

HUNTER WATER

SECTION s170 REGISTER



ITEM NAME:

Irrawang Pottery Site (Archaeological Site)

Contents:



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ITEM DETAILS



Item Name	Irrawang Pottery Site (Archaeological Site)
Other / Former Names	N/A
NSW SHI No.	3630109
Plant No.	N/A
Local Government Area	Port Stephens
Lot and DP	Lot 113 DP 733181
Address	70 Rees James Road, Raymond Terrace NSW 2324
Curtilage	<p>The curtilage of this asset is defined by its legal allotment boundaries which correspond with the local heritage listing that applies to the site.</p> <p>It is understood that the archaeological potential of this item is concentrated on the eastern side of the highway.</p>



General view of the site



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

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW



Current Use	Part of the Grahamstown Dam operational area (comprising vacant land).
Former Use	Former pottery works.
Designer / Builder	James King (former pottery works).
Historical Notes	<p>Irrawang is the site of one of the earliest potteries in Australia, and was established by James King, an early entrepreneur in Australian colonial times. Operating from 1833 to the sale of the land in 1956, Irrawang Pottery Site has already been partially subject to archaeological excavations from 1967-76. During these investigations, the types and shapes of ceramics made at the pottery, and much about the layout of the Irrawang Estate was revealed.</p> <p>James King arrived as a settler to New South Wales in 1827. In 1828 he received a land grant of 1,920 acres in the Hunter Valley, about five miles north of Raymond Terrace. On this property, which he named Irrawang, King initially farmed this land, raising cattle and growing grains. King, however, was constantly devising various schemes to make money throughout his life, as evidenced by the numerous letters he wrote to the government seeking permission to carry out his plans. With no prior connections with pottery, King decided to set up a pottery for the manufacture of cheap, good domestic earthenware at Irrawang. The site of the pottery, however, was subject to extremes of flood and drought, and as such he battled extensively with drainage problems, constructing hard-packed causeways and platforms and a series of brick drains that traversed the site, visible at the time of excavations from the late 1960s.</p> <p>Another major disadvantage of the pottery being established at Irrawang was its distance from suitable clay sources. Nonetheless, King's Pottery was quite successful, partly due to King's talent for publicity, and was known in the day as a major colonial experimental enterprise.</p> <p>In both the ground plan and the type of pottery manufactured, King's pottery was characteristic of nineteenth century country potteries throughout Britain and the colonies. On the site there was washmill and an edge-mill, a central clay pit, an earthenware bottle kiln, an earthenware pottery shed with drying floor, another kiln and pottery shed, and spoil dump for his salt-glazed stonewares. The pottery was dependent on imported skills and labour, and therefore lost most of its labour force in the 1851 goldrushes, forcing its closure. The pottery was subsequently sold in 1855, and King died in 1856.</p> <p>Thanks to King's passion for advertising, some idea of his stock and marketing arrangements have been determined from a combination of these advertisements as well as the shards unearthed on the site. Selling a wide variety of potted goods throughout the history of operations at the site, King concentrated on the domestic market almost exclusively in the beginning, manufacturing good, cheap vessels in black and brown lead-glazed earthenware, as well as fine yellow wares. King sold his products both locally and further afield in Sydney, where they were sold through an agent. Later on, King added salt-glazed stonewares to his range. Ginger beers and the fine Irrawang wine jars, in which King sold his own Irrawang wine, made from grapes grown on the property, were also advertised in the later years of the pottery.</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	One site was registered in or within 50 metres of the relevant Lot and DP. AHIMS search undertaken on 19 January 2023.
Historical Archaeological Potential	Asset is listed as an archaeological site in relation to the former Irrawang Pottery Site.

HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE



Level of Significance	Local
Statement of Significance	<p>The Irrawang Pottery Site is the location of the earliest known pottery works in the Hunter Valley, established by colonial entrepreneur James King in 1835. Operating from the 1830s to the 1850s, the pottery works produced domestic pottery and building materials sold throughout the colony. King also established a vineyard on the site.</p> <p>The site has been the subject of some archaeological investigation in the 1960s and 1970s but further archaeological research potential remains at the site. Significant collections of Irrawang pottery materials exist in public collections including the Newcastle Regional Museum and the University of Sydney.</p> <p>The Irrawang Pottery Site a rare intact site of a significant early colonial pottery works. It is important to the local Raymond Terrace and District community as one of the most important colonial sites in the district.</p>
NSW SHR Criteria	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> a) Historical</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> b) Associative</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> c) Aesthetic / Technical</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> d) Social</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> e) Research Potential (yield new information)</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> f) Rare</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> g) Representative</p>
Significant Elements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Archaeological remains associated with the former pottery works.

DESCRIPTION



Setting	The Pottery Site is located within a rural setting on the western side of Grahamstown Dam.
External Appearance	<p>The Irrawang Pottery site consists of an area of open field within the Grahamstown Dam operational area. No structural remains are visible above ground but there two large pits which mark the outline of archaeological works undertaken on the site in the 1960s and 1970s. Cultural plantings have previously been noted to be present at the site, though these are no longer readily discernible due to later land clearance and vegetation regeneration.</p> <p>In 1998 (as noted in the SHI citation) scatters of pottery sherds, two low mounds being brick pottery kilns, five depressions being a clay pit and clay/water storage tanks were identified. These elements were not identified in the 2010 HWC s170 Review nor were they identified as part of the current (2023) s170 Review.</p>
Internal Appearance	N/A
Overall Condition	Fair.
Moveable Heritage Objects	None identified.



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 Port Stephens LEP 2013, 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 and the condition and location of cultural plantings of significance.

Priority Conservation Works

- Maintain the area generally to avoid inadvertent impacts to the potential archaeological resource.

KEY IMAGES



Image 1: General view of the site

Image 2: General view of the site



- Anne Bickford 1971, James King of Irrawang: A Colonial Entrepreneur. Publisher: Journal of the Royal Australian Historical Society Vol. 57 Pt. 1. Pages: 40-53.
- Anne Bickford 1993, Irrawang Pottery Site Assessment of Cultural Significance (Final Report October 1993).
- Clem Lloyd, Patrick Troy and Shelley Schreiner 1992, For the Public Health. The Hunter District Water Board 1892-1992. Publisher: Longman Cheshire Pty Ltd, Melbourne.
- Department of Public Works, Annual Reports, 1888 to 1892 and 1893-94 to 1960-61.
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- Glennie Jones 1967, The Movement for Newcastle's First Water Supply 1875-1885, Newcastle History Monographs No. 2. Publisher: The Council of the City of Newcastle, Newcastle.
- Hunter District Water Board, Annual Reports, 1938-39 to 1987-88.
- Hunter District Water Supply and Sewerage Board, Annual Reports, 1897-98 to 1937-38.
- Hunter Water Board, Annual Reports, 1988-89 to 1990-91.
- Hunter Water Corporation, Annual Reports, 1991-92 to 2008-09.
- John W Armstrong 1967, Pipelines and People. The History of the Hunter District Water Board Newcastle, New South Wales. Publisher: The Hunter District Water Board, Newcastle.
- Mal Hindley 1983, 'From Weirs, Dams and Sand', in Shaping the Hunter. Publisher: The Newcastle Division of the Institute of Engineers Australia, Newcastle.



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




Environmental &
Social Consultants

FIGURE 1

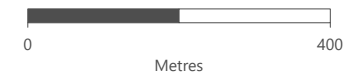
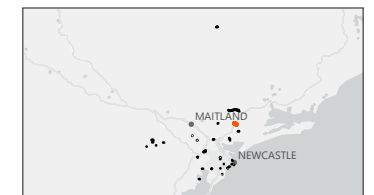
S170 Review - Heritage Curtilages

Legend

-  Road
-  Railway
-  Lot Boundary
-  Heritage Curtilages



Irrawang Pottery Site (Archaeological Site)



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

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