the removal of ACM in the north of the site relating to the archaeology of the Government Watermill and mill dam. The removal of the ACM was to reduce the ground level and it does not involve any impact on mill-related archaeology.

**TESTING STAGE 2**

The purpose of Stage 2 testing, undertaken within the Mod 1 approval, was to record any potential archaeology within the basement. For this stage of testing, the Historical / European archaeology team undertook testing after the Aboriginal testing to determine if significant historical archaeology survived within the basement area.

At the beginning of this stage, a site visit was undertaken on 21 July 2017 by Dr Siobhan Lavelle and Ms Felicity Barry, the archaeologists from the Heritage Division, OEH, to discuss the approaches and results of Stage 1, and the Stage 2 methodology.

The testing was quite extensive, covering all of the basement footprint. The thorough nature of the testing was to determine if the evidence for early timber structures survived across this area. As a precursor to this work we set out the predicted location of the Government Farm, which was to the south of the development area and outside the basement footprint. This allowed for us to test the model for the predicted location of the Government Farm.

The methodology used of preliminary stripping of the modern topsoil to allow for the exposure of archaeological features found a number of surprising elements which were confirmed with our soil scientist, Dr Roy Lawrie. The normal soil profile had been truncated, possibly due to the forming of the playing fields in the 19th/20th century and also possibly associated with early agricultural practices. The upper layer of topsoil was missing from the soil profile and had been mixed into the A2 horizon, a mid grey sandy silty deposit. Therefore, the strategy to expose archaeological features, such as evidence of timber structures, needed to go as deep as 300mm to 400mm. Normally such stripping would not be any deeper than approximately 200mm. Also, it appears that there was no evidence of flood-borne deposition of river silts on the terrace where the archaeological testing was undertaken which altered our expectations for this terrace. It is possible, however, that the lower southern terrace has flood-borne deposits.

The testing program was divided into six areas to allow for a staged approach. The testing for historical archaeology was also closely associated with the Aboriginal program. Due to the need for the historical program to strip off the upper 300 to 400mm of remnant soil profile which was found to contain Aboriginal artefacts, it was necessary for the Aboriginal program to be completed in each area before the historical testing could commence. The preliminary results of the Aboriginal program also acted to refine our approach. This had a successful outcome for the Aboriginal program.

The team undertaking the Aboriginal testing program also wet sieved the soil from their test trenches which showed that there was very little background examples of historical artefacts. Among the scarce fragments of historic artefacts found were brown beer bottle glass and soft drink bottles, all of which are associated with the 20th century and the use of this area as a playing field. This evidence also supported our predictions.

Preliminary investigation of all 'features' found that many of them were animal burrows, 19th or 20th-century tree planting pits, and probably postholes from fencelines. There were a few possible older postholes which could not be reconciled with the range of 20th-century fencelines based on analysis of a series of 20th-century aerial photos and historic maps. This may mean that in all likelihood they are older but this is uncertain at this stage. We recorded all the archaeological features we found, concluding that they did not offer any clear evidence for 18th-century buildings or the boundary fenceline of the farm. The team of Dr Mary Casey, Ronan McEleney and Brian Shanahan determined that this extensive archaeological testing program had encountered no definitively State or Nationally-significant archaeology and therefore no salvage program was required.

As a result of this testing we can confirm that the proposed construction of the Western Sydney Stadium above-ground building works will not impact on potential archaeology of the Government Farm which is considered to be to the south of the stadium construction.

### **STAGE 3 & SOUTHERN CARPARK**

Stage 3 testing in the southern carpark was undertaken as the original cut and fill design involved reduction of this area by up to 1.5m. The testing identified the presence of relics considered to be associated with a Government Farm building (1788-c.1810) (Figures 1). The discovery of these relics was reported to the Heritage Division, OEH on 25/7/2018, as required by the project approval. Following considerable redesign in the southern carpark to avoid impacts on the State-significant archaeology, as per the CoA SSD 7543 MOD 1 B14,

a site meeting was held on 7/9/2018 with Felicity Barry, Rebecca Newell and Verena Mauldon, the Heritage Division OEH archaeologists, to discuss the outcome of this redesign. They considered that the proposed redesign provided for the survival of the archaeology of the State-significant Government Farm and required by the SSD approval.

The key aspect of the redesign involved maintaining the carpark levels at the current RL, some minor resurfacing but no reduction of levels, and building a retaining wall outside the curtilage of the Government Farm footprint so a road can still be built around the Western Sydney Stadium (Figure 1, 2, 3).

### TREE PLANTING & REMOVAL

Regarding tree planting, the following advice was provided by Aspect Studies in relation to the Landscape Masterplan:

Please find below minimum excavation requirements for trees to be installed at the Western Sydney Stadium project in Parramatta. Please note our landscape documentation indicates 3 different pots sizes for trees including 75 litres, 200 litres, 400 litres. We note that in general excavation holes are to be twice the diameter of the root ball and approximately equal to the depth of the root ball. The following tables provides indicative root ball dimensions for these pot sizes and required excavation dimensions for each.

Pot Size	Diameter (mm)	Depth (mm)	Excavation diameter (mm)	Excavation depth (mm)
100L	465	500	930	500
200L	700	625	1400	625
400L	980	715	1960	715

### Southern Carpark

Tree planting within the Southern Carpark was redesigned based on the results of the Stage 3 testing program. Figures 4 and 5 shows the latest tree removal and planting design.

- **Tree removal** within the southern carpark will involve cutting of the tree down to ground level and grinding the stump out but no excavation.
- Most trees are to be retained in this area but some will be removed.
- **Six new trees** will be planted in this northern section of the playing field (Figure 5). This is in an area which was reduced and all archaeological material removed during the early works program (Figure 3).
- All other **new plantings** in the Southern Carpark are outside the area of the Government Farm, typically in areas where there are no surviving archaeological deposits and there will therefore be no impacts on archaeological remains.
- There are 10 trees near the entrance to the carpark. This area is located in an area of fill associated with the construction of the carpark for the former swimming pool. The upper 1m or so of this area has no significant archaeological deposits.
- There is expected to be no impacts on local or State significant archaeology in this area from tree planting or removal.

### Area of the Government Watermill and mill dam - North West Area

- Tree removal (10 trees) within the southern carpark will involve cutting of the tree down to ground level and grinding out the stump but no excavation (Figure 4).
- The tree planting (Figures 5, 6) involves approximately 8 to 10 x 100L trees within the northern carpark and to the north.
- Much of the archaeology in this area is a mill dam which was infilled c.1960s with further landscaping in the 1980s (Casey & Lowe Jan. 2017:87; Figure 7).
- The limited planting of these 8 to 10 trees with holes 930mm diameter and 500mm depth are considered to be minimal in relation to the nature of the dam, with much

of the evidence for the dam anticipated to be buried under a considerable depth of fill.

- Any works in this area should be managed as unexpected finds. If deposits of sandstock bricks, artefacts or the like are found then the archaeologist needs to be notified to attend site to determine if they are significant relics. If they are not significant, work can recommence.

## FURTHER REDUCTION OF GROUND LEVELS WITHIN THE SITE

### Northwestern Area

The Stage 1 testing involved reduction of asbestos fills in this area. Some further minor reduction of this area may be required during Public Domain works. This area is generally considered to be mostly filled within the mill dam and creek line and the raising of ground levels when the earlier stadium was built. Any further works within this area will be monitored to ensure there are no impact on State-significant archaeology.

### O'Connell Street

Ground levels in this area were reduced for the construction of the previous swimming pool. No archaeology is known to be present within this area or was identified during the Archaeological Assessment or the SOHI.

## INTERPRETATION PLAN

The interpretation plan for Western Sydney Stadium will be finalised in accordance with condition D26 and will be finalised in consultation with the community and relevant stakeholders prior to the commencement of use of Western Sydney Stadium and/or associated public domain. In relation to meeting the requirements of condition B27, I can confirm that the interpretive elements will include:

- Boulevard of Legends – embedded pavers inscribed with the names of sporting legends associated with the site, including representation of the sports previously associated with the site;
- Archaeological displays which document the Aboriginal and European history of the site.
- Plaques.

The items will be cited in accordance with the MUSEcape Interpretation Strategy and have been included in the detailed design of the public realm. The placement of these interpretive elements will have no impact on identified archaeological items of significance.

The location of the main earthworks associated with the construction of the Western Sydney Stadium has avoided impacts on State or Nationally-significant archaeology.

Yours Sincerely,




**DR MARY CASEY**

DIRECTOR

Casey & Lowe

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## ASPECT STUDIOS

SOUTHERN CARPARK RECONFIGURATION CONCEPT - POTENTIAL SPACES - 340 WITH REALIGNMENTS SHOWN IN RED

SCALE 1:500 @ A3  
04.02.2019

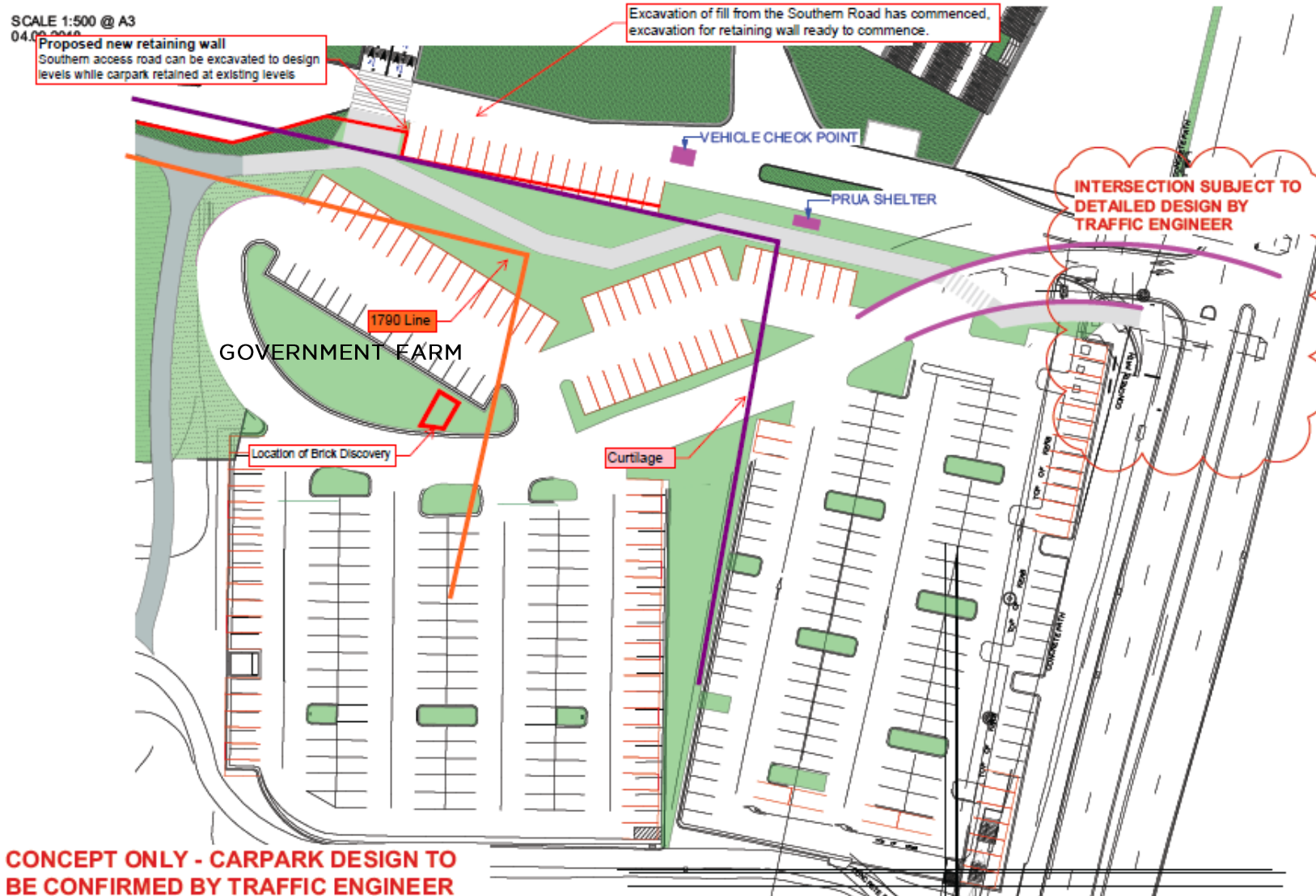
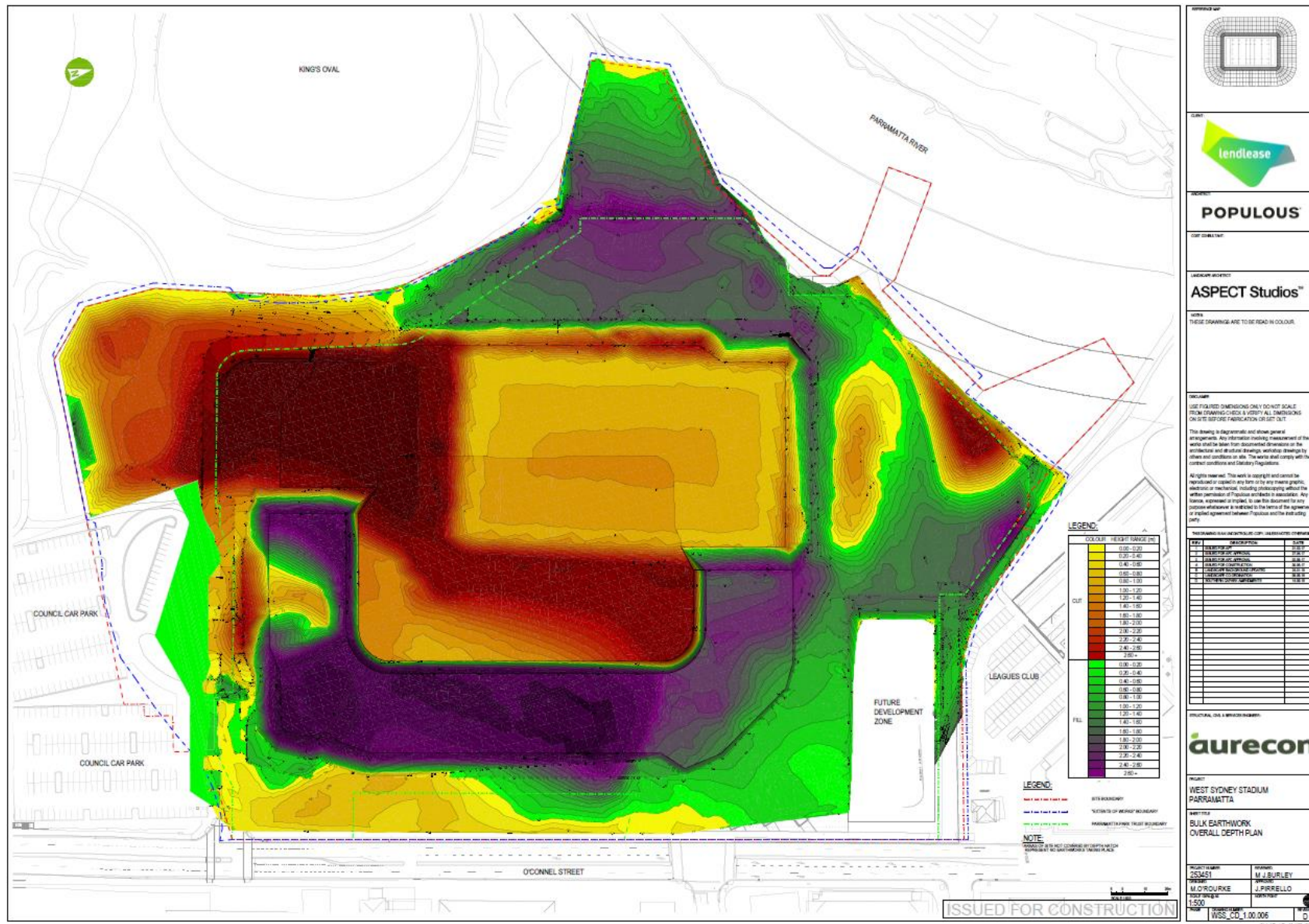
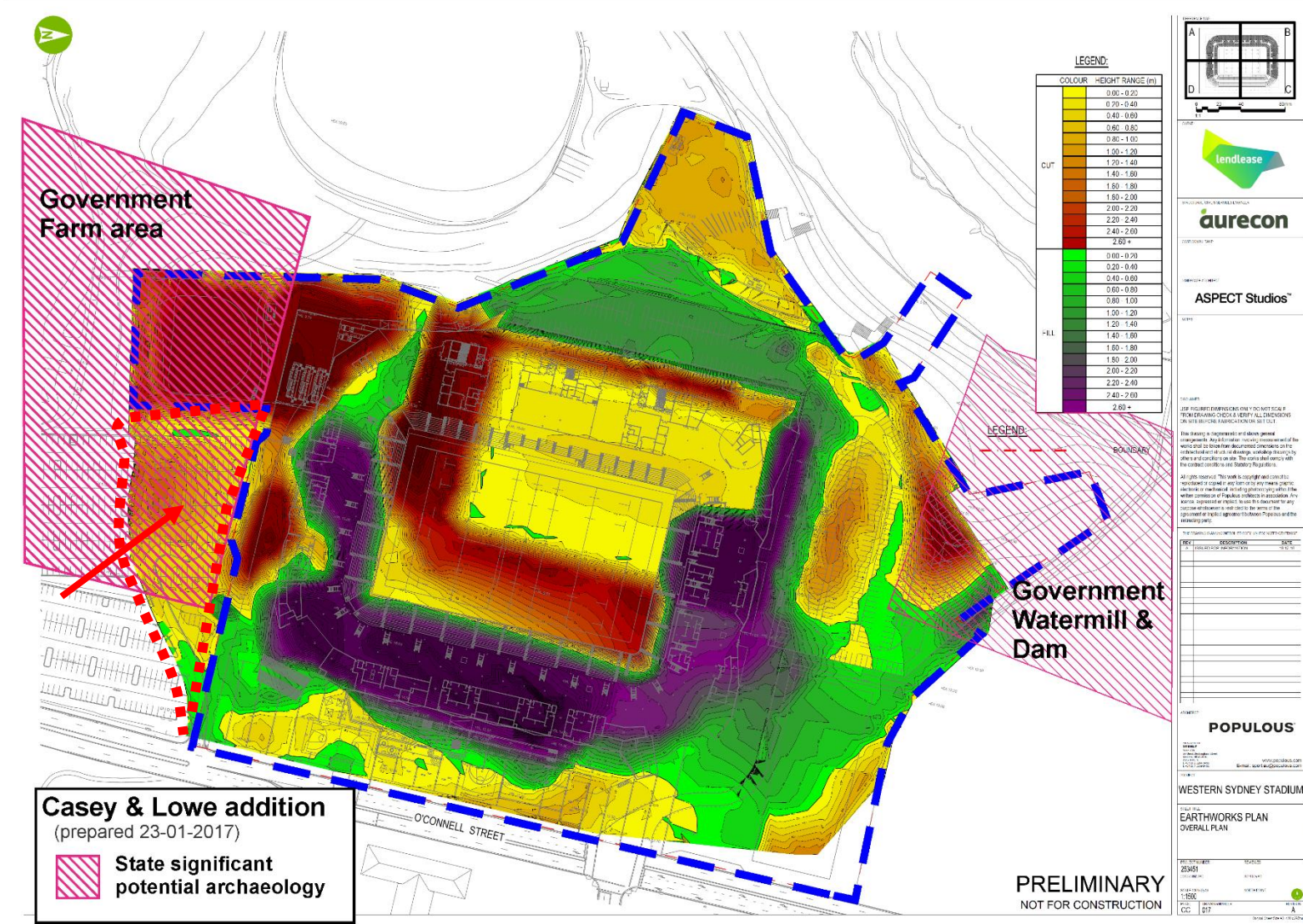


Figure 1: Amended southern carpark redesign showing the outline of the predicted location of the Government Farm (orange) and the trench where the relics were found, the curtilage for the Government Farm (purple) and the area of excavation. The retaining wall and reduction of levels are to the north of the curtilage. Lendlease plan.











LEGEND

- Trees to be protected and retained
- Trees to be removed - Stage 1 DA Approval
- Trees to be removed - Stage 2 DA Approval
- Trees approved to be removed - to be retained
- Trees proposed to be removed - not currently approved
- Site Boundary



Figure 4:  
Plan  
showing  
proposed  
tree  
removals  
across the  
Western  
Sydney  
Stadium.  
Landscape  
Masterplan

Western Sydney Stadium  
ASPECT Studios™

Client:  TREE REMOVAL DIAGRAM REV B



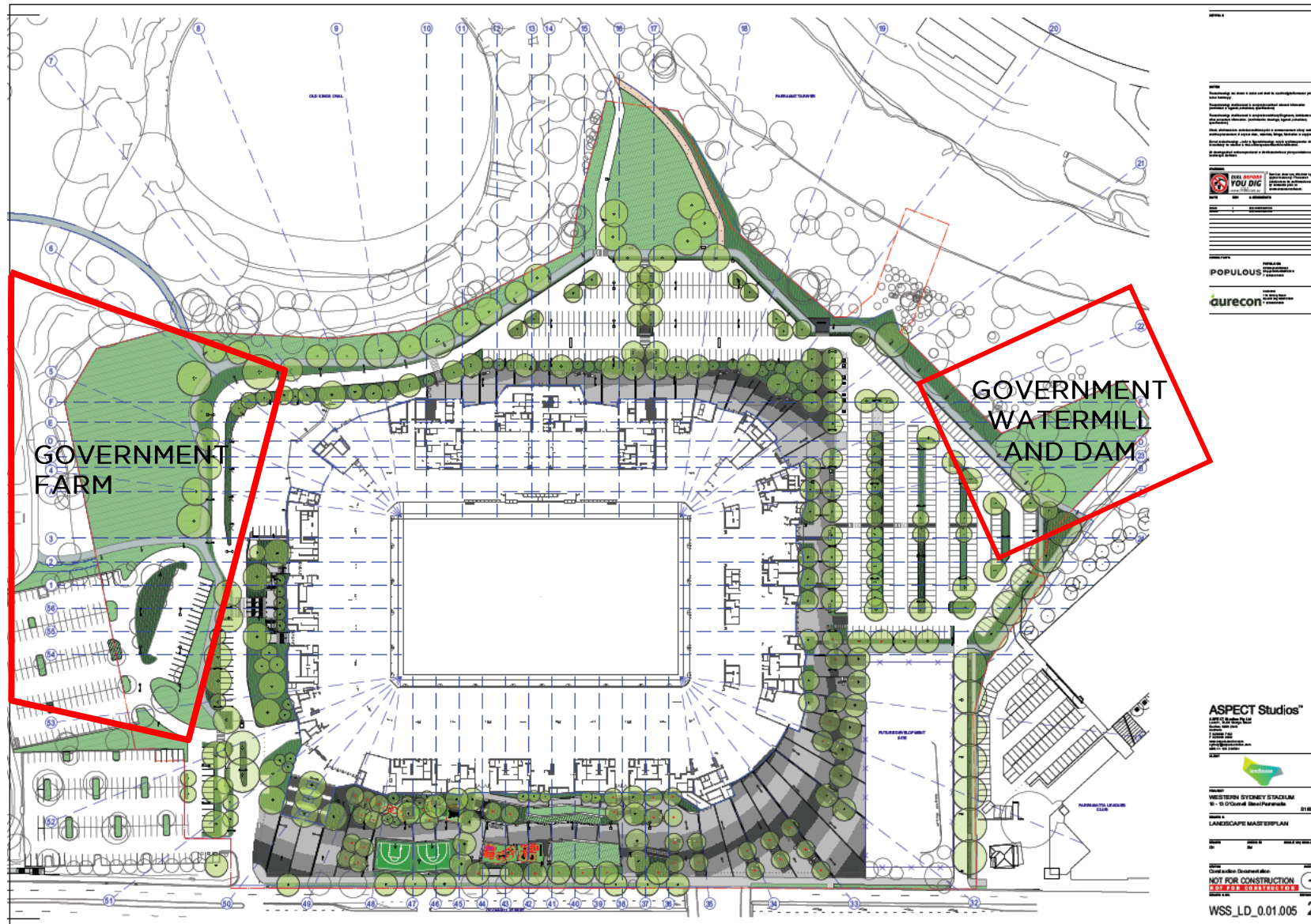


Figure 5:  
Plan showing  
proposed  
new trees  
(green  
coloured)  
to be planted  
across the  
Western  
Sydney  
Stadium  
Landscape  
Masterplan.

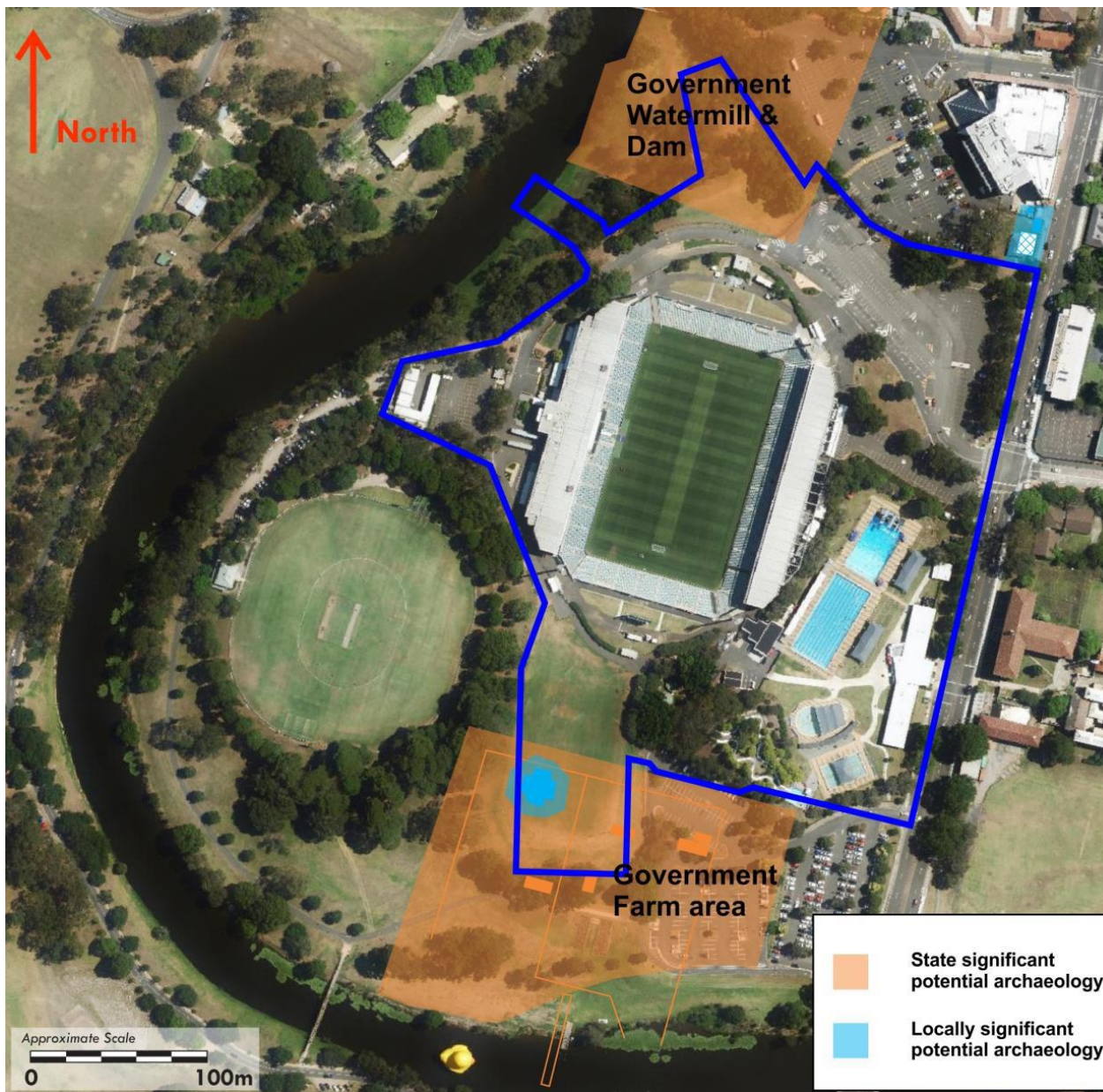


Figure 6: Plan from Archaeological Assessment showing the location of the Government Watermill and Dam. Casey & Lowe January 2017: 5. Casey & Lowe January 2017 *Western Sydney Stadium, Historical Archaeological Assessment & S96 Modification Heritage Impact Statement*, for Lendlease.





Figure 7: 1943 aerial photograph. Green lines representing the breaks of slope shown on the 1887 crown plan have been added. Study area outlined in red. NSW LPI Six Maps viewer. Casey & Lowe 2017:80. Casey & Lowe January 2017 *Western Sydney Stadium, Historical Archaeological Assessment & S96 Modification Heritage Impact Statement*, for Lendlease.