View east across the study area.

ABORIGINAL DUE DILIGENCE ASSESSMENT REPORT

GLEN INNES BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM

GLEN INNES, NSW

DECEMBER 2024

Report prepared by

OzArk Environment & Heritage

for Chris Smith & Associates on behalf of Green Gold Energy

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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 Chris Smith & Associates, on behalf of Green Gold Energy (the proponent) to complete an Aboriginal due diligence heritage assessment for the proposed Glen Innes Battery Energy Storage System (BESS; the proposal). The proposal is in the Glen Innes Severn Shire Local Government Area.

The study area consists of an approximately 1.1 hectare portion of agricultural land directly north of the Gwydir Highway and west of Wellingrove Street on the outskirts of Glen Innes. The study area includes the BESS location, as well as proposed overhead transmission infrastructure and vegetation screening.

A 10 x 10 km search of the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) returned eight results for previously recorded Aboriginal sites within the search area (**Appendix** 1). No Aboriginal sites are located within the study area.

The visual inspection of the study area was undertaken by OzArk Archaeologist, Imogen Crome, on 7 November 2024. Shawn Faiers representing Glen Innes Local Aboriginal Land Council was present for the visual inspection.

At the conclusion of the visual inspection, the entire study area was determined to have low surface and subsurface archaeological potential. This is due to the nature of the landform and clay soils present, as well as the long history of intensive agriculture. No Aboriginal objects or potential archaeological deposits were identified during the visual inspection.

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.
2. All land and ground disturbance activities must be confined to within the study area, as this will eliminate the risk of harm to Aboriginal objects that may be in adjacent landforms. Should the parameters of the proposal extend beyond the assessed areas, then further archaeological assessment may be required.

3. 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.
4. 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.*
5. 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.

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1.1 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSAL

OzArk Environment & Heritage (OzArk) has been engaged by Chris Smith & Associates, on behalf of Green Gold Energy (the proponent) to complete an Aboriginal due diligence heritage assessment for the proposed Glen Innes Battery Energy Storage System (BESS; the proposal). The proposal is in the Glen Innes Severn Shire Local Government Area (LGA) (**Figure 1-1**).

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

1.2 STUDY AREA

The study area consists of an approximately 1.1 hectare (ha) portion of agricultural land directly north of the Gwydir Highway and west of Wellingrove Street on the outskirts of Glen Innes. The study area includes the BESS location as well as proposed overhead transmission infrastructure and vegetation screening. The study area is shown on **Figure 1-2**.

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).

Figure 1-2: Aerial showing the study area.

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

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 activities of the proponent are not considered a 'low impact activity' within the Code of Practice. Therefore, the due diligence process must 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.*

As sections of the proposed work are in previously cleared landforms which have been ploughed and contain established agricultural infrastructure such as property fences, it could be considered that the proposed work is occurring in 'disturbed land.' However, apart from these disturbances, sections of the proposed work are not in an area where the land's surface has 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.

Item	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 but will not impact culturally modified trees.

Earthworks associated with the construction of the BESS and the overhead transmission infrastructure will impact the ground surface.

The proposal has been designed to avoid mature native vegetation and will therefore not impact culturally modified trees.

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 10 x 10 km search of the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) returned eight results for previously recorded Aboriginal sites within the search area (GDA Zone 56, Eastings: 364868–384725, Northings: 670058–6720055) (**Appendix** 1). No Aboriginal sites

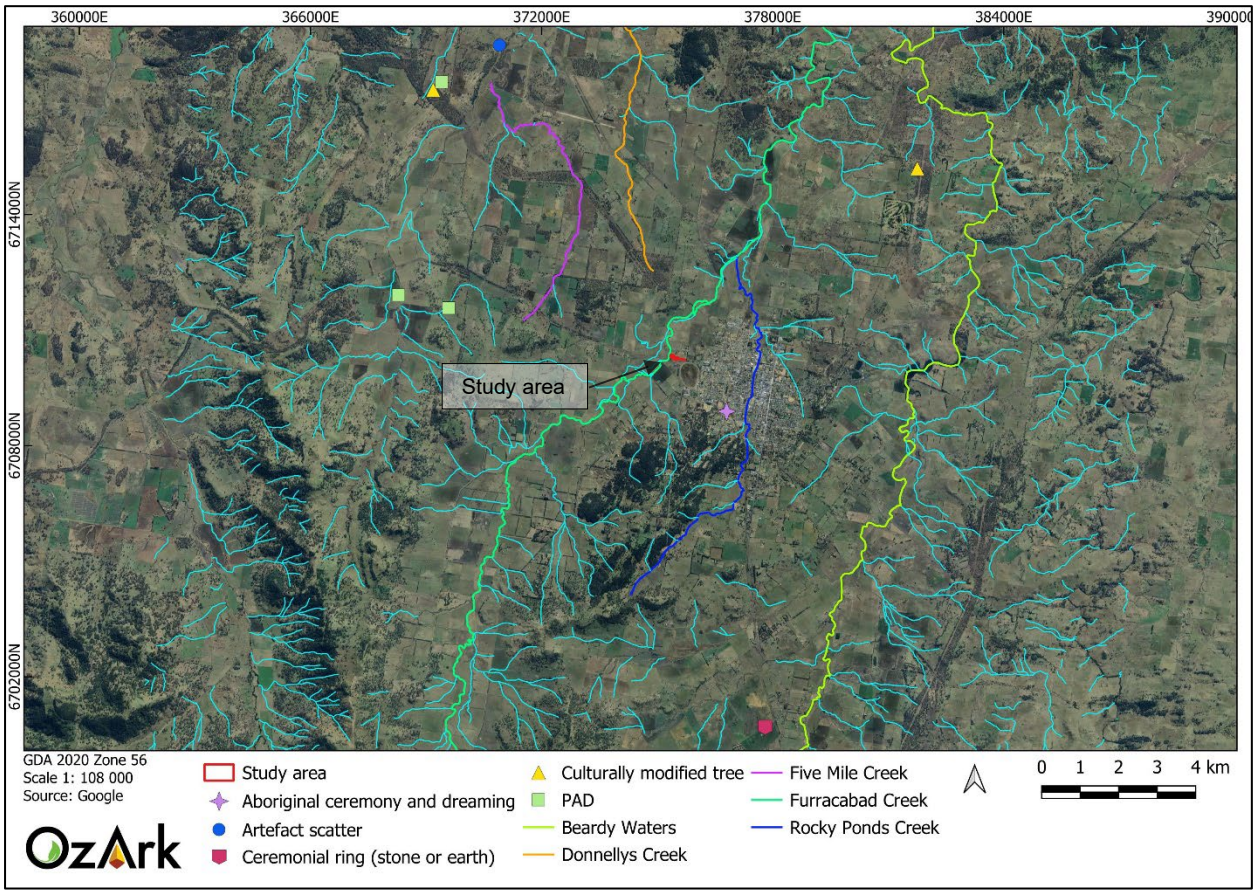
are located within the study area. The closest Aboriginal site to the study area is an Aboriginal ceremony and dreaming site (Glen Innes Rock Wells) located 1.7 km to the southeast.

The small number of AHIMS recordings within the search area limits the conclusions that can be drawn from the AHIMS data. The more common site types in the area are potential archaeological deposits (PADs) and culturally modified trees (carved or scarred). Based on the AHIMS data, the most likely site type that could be recorded at the study area would be a PAD, as the second most common site type (culturally modified trees) cannot be present due to the clearing of all mature native vegetation. **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.

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

Site Type	Number	% Frequency
PAD	3	37.5
Culturally modified tree (carved or scarred)	2	25
Artefact scatter	1	12.5
Ceremonial ring (stone or earth)	1	12.5
Aboriginal ceremony and dreaming	1	12.5
Total	**8**	**100**

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



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 background

The Glen Innes area is within a region identified as part of the Nganyaywana language group. This is an assemblage of many small clans and bands speaking a number of similar dialects (Tindale 1974, Horton 1994, Howitt 1996). The borders were, however, not static, they were most likely fluid, expanding and contracting over time to the movements of smaller family or clan groups. Boundaries ebbed and flowed through contact with neighbours, the seasons and periods of drought and abundance.

Prior to British settlement, the tablelands and adjacent slopes between Glen Innes and Inverell supported dense woodlands, which provided habitat for a broad range of plant and animal species that formed the core of Aboriginal dietary items prior to contact with early European explorers and settlers. Groups are documented as having utilised a broad range of plant species as both food and material resources, including bracken fern, orchids, tubers and lilies, kurrajong trees and the daisy yam, to mention just a few.

2.3.3.2 Regional archaeological context

McBryde 1974

McBryde noted in her 1974 publication that suitable rock for grinding grooves is rare across the Tablelands, and therefore grinding groove sites often comprise small portable sandstone blocks (McBryde 1974: 159). She noted that the closest grooves were near Walcha at the time, and since then, several grinding groove sites have been identified in the local area. A number of these sites are noted to be on outcropping granite bedrock, but there is some ambiguity in the geological terminology.

In the later Holocene, Aboriginal occupation in upland areas became more visible in the archaeological record, including several ceremonial sites in conjunction with lagoons.

Stone arrangements in various groupings such as cairns, circles, lines, and corridors have also been identified although little is known about them. McBryde identified stone cairn sites at a number of locations across north-eastern NSW, which were often grouped along crests, ridges, and knolls (McBryde 1974: 31–33). The study noted that stone arrangements on the Tablelands did not reveal any significant landscape patterning "*apart perhaps from the preference for elevated sites with a good outlook*".

One site at Black Mountain was known as part of a Bora ground and featured 17 large heaps of stones on a "*slight hollow on the top of a peak, one of the highest points in the area*" (McBryde 1974: 41). Bora rings in the Tablelands have been identified as circular cleared areas (typically 10–15 m in diameter) edged with a low bank of earth up to 1 m high and nearly 2 m wide (McBryde 1974: 52).

Literary accounts suggest that Bora grounds often comprised two circles joined by a pathway, often flanked by ground drawings of human and animal figures, and carvings of geometric designs in nearby trees. McBryde listed 26 Bora sites known at the time in the Tablelands (McBryde 1974: 59–62). Archaeological evidence of burials has been identified in rock shelters, but also as open sites marked by earth mounds, piles of stones, and nearby carved trees (McBryde 1974).

Beck et al. 2015

The article published in *Archaeology in Oceania* outlines the scarcity of persistent occupation sites in the Tablelands due to the lack of rock shelters recorded throughout the region. The cold, harsh environmental conditions of the Tablelands were seen as a major obstacle to year-round occupation, resulting in a sparse distribution of sites (Binns & McBryde 1972). However, others including Godwin (1990) argued that the Tablelands was not abandoned during winter but was occupied by small mobile groups all year. Beck et al. continues Godwin's investigations into the resource zones of the Tablelands, specifically the focus on upland wetland landscapes or 'lagoons.'

The New England lagoons are shallow upland ponds located along the highest parts of the major drainage divides within the Tablelands. Lagoons were chosen for study, not only because water sources are an essential focus for human occupation but also because of their cultural values (Beck et al. 2015: 47). Not only did Aboriginal people interact physically with water sources, such as fish trapping, ditches, and mounds, but they are also the central locations of many myths and dreaming stories (Smith & Wobst 2005). The New England lagoons can occur in five general forms (**Table 2-3**).

Lagoons are ecologically diverse sources of food and fibre resources for Aboriginal people arriving on the Northern Tableland and provide a clustering of resources that are not available elsewhere in the region. Lagoons are most productive when they are shallow or fluctuating in depth, possibly due to increased plant growth and invertebrate breeding which supports waterbird species. Lizards, snakes, turtles, and frogs also occur in and around lagoon areas.

Beck et al. concludes that the overall productivity of New England lagoons is high when numbers of plant and animal species in wetland environments are stimulated by alternate wetting and drying, suggesting that these landforms could have acted as transit stations for not only migratory wildlife moving from the coast to the inland and back, but Aboriginal people who were also able to take full advantage of these isolated islands of resource abundance (Beck et al. 2015: 54).

Table 2-3: Types of New England lagoons by drying patterns (Brock 2011).

Drying pattern	Predictability and duration of filling
Semi-permanent or near permanent	Usually holds some water; annual inflows are greater than minimum loss in 90% of years. May dry during extreme drought events.
Seasonal	Alternately wet and dry every year according to season. Fills during wet season and dries annually. Surface water persists for months.
Intermittent	Alternately wet and dry, but less frequently and regularly than seasonal wetlands. Surface water may persist for months to years.
Episodic	Annual inflow is less than minimum loss in 90% of years. Dry for most of the time. Only rarely and irregularly flooded when water may persist for months.
Ephemeral	Only fills for a few days after unpredictable rainfall and run-off.

2.3.3.3 Local archaeological context

McCardle 2007

The assessment was intended to identify areas of Aboriginal cultural heritage values and to develop management recommendations for the proposed Glen Innes Wind Farm. The study area was located approximately 12 km to the west of Glen Innes, covering 8.5 km of the Waterloo Range. The area was identified as having undergone both human (predominately agricultural) and natural disturbances. Ground surface visibility was limited by rocks, grass, and trees and did not exceed 55%. Of 27 wind turbine sites surveyed, only one archaeologically significant site was identified, consisting of a basalt axe head. Whilst basalt is local to the area, the artefact was not found in-situ and was likely to have been washed downhill. No PADs were identified during the survey. As such, the area was not considered to be of high significance.

RPS 2008

The assessment was undertaken for the proposed Ben Lomond Wind Farm. The assessment included a pedestrian and vehicle survey of the 9,683 ha study area, which is located 1 km north of Ben Lomond village, 30 km south of the current study area. The area had previously been used extensively for grazing. Visibility was limited due to dense pasture grasses. Exposures were limited to patches of track, gate openings, dam walls, cattle pads, and cuttings. No Aboriginal sites were recorded. A number of historic heritage item/sites were observed, including a number of old farm buildings, structures, and movable items which were assessed as having low heritage significance.

NSW Archaeology 2011

In 2009, NSW Archaeology conducted an assessment for the proposed Sapphire Wind Farm which was published in 2011. A total of three Aboriginal object locales SU14/L1, SU19/L1 and SU21/L1 were recorded within the assessed survey units.

The locales were reported to have a very low-density stone artefact distribution, resulting in low archaeological potential/sensitivity, and therefore low archaeological significance.

In addition to the Aboriginal object locales, five trees were considered by the Aboriginal field assistants to be possible scarred trees. All survey units were assessed to hold high potential for archaeological sites to be present, but that the sites would be of low density and would be of low archaeological significance. As a result, no constraints were placed on the project.

An addendum to the original 2011 assessment was completed in 2016 for a modification to the project. It was proposed that the overall number of wind turbines be reduced from 159 to 109 and access tracks underwent minor route changes. The addendum report concluded that due to the insignificant nature of the proposed changes, no further investigation was required and no changes to the current conditions of consent were required (NSW Archaeology 2016).

RPS 2011

RPS was commissioned by Ark Energy to prepare a Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment for the proposed White Rock Wind Farm located approximately 14 km southwest of the study area. The survey component was completed over five days and was broken into eight individual survey units. The survey was able to record five previously unrecorded Aboriginal sites including three scarred trees (RPS White Rock 01A, RPS White Rock 01B, and PRS White Rock 04) and two artefact scatters associated with PADs (RPS White Rock 02 and RPS White Rock 03). Both artefact scatters consisted of three artefacts manufactured from quartz, silcrete, and basalt.

The survey results demonstrate that Aboriginal campsite occupation occurred on flat creek terrace areas adjacent to second order creeks. The preferred occupation areas were at lower elevations within the Tablelands and located at some distance from steep sided ridges.

Ridgetop landforms were more likely used as a resource gathering zone where flora and fauna were utilised by Aboriginal people.

OzArk 2021

In 2020, OzArk conducted an archaeological investigation for the proposed Rangoon Wind Farm, located at Ben Lomond. The impact area at the Rangoon Wind Farm of approximately 1,089 ha was surveyed over five days. No Aboriginal cultural heritage values were identified within the 2021 study area during field survey or through consultation with the Aboriginal community, and no previously unidentified significant historic items were identified in the study area. Most of the study area was situated in gentle to steeply sloping landforms.

The Rangoon survey confirmed the paradigm established by other studies in the area that sloping landforms are poor preservers of archaeological evidence. It also agreed with other studies in the area in that ridge and crest landforms were either infrequently used for camping or have been subjected to greater impacts from soil loss and the subsequent dispersal of sites.

2.3.4 Step 2c

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

Yes, portions of the study area contain landforms with identified archaeological sensitivity.

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

- Within 200 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 western portion of the study area is situated within 200 m of Furracabad Creek which constitutes 'waters' within the Code of Practice. The study area is also located on land that has not been entirely disturbed in a clear and observable manner and therefore the study area contains landforms with identified archaeological sensitivity.

Ground disturbances associated with proposed works are largely situated within the Inverell Plateau Granites landscape unit (Mitchell 2002). This landscape unit is generally categorised by undulating plateaus with domed peaks at an elevation of 900–1500 m above sea level with a local relief of 200 m. Domed rock outcrop is common with tors. The study area is situated at 1000 m above sea level on a flat landform.

In dry areas open forests of silvertop stringybark, broad-leaved stringybark, Blakely's red gum, narrow-leaved peppermint and yellow box are typically present. Whereas in cold areas, snow gum and black sallee woodlands are more common. However, the study area has been historically cleared of mature native vegetation.

Within the Inverell Plateau Granites landscape unit, soils are a shallow, gritty loam that thickens downslope to sands and texture-contrast soils on lower slopes and valley floors. Wide valleys, have deep, dark clay deposits in swampy streamlines.

2.3.5 Step 3

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

Known Aboriginal objects will not be harmed by the proposal, however, landforms with identified archaeological sensitivity will be subject to ground disturbance.

The proposed works will involve impacts to landforms with identified archaeological sensitivity, namely those located within 200 m of 'waters.'

2.3.6 Step 4

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

There are no Aboriginal objects within the study area.

The visual inspection of the study area was undertaken by OzArk Archaeologist, Imogen Crome, on 7 November 2024. Shawn Faiers representing Glen Innes Local Aboriginal Land Council was present for the visual inspection.

The study area was confirmed as a highly disturbed agricultural field situated on a flat floodplain landform. As observed at desktop level, all mature native vegetation has been cleared from the study area, however, dense ground cover and grasses greatly reduced both ground surface exposure (GSE) and ground surface visibility (GSV) (which averaged at 5%).

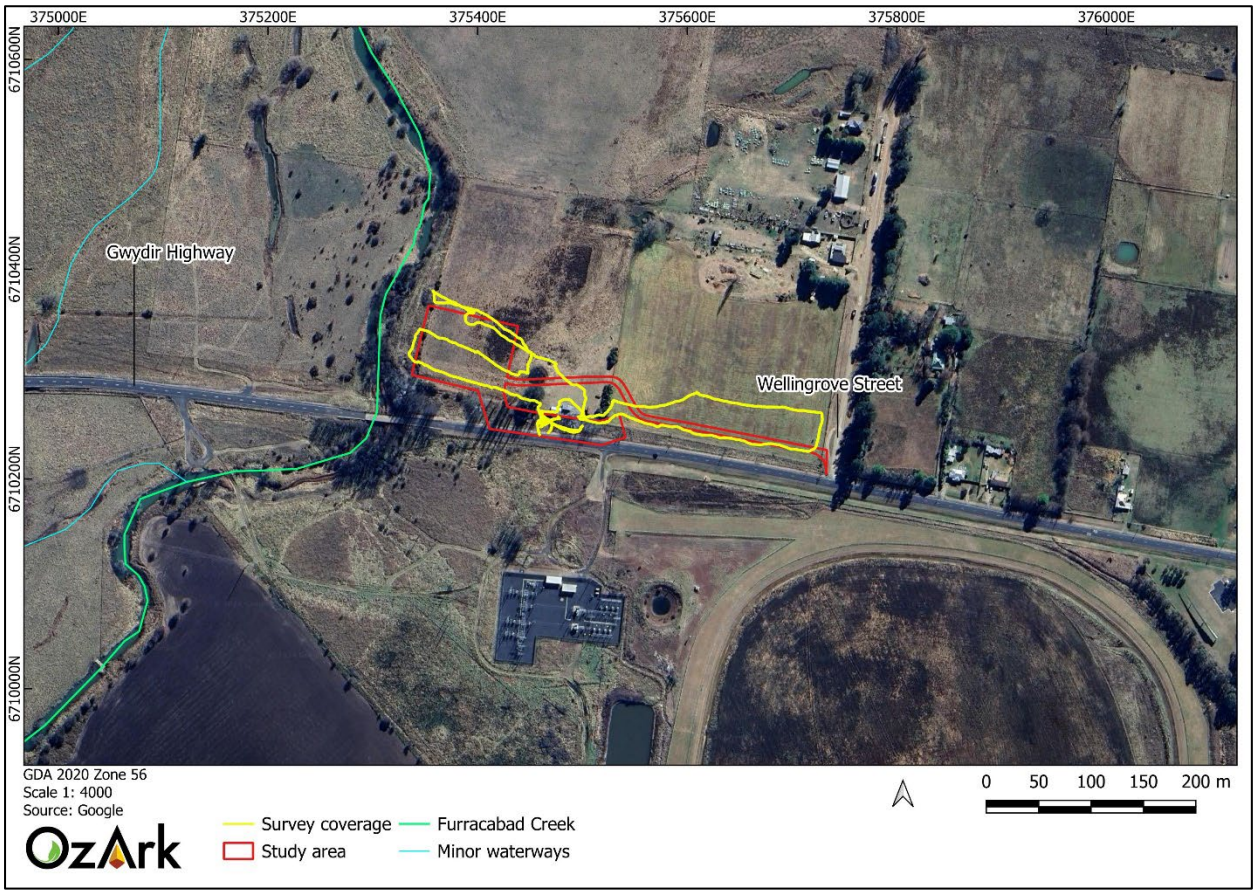
Soils consist of black alluvial clays which are generally unsuitable for the preservation of archaeological material due to their cracking nature. The study area has been heavily disturbed by intensive cropping practices as well as the construction of property fence lines (**Plate 1** and **Plate 2**).

Plate 1: View north across the floodplain landform at the study area.

Plate 2: View east across the thick ground cover within study area.

At the conclusion of the visual inspection, the entire study area was determined to have low surface and subsurface archaeological potential. This is due to the nature of the landform and clay soils present, as well as the long history of intensive agriculture. No Aboriginal objects or PADs were identified during the visual inspection. The pedestrian coverage of the study area is shown on **Figure 2-2**.

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



2.4 CONCLUSION

The due diligence process has resulted in the outcome that an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) is not required. The reasoning behind this determination is set out in **Table 2-4**.

Table 2-4: 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 earthworks required for the construction of the BESS and associated transmission infrastructure. The proposal will not impact mature, native vegetation and therefore will not harm culturally modified trees.	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 present as the study area is within 200 m of 'waters.'	Yes
If the answer to any stage of Step 2 is 'yes', proceed to Step 3		
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 impact landforms with archaeological sensitivity as identified in the Due Diligence Code of Practice: landforms within 200 m of 'waters.'	No
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 in the study area. Landforms with identified archaeological sensitivity that were identified at a desk-top level 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 at the study area without further archaeological investigation.
2. All land and ground disturbance activities must be confined to within the study area, as this will eliminate the risk of harm to Aboriginal objects that may be in adjacent landforms. Should the parameters of the proposal extend beyond the assessed areas, then further archaeological assessment may be required.
3. 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.
4. 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 NPW Act and the contents of the *Unanticipated Finds Protocol.*
5. 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.

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APPENDIX 1: AHIMS SEARCH RESULTS

AHIMS Web Services (AWS)
Extensive search - Site list report

Your Ref/PO Number : 4372
Client Service ID : 886224

SiteID	SiteName	Datum	Zone	Easting	Northing	Context	Site Status **	SiteFeatures	SiteTypes	Reports
12-4-0004	Reddestone Creek;	AGD	56	370800	6718200	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -	Open Camp Site	219,220
	Contact	Recorders	Graham Connah					Permits		
21-4-0048	Northern Site	AGD	56	381650	6715000	Open site	Valid	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) : -	Scarred Tree	
	Contact	Recorders	J Johnson					Permits		
12-4-0001	Glen Innis;Glen Innis Rock Wells;	AGD	56	376700	6708700	Open site	Valid	Aboriginal Ceremony and Dreaming : -	Natural Mythological (Ritual)	
	Contact	Recorders	Harry Creamer,Mr.Richard Kelly					Permits		
12-4-0002	Stonehenge;	AGD	56	377700	6700500	Open site	Valid	Ceremonial Ring (Stone or Earth) : -	Bora/Ceremonial	
	Contact	Recorders	Isabel McBryde					Permits		
12-4-0021	PAD1 and PAD 2 (GLEN INNES)	GDA	56	369590	6711574	Open site	Valid	Potential Archaeological Deposit (PAD) : -		101915
	Contact	Recorders	Jim Wheeler					Permits		
12-4-0037	Reddestone ST1	GDA	56	369184	6717233	Open site	Valid	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) : -		
	Contact	Recorders	Mr.John Appleton					Permits		
12-4-0022	PAD3 and PAD 4 (GLEN INNES)	GDA	56	368283	6711911	Open site	Valid	Potential Archaeological Deposit (PAD) : -		101915
	Contact	Recorders	Jim Wheeler					Permits		
12-4-0034	Reddestone L&H P1	GDA	56	369404	6717438	Open site	Valid	Potential Archaeological Deposit (PAD) : -		
	Contact	Recorders	Mr.John Appleton					Permits	3893,4108	

** Site Status
Valid - The site has been recorded and accepted onto the system as valid
Destroyed - The site has been completely impacted or harmed usually as consequence of permit activity but sometimes also after natural events. There is nothing left of the site on the ground but proponents should proceed with caution.
Partially Destroyed - The site has been only partially impacted or harmed usually as consequence of permit activity but sometimes also after natural events. There might be parts or sections of the original site still present on the ground
Not a site - The site has been originally entered and accepted onto AHIMS as a valid site but after further investigations it was decided it is NOT an aboriginal site. Impact of this type of site does not require permit but Heritage NSW should be notified

Report generated by AHIMS Web Service on 23/04/2024 for Jordan Henshaw for the following area at Datum : GDA, Zone : 56, Eastings : 364868.0 - 384725.0, Northings : 6700058.0 - 6720055.0 with a Buffer of 0 meters.. Number of Aboriginal sites and Aboriginal objects found is 8

This information is not guaranteed to be free from error omission. Heritage NSW and its employees disclaim liability for any act done or omission made on the information and consequences of such acts or omission.

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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.

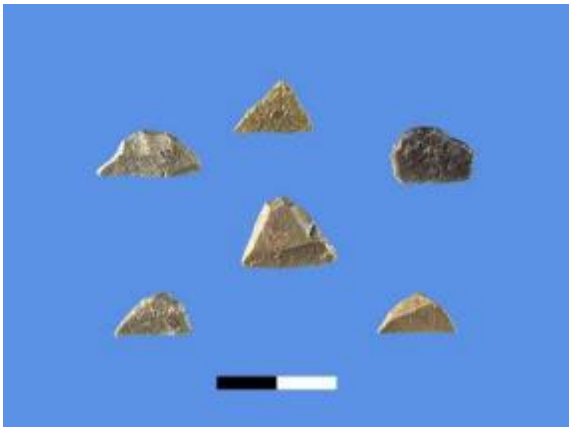
Protocol to be followed if previously unrecorded or unanticipated Aboriginal object(s) are encountered:

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.
2. 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

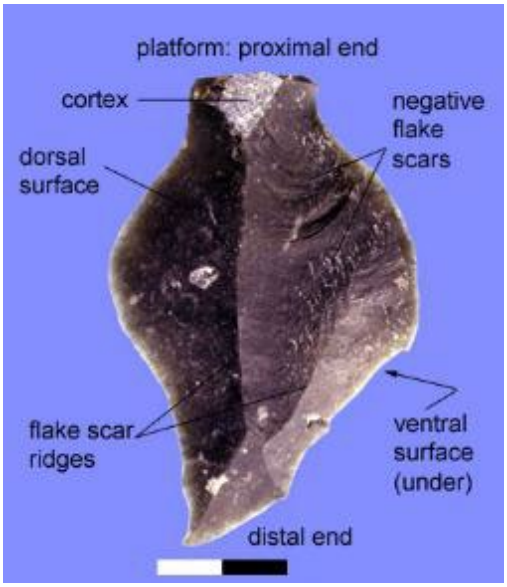
A retouched silcrete flake

A quartz flake



Microliths (scale = 1 cm)

Volcanic flakes



Flake characteristics (scale = 1 cm)

A mudstone/tuff core from which flakes have been removed