

Item name: Newcastle East Heritage Conservation Area**Location:** Newcastle**Address:****Planning:** Hunter & Central Coast**Suburb/nearest town:** Newcastle East 2300**Local govt area:** Newcastle**Parish:****State:** NSW**County:****Other/former names:****Area/group/complex:** Nobbys Head, Fort Scratchley**Group ID:****Aboriginal area:****Curtilage/boundary:** Shown by a heavy black broken line and marked 'Newcastle East Heritage Conservation Area'**Item type:** Complex / Group**Group:** Landscape - Cultural**Category:** Historic Landscape**Owner:** Multiple Owners**Admin codes:****Code 2:****Code 3:****Current use:****Former uses:****Assessed significance:** State**Endorsed significance:** Local

Statement of significance: The Newcastle East Heritage Conservation Area is highly significant as a historic landscape that provides a record of the interaction between the natural environment, including the harbour and the sea, and human settlement. It contains important evidence of Aboriginal life in Newcastle East, uncovered during excavations at the Convict Lumber Yard (CLY) and historical archaeological sites. This evidence allows archaeologist to understand the human and environmental history of the precinct. Throughout its European history the area has been shaped by different activities including being the second penal settlement on the mainland after Sydney (from 1801), the site of the processing and shipping of cedar and coal (CLY), having an important coastal defence installation (Fort Scratchley Historic site), the Nobbys lighthouse and breakwater important to the story of shipping, through to the generation of electricity. The residential area is significant for its consistent streetscapes of two and three storey terrace housing dating from the mid-19th through to early 20th centuries and its housing for workers. There are also examples of single storey detached houses. The social history of Newcastle East is derived from it being the site of early conservation battles in the 1970s, between developers and conservationist and there are rows of public housing that make this place a community and home for many. It is also an important place of recreation at facilities like the Ocean Baths, Nobbys Beach, and Foreshore Park.

Item name: Newcastle East Heritage Conservation Area

Location: Newcastle

Historical notes of provenance: Newcastle East is directly associated with the European discovery of the Hunter River. The southern shore was owned by the Awabakal clan who are depicted in many paintings of the early contact period, while on the northern shore the Worimi lived. Lieutenant John Shortland camped near the location of the present day public housing apartments on Fort Drive (designed by Brian Suters). Shortland found coal at Flagstaff Hill (now Fort Scratchley), a momentous and significant historical event. A settlement was established in 1801 to mine coal from the cliffs and beneath Flagstaff Hill, but a permanent settlement was established in 1804. This settlement was primarily a penal outpost, the first such outpost on the Mainland and many of the Vinegar Hill rebels were sent here. The settlement consisted of a military establishment, gaol, coal mine beneath the Fort, and buildings in Newcastle east. After the transfer of the penal settlement to Port Macquarie in 1822, Surveyor General Henry Dangar was sent to resurvey the city and provide amore logical town plan. When he did this he changed the street alignment, somewhat just north east of the original. He designated all of the land east of Pacific Street for public uses. The "Plan of Allotments in King's Town 1828", shows Newcastle East as open land with the gaol on the site of what is now an apartment building and public park. A plan of post 1830 shows the hospital at the base of King Street and salt works were at the eastern extremity of Scott Street. Newcastle East was known to the penal colony as "the Sand hills" due to the presence of problematic sand drift across it and this is thought to have influenced Dangar's decision making when he re-planned the town. Over the years the area has progressively become residential in nature, however throughout the 19th and into the 20th century, there were many industries and commercial activities here, including the Zaara Street Power Station (demolished c1975) in the Foreshore Park, and bond stores, two of which survive. Land subdivision first extended beyond Pacific Street in 1848 and 48 blocks were sold in the vicinity of Parnell, Stevenson Place, Zaara, Scott and Telford Streets. The construction stone for the breakwater was laid by Governor Macquarie in 1818 but construction had commenced some 5 years before. The Pilot Station and Stone Boat Harbour date from 1866. In the 1850s the Government made plans to remove Nobbys by explosives and certainly the convicts prepared chambers into the side of the Nobbys for this purpose. The plan would ultimately fail however due to an outcry from local residents who were opposed to the loss of their Island in the harbour.

Themes:	National theme	State theme	Local theme
	4. Settlement	Towns, suburbs and villages	
	2. Peopling	Convict	
	1. Environment	Environment - naturally evolved	
	8. Culture	Creative endeavour	

Designer:

Builder:

Year started:

Year completed:

Circa: No

Physical description: The landform of Newcastle East is distinctive and provides a historic setting for the modern port of Newcastle. There are iconic sites including Nobbys Lighthouse & headland and its convict built breakwater, the stone boat harbour, Flagstaff Hill (now known as Fort Scratchley), the Convict Lumber yard and Stockade, the Customs house, Pacific Park, the foreshore reserve. Coupled with these are a collection of historic residential streets which contain many notable 19th century buildings including the Pembroke Terrace, the Former Earp Gillam Bond Store, the Ocean Baths, and Boatman's Row. There are numerous other historically and aesthetic important buildings in Newcastle East.

Physical condition level:

Physical condition:
Archaeological potential level:

Archaeological potential Detail:

Modification dates:

Item name: Newcastle East Heritage Conservation Area

Location: Newcastle

Recommended management: The character of the Newcastle East Heritage Conservation Area is made up of a variety of building styles that date from the late 19th and early decades of the 20th century. The special character of Newcastle East will be preserved and maintained through the retention of contributory buildings, open space, street trees and elements of visual interest and heritage significance such as the many iconic buildings located in Newcastle East, parks and open space, views and vistas, the unique steep topography and street layout, and the character of the streetscapes including street trees, buildings and the relationship of built elements. Elements that are to be preserved include:

- the range of contributory and historic buildings, particularly intact or historically significant groupings, heritage items, iconic structures, and the appearance and layout of streets
- existing subdivision pattern and street layout, including preserving the integrity of laneways
- street furniture such as sandstone kerbing and guttering, and other features of historical interest such as heritage items, public stairs, lanes, parks, views and vistas
- the regular and homogenous urban form which reflects a regular pattern of subdivision and development, and building stock from between the 1870s and 1930, demonstrating the gradual urbanisation of a once indigenous landscape
- the existing appearance of Newcastle East, views outwards to the coastline and harbour, and views into the area from Foreshore Park and the Newcastle coastline and Ocean Baths
- icon heritage items including the Coal River Precinct, the Nobbys headland and breakwater, Fort Scratchley Historic Site, Convict Lumber Yard and Customs House precinct, the Newcastle Ocean baths, Joy Cummings Centre and other significant groups such as the Lahey Bond Store and Stevenson Place terraces and
- parks and reserves, including Newcastle beach, Nobbys Beach, and Foreshore Park.

Management:	Management category	Management name
	Recommended Management	Prepare or include in a Development Control Plan (DCP)

Further comments:

Criteria a): [Historical significance] Newcastle East HCA is significant for its role in the course of the history of New South Wales, including being a place of documented first contact between Aboriginal people and the British. It is significant as the location of the first attempt at coal extraction in 1801. It is also important in the course of NSW's history as the site of the Colonial government's attempt to control and punish recidivist convicts, through the proclamation by Governor King of the penal settlement in 1804, which continued for an 18 year period until 1822. The penal period would create the hallmarks of the city layout and character that defines it today, including the site of the Convict Lumber Yard and Coal River precinct, Flagstaff Hill (Fort Scratchley) and the gradual transition from an indigenous landscape to a residential precinct. It is also a place that is important in course of NSW's cultural history as the site of the establishment of the first successful coal mining in Australia at Fort Scratchley. Newcastle East HCA is important for its ongoing existence as an urban settlement which can demonstrate through the rich archaeological heritage the pre contact traditions and life ways of Aboriginal people, who through the ongoing connections of the Awabakal people maintain an attachment to area today. Following the arrival of the British, Awabakal associations are recorded in paintings and records of the penal period and the decades that followed.

Criteria b): [Historical association significance] Newcastle East HCA has special associations with the convict history of Australia, being a place of secondary punishment for reoffending convicts between 1804-1822. The first administrators of the colony and some of the first European navigators are associated with the area, including Lieutenant Shortland, Governors King and Hunter, and numerous others of importance in the history of early colonial Australia, including Commandant Wallis and Commandant Morisset. The area is also associated with the discovery of coal and its extraction and export from Newcastle was the first in the country. The Coal River precinct is significant for its ability to demonstrate the history of coal mining, its impact on the Australian economy and how coal has shaped the Australian economy.

Item name: Newcastle East Heritage Conservation Area

Location: Newcastle

Criteria c): Newcastle East HCA is important urban cultural landscape in that it demonstrates aesthetic characteristics that define the evolution of an early Australian city established during the earliest phases of Australia's development into a modern nation, and that has evolved a rich urban fabric that represents 200 years of urban development.

[Aesthetic/ Technical significance] These aesthetic features include:

1. Buildings that represent architectural styles and construction technologies predominantly from the Victorian, Federation, and Inter War periods of urban development.
2. A Strongly homogenous street and lot layout, developed after the sand reclamation efforts of the 1870s and which can be said to be a reflection of the economic boom of the 1880s.
3. Streetscapes and vistas outwards and inwards which strongly contribute to the character of the suburb
4. An enclosed central precinct with a strongly historic character between King Streets, Stevenson Place, Parnell Place and Telford Streets.
5. The areas of parkland that are an integral element of Newcastle East including Foreshore Park, Pacific Park, the beaches and coastal facilities.
6. The location of Newcastle East at the end of the Newcastle peninsula, is a defining visual marker of the urban geography of Newcastle.

Criteria d): A survey of residents in 2015 revealed that the community significantly value the character and physical elements of Newcastle East and identify with its' protection as a heritage conservation area. On the whole there is a high degree of esteem held by the resident community and strong attachment to the character of the area, the streetscape, buildings and public open space. The area meets this criterion on cultural grounds at the local level.

Criteria e): Given the rate of survival of key elements of the early urban settlement of Newcastle, including its ability to demonstrate elements of the early development of Newcastle as well as the system of land subdivision and crown grants following the cessation of the penal colony mining, the area has the potential to yield information that will contribute to understanding aspects of Newcastle's cultural history, and more broadly to the State of NSW for the capacity to yield information about the cessation of a penal settlement and its evolution to a modern city.

Criteria f): The area does not demonstrate this criterion to any notable degree.

Criteria g): Newcastle East contains many surviving elements of the early 19th and 20th centuries and the processes of urbanisation. It demonstrates these characteristics in its key elements including building stock and the relationship of buildings to the street and each other, street layout including laneways, along with heritage items and green space.

Intactness/Integrity:

References:	Author	Title	Year
	Newcastle Concerned Citizens Commi	Newcastle Old Town - Part of Australia's National Heritage- A	1992
	Godden Mackay Pty Ltd	Urban Conservation Area Guidelines for Inner Newcastle	1996

Studies:	Author	Title	Number	Year
	Godden Mackay Pty Ltd	Urban Conservation Area Guidelines for Inner Newcastle		1996
	Newcastle City Council	Review of Heritage Conservation Areas Report	Chapter 6	2016

Parcels:	Parcel code	Lot number	Section number	Plan code	Plan number
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Latitude: _____ **Longitude:** _____

Location validity: _____ **Spatial accuracy:** _____

Map name: _____ **Map scale:** _____

AMG zone: _____ **Easting:** _____ **Northing:** _____

Item name: Newcastle East Heritage Conservation Area

Location: Newcastle

Listing:	Name	Title	Number	ListingDate
	Newcastle LEP 2012	Local Environmental Plan	C5	15/06/2012

Within a conservation area on an LEP
Heritage study

Data entry: Data first entered: 11/09/2003

Data updated: 07/12/2018

Status: Completed

Item name: Newcastle East Heritage Conservation Area

Location:

Newcastle

Image:



Caption: Newcastle East Heritage Conservation Area - Parnell Place group

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Image by: S Cameron

Image date: 01/01/2003

Image number:

Image url: <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/217/2173905b11.jpg>

Thumbnail url: http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/217/t_2173905b11.jpg

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Caption: Newcastle East Heritage Conservation Area - Pembroke Terrace

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Image:

Item name: Newcastle East Heritage Conservation Area

Location:

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Caption: Newcastle East Heritage Conservation Area - Overview

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Thumbnail url: http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/217/t_2173905b4.jpg

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Caption: Newcastle East Heritage Conservation Area - Zaara Street terraces

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Image by: S Cameron

Image date: 01/01/2003

Image number:

Image url: <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/217/2173905b12.jpg>

Thumbnail url: http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/217/t_2173905b12.jpg

Image:

Item name: Newcastle East Heritage Conservation Area

Location:

Newcastle



Caption: Newcastle East Heritage Conservation Area - Scott Street terraces

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Image by: S Cameron

Image date: 01/01/2003

Image number:

Image url: <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/217/2173905b13.jpg>

Thumbnail url: http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/217/t_2173905b13.jpg

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Newcastle



Caption: Newcastle East Heritage Conservation Area - Pembridge Terrace Stevenson Place

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Image by: S Skillen

Image date: 08/10/2006

Image number:

Image url: <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/217/2173905b18.jpg>

Thumbnail url: http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/217/t_2173905b18.jpg

Image:

Item name: Newcastle East Heritage Conservation Area

Location:

Newcastle



Caption: Newcastle East Heritage Conservation Area - Stevenson Place

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Thumbnail url: http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/217/t_2173905b10.jpg

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Newcastle



Caption: Newcastle East Heritage Conservation Area

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Image:

Item name: Newcastle East Heritage Conservation Area

Location:

Newcastle



Caption: Newcastle East Heritage Conservation Area - Customs House

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Image by: Sarah Cameron

Image date: 10/06/2006

Image number:

Image url: <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/217/2173905b5.jpg>

Thumbnail url: http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/217/t_2173905b5.jpg

Image:

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Location:

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Caption: Newcastle East Heritage Conservation Area - view looking south from Fort Scratchley

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Image by: Sarah Cameron

Image date: 27/02/2004

Image number:

Image url: <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/217/2173905b1.jpg>

Thumbnail url: http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/217/t_2173905b1.jpg

Image:

Item name: Newcastle East Heritage Conservation Area

Location:

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Caption: Newcastle East Heritage Conservation Area - Customs House and Convict Lumber Yard

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Image by: Sarah Cameron

Image date: 01/04/2005

Image number:

Image url: <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/217/2173905b2.jpg>

Thumbnail url: http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/217/t_2173905b2.jpg

Image:

Item name: Newcastle East Heritage Conservation Area

Location:

Newcastle



Caption: Newcastle East Heritage Conservation Area - The Carlton

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Image by: Sarah Cameron

Image date:

Image number:

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Thumbnail url: http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/217/t_2173905b3.jpg