

5. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

5.1 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE FOR THE UNIVERSITY GROUNDS

Summary Statement

The University of Sydney Grounds are significant because:

1. they retain evidence of the continuous human occupation of the place from Aboriginal time, through the earliest period of European settlement of Australia, to the current day;
2. the University of Sydney is the oldest university in Australia, and has continuously occupied and developed its campus for over 150 years, resulting in a distinctive pattern of planned features;
3. a number of individual precincts, buildings and features are significant in their own right;
4. the Main Building Group, Anderson Stewart Building, Gate Lodges, and St Paul's, St. Johns and St. Andrews Colleges comprise what is arguably the most important group of Gothic and Tudor revival architecture in Australia;
5. the layout and development of the Camperdown campus reflects directly changes in tertiary education, landscape design, institutional design, economic development and social attitudes over that period;
6. the student union and sports facilities reflect the history, and changes in, recreational and social activities over a long period of time;
7. Darlington campus owes its layout to the pattern of the original suburb, and retains important evidence reflecting its residential and industrial past. Darlington was the site of a major expansion of the University, reflecting important changes in the history of tertiary education in Australia; and
8. the University grounds are of social significance because of strong and special associations with particular communities and cultural groups.

Full Statement of Significance

The University of Sydney Grounds are significant because they retain landforms, planned elements, and constructed features that bear witness to the continuous human occupation of the place from Aboriginal time, through the earliest European settlement period, to the current day.

The Camperdown and Darlington campuses of the University of Sydney were part of the traditional country of Aboriginal people of the Cadigal and/or Wanngal clans, and

evidence of this occupation might be preserved archaeologically in specific areas of the university grounds.

The University of Sydney is the oldest university in Australia, dating from 1850. The occupation of the place by the University has seen a continuity of use and major built and historical planning elements for a period extending over 150 years.

The Camperdown campus is significant because the layout of its buildings, grounds and associated features include evidence of the history of, and major changes in, tertiary education, landscape design, institutional design, economic development and social attitudes over that period.

Some precincts, together with related buildings, gardens, landscaping, plantings, roads, street furniture, and views and vistas are of significance in their own right for strong historical associations, archaeological potential, aesthetic values and strong associations for university and surrounding urban communities. These are detailed in Table 5.1 below.

The Main Building and Quadrangle, Anderson Stewart Building, Gate Lodges, and St Paul's, St. Johns and St. Andrews Colleges comprise what is arguably the most important group of Gothic and Tudor revival architecture in Australia, and the landscape and grounds features associated with these buildings contribute to and support the existence and appreciation of their architectural qualities.

The evolution of student unions and sports unions, both reflecting and leading changes in recreational and social activities in the broader community, is strongly reflected in the spatial and temporal distribution of facilities, and these features also have strong social significance for parts of the current community of students, staff and alumni.

Darlington campus is historically important as a former residential suburb, and as the site of a major expansion of what was, at the time of the expansion, an inner-city university. While having much in common with other now inner-urban suburbs from the mid-to late nineteenth century, Darlington is of some historical noteworthiness as probably the only suburb to be almost completely taken over for other land use purposes. The history of the suburb is reflected in surviving buildings (the Institute Building, Darlington Street terraces, former Darlington Public School and a number of factory and workshop buildings); in the residual street layout together with street fencing, walls and furniture; in the alignment of buildings and movement corridors echoing earlier streets and lanes; and in the relatively undisturbed sites of earlier buildings and developments that have archaeological potential.

The University acquisition and development of Darlington is a startling example of both the expansion of Sydney University and tertiary education in general from the 1950s, related to the increasing role of the Commonwealth in funding the sector. The combination of these related factors resulted in particular in the development of Engineering and Architecture faculty precincts that achieved co-location of related subjects, a long-term but largely unachieved aim of Sydney University planners throughout the twentieth century.

The university grounds were among the earliest lands utilised by European settlers in Australia from 1788, and have important historical associations as a result. The pre-university history of the land is echoed in subtle but distinct ways in the university

grounds, and several sites have archaeological potential to provide further, possibly important, information about early European occupation of the land .

The University grounds have substantial strong or special associations with particular communities and cultural groups for social and cultural reasons. These communities and groups include current and former staff and students, and nearby residents.

5.2 RANKING OF ELEMENTS CONTRIBUTING TO SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of the University grounds is complex. This arises because the grounds are extensive and contain a large number of buildings and landscape features. In addition, these features may have individual significance, significance as part of a group, precinct or linear feature (such as an axis or vista), as well as significance to the whole University grounds. Features might be part of overlapping precincts.

Another dimension to this complexity is the range of values: aesthetic, historic, scientific and social. Within each of these values, each feature may have differing expression of the value as well as level of value. In some instances the values relate to the core University story and significances, in other cases there are other stories and values (such as suburban Darlington). These latter values are not necessarily lesser simply because they are not part of the core University story – they are just different.

The section 170 register provides yet another layer with details of the significance of individual structures and buildings.

Given this background, a simplified approach to significance must be treated with great care or else the particular quality and complexity of heritage values may be lost.

Bearing this caution in mind, three levels of significance have been identified, to assist in understanding both the elements of overall heritage significance, and to identify the ways in which individual components contribute to significance.

The levels of significance are as follows.

High level of significance	Components of the grounds that have a high degree of historic, aesthetic, social or scientific significance. Places in this category stand out as exceptional when compared with like places elsewhere, or reflect directly and with clarity key aspects of the history or character of the university grounds, or are held in high regard for their aesthetics or for their associations with current communities relating to the place.
Moderate level of significance	Components in this category might contribute to the significance of the grounds as a whole or to specific precincts which have a high level of significance, without having high significance in their own right. The contributory significance might be that the component adds to the understanding of the historic, aesthetic or social heritage values of the place, while not being essential to that understanding,

Some significance

Components in this category might relate to relatively minor aspects of the significance of the place, without being critical to the understanding of that significance. They might also have a minor or slight association with components or precincts of greater significance.

The following table uses this ranking system to give an indication of the levels of significance of components or elements in the grounds. As noted above, this is to provide a better understanding of significance, especially in the context of some overview or framework of the whole grounds and the many parts. For a more complete understanding of significance, this table should be used in conjunction with the information on the specific heritage values of components and elements found elsewhere in this plan.

Ranking systems must be used with great care with regard to heritage places. There is considerable concern that such systems result in people losing sight of the individual heritage qualities of places, these being replaced by a summary word or score. In addition, such rankings of significance can be automatically and unfortunately taken as an indication of management priority. While significance is a major factor in determining management, there are other important matters which must be taken into account in reaching management decisions. Accordingly, the following table provides information about significance but it does not, in itself, establish management priorities.

Table 5.1 Levels of Heritage Significance in context of the University Grounds

Note: This table provides only a simplified portrayal of the significance of components or elements in the grounds. It should not be used in isolation to establish management priorities.

HIGH LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE	
Place or group	Components or elements of significance
University of Sydney, Camperdown campus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Camperdown campus is of historic significance in demonstrating the continuity of its form and use as Australia’s oldest university • Camperdown campus is of social significance because of strong association for current and former staff and students <p>Not all components of the place contribute to these value—individually significant components are listed below.</p>
University of Sydney, Darlington campus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Darlington campus is of historical significance in retaining remnant buildings, streets, and general pattern of layout that demonstrate the former suburb of Darlington • Darlington campus is of social significance because of strong association for nearby residents <p>Not all components of the place contribute to this value—individually significant components are listed below.</p>
Main Building Quadrangle and associated landscape	<p>The Main Building, including later Quadrangle buildings, is of historic, social and aesthetic significance. Components include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main Building and additions • Quadrangle lawns and Jacaranda tree • Vice Chancellor’s Courtyard and garden • University Avenue Axis and vista • University Avenue plantings • University Place lawns • Lawns and plantings north of the Great Hall (Botany lawn) and University

	Avenue
Anderson Stuart Building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anderson Stuart building and extensions are historically and aesthetically significant
Hockey Square, flanking buildings and vistas, Womens' tennis courts, and Oval 1 and 2	<p>The sporting grounds are historically, aesthetically and socially significant. Components are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hockey Square sports field (including tennis courts), and open space Hockey Square Axis and views Physics Building, Old Teachers' College, tennis pavilion, R.C. Mills Buildings. View from terrace adjacent to MacLaurin Hall toward hockey Square View from Tennis Pavilion Azalea and gardenia plantings along Physics Road Womens' Sports Centre Hockey Square tennis courts and pavilion Womens tennis courts, Eastern front Ovals 1 and 2
Science Road, buildings, landscape and views	<p>Science Road buildings and landscaping—(Macleay Museum, Botany, Old Geology, Pharmacy, Bank, Holme & Refectory, Badham, Heydon-Laurence (Zoology), John Woolley, R.D. Watt, Wallace Theatre, milestone and sculpture features) are historically, aesthetically and socially significant. Other components include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wilkinson 'Mediterranean' style buildings and landscape features Trees, shrubs and lawns and supporting walls along Science Road Science Road Axis and view The Tunnel beneath Bank / Badham Buildings
Commonwealth Research Facilities	<p>The Commonwealth research facilities are of historic significance. Components include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine (Ford building) McMaster Laboratory Madsen Building aeronautics wind tunnel, engineering (Woolley Building)
Veterinary Science precinct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Veterinary Science precinct is historically significant as an early faculty campus, including individually significant buildings (J.D. Stewart, McMaster, Round House, gate lodge), and an enclosed 'quadrangle'. J.D. Stewart building also closes the western end of the Science Road vista
Manning House	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Women's Union building is of historic and social significance
Colleges and associated landscapes	<p>The colleges, while not managed by the University, are inextricably linked to the historic, social and aesthetic significance of the University grounds. Components include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> St. Paul's College <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trees along boundary of St Paul's oval St John's College, St Andrew's College, Wesley College, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trees, lawns and shrubs along Western Avenue adjacent to Wesley College Women's College Sancta Sophia College.
Road alignments	<p>The road alignments are of historic significance, and include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Science Road Manning Road Physics Road Western Avenue Eastern Avenue University Avenue Darlington Road/ Maze Crescent (Alma St), and other road alignments with suburban origins (Codrington Street/Butlin Av, Rose St, Darlington Lane, Boundary Lane) Parramatta Road and City Road as boundaries
Planned axes and alignments	<p>Axes of development that established the historical form of the University are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Petersham Ridge/ Eastern Avenue axis

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Science Road axis • University Avenue axis • Manning Road Axis • Physics Road axis • Western Avenue/Ross Street axis
Specimen trees	<p>A number of specimen trees are of aesthetic and social significance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specimen tree on corner of Fisher and Physics Roads • Jacaranda tree in the back of the Edward Ford Building • Specimen tree at the corner of Western Avenue and Manning Road
Western Avenue/Ovals Landscape	<p>Landscapes of aesthetic significance are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trees, agapanthus and gardenias along Western Avenue adjacent to Oval 1 • The whole of Ovals 1 and 2 and their encircling tree plantings • Araucarias on Western Avenue next to the Chaplaincy • Views into University Oval No 1 from Western Avenue (V8) • Views into University Oval No 2 from Western Avenue (V9)
Historic buildings and associated landscapes, Darlington Campus	<p>Evidence of the former suburb is of historic significance, and elements are also of aesthetic and/or moderate scientific significance (see also below).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Old Darlington School • Lawns and trees around the Old School Building • Views towards Old School Building (G15) (V13) • Street trees along the north arm of Maze Crescent • Institute Building and Press Building • Darlington Road terraces
Historic gatehouses, gates, fences and walls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These features have historic, social and aesthetic significance: • University Avenue gates and gatehouse • City Road gates (three sets) and gatehouse • Ross Street gates • Institute Building site fence, gates and wall • Old Darlington School Building fence, gates and memorials • remnant street curbing, fencing, road features and furniture of the former Darlington suburb (not yet fully inventoried). • Victoria Park fence
MODERATE LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE	
Place or group	Components or elements of significance
Pre-university landscape remnants, Camperdown Campus	<p>These features are of historic significance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • creek lines through Camperdown and Darlington campuses • Petersham Ridge line • Victoria Park Lake
Temporary buildings	<p>Of moderate historic significance in relation to WWII expansion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ross Street Building • Transient building, Fisher Road.
Blackburn Building, Bosch buildings and landscape	<p>The group at the western edge of the university are of moderate historic and aesthetic significance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blackburn Building • Trees and grass in front of the Blackburn Building • Blackburn Building Axis and view • Bosch buildings • Tree bordered lawn south of Bosch Building 1A
Eastern Avenue precinct and landscape	<p>The Eastern Avenue components are of moderate historic and aesthetic significance in reflecting 1950s and 60s expansion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chemistry, Carlaw, Stephen Roberts, Edgeworth David, and Fisher Library buildings. • Eastern Avenue plantings and lawns • Eastern Avenue Axis and views • Lawns and plantings south of the Carlaw Building • Trees in the chemistry courtyard

Engineering and architecture precincts, Darlington	This Darlington campus group is of moderate historic significance associated with the expansion to the new campus in the 1960s: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • collection of engineering buildings between Shepherd St and Maze Cres. • Architecture faculty off City Road
Plantings, Fisher Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plantings along Fisher Road in front of Edward Ford Building are of moderate aesthetic significance
Western Avenue Landscape between Carillon Avenue and the laneway to the parking station	The landscape along the southern portion of Western Avenue is of moderate aesthetic significance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lawns, trees and shrubs along Western Avenue • Western Avenue Axis and views
Teachers College Plantings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plantings to the east of the Teachers College are of moderate aesthetic significance
Veterinary Sciences precinct landscape	The landscape of the Veterinary Sciences precinct is of moderate aesthetic significance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lawn and trees around the Round House • Trees and lawn north of McMaster Building • Trees north of the Incinerator • J D Stewart Building Axis and view
H K Ward Gym plantings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plantings west of the H K Ward Gym are of moderate aesthetic significance
Darlington Campus plantings	The Darlington Campus plantings are of moderate aesthetic significance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trees in front court of the Seymour Centre • Melaleucas in lane to the east of the centre • Casuarinas to south of the Wilkinson Building • Poplars behind the Art Workshop • Vestigial street trees along Darlington Road • Plantings in front of the Institute Building
Isabel Fidler Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Park at the north end of the Mills Building containing Isabel Fidler memorial seat is of moderate aesthetic significance.
Manning Road Vista	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manning Road Vista is of moderate aesthetic significance.
Potential archaeological sites	The following potential archaeological sites have moderate scientific significance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St John's College sports ground/ Veterinary Sciences faculty area has potential for Aboriginal sites and as the site of the 1840s convict road gang stockade and garden west of Orphan School Creek • Site of the 1898 Messenger's Lodge, City Road, Victoria Park • area around Darlington School, Town Hall, terraces site • Housing and commercial building sites between Maze Crescent and City Road • site of former terrace housing and possible Aboriginal evidence in areas west of Codrington Street • Possible housing site, Cleveland Street, north-east of the Seymour Centre
SOME SIGNIFICANCE	
Place or group	Components or elements of significance
Potential archaeological sites	The following potential archaeological sites have some scientific significance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site of the Women's Common Room, Main Building Quadrangle • Parramatta Road gate house site • Toll gate sites Parramatta Road, opposite Glebe Point Rd and City Road, cnr Darlington Road

Some components of moderate significance diminish the appreciation of elements of high significance. Examples include the Chemistry Building, the Fisher Road Transient Building, Fisher Library, and the Seymour Centre. This tension between elements of significance is addressed in the policies.