

LEIGHTON CONTRACTORS

STATEMENT OF HERITAGE IMPACT

FOR

NORTH EAST GRANDSTAND

WIN STADIUM WOLLONGONG

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INTRODUCTION

This report follows the format of the *Statements of Heritage Impact* guideline produced by the NSW Heritage Office in 1996. The guideline sets out a model Statement of Heritage Impact and the headings in this report follow that model.

1.0 STATEMENT OF HERITAGE IMPACT FOR

Proposed north east grandstand of the WIN Stadium Wollongong NSW. The area is to the north east of the playing field, next to the Entertainment Centre and the plaza.

2.0 THIS STATEMENT FORMS PART OF THE STATEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS FOR

work to be done by Leighton Contractors for the Wollongong Sportsground Trust (WST) in the area. The WST is proposing to erect a grandstand in the north east corner of WIN Stadium to increase the seating available for stadium patrons.

The specific work at this site is to bore 12 holes 600mm in diameter to bedrock level for piers to support the grandstand.

At present on this site is a grassed area and the road leading to the vehicle unloading bay and the parking area for the corporate boxes.

3.0 DATE OF STATEMENT

May 2001

4.0 REFERENCE

Wollongong City Council

Local Environmental Plan 1990

Description Former Roman Catholic Cemetery, Andrew Lysaght Park, Wollongong East.

Significance Regional

Type of place Archaeological site

5.0 ADDRESS AND PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

Address: South east section of Wollongong Entertainment Centre building covering the vehicular ramp to the service area, the garden bed to its north, and the grassed area to the south of the ramp.

6.0 THIS STATEMENT WAS PREPARED BY

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7.0 FOR

Leighton Contractors Pty Ltd. 12 Help Street Chatswood. NSW 2067.
The liaison officer is Lee Price.

8.0 THE HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE SITE

The site forms part of the original Old Roman Catholic Cemetery which was established in about 1830 and closed in 1861. At its closure there were 155 burials listed in the Burial Register but as many as 200 people may be buried there. This is the oldest cemetery in the Wollongong area and is thus of considerable historical significance.

It covered the whole area shown in Figure 1. In 1969 the cemetery was divided up into 5 portions. Portions 94 and 95 of the old cemetery are those relevant for this project. Portion 95 was given to the WST for passive recreation only, as it was known that graves could lie under the ground.

The WST decided to develop its old showground site (Portion 143) as an Entertainment Centre. Because it was known that the site was on and adjacent to the old cemetery, at the request of the Wollongong City Council a Conservation Plan was commissioned to examine the history of the site and the proposed impact of the proposal on any historical remains. The Entertainment Centre was to cover the whole of Portion 143 and part of Portion 95, both managed by the WST.

Where the footprint of the proposed Entertainment Centre impinged on the old cemetery area archaeological testing was recommended by the Council. Archaeological excavation over the eastern half of Portion 143 and part of Portion 95 was carried out by Anne Bickford Heritage Consultants between December 1995 and March 1996. 16 undisturbed graves and two burials disturbed by the building of a brick wall in 1969 between Portions 94 and 95 were discovered. However it is important to note that only part of Portion 95 and only the edge of Portion 94 were surveyed for graves. It is possible that more graves exist in both areas. The

graves that were uncovered were subsequently protected and covered over by the vehicular ramp of the Entertainment Centre and the grassed area beside it to its south. The rest of the old cemetery lies under the Entertainment Centre plaza.

9.0 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSAL

(Refer to Figure 4)

Piers F1, F2, and F3 are within Section 94, the most densely packed area of the old cemetery. This area is the one where burials are most likely to be encountered.

Piers F5, F6, F11, and F7 are in the area already surveyed and are not likely to encounter burials.

Piers F4, F8, F9, F10, and F12 are in areas which have not been surveyed and so may also encounter burials.

10.0 THE FOLLOWING ASPECTS OF THE PROPOSAL RESPECT OR ENHANCE THE HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE CONSERVATION AREA FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS

Method of excavation for piers

The pier sites will be surveyed in and the location of the graves closest to them will also be surveyed and their corners marked with survey pegs.

The pier sites will be dug by a backhoe with a small batter bucket and supervised by an archaeologist. In the previous archaeological excavation where graves were found it was noted that all graves were dug into the sand layer of the soil profile. Once the hard clay later below was reached digging virtually stopped and the clay was only shallowly penetrated by the grave diggers. Therefore it is not expected that any graves will be found dug solely in the clay layer. Each backhoe trench will be dug down to the clay level. If no burials are found in it then this site will be available for the grandstand foundation piers to rock. If coffin and/or skeletal remains are found no further digging will take place in that hole. The remains will be photographed and drawn on a scale plan and the hole backfilled. Leighton Contractors will be informed and requested to consider alternative methods of construction with regard to the footings.

11.0 THE FOLLOWING ASPECTS OF THE PROPOSAL COULD DETRIMENTALLY IMPACT ON HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE. THE REASONS ARE EXPLAINED AS WELL AS THE MEASURES TO BE TAKEN TO MINIMISE IMPACTS

There are no aspects of the proposal which could have a detrimental impact on the heritage significance of the conservation area. Archaeological testing before the boring of piers (Described above in 10.0)

is a method which respects the heritage significance of the area and there will be no negative impacts on the remains.

12.0 THE FOLLOWING SYMPATHETIC SOLUTIONS HAVE BEEN CONSIDERED AND DISCOUNTED FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS

Sympathetic solutions have been considered and applied.

13.0 ATTACHMENTS

- Figure 1 Plan of original old cemetery area and Portions it was divided into. Portions 93 and 94 became Andrew Lysaght Park in 1969. Portion 113 became the bus parking and turning area. Portion 95 was transferred to the Wollongong Sportsground Trust. The old cemetery area is now covered by the plaza to the east of the Wollongong Entertainment Centre. This report deals with land in Portions 94 and 95
- Figure 2 Overlay of Figure 1 onto Plan of Entertainment Centre plaza
- Figure 3 Plan of graves located in Portions 94 and 95
- Figure 4 Plan of location of piers F1 – F12 for north east grandstand WIN Stadium
- Figure 5 Plan of location of graves in relation to Entertainment Centre vehicle loading ramp and grassy area
- Figure 6 Plan of southern portion of Entertainment Centre plaza showing vehicle ramp and grassy area (trees shown in the drawing were not planted)

14.0 REFERENCES

Bickford, Anne 1996. *The Old Roman Catholic Cemetery Crown Street, Wollongong c.1830-1995 Conservation Plan*. Unpublished report for the Wollongong City Council, August 1996.

Heritage Office and Department of Urban Affairs and Planning, 1996. *Statements of Heritage Impact*. (Part of the NSW Heritage Manual 1996).

FIGURE 1 Plan of original old cemetery area and Portions it was divided into. Portions 93 and 94 became Andrew Lysaght Park in 1969. Portion 113 became the bus parking and turning area. Portion 95 was transferred to the Wollongong Sportsground Trust. The old cemetery area is now covered by the plaza to the east of the Wollongong Entertainment Centre. This report deals with land in Portions 94 and 95.

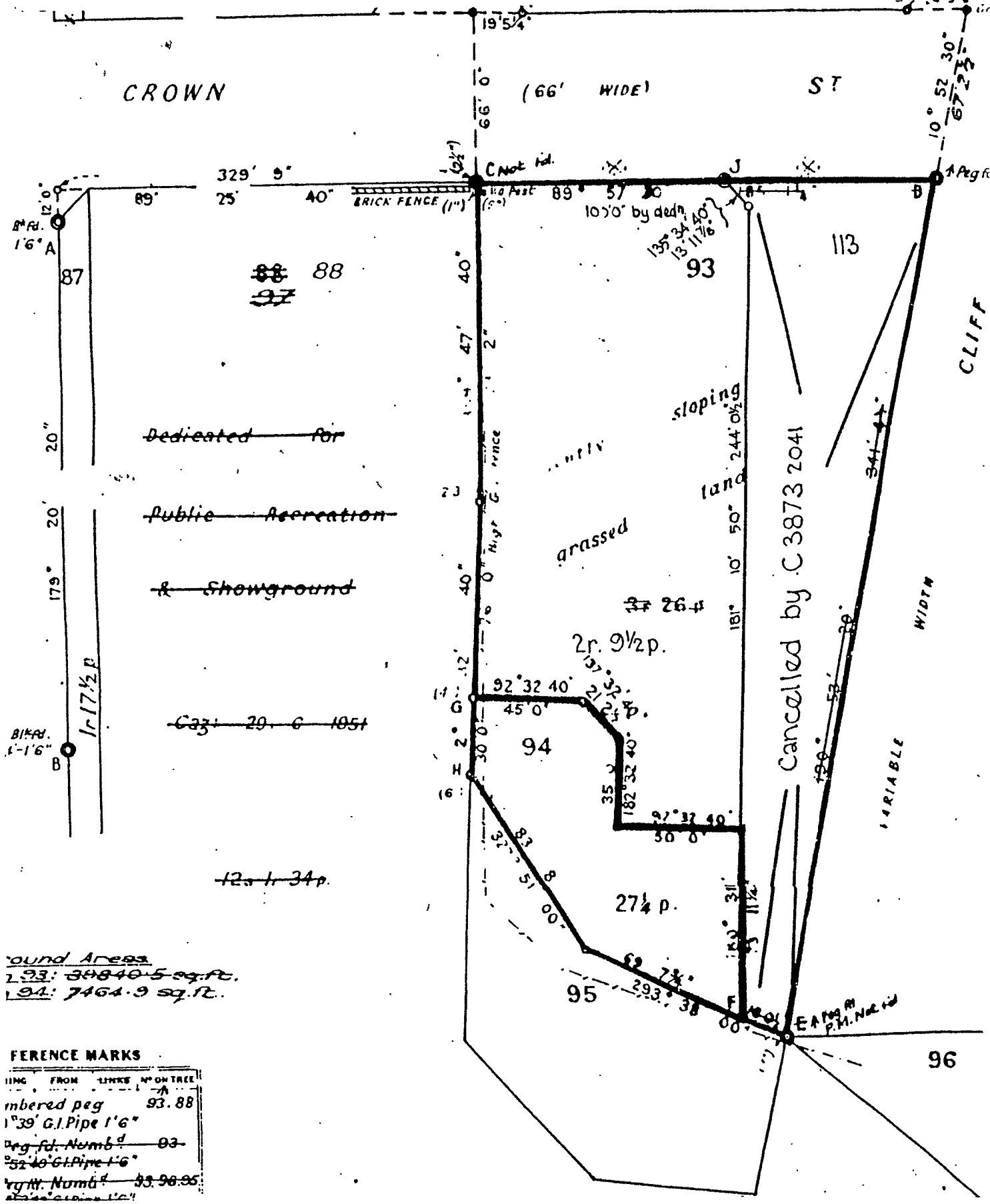


FIGURE 2 Overlay of Figure 1 onto plan of Entertainment Centre plaza

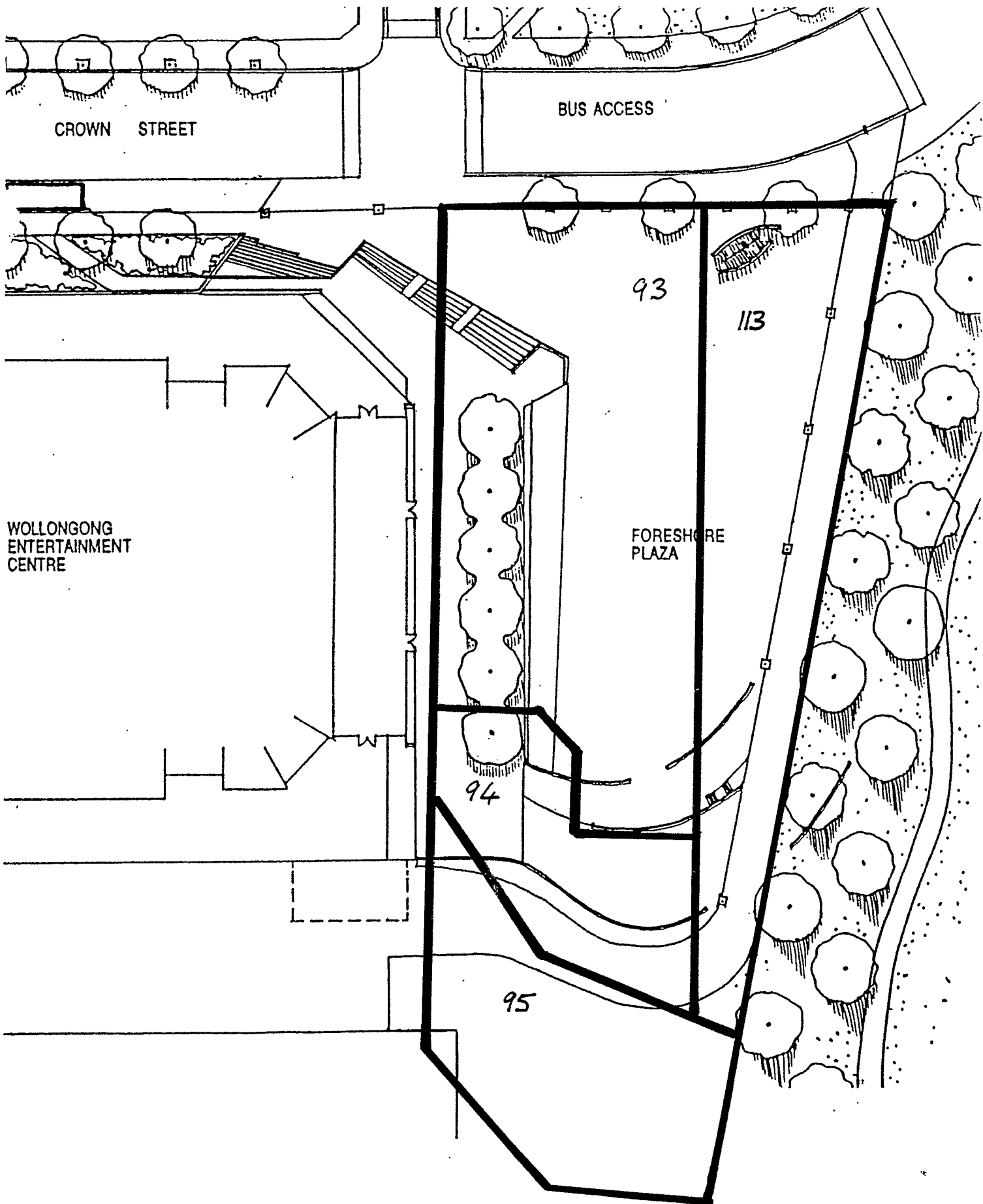


FIGURE 3 Plan of graves located in archaeological excavation in Portions 94 and 95

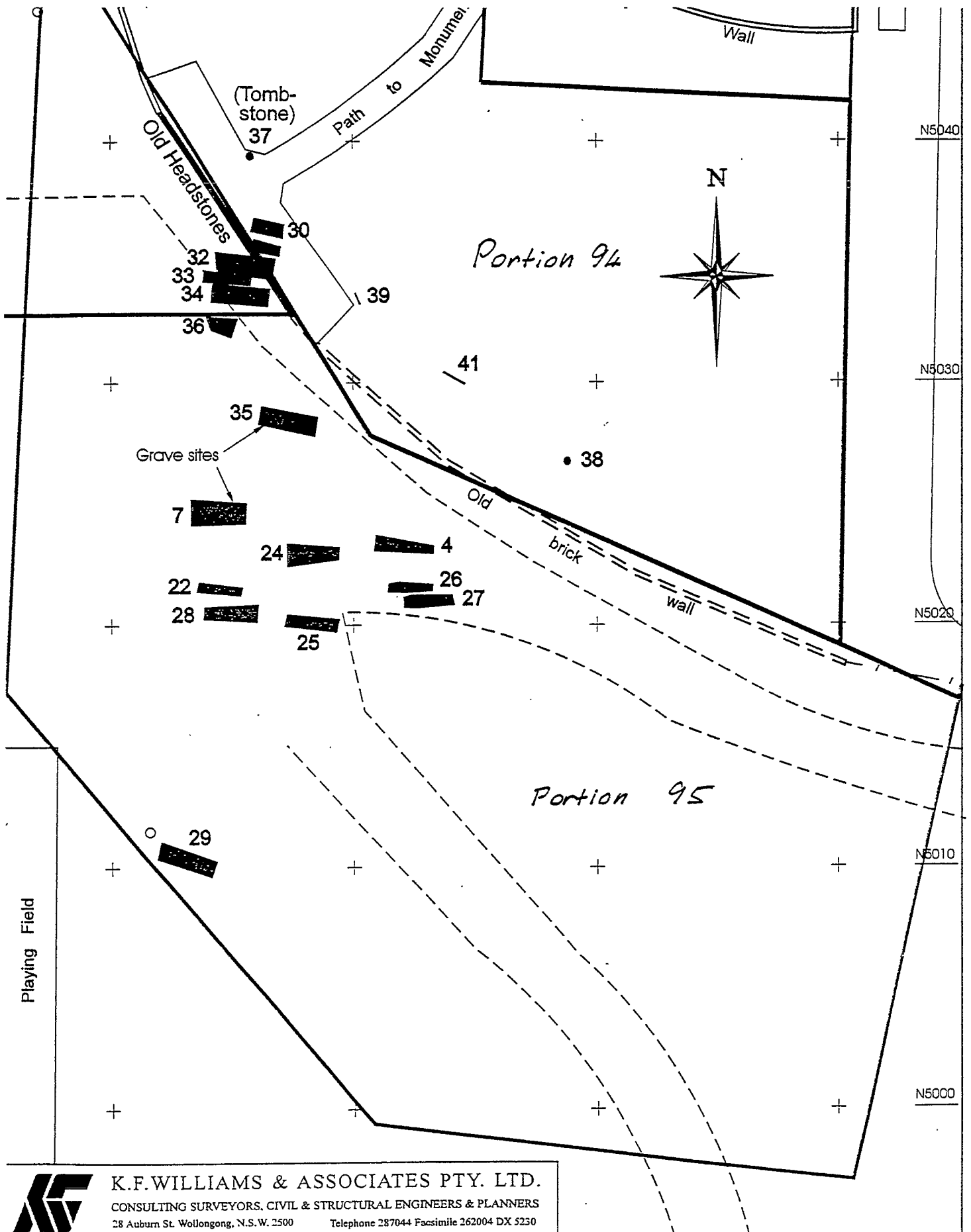


FIGURE 4 Plan of location of piers F1 – F12 for north east grandstand WIN Stadium

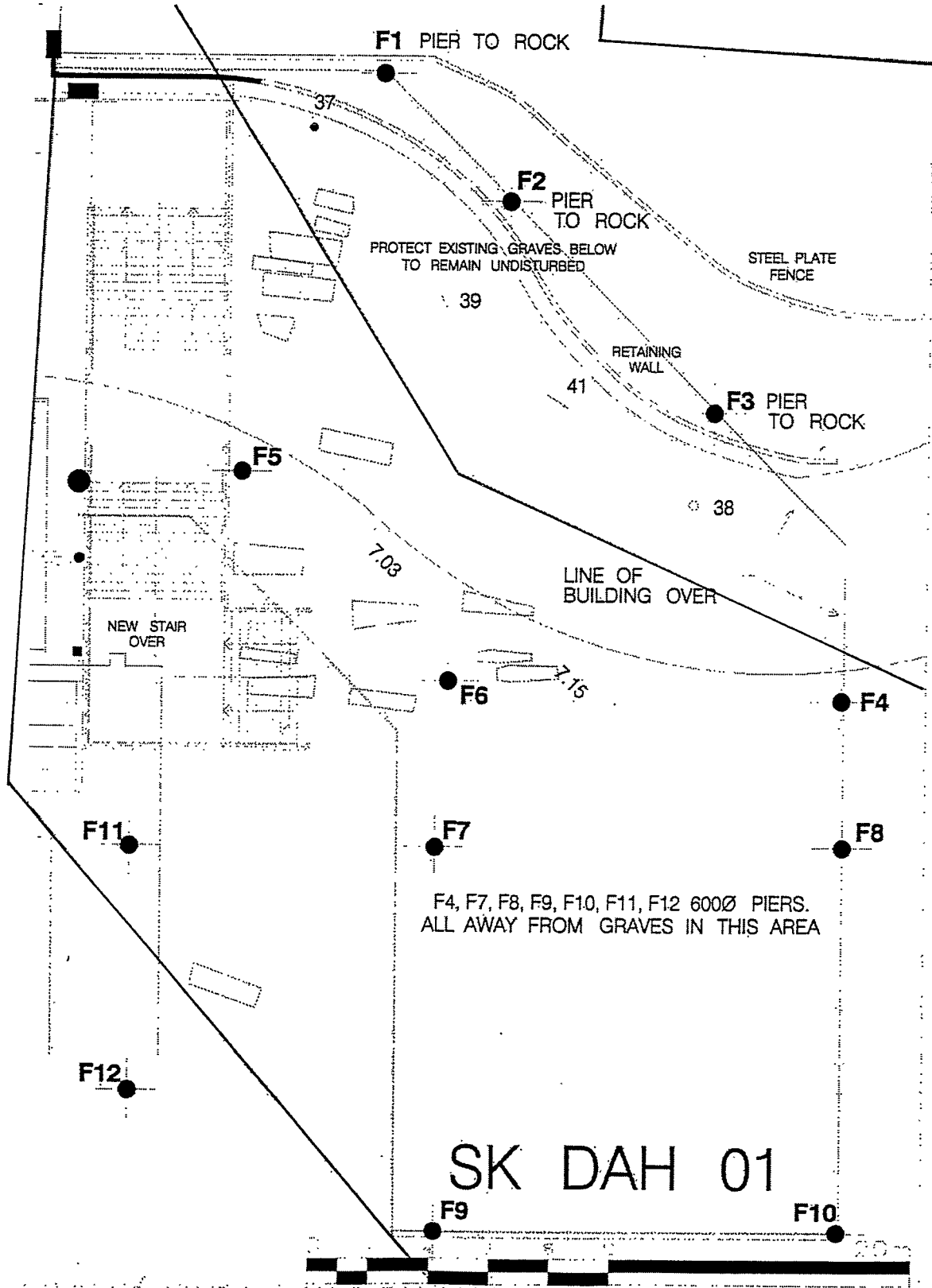
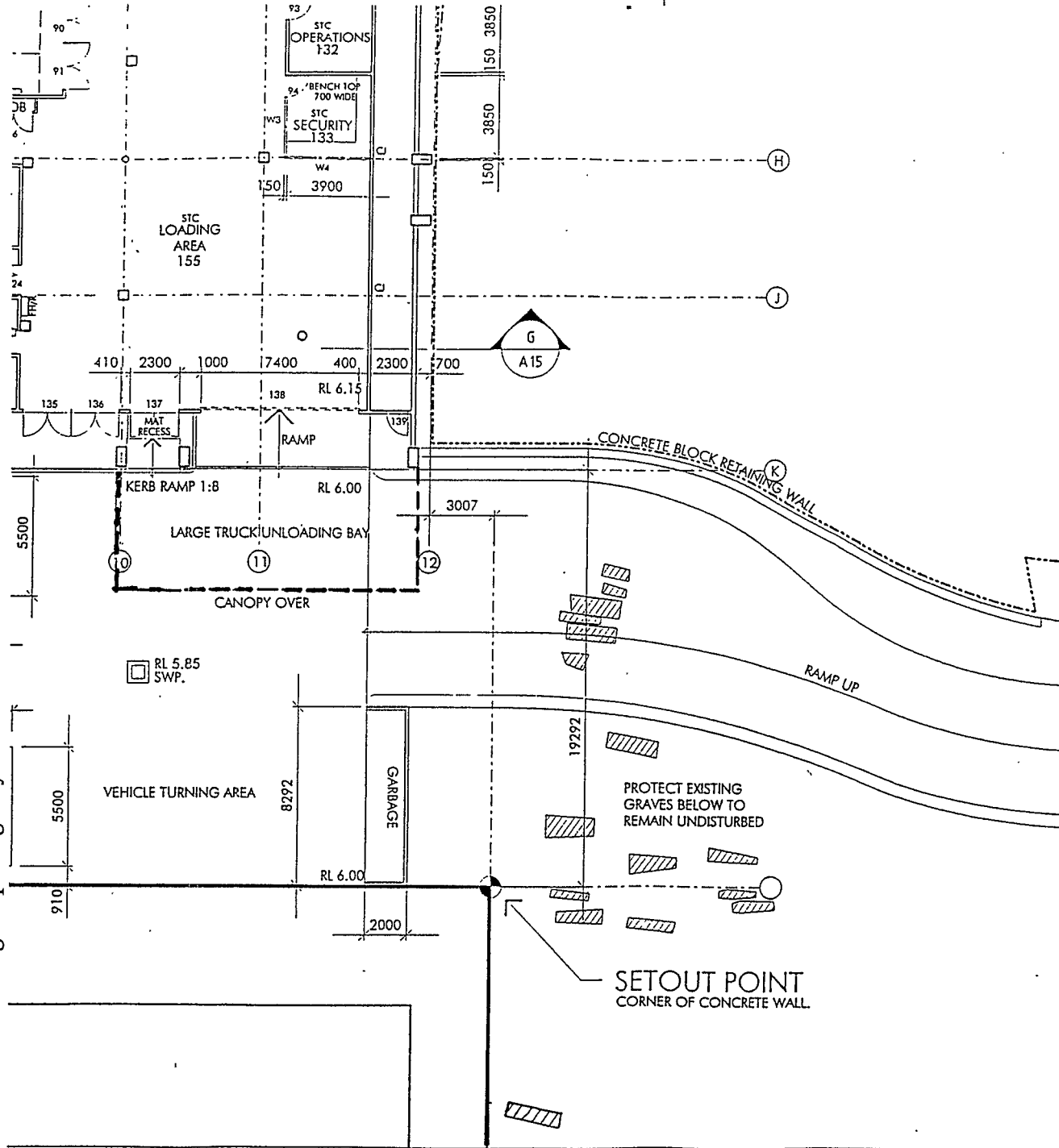


FIGURE 5 Plan of location of graves in relation to Entertainment Centre vehicle loading ramp and grassy area



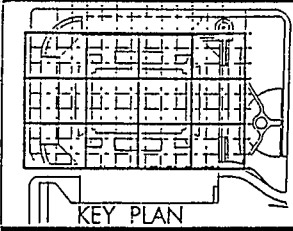
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WOLLONGONG ENTERTAINMENT CENTRE

FOR THE WOLLONGONG SPORTSGROUND TRUST



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LEVEL 1

SCALE
 1:200

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NUMBER IN SET	44		

FIGURE 6 Plan of southern portion of Entertainment Centre plaza showing vehicle loading ramp and grassy area (evergreen trees for screening purposes shown in the drawing were not planted)

