



Albion Park Quarry Expansion

Historical Heritage Excavation Report

Final report

Prepared for Cleary Bros (Bombo) Pty Ltd

21 March 2025

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- Cleary Bros: Mark Hammond.
- CRM: Wendy Thorp (Excavation Director), Irek Golka (Surveying and Drone Photography).

Biosis staff involved in this project were:

- Maggie Butcher (Project Manager).
- Bronte Baonza, Nathan Windram and Hannah Mills (assistance in the field).

Biosis acknowledges the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as Traditional Custodians of the land on which we live and work.

We pay our respects to the Traditional Custodians and Elders past and present and honour their connection to Country and ongoing contribution to society.

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Summary

Biosis Pty Ltd (Biosis) was commissioned by Cleary Bros (Bombo) Pty Ltd (Cleary Bros) to undertake historical archaeological excavations at the site of the former Belmont homestead at Shellharbour (Lot 1 DP858245 and Lot 7 DP3709). Biosis contracted Wendy Thorpe and Irek Golka from Cultural Resource Management (CRM) to act as Excavation Director and Surveying and Drone Photographer respectively.

Two areas of moderate and one area of high archaeological potential was identified in the Biosis report *Albion Park Quarry Extraction Area Stage 7 Extension Historic Heritage Assessment* (2021 a). The excavations were undertaken as per the archaeological research design in this document.

Monitoring of the areas of moderate and high potential were undertaken in two stages. Monitoring and excavation in Area 1 (in the vicinity of Belmont House) was undertaken on 29 and 30 April 2024 and monitoring of the removal of the floorboards and subsequent examination of the underfloor deposit was undertaken on 23 April 2024. Monitoring of Area 2 (the bails and the dairy) was also undertaken on 29 and 30 April 2024.

This report was prepared by Wendy Thorpe (Sections 1, 2.1, 3.1, 4 and 5) and Maggie Butcher (Summary, Sections 2.2, 3.2 and 4). Archaeological remains around the exterior of the house and in the dairy and bails included a cement path, cement filled post holes for fencing, services and a garden feature. The interior of the house revealed that the underfloor deposit was accumulated from the use of the space by vermin and not by the use of the above rooms by people. Remains from the bails and dairy were also limited and revealed that all evidence of the buildings had been removed when they were demolished. There was no evidence of significant archaeology at a local or State level in the areas of moderate potential.

This report fulfils condition B53 of the development consent for State Significant Development (SSD) 10369 under Section 4.38 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act).

Definitions

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| ARD | Archaeological Research Design |
| Biosis | Biosis Pty Ltd |
| Cleary Bros | Cleary Bros (Bombo) Pty Ltd |
| CRM | Cultural Resource Management |
| EP&A Act | <i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i> |
| GCP | Ground control points |
| NSW | New South Wales |
| SoHI | Statement of Heritage Impact |
| SSD | State Significant Development |
| Study area | Site of the former Belmont homestead within Lot 1 DP858245 and Lot 7 DP3709 |

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1 Introduction

1.1 The site

This report documents the work undertaken in March and April 2024 at the site of the former Belmont homestead at Shellharbour. The site is located approximately 4 kilometres west of Shellharbour on the South Coast of New South Wales (NSW). It is approximately 20 kilometres south-west of Wollongong central business district. It is within Lot 1 DP858245 and Lot 7 DP3709 within the suburb of Croom in Shellharbour Local Government Area (Figure 1 and Figure 2).

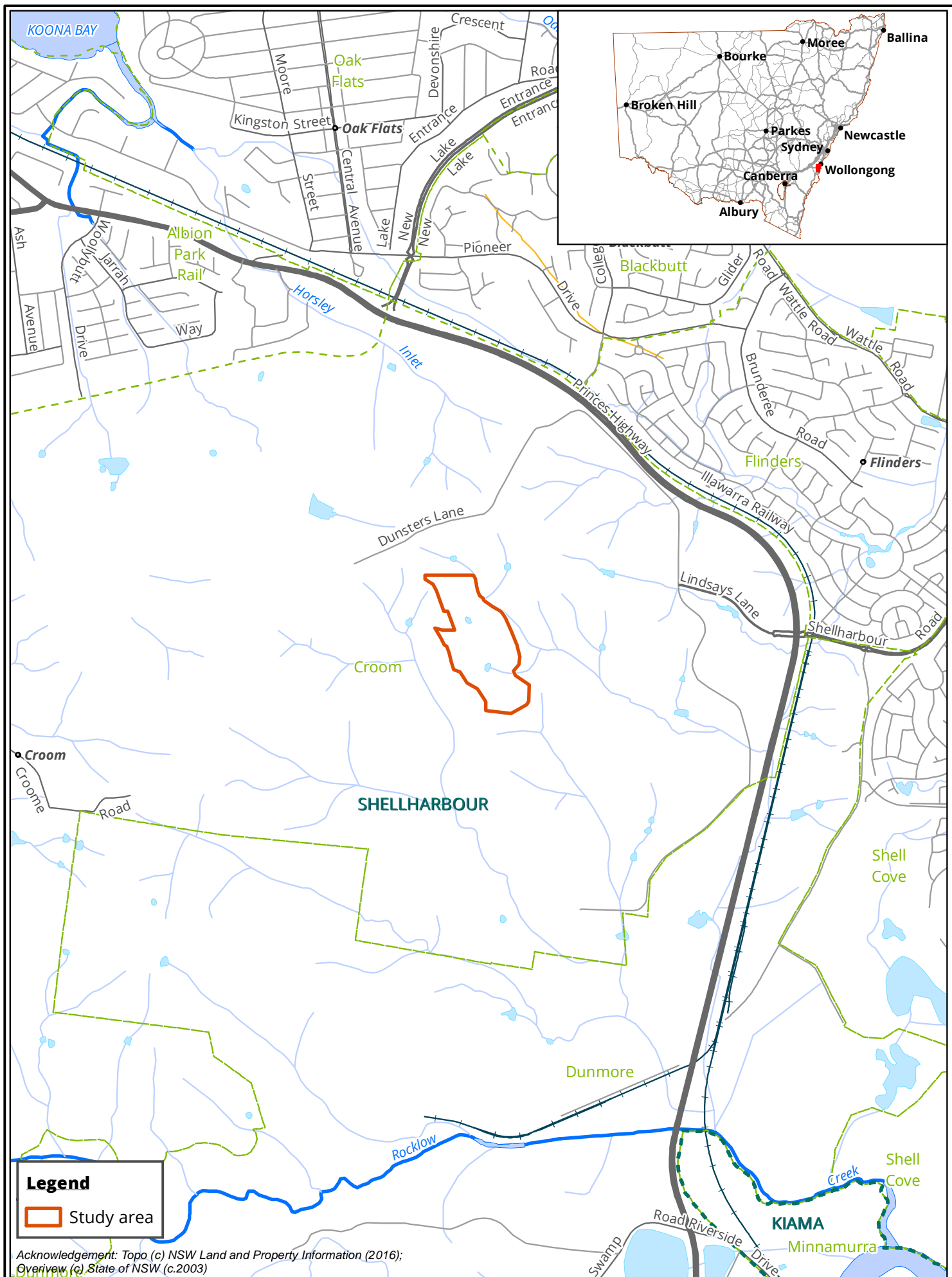
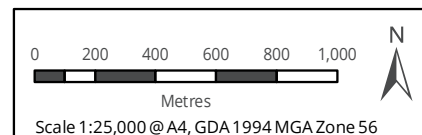


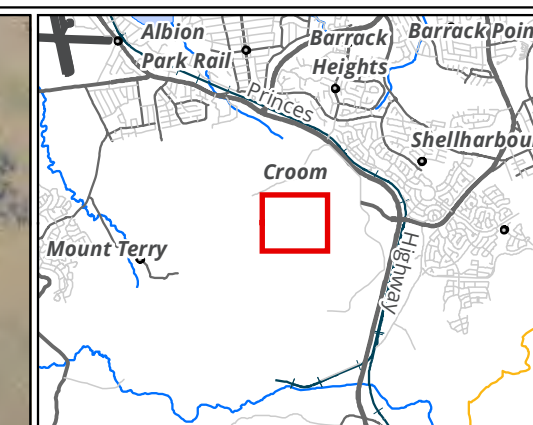
Figure 1 Location of the study area



Biosis Pty Ltd
Albury, Ballarat, Melbourne,
Newcastle, Sydney, Wangaratta & Wollongong

Matter: 30305
Date: 24 February 2021,
Checked by: SJK, Drawn by: AEDM, Last edited by: Iharley
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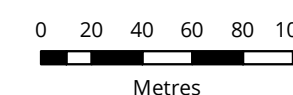




Legend

- Study area
- Lot
- Dry stone wall - relocated
- 'Belmont' house

Figure 2 Study area detail



Scale: 1:3,000 @ A3
Coordinate System: GDA 1994 MGA Zone 56



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1.2 The context

The work was a requirement of approvals given for the extension of the Albion Park Quarry, Extraction Area Stage 7. Stage 7 is a further enlargement or extension of the original stone quarry established in 2006 and subsequently extended in 2009, 2015 and 2017 (Photo 1).

This project had been the subject of an historic-period assessment, undertaken by Biosis Pty Ltd (Biosis) in 2021 and the preparation of an Archaeological Research Design (ARD).¹ It was the outcome of a requirement to prepare a Statement of Heritage Impact for this project (SoHI). Several sites of potential archaeological significance were to be directly impacted by the extension of the quarry through the demolition of the house and excavation in both areas.



Photo 1 The quarry just to the west of the project area (Source: CRM)

1.3 Identifying heritage values

The western section of the project area is a listed item of local heritage significance (*Shellharbour Local Environmental Plan 2013*). It is associated with the nineteenth century Belmont Estate. The listing identifies items of built and natural heritage value. The work undertaken for the SoHI recognised several additional items of cultural value including the main house, garage, stone walls and specific trees amongst others. It also recognised the potential for archaeological evidence relevant to this estate.

One particular area was assessed as having the potential for highly significant archaeological evidence and another four having moderate potential. The area of high potential was focussed on Belmont House and its immediate vicinity. The areas of moderate potential were those associated with the former bails and dairy in close proximity to the house. These are the areas investigated and discussed in this report. Belmont House was also the subject of a programme of work concerned with assessing any under-floor deposits that may

¹ Biosis 2021a

have survived within this c. 1900 homestead (Section 2.2, 3.2 and 4). The house was also the subject of an archival recording.²

1.4 Historical context

The earliest historic-period association of the project area is its inclusion within an 1850-acre grant made to D'Arcy Wentworth in 1821. He went on to acquire a total of 13,050 acres in the Illawarra, which became the Peterborough Estate. On his death in 1827, Wentworth's property was divided into five portions inherited by his children. The project area is within the portion inherited by a daughter Catherine; it became part of a lease made to the Dunster family in 1859. This family became prominent in the local dairy industry. Catherine died in 1877 and the estate was administered by Executors. The existing leases were retained for a time and eventually the Dunster family purchased their leases. William Dunster acquired Lot 6, containing the area investigated, in 1902. A subdivision plan of 1900 does not indicate any improvements in the area investigated during this programme Photo 2.

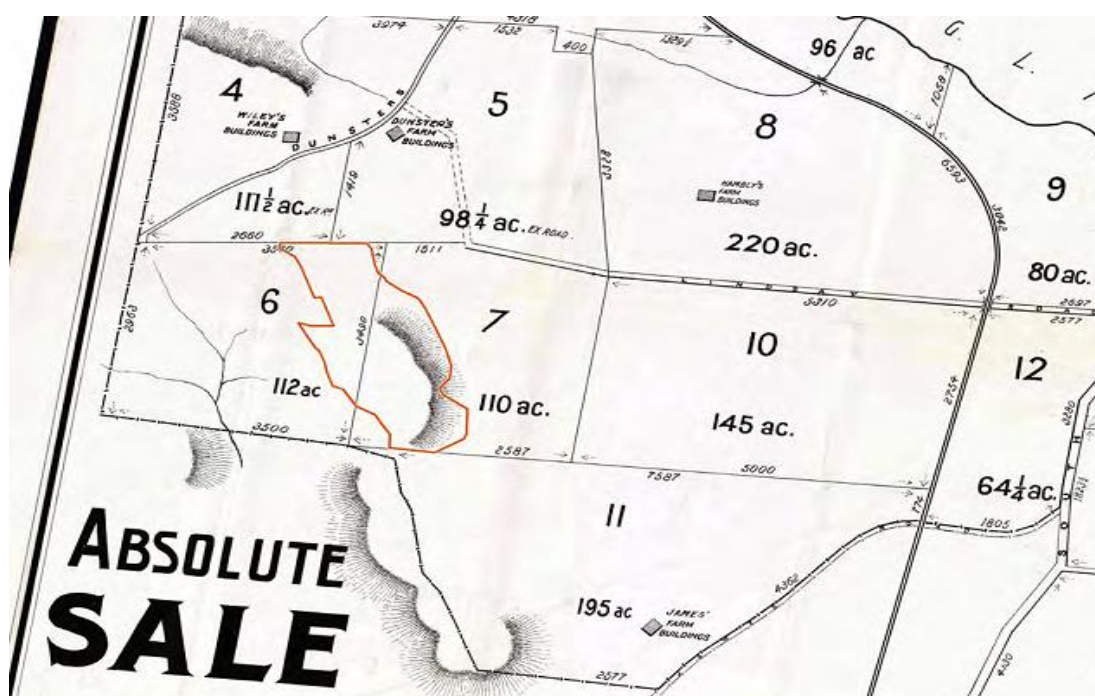


Photo 2 An auction plan made in 1900 shows the subdivision of the estate; the project area investigated during this programme is located within the middle of Portion 6 adjoining the boundary with Portion 7 (Source: National Library of Australia)

In 1906, Samuel McDonald, a farmer from Albion Park acquired Lot 6 from William Dunster. It was around this time that the house was built at Belmont in two stages. The date of the dairy and bails are less well identified from archival sources, but it may have been in the 1930 or 1920s; they are present in aerial images of 1943. The lot was acquired by the government in 1956 (Photo 3). A plan of the acquisition prepared at the time, records the principal improvements. After the sale, the property continued to be leased including the house. The site returned to private ownership in 1985. The property was acquired by the company Cleary Bros in 1991. The most recent subdivision undertaken in 1996 established the current configuration of the property.

² Biosis 2021b

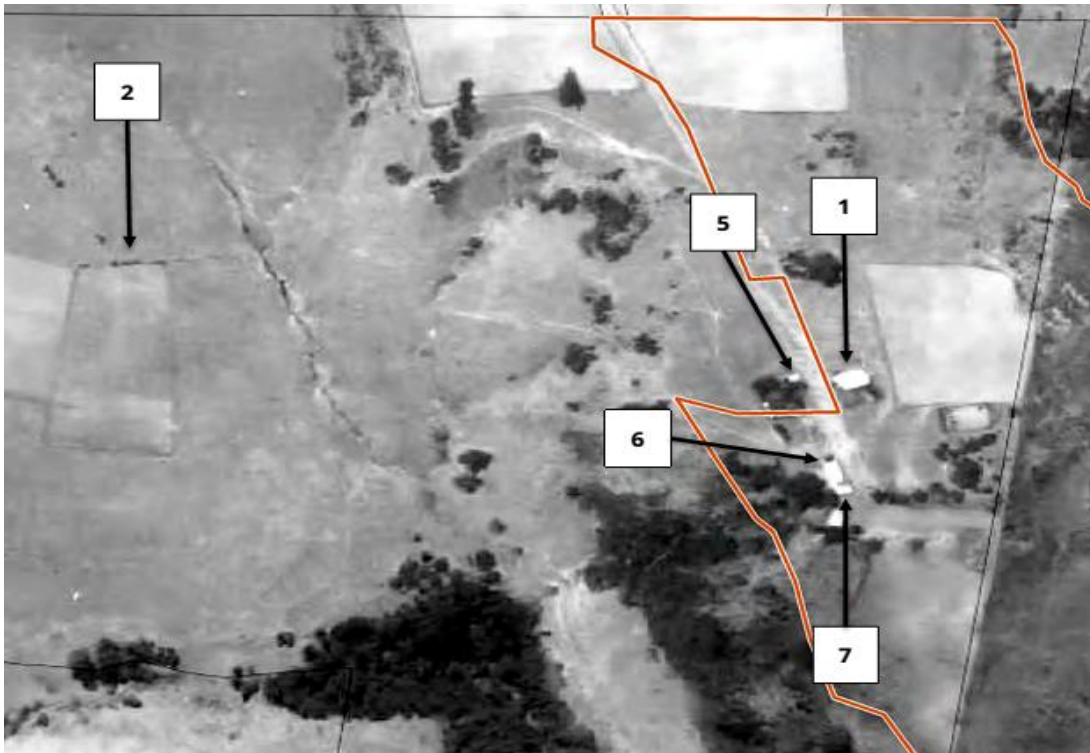


Photo 3 Aerial image in 1958 showing the main house (1), stone walls (2), an unidentified structure (5) and buildings in the area of the dairy and bails (6 and 7) (Source: Shellharbour City Council)

1.5 Approvals

Development consent was applied for under Part 4, Division 4.7 of the EP&A Act. As the project is an SSD (10369) there was no requirement to apply for a permit under the provisions of the NSW *Heritage Act 1977* to undertake the archaeological investigation. This report fulfils condition B53 of the development consent.

1.6 Objectives

The objectives of the work were addressed in the ARD prepared for this site by Biosis. They may be summarised as follows:

- To undertake testing to determine the presence or absence of archaeological evidence within the identified sites of high and moderate archaeological potential.
- To determine the integrity, research potential and any additional works required to address research values prior to the extension of the quarry into this area.

The outcomes of the work proposed are expressed in the research design as a series of research objectives as follows:

- The identification of any secondary structures associated with Belmont House, their nature, extent, condition and likely significance.
- The identification and confirmation of archaeological evidence of the bails and dairy as well as specific dates for construction and associations and their specific uses.

- The form of construction of the bails and dairy and a comparison of this evidence with comparable other sites.

Generally, there was consideration of how archaeological evidence could be used to discuss differing social and economic conditions of the tenants and owners of the property.³

³ (Biosis 2021a, pp. 178–183)

2 Methodology

The archaeological program has entailed several components including monitoring and examination of underfloor areas of the house and the exterior surrounds of the house.

2.1 Exterior of the house

The present report documents the investigation of land in close vicinity of the house and in an area identified as the sites of former dairy buildings. The research presented in the assessment informed the site work.

2.1.1 Identifying and defining the sites

The house was in the process of demolition but its position and standing features, including a septic tank and the garage were readily identified. For the purpose of the archaeological study, surface debris was cleared for a ten-metre zone around the house, named Area 1. This zone was partly based on practical considerations of maintaining access and ensuring the integrity of mature trees; however, it was also selected as an area that was likely to encompass any substantial improvements to the house such as out-buildings, paths or other works. Beyond that zone, the probability of those works was likely to decrease and targeting any specific area was impossible; there were no surface indications or from aerial images or drone photography at the commencement of the work.

In terms of the early-twentieth century dairy buildings of the dairy and bails, located to the south-west of the house and close to it, there were no visible surface indications, and none provided by drone images viewed at the time of the work but the sites could be precisely located using the 1940s aerial imagery. Coordinates of potential remains of the dairy and the bails were calculated from georeferenced aerial photography, available through NSW Spatial Information Portal, and located on the ground using RTK GNSS. This was named Area 2 with two trenches within it, T1 and T2.

2.1.2 Photography and surveying

DJI drone photography was used throughout to provide a distortion-free view of the areas under investigation as well as pre-, in-process and completed works. Drone imagery was georeferenced using ground control points (GCPs) previously established and surveyed using RTK GNSS on MGA-GDA2020 datum. Ground-photography for all areas included pre-excavation images, during the work and completed works images. As well, all individual items or sites located by the work were photographed as well as context images.

Surveying of excavation areas and archaeological features within the study area was conducted using RTK GNSS on MGA/GDA2020 datum. Survey results were compared with NearMaps and imagery from NSW Spatial Collaboration Portal to check accuracy.

2.1.3 Excavation

The investigation was undertaken largely by the careful removal of surface deposits by an excavator using a mud bucket to remove loose soil and debris and expose the ground surface and any features that survived there. This was undertaken in association with the Excavation Director. All features were excavated manually by members of the excavation team. In addition to the area excavations and trenches, a number of test pits were excavated in those areas. These small excavations, approximately 500 x 500mm (although varied according to the site), were to ensure that the excavation had reached the natural soil profile and that a

misleading stratigraphy was not present created by levelling and filling after the demolition of older features. The excavation areas were not required to be back-filled and made good at the end of each investigation.

2.1.4 Documentation

The work was documented by field notes and this report is the final report of the outcomes, the results and the conclusions made from it.

2.2 Interior of the house

2.2.1 Identifying and defining the site

Examination of the underfloor of the house was undertaken during demolition. The house remained extent while the floorboards were being pulled up by hand. They were removed first from the kitchen, then the bedrooms. Of particular interest was the kitchen which were typically the centre of activity in the house and the investigation was focused there.

2.2.2 Photography and surveying

Photography of the underfloor was undertaken by Maggie Butcher as part of the archival recording for the project. A Nikon D80 digital camera with 18-55 millimetre lens was used and each photo was GPS tagged on MGA-GDA2020 datum.

2.2.3 Excavation

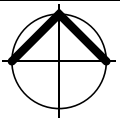
The investigation was limited due to the health hazard associated with the contents of the underfloor deposit. The floorboards were removed by demolition personnel under observation of the archaeologist on site then photographed as per Section 2.1.2.

2.2.4 Documentation

The work was documented by field notes and this report is the final report of the outcomes, the results and the conclusions made from it.



PROJECT LOCATION



3 Results

3.1 Exterior of the house

3.1.1 Area 1: The house site

The house was in the process of demolition when the work commenced with building materials and other debris around it. At our request the client cleared a 10 metre zone around the building so the site could be investigated; this extent was likely to contain any principal areas of activity associated with the building. There was some evidence at the surface of the ground in the immediate vicinity of the house that indicated some sub-surface elements might remain intact here. This was also confirmed by the drone imagery.

The excavation was undertaken by clearing the 10 metre zone initially around the northern side of the house, then the eastern and finally the southern side. It was cleared down to the top of the natural soil profile where the remnant archaeological features were exposed. The majority of features were found on the northern side of the house, the front with very few or none to the east or south. The excavation could not extend to the west because of a still active path and drive. Given the results of the work around the house it is unlikely that anything substantial would have been found there particularly as it was still in use as a road.

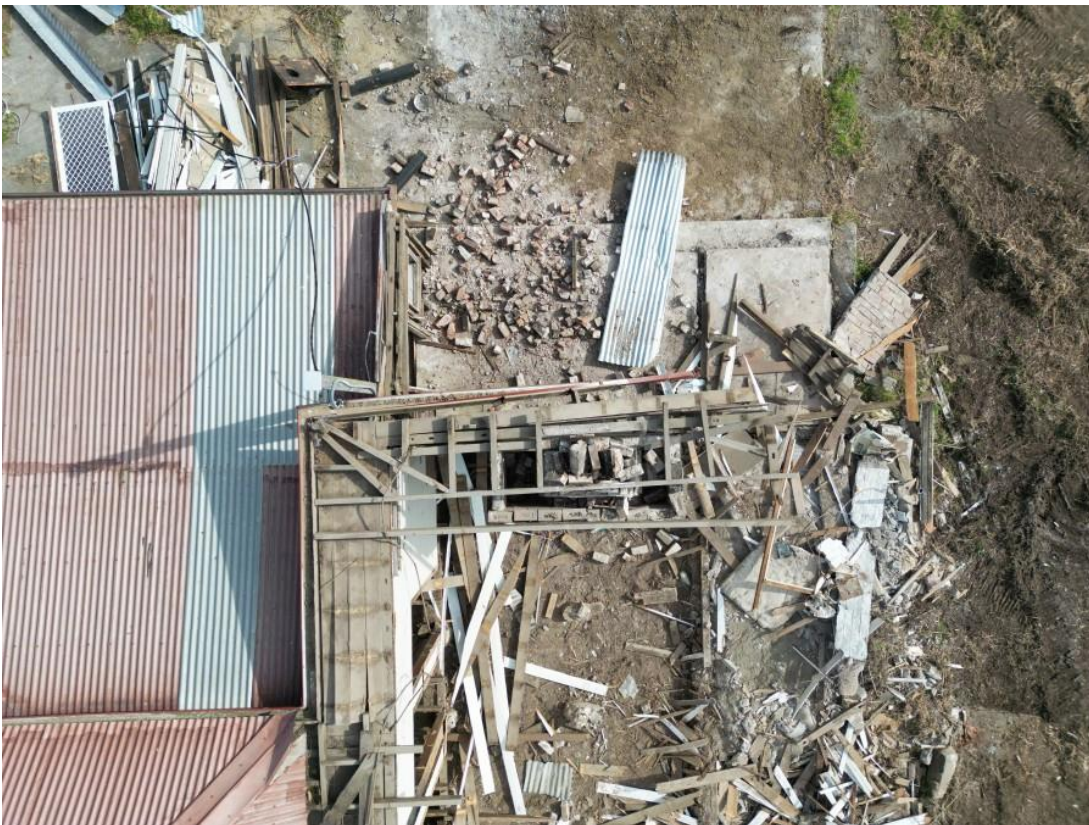


Photo 4 The house site during demolition before the excavation area was cleared (Source: CRM)



Photo 5 Area 1 with the debris cleared and initial clearance commenced for the investigation (Source: CRM)

All of the features found were located immediately below the remnant grass cover no more than 100mm below the present surface. Essentially the evidence can be summarised as follows:

- A cement path leading from the house to the fence (Photo 8, Photo 9).
- A number of small excavations filled with cement to house the posts from a timber fence at the front of the house; eleven were found and the cement preserved in some cases fragments of timber from the posts or the impressions of the square posts (Photo 10, Photo 11, Photo 12, Photo 13, Photo 14).
- A number of services and service pits including those for a telephone and drains (Photo 15, Photo 18).
- A square excavation infilled that may have been from a small garden feature; it was formed on the sides by bricks and concrete (Photo 16).
- There was no evidence of buildings or structures including any out-house although the septic tank is still in ground (Photo 17, Photo 19, Photo 20).



Photo 6 View of Area 1 at the conclusion of the excavation, a path was exposed, and the yellow dots indicate the location of small features. The red dots are for surveying purposes (Source: CRM)



Photo 7 The northern side of the house being cleared of grass to reveal the top of the natural soil profile below, view north-east (Source: CRM)



Photo 8 The path leading to the house, view to the south (Source: CRM)



Photo 9 The path viewed from the house looking north; scale 1 metre (Source: CRM)



Photo 10 The line of the post-holes from a fence along the northern boundary of the house; the path can be seen running from the house to this line in the centre of the image (Source: CRM)



Photo 11 The second post-hole from the west, part of the northern fence; scale 500mm (Source: CRM)



Photo 12 The third post-hole from the west; scale 500mm (Source: CRM)



Photo 13 The sixth post-hole from the west; scale 500mm (Source: CRM)



Photo 14 The eight post-hole from the west; scale 500mm (Source: CRM)



Photo 15 Two service pits next to the fence line on the northern side of the house; scale 1 metre (Source: CRM)



Photo 16 The small, infilled site of a structure at the north-western corner of the house; scale 1 metre (Source: CRM)

On the eastern side of the house were only two post-holes from a short section of a timber fence that was located at the south-eastern side, which had been standing at the commencement of the work. Associated with it was a gravelled area with a grate inset into it.



Photo 17 The eastern side of the house cleared of debris and with a small timber “fence” (Source: CRM)



Photo 18 The gravelled area with a grate set into it, next to the post hole from the short section of fence at the south-eastern corner of the house; scale 500mm (Source: CRM)



Photo 19 The southern side of the house cleared of surface grass; scale 2 metres (Source: CRM)

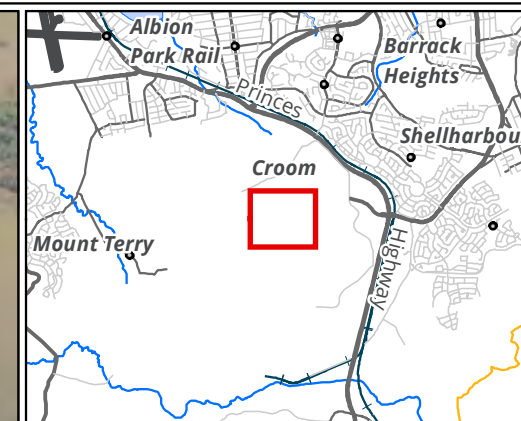


Photo 20 The junction of the excavation of the southern and western sides of the house; scale 2 metres (Source: CRM)

3.1.2 Area 2: The Dairy and Bails

Location

The dairy and bails were two separate, but related, buildings possibly constructed in the 1930s or earlier and certainly before 1948 when they appear in aerial imagery. They were located south-west of the house and in proximity to it, sufficient for the occupants to easily manage the work as there was only a short distance between these buildings and the homestead. The locations of these buildings are shown in Figure 4 as the two yellow squares labelled '6' and the orange square is the house site as well as the preceding plan.



Legend

- Study area
- Dry stone wall - relocated

Archaeological potential

- High
- Moderate
- Low

Figure 4 Assessment of archaeological potential

0 20 40 60 80 100
Metres

Scale: 1:3,000 @ A3
Coordinate System: GDA 1994 MGA Zone 56



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Date: 24 February 2021,
Checked by: SJK, Drawn by: AEDM, Last edited by: Iharley
Location: P:\30300s\30305\Mapping\30305_SOHI_F4_ArchPotential.mxd

The building group

The dairy and the bails were a connected working group of farm buildings. The bails can be used in a milking shed or a crush; it is a structure used to hold the animal securely during milking or other tasks. The dairy is where the milk is taken to settle overnight and where products such as butter and cheese are made. In the historical study for the project, Biosis identified the long northern building as both the bails and dairy and the smaller building as a feed shed or stalls⁴. If this was the case then there must have been a division of the long building into two, separate sections. A dairy has to be completely clean and could not be operated in a space shared by the bails. In fact, from the 1930s there were government standards for commercial dairies, even small operations that required the dairy to be in a detached building. The bails were to be of a specific height with a sloping floor to allow it to be cleaned and drained out⁵. The image of the building below was taken in 2004; the use of the buildings may have changed by that time, but their appearance suggests that when first built the longer shed was the bails and the smaller shed at the end was the dairy (Photo 21). Based on the aerial image from 1958 it is estimated that the long shed measured approximately 20.4 metres in length and 14.6 metres in width although this takes into account what appears to be an extension or platform or yard at the northern end. The smaller southern building measured approximately 15.3 metres in length and 9.1 metres wide (Photo 22).



Photo 21 The farm buildings, dairy and bails in 2004 (Source: Shellharbour Heritage Inventory Sheet for Belmont)

⁴ Biosis 2021a, pp. 1–30

⁵ Upper Murray Herald 1933



Photo 22 An aerial image of the dairy buildings in 1955 showing the approximate dimensions for them (Source: LPI imagery, CRM)

The site

At the commencement of the excavation, the sites of both buildings had been cleared of all traces with the possible exception of a dump of demolition rubbish to the western side where the flat ground began to drop down a hill. There were pieces of wire, bricks, timber, metal fittings scattered over a wide area; this material may have come from these buildings.



Photo 23 The site of the possible bails building before testing; the pink marks show the extent of the building based on old aerial imagery; there is nothing visible at the surface (Source: CRM)



Photo 24 The site of the possible dairy before excavation, the position of the building shown by the pink corner marks (Source: CRM)

The bails trench: site area 2, trench 1

Assuming that the more northern part of this area was the former bails, the long building shown in the 2004 image, a trench was placed that ran through the centre from north to south. The trench measured approximately 18.17 metres north to south and 4.71 metres from east to west (Photo 25).



Photo 25 Image of the bails trench when completed showing the dimensions of excavation; scale 2 metres (Source: CRM)

As shown on the 1955 aerial, the trench was located largely within the building, with the potential for identifying a floor surface and possibly internal supports. A small portion was placed over an external wall to contrast the internal and external surfaces as another way to define the site of the building (Photo 26).



Photo 26 The trench placed within and over the site of the former bails shown in relation to the 1955 aerial image (Source: LPI with CRM additions)

The excavation revealed that all evidence of the building had been removed when it was demolished (Photo 27, Photo 28, Photo 29, Photo 30 and Photo 31). Below the grass cover, a thin deposit of soil was observed and throughout the ground were small and large pieces of stone. These were part of the local geology and occur naturally in this manner. There were places where some of the larger pieces appear to have been stacked but the evidence was far from definitive. Nothing was found of any of the structure. A test pit was placed at the southern end of the trench and found that the soil and rocks lay immediately over the B-horizon clay.



Photo 27 View north of Trench 1 with the surface grass and soil removed to reveal the soil and stones below; the depth of this shallow soil can be seen in the test pit at the end; scale 2 metres (Source: CRM)



Photo 28 Another view, south of the stones and soils across the site of the bails; scale 2 metres (Source: CRM)



Photo 29 Detail of the larger and smaller stones within the bails site; scale 500mm (Source: CRM)



Photo 30 The test pit at the southern end of Trench 1 showing the natural soil profile; scale 100mm increments (Source: CRM)



Photo 31 Test Trench 1 completed; scale 2 metres (Source: CRM)

The dairy trench: site area 2 trench 2

Assuming that the more northern of the sites was the former bails, the second and smaller building to the south is likely to have been the dairy. A trench was placed over the site of the building, from east to west measuring 23.92 metres by 4.95 metres. It was excavated in two parts to preserve a trail or walkway still in use (Photo 32).



Photo 32 Image of the dairy trench when completed showing the dimensions of excavation; scale 2 metres (Source: CRM)

As shown on the 1955 aerial image (Photo 33) the trench was located at the northern end of the building partly over the northern and western walls; the intention was to sample the inside space and find evidence of the frame of the building. The sample from the trench also enabled investigation of the external space and what may have been an enclosed yard associated with this building, at least by the 1950s.



Photo 33 The trench placed within and over the site of the former dairy and its close environs shown in relation to the 1955 aerial image (Source: LPI with CRM additions)

The excavation revealed no evidence of the building, its interior, yard or other surfaces or features associated with the building. When the surface grass and soil was removed (Photo 34) it revealed a scatter of blue metal across the entire area, similar to that strewn over the active walkway between the two halves of the trench (Photo 35). There was more of this on the larger eastern portion of the trench. Almost certainly it was laid down as part of the same work that created the walkway through the site after the demolition of the building.

Below this was the same soil and stones revealed in Trench 1, part of the natural soil profile although there were fragments of brick and metal throughout (Photo 36). In the western part of the trench there were also lumps of concrete and some bricks. A small test pit here at the extreme western end demonstrated the stratigraphy common to the length of this trench.

The evidence indicates that the entire structure was bulldozed from east to west with debris largely removed except for the few small pieces pushed into the ground at the east and larger pieces at the west where the ground sloped downwards. Beyond this was a scatter of debris over the flat exposed planes of stone and falling down the hill. No evidence of the former dairy remained here (Photo 37).



Photo 34 The soil and stones below the grass cover; scale 2 metres (Source: CRM)



Photo 35 After the removal of the grass cover a scatter of blue metal was revealed across the eastern end of the trench and less so on the western side; scale 2 metres (Source: CRM)



Photo 36 The test pit at the western end of trench 2 showing the surface blue metal, natural soil profile and a large fragment of concrete within it; scale 500mm (Source: CRM)



Photo 37 The completed trench 2 (Source: CRM)

3.2 Interior of the house

The house was in the process of demolition when the underfloor was revealed (Photo 38, Photo 39, Photo 40). Once the floorboards were removed, it became apparent that rodents had used the crawl space between the floorboards and the ground as a nesting area, dragging items into the area. A desiccated rat and funnel web spider holes were identified, along with snail shells, bones (chicken and sheep) with butchery marks, feathers, coiled rusted wire, plastic and a leaking battery. There was also some building materials present (corrugated iron and timber off cuts), likely left there when the house was constructed. No underfloor deposits thought to be accumulated from humans while the house was in use were identified and it was not excavated.



Photo 38 Overview of underfloor deposit in the kitchen (Source: Biosis)



Photo 39 Close up of underfloor deposit in the kitchen (Source: Biosis)



Photo 40 Underfloor deposit adjacent to the kitchen in the mudroom/hallway (Source: Biosis)

4 Conclusions

The objectives of the excavation are defined in the ARD as research questions. These are addressed with the evidence from the excavation used to inform the responses.

Are archaeological remains associated with Belmont present within the study area? If so, what is their nature, extent, condition and likely significance?

In Area 2, all traces of the dairy buildings had been removed leaving no potential for further investigation or recovery of information. In Area 1, there was a limited resource of information pertinent to the twentieth century garden area surrounding the house. It was in average condition and of limited significance providing little more than that which was available from archival resources and common to all houses of its period.

Can distinct underfloor deposits be identified within the footprint of Belmont house?

The underfloor deposits within the footprint of Belmont House were limited to construction rubbish, and rodent and vermin deposits. No deposits from the use of Belmont House by people was identified, likely due to the floorboards being tongue and groove and at the time of excavation covered by linoleum.

To what extent does the study area contain archaeological remains relating to the bails and dairy? Are sufficient archaeological profiles present to establish dates or specific associations for archaeological evidence revealed to it?

Nothing remained of either buildings or their immediate environs. The sites are incapable of addressing the research question.

If remains have survived of the bails and dairy, do they indicate how these buildings were constructed? What materials and techniques were used? How does this compare with other dairies in NSW dating to a similar period?

Nothing remained of either buildings or their immediate environs. The sites are incapable of addressing the research question.

Are there any in situ archaeological deposits associated with the bails and dairy or specific associations to Belmont House for archaeological evidence revealed in them?

Nothing remained of either buildings or their immediate environs. The sites are incapable of addressing the research question.

If present what can depositional remains from the study area tell us about the social and economic conditions experienced by tenant farming and the operation of rural estates?

Nothing remained of either the bails or dairy buildings or their immediate environs. The evidence referred only to a small section of garden and yard around the house.

Essentially the investigation defined how well older features had been removed and showed the limited use of the ground in the immediate vicinity of the house. No new information was obtained which couldn't be gathered from archival sources.

Unless there is a substantial unexpected find beyond the perimeters of the work, which will be dealt with as an unexpected finds protocol, there is no requirement to undertake any further work.

5 Acknowledgements

This work was undertaken by Biosis on behalf of the client, Cleary Brother. Biosis contracted CRM to assist with this work; Wendy Thorp acted as the Excavation Director and Irek Golka undertook surveying and drone photography. Basic recording on site was performed by Wendy Thorp. Maggie Butcher of Biosis was the project manager and was part of the excavation team from Biosis, which also included Bronte Baonza, Nathan Windram and Hannah Mills.

Our site contact was Mark Hammond, who also provided references to survey materials.

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