

HUNTER WATER

SECTION s170 REGISTER



ITEM NAME:

Archaeological Remains (former Minmi Wastewater Treatment Plant Site)

Contents:



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ITEM DETAILS



Item Name	Archaeological remains (former Minmi Wastewater Treatment Plant site)
Other / Former Names	Minmi Wastewater Treatment Plant Remains of Railway Siding, Dairy Cool Rooms, John Brown's Model Farm (Local Heritage Listings)
NSW SHI No.	3630123
GID	N/A
Plant No.	Newcastle
Local Government Area	Lot 148 DP 840897
Lot and DP	29 Woodford Street, Minmi NSW 2287
Address	The curtilage of this asset is defined by its legal allotment boundaries which correspond with the local heritage listings that apply to the site.
Curtilage	Archaeological remains (former Minmi Wastewater Treatment Plant site).



View of the former railway platform



Asset location and curtilage (red boundary) (refer to Figure 1 for additional detail)

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW



Current Use	Decommissioned
Former Use	Wastewater treatment plant
Designer / Builder	Public Works Department and Newcastle Council
Historical Notes	<p>John Brown's model farm was established on this site in the late 1800s. Above-ground structures associated with the model farm were demolished in the mid-20th century.</p> <p>In the 1998-99 Annual Report it was announced that construction of the transfer systems at Minmi Wastewater Treatment Works would commence in late 2000. The erection of these systems would allow the Minmi Works to be decommissioned, as the raw sewage is redirected to Shortland Wastewater Treatment Works. These diversion works, and subsequently the decommissioning of the Minmi system was completed in 2000-01.</p>

HERITAGE STATUS



Listing Details	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> S170 Heritage and Conservation Register <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local heritage listing <input type="checkbox"/> State heritage listing
Conservation Management Plan	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
Heritage Asset Action Plan	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
Aboriginal Sites Registered within the Site	AHIMS search undertaken on 19 January 2023. No sites were registered in or within 50 metres of the relevant Lot and DP.
Historical Archaeological Potential	Asset is listed as an archaeological site in relation to the former model or hobby farm owned by John Brown of J. and A. Brown. Listings that apply to the site reference the presence of a former railway siding that served the farm, dairy cool rooms that formed part of the farm, and potential general remains associated with the former farm.

HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE



Level of Significance	Local
Statement of Significance	<p>The significance of this asset relates to its historical archaeological potential in association with the former hobby farm known as 'John Brown's Model Farm'. Archaeological remains associated with this late 1800s farm have been identified as locally significant on the LEP because of their association with J. and A. Brown.</p> <p>The former Minmi Works and all associated infrastructure are not of significance.</p>
NSW SHR Criteria	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> a) Historical <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> b) Associative <input type="checkbox"/> c) Aesthetic / Technical <input type="checkbox"/> d) Social <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> e) Research Potential (yield new information) <input type="checkbox"/> f) Rare <input type="checkbox"/> g) Representative
Significant Elements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Archaeological remains associated with 'John Brown's Model Farm'. To date this has been confirmed to comprise underground storage rooms and an earth banked railway platform addressing the former Minmi/Hexham railway line and associated with a private railway siding.

DESCRIPTION



Setting	The site is located within a rural setting to the southeast of the Pacific Motorway.
External Appearance	The site presents as a relatively overgrown open area comprising remnants of the Minmi Works. The only visible element associated with the former model/hobby farm is an earth banked railway platform addressing the former Minmi/Hexham railway line associated with a private railway siding.
Internal Appearance	N/A
Overall Condition	Poor
Moveable Heritage Objects	None identified.

MANAGEMENT



Approval and Assessment Requirements

Above Ground

Minor or inconsequential impacts: Anything other than routine repair and maintenance must be discussed with the Environment Team to determine the level of heritage assessment required.

More than minor or inconsequential impacts: As above. Additionally, consultation with the relevant local council is required.

Demolition or removal from the register requires consultation with Heritage NSW and archival recording.

Sub-Surface

As the site is listed as an archaeological site on the Newcastle LEP 2014, approval or exception from approval will be required from Heritage NSW:

- If works fall within prescribed excavation permit exceptions, self-assessment can be undertaken in accordance with s. 139(4) of the *Heritage Act 1977*.
- If works do not fall within prescribed excavation permit exceptions, formal approval under s. 139 of the *Heritage Act 1977* will be required from Heritage NSW.

General / Ongoing Management

- Changes within the defined curtilage should be preceded by the appropriate level of heritage assessment and approval. Advice and/or confirmation should be sought from the Environment Team prior to undertaking any works.
- Avoid sub-surface impacts where feasible, particularly within undisturbed/undeveloped areas.
- Consider undertaking archaeological investigations/preparing an archaeological management plan to better define the area of archaeological potential/significance.

Priority Conservation Works

- Maintain vegetation appropriately to avoid the deterioration of the condition of known remains.



Image 1: General view of site showing *in situ* railway platform and siding alignment

Image 2: Detailed view of the platform remains

REFERENCES



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- Hunter District Water Supply and Sewerage Board, Annual Reports, 1897-98 to 1937-38.
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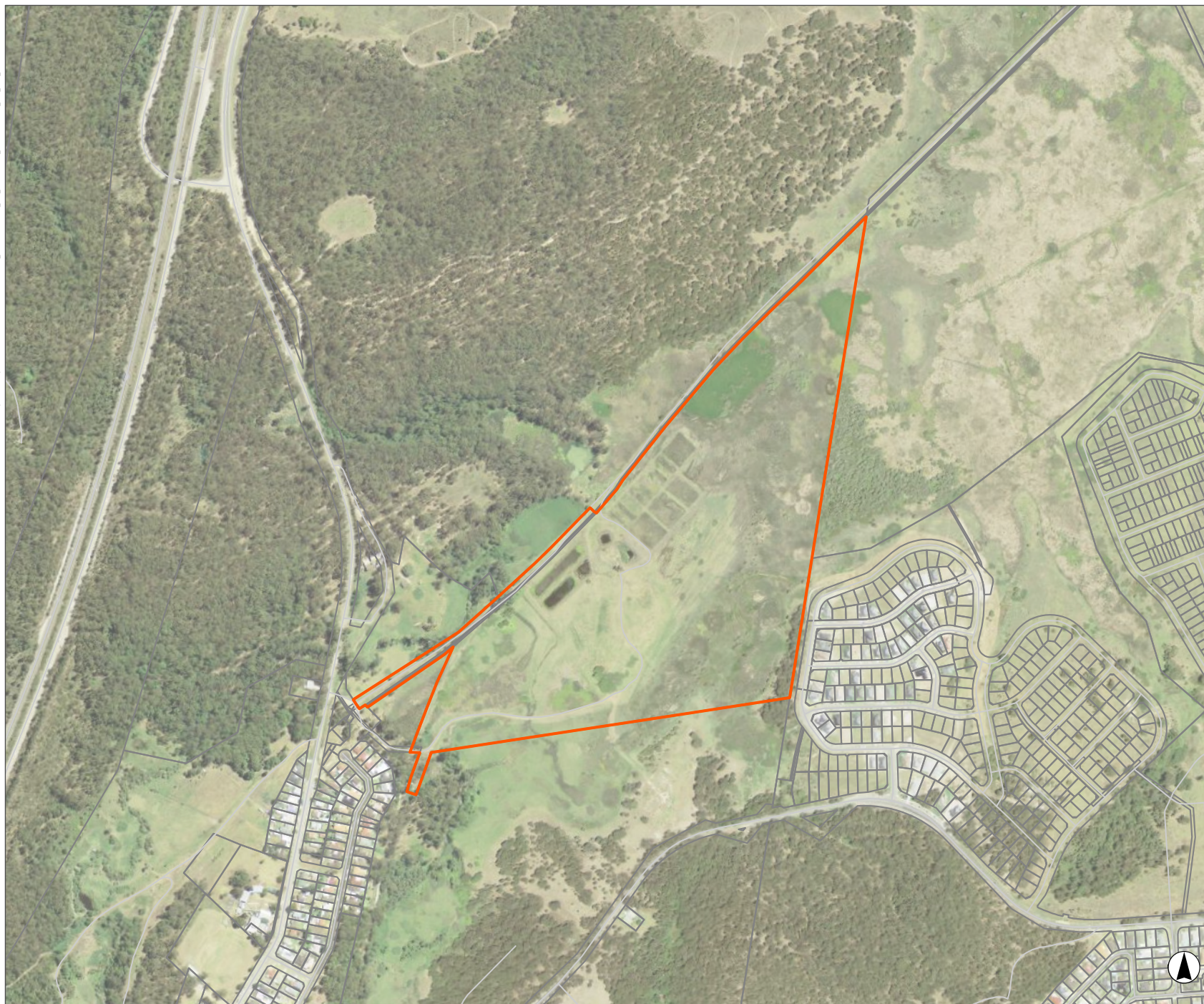
Environmental &
Social Consultants

FIGURE 1

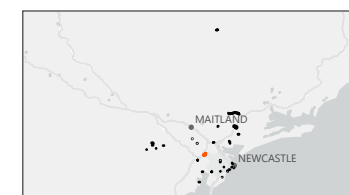
S170 Review - Heritage Curtilages

Legend

- Road
- + Railway
- Lot Boundary
- ▭ Heritage Curtilages



Archaeological Remains (former Minmi Wastewater Treatment Plant Site)



0 400
Metres

Scale 1:10,000 at A4
GDA 1994 MGA Zone 56

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