

Item name: Wangat Village - Site 2**Location:** Dungog**Address:****Planning:** Hunter & Central Coast**Suburb/nearest town:** Bandon Grove 2420**Local govt area:** Dungog**Parish:****State:** NSW**County:****Other/former names:****Area/group/complex:****Group ID:****Aboriginal area:****Curtilage/boundary:****Item type:** Archaeological-Terrestrial**Group:****Category:****Owner:** Private - Individual**Admin codes:****Code 2:****Code 3:****Current use:** Private land**Former uses:** Wangat town settlement**Assessed significance:** Local**Endorsed significance:**

Statement of significance: The second Wangat village, established in approximately c1916, can be considered to be of local archaeological significance. While the buildings and structures known to have existed on the site would not be considered significant on an individual level, when regarded as a whole entity, the study area can be considered to be locally significant as a town site.

The town of Wangat largely centres around the Chichester Dam, having been solely constructed to house workers who were working on the construction of the dam site. At its peak, the town had more than 1000 inhabitants, many of them the family members of the dam workers who had temporarily relocated during the dam construction. The study site is representative of the development of a large scale worker's settlement, and holds the potential to offer information which demonstrates the domestic lives of a large working class population during the early 20th century. The identification of different types of facilities and utilities present within the temporary settlement will furthermore outline the overall needs of this particular community within a specific time period.

Item name: Wangat Village - Site 2

Location:

Dungog

Historical notes of provenance: Wangat Village 2 was established mid 1910s, possibly c1916.

A second township known as Wangat was established during the mid 1910s as a temporary town to house the workers of the Chichester Dam and their families while the dam was being built. At this point in time the first village known as Wangat; a planned permanent town which was established between approximately c1878-1880 for the mining community in this area, was no longer in existence as the mining industry had largely disappeared by the turn of the 20th century. It is not known why both towns received the same name although they were positioned more than seven kilometres apart from each other; however it can be noted that both towns were not occupied at the same time, the former having been largely unoccupied for almost ten years before the establishment of the temporary town.

The early 20th century temporary settlement of Wangat is believed to be located approximately two kilometres north of modern Dusodie and on the eastern side of the present Chichester Dam road (NSW LPI Six Viewer, accessed 24th April 2013). The modern day suburb for this area is regarded as Bandon Grove or sometimes Dusodie, dependent on its particular location. It appears that during the 19th and early 20th centuries a large area which included the Wangat Valley, part of the Wangat or (Little) River and the portion of land to the south of the Chichester Dam site was known as Wangat. The sheer size of the area forms the reason as to why both Wangat townships were regarded with the same name, as both fell within this geographical area. A number of documentary records appear to also refer to temporary settlement as Dusodie, one of which is Hunter Water (Hunter Water, "Chichester Dam", online resource, accessed 21st March 2013). It appears that the reference to Dusodie is a mistake, as many official documentary records differentiate between Wangat and Dusodie during the early 20th century. In a 1925 newspaper article, Dusodie is noted as a general election suburb (Singleton Argus, 30th April 1925: 3). Both Dusodie and Wangat are present in the 1928 Sands Country Directory entry as separate towns (Sands Country Directory (1928), p. 125). While it can be argued that the Wangat listed in the directory could be referring to the first Wangat mining village, the greater area containing the first Wangat village had been resumed by Hunter Water for spillway areas to the Wangat (or Little) River in the early 1910s as a result of the construction of the dam. The 1936 NSW Sands Country Directory lists Dusodie as a continuing town while Wangat is no longer present. This would correlate with the belief that the temporary settlement was officially dismantled by the late 1920s (Sands Country Directory (1936); Newcastle Herald, 20th May 1987).

Few documentary records exist to describe the features of Wangat and the extent of the town. Its formation as a temporary settlement, planned to only exist during the construction of Chichester Dam as a means to facilitate hundreds of workers in closer vicinity to the dam site, likely provided the area with little interest or focus to the settlement area. Any reports of visitors to the area placed focus on the progress of the dam site, not the features of the temporary Wangat settlement. One description from the "Chichester Dam" NSW Inventory form outlines that the village contained "houses, a boarding house and barracks for single men, shops and a dance hall ("Chichester Dam", NSW Environment and Heritage, State Inventory listing, accessed 6th March 2013). In one sense, the town can be considered to be a more formalised 'tent city', having contained hundreds of small cottages for families of workers and either tents or barracks for single working men. It appears that the majority, if not all buildings within Wangat were constructed out of timber. Some of the houses were removed and relocated to other properties when the town was deconstructed, rather than simply demolishing the buildings. From parish maps, it appears that Chichester Dam road, and its current position as we know it today, was already established during the construction of the dam and the occupation of Wangat village (IMAGE D006.3.jpg). However it is not known whether the main roads leading into the centre of Wangat, known from photographs, still exists. It can be suggested as the greater area is now all private land, that the original access ways into the town would have been removed or changed with the re-subdivision of the land.

The best perspective of Wangat derives from photographs and oral accounts from past residents. A photograph copied and provided to Newcastle Regional Library (IMAGE D006.1.jpg) saw a past resident of Wangat identify some of the buildings in the town. These included a public school, the tents of dam workers, barracks, a dance hall and two boarding houses. Parish maps infer that a two acre piece of land was resumed possibly as early as 1893 for the construction of a public school in the greater vicinity of the town area (NSW LPI "Parish of Tillegra" (1893), accessed 6th March 2013). While this well predates the establishment of the town of Wangat, it is possible that the school was operating for residents already living in the area and became known as Wangat

Item name: Wangat Village - Site 2

Location:

Dungog

Public School after the establishment of the temporary township. It is also possible that the land could have been resumed and not utilised until the opening of Wangat, however some evidence suggests that the school was known as Dusodie Public School up until approximately 1917 ("About Wangat", Wangat Lodge, accessed 6th March 2013 <http://www.wangat.com.au/cgi-bin/engine.pl?Page=page.html&Rec=20>). This date would further correlate with the establishment of the township.

It can be suggested that the greatest point of settlement, whereby Wangat would have contained the most residents and facilities primarily dates to the early 1920s. A later newspaper article which interviewed some of the past residents of Wangat noted that:

"At its peak the town had 60 houses for families, barracks for single men whose wives stayed in Dungog, a general store, a butcher's shop and a shop that sold non-alcoholic drinks. A pub was never built in Wangat but men smuggled in beer and sherry for parties" ("Dig Unearths dam town's secrets", Newcastle Herald, 20th May 1987).

This description when combined with other records, surmised that the town had well over 1000 residents at its peak occupation point and further provides a perspective that while temporary in nature, the main essential features of a town such as a school, shops, accommodation for visitors in boarding houses and a social hall had been established (Cessnock Eagle and South Maitland Recorder, 26th October 1923: 9). It is not known whether a church or cemetery existed in the township.

The Chichester Dam was officially completed in 1926. The completion of the dam meant that work ceased for almost the entirety of workers contracted to the dam site. As a result, residents immediately began to relocate back to Dungog and other surrounding townships to resume or find new work. While some documents claim that Wangat was deconstructed by the Public Works Department as soon as the dam was complete, other newspaper articles and accounts noted that the town, or a small part of it, still remained in 1930:

"The road from Dungog, after leading for some miles through pasture and farm lands, finally takes one up a long hill to where a gateway and signboard tell the visitor that he is about to enter Government property. To the right is a sharp turn off that once led to the village, of which very little is now remaining" ("Chichester Dam", The Sydney Morning Herald, 3rd January 1930: 15).

It can be suggested that perhaps the Public Works Department may have decommissioned all of the buildings owned by the department in around 1926 which subsequently left the privately owned properties to their own discretion. This could offer an explanation in the discrepancy of dates between the late 1920s to early 1930s concerning the removal and abandonment of Wangat.

Themes:	National theme	State theme	Local theme
	3. Economy	Agriculture	
	3. Economy	Industry	
	3. Economy	Commerce	
	4. Settlement	Accommodation	
	3. Economy	Communication	
	4. Settlement	Towns, suburbs and villages	
	4. Settlement	Utilities	
	5. Working	Labour	
	6. Educating	Education	
	8. Culture	Domestic life	

Designer:

Builder:

Year started:

Year completed: 1916

Circa: Yes

Item name: Wangat Village - Site 2

Location:

Dungog

Physical description: The second town known as Wangat is not presently inhabited and was abandoned shortly following the completion of the Chichester Dam, which is located to the north of the site. The majority, if not all buildings were disassembled or relocated to other areas around Dungog. While the absolute site area could not be located (private property), a combination of the topography, historical photographs available and site inspections were incorporated to form an approximate greater area of the early 20th century township. The construction and occupation of the second Wangat village was always considered to be a temporary settlement and this is confirmed through some of the historical photographs which appear to show many timber cottages and tents functioning as accommodation.

It should also be noted that while historical photographs and maps are useful in obtaining the location of the town, there is no guarantee that the pattern of roadways and access points have remained exactly the same since the town's removal. It appears that Chichester Dam road would have sufficed as the primary access way to the dam site as it does today, however the road leading off Chichester Dam road and into the original settlement has likely been removed or altered over time. While topography remains largely unchanged when development does not occur, the pattern of vegetation growth also changes over time, which would alter the appearance of the physical surroundings of the town site when inspected at present. Areas that appear completely cleared in photographs showing the temporary settlement of Wangat, unless developed today, would have revegetated and appear vastly overgrown when inspected at present.

Physical condition level:

Physical condition: As the absolute area of the site could not be located and inspected (private property of several different owners), the physical condition of the site remains unknown. A newspaper article from a small archaeological excavation of three rubbish pits in the town area did not state that there are any standing buildings, rather noting that there remained a few concrete steps which initially led into some of the cottage entrances (Newcastle Herald, 20th May 1987). The NSW Inventory listing for "Chichester Dam" states in the description section that: "No other structures survive from the extensive construction village however it is likely that archaeological remains of the former village survive within the revegetated area within the dam site" ("Chichester Dam", NSW Environment and Heritage, State Inventory listing, accessed 6th March 2013). It should be noted that any records or reports pertaining to this excavation could not be sourced. Based on the documentary evidence at hand, it can be suggested that there is a low to moderate potential for archaeological features or deposits relating to the short term establishment and occupation of the temporary settlement known as Wangat. Archaeological evidence may be found in the form of footings from buildings, rubbish pits (known), cesspits, wells and yard deposits representing the domestic occupation of the town by workers of the Chichester Dam and their families.

It should also be noted that an area further north of the settlement location and running adjacent to the Chichester Dam, should be marked as an area holding the potential for archaeological evidence pertaining to the construction and industrial 'works' areas used during the building of the dam site. A large area would have been required for the industrial works associated with the prepping and assembly of the dam site and it can be suggested that this would have been present on the southern side of the riverbank as it would have made transportation easier. The presence of a Caretaker's cottage and quarters on the southern side of the river bank also makes this position more probable. The Lot and DP numbers within this area include: Lot 1602 and 1603 DP850317, Lot 20 and Lot 80 DP753201, Lot 1 DP178537 and Lot 810 DP1153281.

Archaeological potential level:

Archaeological potential Detail:

Modification dates:

Item name: Wangat Village - Site 2

Location: Dungog

Recommended management: It is recommended that an in depth site inspection takes place around the approximate study site area in order to positively identify the town area and its greater vicinity. Once identified, an extensive title search of the associated Lot and DP numbers may provide information as to when the site area was specifically owned by the Public Works Department and then the land was re-subdivided and purchased by private landowners. Industrial 'works' areas pertaining to the manufacturing of materials for the dam construction may exist in closer vicinity to the dam site, which may also benefit from a site inspection.

On location of the study site parameters of the second Wangat village, concerning those properties, prior to the approval of any development of the study location an archaeological assessment and, if appropriate, relevant endorsements from the Heritage Branch should be sought where archaeological remains may be affected. Assessment of the site should be made prior to impact or disturbance being made to the current ground level surface.

Management:	Management category	Management name
--------------------	----------------------------	------------------------

Further comments:

Criteria a): The study area containing the second Wangat settlement can be considered to be of potential local historical significance. The early 20th century town is an example of a temporary settlement established entirely for the purpose of housing workers and their families involved in the construction of Chichester Dam. The site further offers a snapshot into the domestic lives of the working community, largely deriving from surrounding areas of the greater Dungog region, during a very specific time period between approximately c1916 and the early 1930s.

Criteria b):
[Historical association significance]

Criteria c):
[Aesthetic/ Technical significance]

Criteria d): The study site may hold some local significance to members of the greater Dungog community who once lived at Wangat, or their families.

Criteria e):
[Research significance]

Criteria f):
[Rarity]

Criteria g): The second Wangat village, known to have been established by c1916, can be considered to be of potential local significance according to this criterion. While the site was established under the premise of a temporary settlement site for workers of the Chichester Dam, the site demonstrates the development of a town from the ground up. This in turn allows information to be obtained regarding the necessary facilities chosen by a town in order to fulfil the needs of its community. An example of this would be the presence of a school and the establishment of shops to stock goods. The study site also potentially holds information which is representative of the domestic lives of a larger working class society positioned within a single township during the early 20th century.

Item name: Wangat Village - Site 2**Location:** Dungog

Intactness/Integrity: Archaeological: The extent and integrity of archaeological remains is unknown. The presence of three rubbish pits within the study area is known from a small excavation which occurred in 1987, however no archaeological records or formal report could be found for this site (it appears that information on this site was not formerly published).

References:	Author	Title	Year
	Carste Studio Pty Ltd: Williams, Mich	"A History of Three Rivers. Dungog Shire Heritage Study- The	2012
	NSW Environment and Heritage	"Chichester Dam", database number 3630116, Last Updated 20	
	NSW Land and Property Information	"Six Viewer", Last updated 2013	
	Hunter Water	"Chichester Dam", Last updated 2011, http://www.hunterwater	
	Sands Country Directory	"Wangat" and "Dusodie", 1928; 1936, Ancestry, online resourc	
	Wangat Lodge	"About Wangat", Last updated 2013	
	Singleton Argus, 30th April 1925		
	The Sydney Morning Herald	"Chichester Dam", 3rd January 1930	
	Cessnock Eagle and South Maitland R	"A trip to Wangat", 26th October 1923	
	Newcastle Herald	"Dig unearths dam town's secrets", 20th May 1987	

Studies:	Author	Title	Number	Year
	Carste Studio	Dungog Heritage Study Review		2013

Parcels:	Parcel code	Lot number	Section number	Plan code	Plan number
	LOT	1601, 1602, 1604		DP	850317
	LOT	1		DP	350391
	LOT	141		DP	810331
	LOT	1		DP	797600

Latitude: **Longitude:****Location validity:** **Spatial accuracy:****Map name:** **Map scale:****AMG zone:** **Easting:** **Northing:**

Listing:	Name	Title	Number	ListingDate
		Heritage study		

Data entry: Data first entered: 01/05/2013 Data updated: 19/11/2013 Status: Partial

Item name: Wangat Village - Site 2

Location:

Dungog

Image:



Caption: Wangat Village - Site 2

Copy right:

Image by: AMAC

Image date:

Image number:

Image url: <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAPP/345acfb727e99534d628fe83f83a64d55c2.JPG>

Thumbnail url: http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAPP/Thumb_test345acfb727e99534d628fe83f83a64d55c2.JPG

Item name: Wangat Village - Site 2

Location:

Dungog

Image:



Caption: Wangat Village - Site 2

Copy right:

Image by: AMAC

Image date:

Image number:

Image url: <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAPP/345fddd5fe648874d0b87c727067514239c.JPG>

Thumbnail url: http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAPP/Thumb_test345fddd5fe648874d0b87c727067514239c.JPG

Item name: Wangat Village - Site 2

Location:

Dungog

Image:



Caption: Wangat Village - Site 2

Copy right:

Image by: AMAC

Image date:

Image number:

Image url: <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAPP/3457ee18f7d180d46c5af3692737076572f.jpg>

Thumbnail url: http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAPP/Thumb_test3457ee18f7d180d46c5af3692737076572f.jpg

Item name: Wangat Village - Site 2

Location:

Dungog

