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Eastern Creek is an area of intense Aboriginal occupation and revisitation over thousands of years.

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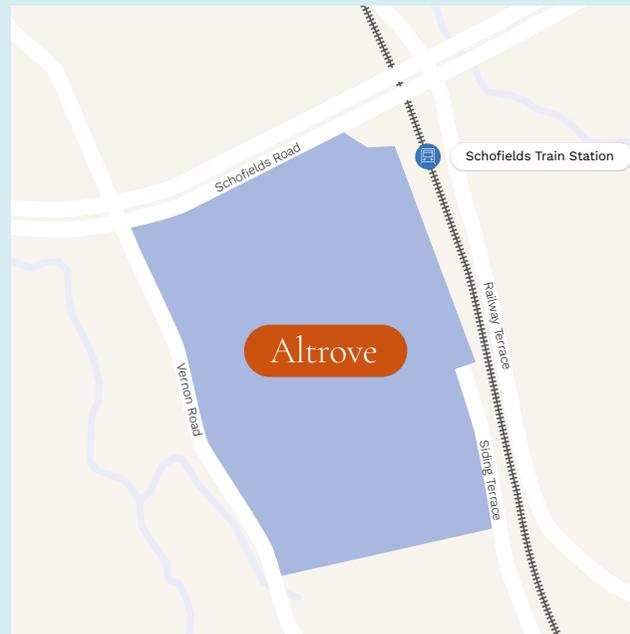
Cultural values

Local Aboriginal stakeholder organisations were involved in all facets of the archaeological assessments carried out in advance of the development, including the development of appropriate management and mitigation actions. All Aboriginal community members that were consulted for the development identified Eastern Creek and surrounding areas as highly culturally significant. Moreover, they expressed a desire to protect significant Aboriginal sites from developmental impacts. In particular, Aboriginal archaeological sites located adjacent to Eastern Creek were noted as highly significant and requiring conservation. Responding to this request, areas adjacent to Eastern Creek were set aside as riparian corridor. The conservation of significant Aboriginal sites at Altrove has created a tangible connection between the current development and the site's rich Aboriginal heritage.

At Altrove, all that you treasure is right on your doorstep. Set in Sydney's flourishing northwestern corridor, this high-quality masterplanned community will boast a 1.6 hectare sweeping hilltop park, shared cycle ways, fitness tracks, good schools close by and a temporary Community Hub.

Visit the site

Vernon Road, Schofields, Sydney



Visit the website

stockland.com.au/altrove
stockland.com.au/contact-stockland
 Or call 13 52 63



Altrove's Aboriginal History



Altrove has a long Aboriginal history providing the site with a rich heritage for future generations.

Stockland acknowledges the Traditional Custodians and knowledge-holders of the land on which Altrove is situated. We would also like to pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.



Western Sydney

Available archaeological data indicate that Aboriginal peoples have occupied the Sydney region for at least 36,000 years, with evidence of their presence both plentiful and widespread. According to some studies, Aboriginal groups occupying the Sydney region during the late Pleistocene/early Holocene (up to approximately 6,000 years ago) were highly mobile. Groups travelled considerable distances between their residential bases, which were strategically located close to major watercourses such as the Hawkesbury-Nepean River.

Recent decades have seen thousands of archaeological assessments incorporating surveys and/or excavations carried out across Western Sydney, with investigations to date generating an enormous body of information regarding Aboriginal peoples' past settlements and subsistence patterns. As in other parts of Sydney's Cumberland Plain, the Aboriginal archaeological record of the greater Schofields area, including Altrove, has been extensively investigated, with test and salvage excavations across this area resulting in the recovery of numerous stone artefact assemblages, the bulk of which have been assessed as being of mid to late Holocene antiquity. Eastern Creek, in particular, appears to have been a focal feature for Aboriginal peoples occupying the greater Schofields area, with the creek and its associated economic resources facilitating intensive occupation over thousands of years. A well-known source of rocks suitable for flaked stone artefact manufacture, Plumpton Ridge, would likewise have made the area attractive to Aboriginal peoples.

Importantly, land within Altrove forms part of a larger cultural landscape of high social and spiritual significance to contemporary Aboriginal communities, with several important Aboriginal sites of significance in the vicinity, including: Plumpton Ridge, traditional burial sites, and the State Heritage-listed sites of the Nurragingy and Colebee Land Grant and the Blacktown Native Institution.

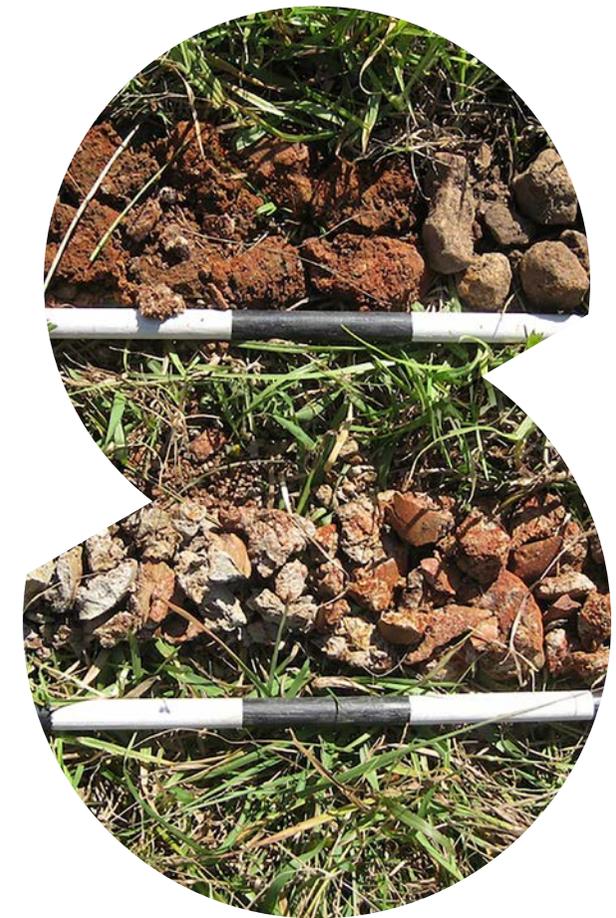
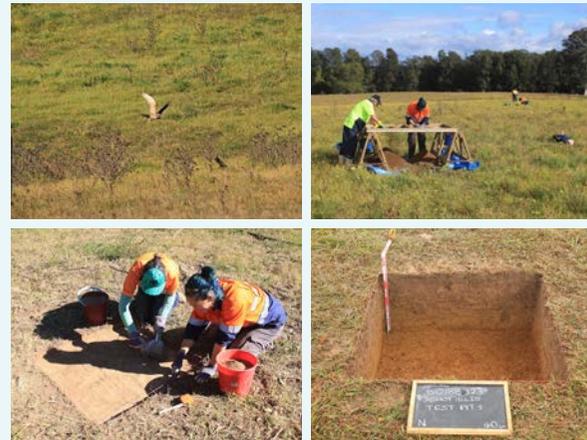
The Altrove site

Aboriginal peoples' occupation of the Altrove site is demonstrated by the presence of numerous archaeological sites that have been identified across the property. Identified sites consist of surface and subsurface deposits of flaked stone artefacts, commonly referred to as artefact scatters or open campsites. Identification of the sites occurred as part of numerous archaeological surveys of the property as well as a program of archaeological test excavation, all undertaken prior to initial development works in 2012.

Archaeological test excavation

Prior to the development of Altrove, archaeological test excavation was completed including 140 test pits measuring 50cm x 50cm, followed by four 1m x 1m test pits. Test pits were dug by hand using shovels and trowels by a team of archaeologists and Aboriginal community members.

Following excavation of test pits, recovered soils were transferred to a sieving station where they were sifted in order to identify artefacts.



Archaeological findings

The archaeological survey and test excavation program identified a total of 11 archaeological sites across the site comprising two surface sites and seven subsurface sites, with the majority located within 200 metres of Eastern Creek. During the excavation, 329 cultural lithics were recovered. Artefact types included flake debitage (complete and broken flakes), cores and tools (e.g. backed artefacts). Identified raw materials included silcrete, mudstone, fine grained siliceous, quartz, petrified wood and quartzite.