

WILBERFORCE PARK CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN



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for Hawkesbury City Council
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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background, study area

Hawkesbury City Council commissioned conservation management plans for three parks in Macquarie towns in April 2003. This report is for Wilberforce Park, which is bounded by George, Duke, Macquarie and Church Roads, Wilberforce.

1.2 Method

The report is structured according to NSW Heritage Guidelines as required by the brief. It contains an analysis of the historical development, extant fabric and present character of the landscape of Wilberforce Park. It identifies the cultural significance for the entire site and makes policy recommendations in regard to the park.

A community consultation meeting was held at the CWA Hall, George Street, Wilberforce on 26 August, 2003.

1.3 Study Team

The study team comprised of Colleen Morris, landscape heritage consultant and team leader, Associate Professor R. Ian Jack, historian and Geoffrey Britton, heritage and design consultant.

1.4 Acknowledgements

Sean Perry, Manager Parks and Recreation, Hawkesbury City Council, and Michelle Nicols, Librarian.

2.0 HISTORY

2.1 The Creation of Wilberforce

2.1.1 Historical Context

Before European settlement, the Hawkesbury River had been a major food resource for the Aboriginal people, principally the Darug. The great waterway not only supplied fish, but its lagoons attracted water-birds and the rich alluvial soils along its banks grew yams and other edible plants. As a result the Hawkesbury Valley, not least the upper river from Castlereagh and Richmond down to Wilberforce and Sackville, was a social focus for the Darug people, on both sides of the river.¹

European occupation of Sydney Cove and Parramatta created instant disruption to the Aboriginal way of life and the need for grain, vegetables, beef, mutton and pork to sustain the young colony drove profound environmental changes. Parramatta was more fertile than Sydney Cove, but demand outstripped production and extension of farming to the Hawkesbury Valley was approved in 1794. The alluvial soils of the Hawkesbury were of exceptional quality for European farming, with the ability to bear regular crops with a minimum of fallowing, but there was a price to pay: the floodwaters which deposited the alluvium from time to time also swept away crops and animals in an irregular and unpredictable pattern.²

The perils of Hawkesbury floods, when the water could rise more than twelve metres very rapidly and inundate huge tracts of land on both sides of the river, were well-known to the Aboriginal people and evidences of flood debris had been observed by Governor Phillip and other early European visitors to the Hawkesbury. The emancipist farmers on the low-lying land on both sides of the river between what became Richmond and Wilberforce endured floods in excess of 12 metres (40 feet) in 1799, 1800, 1806 and twice in 1809. This recent concentration of flood created widespread loss, not only of crops, but also of seed-corn, not only of animals for slaughter but also the bulls, rams and boars on which increase depended. The loss of simple huts and simple household utensils was more easily remedied than the damage to the basic essentials of food-production for the colony.³

This was the position confronting Lachlan Macquarie when he arrived in Sydney on 31 December 1809 as the fifth governor of New South Wales.

2.1.2 The Macquarie Towns

In November and December 1810, Governor Macquarie embarked on an extensive visitation of the lower Nepean and upper Hawkesbury. Macquarie had come to New South Wales with instructions

to lay out townships of a convenient size and extent in such places as you in your discretion shall judge most proper... You are also to cause a proper place in the most convenient part of each township to be marked out for the building of a town sufficient to contain such a number of families as you shall judge proper to settle there...⁴

On 7 November 1809 Macquarie had chosen the site for the township and town of Liverpool, 'with a square in the center thereof, for the purpose of having a church hereafter erected within it'.⁵ In the Hawkesbury, faced with different problems, the governor created five highly distinctive towns. As he explained to the British government on 15 December 1809, on his return from the Hawkesbury, he had

deemed it expedient ... to erect certain townships on the most contiguous and eligible high grounds ... for the purpose of rendering every possible accommodation and security to the settlers whose farms are exposed to the floods.

Each settler will be assigned an allotment of ground for a dwelling-house, offices, garden, corn-yard and stock-yard proportioned to the extent of the farm he holds within the influence of the floods; but it is to be clearly understood that the allotments so given, being intended as places of security for the produce of the lands on the banks of the Hawkesbury or Nepean, cannot be sold or alienated in any manner whatever, but with the farms to which they are from the commencement to be annexed, and they are to be always considered as forming an inseparable part of the said farms.⁶

After inspecting the area where he established the townships of Castlereagh, Richmond, Windsor and Pitt Town, Macquarie crossed the Hawkesbury by the Windsor ferry and rode downstream zigzagging between the riverside farms and those immediately behind, returning by the 'back line' of farms and the common land behind them to the north which Governor King had proclaimed in 1804. There, on Thursday 6 December 1810,

after carefully surveying the different parts of the Common we fixed on a very safe and convenient situation for the town and township in this part of the country.⁷

The approximate position of Wilberforce was fixed on 6 December 1810, but the new town was not laid out until Macquarie's second visit to the area in January 1811. On Friday 11 January, the governor and Surveyor James Meehan crossed the Hawkesbury by a small boat from Blighton (Governor Bligh's model farm near Pitt Town) and rode over to the chosen site for Wilberforce.

Having finally fixed upon the proper ground, and the great square, burying

ground, and principal streets being marked out by the Surveyor with strong posts, the name (Wilberforce) being painted on a board was nailed on a high post and erected in the middle of the large square in presence of a great number of the most respectable settlers in this district.⁸

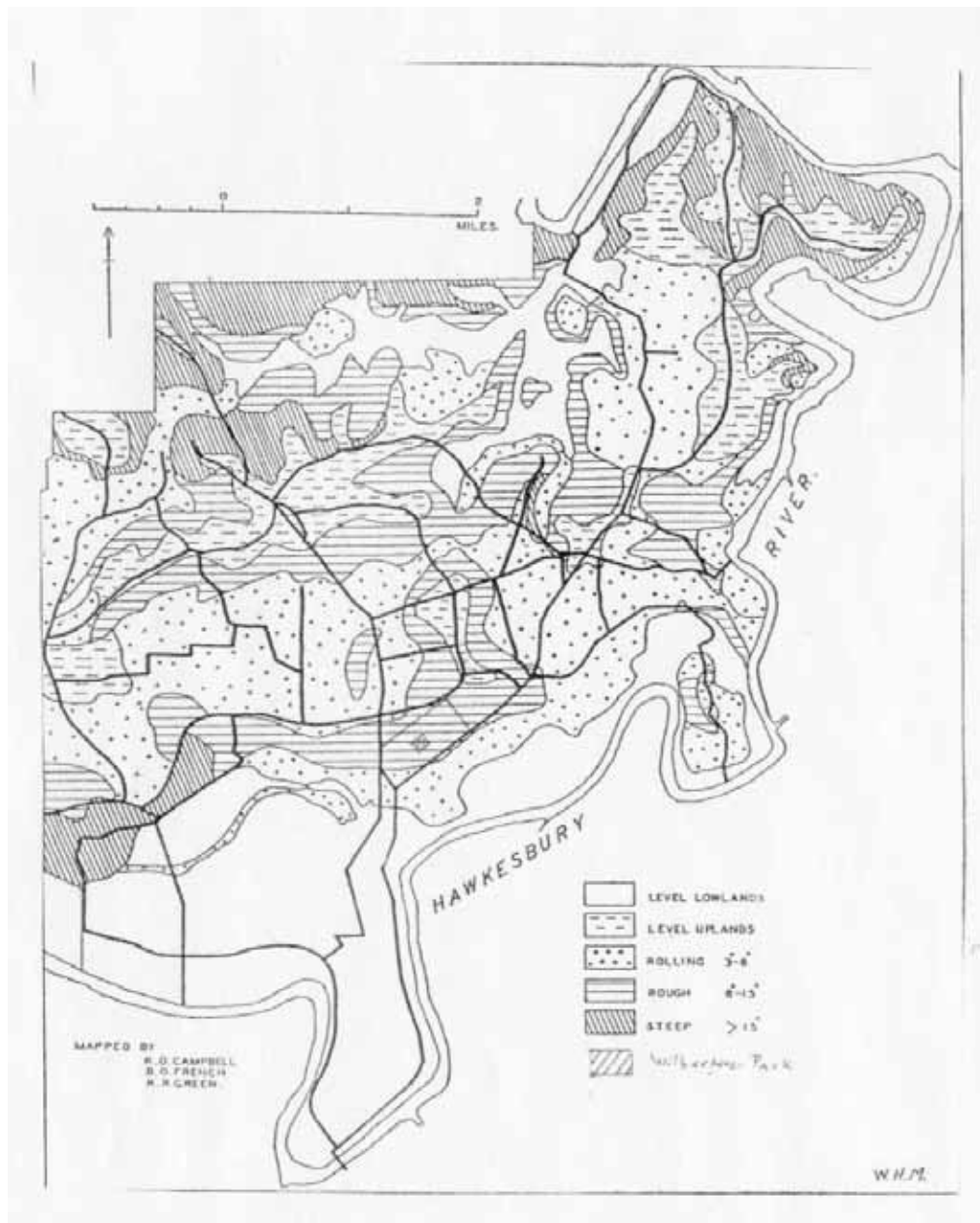


Figure 1: Wilberforce Park marked on the Slope variation map of the Parish of Wilberforce (*The Australian Geographer* 4, 1943, Figure 3)

2.2 The Great Square of Wilberforce

2.2.1 The Placement of the Square within the Town

Macquarie's town, laid out by James Meehan in 1811, was a simple rectangle with fifteen rectangular sections. Each of the three rows of five sections was numbered from the west, beginning with section 1 on the south-west corner and finishing with section 15 at the north-east. The Great Square was in the middle of the symmetrical town, occupying the whole of section 8, with the school, church and parsonage site immediately to the north as section 13. The cemetery, which was a fundamental part of all Macquarie's plans, lay outside the grid, north of the Anglican section 13.⁹

This arrangement, though created by Macquarie himself, was different from the instructions issued by the Governor's Secretary to Meehan on 26 December 1810. Meehan had been told to establish in the centre of each town, except Richmond and Windsor, a central square which was literally square and not rectangular, where the church, schoolhouse, gaol and guard-house could be built. But the governor's authority overrode these instructions at Wilberforce.¹⁰

The location of Wilberforce Square is similarly central in Richmond and Windsor, although its relationship to the Anglican church is unusually distant in Richmond. Because there was an existing focal point in Windsor, where Thompson Square had been central to the pre-existing village of Green Hills, Windsor's square remained only notionally central to a town ambitiously conceived; and by the time that south Windsor was being developed the railway had cut another dividing line across the town close to the Macquarie square.¹¹ Wilberforce, therefore, in its perfection of symmetry and in its relationship between the Great Square and the Anglican enclave, is exceptional among the three surviving Macquarie towns of 1810-1811.

The central square at Wilberforce is also unusual because it occupies a pronouncedly contoured site, sloping quite sharply from the north (the church end) to the south frontage onto George Road.¹² By contrast both Richmond Park and McQuade Park are relatively flat and can accommodate a much wider range of uses than Wilberforce. Moreover, unlike Richmond, which was a market-place and a sports field from early in the nineteenth century, Wilberforce was never designated as anything but a 'reserved square' until 1895, when it was gazetted as a place for public recreation.

The square was surrounded by roads, Macquarie to the north, George to the south, Duke to the west and Church to the east, but for a long time these streets were much more obvious on a map than they were in reality. Both in Felton Mathew's very detailed map of 1833 and in the field book of Surveyor Shone in 1851, it is clear that the connecting track from the Kurrajong road (which runs past the north of the cemetery) south-east past the church and schoolhouse and down to King Road (which led to Ebenezer and North Sackville) wound its way along a natural ridge right through the eastern part of the Great Square and then cut across the allotment in section 3 held by William Green before crossing Church Road, going through William Freeman's land in section 4 and finally joining King Road.¹³ For at least half a century, this informal track, which probably predated the Macquarie town, was the

real thoroughfare in central Wilberforce and it ran on a slight curve down the Square, about two-thirds across to the east.

The informality of the early town was accentuated by the way in which houses encroached on the official streets. Just south of the square, William Gow, the schoolmaster from 1820 to 1842, built a substantial house mostly on the alignment of George Road, and therefore very close to the Square. Similarly Gow's neighbour to the west, John Dunstan, the original lessee of allotment 324, built his house and outbuilding wholly on the street reserve.¹⁴ In the second half of the nineteenth century more attention was paid to the precise boundaries of the town allotments and thoroughfares and by the time of the 1901 town plan the old winding track across the centre of town had disappeared.¹⁵

Four of the five allotments along George Road opposite the Square were occupied by correctly sited houses by 1851, and there was a house at the southern end of the Duke Road frontage by 1833. The northern corner of Duke Road and Macquarie Road was developed in the 1880s by Thomas Reynolds, who built a complex of butcher's shop, holding-pens and slaughter-house which remained a 'conspicuous landmark' in Wilberforce until the 1970s. On the opposite side of the square, across Church Road, section 9 was not developed at all until the entire land tenure of Wilberforce was reformed in 1894 and 57 suburban portions were reoffered for sale.¹⁶

Accordingly, the Square for most of the nineteenth century was anything but hemmed in by housing or commercial premises: conventional cottages were spaced out in George Road, Church Road was vacant, Duke Road had for half a century only one small house and then a larger commercial centre, while to the north there was until the 1860s only the Macquarie schoolhouse and thereafter also the Blacket church.

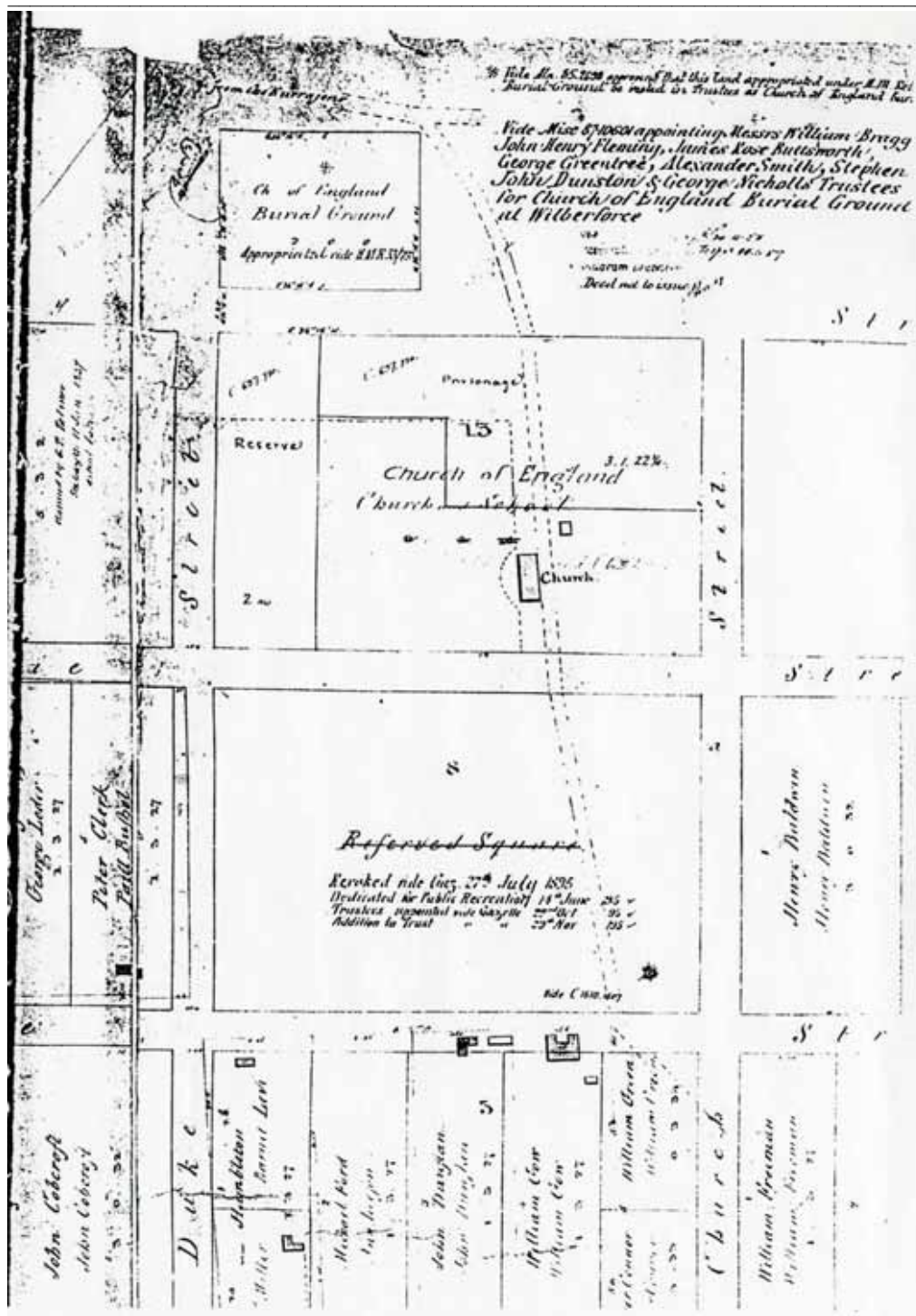


Figure 2: Wilberforce SRNSW AO MAP 5960 1833 (Felton Mathew)

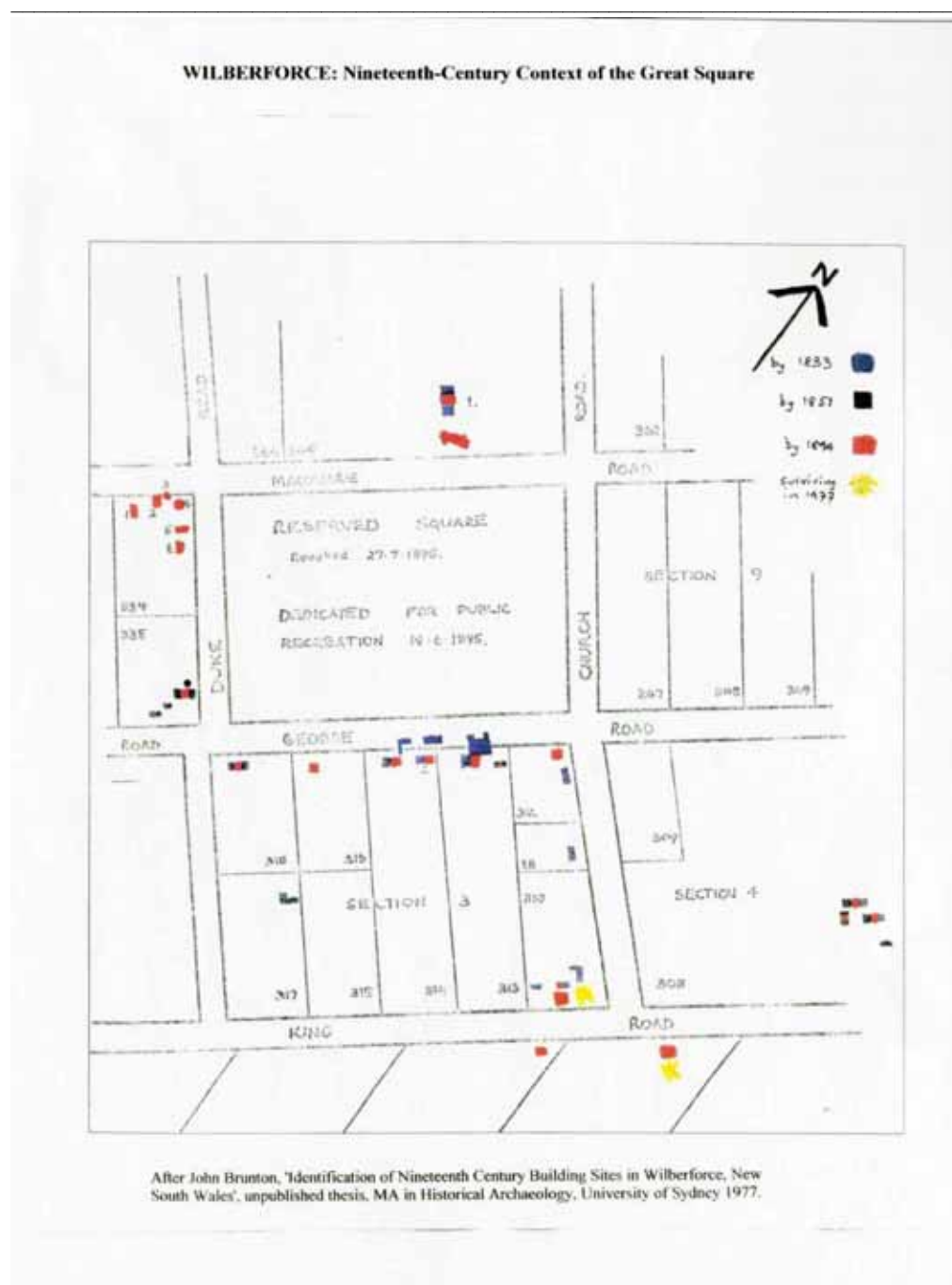


Figure 3

2.2.2 The Use of the Square, 1811 to 1895

Wilberforce Square seems to have remained without development or significant use throughout the nineteenth century. Unlike Richmond, it was not designated as a market-place. Its contours made it difficult to play cricket which was so dominant at the Windsor and Richmond parks from at least the 1830s. Although there was a Wilberforce cricket team, it seems to have used private paddocks for homematches.¹⁷

Its status as a reserved Square did not call for the appointment of trustees until it was gazetted as a public recreation reserve in 1895 and Wilberforce had no local government until Colo Shire was formed in 1906. There was accordingly no formal local control over the reserve and the Department of Lands in Sydney seems to have taken no interest.

Although the Wilberforce area was well farmed, with maize and orchards predominating in the later nineteenth century, the town seemed in 1888

an antiquated old settlement.... The roads in the township are in an exceedingly bad condition, and if the people were alive to their own interest they would lose no time in electing a Progress Committee to see to matters of this kind, to cause defects to be brought under the notice of the proper officers, and to have them remedied with the least possible delay.¹⁸

The contrast between Wilberforce and the two larger Macquarie towns, Windsor and Richmond, which had their own municipal councils by 1872, is striking. The nearest thing to a community organisation had been the committee of twelve residents appointed in 1846 to plan the building of St John's Anglican church. The local newspapers of the last thirty years of the nineteenth century, the *Australian*, the *Hawkesbury Chronicle* and the *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*, reflected the unimportance of Wilberforce by their scanty coverage of its affairs.

As a result there is virtually no documentation about the Square, beyond the knowledge that a traditional track ran from the north-west to the south-east through the reserve from the eighteenth century until the mid- nineteenth century. The detailed footprint maps of the town made in 1833, 1851 and 1894 confirm that there were no buildings of any sort within the reserve, although early houses in George Road came close to the southern boundary. Since so much of Macquarie's Wilberforce was still innocent of houses or other premises, and since more allotments had been opened by an extension to the town to the south-west in 1858-9 there was no pressure on the open space in the middle of the town.¹⁹

There is no specific information about the degree of clearing of trees and scrub in the Square. There had been a suggestion in 1849 by the Anglican Bishop Broughton, supported by some Wilberforce opinion, that the projected Anglican church should be built, not on the church land beside the schoolhouse but in the middle of the Square, 'midway from the bottom of the hill', but this was fortunately not pursued.²⁰

The earliest photograph of this central area of Wilberforce which has been located dates from around 1890, looking south from the church reserve which was located immediately west of the Macquarie schoolhouse, but the image barely shows the

Square. The part of the church reserve in the photograph was, however, clear of vegetation by this time.²¹ It is likely that the Square was similarly cleared or partly cleared, but it is most unlikely that any deliberate plantings were undertaken in the nineteenth century. Because there was no responsible authority, it is unlikely that it was fenced and as a corollary it is likely that local cattle, sheep, horses and pigs, like the animals at Richmond and Windsor, would have entered the reserve for rough grazing, but almost everything about Wilberforce Square in the Victorian period remains speculative.



Figure 4: Wilberforce c.1890 (State Library of Victoria H 18463)

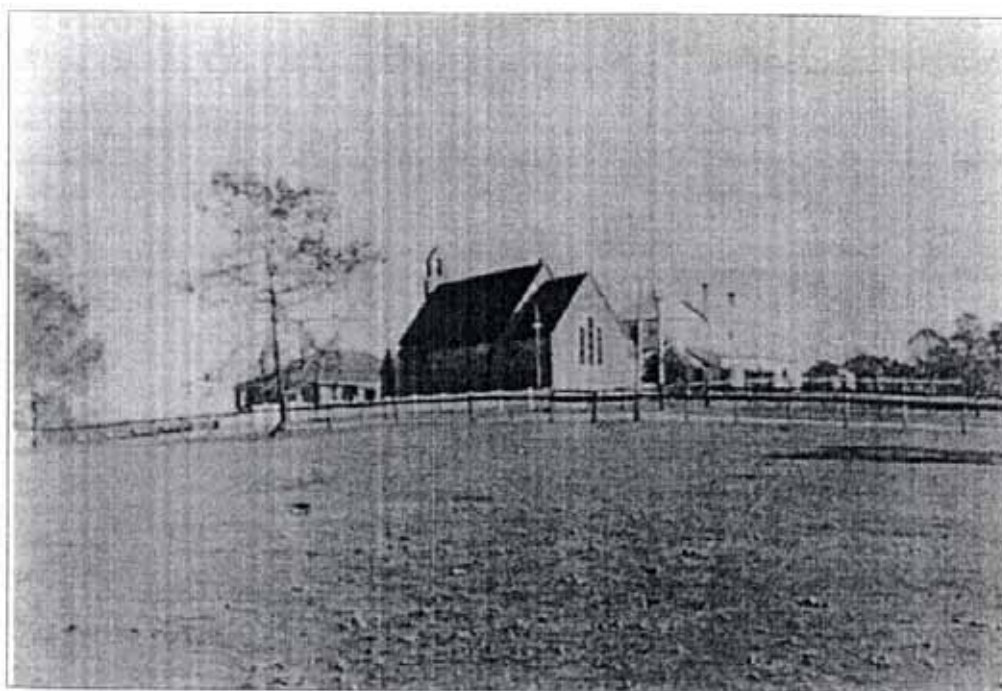


Figure 5: Wilberforce Park, St John's Anglican church and rectory and Macquarie schoolhouse, 1937 Hawkesbury Library, Windsor, photograph 003051. Photographer: Sid Klien.

2.3 A Public Recreation Ground under Trustees

2.3.1 From Reserved Square to Recreation Ground.

Macquarie's Square was reclassified as a Recreation Ground for public use on 14 June 1895. The rectangular area had suffered no encroachments over the previous 84 years, in contrast to Richmond. It was now surveyed as containing 8 acres 3 rods 26 perches (about 3.5 hectares).²²

No practical difference seems to have been visible for many years and the area remained undeveloped and probably unplanted. When William Freame, the chronicler of the Hawkesbury, stood on the entrance porch of St John's Anglican church early in 1904, he commented how

a beautiful view may be seen, overlooking as it does Lower Wilberforce, Pitt Town and the far distant hills out Glenorie way.²³

Tree growth in the Park, which obscures much of this vista today, was not a part of the Edwardian scene in Wilberforce.

2.3.2 The Trustees

Public recreation spaces and parks were normally overseen by trustees, a group of local men appointed by the Department of Lands, since the area remained crown land.

The first four trustees for Wilberforce's new recreation ground were appointed on 22 October 1895. They were Stephen John Dunstan, a member of a large local farming family; Reuben Greentree a member of another prominent farming dynasty at Freemans Reach and Wilberforce; George Nicholls, a local farmer; and Lewis Simpson, the Wilberforce tanner.²⁴

A month later a fifth trustee was appointed, Edward Thomas Bowd, a farmer of notable public spirit, the third generation of his family in Wilberforce and the grandfather of Doug Bowd, the well-known historian of the Hawkesbury.²⁵

2.4 Wilberforce Park under Local Government

2.4.1 Colo Shire, 1906 to 1980

After the passing of the Local Government Act in 1906, consolidating the provisions of the Shires Act of 1905 and the Local Government Extension Act of 1906, a new regime of incorporation for the rural areas of New South Wales (except the far west) was quickly implemented. Unlike municipalities, the shires formed in 1906-7 had no restrictive qualifications of either size or population. As a result the 134 new shires varied enormously, with populations ranging from over 19 000 to a mere 600. Colo was on the medium-small side, with a population in 1910 of 4 000 spread over an area of 3 200 square kilometres. Its annual revenue was some £4 000.²⁶

The Provisional Council of Colo Shire met initially on 13 June 1906: two of the Park Trustees, Dunstan and Bowd, were among the five members. When the first Council was elected in December 1906, E.T. Bowd but not Dunstan was among the six elected.²⁷ The business of the new body was dominated for decades by the maintenance of roads and the administration of the Hawkesbury ferry-boats. Although the Council met in Wilberforce until it finally amalgamated with Windsor Municipality in 1980, Wilberforce affairs figure very small in the Council minutes

The Shire Council, like the municipalities of Richmond and Windsor, had responsibility for parks, but it did not assume the position of a corporate trustee. The Trustees for Wilberforce Recreation Reserve appointed in 1895 appear to have continued in office until death. When Reuben Greentree died in 1923, the Department of Lands nominated a replacement, F.R. Daly, the Wilberforce storekeeper, and sought the approval of Council for the appointment.²⁸

Although the Council did organise the lease and fencing of 'Wilberforce Reserve', this is almost certainly the flood refuge reserve on the east edge of the town and not Wilberforce Park, for which no maintenance is recorded. The Trustees presumably had responsibility for the park, including its fencing, but they did not report to Council and no Trustees' archives are known to exist. The evidence of a photograph demonstrates that the Park was fenced by 1937, with a single-rail wooden barrier, but it is not known when this was erected.²⁹

As a result the contrast between the documentation and development of Richmond Park and Wilberforce Park is striking. There is no equivalent at Wilberforce for the Richmond Pavilion or the fountain or the cricket oval or the planting and maintenance of trees and shrubs: this was not Council's business.

Even the most significant built feature of Wilberforce Park, the World War I Memorial, had nothing to do with Colo Council. Despite the intense patriotism of individual Councillors, not least E.T. Bowd, the Council took no initiatives over the erection of Honour Boards or war memorials in the Shire and in 1 April 1919 even refused to spend any Shire funds of the celebration of peace: the people of each local district were expected to pay.³⁰

2.4.2 The World War I Memorial

2.4.2.1 1918

The fund for the War Memorial was started by a sale of work and a market day at the Australian Hall on 18 May 1918, under the auspices of the Wilberforce and District Patriotic League: the president of the League was Councillor Bowd and Reuben Greentree, another Trustee of the Park, was also prominent. At that stage neither the design nor the placement of the memorial had been decided.³¹

The Shire Council in June 1918 gave permission for the Patriotic League to erect an Honour Roll (a much less expensive enterprise) in Wilberforce, either at the Shire Chambers at the west end of George Road or at the entrance to David Street on the elbow of King Road at the south-west corner of Macquarie's town.³² It seems that this was construed by the local people as sanction for the War Memorial, since there is no record of a separate Honour Roll being erected in Wilberforce in 1918, although such boards did appear in St Albans, Sackville and Riverstone at this time, and plaques to two fallen soldiers had been unveiled in St John's church, Wilberforce in March.³³

The War Memorial at Wilberforce was completed rapidly and was unveiled by the Hawkesbury MLA, R.B. Walker on 12 October 1918. The site chosen was the second of the options already proposed by the Shire Council for the 'Honour Roll', but there is no mention of the Memorial in the Council minutes. The contractor was E.L. Kingsley of Lidcombe and his partner Mr Cook. The monument as erected on King Road is fully described in the Gazette: this information is important when an assessment is made of the consequences of its later re-erection in Wilberforce Park.

Kingsley's War Memorial was constructed on a brick foundation 5 feet deep. A base of sandstone 3 feet square, with two platform steps, stood on these foundations. On this base there was a 'moulded base' with marble tablets on each side, bearing the four inscriptions:

Wilberforce
Freemans Reach
Ebenezer
Erected by the Residents of Wilberforce.

The dye above this base was 2 feet 6 inches high, displaying four marble panels into which the names of the soldiers were cut and leaded. The dye was surmounted by a 'cap'. On the front of this 'cap' there was carved a soldier's cap, along with the Union Jack and the Australian flag. On the other three sides were carved bayonets; an anchor; and a bugle.

Above this again, making a monument 14 feet high, was a sandstone spire 5 foot 6 inches high, displaying a carving of two crossed Lee-Enfield rifles.

The monument was surrounded by a circular iron railing. The contractor announced his intention to put a brick border around the bottom of this railing, using bricks left over from the foundations, although this had not been in the contract.³⁴

2.4.2.2 Re-erection, 1966

In 1966 the World War I Memorial was bodily removed from King Road by the Engineering staff of Colo Council, under the direction of Stan Brown, the Shire Engineer. It was put intact onto a float and driven to its present location at the northern end of the Park.³⁵ The monument was carefully angled to be in alignment with the existing pathway through the Park from the west end of George Road, approached since 1947 by World War II Memorial Gates (discussed in 4.3). The original cast-iron circular fence was also replaced around the monument.

Before its re-siting, the War Memorial had had new plaques added to commemorate those who had served in World War II and after it was in Wilberforce Park further plaques were added in memory of the Korean and Vietnam Wars.

In 1994 Larcombe Pty Ptd, monumental masons of Lidcombe, were paid \$190 to add nineteen marble letters to the War Memorial.³⁶ Exactly what was done at this time requires further investigation.

In 1995-6 renovations were planned to the Memorial by the Hawkesbury City Council, which undertook to wash and repaint the Memorial and to replace a missing iron fence panel, but the RSL still complained later that sand-blasting or water-blasting was necessary before painting was undertaken.³⁷

2.4.3 Fences, paths and the Memorial Gates

Councillor Matheson, President of Colo Shire Council, unveiled gates at the south-east corner of the Park on 19 August 1947 ‘in honour of the men and women of the Wilberforce District who served in the cause of freedom in World War II, 1939-1945’.³⁸ These gates are the entrance to a transverse path, lined with trees now mature, leading up to the present site of the War Memorial.

This pathway is highly visible in the aerial photograph of January 1947, and was already lined with mature trees. It was the determiner of the alignment of both the Memorial Gates and the resited War Memorial and dates from much earlier in the twentieth century. It lines up with the porch of St John’s Anglican church and at the north end met a second, shorter, transverse path running up from the south-east corner of Church and Duke Roads.

Local people today recall how these two paths, creating an asymmetrical triangle in the Park, were used regularly as a short-cut to the Anglican church as well as an entry to the Park. Specific entries were necessary, because the Park was fenced, with a tall, simple picket fence along George Road and, around the other three sides, a single top-rail fence with lines of wire below. It is not known when the fences were installed, but the top-rail fence along Macquarie Road is shown in a 1931 photograph and there are local stories of how children long ago competed to walk along the single rail.³⁹



Figure 6: Aerial photograph January 1947 Run 46 61-147

2.4.4 Proposed Sporting Facilities in the Park, 1946

Colo Shire Council took an interest in Wilberforce Park, just after the end of World War II, because of the enthusiasm of the Shire President, H.C. Matheson, and Councillor Smith for improved sporting facilities. The council summoned a public meeting for 28 August 1946:

to consider the question of improving the present park for sports and recreation or alternatively disposing of the park and acquiring a central site for a new park. Roll up and express your views.⁴⁰

The people of Wilberforce rolled up and showed massive resistance to the thrust of Council's proposal. Unenthusiastic about losing their 'old park', they asked instead for a master plan to determine

the most suitable area for a park, recreation area and swimming pool to meet the needs of the future,

and that that master plan be brought to a Citizens' Committee. This Committee was duly formed and Council nominated Matheson and Smith to be its representatives on the Committee.

There was no doubt where Councillor Smith stood: at the August 1946 meeting of Colo Council he was reported to have said:

Personally, he thought it would be a good suggestion to have a 'bulldozer' level the present park to provide a cricket ground.⁴¹

This major assault on the Macquarie Square was happily averted.

Practice nets for cricket were, however, built in the centre of the Park and are visible in the 1947 aerial photograph as a cleared and levelled area.

Also shown on the 1947 photograph is the tennis court in the south-western sector of the Park, near George Road. This court was made from anthrills and just to the north there was a rectangular shed for tennis players, in which a swagman used to sleep.⁴² Both the cricket nets and the tennis court had been removed by the 1990s.

Toilets which had been erected in 1994 just to the east of the tennis court were progressively vandalised: explosives were put in the cubicles as well as more familiar acts of damaging pipes, doors and roof, not to mention simple arson. As a result Hawkesbury City Council demolished the toilets in 1999.⁴³

At the same time the playground equipment for children was removed. All that remained in the Park in 2000 was the present covered barbecue area on the site of the tennis court.

Now in 2003 there are plans to erect a mini-basketball court, located in a fairly central position in the southern part of the Park near the Duke Road frontage.⁴⁴

2.4.5 The Park in the later Twentieth Century

The presence of the War Memorial has made the Park the focus for ANZAC Day rituals each 25 April. The Country Women's Association has traditionally provided morning tea for participants, using, since 1966, their hall which is conveniently close in George Road.⁴⁵ Year after year 70 chairs and an Australian flag were provided by Council for the ceremony in the Park.⁴⁶

In 1994, during the planning of the Australia Remembers 1945 celebrations the RSL asked Council to plant more shade trees near existing plantings, with each new tree representing a different arm of the services, and additional services were held in the Park on 7 May and 13 August 1995.⁴⁷

The Park was a place essentially for passive recreation and a secure place for local children. The horses which had been on agistment there before World War II were excluded after the war by Colo Council, which seems to have taken over responsibility from the trustees. The park was, and remains, a popular place for weddings and wedding photographs.⁴⁸

Community use seems to have been varied, but never intensive. In 1988, for example the Wilberforce Bicentennial Project was officially opened by Les Sheather, a member of Hawkesbury City Council (which had amalgamated with Colo Shire eight years before). Wilberforce Public School was there in strength. Bicentennial mementoes were distributed and tree-plantings in the Park were an aspect of the Project.⁴⁹

When in 1991 Council proposed to build a new Community Centre and pre-school in the Park, considering it 'the ideal central location', there was a strong adverse reaction from the people of Wilberforce. One indignant local wrote to the Hawkesbury Mayor:

The Park is the only large park in Wilberforce. With the rapid growth in the district in recent times there is very little greenery left in the town. ... The peaceful relaxed open environment which now exists will be replaced with a constant stream of traffic and people.⁵⁰

The idea was dropped, Wilberforce Hall on Windsor Road was finally, and happily, renovated instead and the Park was saved from a major intrusion.

As part of the Hawkesbury's own Bicentennial programme in 1994, trees were planted on various public sites in Windsor, Richmond, Pitt Town and Wilberforce. In Wilberforce, as in Windsor but not in Richmond, the Park was the preferred place for the trees. The trees were paid for by members of old Hawkesbury families to commemorate their antecedents and each tree was marked with a plaque on a small concrete plinth with an angled top. Throughout the district, there was difficulty in keeping the infant plants sufficiently well watered to ensure their survival and Wilberforce Park no longer has all the trees which were planted in 1994. A number

survive in the north-east corner, but only four survive in the south-west on the western side of the path from the Memorial Gates to the War Memorial.

The present position is that the Park is still the object of strong local feeling, although the circumstance of different people and the age of their families colour their perceptions of the best uses for the Park. The Park was gazetted to be managed by Council on 10/7/1959 (R.500399) but remains crown land and the Council is simply 'the corporation managing the land'. The Department of Lands took a keen interest in the proposal for a Community Centre in 1991 and made it clear to the Council that this was an area gazetted still for public recreation. Any substantial change can be made only with the consent of the state Department controlling crown lands and before reaching any decision that department might 'consider it appropriate to undertake a Land Assessment to ascertain this most suitable use of the land'.⁵¹

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⁷ *Macquarie Journals*, 31

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¹⁴ John Brunton, 'Identification of Nineteenth Century Building Sites in Wilberforce, New South Wales', unpublished thesis, MA in Historical Archaeology, University of Sydney 1977, sub 'Section 3'

¹⁵ Map of the Town of Wilberforce, 1901

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- ¹⁶ Land and Property Information, Plan Room, 1610-1507; Brunton, 'Wilberforce'; D.G. Bowd, *A Short History of Wilberforce, the Fifth Macquarie Town*, author, Wilberforce 1960, 12
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- ¹⁸ *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*, 12 October 1888
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- ²⁰ Bowd, *Short History of Wilberforce*, 5
- ²¹ State Library of Victoria, photograph H 18463
- ²² *New South Wales Government Gazette*, 1895, III 3852 (14 June 1895), IV 4838 (27 July 1895)
- ²³ *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*, 20 February 1904,
- ²⁴ *New South Wales Government Gazette*, 1895, V 6836 (22 October 1895). For the identification of the four trustees, see Bowd, *Short History of Wilberforce*, 11 and *Greville's Official Post Office Directory of New South Wales* Sydney 1872, 550-1
- ²⁵ *New South Wales Government Gazette*, 1895, VI 7755 (29 November 1895); D.G. Bowd, *Bowds of Wilberforce*, author, Windsor 1990, 2-8
- ²⁶ F.A. Larcombe, *A History of Local Government in New South Wales, II, The Stabilization of Local Government in New South Wales, 1858-1906*, Sydney University Press, Sydney 1976, 297-9
- ²⁷ Government Record Repository, Kingswood [GRR], Box KL 52258, Colo Shire, Minute-Book of Temporary Council, 1906, p.13; Council Minute-Book, 1906-1910, p.2
- ²⁸ GRR, Box KL 52259, Colo Council Minute-Book, 1921-1924, p.113 no.1391
- ²⁹ Hawkesbury Library, Windsor, photograph 003051
- ³⁰ GRR, Box KL 52259, Colo Council Minute-Book, 1916-1921, p.214
- ³¹ *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*, 24 May 1918, p.5
- ³² GRR, Box KL 52259, Colo Council Minute-Book, 1916-1921, p.160
- ³³ *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*, 1 March 1918, p.4; 9 August 1918, p.1; 27 September 1918, p.2; 11 October 1918, p.1
- ³⁴ *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*, 18 October 1918, pp.1-2
- ³⁵ Information from Stan Brown, 28 August 2003
- ³⁶ Hawkesbury City Council [HCC], file P 703/156 part 2, 16 December 1994
- ³⁷ HCC, file PK/021 part 2, 1995-6
- ³⁸ Inscription on plaque beside memorial gates, Wilberforce Park
- ³⁹ Information from meeting with Wilberforce residents, 28 August 2003; Hawkesbury Library, Windsor, photograph 003051
- ⁴⁰ *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*, 21 August 1946, p.6

⁴¹ *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*, 18 September 1946, p.2

⁴² Information from meeting with Wilberforce residents, 28 August 2003

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⁴⁴ HCC, file PK/021 part 2, plan

⁴⁵ Hawkesbury Library, Windsor, Wilberforce Park file; *Hawkesbury Gazette*, 7 April 1999, p.28

⁴⁶ HCC, file PK/021 part 2

⁴⁷ HCC, file PK/021 part 2, 21 October 1994

⁴⁸ HCC, file PK/021; information from residents, 28 August 2003

⁴⁹ *Official Opening, Wilberforce Bicentennial Initiative Project, 1st September 1988*, brochure

⁵⁰ HCC, file P 703/156 part 1, 9 September 1991

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3.0 ANALYSIS

3.1 Development Chronology (Refer to Plan CA1)

3.2 Vegetation (Refer to Plan CA2)

The park contains mature indigenous eucalypts, one specimen opposite the gate of St John's Church marked the junction of the lines of two paths from the southern corners of the park. The planting at Wilberforce Park is distinctive. Lines of Pines (most likely Stone Pines, *Pinus pinea*) and Bunya Pines (*Araucaria bidwillii*), were planted to form two avenues in the park. A comparison of the 1947 aerial photograph indicate that some plantings of the eastern avenue have since been removed.

Despite the loss of numerous early plantings there remains a substantial and impressive collection of conifers and old Red Gums (*Eucalyptus tereticornis*). Some of these require attention from an arborist to assess their viability and safety. There is root damage near the surface to some trees due to inappropriate mowing regimes.

3.3 Landscape Design (Refer to Plans A1 and A2, CA2 and CA3)

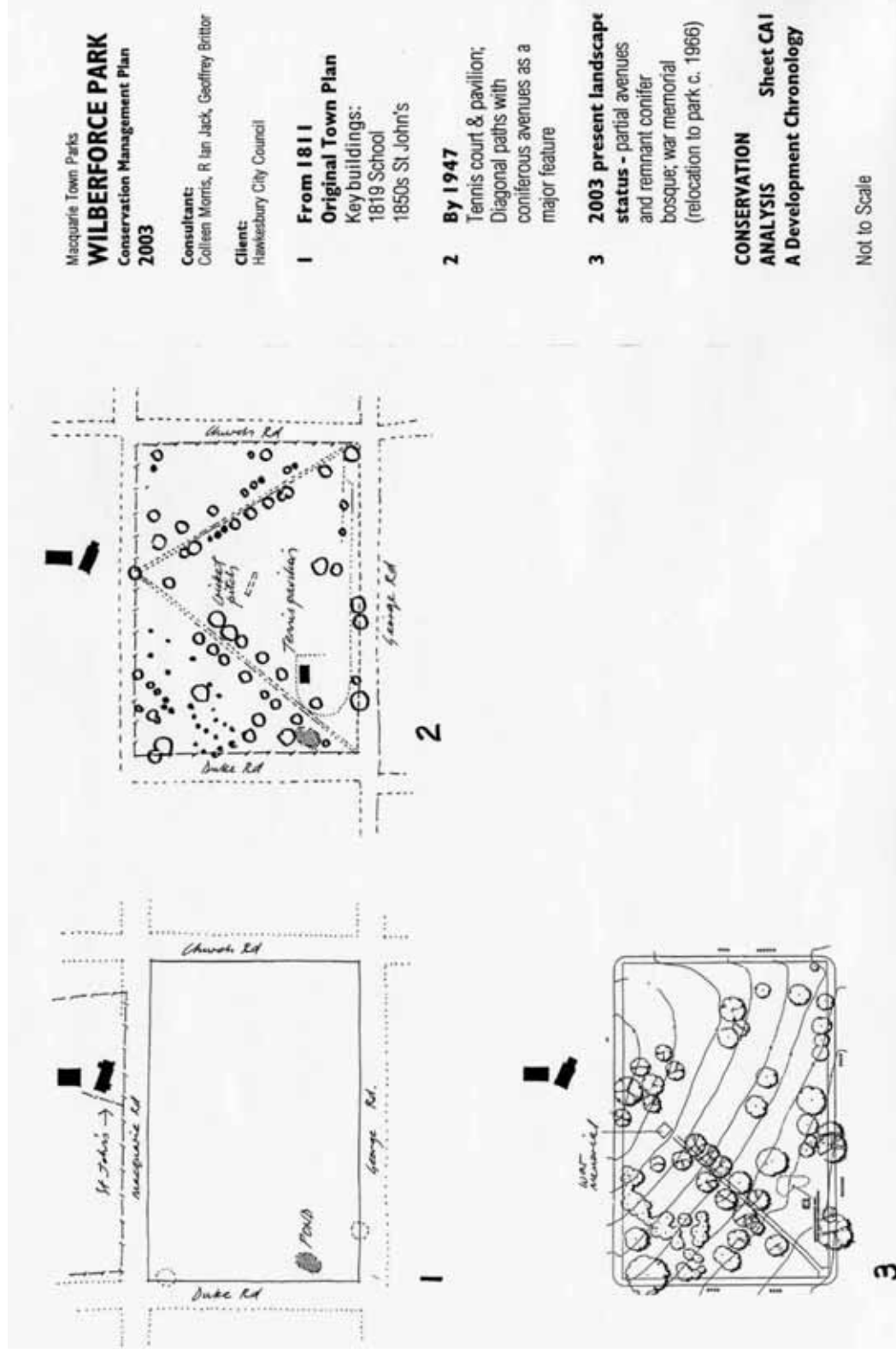
The original extent of the Park as part of the town grid remains intact. This is probably unique of the Macquarie-era plans. There is a lack of definition, however, between the Park and the street grid, which would be resolved with fencing.

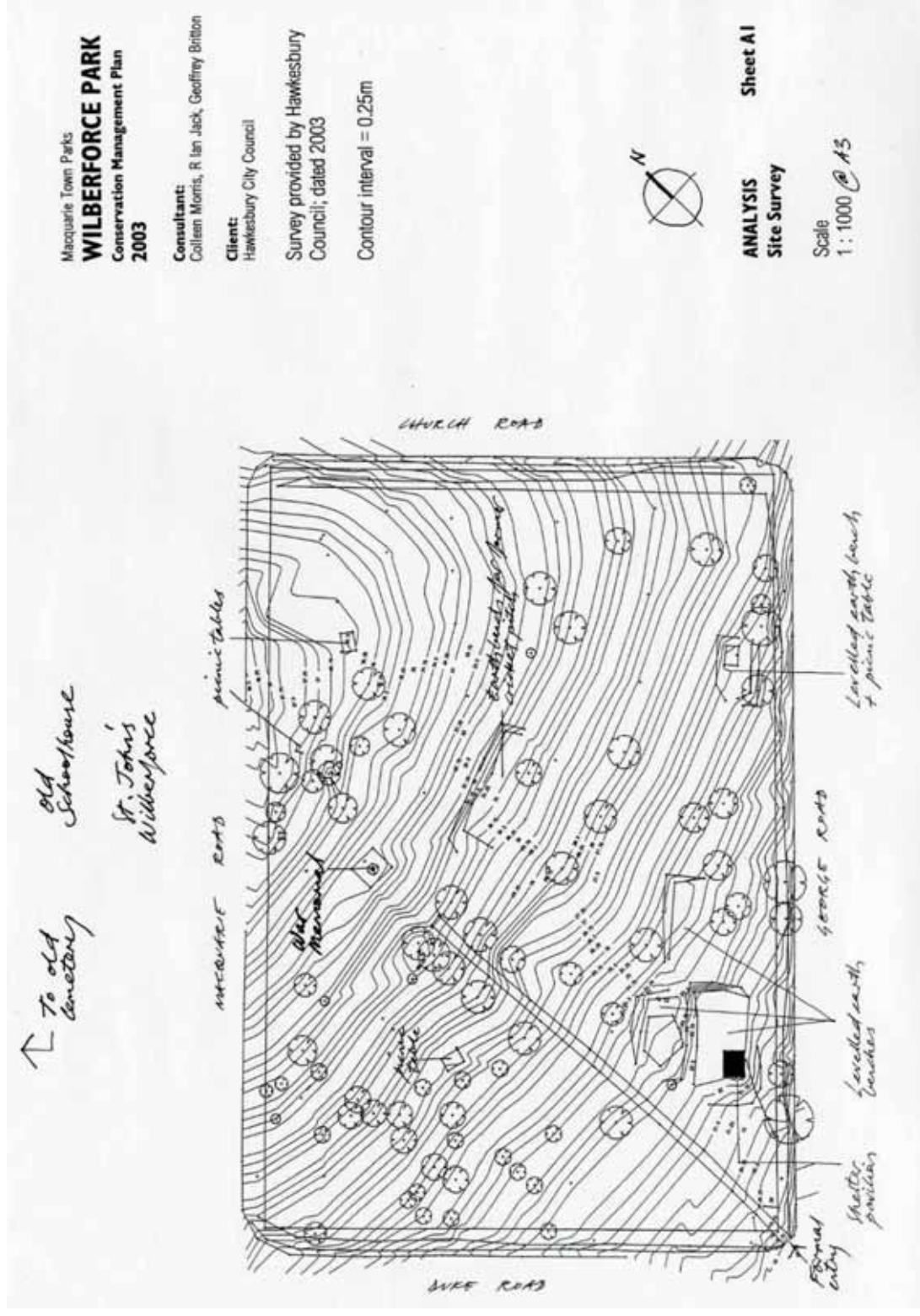
The important relationship between the Park and the Anglican Church/school group is still appreciable. The elevated area of the park near this group would have formerly allowed extensive views to areas beyond Wilberforce but these are not as evident now. Avenue plantings and their alignment created vistas but these have been weakened either by the inappropriate siting of structures or more recent plantings, or by the removal of paths and trees.

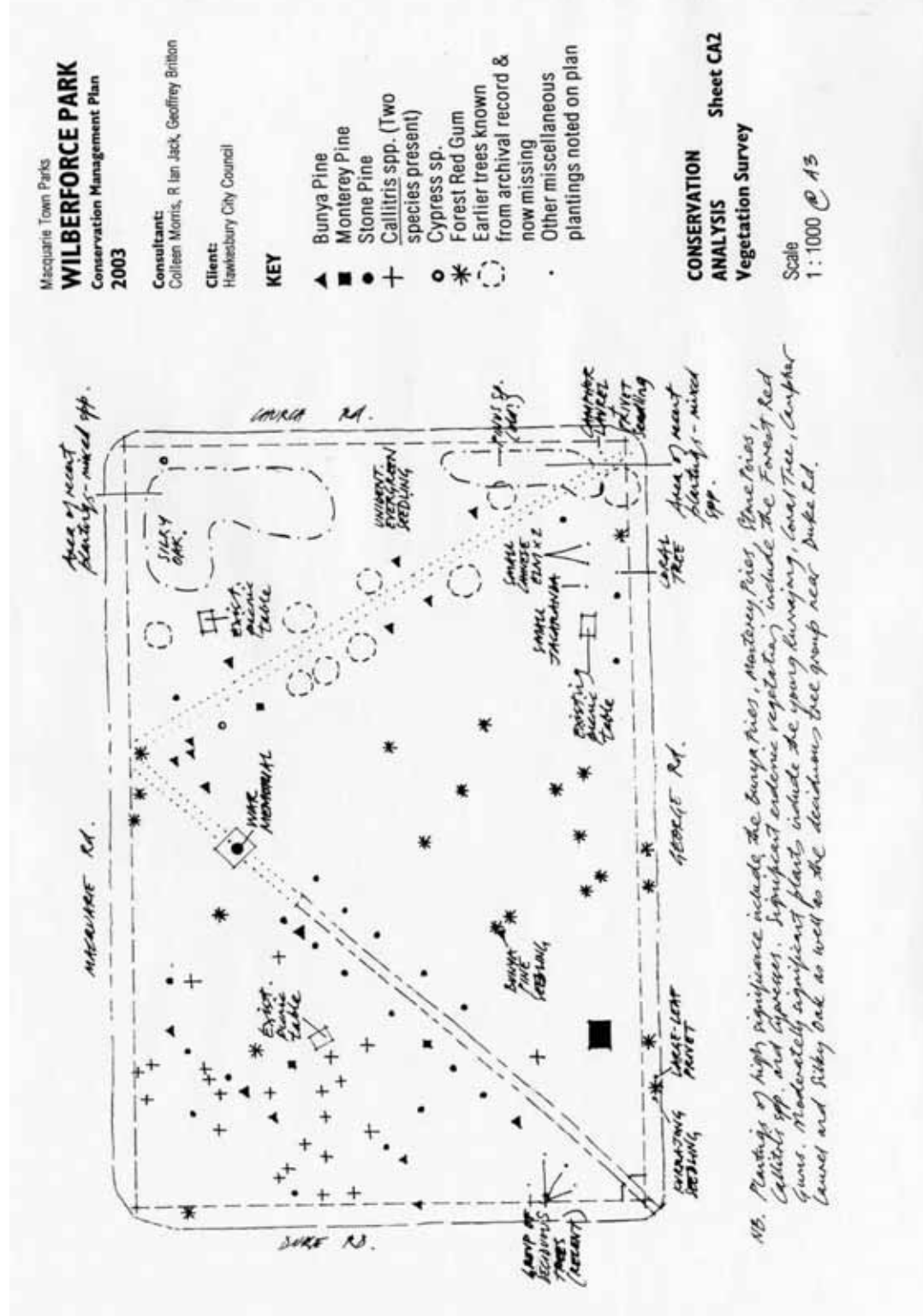
The War Memorial was sited at a prominent point in the park, utilising the alignment of one of the established avenues to create a ceremonial approach to it from the south.

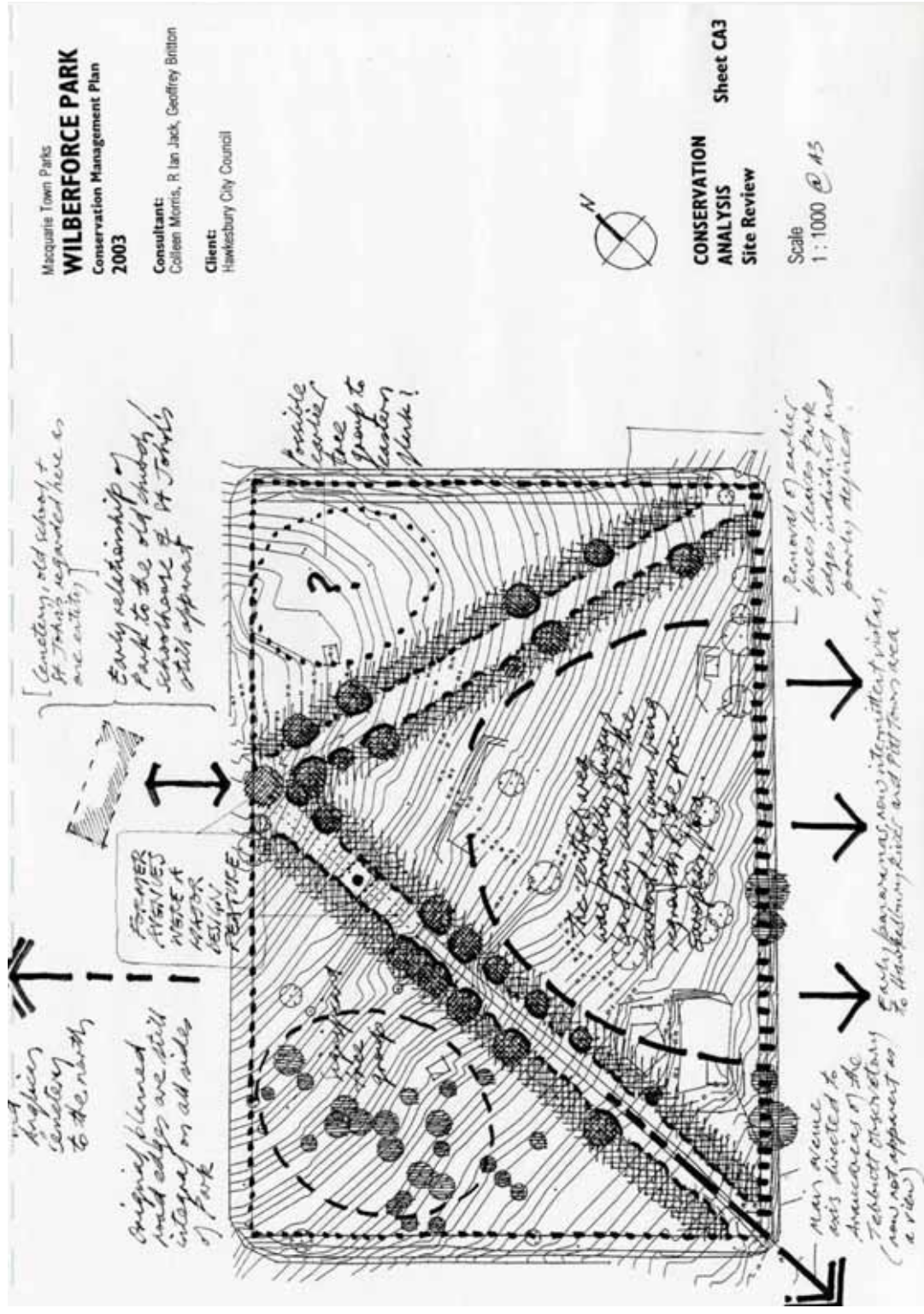
There are various benches cut into the sloping ground marking areas of former structures (tennis court and shed), playground and practice cricket pitch/nets. In 2003 a new shelter pavilion was constructed and replacement play equipment planned to be installed.

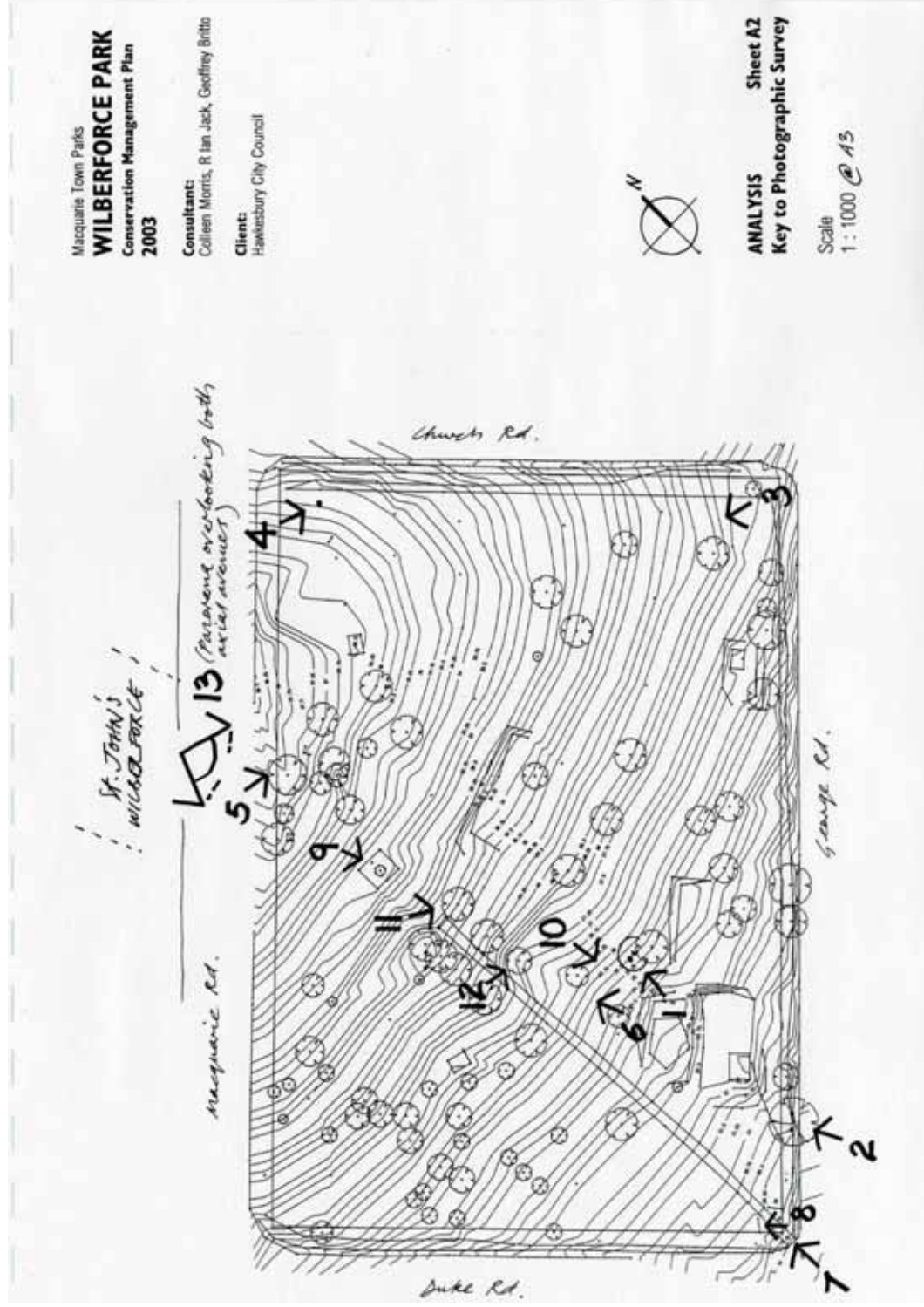
- For its simple rectangular form, which was formerly fenced, occupying a central section within the town for almost 200 years, reflecting principles of eighteenth-century town-planning. Level of significance: High











VIEWS SHOWN ON SHEET A2



Photograph 1
Pair of Forest Red Gums to the immediate east of the recent playground area. An advanced Bunya Pine seedling is challenging the red gum on the left.



Photograph 2
A large Forest Red Gum at George Road (near the corner with Duke Road) has two species growing at its base. To the left is a young Kurrajong and to the right a large leaf Privet. Of these two seedlings the former should remain while the latter (a known nuisance species) should be removed.



Photograph 3

View along the former pathway through the avenue of remnant Bunya Pines on the eastern side of the park looking towards Macquarie Road.



Photograph 4

A *Cupressus* sp. beside Church Road on the northeastern side of the park.



Photograph 5
Reverse view of previous photograph (Photograph 3) looking from Macquarie Road to the corner of George and Church Roads.



Photograph 6
View along existing path and avenue of Stone Pines to the war memorial and St John's, Wilberforce.



Photograph 7
Existing path and gated entry to Wilberforce Park at the corner of Duke and George Roads.



Photograph 8
Detail of memorial plaque at left of gate pier.



Photograph 9
The War Memorial, relocated to the park in 1966.



Photograph 10

Care is needed in the siting of park furniture. Already there is a sense of clutter from the introduction of bins, seats and picnic tables. Bins should be kept near the main entry points to the park close to the roads.



Photograph 11

All of the Stone Pines and some of the red gums have extensive surface roots which are vulnerable to damage from mowers and vehicles.



Photograph 12

A Stone Pine with evidence of insect damage. The remaining mature trees constitute an important town resource and merits appropriate arboricultural attention in order to prolong the viability of the valuable plant collection.

Photograph 13 (See next page)

Panoramic view across upper level of the park from Macquarie Road at the point of convergence of the two avenue axes. The effect of this junction would be more poignant with the re-fencing of the park.

4.0 ASSESSMENT OF CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

4.1 Previous Assessments/Recognition

The War Memorial is listed as a heritage item on the 1989 Local Environmental Plan.

4.2 Assessment of significance using State Heritage Criteria

Criterion (a) An item is important in the course, or pattern, of the cultural or natural history of New South Wales or the local area

The public buildings surviving from Governor Macquarie's transformation of the Australian colony during the 1810s are universally recognised as having the highest heritage significance to the state and the nation. But alongside Hyde Park Barracks, St James' Anglican church in Sydney or St Matthew's Anglican church in Windsor, the parks in the heart of the towns laid out by Macquarie and his surveyors have a comparably high significance.

The park reserves which occupy a central section within Richmond, Windsor and Wilberforce still after almost 200 years reflect principles of eighteenth-century town-planning, the earliest exemplars in Australia outside Sydney and Parramatta. The park at Wilberforce is the only one in the state which still occupies precisely the same area defined by Governor Macquarie in 1810-1, since Richmond Park has forfeited part of its land to law and order and other public uses and McQuade Park at Windsor has changed quite radically in shape over the years.

Unlike the other two parks, moreover, Wilberforce Park has remained a space for passive recreation and has never developed sporting facilities, retaining to a unique degree its simple character as an essential breathing space in the midst of a nineteenth-century urban design.

Immediately south of the Macquarie Schoolhouse and the later Blacket Anglican church, Wilberforce Park has significance as a link between the fertile river flats where the principal farms were situated and the main centres for education, worship, burial, commemoration and public assembly up on the hill. The important plantings in the Park, flanking the two transverse pathways which reflected this thoroughfare, and the war memorials of the twentieth century, relating to the church, the tracks and the people, reflect the centrality of the Park in the history of the town.

Wilberforce Park has very high state significance.

Level of significance: State

Inclusion guidelines satisfied: shows evidence of significant human activities
is associated with a significant historical phase
maintains the continuity of a historical process and activity

Criterion (b) An item has strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in the cultural or natural history of New South Wales or the local area.

The establishment in 1810-1 of five Hawkesbury towns by Governor Macquarie on sites and to plans carefully selected by the governor himself constitutes a watershed in the development of rural New South Wales. The substantial block of land set aside in each town as public reserve remaining in crown hands, not available for housing, is a cardinal feature of these towns.

The park at Wilberforce is the only one in the state which still occupies precisely the same area defined by Governor Macquarie in 1810-1.

Level of significance: State for Macquarie

Inclusion guidelines satisfied: is associated with a significant person and group of persons

Criterion (c) An item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in New South Wales or the local area.

Wilberforce Park, its simple rectangular form occupying a central section within the town for almost 200 years, reflects principles of eighteenth-century town-planning, and is one of the earliest exemplars of its type in Australia, outside Sydney and Parramatta.

Its collection of Bunya Pines, Stone Pines, *Callitris* sp., planted in a distinctive linear arrangement, together with specimens of indigenous eucalypts *Eucalyptus tereticornis* form a landmark in the local area. The placement of the War Memorial at a high point in the park within the avenue alignment accentuates the formality of the conifer avenue.

Views from the high points in the park toward the other Macquarie settlements of Windsor and Pitt Town and the relationship of the park with the Anglican church, contribute to its aesthetic appeal.

Level of significance: State

Inclusion guidelines satisfied: Has landmark qualities

Exemplifies a particular taste, style or technology

Criterion (d) An item has strong or special association with a particular or cultural group in New South Wales or the local area for social, cultural or spiritual reasons

Wilberforce Park is highly valued by the local community for its historical associations and as a place of passive recreation and commemoration.

Level of significance: Local

Inclusion guidelines satisfied: is important for its associations with an identifiable group

Criterion (f) An item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of the cultural or natural history of New South Wales or the local area

Wilberforce Park is an extremely rare example of the town planning of Governor Macquarie. McQuade Park in Windsor and Richmond Park are the only other surviving central urban reserves personally laid out by Macquarie.

Level of significance: State

Inclusion guidelines satisfied: is extremely rare

4.3 Summary Statement of Significance

Wilberforce Park is of cultural significance at a State level as an extremely rare example of the town planning of Governor Macquarie. Wilberforce Park, its simple rectangular form occupying a central section within the town for almost 200 years, reflects principles of eighteenth-century town-planning, and is one of the earliest exemplars of its type in Australia, outside Sydney and Parramatta. The park at Wilberforce is the only one in the state, which still occupies precisely the same area defined by Governor Macquarie in 1810-1 and retains, to a unique degree, its simple character as an essential breathing space in the midst of a nineteenth-century urban design.

Its collection of remnant indigenous eucalypts and Bunya Pines, Stone Pines, Callistris sp. and the placement of the War Memorial at a high point in the park within the avenue alignment accentuating the formality of the conifer avenue, form a landmark in the local area. Wilberforce Park is highly valued by the local community for its historical associations and as a place of passive recreation and commemoration.

5.0 MANAGEMENT ISSUES (Refer to Sheets A3 and A4)

5.1 Obligations arising from cultural significance

The assessment of significance (section 4.0), particularly as summarised in the Statement of Cultural Significance (section 4.3), provides a major input into the development of the Conservation Policy for Wilberforce Park. In particular, the significance provides several obligations that must be addressed in the Conservation Policy (section 6.0). In summary:

- Most of these relate to the layout associated with Governor Macquarie and the early decades of the nineteenth century to the present;
- Most relate to the overall development of the landscape;
- Some are continuous, especially on-going patterns of use;
- Some are isolated and relate to individual items (especially hard landscape features, such as the War Memorial)

The translation of the Statement of Cultural Significance into tangible opportunities and constraints includes the following:

- Recognition of the high cultural significance for the State of NSW as well as for the Hawkesbury local area as a major determinant in future development of the place;
- Retention of the long-established use as a town park, especially in light of the evolving nature of this use to reflect wider social and aesthetic concerns, and recognition of this as the main determinant in management and future development of the place;
- Acknowledgment that rankings of significance will form the basis for any conservation actions or future developments; and

Opportunities, constraints, and issues arising from significance elements of Wilberforce Park are summarised:

- Retention of the park for principally passive recreation
- War Memorial
- Significant Trees – some require arboricultural attention to assess viability and safety and others have root damage to the surface.
- The strong simple geometry in the park's design
-

5.2 Ownership and Management

Wilberforce Park is Crown Land with Hawkesbury City Council as Trustees and Managers. Under the NSW Crown Lands Act (1989), Section 11 Principles of Crown land management states:

For the purposes of this Act, the principles of Crown land management are:

-
- (a) that environmental protection principles be observed in relation to the management and administration of Crown land,*
- (b) that the natural resources of Crown land (including water, soil, flora, fauna and scenic quality) be conserved wherever possible,*
- (c) that public use and enjoyment of appropriate Crown land be encouraged,*
- (d) that, where appropriate, multiple use of Crown land be encouraged,*
- (e) that, where appropriate, Crown land should be used and managed in such a way that both the land and its resources are sustained in perpetuity, and*
- (f) that Crown land be occupied, used, sold, leased, licensed or otherwise dealt with in the best interests of the State consistent with the above principles.*

Hawkesbury City Council adopted a 'Parks, Draft Generic Plan of Management' for all of its parks in May 2003. Council more recently approved a DA for a mini-basketball court for Wilberforce Park but its construction is not considered compatible with the significance of the park by this Conservation Management Plan.

5.3 Community Needs and Aspirations

A community consultation workshop was held at the CWA Hall, Wilberforce on 26 August 2003. There was consensus on a number of issues, particularly the need for the park to be fenced and drinking water, and the importance of the history of the park while there was no consensus on the role of sport in the park, with some members of the community preferring to see sport in the park reduced and others wanting the park to be developed with a mini -basketball court and skateboard ramp.

Some suggestions such as the provision of barbeques and picnic shelters have the potential to be successfully integrated in the park, and the upgrading of tables, seating and bins are compatible with the significance of the park.

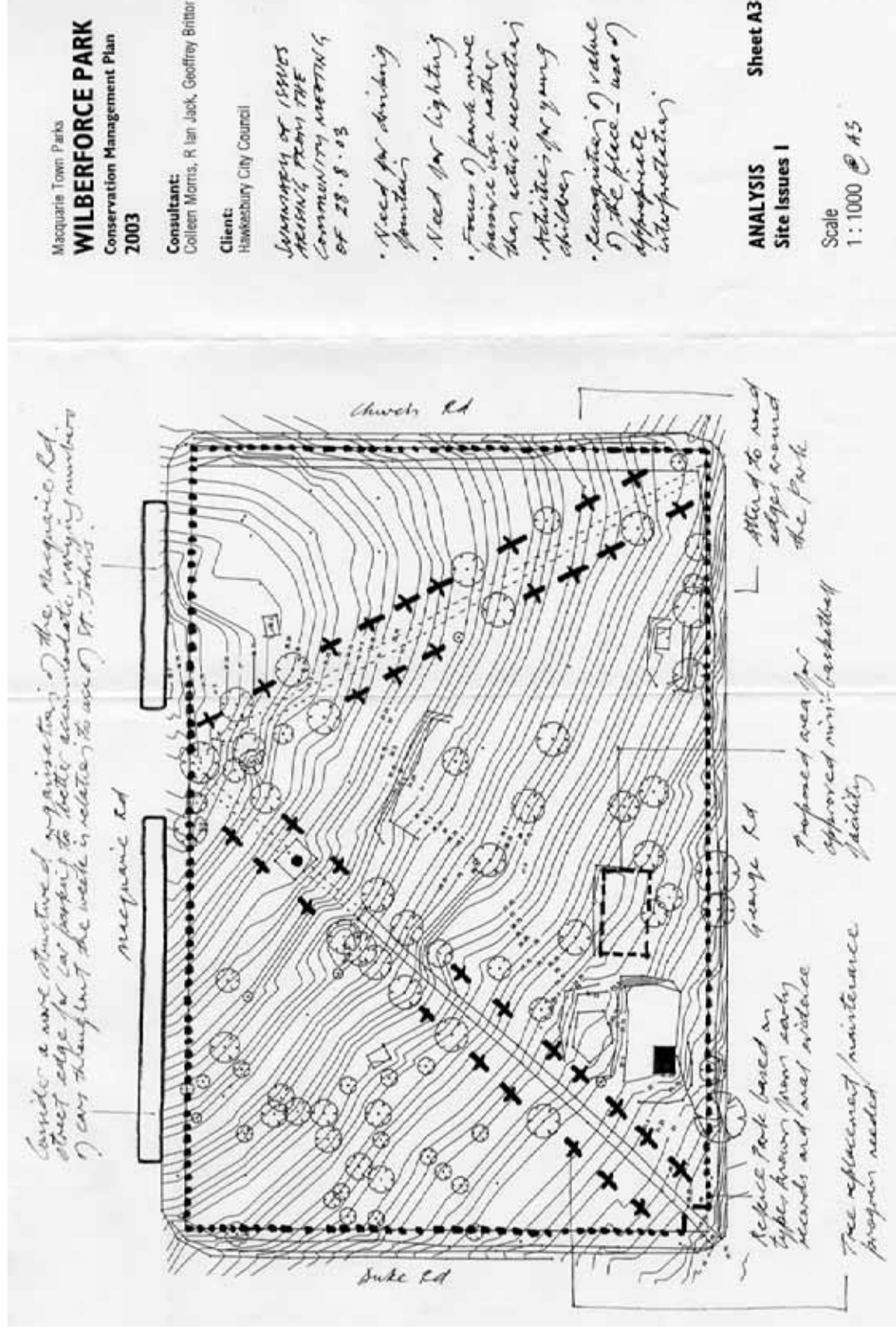
The issues can be summarised:

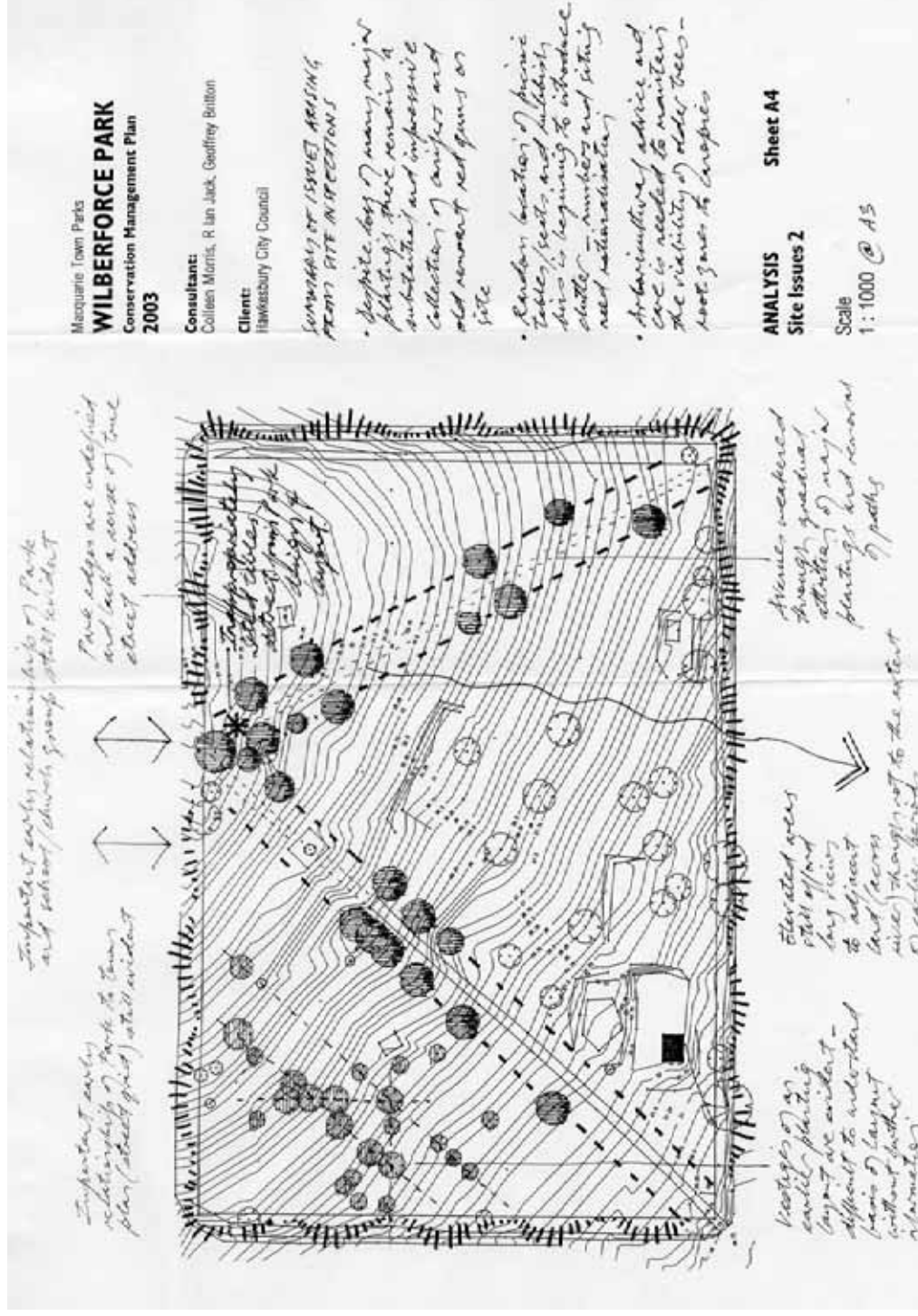
- Wilberforce Park should be re-fenced as much to stop vehicular access as to recover a sense of address within the town plan.
- Water – drinking fountain; (irrigation ?)
- Value of the place needs to be recognised – its importance as a Macquarie-instigated park within the original town plan. This special status seems somewhat at odds with its perceived low key appearance.
- Need for lighting

-
- Active recreational facilities mentioned but these were not wholly supported – they raised conflicts of use and neighbour address. It would be better to site these facilities elsewhere if possible.

There was a clear message from many at the meeting that the Park should remain a passive open space – this quality is valued.

- Traffic calming needed in adjoining streets (especially George Rd) for those attempting to access the park.
- Smaller kids need appropriate facilities such as a playground and a an area for tricycles– this would be consistent with the desired nature of the place.
- Tree replacement program/maintenance program required
- The need for a toilet block was highlighted –although toilet blocks contribute to security problems (Consider a temporary porta-loo?)
- Interpretation of the park’s significance needed
- More structured organization of parking to Macquarie Rd adjacent to St. John’s.
- Edge treatment of roads surrounding the park – grade edges.





6.0 CONSERVATION POLICY (Refer to Sheet P 1)

6.1 Basis of Approach

Together with the statement of significance for this report an important basis of approach for this Conservation Policy is the set of definitions, principles, processes and practices contained in the Australia ICOMOS Charter for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Significance (the Burra Charter) as well as the three guideline documents supporting the Charter.

6.2 Terms

Throughout this Policy various terms have been used with particular meanings and these are defined below. The definitions come from the Burra Charter.

Place means site, area, building or other work, group of buildings or works together with associated contents and surrounds.

Cultural significance means aesthetic, historic, scientific or social value for past, present or future generations.

Fabric means all the physical material of the place.

Conservation means all the processes of looking after a place so as to retain its cultural significance. It includes maintenance and may, according to circumstance, include preservation, restoration, reconstruction and adaptation and will be commonly a combination of more than one of these.

Maintenance means the continuous protective care of the fabric, contents and setting of a place, and is to be distinguished from repair. Repair involves restoration and reconstruction and it should be treated accordingly.

Preservation means maintaining the fabric of a place in its existing state and retarding deterioration.

Restoration means returning the EXISTING fabric of a place to a known earlier state by removing accretions or by reassembling existing components without the introduction of new material.

Reconstruction means returning a place as nearly as possible to a known earlier state and is distinguished by the introduction of materials (new or old) into the fabric. This is not to be confused with either *recreation* or *conjectural reconstruction* which are outside the scope of this Charter.

Adaptation means modifying a place to suit proposed compatible uses.

Compatible use means a use which involves no change to the culturally significant fabric, changes which are substantially reversible, or changes which require a minimal impact.

6.3 Conservation Treatments Arising from Significance

For each of the levels of significance stated in **Section 3** there is a consequential conservation action. The following schedule indicates the appropriate conservation action:

LEVELS OF SIGNIFICANCE	ACTION
EXCEPTIONAL	Retention and conservation is essential
HIGH	Retention and conservation is required
MODERATE	Preferably retain and conserve; may be altered or relocated
LITTLE	Retention is discretionary. May be removed or altered to augment significance
INTRUSIVE	Remove

6.4 General Policy

Maintain Wilberforce Park as a community park, freely accessible to, and for the continuing enjoyment of, the general public consistent with its high cultural value as the Macquarie-planned public reserve for the township of Wilberforce, public safety considerations and with reference to the following policies.

6.5 Setting and Layout (Refer to Sheet P1)

6.5.1 Landscape Character

A1

Conserve the integrity of Wilberforce Park as a key component of the Macquarie-planned town of Wilberforce.

A2

*Ensure the retention and maintenance of the traditional character of Wilberforce Park comprising its simple rectangular form adorned with avenue plantings and specimens of *Eucalyptus tereticornis* occupying a central section within the town.*

6.5.2 Landscape Design

B1

Improve the legibility of the edges and entrances to the park through the reinstatement of fencing and gates to the park. (Refer Plan P1)

Fence the whole perimeter of the Park with a timber arriss toprail and post fence based on details known from photographic and oral accounts of the former fence. Consider a simple tall picket fence to George Road if funding is available.

B2

Reinstate and replant where necessary the two diagonal avenues using similar spp. and ensure ongoing maintenance.

Supplement the existing avenue and reinstate the former avenue using preferably, Stone Pines and Bunya Pines. Other pines such as Maritime Pine, Aleppo Pine or Hoop Pine may be suitable.

Relocate the picnic table currently placed in the line of the eastern avenue and remove or transplant more recent plantings that intrude on this alignment.

B3

Avoid introducing permanent monuments, memorials or artworks within Wilberforce Park that have no direct, compelling relevance to the site.

B4

Remove or modify intrusive elements or elements which detract from the significance of the site.

Remove bins, tables etc which are in inappropriate locations

6.5.3 Paths

C 1

Reinstate the known, early paths in the park using a method consistent with the importance of the Park as a 19th/early 20th century park.

Paths should not be constructed from interlocking paving bricks or pavers. Use *preferably*, a path of consolidated crushed dolerite (eg. supplied by Australian Native Landscapes). If a more heavy duty surface is required, concrete with specially selected aggregate (as has been used for the new connecting road between Ruse and Alice Streets, Harris Park near Experiment Farm Cottage) or asphalt could be used but these more heavy duty surfaces would need to be installed with care to maintain the essentially rural character of the park.

C 2

Pathway entrances to the park should be designed to a standard suitable for wheelchair access.

C3

Consider re-paving around the War Memorial with larger scale pavers and integrating better with the main axial pathway.

6.6 Tree Replacement

D1

Initiate a tree replacement plan based on the evidence of the early planting layout tempered by species known to be successful.

Consider replanting lines of conifers (not using cultivar forms) eg. replace Callitris, to interpret the earlier design and provide more shade. Do not replace Camphor Laurel trees of moderate cultural significance, that are now considered potential weed species, when they senesce.

D2

Consider engaging an arborist to provide advice on the trees.

D3

Any work proposed in close proximity to a significant tree should be carried out in consultation with an experienced and qualified arborist.

6.7 Interpretation

The most effective means for the park to be appreciated and interpreted as park established during the 19th century is to conserve significant items within the park and maintain its use for recreation and community activities.

E1

Ensure the photographs, histories and plans pertaining to Wilberforce Park are catalogued and made available in the Local Studies section of the Hawkesbury City Council Library

E2

Interpretation of the park's history using signage or installations should be sympathetic to the context of the park and subservient to the cultural significance of the place

Recovering and enhancing the significance of the Park is the most effective means of interpreting its history. Installation of a sign designed to an appropriately high standard, with the Park's name is recommended. Consider including a brief statement of the park's historical significance.

6.8 Use

F1

Maintain the predominantly passive recreational use.

Recreational facilities should remain 'low-key' with facilities for small children only with no 'active' structures or surfaces. This could include children's play equipment and small paved area for tricycles etc using the existing benches and around trees near the shelter pavilion.

A mini-basketball court is considered inappropriate in Wilberforce Park. It is recommended that Council consider locating a basketball court in nearby Copeland Reserve at its western end.

F2

Provide adequate seating and picnicking facilities within the park

If picnic tables and chairs are upgraded, disabled access should be considered in the choice of design.

Consider providing an additional shelter in the park within an existing bench in the south east section of the park.

Consider providing a drinking fountain in the Park.

Provide well designed rubbish bins at only the entry/exit points of the Park.

F3

Consider more formal car parking on the northern side of the park.

Parking is recommended to be angled or rear to the kerb on the northern, Macquarie Road side only, with islands of endemic grasses. There should be no concrete kerb and gutters constructed.

6.9 Management

G1

Nominate Wilberforce Park for State Heritage Register listing

G2

Continue to manage Wilberforce Park under the provisions of the Crown Lands Act, 1989 with Hawkesbury City Council as Trustees.

Consistent with the objectives of this Act retain and conserve Wilberforce Park on the basis of the definitions, principles, processes and practices contained in the Australia ICOMOS Charter for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Significance (The Burra Charter) as well as the three guideline documents supporting the Charter.

G3

There should be no subdivision of the park or excisions from or alienation of parts of the park.

G4

Maintain an ongoing documentation system for recording any changes to plantings, layout or materials within Wilberforce Park as part of its management.

G5

Continue to provide for the ongoing security of the place.

Install lighting in strategic locations in the Park to assist in providing security at night.

6.10 Future Developments

H1

Future development should be consistent with the significance and passive recreational character of the Park.

H2

Ensure edges to the Park/road interface remain rural in character.

There should be no concrete kerb and gutters constructed.

H3

Consider traffic calming measure for George Road.

H 4

New design for replacement structures should be of an appropriately high standard sympathetic to the context and subservient to the cultural significance of the place.

6.11 Maintenance

I 1

Remove weeds within the Park on a regular basis

I 2

Raise mower height around the root zones of trees to avoid damage to the root systems.

