

**THE DOMAIN**  
**Archaeological Research Design**

**Report prepared for**  
**Royal Botanic Gardens Trust**  
**and the Heritage Council of NSW**

**December 1995**

**HERITAGE CONSULTANTS**  
**GODDEN MACKAY PTY LTD 78 GEORGE STREET**  
**REDFERN NSW AUSTRALIA 2016**

**THE DOMAIN**  
**Archaeological Research Design**

**Report prepared for**  
**Royal Botanic Gardens Trust**  
**and the Heritage Council of NSW**

**December 1995**

**Godden Mackay Pty Ltd**

---

## CONTENTS

---

1.0	PROJECT SUMMARY	1
2.0	HISTORY	5
3.0	RESEARCH DESIGN	6
4.0	METHODOLOGY	7

## **1.0 PROJECT SUMMARY**

### **1.1 APPLICATION DETAILS**

Property : The Domain  
Sydney  
Refer to attached plan

Owner : Royal Botanic Gardens Trust

Excavation Director : Richard Mackay, Godden Mackay Pty Ltd

### **1.2 REASON FOR APPLICATION**

Excavation of service trenches for electrical cabling associated with the imminent Sydney Festival will disturb a number of subsurface areas which have the potential to contain deposits or relics as defined in the NSW Heritage Act, 1977.

The specific aims of the archaeological program proposed are:

1. To identify the extent of archaeological features within the study area.
2. To identify the nature and, if possible, the date of construction of archaeological features.
3. To conserve the information contained within the archaeological resources and to recover information useful for understanding the history of the place.

### **1.3 DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED WORK**

The following work is would require the involvement of the archaeologist:

Excavation of a trenches connecting power boards and mains for permanent installation of power points to service needs for public entertainment use [ concerts etc.]within the southern extremity of the Domain, east of Parliament House.

The nature of the proposed work makes it impossible at this stage to determine the exact positions of the trenches. The positions of the trenches will be noted in the final report.

Due to the nature, significance and extent of potential in situ deposits it is expected that a watching brief will meet the requirements of the archaeological resource.

The monitoring strategy would require that an archaeologist be present during the work outlined above.

#### **1.4 TIMING**

It is anticipated that following approval of the Research Design and issue of the excavation permit the works outlined will be undertaken almost immediately.

#### **1.5 POST-EXCAVATION ANALYSIS**

Should it become necessary the program will provide for a phase of post excavation work, including cleaning, labelling, boxing and cataloguing of artefacts, entry of data to a database, establishment of an artefact "type" series and materials conservation, as appropriate.

Any post-excavation phase would also include provision for limited additional analysis and preparation of a report which considers the questions identified in the Research Design.

#### **1.6 PERSONNEL**

The excavation director and project manager will be Richard Mackay. Matthew Kelly and Karen MacLeod will undertake the on site monitoring. Other qualified archaeologists will undertake components of the project or will assist with specific parts of the project as required.

#### **1.7 EXCAVATION PERMIT**

An excavation permit (s60) is sought covering the works above (see Figures 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3).

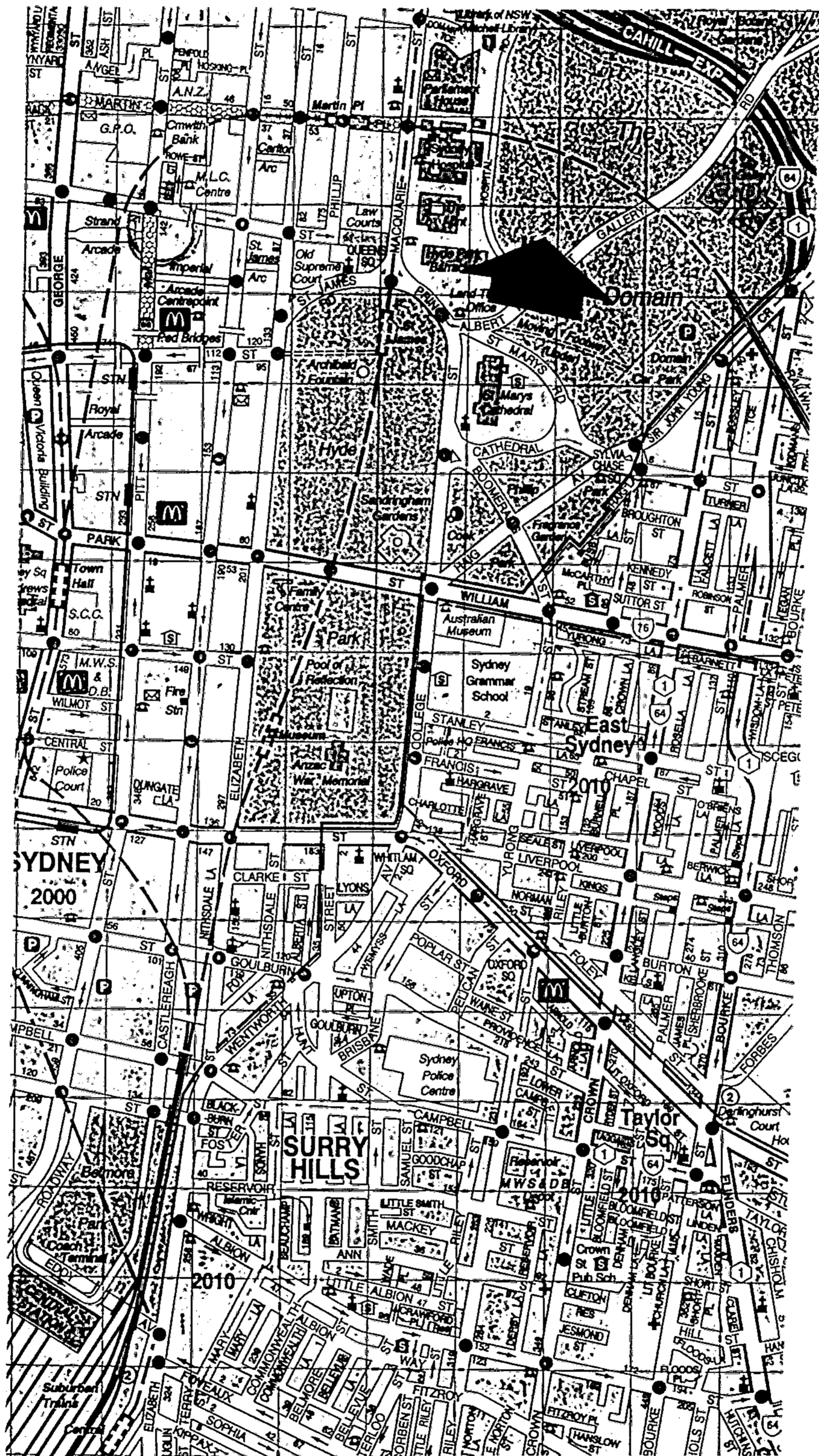


Figure 1.1 Site location.



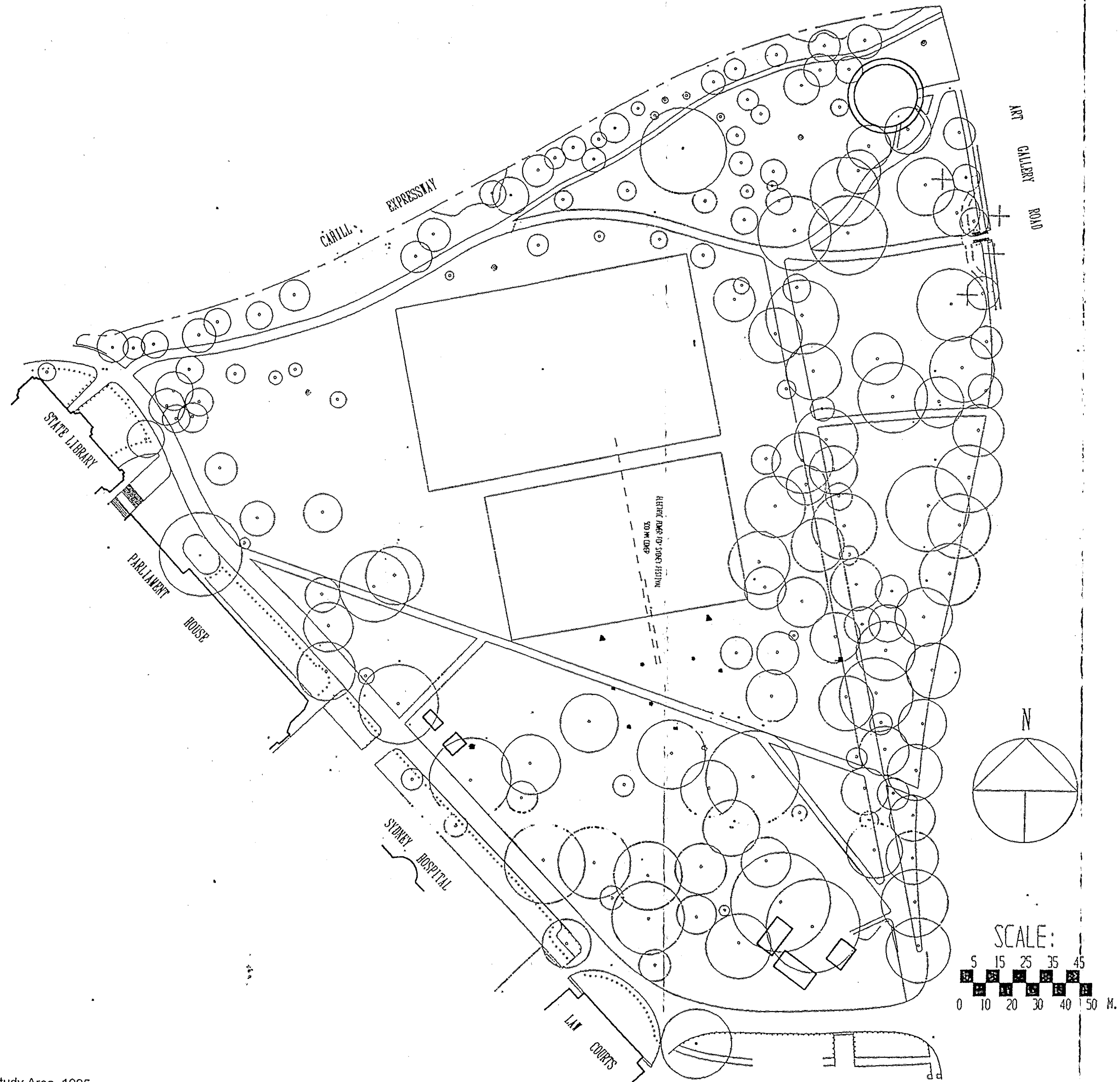


Figure 1.2 The Study Area, 1995.

## 2.0 HISTORY

The area which is the subject of the current study formed part of the southern extremity of the original Governor's domain later to be referred to as the "outer domain".

The area of the domain extended from line of road between the Government Wharf and the western Guardhouse of Government House, encompassed all of Bennelong Point and Ansons Point (Mrs Macquaries Chair) extended down the eastern edge of Ansons Point to the creek which ran into Woolloomooloo Bay with its southern boundary originally to run directly from the head of the creek towards Bent Street.

This area was originally set out by Phillip but it was not until the time of Bligh's rule that ditches were caused to be dug to delineate the edges of the Government ground.

In 1810 Macquarie built substantial ashlar sandstone walls to encompass the Domain and in 1812 published rules to regulate the area he had taken such pains to reserve for exclusive Government use. The southern boundary was extended further south by Macquarie to include land which though declared Crown land by Phillip had not been included in his original declaration of the Domain. The southern boundary was now to run north of the allotment of ground dedicated to the new Catholic Chapel (St Marys).

The southern outer Domain provided catchment for the small freshwater creek which ran into the centre of Farm Cove. This creek was later to become known as Botanic Gardens Creek. The development of the ridge line to the west of this area of the Domain would see this natural drainage line connected to the drains from the Rum Hospital Complex.

The southern outer Domain would see little intensive development over the 19th and 20th centuries apart from pathways and playing fields. By far the most destructive development would be the construction of the Cahill Expressway in 1962 which would destroy the magnificent Fig Tree Avenue and permanently sever this southern section of the Domain from the Royal Botanic Gardens to the north.



### 3.0 RESEARCH DESIGN

Due to the nature of the resource and the method by which it will be exposed the approach to the site and associated research questions must be broad scale. It is hoped that should deposits and features survive the following questions may be asked of the archaeological evidence.

What physical evidence of former activities at the sites survive?

What is the extent of surviving archaeological evidence?

What is the nature of extant archaeological features?

What is the date of particular identified elements?

## **4.0 METHODOLOGY**

### **4.1 WATCHING BRIEF**

Where ground disturbance is proposed an archaeologist will be on site to oversee works and stop excavation should deposits or features warranting further recording be uncovered. All contexts and artefacts will be treated as per the procedure outlined below.

### **4.2 POST EXCAVATION**

Should it become necessary the post excavation period will include cleaning, cataloguing, labelling and boxing of artefacts recovered during the excavation phase. A limited analysis will be made of these artefacts in relation to the questions outlined in the research design.

### **4.3 REPORTING**

A report will be prepared as a result of this project. It will include a final excavation report outlining the work undertaken, results achieved and responses to the research design and specialist reports as required.