

Attachment A2(d)(ii)

**Urban Design Study – 3 Site Analysis – Part
2 – Botany Road Precinct**

3.2 Existing Historical Context



Figure 65: Detail from an aerial photograph by Milton Kent looking south along Gibbons Street in the late 1830s. At left is Lawson Square. In the foreground Redfern Straton and Lawson Street can be seen, which is a key existing and historical arrival point to the Botany Road Corridor.
Source: State Library of NSW (c083270010)

3.2.1 A Rich and Shared History

The following section contains a brief summary of various reports that were compiled as part of the historical Indigenous and Non-Indigenous study for the Botany Road Corridor.

The study area has a rich, shared history of knowledge, Country, community and non-Indigenous built form that contributes greatly to the area's character.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Significance key points summary⁸

- The history of the place extends back long before 1788 to a rich tradition of 60,000 years of people, culture, custodianship and ownership.
- This history provides a rich source of tradition, wisdom, stories and knowledge.
- It demonstrates the longevity of the connection of Aboriginal people to the place they call home. This place and wider landscape have been constant in its ability to nurture and nourish the Aboriginal soul. It is also a place to affirm cultural identity and instil a great sense of enormous pride.
- Located on the traditional lands of the Gadigal people of the Eora nation, the Study Area was highly used by Aboriginal people prior to invasion and colonisation by the British.
- The Study Area and surrounds were a waterscape of permanent and semipermanent wetlands supporting waterbirds, freshwater fish and turtles, forests of paperbark and swamp mahogany, sedges, reeds, ferns and lilies.
- The highly productive area was used for hunting, fishing, harvesting native plants and collecting fresh water.

⁸ Botany Road Corridor, Statement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Significance, Cox Irtell Ridgeway.
⁹ Botany Road Corridor Non-Indigenous Heritage Study, TZG Architects.

- Botany Road itself was likely to have been established along an early Aboriginal trading route or track connecting Aboriginal clans and nations between Sydney Harbour and Botany Bay. The Study Area is crossed east-west by another early track running along the ridge/ high ground, along which Redfern Street was formed.
- Redfern and Waterloo has national importance for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Non-Indigenous Heritage Cultural Significance key points summary⁹

- The Botany Road Corridor houses historically significant industrial and education buildings, cultural institutions, warehouses and terraces.
- The road is historically significant for the role that it played as a main arterial route that linked the water powered flour mills on the Waterloo Estate and the stores in Sydney from the 1820s.
- The Botany Road Corridor is associated historically with the local councils of Redfern (1859), Waterloo (1860) and Alexandria (1868) that at one time administered and managed the area.
- The remaining Victorian, Federation and Interwar buildings, comprising terrace houses, churches, hotels and shops as well as 20th century light industrial warehouses, within the Botany Road Corridor are aesthetically distinctive, and are representative of inner city suburban developments from the 1850s to the 1930s.
- Heritage items and contributory buildings within Botany Road Corridor contribute to a sense of place and provide unique opportunities for interpretation.

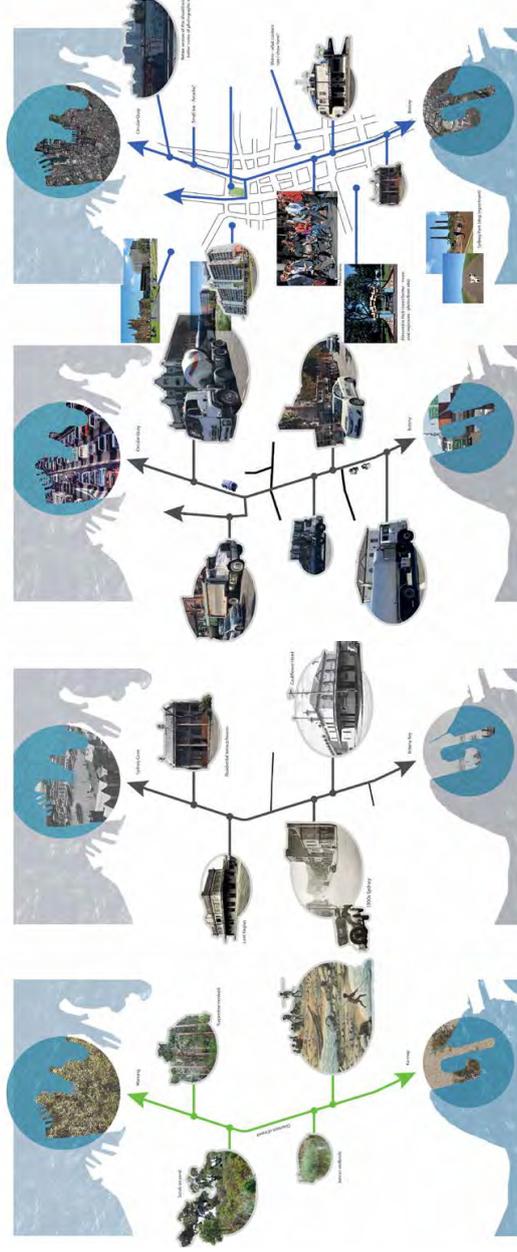


Figure 66: Historical Snapshot - Significance of Botany Road
 Source: Hassell, 2018 Draft Central to Eveleigh Context Analysis Vision and Principles Report.

3.2.2 Historical Timeline

23,000 BP Aboriginal people using ground-edge grooved axes. Aboriginal technology leads the world.

40,000 BP Aboriginal people reach Tasmania by migrating across a land bridge from the mainland. Stone tools dated to this time found at Lake Mungo in NSW.

55,000-60,000 BP Stone tools and red ochre are being used to prepare pigments for rock painting or body decoration.

Gadigal Country

120,000 Before Present (BP) Fire is being used to clear land in the Southern Tablelands of NSW.

70,000-100,000 BP Change in the fire-regimes across Australia as evidenced from reef deposits in Queensland.

70,000 BP dated archaeological finds on Rottnest Island, Western-Australia.

45,000-55,000 BP Numerous Aboriginal tools found in Cranebrook Terraces gravel sediments near Penrith, NSW carbon-dated to this time.

About 10,000 ago The last ice age ends and the sea levels rises to fill the valley of Sydney Cove.

A freshwater stream runs from a swamp some kilometres to the south (currently Hyde Park).

Figure 67: Historical Timeline of key events relevant to the Botany Road Corridor. Source: T20 Diagram, with background image reference 7. Detail from the government map of the parish of Alexandria, Not dated, but mid-1830s. This survey recorded the alignment of Regent Street/Botany Road within the study area prior to its today. The alignment north of Cleveland Street originates after owing to the railway development. The red scribbles evidently was formed and traced through the contours for the creek crossing (Source: NSW State Archives and Records (Map 1850)). Timeline dates are 7000 provided by various sources including the interpretation boards created on Cahill Expressway finished by SHFA. Date post-1700s supplemented by additional research.

1855 Opening of the railway between Sydney and Parramatta. The first Sydney Terminus was situated in the area between Cleveland Street and Devonshire Street.

1855 Commencement of subdivision and sale of Cooper's Waterloo Estate in leasehold for a term of 99 years. These leasehold allotments were located south of Boundary Street.

1853 Daniel Cooper died in London, and his Waterloo estate was inherited by William Charles Cooper (1852-1925), son of Daniel Cooper's nephew, also named Daniel (1821-1902), who managed WC Cooper's affairs until he came of age.

1846 William Hutchinson died. His estate at Chippendale (inclusive of present day Redfern) was partitioned between members of his family. Block D was inherited by daughter Mrs Sarah Nichols (1812-1870). Block E was inherited by daughter Mrs Martha Ann Drummond Roberts (1815-1901). Block F was inherited by grandson William Hutchinson Gibbons (1823-1893).

1834 William Hutchinson purchased 62&1/2 acres of Chippendale's grant.

1834 William Hutchinson sold the Waterloo estate to Daniel Cooper and Solomon Levey.

1823 William Hutchinson granted 1400 acres. Known as Waterloo. The northern boundary of the grant is Boundary Street.

1788 Establishment of the British penal colony at Sydney Cove.

9,000-7,000 BP Earliest visible evidence of Aboriginal belief returning type to catch waterfowl. Aboriginal belief connected with the rainbow Serpent. This becomes the longest continuing belief in the world.

1813 Old Botany Road formed from Oxford Street to Botany Bay.

1825 William Hutchinson commenced operation of water power mill within land granted in 1823.

1816 William Chippendale granted 95 acres. Eastern boundary of the grant is Botany (Cope) Street.

1817 Dr William Redfern granted 100 acres. Western boundary of this estate is Regent Street/Botany (Cope) Street.

Ca1819 Probable date of forming Botany Road within Waterloo, Redfern and Sydney.

1835 William Charles Wentworth purchased 4 acres of Chippendale's grant.

1842 Transportation of convicts to NSW ceased.

1842 Sydney City Council incorporated. Southern boundary was Cleveland Street.

1842 William Redfern's grant of 100 acres subdivided in freehold.

1842 William Charles Wentworth's 4 acres (between 131-199 Regent Street and Cope Street) subdivided in freehold.

1844 Botany Road scheduled a parish road and a toll gate was erected at the intersection of Regent Street and Botany (Cope) Street.

1849 Mrs Sarah Nichols leased Block D to Joseph Yeomans for a term of 21 years.

1854 Mrs Nichols' Block D (between Lawson Square and No. 68 Regent Street) subdivided and sold in leasehold title.

1856 First self government of NSW formed.

<p>1861 Mrs Lackey's Block E (between 70 Regent Street and 106 Regent Street) subdivided and sold in leasehold title.</p> <p>1861 Mrs WH Gibbons leased Block F to Henry Lipscomb for a term of 18 years. Mr Lipscomb subdivided Block F (between 108 Regent Street and Boundary Street) and sold the allotments in leasehold title.</p>	<p>1871 Sydney Omnibus Company commenced a service to Waterloo via Redfern.</p> <p>1871 The late Mrs Nichols' Block D re-subdivided (Deposited Plan 80) and sold in freehold.</p>	<p>1882 Government steam tram service between Sydney and Botany commenced operation.</p> <p>1884 Waterloo Congregational Church (103-105 Botany Road) opened.</p>	<p>1899-1945 Second World War.</p> <p>1930s The Redfern All Blacks rugby league team is established (officially formed in 1944).</p>	<p>1937 The Gibbons family's Block F sold in freehold and continued with the existing (1861) subdivision pattern.</p> <p>1949 Councils of Redfern, Waterloo and Alexandria absorbed by City of Sydney Council.</p>	<p>1972 Black Theatre established at 174 Regent Street, Redfern.</p> <p>1973 Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council is established at The Black Theatre.</p> <p>1977 Waterloo public housing towers 'Matavai' and 'Turanga' open</p>	<p>1999 Tribal Warrior Association incorporated.</p> <p>2005 Mission Boy Dreams mural transposed to wall of Wyanga Aboriginal Waged care facility</p>	<p>2008 New recording studios and offices for the Gadigal Information Service opens on Cope Street.</p> <p>2010 National Centre for Indigenous Excellence (NCIE) opens.</p> <p>2010s Commencement of building high rise residential blocks south of Lawson Square.</p> <p>2017 Construction of the Sydney Metro City and Southwest commenced.</p> <p>2015 The Redfern Aboriginal Children's Services and Archives gazetted as an item of State Heritage significance.</p> <p>2004 South Sydney (now City) Council merged with Sydney City Council.</p> <p>2004 Redfern Community Centre opens.</p>
<p>1863 Botany Road toll gate relocated to Boundary Street.</p>	<p>1901 Federation of the Australian colonies and formation of the Commonwealth of Australia.</p> <p>c1912 Commencement of merging the Waterloo Estate leaseholds into freehold.</p> <p>1917 Rebuilt Alexandria Goods Yard opened beside Henderson Road.</p>	<p>1866 Botany Road ceased to be a toll road.</p> <p>1868 St Lukes Presbyterian (118 Regent Street) opened.</p> <p>1868 Former St Silas' Anglican Church at Waterloo (173 Botany Road) opened.</p> <p>1868 Alexandria Municipal Council incorporated. Eastern boundary was Botany Road.</p>	<p>1902/3 Mrs Lackey's Block E re-subdivided (Deposited Plans 4209 and 3954) and sold in freehold.</p> <p>1914-1918 First World War</p> <p>1925 Main Roads Board established and Botany Road dedicated Main Road No. 170.</p>	<p>1970 The first office of the Aboriginal Legal Service opens at 142 Regent Street, Redfern.</p> <p>1970-1975 The pair of TNT office towers at Lawson Square built.</p> <p>1971 The first office of the Aboriginal Medical Service opens at 171 Regent Street, Redfern.</p> <p>1971 The first Koori Knockout held at Waterloo Oval.</p> <p>1972 Murawina Child Care Centre opens in Redfern.</p> <p>1973 The Aboriginal Housing Company formed</p>	<p>1979 Aboriginal Dance Theatre Redfern (ADTR) founded on Regent Street, Redfern.</p> <p>1983 The landmark '40,000 Years' mural is completed on Lawson Street.</p> <p>1992 First full length work by Bangarra Dance Theatre 'Praying Mantis Dreaming' completed.</p> <p>1996 Wyanga Aboriginal Aged Care established.</p> <p>1992 PM Paul Keating delivers 'Redfern Speech' at Redfern Park to launch Year of the Indigenous Person.</p> <p>1993 The Gadigal Information Services founded. Koori Radio (93.7FM 2LND) broadcasts.</p> <p>1989 Bangarra Dance Theatre founded and operates from Police Boys Club in Pitt Street, Redfern.</p> <p>1987 Boomalli Artist Collective is formed near the study area at 18 Meagher Street, Chippendale.</p>	<p>1984 Radio Skid Row (2RSR 88.9FM) gives 10 hours of allocated broadcast time to Radio Redfern, considered to be the voice of the Aboriginal community.</p> <p>1981 The Black Theatre relocates to 181 Regent Street, Redfern.</p>	<p>1968 Former Redfern, Alexandria and Waterloo local government areas incorporated within the new South Sydney Municipal Council.</p>
<p>1862 The Cauliflower Hotel (123 Botany Road, Waterloo) commenced trading and is the earliest of the extant hotels within the study area.</p> <p>1860 Mrs Lackey (formerly Mrs Roberts) leased Block E to her husband John Lackey (1830-1903) for a term of 21 years.</p> <p>1860 Waterloo Municipal Council incorporated. Northern boundary was Boundary Street.</p>	<p>1868 Former Redfern, Alexandria and Waterloo local government areas incorporated within the new South Sydney Municipal Council.</p>	<p>1974 The Aboriginal Housing Company's Redfern project (The Block) commences</p>	<p>1974 The Aboriginal Housing Company's Redfern project (The Block) commences</p>	<p>1984 Radio Skid Row (2RSR 88.9FM) gives 10 hours of allocated broadcast time to Radio Redfern, considered to be the voice of the Aboriginal community.</p> <p>1981 The Black Theatre relocates to 181 Regent Street, Redfern.</p>	<p>1984 Radio Skid Row (2RSR 88.9FM) gives 10 hours of allocated broadcast time to Radio Redfern, considered to be the voice of the Aboriginal community.</p> <p>1981 The Black Theatre relocates to 181 Regent Street, Redfern.</p>	<p>1984 Radio Skid Row (2RSR 88.9FM) gives 10 hours of allocated broadcast time to Radio Redfern, considered to be the voice of the Aboriginal community.</p> <p>1981 The Black Theatre relocates to 181 Regent Street, Redfern.</p>	<p>1984 Radio Skid Row (2RSR 88.9FM) gives 10 hours of allocated broadcast time to Radio Redfern, considered to be the voice of the Aboriginal community.</p> <p>1981 The Black Theatre relocates to 181 Regent Street, Redfern.</p>

Sydney

Campbell

Sydney Race

New line of road to Botany

Inaon

Jackman Mill

58.00

Sketch boundary to the town

3.2.3 Connecting with Country

This report published by GANSW acknowledges the impacts that urban planning projects make on Aboriginal culture and heritage and aims for outcomes that can positively reflect Country in urban design processes and projects such as people and Aboriginal culture of Redfern, Alexandria, Waterloo and surrounding areas.

This document outlines the steps taken to adopt a design principle that illustrates a *Connection to Country* based on findings from community engagement.

Design outcomes for consideration in urban design include:

- Design of landforms or landscapes within the study area.
- Creative input in new structures.
- Art installation and design.
- Respectful understanding of the Aboriginal cultural context as a foundation of our work.

The Botany Road Corridor project presents an opportunity to create a new approach that embraces the Aboriginal and Torres Straits Islander people's culture and stories tied to the landscape within the study area and echoes the spiritual connection of Australia's first people to Country.

To achieve this, community engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people was undertaken between July and August 2020 by Cox Inall Ridgeway and resulted in key messages and overarching themes that could be integrated into the design process and outcomes.

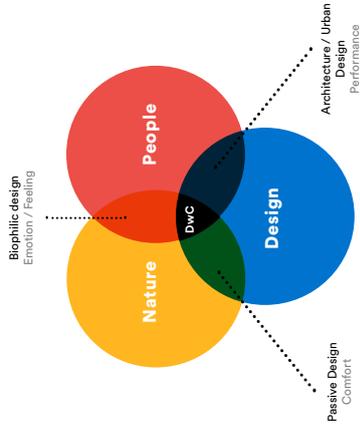


Figure 66: Elements of Designing with Country
Source: Designing with Country, GANSW.



Figure 68: Human-centred vs Country-centred design
Source: Designing with Country, GANSW.

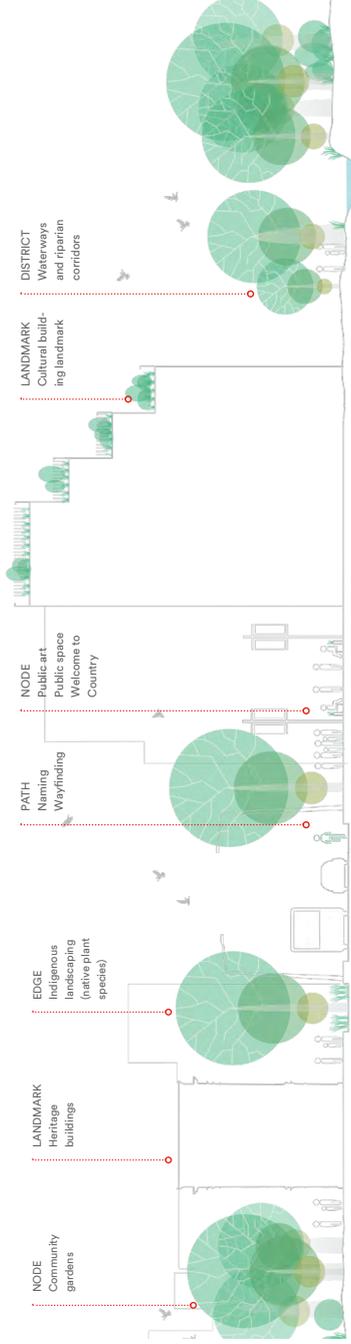


Figure 70: Connection to Country
Source: Designing with Country, GANSW.

3.0 Site Analysis

Indigenous Significant Places

The figure adjacent provides a quick snapshot showing a few places of significance to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander local community.¹⁰

- 1 First Aboriginal Medical Service, 171 Regent Street, Redfern.
- 2 First office of the Aboriginal Legal Service, 142 Regent Street, Redfern.
- 3 Alexandria Oval training ground for Redfern All Blacks.
- 4 Koori Knockout tournaments held at Redfern Park.
- 5 Site of former 'Black Theatre', an Aboriginal-run theatre company established in 1972.
- 6 PM Paul Keating delivers 'Redfern Speech' at Redfern Park, December 1992.
- 7 First NSWALC office, 184 Cope Street, Waterloo.



10: Botany Road Corridor - Potentially significant places for Aboriginal people and communities and other information to inform community engagement, August 2020, Cox Inall Ridgeway.

Figure 71: Indigenous Significant Places
Source: Images courtesy of Barani: Sydney's Aboriginal History, <https://www.sydneymarani.com.au> and Google images.

3.2.4 Aboriginal Archaeology Summary

An Archaeological Assessment of the Botany Road Corridor study area was undertaken by Urbis in August 2020 to investigate Aboriginal archaeological potential, and to support a more broader Indigenous cultural heritage study for the Botany Road Corridor in Redfern and Alexandria. The following key points were identified from the findings:

Aboriginal Archaeology Assessment key points summary ¹¹

- There is one Aboriginal site (AHIMS ID#45-6-2597) recorded on the AHIMS within the subject area. However, it has been also concluded that the GPS location of the site in AHIMS is wrong and the site was recorded in Gibbons Street Reserve.
- The majority of the subject area is located on the Tuggerah Soil Landscape that is comprised by quaternary sand deposits and have high potential for comprising Aboriginal archaeological resources based on the results of previously carried out archaeological investigations within and in the wider surroundings of the subject area.
- The subject area has been impacted by various levels of historical land use since colonisation, especially by the growing urban development of the late nineteenth century and all through the twentieth century, that has transformed the original natural environment into a densely built urban environment.

- The subject area has various level of potential for Aboriginal archaeological resources ranging from nil to high.
 - The additional high-level historical archaeological assessment identified, especially in light of the results of the large scale archaeological excavation carried out by AMBS in 2017-2018 at the proposed Metro Quarter, that the subject area has various level of potential for historical archaeological resources ranging from nil to high.
 - In general, the AA concluded that the majority of the subject area has at least moderate potential for both Aboriginal and historical archaeological resources and consequently high potential for contact archaeology and archaeological record that might shed light on how Aboriginal people kept using the land even after colonial impact disrupted their original tracks and way of life.
- The archaeological potential of each lot within the subject area has been assessed by the following criteria:

Nil Potential

- Lots were defined as having nil potential where:
- A previous archaeological assessment and subsequent development have been carried out that will have removed archaeological potential or Aboriginal objects entirely. Example for Nil Potential is the excavation for the Metro Quarter by AMBS that has completely removed any soils or archaeological materials.

- **Low Potential**
Lots were defined as having low Aboriginal archaeological potential where:
 - An area has been highly disturbed by an existing basement or subsurface construction that likely removed archaeological potential or Aboriginal objects to a considerable degree.
 - Previous detailed Aboriginal archaeological investigation identified low potential.

Moderate Potential

- Lots were defined as having moderate Aboriginal archaeological potential where:
- The building on the subject lot does not have a basement and no major development occurred in the last century that could have impacted the soils capped by development in the nineteenth century.
 - Previous detailed Aboriginal archaeological investigation identified moderate potential.

High Potential

- Lots were defined as having high Aboriginal archaeological potential where there is a recorded Aboriginal site, or the area is relatively undisturbed or have experienced low levels of disturbance associated with historic land use activities.

LEGEND

- Moderate Archaeological Potential
- Low Archaeological Potential
- Nil Archaeological Potential



Figure 72: Aboriginal Archaeology Summary
Source: Urbis Archaeological Assessment, August 2020, with TZG overlay.

11: Archaeological Assessment, Botany Road Corridor, Alexandria, Waterloo and Redfern, NSW, Urbis.

3.2.5 Indigenous Community Cultural Significance Summary

Cox Inall Ridgeway prepared a Statement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Significance which included the following key points summary for Aboriginal Redfern and the ongoing connection and cultural and social significance to place:¹²

- The Study Area is a central part of what has, for the last 100 years, become the most well-known and significant urban Aboriginal place in Australia 'Aboriginal Redfern' and included not only the suburb of Redfern but surrounding suburbs including Waterloo, Alexandria, Everleigh and Darlington.
- Aboriginal Redfern is widely recognised as the 'birthplace of Aboriginal rights'. From the early 20th century onwards it was the place where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people from across Australia, but from NSW in particular, came together to work, live and build communities.
- It was a key site of protest and the home of successful campaigns for recognition of land rights, human rights and civil rights, and of the first community-controlled organisations. It was the place where Aboriginal people came together to hold important meetings, such as the first NSW Aboriginal Land Council meeting, and attend large social events, such as the Koori Knockout, and a place to find and re-connect with family for those impacted by assimilationist policies such as forced child removal.
- The place itself is imbued with cultural meaning. Located specifically within the Study Area are a large concentration of individual sites where important historical, political and social events, activities and organisations were formed or flourished, and where significant Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people or families were born or lived.
- Aboriginal Redfern was also a key birthplace of important contemporary artistic and cultural movements including Aboriginal theatre, dance, music, art, radio and film.
- A large number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people live, work, study in or visit the area. Important Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations, services, cultural bodies and businesses continue to be based in the area, including those that grew from the historic first organisations formed there.
- Areas in or immediately adjacent to the Study Area are highly used by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, including those working or visiting the community and cultural organisations based in the Botany Road Corridor, or clustered in Cope Street adjoining the Study Area.
- Places represents layers of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history, connection and significance. People visit the Aboriginal Medical Service in Redfern Street (whose first and second storefronts were in the Study Area) where people involved in establishing the first Aboriginal Medical Service still volunteer or are members of the Board.
- The strongest visual representation of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural heritage in the area comes through the many public murals, in nearly all cases developed by the community or by community organisations. Some of these are painted by local children.

12: Botany Road Corridor, Statement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Significance, Cox Inall Ridgeway.

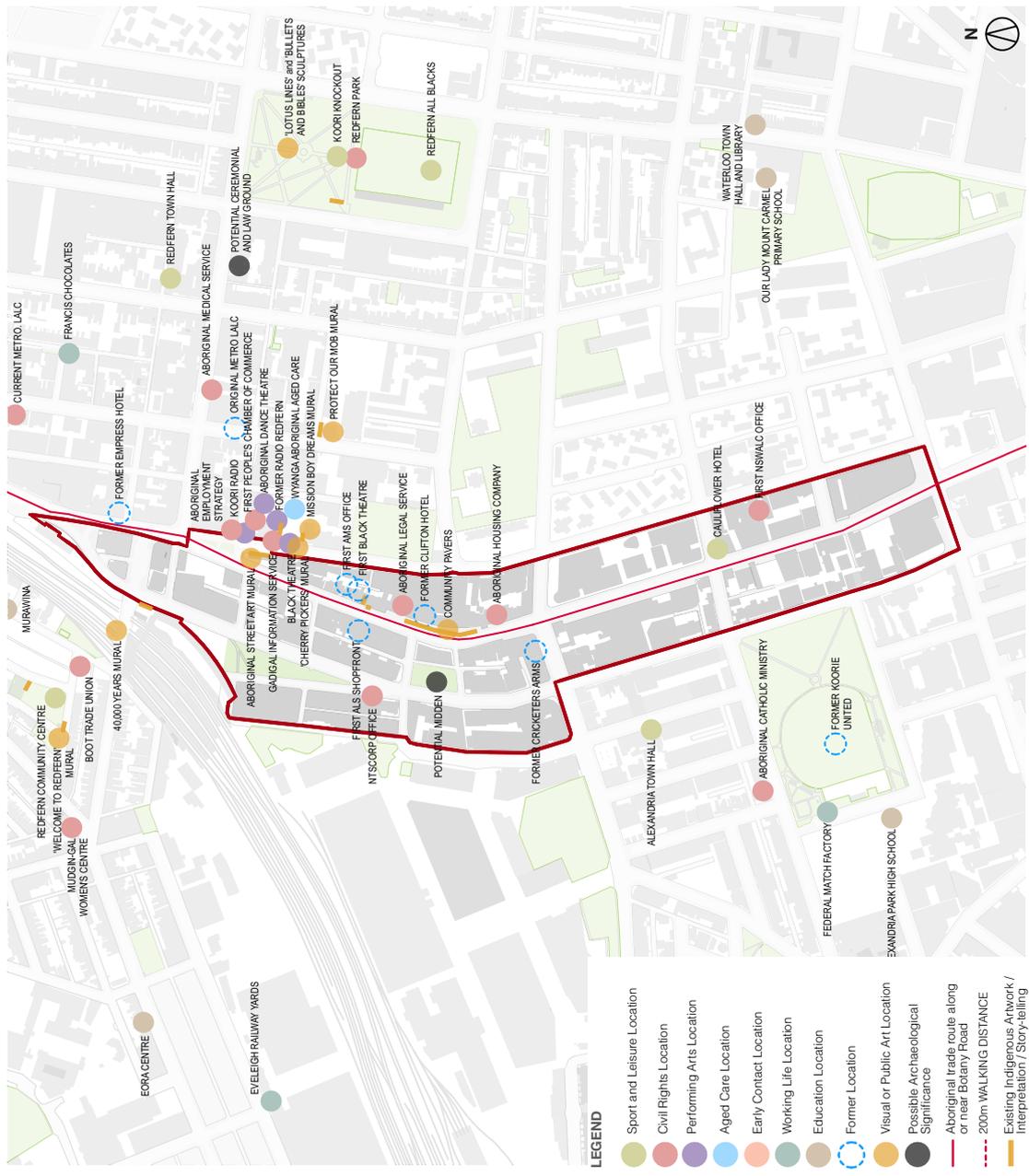


Figure 73: Summary of Indigenous Significant Places Source: Cox Inall Ridgeway, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community engagement, August 2020, with TZG overlay.

3.2.6 Indigenous Community Engagement Summary

Cox Inall Ridgeway conducted a series of community engagements between mid-July and mid-August 2020 with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. Amongst the key outcomes was the need to protect the story and tell the history of the place so its significance can be passed onto the next generation. Another priority was to support the living culture of the place and identify opportunities to tie the commonalities of place and storytelling with the greater historic story of Aboriginal people across Sydney.

The key messages and overarching themes from the community engagement is included below, extracted from the Botany Road Corridor Initial Summary of Key Themes and Messages prepared by Cox Inall Ridgeway.

- Aboriginal Redfern is the most significant and well known urban Aboriginal place in Australia. The Botany Road Corridor is centrally located as part of this Aboriginal place.
- The history and achievements of 'Aboriginal Redfern' should be acknowledged and celebrated, particularly the history of Aboriginal Redfern as a central place for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander civil rights and self-determination.

- The Botany Road Corridor contains many individual sites of strong historical, political, social, economic and cultural significance for Aboriginal and Torres Strait people. These sites are connected with other places both within and outside the Study Area.
- Urgent action is needed to ensure that the area remains an Aboriginal place. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people must continue be the centre of the precinct, including as local residents and through the physical presence of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations and businesses.

- Place making for the precinct must both recognise the past and celebrate living cultural heritage, current communities and future generations.
- The future planning of the area should include a strong, central and highly visible role for Aboriginal and Torres Strait people. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people should determine how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and communities are recognised and celebrated, including through the designs for the area.¹³



Figure 74: 131 Regent Street, Redfern. Source: TZG Architects, 2020.



Figure 75: Photo taken in front of the first office of the Aboriginal Legal Services located at 140-142 Regent Street, Redfern. Source: National Archives of Australia. NAA: A8799, A2/8/74/15



Figure 76: The Redfern All Blacks Memorial team at Redfern Oval for the 2004 Koort Knockout (photograph courtesy Amanda James) Source: <https://63-63-south-east-2.amazonaws.com/cdn-sydneybarahni.com.au/assets/Koort-Knockout.jpg>



Figure 77: Detail of the original mural on Lawson Street (Photo: Carol Ruff) as featured in South Sydney Herald Source: <https://southsydneyherald.com.au/restoring-redferns-40000-years-mural/>

13: Botany Road Corridor, Initial summary of key themes and messages from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community engagement, Cox Inall Ridgeway.

3.2.7 The Natural Environment Pre-Urban Development

The pre-urban development significance of the Redfern area for the Indigenous people and Country is prevalent within the Botany Road Corridor as noted in the Archaeological Assessment :

The area now known as Redfern was a high point on the landscape, and may have been a meeting place as Gadigal people moved through their country. Eveleigh and surrounds were ancient windblown sand dunes covered in Banksia scrub mingled with fresh water soaks and wetlands. Tool-making adhesive resin was extracted from the grass tree, while the fibres of local Pimelia and Persoonia shrubs were twined into string¹⁴.

An extract from the Archaeological notes profiles the natural environment prior to urban development:

The subject area slopes gradually to the south toward a low-lying landscape which would have been comprised of swampland.

The subject area is located within the Botany Lowlands dune system which was characterised by gently undulating dune fields which assumed a north-south trend with increased distance from the coast.

The topography of the subject area has been significantly modified and levelled through earthworks and land reclamation throughout the 19th century associated with residential and industrial development. Installation of the train line to the north-west of the subject area in 1884 also necessitated significant levelling and excavation works.

While the Botany Lowlands dune system did not contain formal drainage lines, it contained a number of lagoons in the south-east and swamps in the north-west. A large swamp, known as 'Boxley's Lagoon', was located at the same location as Redfern Park (Thorpe 1994). Blackwattle Creek and Blackwattle Swamp were also located to the north-west of the study area. A tributary of Black Wattle Swamp Creek originated beyond Erskineville Railway Station and followed the northern boundary of the Eveleigh Railway Workshops.

The subject site area does contain any remnant waterways. The subject area is, however, in close proximity to Sheas Creek, a large majority of which has been converted to the Alexandria Canal. Many of the former swamps would have fed into the creek. The north-eastermost first order tributary of Sheas Creek runs approximately 178m south of the current subject area. This section has been formalised into a drainage channel following European settlement, but likely would have extended further north east prior to this formalisation and surrounding development¹⁴.



Figure 78: Aborigines Using Fire to Hunt Kangaroos, by Joseph Lycett. Source: National Library of Australia.

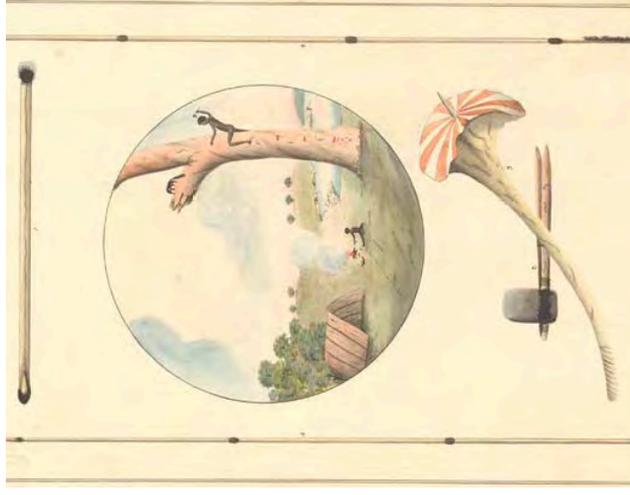


Figure 79: Bark hut of the inland type and a stone axe in action. Source: Cook's River Alliance, 'Aboriginal History Along the Cooks River', 2017.



Figure 80: Plan of the "Waterloo Estate" grants from the Crown, showing also its neighbouring locations, c1827. Source: State Library of NSW: www.digital.slnsw.gov.au, Maps/0586, FL879133.



Figure 81: Plan of the country between the Old South Head Road & Botany Bay, showing the Lachlan & other swamps, the alienated lands & c. Source: SLNSW, Mitchell Library, https://collections.slnsw.gov.au/record/74VK659/4QXM

14: Archaeological Assessment, Botany Road Corridor: Alexandria, Waterloo and Redfern, NSW, Urbis.

Historical Subdivisions

Early subdivision patterns established with the Crown grants to William Chippendale (1816) and William Hutchinson (1823) are present today in grouped 'fine grain' pockets within the built fabric of the Botany Road Corridor.

Effect of development over time on the Built Fabric

Figure 84 summarises historical growth over time by overlaying various streetscape, built form and subdivision maps. Patterns of historical built form development that can be observed are:

- The Gibbons Street realignment resulted from excavations for the Eastern Suburbs Rail line in the 1960s. The land above the completed line was converted to parkland due to constraints around development.
- The 1950s widening of Botany Road results in a number of corners anchored by heritage listed items. The buildings contribute to a sense of place, with multiple layers of historical amendments adding to the gritty charm of the corridor.
- The heritage items that remain within and adjacent to the Botany Road Corridor speak to the long standing role of Botany Road as a main route toward Botany Bay.
- Worker style housing is found on the fringe areas of the Botany Road Corridor, often mixed within the commercial or retail built fabric.
- Today, many of the retail and commercial properties along Regent Street / Botany Road are used for residential use.

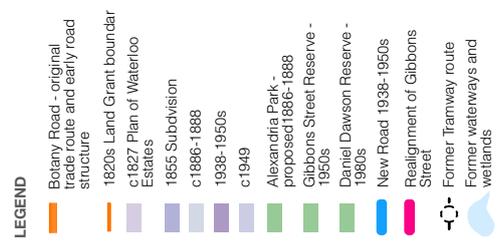
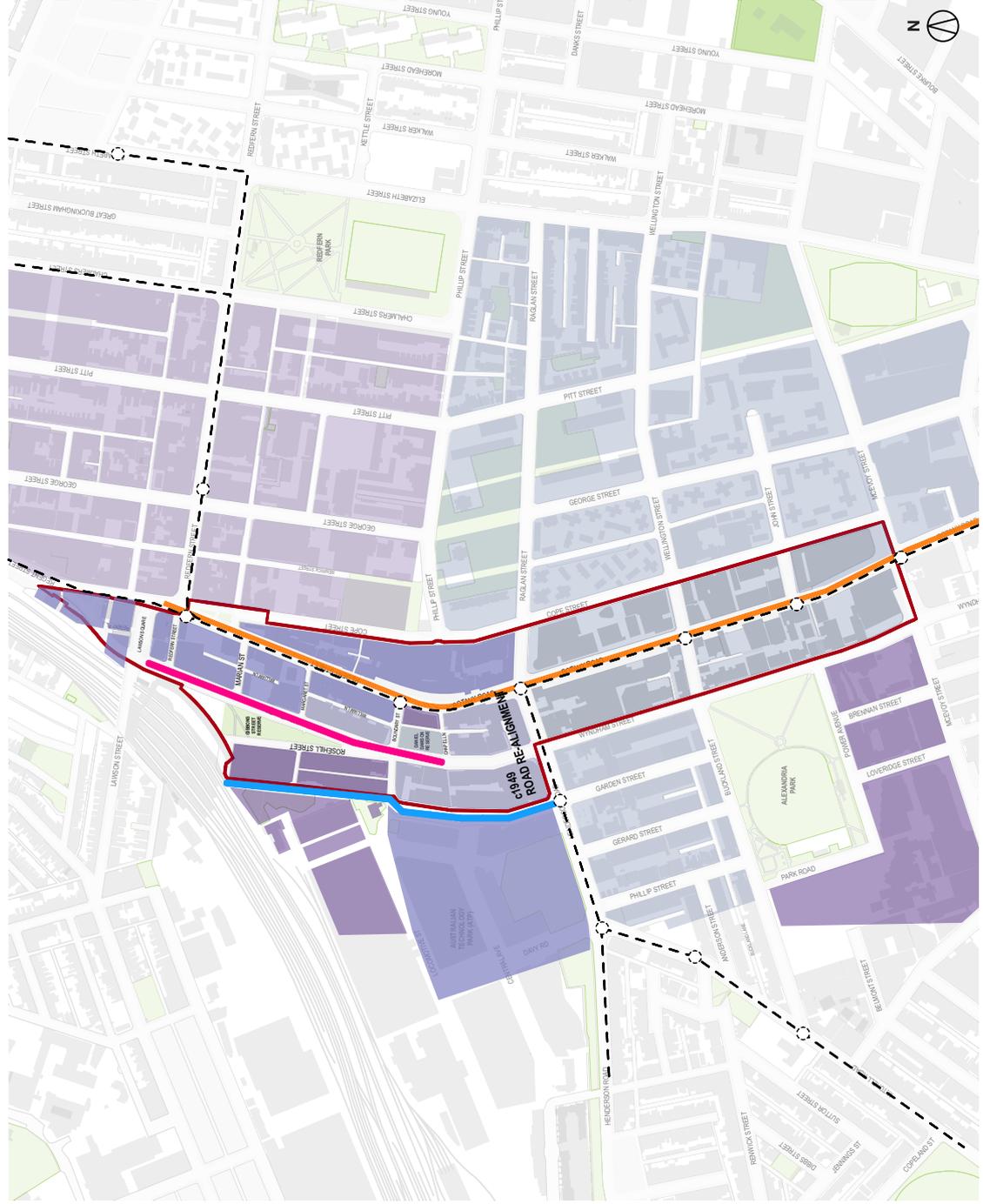


Figure 83: Historical Built Form development over time - Summary map
Source: T2G

Figure 85 to Figure 88 show staggered development of subdivisions at various historical intervals.

Viewing the subdivision growth structure at dated intervals reveals the genesis of the city block structure over time and shows key areas that retain evidence of original and early city block structure.

Through Crown grants to William Chippendale (1816) and William Hutchinson (1823) with Chippendale's grant to the north and west of Botany Street and Hutchinson's grant to the south of Boundary Street¹⁵.

Gibbons Street, realigned in 1951 and extended to Lawson Street (date unknown) created the Gibbons Street Reserve following construction of the Eastern Suburbs Railway. The Daniel Dawson Reserve was created at an unknown date, and both reserves occupy city blocks that were once subdivided into residential lots¹⁶.

Adjacent areas to the site have their city block structure formed by early residential sub-divisions and land grants allotments. Gradual amalgamation of lots over time has resulted in larger blocks, particularly in the southern parts within and near to study area at McEvoy Street.

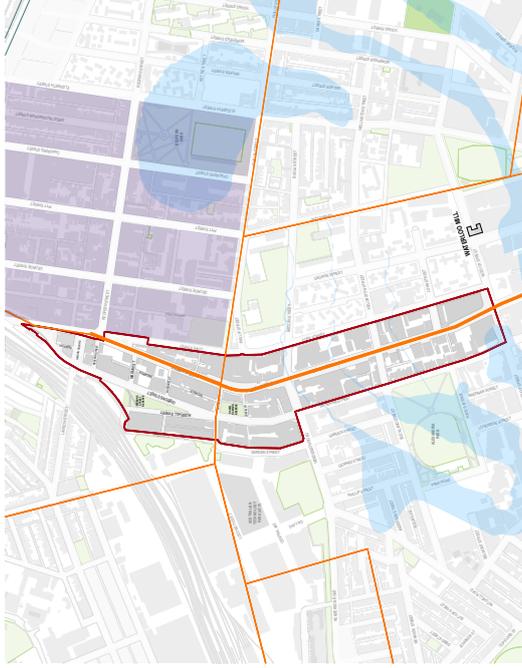


Figure 84: 1827 Subdivision
Source: TZG

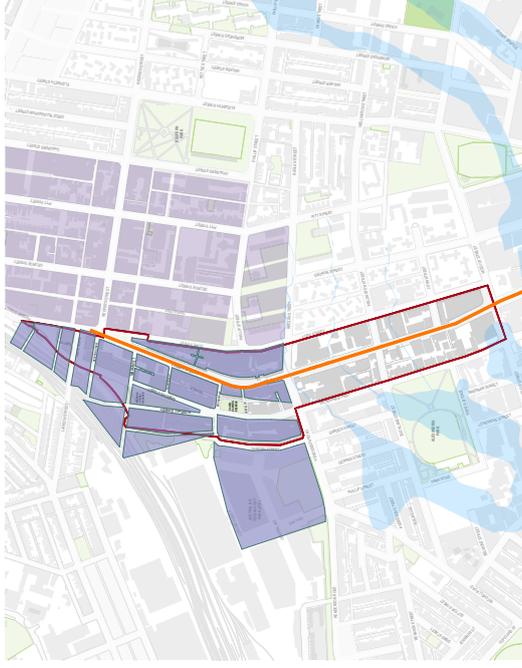


Figure 85: Street pattern: 1827 and 1855 Subdivisions
Source: TZG

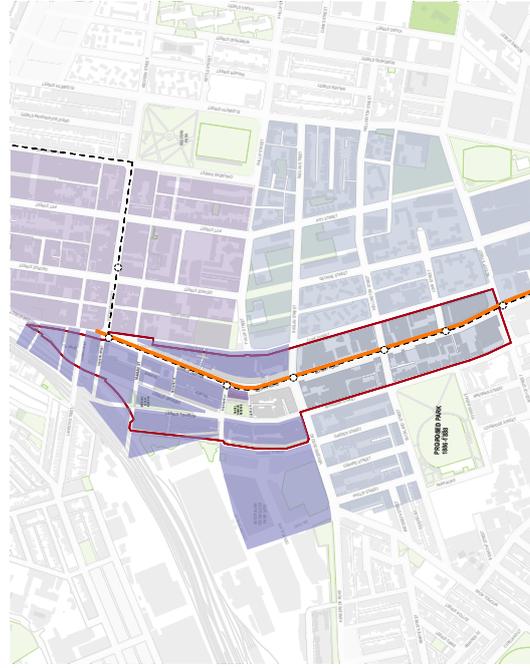


Figure 86: Street pattern: 1827, 1855 and c.1888 Subdivisions
Source: TZG



Figure 87: Street pattern: 1827, 1855, c.1888 and 1938-c.1950 Subdivisions
Source: TZG

- LEGEND**
- Botany Road - original trade route and early road structure
 - 1820s Land Grants
 - c.1827 Plan of Waterloo Estates
 - 1855 Subdivision
 - c.1886-1888
 - 1938-1950s
 - c.1949
 - Alexandria Park - proposed 1886-1888
 - Gibbons Street Reserve - 1950s
 - Daniel Dawson Reserve - 1980s
 - New Road 1938-1950s
 - Realignment of Gibbons Street
 - Tramway route and stops
 - Waterways and wet lands

15: TZG Non-Indigenous Heritage Report.
16: TZG Non-Indigenous Heritage Report.

Evidence of original and early built form, open space or landscape components

The Botany Road Corridor retains evidence of original and early built form, as demonstrated by the preceding physical analysis and maps.

There is less evidence of early open space or landscape components, other than Alexandria Park, which is located adjacent to the study area and the open drain that runs between Cope Street and Botany Road.

The Botany Road Corridor study area contains two public reserves: The Gibbons Street Reserve and the Daniel Dawson Reserve. These reserves were created following construction of the Eastern Suburbs Railway. The alignment of Gibbons Street was altered at this time. Tracing historical maps reveal that both reserves occupy land that was once subdivided into residential lots.



Figure 88: Current open space overlaid on 1855-1865 plan of Redfern.



Figure 89: Current open space overlaid on 1864 plan of Municipality of Redfern.

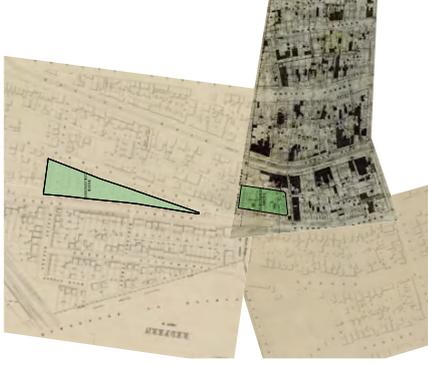


Figure 90: Current open space overlaid on 1890s MWSB plans.



Figure 92: Current open space overlaid on 1898-1950 plan.



Figure 93: Current open space overlaid on 1951 plan.



Figure 94: Current open space overlaid on 1951 aerial photograph showing clearances associated with construction of the Eastern Suburbs Railway and realignment of Gibbons Street.



Figure 91: The 1886-1888 Map of Alexandria shows the 'Proposed Park' 'in dispute'. This is now Alexandria Park. Source: <https://dictionaryofsydney.org/media/3390>



Figure 95: The 'Welcome to Redfern' mural is arguably the most well-known example of public Indigenous art in the neighbourhood.
Source: Adam Halliwell, 'City of Sydney', <https://theillustri.com/pacific/australia/articles/redfern-and-the-gadigal-of-the-same-nation/>