



Information booklet



Artwork by Danny Eastwood

Protection of Aboriginal Heritage in Parramatta

June 2004

PARRAMATTA
CITY COUNCIL

1. HOW IS ABORIGINAL HERITAGE PROTECTED IN PARRAMATTA?

Aboriginal heritage is protected in Parramatta under the Parramatta Heritage and Conservation Local Environmental Plan 1996 and the Parramatta Regional Environmental Plan (Sydney Regional Environmental Plan No. 28 - Parramatta). These planning controls require the Council to consider the impact of development on known or potential Aboriginal archaeological sites or sites of cultural or historical significance to Aboriginal people.

When development applications are lodged for such sites, the Council must also consider an Aboriginal Heritage Assessment along with advice from the National Parks and Wildlife Service and local Aboriginal communities.

2. WHAT IS AN ABORIGINAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT?

An Aboriginal Heritage Assessment is usually carried out by an archaeologist, to determine the impact of a proposed development on a known Aboriginal site and/or to survey of the land to locate any aboriginal sites.

Assessments are carried out in consultation with local Aboriginal communities. Some sites may not contain a relic but may be of social, cultural or historical significance to the Aboriginal community. The impact of the proposed development in this context is considered in assessments for such sites.

A preliminary assessment, also carried out by a suitably qualified person, may indicate that the development proposal will not impact on a known or potential Aboriginal site, so a full site survey and/or impact assessment is not required.

Aboriginal Heritage Assessments should be undertaken before the lodgment of a development application and the proposed development should take into account the findings of the assessment. The assessment is then submitted with the development application and will be referred by Council to local Aboriginal communities and the National Parks and Wildlife Service for review.

3. HOW DO I FIND OUT IF MY PROPERTY CONTAINS AN ABORIGINAL SITE?

Council has a database of known Aboriginal archaeological and historic/cultural sites and information about the location of land that could contain Aboriginal sites. An Aboriginal site may contain physical evidence of surface or sub-surface Aboriginal heritage, including items and remnants of occupation of the land by Aboriginal people, such as burial places, engraving sites, rock art, midden deposits, scarred and carved trees or sharpening grooves. There are also areas and places that are of social/historical association to Aboriginal people. These sites may not contain any surface or sub-surface physical evidence of Aboriginal heritage, but have associations and historical significance to Aboriginal people living within the area or with a connection to the area.

Properties likely to contain Aboriginal sites have been identified on a 'sensitivity map' and this information is available on the Council's Geographical Information System. The sensitivity mapping identifies the potential of an area to contain Aboriginal sites, that is, sites that retain physical evidence of Aboriginal heritage. The relative sensitivities include high, medium, low and no sensitivity. Sites with high sensitivity that are known to contain an Aboriginal site are also mapped to within a 50 metre radius. The mapping also identifies areas that are of social/historical association to Aboriginal People.

High sensitivity =	known sites (within 50m radius), areas with high archaeological potential, undisturbed natural landscape
Medium sensitivity landscape =	some archaeological potential, partially disturbed landscape
Low sensitivity =	largely disturbed landscape
No sensitivity =	totally disturbed landscape, reclaimed area
Areas of social/historical association =	areas identified as having some significance to present day Aboriginal people through current social or historical connections

Before lodging a development application for development that may have an impact on known or potential Aboriginal sites, you need to find out the sensitivity classification of your property to determine if you need to submit an Aboriginal Heritage Assessment. You can do this by contacting Council's Customer Service Centre on 9806 5000.

4. HOW DO I KNOW IF I HAVE TO SUBMIT AN ABORIGINAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT?

Once you have found out about the sensitivity classification of your property, you should follow the guidelines below.

Properties identified with No Sensitivity

No Aboriginal Heritage Assessment required.

Properties identified with Low Sensitivity

No Aboriginal Heritage Assessment required unless:

1. Your land is within 100m metres of a creek or river foreshore and
2. Your property contains uncleared bushland, sandstone outcrops or exposed sandstone platforms and;
3. Your proposed development affects any of the above features.

Properties identified as Medium Sensitivity or High Sensitivity

Aboriginal Heritage Assessment required.

Properties within 50 metres of a known Aboriginal site

Sites containing an identified Aboriginal site or place of significance are mapped to within a 50m radius. All land within this radius is identified as high sensitivity under the Sensitivity mapping. These sites are based on the National Parks & Wildlife Service Site Register (Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System). More information on these sites can be obtained from National Parks and Wildlife Service Ph: (02) 9585 6470, Fax: (02) 9585 6325, email: ahims@NPWS.nsw.gov.au.

If you wish to carry out development on a property within the 50m high sensitivity radius of a known site, an Aboriginal Heritage Impact assessment of your property may have to be carried out before you lodge a development application. You should contact the National Parks and Wildlife Service Site Register (see above contact details) to determine whether the Aboriginal site is located on your property.

- If the known Aboriginal site is located on your property, your development becomes Integrated Development. This means there are specific processing requirements for your application that will involve the National Parks and Wildlife Service. You can find out more information about this process from Council's Development Assessment staff.
- If the known Aboriginal site is not on your property, you may still need to have an Aboriginal Heritage Assessment undertaken for your property. You should consult Council's Duty Planner on 9806 5108 to determine the sensitivity of the surrounding land outside the 50 metre radius area. If the surrounding land has high or medium sensitivity, it will be necessary to have an Aboriginal Heritage Assessment undertaken for your property. If the surrounding land is of low sensitivity, then an Aboriginal Heritage Assessment is not required unless the criteria outlined above for low sensitivity areas are met.
- If the Site Register records are insufficient to determine the precise boundaries or size of the known Aboriginal site, any parcel within the 50m radius will require an Aboriginal Heritage Assessment.

Properties within an area of Aboriginal social/historical association

Land within an area of social/historical association will require an Aboriginal Heritage Assessment that investigates the impact of a development proposal in relation to the social/historical association. Council's information document on the Arts and Cultural Plan Process explains how the social/historical/cultural significance of the site can be taken into account in the development of the land.

5. HOW DO I GET AN ABORIGINAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT PREPARED?

The Australian Association of Consulting Archaeologists has a register of consultants on its web site www.aacai.com.au or ph:(02) 4267 4547.

In the region of Parramatta there are three Local Aboriginal Land Councils whose boundaries include parts of Parramatta and two Native Title Claimant groups. These groups should be consulted and can provide advice on the preparation of an Aboriginal Heritage Assessment.

The Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council

PO Box 1103

STRAWBERRY HILLS NSW 2012

Ph: (02) 8394 9666 Fax: (02) 8394 9733

Covers the area north and east of Victoria Rd, James Ruse Drive and Windsor Rd; and east of Silverwater Road.

Deerubbin Local Aboriginal Land Council

Attention: Mr Frank Vincent, Chairperson

PO Box 3184

MOUNT DRUIT VILLAGE NSW 2770

Ph: (02) 9832 2457 Fax: (02) 9832 2496

Covers the areas west of Windsor Rd, bounded by James Ruse Drive, Victoria Rd, Silverwater Rd and the Great Western Highway.

Gandangara Local Aboriginal Land Council

PO Box 1038

LIVERPOOL DC NSW 2170

Ph: (02) 9602 5280 Fax: (02) 9602 2741

Covers the area south of the Great Western Highway and west of Silverwater Rd.

Darug Tribal Aboriginal Corporation

PO Box 441

BLACKTOWN NSW 2148

Covers all of the Parramatta LGA.

Darug Custodian Aboriginal Corporation

81 Andrew Thompson Drive, McGraths Hill, NSW 2756

Ph: (02) 4577 5181 Fax: (02) 4577 5098

Covers all of the Parramatta LGA.

6. WHAT HAPPENS IF MY PROPERTY CONTAINS A KNOWN ABORIGINAL PLACE OR RELIC OR I FIND A RELIC ON MY PROPERTY?

It is an offence to knowingly destroy, deface or damage a relic or Aboriginal place without the consent of the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

When a relic or Aboriginal place is known to exist on the land to which the Development Application applies and the development proposal will destroy, deface or damage the relic or Aboriginal place, the development becomes Integrated Development, whereby the National Parks and Wildlife Service becomes involved in the assessment and approval process.

If you find an Aboriginal relic when you undertake development with or without approval, you are required by law to cease work and inform National Parks and Wildlife Service, Ph: (02) 9585 6444.