



Exeter Village – Character Statement – November 2022

Intent

Many residents have become increasingly concerned that, with development, the character of the village may be compromised. It is crucial therefore that new developments respond to and are compatible with the essential elements that make up that character.

Wingecarribee Shire Council (WSC) has estimated that the land within the defined Exeter Village has potential for around 450 properties. Of these, there are approximately 170 undeveloped lots which, if developed, would represent a greater than 50% increase in the number of dwellings.

While the village itself is the focus of this statement, it is also important to recognise that it sits within a semi-rural residential area, surrounded by an agricultural landscape flanked to the east by Morton National Park.

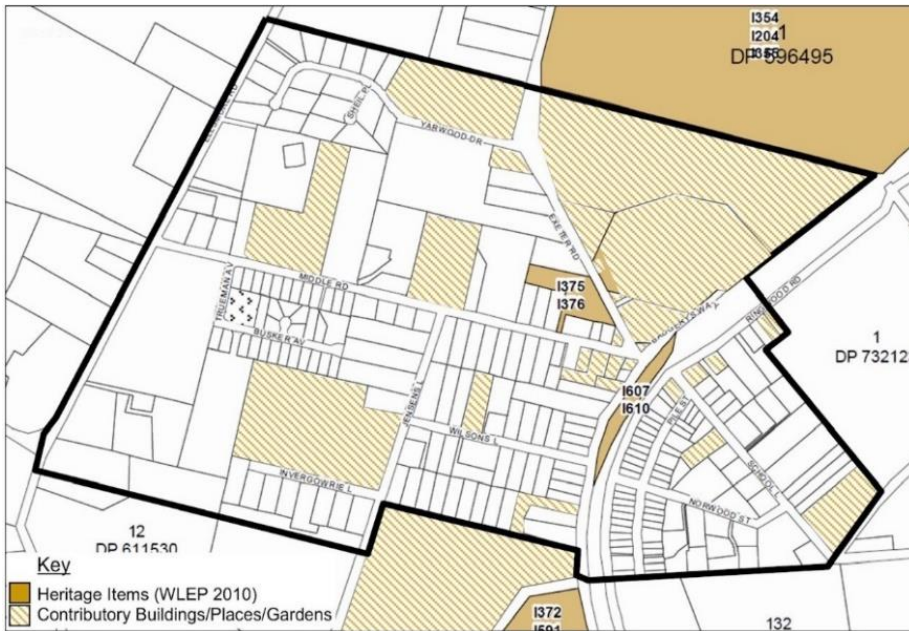
This statement identifies the essential characteristics of Exeter Village in order to ensure that its unique character, charm, and significant history and heritage are recognised and preserved for present and future generations to enjoy. It describes the historical context of the village and highlights those elements which, combined, give the village its particular character.

These are:

- rural setting, approach vistas and landscape
- the smallness of the village
- the modest scale and style of its buildings and streetscapes
- heritage and historic buildings, and park
- hedges and gardens
- gravel driveways and lanes with minimal use of kerb and gutter.
- mature cold climate trees and remnant eucalypts
- minimal street lighting
- four distinct seasons

Village boundary definition

For the purposes of this statement, and for consistency, the village is defined as the area depicted in the image below. This image is taken from the Wingecarribee Council Exeter Village Development Control Plan (DCP) (current January 2021).



The DCP recognises that both landscape and the built environment are involved in the retention of visual character so the map (DCP A7.2) shows both heritage listed and contributory buildings, places and gardens.

Contributory items are defined in the DCP as those which, while not currently heritage listed, nevertheless *'contribute to the overall character and visual attractiveness of the village'*. (Please note: Exeter Park is also heritage listed though this is not shown on the map.)

Those items which are heritage listed are identified in this Statement in Appendix A (p.11), along with a further list of contributory items. Many of these heritage and contributory items are described and illustrated in Appendix B (pp 12-23)

Historical context

Wingecarribee Shire is situated on the traditional lands of the Gundungurra people. These lands extended from the Blue Mountains to Goulburn.

In 1821 a 500-acre land grant was made to James Badgery, which he named *Spring Grove*, and thus began a long association between the extended Badgery family and the history and development of the Sutton Forest / Exeter area.



The family increased their holdings and established a livestock farming community in the area which supported 79 people by 1841. Henry Badgery built *Vine Lodge* and it is on the original lands of this property that Exeter now stands.



It was not until the 1880s that the name Exeter came into use when the Badgerys founded the village and named it after the cathedral city in Devon, England close to James's birthplace.

Due to its rich basalt soil, Exeter also attracted nurserymen such as Arthur Yates, the Searles and the Jensens who established seed, bulb, and flower nurseries.

Opened in 1878 as Badgery's Siding and later renamed Exeter Railway Station, this stop on the main southern railway line enabled the transport of animals, produce, bulbs and daffodils to the Sydney markets and helped Exeter to prosper.



Several historic and heritage listed buildings, gardens and mature cold climate trees remain in the village. They provide a link to its past and help to give Exeter its unique character.

A more comprehensive chronological history of the village is included as **Appendix C** p.23-24. A full pictorial history written by historian Linda Emery and entitled *Exploring Exeter*, is obtainable from the Exeter General Store or from the author at: lemery1918@gmail.com . Much of the history in this statement is derived from her publication.

Village setting

The village sits on a low rise with views to the valleys beyond in the east and west. It has a distinctive peaceful and verdant setting with grassy verges, tree-lined streets, hedges and gardens, parkland, mature cold climate trees such as oaks, elms and deodar cedars and remnant eucalypts.

Horses, sheep, goats, and cattle still graze in fields within the village. Native fauna such as wombats, wallabies, grey kangaroos, and echidnas continue to be seen in and around Exeter.



Exeter village lane

These features: the visible heritage, historic buildings, and unobtrusive streetscapes give Exeter its charm and special country character, and forge links with its past. All are highly valued by residents and visitors and are a tourist drawcard.

Landscape and Vistas

The village may be approached from several directions, from Sally’s Corner, Ellsmore, Exeter, Ringwood, Werai, and Bundanoon Roads. These six approaches set a largely rural scene for a welcoming entry to Exeter Village. Each approach still offers long vistas across undulating countryside and farmland though some recent developments are beginning to compromise these views. The planting of hedges of *cupressus leylandii* (Leighton Green) are also detrimental.



Exeter’s character relies heavily upon initial perceptions gained from these rural entry points. Preservation of these rural surrounds is key to the maintenance of the village entity.

The landscape surrounding the village is also recognised as significant and was included in the 2014 National Trust’s Exeter/Sutton Forest Landscape Conservation

Area, attached at **Appendix D** p.25.

Maintaining current Environmental and Rural zones together with the relevant minimum lot sizes adjoining Exeter Village will assist in ensuring that future generations enjoy the countryside between the villages.

Buildings and Streetscapes

Most of the village is residential adjoining a small historic enclave which includes Exeter Park, Exeter railway station complex, St Aidan's Church and Memorial Hall which are all heritage listed.



St Aidan's



The village has a small historic commercial centre where the Exeter General Store and Post Office

provide an important community hub and gathering place for residents and visitors. It is the very modest scale and freedom from urban bustle that sustains its charm and appeal.



Hub of the village

The radial street layout from the Exeter General Store and Exeter Railway Station is a distinctive feature. Currently, there are concerns around pedestrian ease of access as vehicular traffic increases.

Exeter is a village of mainly modest houses set on medium sized blocks with some vacant lots in between. The character is open and informal with varied setbacks.

Several buildings are late 19th Century and early 20th Century structures of predominantly weatherboard and some stone. Whilst there are a few grand houses and gardens within the locality, nevertheless the village evolved to house the workers for the farms and plant nurseries resulting in a continuation of traditional cottage style homes and gardens with narrow roadways and grassy verges some of which remain today.

Much of the charm of the village derives from the garden setting and the general modesty of the buildings due to the era in which they were built.

Even as the village has developed it has generally retained a scale of housing which is sympathetic to its heritage. Homes are mostly unobtrusive, single storey and in muted colours. Gabled roofs and verandahs are common features. The village has a variety of architectural styles defined by the period in which they were built. Until recently infilling has been relatively unobtrusive.



Exeter village lane

The tendency of building long low elevations parallel to the street is contrary to the traditional houses of Exeter. These have steeper pitched roofs of corrugated iron, generous timber fascias, hipped extensions, and verandahs, and could provide a model for new buildings that maintains the finer grained scale of Exeter Village.

Key public views and vistas, whether along streets or angled across properties or corner blocks, collectively contribute to the quality of the built environment.

Driveways, footpaths and lanes

The village has minimal kerb-and-guttering and has retained the traditional use of compacted gravel, rather than concrete, for footpaths at the village hub, and for entries and driveways to residential properties. These features with grassy roadside verges, plus sealed and unsealed lanes have all contributed to the retention of the rural nature of Exeter village and are conducive to country lane walks. These walks are enjoyed by many residents as a regular pastime. The lanes and verges differentiate Exeter from the typical modern urban and suburban styles and respect its rural heritage.



Exeter village lane

Limited provision of street lighting

Minimal street lighting is maintained intentionally to protect the views of the night sky as would be expected in a small rural village. WSC's DCP states at A12.1: 'The quality of the night sky is a highly valued asset of the Southern Highlands environment. ... the Southern Highlands affords excellent night sky visibility and Council wants to protect this valuable asset'. The use of timber rather than large concrete poles for street lighting and power is preferable and more sympathetic for a small village and surrounding rural area.

Hedges, trees, gardens, and four distinct seasons

The hedges are conspicuous in Exeter and if not too tall and solid, they and the street trees tend to soften and enhance the streetscapes throughout the village. There are several fine examples.



Exeter's basalt soil and moist cool climate has been conducive to the establishment of majestic oaks, elms and deodar cedars and the creation of exceptional cold climate gardens, both large and small. Some of these are heritage listed – refer **Appendix A** p.11.

Several gardens and established trees within the village date from its early European settlement in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Most notable are the Paul Sorensen-designed gardens for *Invergowrie* built in the early to mid-1930s replacing the old Yates family home *The Headlands* which was built in 1895.

This cool climate, and the 700m elevation of the village, also brings four distinct seasons: a richly colourful autumn, a bright blossom-filled Spring, a shady summer, and a crisp, frosty winter.

Historic and heritage listed buildings and places

The Badgery family houses in Exeter, initially *Ivy Hall* and later *Vine Lodge* were understated but comfortable accommodations.

At present, twelve buildings, gardens and structures in the Exeter village and surrounds are heritage listed. There are several historic buildings and gardens which are not currently heritage listed but which also augment and enrich the character of the village.

The list and descriptions of Exeter's historically important and heritage listed buildings are included as **Appendices A** p.11 & **B** pp 12-22.

Exeter Park

The heritage listed Exeter Park, which incorporates the Exeter (School of Arts) Village Hall, is central to the activities of the village and the broader community.



Exeter Park

This expansive classic tree studded park hosts regular walkers, people exercising their dogs, children at play, as well as cricket and soccer matches. It provides tennis facilities, a croquet court, cricket nets, barbecue facilities, and a children's playground.

Exeter Park is the venue for Exeter Village Association events such as Australia Day, ANZAC Day, Remembrance Day, and Christmas celebrations. The local CWA Branch created the beautiful garden beside the hall.

The Park is a focus of village life as well as a place for quiet contemplation.



Exeter Park hosts a popular monthly market, attracting hundreds of shoppers and dozens of stallholders.





During the horrendous and traumatising Morton National Park bushfires of late 2019 and January 2020, Exeter's oval became a staging post for the Rural Fire Service and a huge phalanx of vehicles came from far further afield in the State.

Exeter Oval is a neighbourhood safer place during a bush fire emergency as well as a landing place for helicopter rescues.

Looking to the future

As happens elsewhere, subsequent to the Badgerys, larger land holdings in the locality were broken up and sold off as economic conditions suited. Through the 1990s and 2000s more subdivisions have taken place reducing the verdant streetscapes, particularly along Middle Road and School Lane, where paddocks are giving way to more houses and some urban style lighting. Tree removal to make way for housing is a serious concern. These trends need increasing attention, such as declaring an Heritage Conservation Area, to maintain the desired character of the village.

Exeter's understated character, parkland and rural setting provide an alternative to modern urban and suburban life and are drawcards for day and longer stay visitors. The rural villages provide a significant contribution to the tourism revenue for the Southern Highlands.

Features identified here contribute to this character. If the village is to grow it is essential that they are taken into account if that overall character and heritage is to be preserved.

This does not mean that new buildings, developments, or infrastructure must copy those of the past, rather that their design, style, and scale should be sympathetic to the rural character of the village. EVA therefore supports the following objectives of the Exeter Village Development Control Plan (2010) effective January 2021:

- (a) preserve the character of Exeter as a village set in a mature landscape
- (b) maintain and enhance the existing visual, built and landscape character of Exeter
- (c) ensure that new or infill development is sympathetic to the existing built forms and landscape.
- (d) protect and conserve buildings, structures or places of environmental heritage and/or visual importance

(e) provide Council's requirements in the form of performance criteria in order to achieve the above outcomes.

EVA endorses WSC's objectives and encourages Council to enforce its own planning controls to conserve Exeter's significant history and heritage setting within its beautiful open landscape: a village that is highly valued by residents, visitors, tourists, and conservation bodies like the National Trust.



In Exeter village

Authors

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Exeter, November 2022

Photograph credits: Linda Emery & Berrima District Historical & Family History Society, Sandra Patterson, Dawn Jonas, Angela Williamson

The appendices which follow are

- A: Heritage listed and contributory buildings and places in Exeter
- B. Historically significant buildings and places in Exeter – not all
- C. A brief history of Exeter to explain the relevance
- D. Exeter – Sutton Forest Landscape Conservation Area - National Trust
- E. Berrima / Sutton Forest / Exeter Landscape Conservation Area – Colleen Morris

Appendix A:

Heritage listed features in Exeter Village

NSW State Heritage listing applies to:

Exeter Railway Station including signal box and cottage

Wingecarribee Shire Council Heritage listing (LEP) applies to:

Exeter Public School 1907 classroom, former residence, and trees

St Aidan's Church and St Aidan's Memorial Hall

Cherry Dell houses and garden

Invergowrie house and garden

Redcourt house

Exeter School of Arts Hall – Exeter Village Hall

Badgery Monument

Exeter Park

Exeter War Memorial Gates

Vine Lodge – house, grounds, and outbuildings

Romsey Cottage and garden

For contextual reference of these places, refer **Appendix C: A Brief History of Exeter**, pp. 23-24.

Contributory places which, along with heritage places, are described in Appendix B

Original Exeter Post Office

The Village Pump Antiques

Halcyon Cottage

Exeter General Store

The Hill

The Blue House

Apolima

Summerfield

The Old Nursery

Romsey

Whare Tau

Elouera

Buskers End

Appendix B:

Historically important buildings and features in the heart of Exeter Village – both heritage listed and contributory



- *St Aidan's Church* built in 1895 of local basalt stone, was enlarged and modified in 1903 although the west end nave was not completed until 1995.

Of particular note are the memorial windows and tablets that pay homage to the original

generous benefactors of the church. The Badgery stained-glass window was created by an artisan grand-uncle of a local resident.

St Aidan's is listed by the National Trust on the State Heritage Inventory and on the RAIA register of significant 20th Century Architecture.



- Original **Exeter Post Office** (1911-2004) was preceded in 1890 when the Stationmaster, Henry Neville, also became the Postmaster and the Post Office operated from a small room at the Railway Station. When, in 1908, the Postmaster General agreed to an official Post Office



for Exeter, he appointed the wife of the Stationmaster as Postmistress. After renting rooms alongside *Halcyon Cottage* for several years, Henry Neville built a house in Middle Road where the front room acted as the Exeter Post Office until 2004 when it was officially

moved to *Exeter General Store*. For well over a century the Post Office was operated by Postmistresses. The old Post Office still exists as a private residence in Middle Rd.

- ***Exeter Railway Station*** – the highest station on the Sydney-Melbourne, ‘Great Southern Line’, permanent way. The Station, built in 1890-91, is State heritage-listed. The listing incorporates the Signal Box and the Railway Cottage.



The station has always been well maintained in view of its historic position for the Exeter community – for the Badgerys, the Yates and other nurserymen and since the mid-20th Century a vital communication link with Sydney and other work centres in the Southern Highlands.



- ***The Village Pump Antiques*** built in 1933 as a general store and became Station Stores from 1933 until 1954.

- **Halcyon Cottage:** right in the heart of the village at the cross-roads, built in the late 1880s, one of the oldest surviving cottages from the Vine Lodge Estate and which became Exeter's first bakery in 1895, then was a home to a large family through the 1920s to 1940s and more recently an art gallery before becoming a retail and gift shop.



- **Exeter General Store:** built in 1914 by the Pile family; it was not the first store to service Exeter, but it has endured with only eleven store owners in its 110-year+ history. Each generation has moulded the store to meet the Village needs and expectations. In more recent times, it has been a major draw card to visitors and remains the meeting point for most residents and now incorporates the Post Office.



- **The Village Hall** dates from 1902 was built as the School of Arts and sits harmoniously in Exeter Park with its treed oval*. The Hall and Library complex that was built was less than a



third of the original design, but nevertheless has been the community gathering place ever since.

The building was modified in 1970, and expanded more recently (2017), and now constitutes two beautifully maintained halls that can be combined to accommodate over 200 people, very popular for weddings, and many local club and group activities on a regular basis each week.



-Exeter Park and Oval*

Established c. 1895 occupying 11 acres (4.5 ha)

The land was purchased for community use by local families Yarwood and Yates from Dalgety & Co. By 1904 the park was increased to 13 acres - its current size.

- *The War Memorial Hall* in St Aidan's Church grounds was built in 1922 as a church hall for the Sunday school. It was extended in 1937 in the distinctive style of the period. It is listed by the National Trust, on the State Heritage Inventory and on RAIA register of significant 20th Century Architecture.



-*The Hill* was built on the highest point of Exeter (752m) in 1898 as an attractive brick house, known as *Dagworth*, and renamed *The Hill* after the Second World War. The house displaying Federation Queen Anne style is largely original and the garden has many of the century old oaks and conifers, dry stone walls and a brick drainage system.



- **The Blue House** was built as a four-roomed railway worker's cottage in 1898 by the early residents, the Linklater family on a 1.25-acre block, opposite *Elouera*, off School Lane. James and his son worked on the construction of railway bridges along the Great Southern Line. The house, after two owners- the Greasons for 30 years and Quiggs for 50 years, was restored in 1989.

- **Exeter Public School** opened in 1891 on four acres two of which were gifted by the Badgerys and two which they sold to the Department of Public Instruction for £60. This introduced public education to 45 local children initially, with the numbers growing to 80 in six years.



In the decades to follow, particularly in 1940-50s, tree planting and landscaping with roses enhanced the school grounds. The school is State Heritage Listed.

- **Apolima** was built in c. 1887 on a 2½ acres in Middle Road as a four-roomed weatherboard country retreat by Sydney accountant Frank Yarwood. In the 1890s, significant additions were made adding kitchens, halls and three bedrooms. The Yarwoods were passionate gardeners and over a century later, this property's outstanding features are its trees and landscaped gardens. Yarwood planted a considerable number of exotic trees that still exist, and he was a major benefactor to the village of Exeter. Yarwood was a founding father of accountancy in Australia and his practice that started in 1880s has now become Deloitte Australia.



The property was extended to Exeter Road; in part, as a large vegetable and orchard farm under the care of Walter Curtis who lived in the delightful brick cottage (c. 1921) on the corner of Exeter Road and now, Yarwood Drive.

A regular visitor in the 1930s to *Apolima* was famous artist Grace Cossington-Smith.

-*Vine Lodge* was built in 1839 on a 1,920-acre grant. It was Henry Badgery's second house more befitting his status and needed to provide for his increasing family, having outgrown his initial 1823 *Ivy Hall* cottage. It became the centre of the Badgery estates. The



house has been described as Colonial Georgian with arched window niches and a recessed porch. After a fire in 1855 much of the cedar joinery was replaced and during 1900s the house was substantially altered with a different roof structure.

In recent decades the current owners have reconstructed both the original roof and the recessed porch. The house continues to sit within a mature garden with most of the original trees. It is regarded as one of the important early settlement houses in the Southern Highlands for both architectural and historic value.



Vine Lodge stables

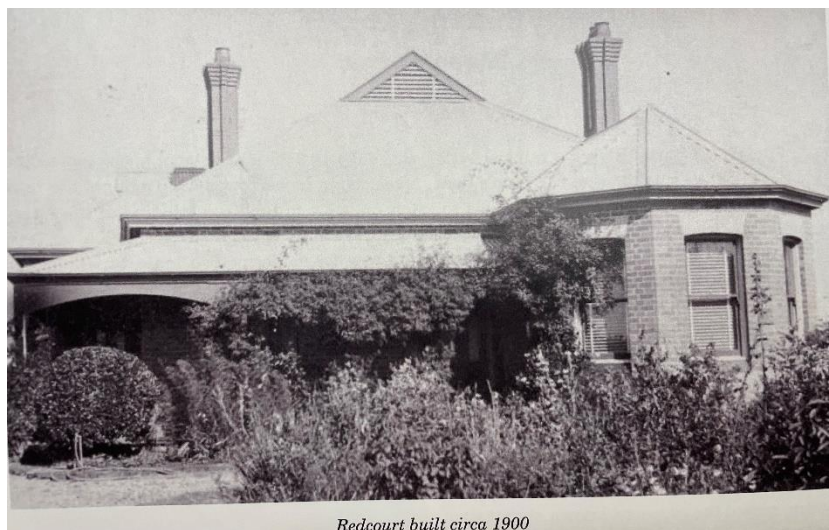
-Badgery Monument

Situated in Exeter Park near the War Memorial Gates, this monument honours the Badgery family settlement of what is now Exeter in 1819. For safety reasons the monument was moved to its present site from its original position on Exeter Road near the original entrance to Vine Lodge. Standing beside the monument is Historian, Linda Emery, who has researched the history of the village and its early occupants.



- **Summerfield** was built by 1906 by Charles Rivers on one of six one-acre lots that he had purchased from the Vine Lodge Estate in 1903; all were along Wilsons Lane. One of the Greason family purchased the house in 1912, then known as *Guntawong*, and rented it to Philip Badgery and family from 1916 to 1923 while they built a new house on the *Ivy Hall* property, which was the original home of the Badgery family from 1834. *Summerfield* was then rented to Dorothy and William Murchie until they purchased it in 1941. It was the only house on the north side of Wilsons Lane at the time, where they grew peas and turnips and became known colloquially as Murchie's Lane. This fine five-bedroomed weatherboard house was restored and extended in the early 1980s and again in the early 1990s when it became known as *Summerfield*.

-**Redcourt** was built around 1900 as the large brick home of the Fowler family on the original 27-acre subdivision from *Vine Lodge Estate* bought in 1897 and extended the following year to create the 60-acre *Red Court Farm*. It was sold in 1914 to Sybella Badgery, wife of Henry Badgery's fourth son, also Henry. He was a former MP and for 30 years the Managing Director of one of the largest stock and station



auctioneers and wool brokers in NSW, Pitt Son and Badgery now part of Elders Limited. This fine late Victorian country house remains largely in original condition.

-**The Old Nursery** was created on 17 acres, bought from Dalgety & Co around 1893, when Jens (Fritz) Jensen built *The Cottage* in 1894 and then planted a specialist flower farm and orchard. It was run by the family supplying NSW with produce for over 80 years until sold in 1985. Most of the trees remain along an impressive driveway and the bulbs continue to produce their flowers. *The Cottage* remains and was renovated by the existing owner.

-**Romsey** was initially built around 1885 as a four-roomed cottage on a Bundanoon sandstone base using random rubble basalt from the property and Indigo Creek, the same building technique used for *St Aidan's Church*. In 1897, *Romsey* was acquired by Arthur Yates who added a Federation style extension and re-roofed the entire house with Marseilles tiles in 1901. The 50-acre farm was part of the Yates Seed business but significant oaks, golden ash, coast redwoods and Colorado white fir trees were planted. The property is currently six acres with the house further extended in 1989 when the garden was landscaped again.



-**Whare Tau** was built as an impressive Federation home around 1904 for a local dairy farmer, Denis Sheil, after he inherited a substantial portion via his mother of his uncle's (James Tyson) legacy. Tyson was a pastoralist and landowner.



Much of the fine craftsmanship remains with cedar joinery, four metre high pressed-metal ceilings, ornate doorways, and stained-glass windows.

A small cottage, *Tullylish*, preceded the new house, (1897-1903) and remains along with the stables. Both houses were restored in 1996 with the gardens re-landscaped.

Current owners have completed a sympathetic restoration of this beautiful property.

-Invergowrie was built in 1937 by Cecil Hoskins having bought Arthur Yates' *The Headlands*, earlier in 1929 as a family home. Hoskins oversaw the rise of an iron and steel empire which became BHP.

The new house was named *Invergowrie* after the home of a family friend, the Premier of Victoria. The three-storey structure was the grandest built in Exeter at that time built in an English Manor style.



The Headlands was demolished

although a few of the workers' cottages still survive having been moved to different parts of the estate. Hoskins employed the noted landscape gardener Paul Sorensen to plan new gardens, building on the Yates' orchards and existing garden with its old rhododendrons. This work continued into the 1940s. In 1967, under new owners, Sorensen was again asked to advise on restoring and extending the garden to enhance the mature trees of the Yates period with his previous design. The grounds have been subsequently subdivided although the grounds surrounding the house are still reminiscent of a much-admired English park.

-Cherry Dell is the eastern 12-acre portion subdivided from Invergowrie in 1997. It was the main garden of Invergowrie, principally the dell with its 1930s Sorenson stone walls and the headwaters of a tributary of Reedy Creek. It contains many fine tree specimens planted by Arthur Yates, mainly deciduous but many pines, spruces, and tree ferns. The southern paddock was one of Yates' main daffodil plantations.



Part of the Sorensen wall at *Cherry Dell*

Cherry Dell was the gatehouse of *Invergowrie*, rebuilt in the 1960s in Tudor style by then owner, Fieldhouse, and an original *Invergowrie* worker's cottage adjacent to *Redcourt*. A significant brick house was added in 2009.

-Elouera



Exeter's first General Store dating from 1893 on the corner of School Lane. Under three proprietors, John Hart, John Cunningham, and finally the Meyer brothers until 1914 when it became a private home. In the 1920s it was run as a guest house, *Athol*, by Miss Miller.



*Exeter
General
Store in
1910*

- *Busker's End* was built in 1894 on 11 acres and named *Lynwood*, by Arthur Burnell. Burnell was one of the organisers of the building of St. Aidan's church but fell on hard times in 1895 and the handsome house with the sweeping driveway and treed garden passed to relatives the Leibius family for the next 50 years. The ABC Dance Band leader, Jim Davidson, renamed the house *Busker's End* in the early 1950s. Two subsequent subdivisions destroyed the garden and the setting, save some of the larger trees.

Appendix C:

Brief history of Exeter Village

Exeter Village is situated on the traditional lands of the Gundungurra people. Those lands extended from the Blue Mountains and the Hawkesbury to Goulburn.

In 1821 a land grant of 500 acres, known as *Spring Grove*, was made to James Badgery and was the first for the Exeter area. Later, his sons Henry and Andrew Badgery successfully applied for further grants close to *Spring Grove*, *Vine Lodge* being one of these, and upon a portion of which the village of Exeter now lies.

The Badgery Family via further land grants established a significant livestock and farming community in the area which supported 79 people by 1841. In the late 1880s they founded and named the village after their origins in the city of Exeter, the county town of Devon.

The development of the village began in 1889. Financial difficulties led to a large section of the *Vine Lodge* property being subdivided into farm and town lots, the first of which were sold in 1892. Some of these farm lots were purchased by Arthur Yates, and he then established a nursery on the outskirts of the village. Exeter's rich basalt soils which had initially attracted the Badgery family to the area also led to the establishment of the Jensens' and Searles' seed and bulb nurseries.

Badgery's Siding, a stop on the main southern railway line, was opened in 1878 and renamed Exeter Station in 1890.

Thanks to the existence of this local station, by the early 20th century Exeter was supplying the Sydney Markets with much produce and flowers, especially daffodils. At the Jensen's *Old Nursery*, these bulbs have naturalised and continue to produce daffodils every Spring.

It was noted in 1891 that Exeter was going ahead. Land sold two years earlier had already trebled in value and several cottages were being built, as well as houses for the farm workers. A brick store was erected in 1894 and a bakery the following year.

Exeter Public School opened in 1891 with a new building erected in 1907 – one of the buildings on the Heritage Register.

In 1895 the foundation stone was laid for a Church of England (St Aidan's) with the dedication ceremony in 1896. The building then seated only 40 people and in 1904 extensions were completed.

Although there are a few grand houses and gardens within the locality, the village initially evolved to house the workers for the farms and nurseries, resulting in traditional cottage style homes and gardens with narrow roadways and grassy verges which can still be seen today.

Several buildings, gardens, and some cold climate established trees within the village date from its early European settlement in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

A School of Arts was established in 1900. A building to house it was completed in 1902. Following extensions this building became known as Exeter Village Hall.

Exeter Soldiers' Memorial Hall was erected in the grounds of St Aidan's church in 1922. It was used for Sunday School and as a meeting place for church organisations.

With funds from Exeter residents, and the government of the day, the land on which Exeter Park now stands was purchased in 1911. The Heritage listed memorial gates at the entrance to the park were unveiled by Sir John Northcott, then Governor of NSW in 1950.

A branch of the Country Women's Association was formed in 1946. The CWA meets in the recently extended Exeter Village Hall.

By the 1990s the special character and history of Exeter was recognised, and moves were made to conserve and protect the village. In 1991 Exeter Village and its surrounding landscape was included in the National Trust's Exeter/ Sutton Forest Landscape Conservation Area, registered by the National Trust in 1998 (see Appendix D, p 25).

In 1998 historian and local resident, Linda Emery, published the book *Exploring Exeter* which documented the history of the village. An updated edition was published in 2020. This work has been the source of much of the historical information included in this Statement.

By 2010, twelve houses, gardens and structures were listed by WSC as Heritage Items while Exeter Station, its signal room and Station Master's cottage were listed on the State Heritage Register.

Appendix D: National Trust Exeter Sutton Forest Landscape Area



NatTrust
ExeterSuttonForestLC/



Approaching Exeter

Appendix E: Berrima/Exeter/Sutton Forest Landscape Conservation Area By Colleen Morris



-Colleen Morris
report.pdf

Berrima, Sutton Forest, and Exeter



Approaching Exeter

Acknowledgements:

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Thanks also to Sandra Patterson for allowing us to include several of her photographs.

Other photo credits: Dawn Jonas and Angela Williamson

Exeter Village Character Sub-committee, November 2022