

Strickland Estate and Nielsen Park

Draft Master Plan




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(TKD Architects) NSW Nominated Architects
Robert Denton Registration No 5782
Alex Kibble Registration No 6015

Draft Strickland Estate and Nielsen Park Master Plan
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The project team acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Strickland Estate and Nielsen Park, the people belonging to the Birrabirragal Clan, and their continuing and unbroken connection to the land, water, and sky.

We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging and express our gratitude for their sharing of knowledge and culture.

Through authentic engagement with Aboriginal people and the landscapes within which we work, we strive to deepen our understanding of Country and our relationship with its People.

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Summary



Executive summary

NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service is preparing a master plan for the Strickland Estate and Nielsen Park precincts of Sydney Harbour National Park (Vaucluse). The master plan is intended to provide a holistic approach for the next 20 years of use and operation of the site as a single integrated estate.

In 2018 the NSW Government announced the transfer of the Strickland Estate to NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service becoming part of the Sydney Harbour National Park. Prior to the transfer, the Strickland Estate was managed by Property NSW. In 2017 Property NSW and Office of Environment and Heritage sought assistance from the Office of Government Architect in planning for the future of the Strickland Estate and Nielsen Park, Vaucluse.

The master plan is intended to provide a holistic approach for the next 20 years of use and operation of the site as a single integrated estate. The guiding theme in planning for public use in the Strickland Estate and Nielsen Park precincts is to enhance the visitor experience and allow for a broad range of visitors to access the park and to cater safely and comfortably for the current and future visitation while conserving, respecting and celebrating the natural, cultural, and historic heritage values of this iconic place.

The Strickland Estate and Nielsen Park is a rich cultural landscape that forms an essential part of the story of Sydney. A story that

encompasses Aboriginal culture and place; a story that encompasses the ideas of settlement for Europeans and a story of health and wellbeing. It is a place that has been inhabited continuously and has a vibrant community.

The master plan creates a long-term framework to deliver a recreational precinct that celebrates its rich culture, heritage and landscape character and future improvements across the Strickland Estate and Nielsen Park, Sydney Harbour National Park.

This draft Strickland Estate Nielsen Park Master Plan has been prepared by a consultant team led by Tanner Kibble Denton (TKD) Architects and CONTEXT Landscape Architecture for National Parks and Wildlife Service:

Architecture

Tanner Kibble Denton Architects

Landscape Architecture

CONTEXT Landscape Architecture

Indigenous Consultation

WSP



Site aerial



Site location



Introduction

1.1 Introduction



Site plan - summary

1.1.2 Project timeline

This plan represents the preliminary concept designs for Strickland and Estate Nielsen Park and has been developed through extensive site investigations, analysis, community and stakeholder consultation and feedback since it began in early-2022.

Following exhibition of the draft master plan, community and stakeholder feedback will be considered and incorporated into the final master plan in early 2023.

1.1.3 Site overview

The Strickland Estate and Nielsen Park sites are defined in broad terms by 3 historical periods that reflect changes in the custodianship or ownership of the land. Prior to the arrival of Europeans in 1788, the Birrabirragal clan inhabited the land along the harbour foreshore between South Head and Double Bay. The Birrabirragal clan were many interconnected groups that made up the coastal peoples of Sydney.

The historical periods and key pivotal events:

1. Traditional Custodians
 - Birrabirragal clan
2. Private ownership
 - (1851 & 1858) Greycliffe House and Carrara House built

3. Public ownership

- (1911) Greycliffe Estate and (1914) Carrara House purchased by the government
- (1912) Nielsen Park Trust Established
- (1915) Carrara House established as the Strickland House Convalescent Hospital
- (1968) Nielsen Park transferred to National Parks and Wildlife Services
- (1989) Strickland House aged care facility closure
- (2017) Strickland House Estate transferred to National and Wildlife Services

1.1.4 Precincts

The Strickland Estate and Nielsen Park sites are defined by the following overall precincts:

- Nielsen Park
- Strickland Estate
- Hermitage Foreshore

Nielsen Park



Nielsen Park has a strong recreation tradition based around Shark Beach and the swimming enclosure. The recreation activities include swimming, picnicking and celebrations. It also supports highly significant elements of cultural and natural heritage. The future challenge will be to successfully manage traditional and new recreational pursuits whilst conserving the character of the recreational parklands, the buildings of the Greycliffe Estate and the remnant bushland.

Strickland Estate



Strickland Estate is the most recent addition to the overall site. Like Nielsen Park, it contains layers of history and use. Its integration within the broader site is key to the success of the master plan. The key building of Carrara House sits at its core, with the popular Milk Beach adjacent to it.

Hermitage Foreshore



The Hermitage Foreshore is a crucial walking link from Rose Bay to Nielsen Park as part of the Sydney Harbour Scenic Walk.

1.2 Process

The development of the draft master plan has been guided by 3 primary sources of information and input. They are as follows:

- planning and policy framework
- site analysis
- community and stakeholder consultation

Below is a summary of the key policy documents and management plans that have been considered during the master plan process to date. The ideas, guidelines and principles represented in these documents will ultimately contribute to the development of the Strickland Estate Nielsen Park Master Plan.

- **National Parks and Wildlife Act (1974)**
- **Sydney Harbour National Park Plan of Management (2012)**
- **The NPWS Fortifications of Sydney Harbour and Botany Bay - A Strategic Plan (2007)**
- **Woollahra Local Government Area -Aboriginal Heritage Study (2021)**
- **Nielsen Park Conservation Management Plan (2013)**
- **Strickland House Estate Conservation Management Plan (2016)** The following guiding principles were developed to inform the Sydney Harbour National Park Plan of Management (2012).

The draft Strickland Estate Nielsen Park Master Plan proposes to adopt these guiding principles and consider them in the context of the Strickland Estate Nielsen Park precinct.

Within this section, the principles are reproduced together with a summary of key themes related to Strickland Estate Nielsen Park that will be considered and incorporated within the project.

The guiding principles are as follows:

1. conserve natural and cultural heritage
2. manage sustainability
3. improve accessibility
4. welcome all visitors
5. improve transport linkages
6. conserve for the future
7. partnerships and collaboration

Guiding principle 1

Conserve natural and cultural heritage

Key themes to explore in the plan:

- vegetation management and ecological rehabilitation.
- adaptive reuse of existing heritage buildings to celebrate their unique history and maximise public access.
- interpretation embedded within the design of walks and places



Guiding principle 2

Manage sustainability

Key themes to explore in the plan:

- vegetation management and ecological rehabilitation.
- adaptive reuse of existing heritage buildings to generate revenue for their ongoing care and management.



Guiding principle 3

Improve accessibility

Key themes to explore in the plan:

- provide infrastructure and other services to meet visitor needs and maximise opportunities to enjoy the natural and cultural heritage of the park.
- adaptive reuse of existing heritage buildings to celebrate their unique history and heritage value.



Guiding principle 4

Welcome all visitors

Key themes to explore in the plan:

- adaptive reuse of buildings to ensure current and future generations have access to the precinct's unique heritage.
- explore opportunities for people to stay and dwell within the park and provide facilities that encourage a variety of enjoyable park experiences.



Guiding principle 5

Improve transport linkages

Key themes to explore in the plan:

- accessibility and connectivity issues relating to how people access the park.
- address issues between pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists, including primary access and entry points to the park.



Guiding principle 6

Conserve for the future

Key themes to explore in the plan:

- interpretation and education of Strickland Estate Nielsen Park's unique Aboriginal, navigation, military and defence heritage.
- inclusive consultation with stakeholders and the community to ensure support for the ongoing management of the park.



Guiding principle 7

Partnerships and collaboration

Key themes to explore in the plan:

- potential partnerships with stakeholders to ensure the successful ongoing stewardship of the park.
- looking 'beyond the boundary' of the park to explore opportunities for improving the visitor experience in collaboration with stakeholders and adjoining landowners.



1.2.1 Connecting to Country

The draft Strickland Estate and Nielsen Park Master Plan recognises that all projects in Australia are on Aboriginal land that has been cared for millennia by its Traditional Owners.

For the draft Strickland Estate and Nielsen Park Master Plan the following design principles have been applied to ensure respectful and appropriate processes when working with Aboriginal Country and people. These were developed to ensure the correct cultural protocols are followed, and that the resulting outcomes are beneficial to Country, its people, and their culture.

Aboriginal led: Aboriginal people such as designers, elders, and community members, should be leading or co-leading the Indigenous design elements.

Community involvement: The local Aboriginal communities to be engaged in this process at an appropriate scale.

Appropriate use of Aboriginal design: All Aboriginal design elements must be approved by consulted Indigenous elders and community members. If approval is not given, the knowledge will not be used in the project.

As Aboriginal and Torres Strait knowledge systems relate directly to the practices of land planning, landscape design and the human interactions with place, they are particularly relevant to the master planning process and can offer a deeper understanding of Australian landscapes and how to look after them to sustain biodiversity and maintain ecosystem health. (Jones et al, 2018, available- https://ltr.edu.au/resources/ID12-2418_Deakin_Jones_2018_Guide.pdf)

The approach applied to this master plan involved desktop research, carried out by an Aboriginal researcher, to begin to identify and understand the Country, people and culture of the Strickland Estate and Neilson Park area. This research was followed by walking on Country to get a sense of the character, health, and some of the cultural attributes of the area, to consider the needs of Country and let it inform recommendations that will guide the master planning team to include Country in the planning process. Emerging themes and recommendations to be incorporated into the master plan were then communicated to the design team through the development of an Aboriginal design principles document.



‘View of the Heads at the Entrance to Port Jackson, New South Wales’, by Joseph Lycett, 1824, Source: State Library of New South Wales

Emerging themes

Connecting the Ochre Grid: How might we honour Country and ensure its dignity is still intact throughout the master planning process?

Activate the site: How can we provide gathering places for users to meet, yarn and experience the unique attributes of Country? How might the project allow people to move across Country?

Celebrate Country: This national park is located on Aboriginal Country. How can we celebrate this place and the cultural heritage it contains? Can the master plan provide space to celebrate the people and culture of this significant place?

Tell our stories: Sydney is a place of ceremony, law, sport, and settlement. There are many latent stories associated with this place waiting to be told through place based interventions. How might we tell the stories of this Country and its First Peoples in the master plan of this national park?

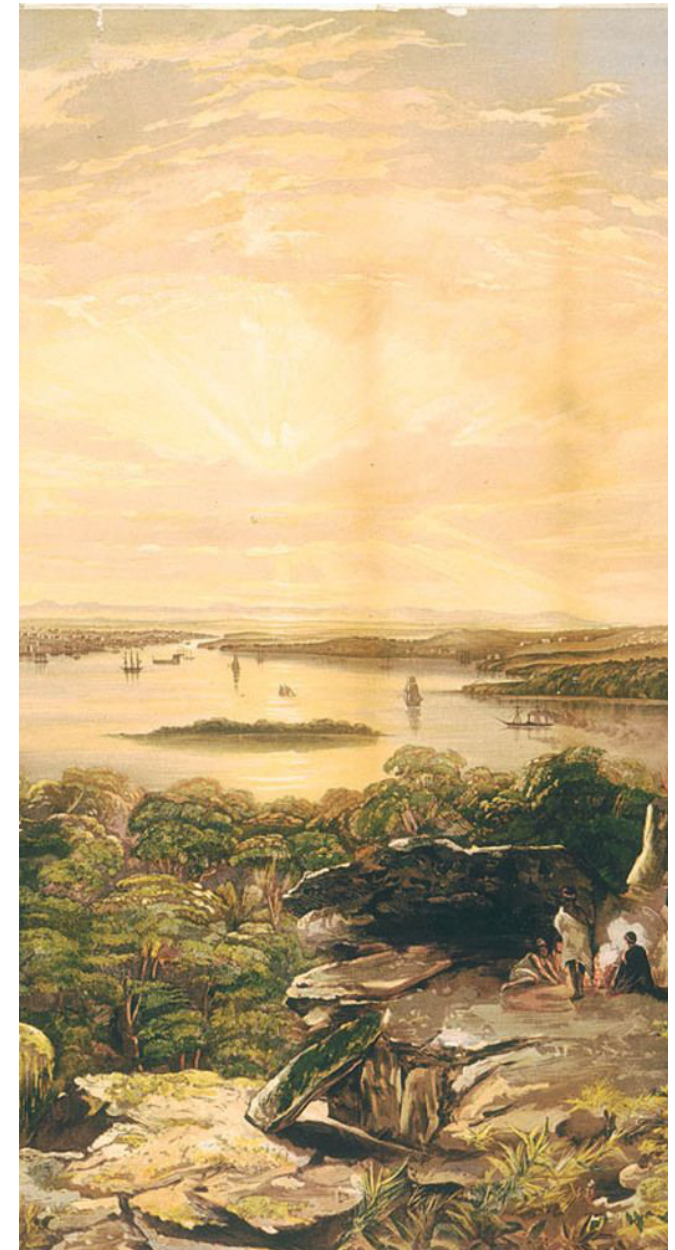
Definitions

Country is broadly understood as a holistic worldview that incorporates human, nonhuman and all the complex systems that connect them. Country relates to First Nations Peoples' cultural groups and the places to which they belong. It is understood in cultural, spiritual, and tangible ways. An understanding of Country includes intangible ideas about place, Law, lore, language, customs, spirit, cultural practice, identity, and kin. It is very important to recognise that First Nations Peoples' 'understanding of Country' differs between groups, individuals and contexts.

Djinjama, 2021, <https://www.aaca.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2021-NSCA-Explanatory-Notes.pdf>)

Caring for Country is used to describe land management practices and programs that First Nations Peoples undertake, and the role these practices play in enabling continuing culture. To care for Country is to recognise that the different ecosystems across the continent require different practices to enable sustainable living. (Djinjama, 2021, https://djinjama.com/wp-content/uploads/Cultural-Design-Principles-and-Protocols_Hromek-and-Janke.pdf)

Connecting to Country is based on respect and understanding that while Country supports and sustains people, people manage and sustain Country through lore, culture, and ceremony. This means caring for the natural environment and for places of significance. Connection to Country is passed on through stories, art, song, and dance and maintaining cultural land practices. (<https://www.noongarculture.org.au/connection-to-country/>)



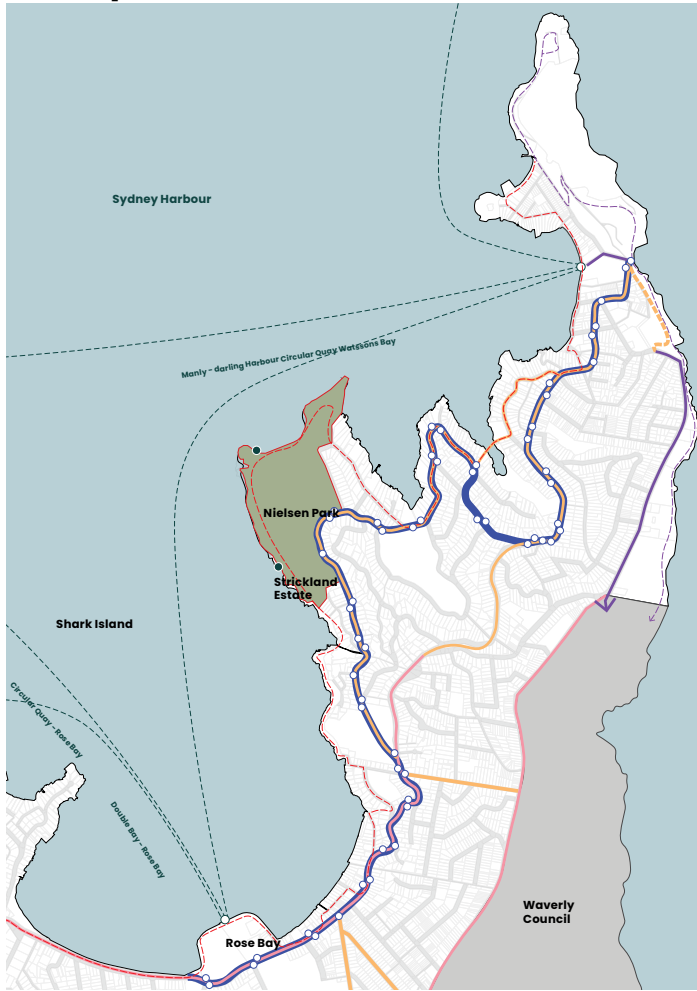
City and Harbour of Sydney NSW from the height above Vaucluse, 1861 by G. E. Peacock State Library of New South Wales.



Site analysis overview

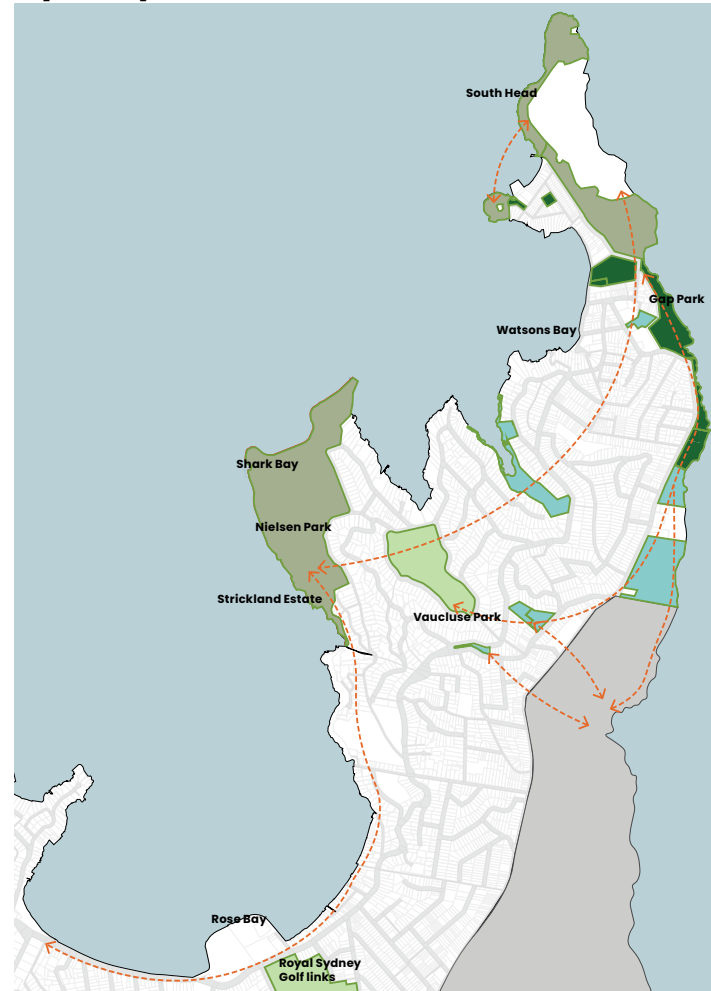
2.1 Contextual site analysis

Transport and connections



Legend	
	Bicycle routes on high-traffic streets
	Bicycle routes on low traffic streets
	Bicycle routes off-road or shared paths
	Coastline Cycle route South Head to Botany Bay
	Harbourside walking routes
	Coastal Walk
	Bus route
	Bus stops
	Ferry route
	Ferry wharfs
	Previous wharfs
	Roads
	Project Site

Open space context



Legend	
	Open space
	National Park
	Crown land managed by council
	Council land
	Sydney Living Museums
	Wildlife Corridors

2.2 Site analysis and opportunities

Below is a summary of site analysis undertaken to date, including opportunities and constraints.

Geology



- Sydney Harbour is made up of mostly Triassic period (approx. 220 million years ago) sandstone and shale which is most apparent along the headlands and bluffs along the coast. This sandstone bedrock is overlain by more recent sand deposits of shelly marine sands along the coves and beaches.
- There are remnants of the effect of a basalt dyke that runs from Mount Trefle in Nielsen Park to Bottle and Glass Point resulting in unusually formed rock formations still visible today.

Cultural layers



- Embedded within this place is a complex and rich layering of culture and history.
- The pre-colonial layers of culture include complex layers of identity of its people: a clan or family group (Birrabirragal), overarching language group (Dharawal) and environmental (salt water group).
- There is a very recent layering of post-settlement history: private estates, public health, and public recreation.

Vegetation & ecology



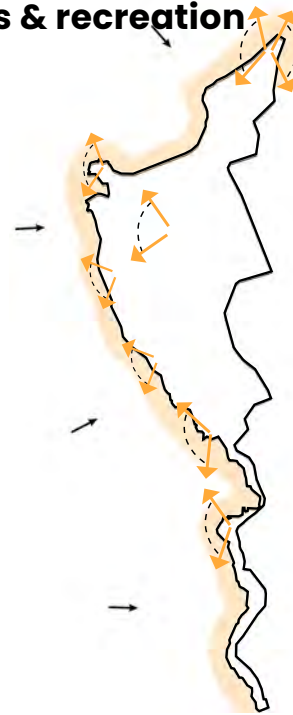
- Most extensive patch of remnant vegetation in the LGA.
- Largest area of foreshore bushland south of Sydney Harbour.
- Characterised by sandstone woodland and heathland vegetation habitat on slopes, gullies, and coastal headlands.
- Endangered plants, *Acacia terminalus subsp. terminalis* and *Allocasuarina portuensis* (Nielsen Park she-oak).
- Habitat for the vulnerable powerful owl and sooty oystercatcher and a number of regionally significant flora and fauna species.

Access & connectivity



- The 2 sites, Nielsen Park, and the Strickland Estate are poorly connected.
- There is opportunity to extend the Hermitage Foreshore Track to look around the whole foreshore.
- There is limited access from the harbour to the site.
- Access from the road to the site is uninviting and provides limited sense of arrival or celebration.

Views & recreation



- Important views from Carrara House towards the harbour.
- Harbour views from the Women's Ward.
- Significant harbour views towards the city from the Nurses' Quarters framed by vegetation.
- Internal views from Strickland House.
- Key internal views of the stables are from the carriage loop drive and from the Carrara Road entry.
- South-eastern aspect of the site is constrained by intrusive elements and the north-western aspect is constrained by the Men's Ward.

Buildings & uses



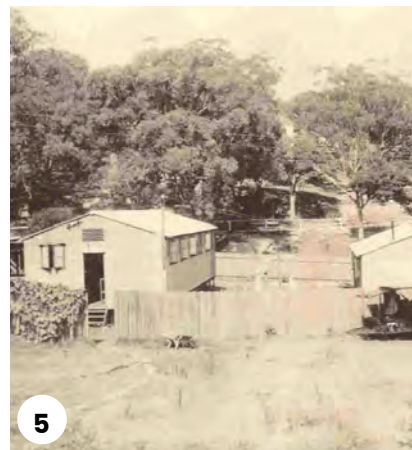
- The buildings are currently underutilised and provide limited interpretation and knowledge to park visitors.
- Many buildings are in a state of disrepair and require significant works.
- The buildings require ongoing maintenance.
- Access to the buildings is limited.
- Many buildings may require upgrades to be compliant with relevant building codes.

2.3 Nielsen Park



Legend

1. Shark Beach
2. The Russian Ballet at Nielsen Park 1938 (Source: The Collector State Library of NSW)
3. Bottle and Glass Point 1916 (Source: Living museums Sydney)
4. Wharf at Nielsen Park 1949 (Source: State Library of NSW)
5. Nielsen Park during occupancy of the 61st Anti-Aircraft Searchlight Company, c1944.(Source: CMP 2013)
6. The Russian Ballet at Nielsen Park 1937 (Source: The Collector State Library of NSW)
7. Shark Beach 1920 (Source: CMP 2013)



2.4 Nielsen Park and Strickland Estate

Legend

1. Strickland House gardens and harbour foreshore 1906 Source: SMP 2016
2. The east elevation of Greycliffe in 1914 Source: SMP 2016
3. Tenants of Carrara house, Mr and Mrs Henry Moore of Carrara, Rose Bay, between 1880-90. Photographer Freeman & Co. Source: SMP 2016
4. Strickland House 1906 Source: SMP 2016
5. Nurses and babies on the lawn in front of Greycliffe in the 1920. Source: SMP 2016.
6. Greycliffe from the north east gutted after the 1897 fire with just the stone walls standing. Source: SMP 2016



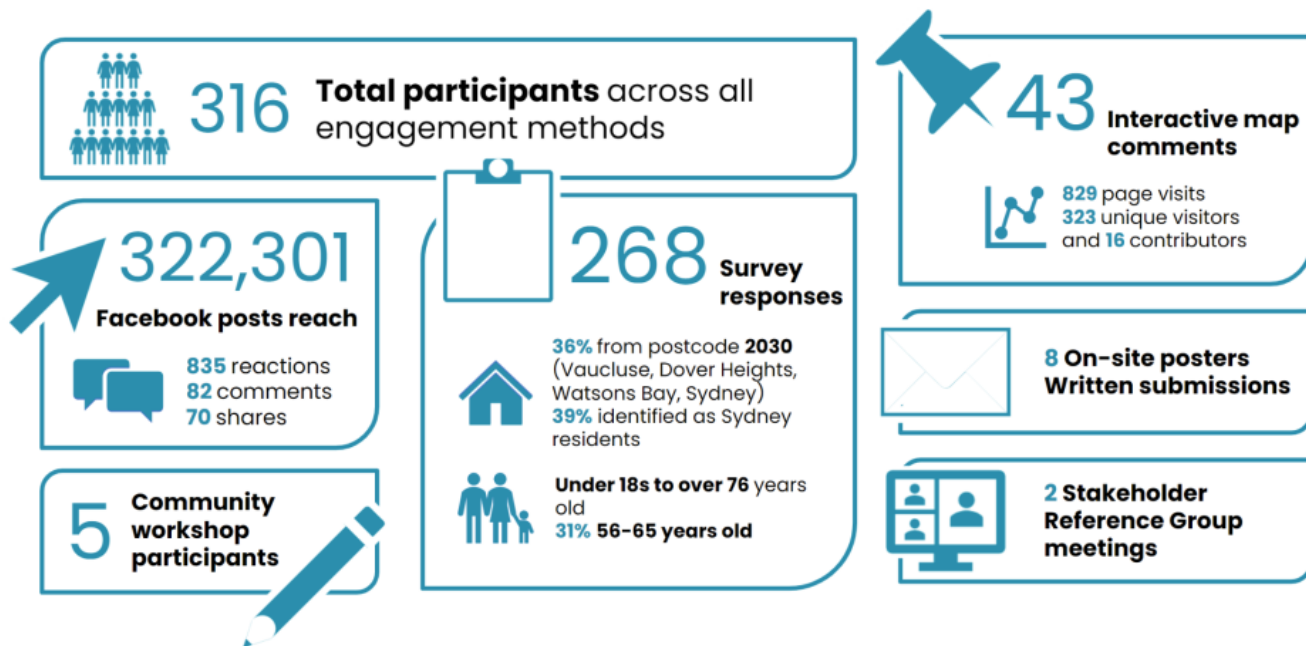
2.5 Community consultation

The recommendations of this draft master plan were informed by a process of consultation with the local community, stakeholders and relevant agencies.

Consultation was conducted during June-July 2022, and the engagement consisted of an online survey, interactive map, and online community workshop that was promoted via NPWS' website, on-site posters, newsletters, social media, and other partner channels. Across all platforms, a total of 316 participants engaged in the project, sharing their thoughts and ideas for the park.

The community's priorities for the future of the park can broadly be grouped as:

- **telling the stories** of this unique place
- providing more public **facilities** but ensuring any development is managed sensitively
- making the park **accessible** and comfortable for the entire community to enjoy through improvements to accessibility through and into the park
- **protecting and conserving** the precious flora and fauna of the park



Sample feedback

'Better public seating for families and groups for picnics, celebration events etc. Beach shade, even rentals.' - Survey participant

'Better infrastructure options to eat so I can spend more time there with kids.' - Survey participant

'Whatever happens there: Parkland is the primary use of the area, and any of the other activities must be of such an intensity that they don't destroy that parkland.' - Workshop Participant

'Please keep caring for vegetation and revegetating with plants that are endemic to the harbour. National Parks need to 'showcase' our unique flora so visitors can learn to appreciate it.' - Survey participant

'One of the finest views of Sydney Harbour you can get.' - Workshop participant

'Nielsen Park is a critical contributor to the Harbour's beauty. The interface of water and greenery cannot be underestimated.' - Survey participant

'Better pathway management on the Hermitage Walk as when it gets crowded it can be hard to get around people.' - Survey participant

'Better public transport options such as Summer shuttle bus/boat to prevent traffic congestion in the busier months.' - Survey participant

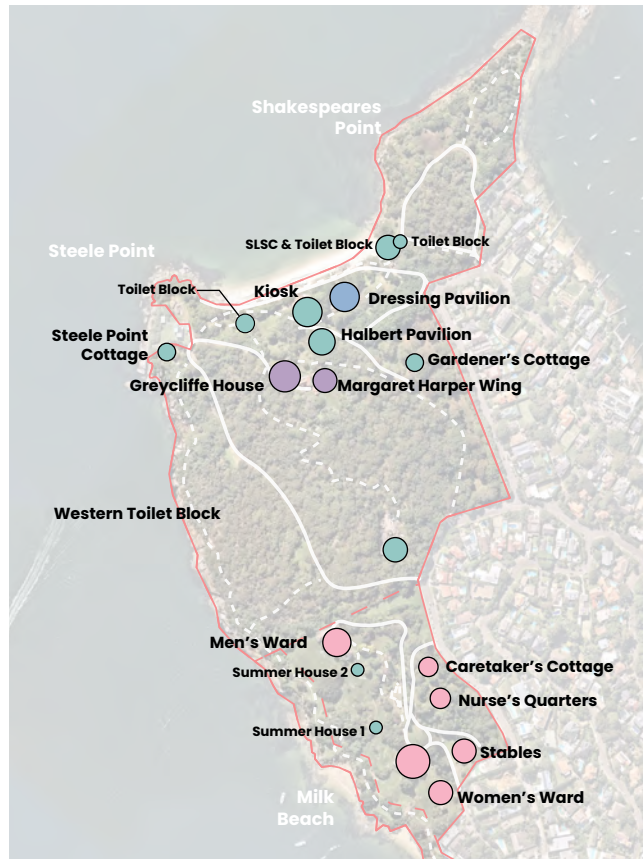
2.6 Building uses

Management of state significant heritage buildings other significant buildings in both precincts require regular routine maintenance and ongoing compatible use. The buildings contained in Strickland Estate especially, have been largely unoccupied with minimal use, limited operational funding, and revenue for maintenance and repair since 1989. Having buildings across the site vacant for a prolonged period has led to deterioration of the heritage fabric and the buildings in general. The adaptive reuse of buildings across the site, with some that can generate revenue and that are financially sustainable, will assist in ensuring that the buildings are maintained and celebrated in line with their heritage significance.

Buildings

All buildings in Strickland Estate are vacant, except for very occasional use for events, filming, and heritage tours. The majority of buildings in Strickland Estate require significant upgrades, conservation and restoration works.

There are many buildings in Nielsen Park occupied with sustainable use and revenue streams that have contributed to their ongoing maintenance and protection. Other buildings across the precinct require new uses as their current use is temporary or financially unsustainable for ongoing maintenance and restoration works. Depending on the buildings function, not all will require significant transformation or adaptive re-use, and some could be successfully re-used with minimal rework.



Site plan - building use summary

Legend:

- Vacant – new use required
- Occupied – new use required
- Occupied – retain use, upgrade required
- Occupied – retain use

Permitted uses

The *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 No 80* is legislation passed with explicit intent for how land reserved under the Act is to be managed. The Act also sets out purposes for which a lease or licence may be granted (151A) and these include *general purposes* and *purposes related to the sustainable visitor or tourist use and enjoyment of reserved land*.

Permitted uses are limited, and fall under 2 broad categories:

(1) *General Purposes*. For example:

- land management
- visitor safety
- natural and cultural heritage research
- recreational, educational, or cultural uses
- aboriginal cultural activities

(2) *Purposes related to the sustainable visitor or tourist use and enjoyment of reserved land*. For example:

- short term visitor accommodation
- visitor facilities (e.g. retail, conferences and functions, sporting activities)
- visitor amenities (e.g. information centre, food, and beverage outlets)

Vision



3.1 Vision

What is already there and has come before, is a substantial foundation for what is to come next. The draft master plan is established from a vision that acknowledges the vibrant and ongoing Aboriginal culture, post-1788 history and the unique natural values that make this a truly integral part the locality and of Sydney Harbour National Park. Visitor experience is to be enhanced whilst also allowing a broader range of visitors to access the park.

The draft master plan is a wholistic framework for the next 20 years of use and operation of the site as a single integrated precinct, focusing on:

- Heal and celebrate Country
- Legacy
- A connected park



Celebrate Country

The draft master plan has a vision to celebrate and design with Country. These precincts, like all national parks, are located on Aboriginal Country. The future of the park should celebrate this place and the cultural heritage it contains. The master plan hopes to provide space to celebrate the people and culture of this significant place.



Legacy

The adaptive re-use of the buildings should enable a continuing legacy, It should interpret and reveal former uses in a way that engages and excites. It should also be a positive and logical transition that does not over commercialise or lead to significant intervention that is irreversible.

The buildings for tourism and visitor engagement should offer a positive experience of the place and each seek to interpret the history and meaning of the site so that the experience is intuitive and inspiring.



A connected park

The draft master plan seeks to connect people with place by the revealing the site's history, narrative, and legacy. The draft master plan proposes to provide a connected and accessible peninsula of open space, that enhances the visitor experience and improves connections across the precincts. There is an opportunity to celebrate the unification of Strickland Estate with Nielsen Park, that acknowledges and celebrates Country, the previous land uses, custodians, owners, and the future open space legacy for Sydney.

3.2 Strategies

Key strategies and design drivers of the draft master plan reflect the culmination of project team site visits, analysis, background documentation review, and consultation with stakeholders and the community.

The design drivers focus in on key pathways forward for the master plan, bridging the gap between project investigations and design proposals.



Connection to place and Country

The draft master plan aims to connect future visitors and the park itself to Country through the provision of future art, stories, culture and caring for Country.



Healing Country

The draft master plan aims to heal Country through the rehabilitation and revegetation of native vegetation and staged removal of weeds and exotic plant species.



Site unification

Strickland Estate, Nielsen Park and Hermitage Foreshore must now be a single, well integrated site within the Sydney Harbour National Park.



Minimal intervention

All strategies are focused on an approach improve the park with minimal intervention and impact where possible.



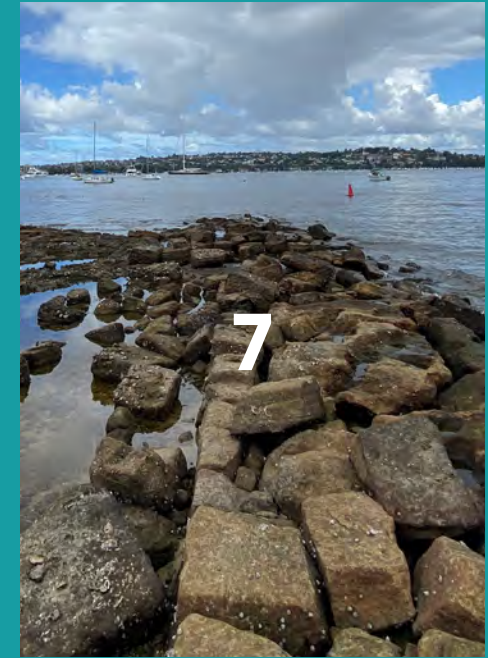
An accessible park

The master plan aims to improve the accessibility, legibility, and pedestrian networks to ensure that Strickland Estate Nielsen Park visitor experiences and facilities are promoted for all visitors.



A new life

A new breath of life is to be given to the buildings through a new logical use. The new use and any associated works to the buildings must be environmentally, socially, and financially sustainable transition.



A Sydney Harbour experience

A unique Sydney Harbour experience for visitors is a key interpretation opportunity of Strickland Estate Nielsen Park. The rich Aboriginal identity and European history can both be explored in this way.



**Draft Strickland
Estate Nielsen Park
Master Plan**

4.1 Draft master plan

Key moves

1. New park entries
2. Thematic gardens and integration and remediated drainage
3. Passive recreation and estate interpretation zones
4. Hermitage Foreshore Track with new harbour lookouts
5. Steele Point lookout and interpretation
6. Non-commuter wharf to improve access
7. Milk Beach jetty interpretation
8. Mount Trefle summit walk
9. Greycliffe House terraced gardens
10. Nielsen Park active zone and picnic area
11. Bottle and Glass Point picnic area
12. Bottle and Glass Point foreshore loop
13. Passive parkland and interpretation corridor
14. Consider retention of shark net for year round swimming

Caring for Country recommendations

1. Investigate and consult with Aboriginal knowledge holders to find language name opportunities for each area / region of the park to help with identity and wayfinding.
2. Provide signage including map showing pathways, cultural (Aboriginal and colonial) features, picnic areas etc., at all park's entry points.
3. Create connecting pathways from Vaucluse Road.

Bottle and Glass Point

Shark Beach

Steele Point

Greycliffe

Mount Trefle

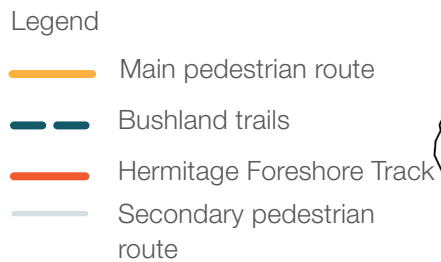
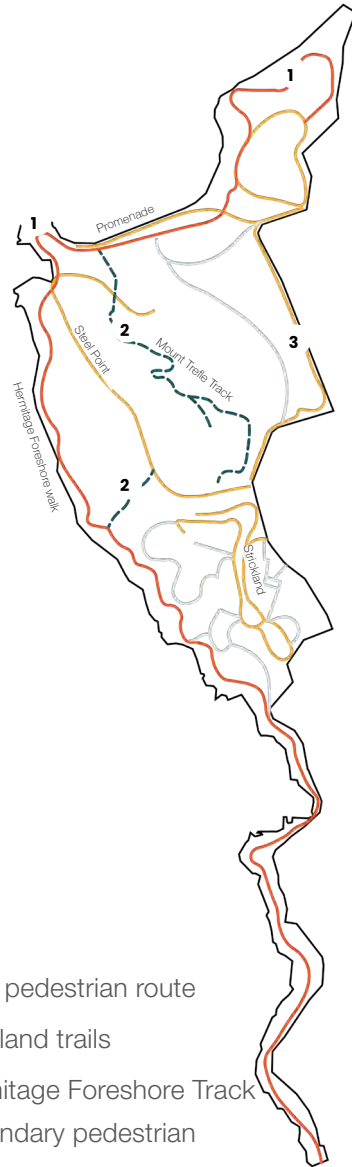
Strickland Estate

Milk Beach

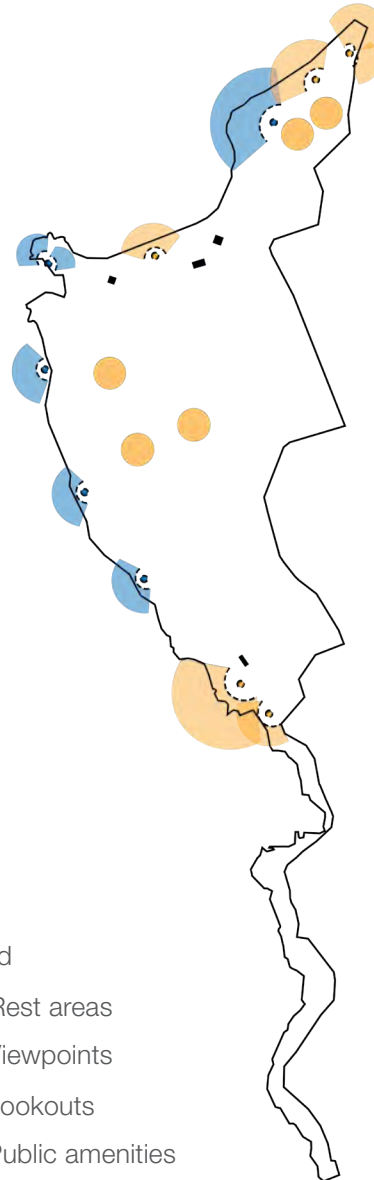
Hermitage Foreshore

Circulation and access

Main pedestrian circulation



Rest areas and lookouts



Key interventions

1. Extend the Hermitage trail to the tip of the site to enhance user experience and celebrate the existing landscape
2. Upgrade bushland trails with minimal impact materials and provide way finding
3. New connecting path between Strickland and Nielsen Park main entries
4. Improve accessibility of main pedestrian routes through upgrades to existing paths, materiality delineation of shared zones, wayfinding signage. Provide handrails, tactile indicators, and rest areas along main paths.

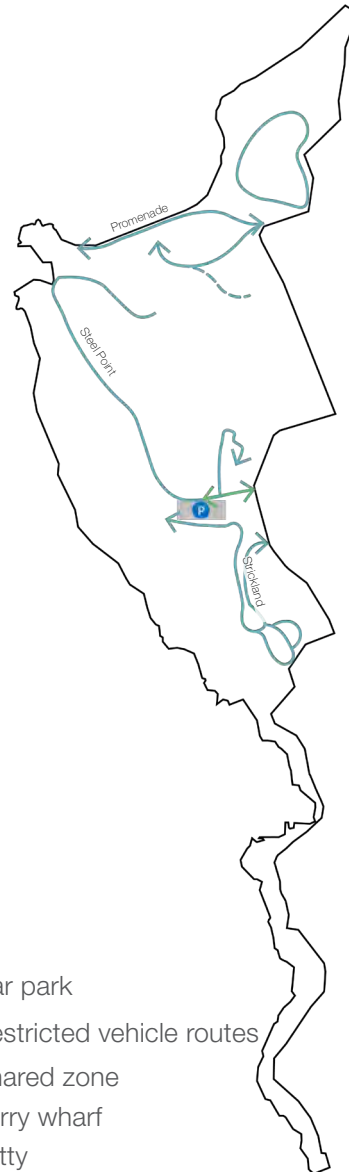
Circulation and access

Vehicle circulation and entries



Legend

- New main entries (vehicle and pedestrian)
- Secondary entries (restricted vehicle access)
- Water vehicle arrival



Legend

- Car park
- Restricted vehicle routes
- ↔ Shared zone
- ▭ Ferry wharf
- ▬ Jetty

Key interventions

1. Upgraded main entries with pedestrian and vehicle access
2. New access points from harbour/ water with non-commuter wharf and jetty
3. Improved shared path for vehicle and pedestrian access

4.2 Strickland Estate



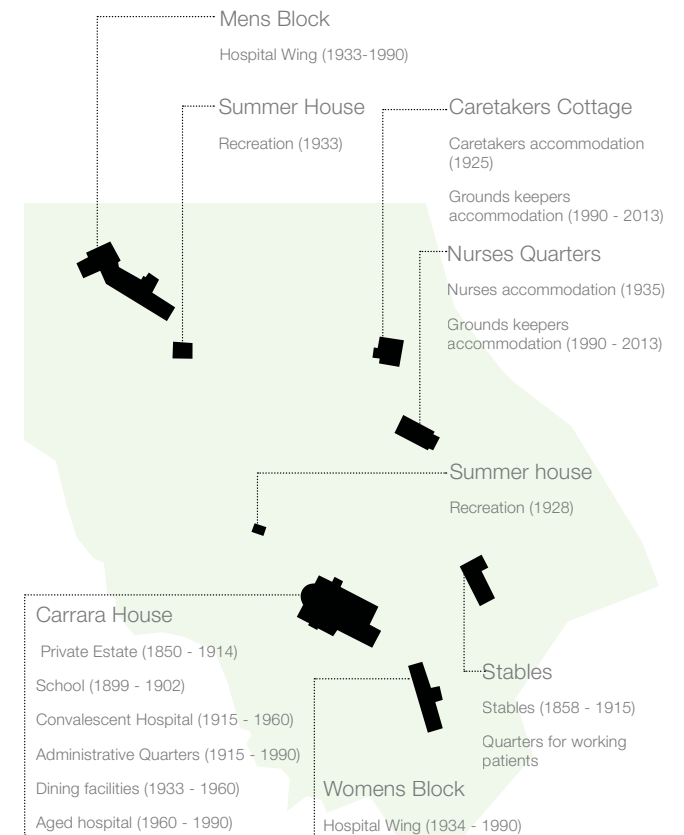
Nielsen Park
 Strickland Estate
 Hermitage Foreshore

Precinct overview

Strickland Estate, including Carrara House, are acknowledged as one of the finest properties in New South Wales, particularly due to its grand buildings, gardens, and prominent Sydney Harbour location. The cultural and heritage value of the place has been acknowledged by its inclusion in numerous heritage registers. The estate has had varied occupation, from Aboriginal occupation to private residence, to public recreation and use as a health facility. Ownership and access to the estate and its buildings have oscillated between private occupation, lease to and public ownership. In 2018 the title of Strickland Estate was formally transferred to the National Parks and Wildlife Service and now forms part of Sydney Harbour National Park. The estate now welcomes bushwalkers, history enthusiasts, locals, beachgoers, boaties and photographers for a unique harbour side experience.

Building's overview

Currently the buildings within the Strickland Estate are not publicly accessible and have no current use.



Landscape and natural Values

The estate is made up of diverse landscape zones due to the many uses of buildings over time. The landscape is characterised by building curtilage, recreation, natural bushland areas and a small harbour beach

Curtilage zones include expansive manicured lawns and gardens.

'...as regards the natural features, the gardens were very extensive, full of charm for the beauty of their planning and ideal situation with glorious azaleas, poittsetie [sic], camellias, including the historic waratah camellia, conifers and indigenous cabbage palms with countless other beautiful plants and flowers and flowering shrubs. The peaches in the fruit garden were renowned.'



Cultural and heritage values

Strickland estate has a rich cultural history and has been occupied for thousands of years. This occupation and use is evidenced by the many cultural sites and artefacts.

Strickland estate and the 8 buildings are part of the State Heritage Register.

The remnant historic buildings and curtilages represents important colonial history and provide opportunity for a unique visitor and tourism experience under the management of National Parks and Wildlife Service.

Adaptive reuse of the buildings provides opportunity for education of former uses whilst providing new uses that generate revenue.



Recreation values

Recreation values of the buildings and surrounds include event spaces. Strickland grounds lawn area fronting the Men's Ward is a New Year's Eve ticketed viewing area.

Carrara House is available for filming as well as an open day events. The curtilage lawn is currently used for wedding ceremonies and receptions.

The Hermitage Foreshore walk provides passive recreation along the foreshore of Strickland Estate with significant views across the harbour.

Milk Beach offers water based recreation and there is opportunity to improve access as well as providing a jetty to support morning of small water vessels and other beach activities.

There is opportunity to provide improved public amenity throughout the estate such as picnic areas, shelters, and amenities.



4.2 Strickland Estate

New park entry

1. Provide paved shared drop off zone at entry for safe access into the park.
2. Establish a sense of arrival through planting of large feature tree and incorporation of cultural and heritage interpretation.
3. Celebrate the joining of the Strickland Estate and Nielsen Park through a material palette reflective of both sites character. Enhance the connection between the Strickland Estate and Nielsen Park through the removal of internal fencing. Look to provide a new fence north of the entry.
4. Provide a stepped connection and entry signage to Mount Trefle.
5. Establish a safe pedestrian link between Vaucluse Road and Steele Point Road that allows restricted vehicular access.
6. Provide a new car park with accessible parking (approx. 40 spaces) in existing cleared area. Investigate ramp access from car park to Men's Ward.

Strickland Estate

7. Preserve and enhance views towards and from Carrara House.
8. Provide a series of terraced thematic gardens which celebrate the traditional garden character of the estate.
9. Strengthen connection from the estate to the harbour by reinstating the old decomposed

- granite path from Carrara House to Milk Beach.
10. Enhance and maintain existing sweeping lawns and provide sandstone terracing in lawn slopes for gathering and views.
 11. Highlight and interpret the old tennis court and croquet lawn within the landscape.
 12. Provide a sensitive curtilage to Carrara House veranda.
 13. Adaptively reuse the Women's Ward to become amenities servicing the park and Milk Beach and provide picnic shelters and seating on open lawn areas.
 14. Implement water sensitive urban design principles throughout the thematic gardens and existing watercourse to minimise erosion.

Milk Beach

15. Enhance significant views to the harbour by providing lookout locations from high points surrounding Milk Beach.
16. Re-interpret the heritage stone jetty and consider provision of boat access.
17. Protect cultural sites (through collaboration and support from the Local Aboriginal Land Council). Provide interpretative signage acknowledging their significance and cultural heritage.
18. Provide bridge connection over the existing watercourse and upgrade the Hermitage

Foreshore Track and connection to Milk Beach.

19. Enhance views over Milk Beach through open lawn area with potential for events above embankment.

Caring for Country recommendations

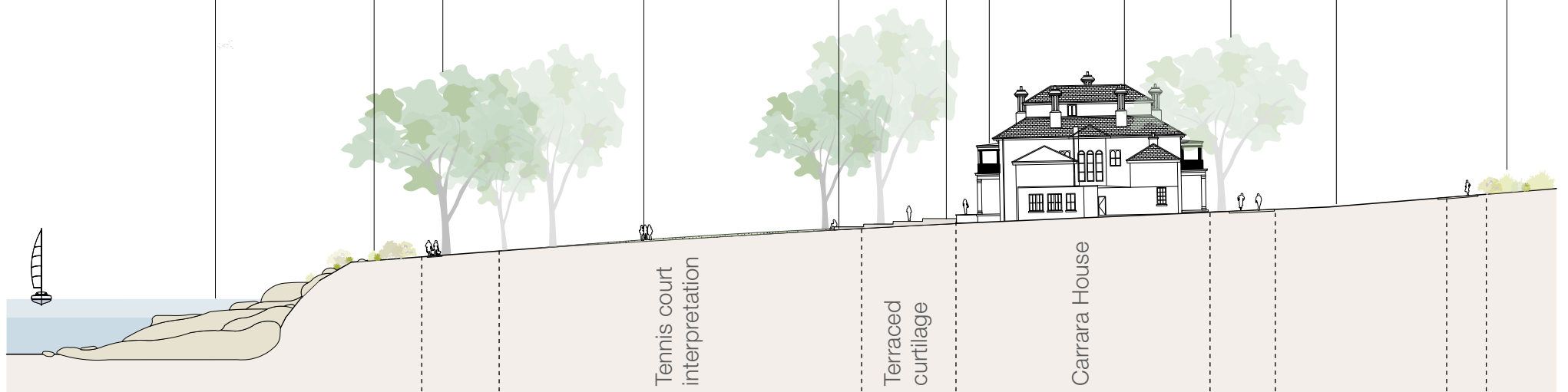
1. Improve access and remove fence along Vaucluse Road edge. Create connecting pathways. Setup and maintain gross pollutant trap at end of closed drain before the creek line.
2. Restore native vegetation and remove invasive exotic species in remnant bushland on sandstone outcrops. Establish local species above stables building that will help with drainage issues e.g. *Gahnia sp*, *Lomandra s.* etc.
3. Remove murraya hedge in front of building.
4. Provide seating area and signage identifying Aboriginal cultural significance of the site e.g. shell middens, nawi launch beach, local bush tucker species etc. Remove invasive species and restore native communities along creek line.
5. Protect middens and interpret their significance without highlighting specific location.



Key Moves

1. New park entry
2. Milk Beach stone jetty interpretation
3. Re-established watercourse terraced garden with integrated water sensitive urban design
4. Adaptive reuse of the Stables with potential parking area
5. Interpretation of old tennis court
6. Interpretation of old croquet lawn
7. Reinstate original decomposed gravel path
8. Provide lawn amphitheatre
9. Women's Ward amenities building
10. Sweeping lawns and formalised path at rear of Men's Ward

Strickland Estate



Milk Beach

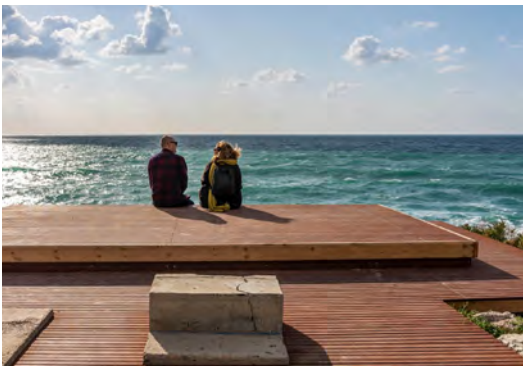
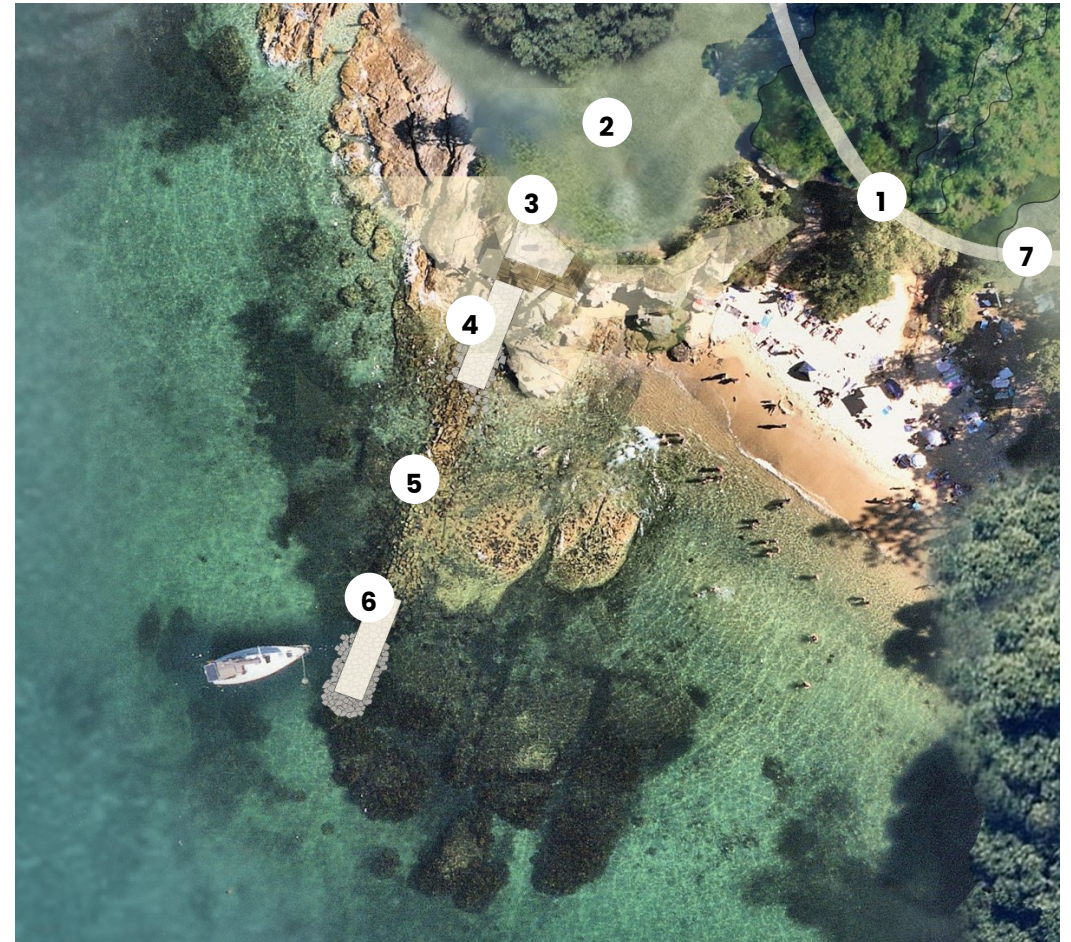
Key moves

1. Hermitage Foreshore Track bridge over existing drainage channel
2. Open lawn area for gathering and viewing
3. Proposed lookout that steps down to existing rock shelf
4. Stone jetty that connects to remnant rock
5. Stone or deck infill
6. Stone jetty for boat mooring
7. Connecting path to Carrara House

Stone jetty, 1905



Stone jetty remnants, 2022



Steele Point Road entry



The current entry to the southern end of Nielsen Park is via Steele Point Road which separates the Nielsen Park precinct and Strickland Estate.

This entry is an important node with opportunity to provide a sense of arrival to Sydney Harbour National Park and improve the connection between the precincts.

The entry signage needs updating to reflect the ownership of Strickland Estate.

There is opportunity to enhance the sense of place and arrival through the use of materials that are reflective of the sites character.

Pedestrians should be prioritised at this arrival through delineation pavement.

There is also opportunity to offer off street parking and the provision of a pick up and drop off zone. The low quality vegetation along Steele Point Road will be removed to allow for parking and additional trees and gardens of higher ecological and visual value.

Key moves

1. Sandstone and decomposed granite steps behind rock shelf towards Mount Trefle.
2. Low sandstone wall with entry signage and interpretation.
3. Decomposed granite breakout waiting area.
4. Granite paving shared zone with flush kerb.
5. Granite paving entry with interpretation and feature pavers.
6. Feature tree planting in tree pit with planted understorey.
7. Existing fig tree retained in planting bed.
8. Pick up and drop off entry zone.
9. Low sandstone seating walls with interpretation.
10. Native low planting and shrubs on slope behind entry area.
11. Authorised and restricted vehicle access along steel point road and entry to NPWS depot.
12. Proposed parking area with permeable surfaces.





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Vaucluse Road



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Strickland Estate buildings

Carrara House

Carrara House is the key building of Strickland Estate. It is a grand 3 level 19th century marine villa with large public rooms. Carrara would suit various cultural uses and/or a creative uses hub.

Year completed: 1856

Heritage significance: Exceptional

General condition:

Reasonable condition however last used over 30 years ago for institutional purposes. Requires full renewal of all services and considerable fabric repairs.

Current use: Vacant (occasional event and film use)

Key constraints:

- Accessibility - particularly level 2
- Fire egress from upper levels
- Heritage status

- Very public position and status
- Limited ability to introduce amenities

Key opportunities:

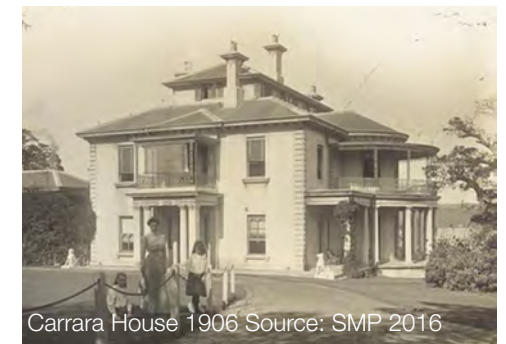
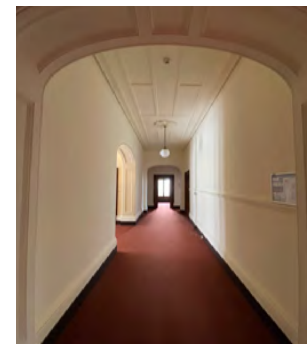
- Key iconic building to define parkland
- Public and civic scale uses
- Temporary public functions
- Potential demolition of intrusive elements to the building

Suggested uses:

- Gallery / museum*
- Artist workshop
- Cultural heritage activities
- Aboriginal cultural activities
- Food and beverage*

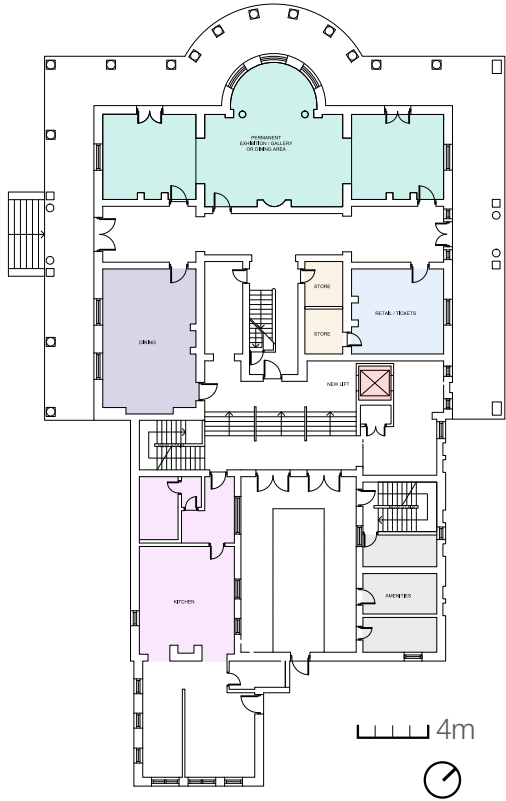
* Indicative concept strategy of this use shown on the following page.

Carrara House site plan

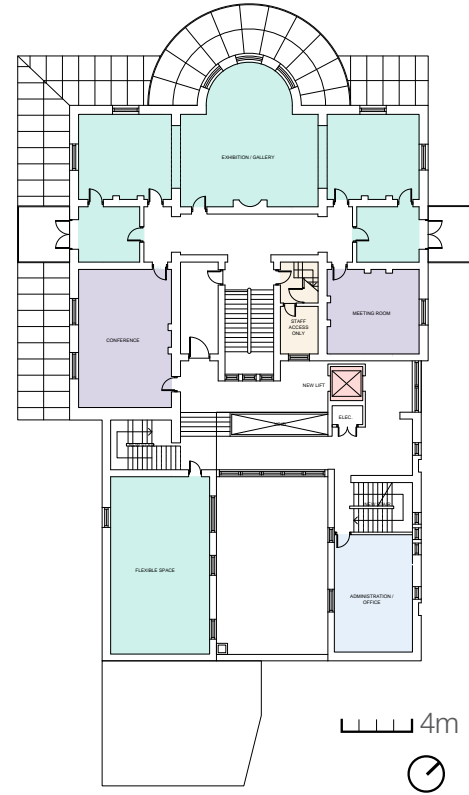


Strickland Estate buildings (continued)

Ground floor plan - Indicative concept for cultural uses hub option.



First floor plan – indicative concept for cultural uses hub option.



Legend:

- Lift
- Kitchen
- Dining / bookable
- Administration
- Exhibition / gallery
- Staff
- Amenities



Strickland Estate buildings (continued)

Women's Ward

The Women's Ward is a 2 level institutional dormitory ward building. It is a large and bulky institutional building that requires innovative uses that are appropriate in a national park setting.

This building would suit accommodation, full demolition, partial demolition and/or used as a multi-use amenity building.

Year completed: 1933

Heritage significance: Moderate

General condition:

Reasonable condition however last used over 30 years ago for institutional purposes. Requires full renewal of all services and considerable fabric repairs.

Current use: Vacant

Key constraints:

- Accessibility
- No sense of entry

- No connection to place
- Visually intrusive and bulky
- Views in from local residents

Key opportunities:

- Flexible building and good head height – able to accommodate various uses.
- Excellent views from level 1

Suggested uses:

- Full or partial demolition*
- Public amenities*
- Cafe or kiosk*
- Parking
- Short-stay accommodation
- Community uses

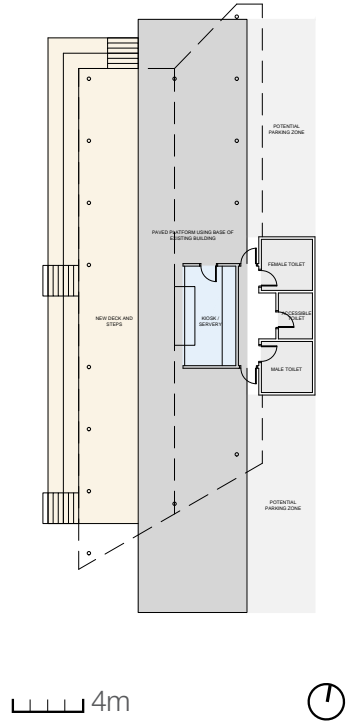
* Indicative concept strategy of this use shown on the following page.

Women's Ward site plan



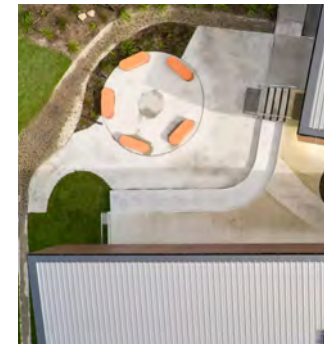
Strickland Estate buildings (continued)

Ground floor plan – Indicative concept for multi-use amenities building option.



Legend:

- Kiosk / servery
- Deck, steps and tiered seating
- Existing building footprint as paved platform
- Amenities
- Potential parking zone



Strickland Estate buildings (continued)

Men's Ward

The Men's Ward is a 2 level institutional dormitory ward building. Like the Women's Ward, it is a large and bulky institutional building that requires innovative uses that are appropriate in a national park setting.

Year completed: 1933

Heritage significance: Little

General condition:

Reasonable condition however last used over 30 years ago for institutional purposes. Requires full renewal of all services and considerable fabric repairs.

Current use: Vacant

Key constraints:

- Accessibility
- No sense of entry
- No connection to place

- Visually intrusive and bulky

Key opportunities:

- Flexible building able to accommodate a range of uses
- Excellent views
- Secluded position away from neighbouring properties
- Prominent location close to walking tracks

Suggested uses:

- Short-stay accommodation*
- NPWS operations (including visitor centre)
- Tour group operator
- Food and beverage
- Community uses

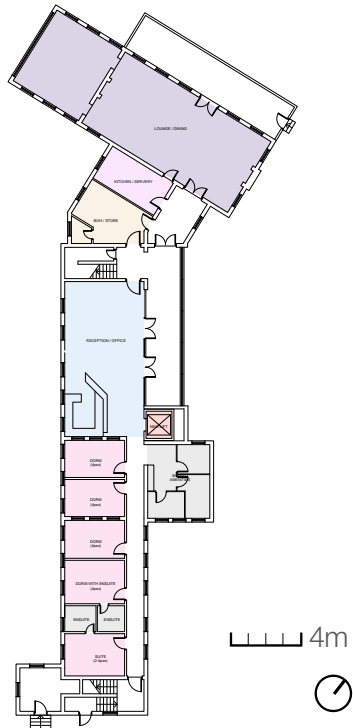
* Indicative concept strategy of this use shown on the following page.

Men's Ward site plan

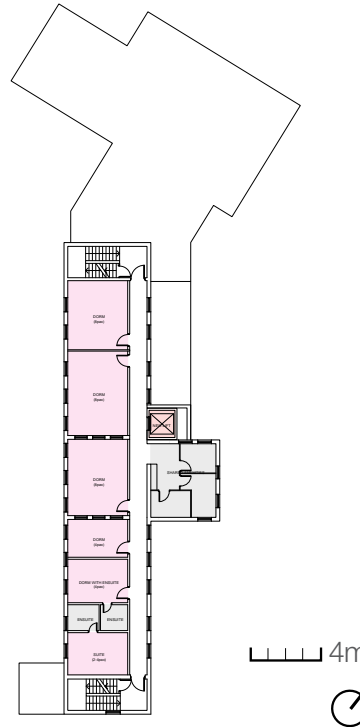


Strickland Estate buildings (continued)

Ground floor plan – Indicative concept for accommodation option.

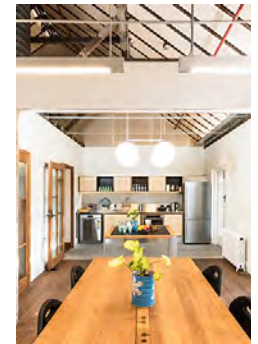


First floor plan – indicative concept for accommodation option.



Legend:

- Lift
- Kitchen
- Bedrooms
- Dining / bookable
- Administration
- Staff
- Amenities



Strickland Estate buildings (continued)

Stables

The Stables is a 2 level stable and garden store building.

Year completed: 1856

Heritage significance: High

General condition:

Good condition however last used over 30 years ago for institutional purposes. Requires full renewal of all services. Some evidence of recent structural strengthening of the roof and general refurbishment throughout.

Current use: Vacant

Key constraints:

- Accessibility
- Heritage status
- Proximity to neighbouring properties

Key opportunities:

- Flexible building able to accommodate a range of uses.
- Building proximity could complement Carrara House uses.

Suggested uses:

- Tour group operator*
- Community uses (including outreach and storage)*
- Artist workshop
- Artist exhibition

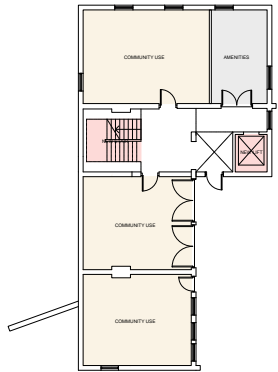
* Indicative concept strategy of this use shown on the following page.

Stable site plan



Strickland Estate buildings (continued)

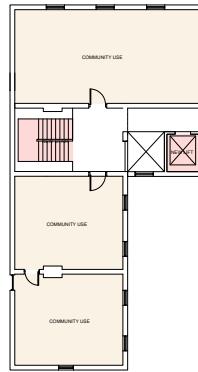
Ground floor plan – Indicative concept for community or creative hub option.



4m






First floor plan – indicative concept for community or creative hub option.



4m



Legend:

-  Lift
-  Community use
-  Amenities



Strickland Estate buildings (continued)

Nurse's Quarters

The Nurse's Quarters is a 2 level institutional accommodation building.

It is a difficult building to reuse in its current form with small cellular rooms with poor equitable access.

Year completed: 1933

Heritage significance: Moderate

General condition:

Reasonable condition however last used over 30 years ago for institutional purposes. Requires full renewal of all services and considerable fabric repairs.

Current use: Vacant

Key constraints:

- Accessibility
- Fire egress from level 1 non-compliant
- No sense of entry

- No connection to place
- Small rooms
- No connection to place
- Requires better vehicular access.

Key opportunities:

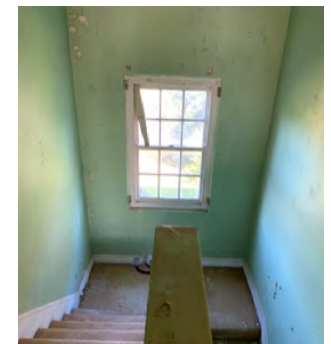
- Able to accommodate a range of uses
- Visually screened from harbour
- Moderate views from level 1

Suggested uses:

- Short-stay accommodation
- NPWS operations *
- NPWS staff accommodation
- Community uses*

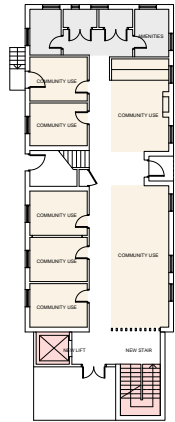
* Indicative concept strategy of this use shown on the following page.

Nurse's Quarters site plan



Strickland Estate buildings (continued)

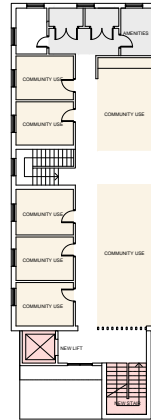
Ground floor plan – Indicative concept for community and NPWS hub option.



4m






First floor plan – indicative concept for community and NPWS hub option.



4m



Legend:

-  Lift
-  Community use
-  Amenities



Strickland Estate buildings (continued)

Caretaker's Cottage

Single level face brick residential cottage, a typical health support building of the era.

Year completed: 1925

Heritage significance: Moderate

General condition:

Reasonable condition however last used over 30 years ago for institutional purposes. Requires full renewal of all services and some fabric repairs.

Current use: Vacant

Key constraints:

- Accessibility
- No sense of entry
- Very public
- Somewhat public position

Key opportunities:

- Suitable for caretaker / staff
- Visually screened from harbour.

Suggested uses:

Continue as accommodation:

- Short-stay accommodation*
- NPWS staff accommodation*
- Caretaker / staff accommodation*

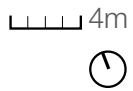
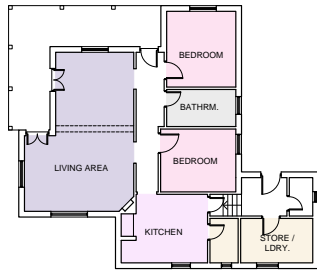
* Indicative concept strategy of this use shown on the following page.

Caretaker's Cottage site plan



Strickland Estate buildings (continued)

Ground floor plan – Indicative concept for accommodation option.



Legend:

-  Kitchen
-  Bedrooms
-  Living area
-  Staff
-  Amenities

Summer House 1

No works or change of use proposed as part of the draft master plan. Currently used for small scale events.



Summer House 2

No works or change of use proposed as part of the draft master plan. Currently used for small scale events.



4.4 Nielsen Park



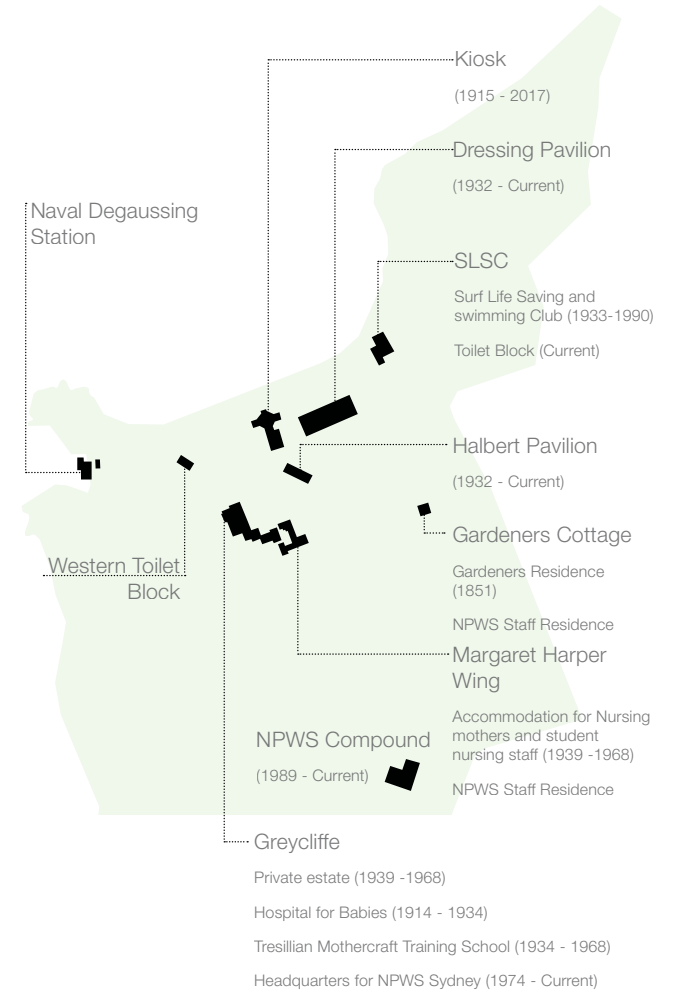
Nielsen Park

Strickland Estate

Precinct overview

For over 100 years Nielsen Park has been recognised as one of Sydney’s premium public parklands. The Park and its iconic heritage listed Greycliffe House have formed part of a grand private estate, WWII fortification, health facility and public reserve. Within Nielsen Park there are both natural and cultural values of significance. Greycliffe House and the Steele Point Battery are important heritage items and there a number of significant plant and animal species. The 20-hectare precinct is renowned for its recreational opportunities, particularly Shark Beach, its direct harbour access and its remnant bushland. The Nielsen Park precinct forms part of Sydney Harbour National Park and provides picnicking and recreation, events and gatherings, an array of heritage listed buildings, many of which have been successfully adaptively reused and has a strong volunteer community who helps preserve the sites valuable bushland.

Building’s overview



Landscape and natural values

The precinct is characterised by sandstone slopes and gullies with Mount Trefle, at around 40 metres above sea level, the highest point. Shark Beach spans the headlands between Steele Point and Bottle and Glass Point. In some areas of the precinct, the natural vegetation has been replaced by exotic plantings and lawns, however much of the precinct is remnant bushland. Although only a relatively small area, this remnant bushland is very significant as it is the largest area of foreshore bushland south of the harbour. This precinct provides essential habitat for native fauna, including species that are now rare within the local area. Around 65 species of native fauna have been recorded from this precinct in the past, but for many of these species there are few recent records. The majority of the fauna species are birds, with few reptiles, frogs or native mammals known from the precinct.



Cultural and heritage values

The precinct provides evidence, in the form of tangible sites and artefacts, of Aboriginal occupation. Over thousands of years, the park and surrounds provided essentials for life; shelter, food resources and fresh water and this highlights the significance of the park to Aboriginal people and the broader community. Nielsen Park is considered to be of state significance as it represents the mostly intact Greycliffe Estate, including the JF Hilly-designed Victorian Gothic marine villa, and its strong association with a number of prominent Sydney families and individuals. The Steele Point Battery, one of the most intact harbour defences, also has state significance. The historic buildings and curtilages, many of which are successfully adaptively reused, represents important history and provide opportunity for a unique visitor and tourism experiences.



Recreation values

The precinct has very high levels of repeat visitation and a significant proportion of visitors are local Sydneysiders. The number of visitors varies greatly with most weekends, summer holidays and public holidays being by far the busiest, but also creating challenges with access and parking at these times. The promenade and the netted enclosure at Shark Beach is an important drawcard for the precinct with swimming and relaxing at the beach popular pastimes. Further into the park, open space for picnicking, general relaxation and walking are popular pursuits. Nielsen Park and Shark Beach was serviced by regular water access with the wharf built in 1917. This was destroyed in May 1974 by cyclonic winds. The precinct provides a suite of recreational facilities of varying architectural design, sympathetic to the surrounding landscape, some of which have been used continuously by the public for over 100 years.



4.3 Nielsen Park

Mount Trefle

1. New entry.
2. Stone steps and entry.
3. New lookouts.
4. Mount Trefle track formalised with wayfinding signage and interpretation of native landscape.
5. Mount Trefle summit light touch lookout at Mount Trefle summit.
6. Interpretation of Mount Trefle and the basalt dyke that runs from Mount Trefle to Bottle and Glass Point.
7. Picnic spots and rest areas at clearings along Steele Point Road maximising views to the harbour.

Steele Point

8. Continuation of the Hermitage Foreshore Track to Steele Point.
9. Provide a lookout at Steele Point that incorporates military interpretation.
10. Steele Point lookout.
11. Opportunity to reinstate non-commuter ferry wharf.
12. Accessible walkway through bushland.
13. Interpretation of Steele Point Battery.

Greycliffe House

14. Upgrade path connections to link to new sea wall and promenade.
15. Provide paved curtilage and interpretation of Greycliffe House.
16. Retain sweeping lawns and views across Shark Beach.

Bottle and Glass Point

17. Provide passive recreation and picnic areas on headland.
18. Provide a circuit path network extension of Hermitage Foreshore Walk including interpretation and wayfinding.
19. Upgrade entry and paving at Bottle and Glass Road.
20. Provide interpretation and lookout area at Shakespeares Lookout.

Caring for Country recommendations

1. Remove invasive species. Promote local endemic species.
2. Recreate pathways throughout the area. Using crushed sandstone (permeable pathways) where appropriate.
3. Create picnic area with shelters, seating, amenities.
4. Maintain and regenerate bushland areas. Consider the application of cultural fire regime in this area.
5. Protect cultural sites.

Nielsen Park Precinct



Key moves

1. New park entry and shared drop off pick up zone at Greycliffe Avenue.
2. Formalise path and lawn area around Dressing Pavilion to maximise picnicking and recreation.
3. Enhance recreation opportunities at Bottle and Glass Point.
4. Improve access and interpretation at Steele Point Battery including provision of a formal lookout.
5. Opportunity to reinstate a non-commuter wharf at Shark Beach to improve site access.
6. Minor drainage and track improvements to Mount Trefle to minimise ecological impacts.
7. Provide paved area with interpretation at Greycliffe House and retain sweeping lawns and views across the beach.
8. Hermitage Foreshore Track improvements to provide lookouts and interpretation and connect to Bottle and Glass Point.
9. Passive parkland and interpretation corridor.



Mount Trefle



Hermitage Foreshore Track and lookouts



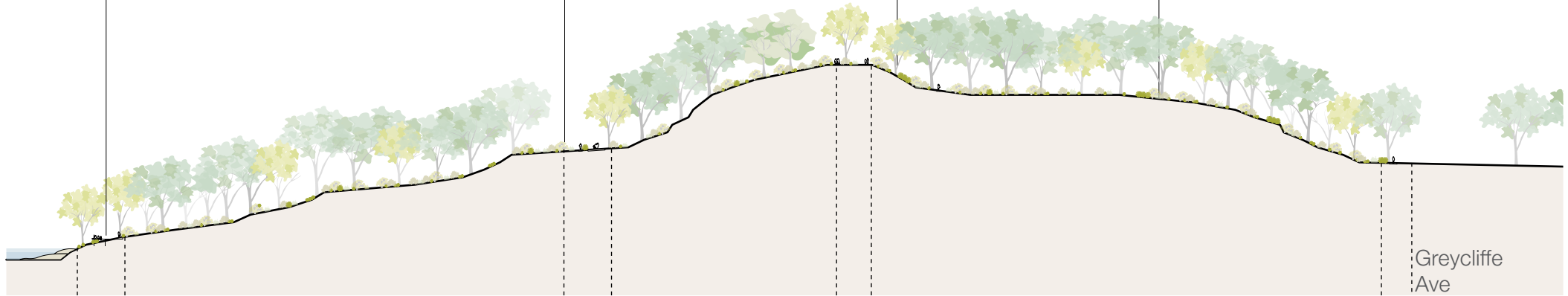
Mount Trefle track rest area



Mount Trefle summit light touch lookout intervention



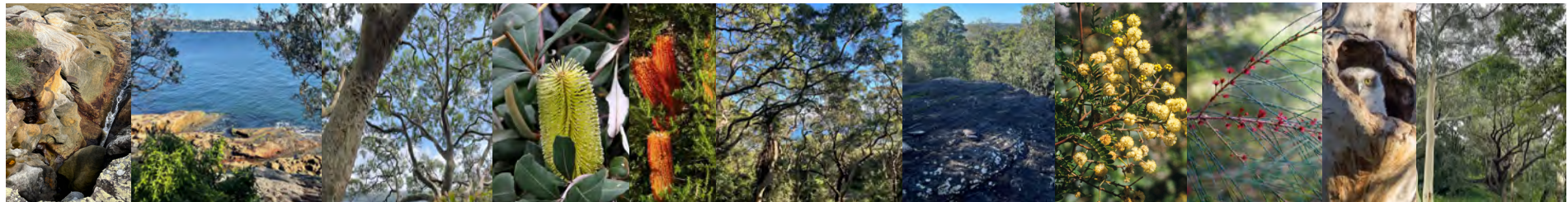
Wayfinding signage and interpretation along walking track



Coastal Headland Banksia Heath

Coastal Sandstone Foreshore Forest

Greycliffe Ave



Coast banksia 'Guriidji'

Smooth-barked apple

Mount Trefle

Acacia terminalis sub species

Nielsen Park she oak

Powerful owl

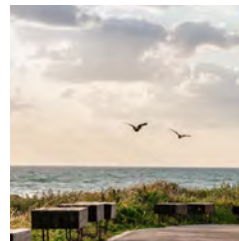
Bottle and Glass Point

Current uses

- Wedding ceremonies
- Arts and cultural events
- Concerts and festivals
- Corporate events
- Private party/functions

Future improvements

- Improvements to the circulation and drainage of Bottle and Glass Point will establish a more usable space for visitors to passively recreate.
- Extension of the Hermitage Foreshore Walk will better connect to the surrounding foreshore amenity as well as continue the story and interpretation of this significant harbour location.
- Further amenity will be provided to celebrate Country and enhance the harbour views through the provision of lookouts and interpretation at Shakespeares Point and Bottle and Glass Point.



Enhanced recreation zone with rest areas and shaded lawn for picnicking and passive recreation

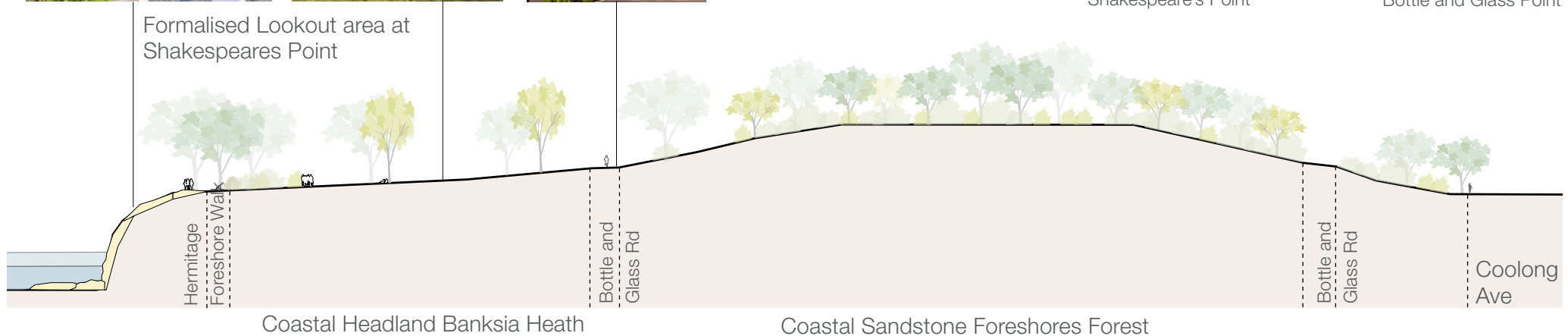
Significant Views



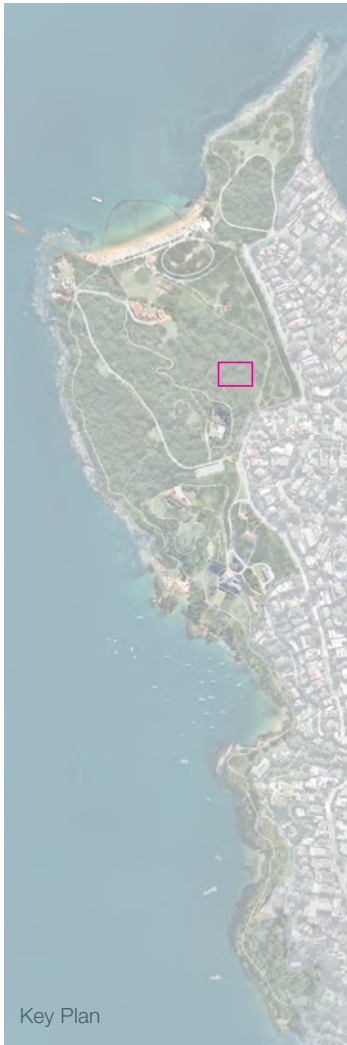
Shakespeare's Point



Bottle and Glass Point



Greycliffe Avenue entry



The main entry to Nielsen Park from Greycliffe Ave provides conflicting and unsafe access and limited sense of arrival.

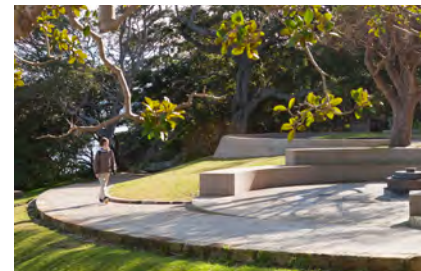
The large existing trees provide opportunity to create a grand entrance reflective of the parks iconic location and recreation history.

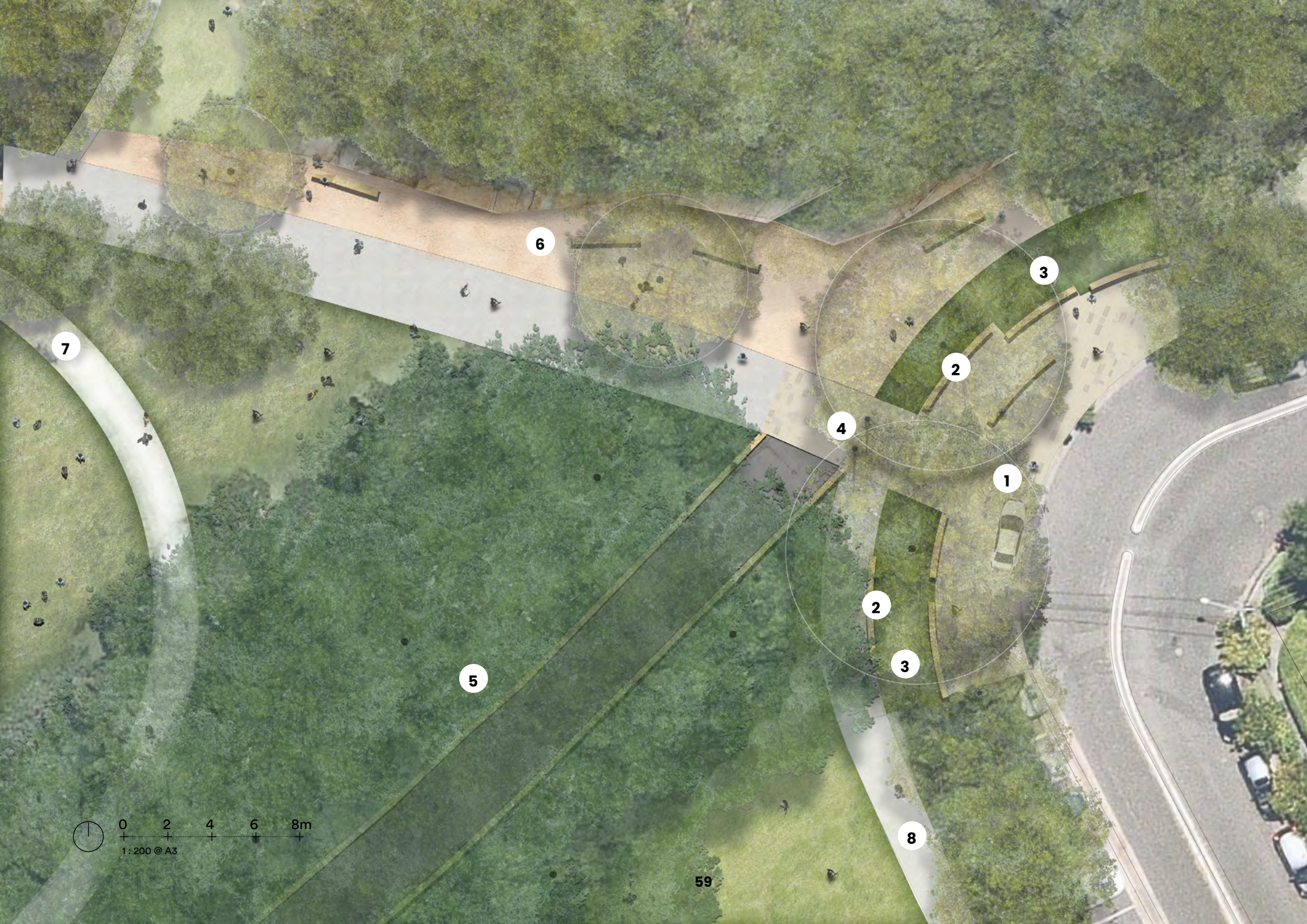
The existing roads and paths would benefit from being rationalised to create an entry that celebrates the character of the park as well as functioning as a waiting area and drop off zone for high visitor usage.

The existing rock outcrop and trees will be retained and enhanced through the inclusion of shaded seating areas, interpretation, and signage.

Key moves

1. New granite paved entry area with shared stopping zone to edge of Greycliffe Avenue.
2. Low sandstone retaining and seating walls with interpretation.
3. Native planting beds with trees.
4. Retractable bollards at park entry.
5. Retain existing fig avenue along Fig Tree Road and provide Water sensitive urban design (WSUD) principles on the ground surface to minimise drainage issues and protect trees.
6. Decomposed granite open area to edge of existing rock shelf with sandstone seating and feature shade trees.
7. Formal circuit path and maintained lawn spill out area.
8. Connecting path to Strickland Estate and safer pedestrian access to parking area.





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Greycliffe and Steele Point buildings

Greycliffe House

Greycliffe House is a key building of the park. It is a grand 2 level 19th century marine villa with large public rooms.

Year completed: 1851

Heritage significance: Exceptional/high

General condition:

Good condition however currently used for administration. Requires renewal of some services and fabric repairs.

Current use: NPWS Administration

Key constraints:

- Accessibility
- Heritage status
- Very public position and status
- Limited ability to introduce amenities

Key opportunities:

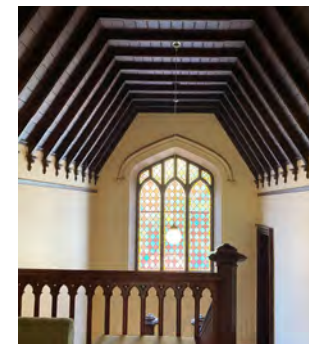
- Key iconic building to define parkland
- Intimate scale suited to a wide range of uses
- Prominent location with significant park and harbour views

Suggested uses:

- Short-stay accommodation*
- Food and beverage
- Visitor facilities
- Conferences and functions
- Education
- Tour group operator

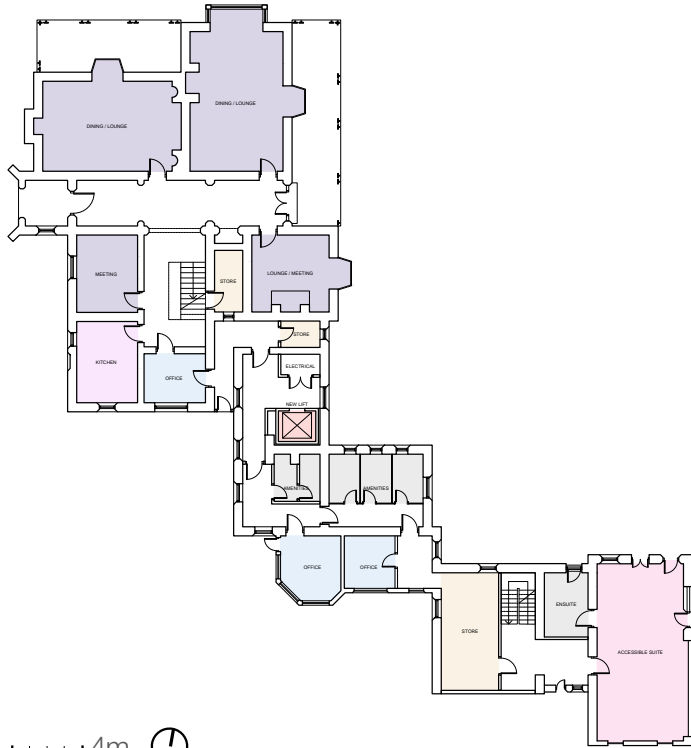
* Indicative concept strategy of this use shown on the following page.

Greycliffe House site plan

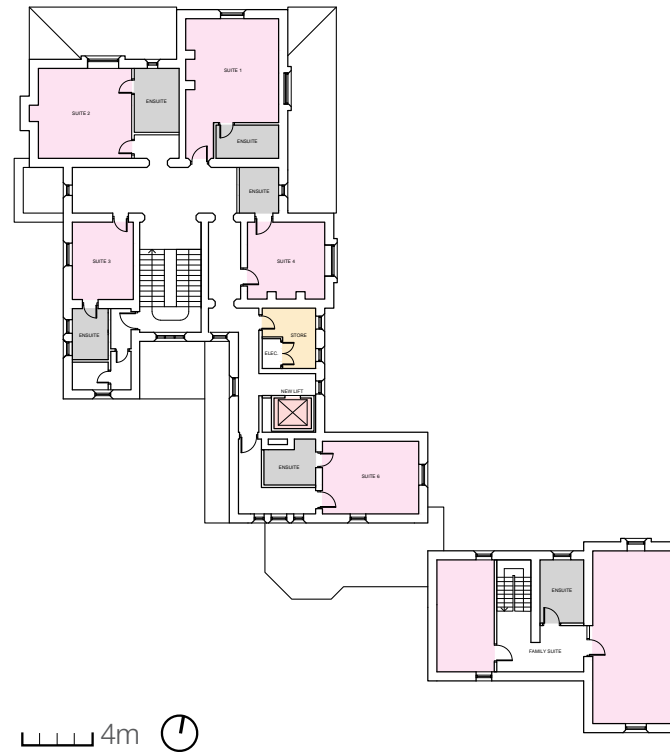


Greycliffe and Steele Point buildings (continued)

Ground floor plan – Indicative concept for accommodation option.

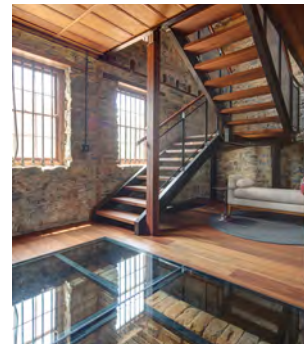


First floor plan – indicative concept for accommodation option.



Legend:

- Lift
- Kitchen
- Bedrooms
- Dining / bookable
- Administration
- Staff
- Amenities



Greycliffe and Steele Point buildings

Margaret Harper Wing

Margaret Harper Wing is a large single storey institutional accommodation building.

Year completed: 1939

Heritage significance: High/moderate/low

General condition:

Good condition however currently used for staff accommodation. Requires renewal of some services and fabric repairs.

Current use: NPWS staff accommodation

Key constraints:

- Accessibility
- Relatively poor site access
- Poor internal room configuration

Key opportunities:

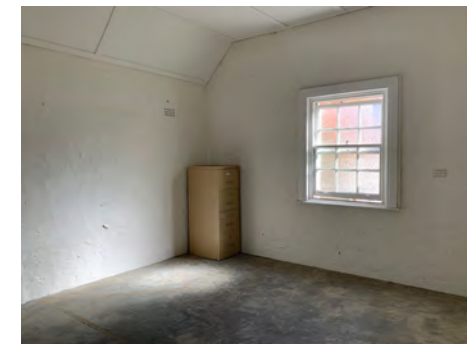
- Secluded park setting
- Intimate scale and suited to a range of uses
- Could be used for NPWS administration
- Internal changes allow for adaptation

Suggested uses:

- Short-stay accommodation*
- Food and beverage
- NPWS administration
- NPWS staff accommodation
- Tour group operator

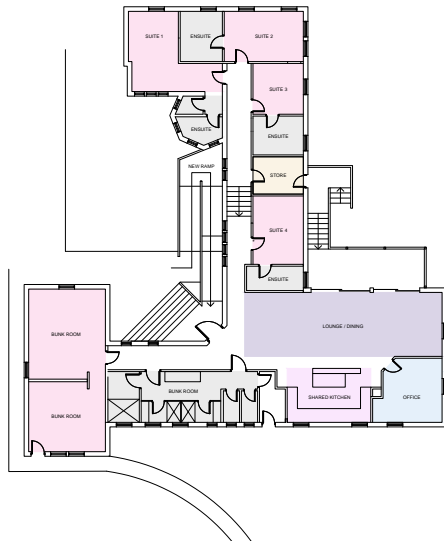
* Indicative concept strategy of this use shown on the following page.

Margaret Harper Wing site plan



Greycliffe and Steele Point buildings (continued)

Ground floor plan – Indicative concept for accommodation option.



Legend:

- Shared kitchen
- Bedrooms
- Dining / bookable
- Administration
- Store / staff
- Amenities

4m



Shark Beach buildings

Dressing Pavilion

The Dressing Pavilion is a unique outdoor dressing pavilion with separate male and female courtyards.

Its current use will continue unchanged however a major upgrade is required to address equitable access and building condition.

Year completed: 1932

Heritage significance: High

General condition:

Reasonable condition however repair of exterior walls, dressing cubicles and fixtures and fittings required. Modification to address child protection issues will be required.

Current use: Change facility for beachgoers

Key constraints:

- Accessibility
- Child protection issues

Key opportunities:

- Unique facility that could offer additional services and support for beachgoers.
- Could be used for special events

Suggested uses:

- Retain as public amenities*
- * Indicative concept strategy of this use shown on the following page.

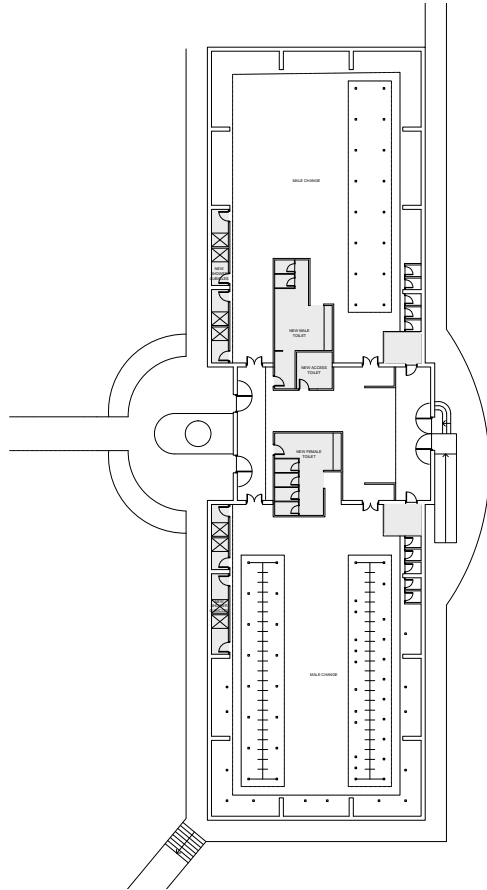
Dressing Pavilion site plan



Photograph by John Yurasek/DPE 2012

Dressing Pavilion

Ground floor plan – Indicative concept for amenities.



4m



Legend:

■ Amenities

Other Nielsen Park buildings

Gardener's Cottage

No works or change of use proposed as part of the draft master plan. Currently used for short-stay accommodation.



Steele Point Cottage

No works or change of use proposed as part of the draft master plan. Currently used for short-stay accommodation.



Kiosk

No works or change of use proposed as part of the draft master plan. Currently leased and used for visitor amenity and facilities. Food and beverage outlet and events.



SLSC and Toilet Block

No works or change of use proposed as part of the draft master plan. Currently leased and used for visitor safety and facilities. Sporting activities, events, and public amenity.



Halbert Pavilion

No works or change of use proposed as part of the draft master plan. Currently leased and used for visitor amenity and facilities. Food and beverage outlet and events.



Toilet Block

No works or change of use proposed as part of the draft master plan. Currently used for public amenity.



Other Nielsen Park buildings

Toilet Block

No works or change of use proposed as part of the draft master plan. Currently used for public amenity.

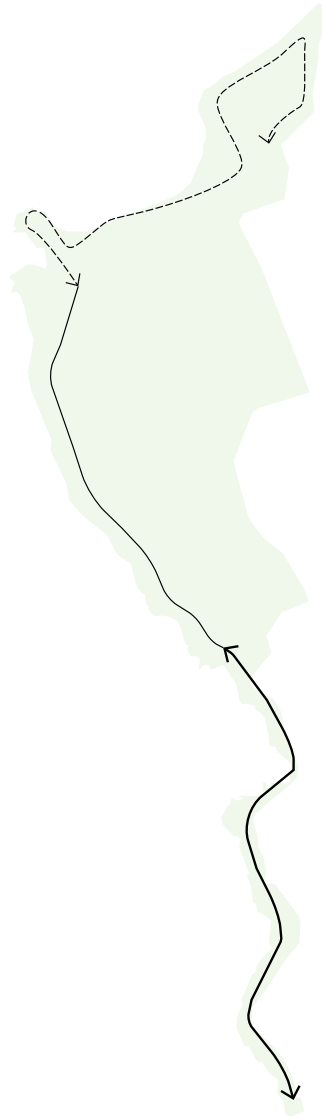


NPWS Compound

No works or change of use proposed as part of the draft master plan. Currently used for NPWS park operations.



4.4 Hermitage Foreshore



Legend

- ←--→ Proposed Extension of foreshore walk
- Existing Hermitage Foreshore walk within Strickland estate Precinct
- ↔ Existing Hermitage Foreshore walk

Precinct overview

The Hermitage Foreshore walk runs from Bellevue Hill Road to Steele Point and is envisaged to extend through Nielsen Park to Bottle and Glass Point.

The precinct area captures the foreshore between Bellevue Hill Road entrance and Strickland Estate.

Key issues identified in this area include legibility, quality of walking surfaces, safety, and lack of amenity.

The Hermitage Foreshore precinct will include a number of improvements that will enhance the user experience.

The upgraded walking surfaces, formalised lookouts, and wayfinding signage will all make it easier for people to navigate the area.

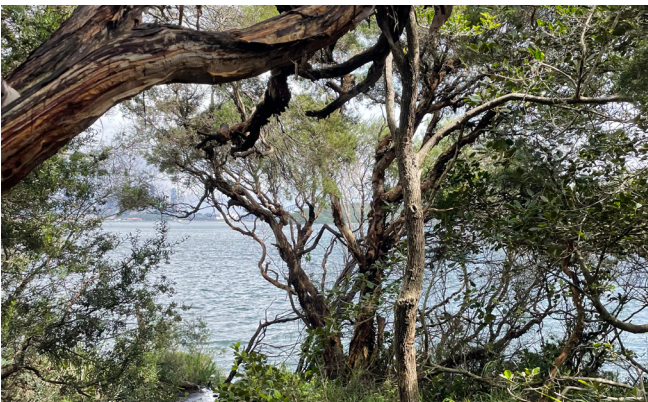
Additionally, the interpretation provided will give people a better understanding of the history and significance of the site within Sydney Harbour.

Improvements will extend the entry of the sites foreshore and be consistent with the vision for the overall connected parkland while providing moments of delight and better access to beaches and areas of amenity and recreation along the way.

4.4 Hermitage Foreshore

Landscape and natural values

The precinct is characterised by a narrow strip of land nestled between the harbour coastline and private residences. Topography is undulating and intersected by secluded and protected small harbour beaches. The Hermitage Foreshore Track provides welcome natural respite from city life, whilst providing iconic views of Sydney Harbour and connects to heritage listed Strickland Estate to the north. The precinct provides essential habitat for native fauna and flora but is compromised by weeds and invasive species. In some areas of the precinct, the natural vegetation has been replaced by exotic plantings and lawns. The Hermitage Foreshore Reserve became part of the Sydney Harbour National Park in the early 1980s to protect the natural values of the foreshore and area.



Recreation values

The precinct has very high levels of repeat visitation and is one of Sydney's great coastal walks, the easy Hermitage Foreshore Track offers up stunning views of Sydney's harbour, islands, and icons. The track now forms part of the iconic and renowned Bondi to Manly Walk. Secluded beaches are a popular drawcard for the precinct offering safe harbour swimming and good access for water sports, such as kayaking. The precinct offers uninterrupted and spectacular views of Shark Island, the Sydney Harbour Bridge and connects to Strickland Estate via the Hermitage Foreshore Track. Improving access to beaches, providing seating, rest and viewing areas and improvements to walking tracks are key to enhancing recreational opportunities and visitor experiences. A number of small scale events, such as charity walks, and social picnics have taken place in the precinct.



Key moves

1. Improve stair access to Queens Beach.
2. Provide raised walkway located effectively to limit disturbance of existing vegetation and ecology.
3. Path upgrades to celebrate the natural elements of the site.
4. Provide upgrades to Hermit Point using materials that enhance the sites character and create a sense of place.
5. Allow for better access to the water, user amenity and safety.
6. Provide formal lookouts at key locations that celebrate harbour views whilst protecting existing vegetation.
7. Improve safety and accessibility of foreshore track through balustrades and rest seating at a number of lookout points.
8. Provide interpretation and way finding signage at key points along the journey.
9. Control weeds and invasive species to protect native vegetation.
10. Improve entry points and signage.



Bottle and Glass Point

Nielsen Park Entry

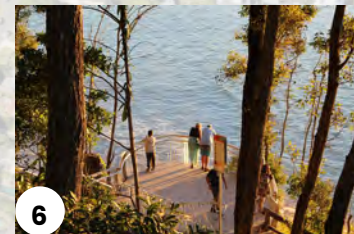
Shakespeares Point

Shark Beach

Steel Point

Shark Point





Entry to Strickland Estate

Bayview Hill Rd Entry to Heritage Foreshore

Milk Beach

Little Bay

Hermit Beach

Hermit Point

Queens Beach

Towards Rosebay

10

10

9

9

9

2

2

1

8

5

7

6

5

1



TKDArchitects
Tanner Kibble Denton

CONTEXT WSP|
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE