



View west across a sloping landform and landscaped gardens at Broken Hill hospital.

ABORIGINAL DUE DILIGENCE ASSESSMENT REPORT

BROKEN HILL HOSPITAL REDEVELOPMENT

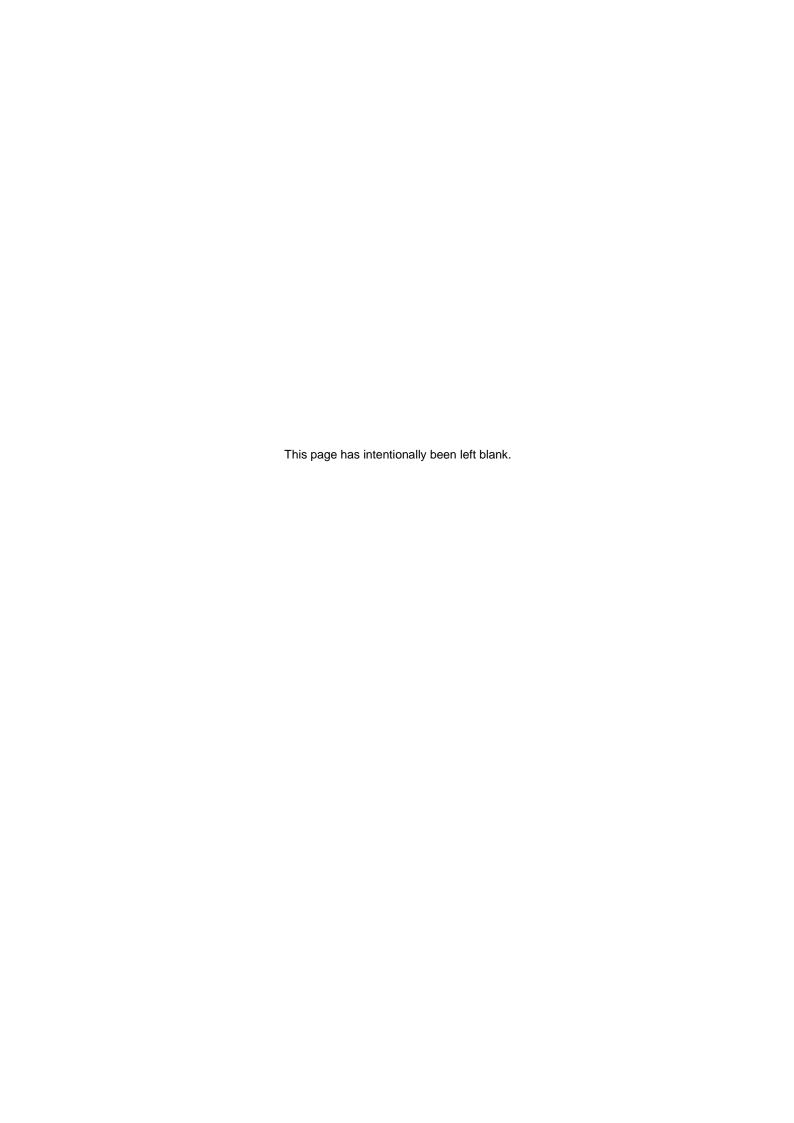
BROKEN HILL, NSW JUNE 2023

Report prepared by
OzArk Environment & Heritage
for Acorn Project Advisory

OzArk Environment & Heritage

145 Wingewarra St (PO Box 2069) Dubbo NSW 2830

Phone: (02) 6882 0118 Fax: (02) 6882 0630 enquiry@ozarkehm.com.au www.ozarkehm.com.au



DOCUMENT CONTROLS

Proponent	NSW Health Infrastructure
Client	Acorn Project Advisory
Document Description	Aboriginal Due Diligence Assessment Report: Broken Hill Hospital Redevelopment
File Location	OzArk Job No.
Clients\Acorn Project Advisory\Broken Hill	3707
Hospital_Jan 2023\Broken Hill Advisory_Heritage_Nov 2022\DD Report	3707
Document Status: V3.0 Final	Date: 6 June 2023
Draft V1: OzArk internal edits	V1.0 JH author 28/2/23 V1.1 SR review 2/3/23 V1.2 JH edits 2/3/23
Draft V2: OzArk and client edits	V2.0 to client 2/3/23
Final V3: Final document	V3.0 final to client 6/6/23 V3.1 information redacted for public version 28/6/23
Prepared for	Prepared by
Elly Yuan	Jordan Henshaw
Associate Director	Archaeologist
Acorn Project Advisory	OzArk Environment & Heritage
44 Market Street (PO Box Q1830 LG)	145 Wingewarra Street (PO Box 2069)
Sydney NSW 2000	Dubbo NSW 2830
Elly.yuan@acorn-projects.com.au	P: 02 6882 0118
	jordan@ozarkehm.com.au
	CODVDICUT

COPYRIGHT

 $\ensuremath{\texttt{@}}$ OzArk Environment & Heritage 2023 and $\ensuremath{\texttt{@}}$ NSW Health Infrastructure 2023

All intellectual property and copyright reserved.

Apart from any fair dealing for private study, research, criticism, or review, as permitted under the Copyright Act, 1968, no part of this report may be reproduced, transmitted, stored in a retrieval system, or adapted in any form or by any means (electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise) without written permission.

Enquiries should be addressed to OzArk Environment & Heritage.

Acknowledgement

OzArk acknowledge the traditional custodians of the area on which this assessment took place and pay respect to their beliefs, cultural heritage, and continuing connection with the land. We also acknowledge and pay respect to the post-contact experiences of Aboriginal people with attachment to the area and to the Elders, past and present, as the next generation of role models and vessels for memories, traditions, culture and hopes of local Aboriginal people.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

OzArk Environment & Heritage (OzArk) has been engaged by Acorn Property Advisory, on behalf of NSW Health Infrastructure (the proponent) to complete an Aboriginal due diligence heritage assessment for the proposed redevelopment of Broken Hill hospital (the proposal).

The proposal is part of the Far West Local Health District which has received funding to upgrade its Emergency Department and construction a purpose build mental Health Inpatient Unit and will be assessed under Part 5 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

The study area is in the township of Broken Hill and includes approximately 3.75 hecatres (ha) of land within Lot 4376 DP757298, surrounding by the Broken Hill hospital.

A search of the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System database shows there are no previously recorded Aboriginal sites within or near the study area. Further, the study area does not contain any landscape features with increased archaeological sensitivity and has been subject to variable levels of disturbance.

The visual inspection of the study area was undertaken by OzArk Archaeologist, Harrison Rochford, on 21 February 2023. No members of the Aboriginal community were present during the inspection. No previously unrecorded Aboriginal sites or areas of potential archaeological deposits were identified. The study area was assessed as having low archaeological potential due to previous levels of disturbance and the lack of archaeologically sensitive landscape features.

The undertaking of the due diligence process resulted in the conclusion that the proposed works will have an impact on the ground surface, however, no Aboriginal objects or intact archaeological deposits will be harmed by the proposal. This moves the proposal to the following outcome:

Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit application not necessary. Proceed with caution. If any Aboriginal objects are found, stop work, and notify Heritage NSW (02) 9873 8500 (heritagemailbox@environment.nsw.gov.au). If human remains are found, stop work, secure the site, and notify NSW Police and Heritage NSW.

To ensure the greatest possible protection to the area's Aboriginal cultural heritage values, the following recommendations are made:

- 1) The proposed work may proceed at the study area without further archaeological investigation under the following conditions:
 - a) All land and ground disturbance activities must be confined to within the study area, as this will eliminate the risk of harm to potential Aboriginal objects in adjacent landforms. Should the parameters of the proposal extend beyond the assessed areas, then further archaeological assessment may be required.

- b) All staff and contractors involved in the proposed work should be made aware of the legislative protection requirements for all Aboriginal sites and objects.
- 2) This assessment has concluded that there is a low likelihood that the proposed work will adversely harm Aboriginal cultural heritage items or sites. If during works, however, Aboriginal artefacts or skeletal material are noted, all work should cease and the procedures in the *Unanticipated Finds Protocol* (**Appendix 2**) should be followed.
- 3) Inductions for work crews should include a cultural heritage awareness procedure to ensure they recognise Aboriginal artefacts (**Appendix 3**) and are aware of the legislative protection of Aboriginal objects under the National Parks & Wildlife Act 1974 and the contents of the *Unanticipated Finds Protocol*.
- 4) The information presented here meets the requirements of the *Due Diligence Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales*. It should be retained as shelf documentation for five years as it may be used to support a defence against prosecution in the event of unanticipated harm to Aboriginal objects.

CONTENTS

EXECUT	IVE SUMMARYIII
1 INT	RODUCTION1
1.1	Brief description of the proposal1
1.2	Study area1
1.3	Assessment approach
2 Ав	ORIGINAL DUE DILIGENCE ASSESSMENT
2.1	Introduction3
2.2	Defences under the NPW Regulation 2019
2.2.1	Low impact activities
2.2.2	Disturbed lands3
2.3	Application of the Due Diligence Code of Practice to the proposal4
2.3.1	Step 14
2.3.2	Step 2a4
2.3.3	Step 2b6
2.3.4	Step 2c9
2.3.5	Step 310
2.3.6	Step 4
2.4	Conclusion
3 MA	NAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS13
REFERE	NCES14
PLATES.	16
APPEND	IX 1: AHIMS SEARCH RESULTS19
APPEND	IX 2: ABORIGINAL HERITAGE: UNANTICIPATED FINDS PROTOCOL
APPEND	IX 3: ABORIGINAL HERITAGE: ARTEFACT IDENTIFICATION21
Figuri	ES .
Figure 1	-1. Map showing the location of the proposal1
Figure 1	-2: Aerial showing the study area2
	2-2: Previously recorded sites in relation to the study area6
Figure 2	2-3: Survey coverage within the study area11

TABLES

Table 2-1: Determination of whether Due Diligence Code of Practice applies4			
Table 2-1: Site types and frequencies of AHIMS sites near the study area			
Table 2-3: Due Diligence Code of Practice application11			
PLATES			
Plate 1: View southeast of the steeply sloping northwest section of the study area16			
Plate 2: View of high levels of GSV at the centre of the study area			
Plate 3: View of disturbances present on the sloping landforms within the study area17			
Plate 4: View of existing buildings on flat landforms at the southeast of the study area17			
Plate 5: View of ground disturbance on flat landforms at the south of the study area			

1 Introduction

1.1 Brief description of the proposal

OzArk Environment & Heritage (OzArk) has been engaged by Acorn Property Advisory, on behalf of NSW Health Infrastructure (the proponent) to complete an Aboriginal heritage Due Diligence heritage assessment for the proposed redevelopment of Broken Hill hospital (the proposal). The proposal is in the City of Broken Hill Local Government Area (LGA) (**Figure 1-1**).

The proposal is part of the Far West Local Health District which has received funding to upgrade its Emergency Department and construction a purpose build mental Health Inpatient Unit and will be assessed under Part 5 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act).

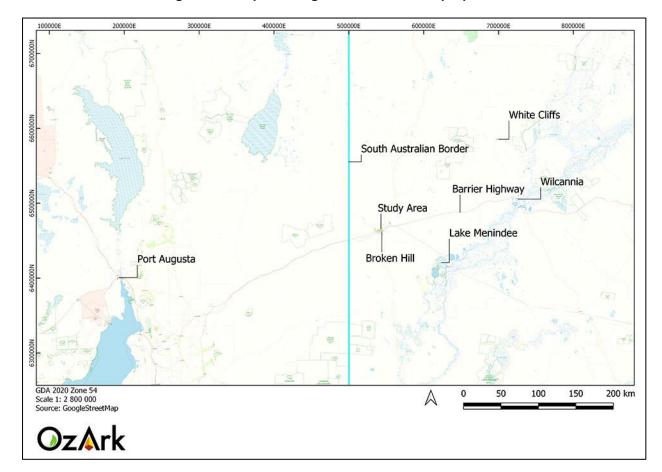


Figure 1-1. Map showing the location of the proposal.

1.2 STUDY AREA

The study area is in the township of Broken Hill and includes approximately 3.75 hectares (ha) of land within Lot 4376 DP757298 The eastern portion of the study area largely includes carparks and roads although some buildings are also present, while the western portion includes a cleared parcel of land near the corner Morgan Street and the end of Thomas Lane. The existing hospital and residential dwelling surround the study area.

The study area is shown on Figure 1-2.

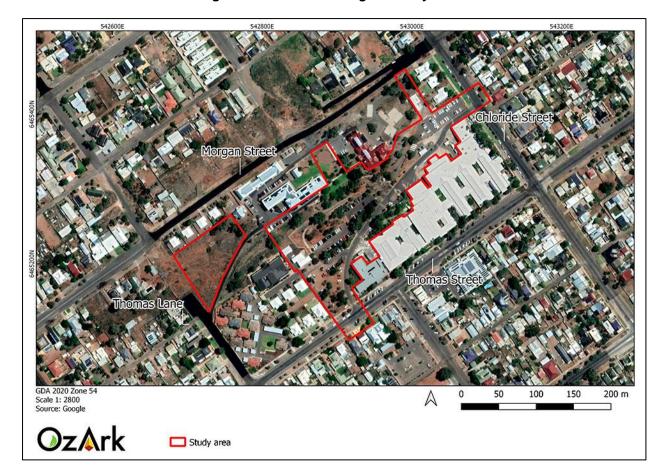


Figure 1-2: Aerial showing the study area.

1.3 ASSESSMENT APPROACH

The desktop and visual inspection component for the study area follows the *Due Diligence Code* of *Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales* (due diligence; DECCW 2010). The field inspection followed the *Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in New South Wales* (OEH 2011).

2 ABORIGINAL DUE DILIGENCE ASSESSMENT

2.1 INTRODUCTION

Section 57 of the National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2019 (NPW Regulation) made under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NPW Act) advocates a due diligence process to determining likely impacts on Aboriginal objects. Carrying out due diligence provides a defence to the offence of harming Aboriginal objects and is an important step in satisfying Aboriginal heritage obligations in NSW.

2.2 DEFENCES UNDER THE NPW REGULATION 2019

2.2.1 Low impact activities

The first step before application of the due diligence process itself is to determine whether the proposed activity is a "low impact activity" for which there is a defence in the NPW Regulation. The exemptions are listed in Section 58 of the NPW Regulation (DECCW 2010: 6).

The proposal will involve excavation and construction that are not 'low impact' activities in the regulation. Therefore, the due diligence process will be applied.

2.2.2 Disturbed lands

Relevant to this process is the assessed levels of previous land-use disturbance.

The NPW Regulation Section 58 (DECCW 2010: 18) define disturbed land as follows:

Land is disturbed if it has been the subject of a human activity that has changed the land's surface, being changes that remain clear and observable.

Examples include ploughing, construction of rural infrastructure (such as dams and fences), construction of roads, trails and tracks (including fire trails and tracks and walking tracks), clearing vegetation, construction of buildings and the erection of other structures, construction or installation of utilities and other similar services (such as above or below ground electrical infrastructure, water or sewerage pipelines, stormwater drainage and other similar infrastructure) and construction of earthworks.

The study area consists of buildings, sealed carparks and roads, and landscaped open space. Portions of the study area which contain these types of infrastructure are considered 'disturbed land'. However, outside of these areas of infrastructure there are areas where the proposed work will take place where the land's surface has not been changed in a clear and observable manner and the due diligence process must be applied.

In summary, it is determined that the proposal must be assessed under the Due Diligence Code of Practice. The reasoning for this determination is set out in **Table 2-1**.

Table 2-1: Determination of whether Due Diligence Code of Practice applies.

ltem	Reasoning	Answer
Is the activity to be assessed under Division 4.7 (state significant development) or Division 5.2 (state significant infrastructure) of the EP&A Act?	The proposal will be assessed under Part 5 of the EP&A Act.	No
Is the activity exempt from the NPW Act or NPW Regulation?	The proposal is not exempt under this Act or Regulation.	No
Do either or both apply: Is the activity in an Aboriginal place? Have previous investigations that meet the requirements of this Code identified Aboriginal objects?	The activity will not occur in an Aboriginal place. No previous investigations have been undertaken for this proposal.	No
Is the activity a low impact one for which there is a defence in the NPW Regulation?	The proposal is not a low impact activity for which there is a defence in the NPW Regulation.	No
Is the activity occurring entirely within areas that are assessed as 'disturbed lands'?	The proposal is not entirely within areas of high modification.	No
Due Diligence Code of Practice assessment is required		

2.3 APPLICATION OF THE DUE DILIGENCE CODE OF PRACTICE TO THE PROPOSAL

To follow the generic due diligence process, a series of steps in a question/answer flowchart format (DECCW 2010: 10) are applied to the proposed impacts and the study area, and the responses documented.

2.3.1 Step 1

Will the activity disturb the ground surface or any culturally modified trees?

Yes, the proposal will impact the ground surface and may impact culturally modified trees.

The proponent is proposing to expand the existing emergency department of the Broken Hill Hospital, as well as construct a purpose-built mental health unit. Early works will include the relocation of roads and accessways and carparks as well as the disconnection of staged services. Subsequent works will include the redevelopment of the emergency department including ambulance bays as well as new permanent car parking and decommissioning of the existing Mental Health unit.

Aerial imagery of the study area shows there is potential for mature, nature tree species to be present (**Figure 1-2**). Therefore, culturally modified trees may be impacted by the proposal, if present.

2.3.2 Step 2a

Are there any relevant confirmed site records or other associated landscape feature information on AHIMS?

No, there are no previously recorded sites within the study area.

A search of the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) on 28 February 2023 was undertaken over a 5 x 5 km search area centred on the study area (GDA Zone 55 Eastings 537927-547891 Northings 6460268-6470259). The search returned 68 previously recorded Aboriginal sites within the search area; however, none are located within or near the study area (**Figure 2-1**).

Figure 2-1 shows all previously recorded sites in relation to the study area and **Table 2-2** shows the types of sites that are close to the study area. Artefact sites with an unspecified quantity were found to be the most common Aboriginal site type within the search area (n=52, 76.5%), followed by stone quarries with associated artefacts (n=11 16%). Other less frequent site types include hearths and stone quarries without associated artefacts (n=2, 3%) as well as a single aboriginal resource and gathering site.

The AHIMS search recorded several site types across the search area, however it is unlikely that any of these site types will be recorded within the study area because of the high levels of disturbance which have already occurred. As mature native vegetation is present within the study area there remains the possibility that culturally modified trees have survived previous disturbances and are still present within the study area.

Table 2-2: Site types and frequencies of AHIMS sites near the study area.

Site Type	Number	% Frequency
Artefact site (quantity unspecified)	52	76.5
Stone quarry & artefact	11	16.0
Stone quarry	2	3.0
Hearth	2	3.0
Aboriginal resource and gathering	1	1.5
Total	68	100

Figure 2-1: Previously recorded sites in relation to the study area.

(redacted from public version)

2.3.3 Step 2b

Are there any other sources of information of which a person is already aware?

No, there are no other sources of information that would indicate the presence of Aboriginal objects in the study area.

2.3.3.1 Ethnohistoric context

The study area is situated on Wilyakali country (Tindale 1974). The Wilyakali 'tribal' and linguistic boundary extends from Broken Hill west into South Australia and covers an approximate area of 21 000 square kilometres (Horton 1996). The towns and localities of Silverton, Mutooroo and Boolcoomata are on land usually associated with the Wilyakali. This land is bordered by Danggali land to the east and south, Ngadjuri land to the west and Malyangaba and Bandjigali to the north.

Each of these groups shared similar languages and kinship systems, including the division of members into one of two social classifications, the Mukwara (wedge-tailed eagle) or Kilpara (raven) (Blows 1995 cited in Cupper 2003).

2.3.3.2 Regional archaeological context

Navin Officer 2014 and 2021

Navin Officer (2014 and 2021) have completed two assessments for the Hawsons Iron Project, located 60 km southwest of Broken Hill.

The initial survey identified 420 previously unrecorded Aboriginal sites including isolated finds, hearths and areas of potential archaeological deposits (PAD). Larger sites were identified as extending across multiple hectares of land. The findings were heavily affected by alluviation and deposition due to environmental factors including wind, soil erosion and changes in channel direction over time (Navin Officer 2014).

In 2021, 59 drill locations were surveyed within the 'Wonga' and 'Burta' stations. The drill locations were situated on flat or slightly undulating landforms which had also undergone soil erosion. A total of four Aboriginal sites were recorded during the visual inspection including three isolated finds, including one recorded with PAD, and an artefact scatter consisting of two artefacts. The recorded artefacts include flakes and cores manufactured from silcrete and quartzite (Navin Officer 2021).

Austral Archaeology 2022

Austral Archaeology sampled landforms as part of the first phase of assessment for the Hawsons Iron Project. A total of 20 Aboriginal sites were recorded during the survey, all of which were recorded as artefact scatters. An additional 100 isolated finds were also identified. Sloping landforms as well as hill crests were identified as containing fewer artefacts when compared to landforms within 200 m of waters. Most sites were recorded in proximity to Harry Harry Creek or other unnamed waterways throughout the region. Quartz, silcrete and chert were found to be the most common material used in tool manufacturing.

OzArk 2022

The due diligence report focussed on 34 proposed drill locations across the proposed Hawsons Iron Project area. Many of the landscapes and landforms present throughout the wider region are similar to those found in proximity to Broken Hill and render the findings of this report relevant to the current study area.

Eighteen previously unrecorded sites were located during the visual inspection. Two isolated finds were located as well as 16 artefact scatters, some of which contained over 1,000 individual artefacts (Hawsons-OS12, Hawsons-OS14 and Hawsons-OS16). One artefact scatter also included a quarry within the site extent whilst two artefact scatters included a hearth.

2.3.3.3 Local archaeological context

Gay 2001

The report focused on a one square kilometre (km²) area approximately 4.5 km southwest of the study area on the outskirts of Broken Hill for the Mineral Separation Plant. A total of 16 Aboriginal sites were recorded including eight open camp sites and seven quartz quarries.

It was concluded that the types of sites recorded are well represented as numerous examples have been previously recorded in and around Broken Hill, especially on major waterways surrounding the town and throughout the wider region.

OzArk 2013

The Aboriginal due diligence report was completed for the proposed Mawson's Quarry at Broken Hill. The assessed covered 80 ha of land located approximately 2.6 km southeast of the study area. The study area had been subject to high levels of both historic and ongoing disturbance since European settlement including vegetation clearing and heavy stocking rates. A total of four previously unrecorded Aboriginal sites were located during the survey. Two of the sites located were recorded as open artefact scatters (MQ-OS1 and MQ-OS2). Individual artefacts recorded as part of both scatters were primarily manufacture from quartzite. One isolated find and quarry were also recorded during the survey. All sites were located on gently sloping landforms.

OzArk 2016

During an assessment of a 4 km section of road located 90 km north of Broken Hill, two isolated finds and one artefact scatter were recorded. The assessment area was categorised by rolling hills and low ridges with deeply incised drainage. All three sites were recorded within erosion scolds near ephemeral waters but were considered likely to have been removed from their primary context due to wind and water erosion.

Implications for the study area

Previous assessments completed across the surrounds of Broken Hill have recorded a variety of artefacts including isolated finds, quarries, hearths, and artefact scatters. Sites have often been recorded on similar landforms which are also present within the study area. However, due to the high levels of disturbance which has already occurred across the study area, it is unlikely that archaeological material will be present. Should sites be present, they are most likely to include low-density artefact scatters of isolated finds in disturbed contexts. Scarred trees may be present, but it is noted that they are rare sites types across landforms such as the study area.

The study area has not been previously assessed and information detailed in **Section 2.3.2** presents the only available information that specifically relates to the study area: an AHIMS search. There are no known cultural values or Aboriginal sites pertaining directly to the location

of the proposed work. No Aboriginal community members accompanied the current visual inspection.

2.3.4 Step 2c

Are there any landscape features that are likely to indicate presence of Aboriginal objects?

No, the study area does not contain landforms with identified archaeological sensitivity.

The Due Diligence Code of Practice (DECCW 2010) refers to several landscape features which have higher potential to contain Aboriginal objects. These include:

- Within 200 metres (m) of waters
- Located within a sand dune system
- Located on a ridge top, ridge line or headland
- Located within 200 m below or above a cliff face
- Within 20 m of or in a cave, rock shelter, or a cave mouth

on land that is not disturbed land.

The study area within the Barrier Downs landscape unit (Mitchell 2002: 17) which is characterised by slopes, low ridges, and areas of outwash from the nearby Barrier Ranges. The study area itself contains some areas of flat landforms as well as large sections of both gentle and sleep slopes. Soils associated with the Barrier Downs landscape unit generally consist of sandy loams as well as red clays on long slopes which are susceptible to erosion and brown cracking clays along alluvial flats. Vegetation can include mulga, prickly wattle and bluebush as well as needlewood and a wide variety of grasses and thorny shrubs. The nearest drainage line to the study area is located over 1 km to the west.

As such, no landforms with archaeological sensitivity identified in the Due Diligence Code of Practice are present within the study area.

A 'no' answer for Question 2 a-c, results in the following outcome (DECCW 2010: 10):

AHIP (Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit) application not necessary. Proceed with caution. If any Aboriginal objects are found, stop work, and notify Heritage NSW (02) 9873 8500 (heritagemailbox@environment.nsw.gov.au). If human remains are found, stop work, secure the site, and notify NSW Police and Heritage NSW.

Although not required by the due diligence process, the proponent has elected to apply the precautionary principle and proceed to visual inspection of the study area (**Section 2.3.6**) in order to ground-truth the findings of the above desktop level assessment.

2.3.5 Step 3

Can harm to Aboriginal objects or archaeologically sensitive landscape features be avoided?

Yes, there are no known Aboriginal objects within the study area, nor are there any archaeologically sensitive landscape features that will be impacted by the proposal.

2.3.6 Step 4

Does a desktop assessment and visual inspection confirm that there are Aboriginal objects or that they are likely?

No, a desktop and visual inspection has confirmed that there are no Aboriginal objects within the study area.

The visual inspection of the study area was undertaken by OzArk Archaeologist, Harrison Rochford, on 21 February 2023. No members of the Aboriginal community were present during the inspection.

All mature native vegetation present within the study area was inspected and none displayed evidence of cultural modification. The study area was confirmed as sloping in several sections where the ground surface had not been levelled to allow for previous construction and carparking.

Ground surface exposure was very low, averaging 5-10% across study area (**Plate 1**). However, within the few areas of exposure, the ground surface visibility (GSV) was relatively high, averaging 75-100% (**Plate 2**).

High levels of disturbance identified at desktop level including previous land clearing, landscaping and construction of the existing Broken Hill hospital were confirmed during the visual inspection and are considered to be a contributing factor for the low archaeological potential of the study area (**Plate 3,Plate 4** and **Plate 5**). The distance of the study area from reliable water also suggests that the archaeological sensitivity of the landforms at the study area low overall.

All parts of the study area were adequately inspected, and no previously unrecorded Aboriginal sites or landforms with PAD were identified.

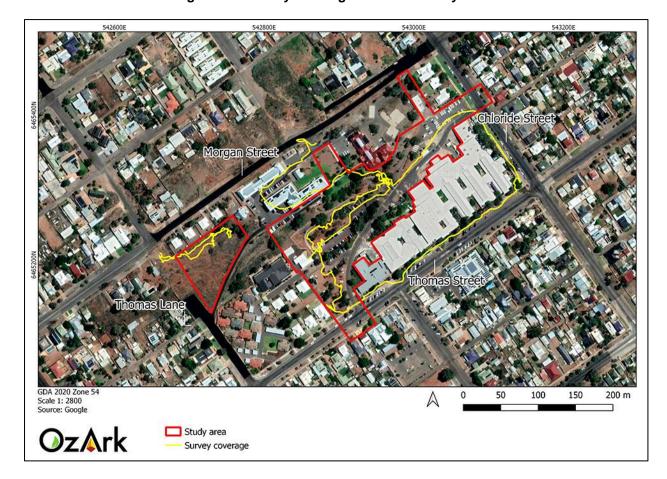


Figure 2-2: Survey coverage within the study area.

2.4 CONCLUSION

The due diligence process has resulted in the outcome that an AHIP is not required. The reasoning behind this determination is set out in **Table 2-3**.

Table 2-3: Due Diligence Code of Practice application.

Step	Reasoning	Answer
Step 1 Will the activity disturb the ground surface or any culturally modified trees?	The proposed works will disturb the ground surface through land clearing, earthworks and construction activities. Aerial imagery of the study area shows there is potential for mature, nature tree species to be present (Figure 1-2). Therefore, culturally modified trees may be impacted be the proposal, if present.	Yes
If the answer to Step 1 is 'yes', proceed to Step 2		
Step 2a Are there any relevant records of Aboriginal heritage on AHIMS to indicate presence of Aboriginal objects?	AHIMS indicated that there are no Aboriginal sites within the study area.	No
Step 2b Are there other sources of information to indicate presence of Aboriginal objects?	There are no other sources of information to indicate that Aboriginal objects are likely in the study area.	No
Step 2c Will the activity impact landforms with archaeological sensitivity as defined by the Due Diligence Code?	Landforms with identified archaeological sensitivity are not present within the study area.	No
If the answer to any stage of Step 2 is 'yes', proceed to Step 3		

Step	Reasoning	Answer
Step 3 Can harm to Aboriginal objects listed on AHIMS or identified by other sources of information and/or can the carrying out of the activity at the relevant landscape features be avoided?	The proposal will not impact Aboriginal objects listed on AHIMS or landforms with archaeological sensitivity. Despite this, the proponent has elected to apply the precautionary principle and proceed to visual inspection.	Yes
If the answer to Step 3 is 'no', a visual inspection is required. Proceed to Step 4.		
Step 4 Does the visual inspection confirm that there are Aboriginal objects or that they are likely?	The visual inspection recorded no Aboriginal objects or areas of PAD in the study area. All landforms present were found during the inspection to have low archaeological potential.	No
Conclusion		
AHIP not necessary. Proceed with caution.		

3 MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

The undertaking of the due diligence process resulted in the conclusion that the proposed works will have an impact on the ground surface, however, no Aboriginal objects or intact archaeological deposits will be harmed by the proposal. This moves the proposal to the following outcome:

Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit application not necessary. Proceed with caution. If any Aboriginal objects are found, stop work, and notify Heritage NSW (02) 9873 8500 (heritagemailbox@environment.nsw.gov.au). If human remains are found, stop work, secure the site, and notify NSW Police and Heritage NSW.

To ensure the greatest possible protection to the area's Aboriginal cultural heritage values, the following recommendations are made:

- 1) The proposed work may proceed within the study area without further archaeological investigation under the following conditions:
 - a) All land and ground disturbance activities must be confined to within the study area, as this will eliminate the risk of harm to potential Aboriginal objects in adjacent landforms. Should the parameters of the proposal extend beyond the assessed areas, then further archaeological assessment may be required.
 - b) All staff and contractors involved in the proposed work should be made aware of the legislative protection requirements for all Aboriginal sites and objects.
- 2) This assessment has concluded that there is a low likelihood that the proposed work will adversely harm Aboriginal cultural heritage items or sites. If during works, however, Aboriginal artefacts or skeletal material are noted, all work should cease and the procedures in the *Unanticipated Finds Protocol* (Appendix 2) should be followed.
- 3) Inductions for work crews should include a cultural heritage awareness procedure to ensure they recognise Aboriginal artefacts (Appendix 3) and are aware of the legislative protection of Aboriginal objects under the National Parks & Wildlife Act 1974 and the contents of the *Unanticipated Finds Protocol*.
- 4) The information presented here meets the requirements of the *Due Diligence Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales*. It should be retained as shelf documentation for five years as it may be used to support a defence against prosecution in the event of unanticipated harm to Aboriginal objects.

REFERENCES

Austral Archaeology 2022	Austral Archaeology. 2022. Summary of Initial Cultural Heritage Fieldwork for Hawsons Iron Ore. Report to Hawsons Iron Pty Ltd.
Burra Charter 2013	International Council on Monuments and Sites 2013. <i>The Burra Charter: The Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance</i> .
Cupper 2003	Cupper, M. 2003. Archaeological and Aboriginal heritage Survey: Ginko Mineral Sands Project Ancillary Infrastructure Modifications. Report to: Resource Strategies.
DECCW 2010	DECCW. 2010. Due Diligence Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects in NSW. Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water, Sydney.
Gay 2001	Gay, L. 2001. <i>Mineral Separation Plant, Broken Hill, NSW: Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Heritage Assessment.</i> Report to: Resource Strategies on behalf of BeMaX Resources NL.
Horton 1996	Horton, D. 1996. The AIATSIS Map of Indigenous Australia.
Mitchell 2002	Mitchell, Dr. Peter. 2002. Description for NSW (Mitchell) Landscapes Version 2. Department of Environment and Climate Change NSW.
Navin Officer 2014	Navin Officer Heritage Consultants. 2014. <i>Hawsons Iron Project, NSW.</i> Report to Hawsons Iron Pty Ltd.
Navin Officer 2021	Navin Officer Heritage Consultants. 2021. <i>Hawsons Iron Project, NSW – Archaeological Survey for Proposed Exploration Sites</i> . Report to: Hawsons Iron Pty Ltd.
OEH 2011	Office of Environment and Heritage. 2011. <i>Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in New South Wales.</i> Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water, Sydney.
OzArk 2013	OzArk Environment and Heritage. 2013. <i>Aboriginal and Historic Heritage Assessment: Mawson's Broken Hill Quarry.</i> Report to R.W Corkery on behalf of E.B. Mawson Pty Ltd.
OzArk 2016	OzArk Environment and Heritage. 2016. Aboriginal and Historic Archaeological Assessment: Silver City Highway (HW22) Upgrade at 8 Mile. Report to: NSW Roads and Maritime Services.
OzArk 2022	OzArk Environment and Heritage. 2022. Aboriginal Due Diligence

Tindale 1974

Tindale, N. Aboriginal Tribes of Australia. ANU Press, Canberra.

PLATES



Plate 1: View southeast of the steeply sloping northwest section of the study area.



Plate 2: View of high levels of GSV at the centre of the study area.



Plate 3: View of disturbances present on the sloping landforms within the study area.



Plate 4: View of existing buildings on flat landforms at the southeast of the study area.



Plate 5: View of ground disturbance on flat landforms at the south of the study area.

APPENDIX 1: AHIMS SEARCH RESULTS

(redacted from public version)

APPENDIX 2: ABORIGINAL HERITAGE: UNANTICIPATED FINDS PROTOCOL

An Aboriginal artefact is anything which is the result of past Aboriginal activity. This includes stone (artefacts, rock engravings etc.), plant (culturally scarred trees) and animal (if showing signs of modification; i.e. smoothing, use). Human bone (skeletal) remains may also be uncovered while onsite.

Cultural heritage significance is assessed by the Aboriginal community and is typically based on traditional and contemporary lore, spiritual values, and oral history, and may also consider scientific and educational value.

Protocol to be followed if previously unrecorded or unanticipated Aboriginal object(s) are encountered:

- 1. If any Aboriginal object is discovered and/or harmed in, or under the land, while undertaking the proposed development activities, the proponent must:
 - a. Not further harm the object
 - b. Immediately cease all work at the particular location
 - c. Secure the area to avoid further harm to the Aboriginal object
 - d. Notify Heritage NSW as soon as practical on (02) 9873 8500 (heritagemailbox@environment.nsw.gov.au), providing any details of the Aboriginal object and its location; and
 - e. Not recommence any work at the particular location unless authorised in writing by Heritage NSW.
- If Aboriginal burials are unexpectedly encountered during the activity, work must stop immediately, the area secured to prevent unauthorised access and NSW Police and Heritage NSW contacted.
- 3. Cooperate with the appropriate authorities and relevant Aboriginal community representatives to facilitate:
 - a. The recording and assessment of the find(s)
 - b. The fulfilment of any legal constraints arising from the find(s), including complying with Heritage NSW directions
 - c. The development and implementation of appropriate management strategies, including consultation with stakeholders and the assessment of the significance of the find(s).
- 4. Where the find(s) are determined to be Aboriginal object(s), recommencement of work in the area of the find(s) can only occur in accordance with any consequential legal requirements and after gaining written approval from Heritage NSW (normally an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit).

APPENDIX 3: ABORIGINAL HERITAGE: ARTEFACT IDENTIFICATION

