

8.0 ANALYSIS AND STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The NSW heritage assessment criteria encompasses four generic values in the Australian ICOMOS *Burra Charter*, which are historical, aesthetic, scientific, and social significance.

An item will be considered to be of State or local heritage significance if, in the opinion of The Heritage Council of NSW, it meets one or more of the assessment criteria listed in the NSW Heritage Act, effective April 1999.

These criteria will be used in assessing heritage significance of the property/site.

The basis of assessment used in this report is the methodology and terminology of the *Burra Charter* 1999, *The Conservation Plan* and the criteria of the NSW Heritage Office. Article 26.1 of the Burra Charter states that:

"Work on a place should be preceded by studies to understand the place which should include analysis of physical, documentary, oral and other evidence, drawing on appropriate knowledge, skills and disciplines."

Cultural significance can be assessed once the place has been examined and philosophically aids the establishment of value. Places and items of significance are those which display an understanding of the past and enrich the present. They allow values to be continually interpreted for future generations.

The significance of the place is established by the analysis and assessment of the documented, historical and physical evidence presented in the previous sections of this report. Once an understanding of significance is gained decisions can be made about the future management of the place. However, these future decisions should not imperil the cultural significance of the place.

The NSW Heritage Manual prepared by the NSW Heritage Office and Department of Urban Affairs and Planning, outlines the same four broad criteria and processes for assessing the nature of significance, along with two criteria for assessing comparative significance of an item.

Since the preparation of the Heritage Manual, the Heritage Act 1977 (NSW) was amended in 1999. As part of this amendment, the NSW Heritage Council has adopted revised criteria for assessment of Heritage significance. The evaluation of cultural significance in the following section is based on the approach adopted by the Burra Charter and the NSW Heritage Manual, but considers whether and, if so, the study site meets the current (revised) criteria.

Heritage Significance Criteria

The NSW assessment criteria listed below encompass the following four values of significance:

- ❑ Historical significance
- ❑ Aesthetic significance
- ❑ Research/technical significance
- ❑ Social significance

Listed below are the relevant Heritage Assessment Criteria identified in the Heritage Act:

- Criterion (a)** An item is important in the course, or pattern, of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).
- Criterion (b)** An item has strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).
- Criterion (c)** An item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW (or the local area).
- Criterion (d)** An item has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in NSW (or the local area) for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.
- Criterion (e)** An item has the potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).
- Criterion (f)** An item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).
- Criterion (g)** An item is important in demonstrating the principle characteristics of a class of NSW's cultural or natural places; or cultural or natural environments (or a class of the local area's cultural places; or cultural or natural environments).

Each criterion of the Heritage Manuals is considered for the Coal Preparation Plant, Wallarah and Moonee Collieries, several Additional Items and Moveable items located outside the aforementioned sites. More detailed levels of significance are established in the Inventory Data Sheets for each items contained in Appendix 1.

SIGNIFICANCE ASSESSMENT GRADING

The significance of each heritage element identified at the Coal Preparation Plant, Wallarah and Moonee Collieries, Additional Items and Moveable Items is briefly summarised and ranked. The ranking introduces a grading that assists to quantify the degree to which items contribute to the heritage value of the site overall. Significance rankings are assigned to each element (ie buildings, structures and machinery) within the Coal Preparation Plant, Wallarah and Moonee Collieries and the additional items according to the five-class system defined in the NSW Heritage Office publication, *Assessing Heritage Significance*. The five rankings are defined as follows:

Table 8.1: Significance Rankings

GRADING	JUSTIFICATION	STATUS (Local/State)
EXCEPTIONAL	Rare or outstanding item of local or State significance. High degree of intactness. Can be easily interpreted and understood providing information about the changing patterns of the use of the place.	Fulfils criteria for State listing
HIGH	High degree of original fabric. Demonstrates, significant changes, relating to function and development. Alterations do not detract from significance.	Fulfils criteria for Local or State listing
MODERATE	Items that do not impact on the significance of the place or may be unsympathetically altered early fabric or additions. Contains components with little heritage value but which contribute to the overall significance of the item. .	Fulfils criteria for Local listing
LOW	Items that have been altered considerably and it is difficult to interpret original fabric.	Does not fulfil the criteria for local or state listing
INTRUSIVE	Items that, in their present form, adversely affect the significance of the place and have been assessed as intrusive. This includes fabric that may have resulted in damage or is visually intrusive to significant fabric, which obscures the interpretability of the significant uses and periods of development.	Does not fulfil the criteria for local or state listing

8.1 ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Each criterion of the Heritage Manual is considered in regard to the Coal Preparation Plant, Wallarah and Moonee Collieries, the Additional Items and Moveable Items (identified in Section 3). The exact definitions of the criteria are also integrated into the assessment. Firstly each of the sites (Coal Preparation Plant, Wallarah and Moonee) are assessed overall and then the elements within each site are assessed in relation to the overall assessment. The Additional items and Moveable Items are individually assessed in the Inventory Data the results of which are summarised briefly in this section. Lastly an overall assessment of the entire site is made.

8.2 ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE – COAL PREPARATION PLANT

Criterion (a) An item is important in the course, or pattern, of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area);

The main seam worked was the Wallarah seam which is the top seam of the Newcastle Coal measures, the initial mine was driven directly into the seam from the cliff face. However, when the Wallarah Coal company took over the mining, they developed a series of pits away from the jetty site utilising the hilly nature of the terrain to drive tunnels into the outcropping seam. No. 1 was an audit into the side of a hill and a second audit into another hill was developed in 1894 as Pit B. A series of other pits up to E were dug although only B and E were developed until the 1960s.

The Wallarah mine was the only colliery on the northern coal fields working this seam as it was at the top of the Newcastle coal measures. The coal measures dip to the south so in the northern areas the seam has been eroded and removed.

The location of the initial exposure of the Wallarah seam was absolutely fundamental for the development of the area. It was located where the jetty is (ie extending underneath the Coal Preparation Plant). Construction of the jetty by the company was a private affair and the jetty was effectively closed to others. However, it was the best location for a landing or a jetty on the coast in the vicinity so control of the jetty effectively monopolised the coal deposits in the Catherine Hill Bay area.

Generally the majority of the physical evidence at the Coal Preparation Plant relates to the establishment of the Coal Washery on this locality in 1964. Little remains from the period prior to this time with the obvious exceptions being:

- ❑ Railway Relics
- ❑ Jetty

which would seem to date from the 1880s period.

Criterion (b) *An item has strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area);*

The Coal Preparation Plant does not meet this criterion as no strong or special association with the life or works of a person or persons other than the employees of the company has been demonstrated.

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

In itself it does not meet this criterion however its contribution to the understanding of the coastal loading facility is important.

Criterion (d) *An item has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in NSW (or the local area) for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.*

The Coal Preparation Plant may have an association with the cultural group of miners and ex-miners and the mining union, however it is not apparent how strong that association may be. This study did not extend to a social significance assessment.

Criterion (e) *An item has the potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).*

There is some potential to contribute to the understanding of coal mining and transportation through the built structures on the site. These include the weigh station, hard stand area of the 300 tonne bunker, the bin building and the jetty.

Criterion (f) *An item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).*

The geological sequence of the seams worked is demonstrated in the exposed section in the cliff at the jetty which shows the Great North Seam and possibly the Wallarah seam above it. Such demonstration is only really possible in coastal areas where cliffs are exposed.

The Coal Preparation Plant contains evidence of the method of loading installed in 1964 which was unique in the NSW context as none of the collieries in a similar geographic circumstance were operating in the 1960s and therefore did not have modern loading facilities. The Bin Building is also unique on a NSW coalmine due to its size and

underground location. The location of the other coal preparation plant infrastructure contributes to the understanding of the relationship of the coal seams, mining, preparation and transportation.

Criterion (g) An item is important in demonstrating the principle characteristics of a class of NSW's cultural or natural places; or cultural or natural environments (or a class of the local area's cultural places; or cultural or natural environments).

The Coal Preparation Plant is important as through the physical fabric remaining on the site, the unique process by which the principal characteristics of coal handling and storage on this site can be demonstrated. Evidence of this process includes: The 300 ton Bunker whereby road haulage trucks discharged coal from the mines and transports the coal onto a conveyor to the washing plant; Bin Building, which enclosed the conveyor system that transported coal from the washery and then, sorted, and stored the coal into the bins where it was then fed to wharf conveyor; Jetty which supports the conveyor that feeds coal from the bins to the shiploader. Furthermore, the Jetty in particular is a sole representative of a common type of industrial site that has now disappeared through a combination of economics and natural processes.

8.3 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE FOR THE COAL PREPARATION PLANT

The Coal Preparation Plant is assessed as having high Local Significance due to its location on a cliff top where coal seams are exposed and its proximity to the Moonee Mine Portal, the bin building and jetty, the Mine Manager's residence and the mining village at Catherine Hill Bay.

8.3.1 ASSESSMENT OF ELEMENTS WITHIN THE COAL PREPARATION PLANT

Table 8.2: Assessment of Elements within the Coal Preparation Plant.

<i>Item</i>	<i>Item No.</i>	<i>Significance</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Weighbridge	001	Low in itself and High as part of a group.	Other than its relationship to the 300 tonne bunker and therefore its ability to demonstrate how coal was processed and transported to the jetty.
300 tonne Bunker	002	Low in itself and High as part of a group.	Ability to demonstrate how coal was processed and transported to the jetty.
Washery	003	Low in itself. Archaeological remains are moderate and its High as part of a group.	The washery building itself has been demolished. All that remains of the plant are concrete foundations. The archaeological footprint can demonstrate the outline of the coal washery a critical part of post-war mining in the Hunter Valley.
Bin Building	004	High, in itself and as part of	The bins are unique on a NSW colliery and the remains, especially

<i>Item</i>	<i>Item No.</i>	<i>Significance</i>	<i>Comments</i>
		group.	the conveyors, demonstrated the principal characteristics of coal handling and storage on this site. It is unusual as it is set into the ground rather than, as most coal bins, being constructed above ground.
Jetty	005	High, in itself and as part of group.	The Jetty is significant in terms of its aesthetic characteristics. It is also a unique structure demonstrating to a high degree, the principal characteristics of a specialist coastal coal loading facility. It is a unique structure being the sole representative of a common type of industrial site that has now disappeared through a combination of economics and natural processes.
Original Workshop	006	Moderate	Ability to interpret part of the mining process and working conditions at the washery.
Electrical Substation	007	Low	
Workshop and Bathhouse	008	Low	These are modern structures typically used throughout the mining industry.
Office Building	009	No longer assessed	Demolished

The results of the significance assessment is that the fabric on the Coal Preparation Site is generally of High significance some more highly than others within themselves as individual items. However, collectively as a group those items that demonstrate the whole method of loading installed in 1964 is unique in the NSW context as none of the collieries in a similar geographical circumstance were operating in the 1960s and therefore sis not have modern loading facilities. These included:

- ❑ The Weigh Bridge;
- ❑ 300 tonne Bunker;
- ❑ Washery remains;
- ❑ Bin Building;
- ❑ The Jetty.

8.4 ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE – MOONEE COLLIERY

Criterion (a) An item is important in the course, or pattern, of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area);

The Moonee Colliery was developed as Pit F, part of the sequence of mines developed to work the Wallarah seam at Catherine Hill Bay. The original function was to work the southern end of the lease. To do this it was mechanised from its inception. Once the Wallarah seam was exhausted, the mine worked the lower Great Northern Seam but this proved difficult despite the utilisation of a 'conveyor train' to transport coal.

Under the ownership of the Wallarah Joint Venture, a long wall was installed which worked the Great Northern Seam from 1996 until its closure in 2002. There were major windblast problems from falling roofs in goafs¹ that presented considerable technical challenges to the mine. This was the only use of the long wall at Catherine Hill Bay and a comparatively rare use of this technology in an 'old' mine.

Criterion (b) An item has strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area);

The Moonee Colliery does not meet this criterion as no strong or special association with the life or works of a person or persons has been demonstrated.

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

Despite the technical innovations that were undertaken to keep the Moonee Colliery operating these are all underground and they cannot be demonstrated in the current study. Some areas of long wall mining would be well outside the current study area.

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

The Moonee Colliery may have an association with the cultural group of ex-miners and the mining union, however it is not apparent how strong that association may be. This study did not include a social significance assessment.

Criterion (e) An item has the potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).

There is some potential to contribute to the understanding of coal mining through the built structures on the site.

There is no evidence of an archaeological deposit associated with the Moonee mine.

Criterion (f) An item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).

The Moonee mine will contain remains of the long wall system but it is underground and outside the study area. Effectively this criteria is not met.

Criterion (g) An item is important in demonstrating the principle characteristics of a class of NSW's cultural or natural places; or cultural or natural environments (or a class of the local area's cultural places; or cultural or natural environments).

Moonee Colliery is important as through the physical fabric remaining on the site, the process by which people went to work underground can be demonstrated. Evidence of this process includes: the bath house where workers changed into their work clothes and showered upon their return; the lamp room where miners were equipped to go underground and the site offices which controlled underground work, as well as the path to the mine entry.

8.5 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE FOR MOONEE COLLIERY

The Moonee Colliery is of historical significance as one of the mines developed by the Wallarah Coal Company to work their leases at Catherine Hill Bay. The mines original function was to work the Wallarah seam at the southern end of the lease. To do this it was mechanised from its inception. Once the Wallarah seam was exhausted the mine worked the lower Great Northern Seam but this proved difficult despite the utilisation of a 'conveyor train' to transport coal (no above ground evidence of this system exists).

Under the ownership of the Wallarah Joint Venture, a long wall was installed which worked the Great Northern Seam from 1996 until its closure in 2002. There were major windblast problems from falling roofs in goafs that presented considerable technical challenges to the mine. This was the only use of the long wall at Catherine Hill Bay and a comparatively rare use of this technology in an 'old' mine. Again evidence of this technology is below ground. Again evidence of this technology is below ground.

The Moonee Colliery is assessed as having high Local Significance.

8.5.1 ASSESSMENT OF ELEMENTS WITHIN MOONEE COLLIERY

Table 8.3: Assessment of Elements within Moonee Colliery

<i>Item</i>	<i>Item No:</i>	<i>Significance</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Moonee Colliery Bath House and Survey Building	010	High, in itself and as part of group.	For their ability to show how people entered and left the mine.
Moonee Colliery Lamp Cabin and Operations Room	011	High, in itself and as part of group	For their ability to show how people entered and left the mine.
Moonee Colliery Main Switch Room	012	Moderate, in itself and as part of group	For their ability to show how people entered and left the mine and for its aesthetic significance.
Moonee Colliery 'Stump Building'	013	High	Association with unionism.
Moonee Colliery IT Building	014	Moderate, as part of group of buildings on the site	As part of the mine buildings on the site.
Moonee Colliery New Administration Building	015	Low	Altered and partially demolished.
Moonee Colliery Ventilation Shaft and Fan House	016	Moderate	Ability to demonstrate aspects of mine ventilation and the location of the shaft. Fan intact although shaft sealed.

The results of the significance assessment is that the fabric on the Moonee Colliery site is generally of High significance in itself and as a group, comprising:

- ❑ Moonee Colliery Bath House and Survey Building;
- ❑ Moonee Colliery Lamp Cabin and Operations Room;
- ❑ Moonee Colliery Main Switch Room;
- ❑ Moonee Colliery 'Stump Building'; and
- ❑ associated paths to the mine entrance, workers' car parks and entry to the bath house.

8.6 ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE — WALLARAH COLLIERIES

Criterion (a) An item is important in the course, or pattern, of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area);

Wallarah Colliery (formerly Crangan Bay Drift) is important as one of the last in a sequence of mines developed in the Catherine Hill Bay area to exploit coal from the Wallarah seam. The mine operated from 1957 and was mechanised from the start. Notably it was the site where the first cable belt conveyor in Australia was used. The mine was one of the last to close on this part of the Northern coalfields.

Criterion (b) An item has strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area);

The Wallarah Colliery does not meet this criterion as no strong or special association with the life or works of a person or persons has been demonstrated.

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

While the Wallarah Colliery was the site of the first cable belt conveyor in Australia, there is no longer any evidence of this at the Wallarah site and therefore this criterion is not met.

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

The Wallarah Colliery may have an association with the cultural group of ex-miners and the mining union, however it is not apparent how strong that association may be. This study did not include a social significance assessment.

Criterion (e) An item has the potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).

The level of destruction and rehabilitation of this mine means that it cannot meet this criterion as most remains have been removed.

Criterion (f) An item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).

Owing to the level of removal of original fabric, the Wallarah Colliery cannot meet this criterion.

Criterion (g) An item is important in demonstrating the principle characteristics of a class of NSW's cultural or natural places; or cultural or natural environments (or a class of the local area's cultural places; or cultural or natural environments).

Owing to the level of removal of original fabric, the Wallarah Colliery cannot meet this criterion.

8.7 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE FOR WALLARAH COLLIERY

Wallarrah Colliery (formerly Crangan Bay Drift) is important as one of the last in a sequence of mines developed in the Catherine Hill Bay area to exploit coal from the Wallarah seam. The mine operated from 1957 and was mechanised from the start. Notably it was the site where the first cable belt conveyor in Australia was used. The mine was one of the last closed on this part of the Northern coalfields. The removal of all the standing structures on the site and its rehabilitation means that the site's ability to demonstrate fabric or processes that embodies the significance of the place is minimal.

The Wallarah Colliery site is assessed as having low – Local Significance.

8.7.1 ASSESSMENT OF ELEMENTS WITHIN WALLARAH COLLIERY

Table 8.4: Assessment of Elements within Wallarah Colliery

<i>Item</i>	<i>Item No:</i>	<i>Significance</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Wallahah Winder House	017	Not assessed	Demolished
Wallahah Conveyor Transfer Building	018	Not assessed	Demolished
Wallahah Colliery Main Office	019	Low	
Wallahah Colliery Operations Room	020	Low	
Wallahah Colliery Bath House	021	Not assessed	Demolished
Wallahah Colliery Explosive Magazines	022	Low	Partially demolished
Wallahah Colliery Substation No. 1	023	Low	
Wallahah Colliery Substation No. 2	024	Low	
Wallahah Colliery Remnant Rails/Concrete	025	Not assessed	Demolished
Wallahah Colliery Down Cast Shaft and Drifts	026	Not assessed	Demolished
Wallahah Colliery Upcast Shaft	027	Not assessed	Demolished

The results of the significance assessment is that the fabric on the Wallarah Colliery site is in such poor condition that it is all of low significance and contributes little to the overall significance of the site.

8.8 ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE — ADDITIONAL ITEMS

An assessment of significance for these additional items has been undertaken and included in the individual inventory sheets attached as Appendix 1 of this Conservation Management Plan.

8.8.1 ASSESSMENT OF ADDITIONAL ITEMS

Table 8.5: Assessment of Additional Items

<i>Item</i>	<i>Item No:</i>	<i>Significance</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Remnants of the Coastal Railway Line	028	High, in itself and as part of group.	The railway formation is important in demonstrating how coal was transported to the jetty.
Former Mine Portals	029	High	The site has archaeological potential showing the Great North Seam and possibly the Wallarah seam above it. Such demonstration is only really possible in coastal areas where cliffs are exposed.
Mine Managers Residence	030	High	The site has some archaeological potential.
Jetty Masters House	031	Moderate	The site has some archaeological potential.
Fitness Camp	032	Low	
Road Link from Wallarah Colliery to Moonee Colliery	033	Low	
Catherine Hill Bay Substation	034	Low	
Coal storage and residue emplacement areas	035	Intrusive	

8.9 ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE — MOVEABLE ITEMS

An assessment of significance for the moveable heritage items has been undertaken and included in the individual inventory sheets attached as Appendix 1 of this Conservation Management Plan.

8.9.1 ASSESSMENT OF MOVEABLE ITEMS

Table 8.6: Assessment of Moveable Items

<i>Item</i>	<i>Item No:</i>	<i>Significance</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Remnants of Coal Mining Machinery	036	High	Ability to interpret part of the mining process
Remnant Boiler	037	High	A symbol of the mine working and a remnant of the times when the mine was steam powered
Wallarah Colliery Blacksmith's Forge	038	Not assessed	Demolished

8.10 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE FOR THE SITE

As described above in the analysis of significance the subject site its building/structures and landscape elements contribute in varying degrees to the coal mining history of the local and regional area as well as the industrial heritage of NSW and to the development of the Catherine Hill Bay Village. Its life span, over 114 years, embraces a century of technological and social change in the coal industry, mechanisation, economic depression, industrial conflict, safety, the physical integration of place of mining work and associated village. Buildings, open spaces, circulation infrastructure, rail relics, machinery and services demonstrate the processes of coal mining and transport, as well as the technological and operational changes embraced between 1873 to the present day.

The site has the historic resource to answer questions posed about many aspects of coal extraction techniques over the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries and the development of industrial infrastructure on coalfields. In particular the site has some unique items of twentieth century mining including the unusual underground coal bins set into the cliff below ground level rather than, as most coal bins, being constructed above ground. Other items associated with this building and important to the overall understanding of the sites operational activities are the Weigh Bridge; 300 tonne Bunker; Washery remains; and the Jetty.

The significance of the subject site is based not only on individual sites or structures but amplified by the complex of buildings their functional relationship to one another and their context within the landscape. For example, the significance of the Collieries locations on a sea port should not be underestimated. The viability of the workings relied on this strategic location for 114 years and the ability to import materials and export product has ensured the continued success of the site. The jetty particularly signifies the importance of the location and helps to interpret certain requirements for the establishment of the site and the need to transport materials by sea to selected sites. The jetty is the sole representative of a common type of industrial site that has now disappeared though a combination of economics and natural processes and for this reason is unique in the context of NSW.

The collieries were integral to the establishment and development of the Catherine Hill Bay Village and have an important physical and social association with this area. Even today, after the mines closure, Catherine Hill Bay is characterised by the presence of the jetty and other related mining structures. The establishment of the Catherine Hill Bay Village by the mining companies is integral to the significance of the site.

The place has social associations for local community, including those who worked at the site or had their local business supported by the workers, however, it is uncertain how strong this association remains given the changes that have occurred with the closure of the mine. The proximity of the colliery to the historic town of Catherine Hill Bay, and the surviving former company owned residential buildings in the village, further demonstrates the close relationship that developed between early collieries and their local communities.