



APPENDIX F – Archaeological Assessment

North Boambee Valley (west) Aboriginal and European Heritage Assessment.

September 2012

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Local resident John Richards provided invaluable local information and photographs of the Valley- particularly of the Old Tramway.

Executive Summary.

The North Boambee Valley archaeological survey and assessment has been commissioned by Coffs Harbour City Council to update the Structure Plan for the North Boambee Valley (West) 2010. The North Boambee Valley (West) Structure Plan identified a range of issues/constraints that required further investigation to enable the urban rezoning of the North Boambee Valley (NBV) land. The study will inform an amendment of the Coffs Harbour Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 2000, as well as the preparation of a Development Control Plan (DCP) and Developer Contributions Plan for the Area.

The scope of works for the heritage assessment include;

- Undertake an assessment as to the items or areas of Aboriginal culture and heritage, as well as European heritage.
- Recommendation of appropriate management strategies must be provided if Aboriginal or European sites of significance are found.
- Liaison with the Office of Environment and Heritage and Coffs Harbour Local Aboriginal Land Council.

The archaeological survey was completed using pedestrian transects across the Valley and totaled more than 11km. No archaeological sites or sites of significance were identified during the study. The effectiveness of the study was constrained by the extent of land clearing, vegetation and grass cover limiting ground visibility and the restrictions in access imposed by private landowners.

Items of European heritage identified during the study included some remnant cuttings from the old tramway within the southern portion of the study area and 'springboard notched stumps' within and around areas of regrowth forest.

Recommendations include;

- There is an overall low likelihood of future landuse having an impact on significant Aboriginal or European heritage items due to the relatively low intensity of use by both Aboriginal people- with a preference for coastal and estuarine resources- and the extent of landclearing and disturbance during the early-mid 1900's.
- Sub-surface archaeological survey techniques (test-pitting) should be adopted as an appropriate survey methodology for future land clearing proposals due to the extent of vegetation cover. Specifically this methodology should be applied for all ground clearing proposals along ridgelines within more mature forests where historic forest clearing has been not significantly disturbed the soil structure.
- Future ground disturbing works within the southern area of the Valley should take into consideration potential heritage values of the Old Tramway. The tramway is not registered as a heritage item- however its heritage values may change within the future depending on research and conservation projects relating to forest heritage.

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1. Background.

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The scope of works for the heritage assessment include;

- Undertake an assessment as to the items or areas of Aboriginal culture and heritage, as well as European heritage.

- Recommendation of appropriate management strategies must be provided if Aboriginal or European sites of significance are found.

- Liaison with the Office of Environment and Heritage and Coffs Harbour Local Aboriginal Land Council.

2. Environment.

The North Boambee Valley West (NBVW) is situated approximately 4 km south west of the Coffs Harbour Central Business District (CBD). It is a predominately east-west running valley within the Newport's Creek Catchment. It is bound by Boambee State Forest to the west, ringed by prominent ridges to the north and south both located outside the study area. The eastern boundary is defined by the proposed Pacific Highway bypass of Coffs Harbour (Figure 1). The total area of the study is 585 hectares.

North Boambee Valley runs in an east west direction, and is bordered by a steep escarpment to the north, which forms part of Roberts Hill Reserve. Boambee State Forest and the North Boambee Valley quarry bound the investigation area to the west and agricultural activities bound the area to the south. The majority of the area is currently zoned 1A Rural Agricultural and 7A Environmental Protection under the Coffs Harbour Local Environmental Plan 2000. A proportion of the land in the northeast corner of the study area is zoned 2A Residential Low density, 5A Special Uses- Community Purposes and 6C Open Spaces- Private Recreation.

The tenure within the NBV is predominately private owned, zoned Agricultural (1a) and Environmental Protection (7a) under CHCC LEP 2000, with only a small portion of a Residential (5a) and Special Purpose (5a school) land in the north-east of the study area. There are no conservation reserves within the NBV. Landuse is dominated by Primary industry mainly horticulture (bananas, blueberries and nursery industries), grazing and a hard-rock quarry. The native vegetation in the valley is a mosaic of remnant and regenerating forest and riparian vegetation systems that have been extensive cleared and logged as part of a long history of forestry and agricultural activities.

Map 1- North Boambee Valley study area.



LEGEND

- Study Area
- Lot Boundary
- RTA's Preferred Pacific Highway Bypass Route

1:15,000 for A4
 0 75 150 300 450 600
 Metres

Map Projection: Universal Transverse Mercator
 Horizontal Datum: Geodetic Datum of Australia 1984
 Grid: Map Grid of Australia, Zone 56



CLIENTS | PEOPLE | PERFORMANCE

Coffs Harbour City Council
 North Boambee Valley
 RTA's Preferred Pacific

job no. 22-13410
 rev no. B

Highway Bypass Route Appendix Figure 4
 20 November 2008

3. Cultural Context.

3.1. Previous Indigenous archaeological studies.

Several archaeological and cultural heritage surveys have been completed within the Boambee area, however no systematic surveys and/or assessments have been completed for the study area specifically.

The first comprehensive archaeological assessment of the area to the immediate east of the study area was completed by Luke Godwin in 1982 (Godwin 1982). This survey identified a spatial extensive stone artifact scatter on a low hill adjacent to a marsh south of Isles Road. This site consisted of flaked pebbles, cores and unifacial pebble choppers, typical of stone tool assemblages from major coastal sites/quarries such as Sandy Beach. The spatial extent of this site would place it as one of the largest coastal artefacts scatters in the area. However a feature of the site is its relatively low artifact density- in the order of 1 artefact per 50+m². The study also located an isolated artifact on a ploughed paddock to the south of Bishop Druitt College. Information provided by the land owner- Mr Rudder- at the time indicated that edge ground axes were common in this area. A similar artifact was recorded anecdotally on Roberts Hill.

The Environmental Impact Assessment for the North Boambee Valley Detention Ponds (Gutteridge Haskins Davey 1997) proposal (north east of the study area) did not complete a detailed archaeological survey- however did undertake consultation with Coffs Harbour Local Aboriginal Land Council. This consultation process identified 1 archaeological site- a low density stone artifact scatter- and no sites of significance.

The 'structure study' for the current project included an archaeological assessment and consultation with Coffs Harbour Local Aboriginal Land Council. With respect to Indigenous heritage, the plan states;

A representative of the Coffs Harbour Local Aboriginal Land Council has advised that they have concerns that Aboriginal Sites do exist in the study area and that individual development sites will need to be surveyed for the presence of any relics or sites. Therefore, any further studies within North Boambee Valley (West) will need to undertake a search of the DECC Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System and consult further with the LALC. Any sites identified within the existing registers or by the LALC site investigations will need to be referred to a qualified archaeologist. Further, any excavations will need to be monitored for the presence of an Aboriginal site or relic and if found, work cease immediately and appropriate notification and approvals be obtained from the National Parks and Wildlife Service in consultation with the LALC.

A search of the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) was completed in early June and returned no records within the boundaries of the study area. A list of recorded archaeological sites in the surrounding area is provided in Table 3.1. None of these sites are located within the study area.

Table 3.1. Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System search results.

<u>SiteID</u>	<u>SiteName</u>	<u>SiteFeatures</u>	<u>SiteTypes</u>
22-1-0055	Newports Creek 2	Artefact : -	Open Camp Site
22-1-0056	Newports Creek 1	Artefact : -	Open Camp Site
22-1-0105	Airport Midden 1	Shell : -, Artefact : -	Midden
22-1-0106	Airport Midden 2	Shell : -, Artefact : -	Midden
22-1-0090	Au 5;Coffs Airport;	Shell : -, Artefact : -	Midden
22-1-0091	Au 6;Coffs Airport;	Shell : -, Artefact : -	Midden
22-1-0092	Au 7;Coffs Airport;	Shell : -, Artefact : -	Midden,Open Camp Site
22-1-0093	Au 8;Coffs Airport;	Artefact : -	Open Camp Site
22-1-0094	Au 9;Coffs Airport;	Artefact : -	Open Camp Site
22-1-0095	Au 10;Coffs Airport;	Artefact : -	Isolated Find
22-1-0096	Au 11;Coffs Airport;	Aboriginal Ceremony and Dreaming : -	Natural Mythological (Ritual)
22-1-0088	Au 3;Coffs Airport	Artefact : -	Open Camp Site
22-1-0089	Au 4;Coffs Airport;	Artefact : -	Isolated Find
22-1-0039	Coffs Harbour Contemporary Aboriginal Camp Site	Aboriginal Ceremony and Dreaming : -	
22-1-0063	Middle Bombace Creek 1	Artefact : -	Open Camp Site
22-1-0015	Coffs Harbour Aerodrome;Coffs Harbour;	Shell : -, Artefact : -	Midden
22-1-0029	Boambee Creek, Sawtell Midden 1	Shell : -, Artefact : -	Midden
22-1-0127	BCB-1	Artefact : 3	
22-1-0128	FHB-2	Artefact : 1	
22-1-0129	HJB:OS1	Artefact : 2	
22-1-0136	CHSS-6	Artefact : 200	
22-1-0139	CHSS-10	Shell : -	
22-1-0141	CHSS-5	Artefact : 1	
22-1-0221	Hogbin Drive Extension 1	Artefact : -	

22-1-0223	South Coffs -A2	Artefact : -
22-1-0160	Brodie Drive	Artefact : 1
22-1-0195	Coffs Dump	Artefact : -
22-1-0226	Hogbin Drive Extension North	Artefact : 3
22-1-0227	Life House	Artefact : -
22-1-0228	Summit Site	Artefact : -
22-1-0300	Custodian Burial - Clybucca	Burial : 1
22-1-0309	Coffs Creek 1	Aboriginal Ceremony and Dreaming : -
22-1-0307	North Boambee Estate 01	Potential Archaeological Deposit (PAD) : 1, Artefact : -
22-1-0305	Summit Site 2	Artefact : 1
22-1-0306	Summit Site 3	Artefact : 2
22-1-0311	Coffs Creek 3	Aboriginal Ceremony and Dreaming : -
22-1-0341	South Boambee PAD 1	Potential Archaeological Deposit (PAD) : 1
22-1-0377	North Boambee Estate 02	Potential Archaeological Deposit (PAD) : -, Artefact : 410
22-1-0295	btshelter	Habitation Structure : -
22-1-0351	Le-Pad 2	Potential Archaeological Deposit (PAD) : -, Artefact : -
22-1-0350	LE-A1 & PAD 1	Artefact : 11, Potential Archaeological Deposit (PAD) : 1
22-1-0358	North Boambee PAD 01 (duplicate copy of 22 -1-0307)	Artefact : -
22-1-0398	Coffs Creek PAD	Potential Archaeological Deposit (PAD) : 1

3.2. Aboriginal Community Consultation.

Consultation with the Office of Environment and Heritage was undertaken to discuss the project generally and specifically the requirements of community consultation within the context of the Departmental 'Due Diligence' guidelines. It was determined that consultation with the Aboriginal community via Coffs Harbour Local Aboriginal Land Council was not strictly required on the

basis the assessment process was being undertaken in the context of a strategic planning document (Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water 2010:3). Previous studies had also completed community consultation and no places of cultural significance had been identified.

Consultation with Coffs Harbour Local Aboriginal Land Council (CHLALC) was initiated via phone and email prior to the field survey. Chris Spencer/Simpson- CEO of CHLALC had indicated that they had an interest in participating in the project, however an Aboriginal sites officer could not be arranged for the field survey. Follow consultation via phone and email could not identify an agreeable methodology/process for community or Aboriginal site officer engagement.

3.3. Non-Indigenous Heritage

A search of the Heritage Information Register was undertaken prior to the survey. No registered historic sites were recorded within the study area.

Table 3.2. Summary timeline of key settlers.

Newport, James	1881	Near North Boambee bridge grew first sugar cane - mill operated by four bullocks
Bayldon, William	1871	Selected at present Lyonsville, named Bonville - chemist by training - much first aid treatment to pioneers - introduced good horses to Bellinger area
Reedy	1884	Selected Bonville Creek
Archer	1884	Selected Pine Creek
Gardiner, Charles	1892	Selected Boambee - grew pineapples, bananas
Keiler	1886	Selected near narrow Boambee bridge - several acres grapes - wine
Singleton, Matt		Selected Crossmaglen - very active in local affairs and did much for Bonville Reserve in its early days - bred fine stock
Schneider, August	1886	Selected Englands Road - established sugar mill, later sawmill

Source <http://libraries.coffsharbour.nsw.gov.au/Local-Heritage/collection/Pages/local-pioneers.aspx>

North Boambee Valley has a relatively long history of forestry and horticulture. John Richardson, who we met during the survey, indicated that the only historical remnants of the early forest industry were cuttings associated to a tramway which came out of (now) Boambee State Forest to a mill/siding just below Johns residence, then back south and roughly parallel to Englands road through Carsons Road, down to Boambee Creek. The tramway was then linked via another line to Coffs Harbour Jetty. John indicated that all the old line had been re-used or deteriorated and is not longer visible. The sheds currently below his residence are located on the site of the old mill/siding. John indicated this tramway operated immediately prior to World War One- between 1907-1914.

The second major phase of development within the valley was the selection of farms post World War One and subsequent land clearing. There was a major phase of land clearing between the 1920's and 1930's- and Mr Richardson indicated that during the 1950's most of the valley was

completely cleared of forest. Ringbarking was the basic method of land clearing during this period. Several ‘Springboard Notch Stumps’ -the notch marks being indicative signs of early forestry- are still present within the valley- several being recorded within regrowth forests.

Cattle and horticulture (Bananas and Blue Berries) are now the main agricultural activities within the North Boambee Valley. Bananas particularly have a significant place in the local history, first being introduced in the early 1880s and flourishing by the turn of the century. The industry was given a boost following disease outbreaks in plantations in northern Australia. *Source- <http://www.visitcoffsharbour.com/coffsharbour/history.html>*

4 Archaeological predictive model

An archaeological predictive model is provided below in Table 3.2. This model acknowledges the impact of grazing and land clearing which has had the effect of disturbing the context of archaeological materials and reducing visibility through build-up of grass cover and soil material. The increased sensitivity of forested areas also acknowledges the potential for forested areas to contain scarred or modified trees. Given the relative distance to the coast and estuaries, it is unlikely that sub-surface middens or burials would be represent across the North Boambee Valley.

Table 4.1. Archaeological predictive model.

Environment	Sensitivity (risk)
Lower forested areas near creeks	Moderate
Forested ridgelines	Moderate
Forested slopes	Low
Lower cleared areas near creeks	Low
Cleared ridgelines	Moderate
Cleared slopes	Low

5. Methodology

The field survey methodology involved meandering pedestrian transects within roughly defined landscape units based on major variables of slope and degree of disturbance/visibility. Table 5.1 summarises survey transects by length and landscape description. Survey visibility for all transects was poor- and would average less than 10% over the entire survey. Survey transects were recorded with a handheld GPS and some photographs were taken as a sample of each landscape unit and vegetation/grass cover.

A significant constraint of the survey was reduced access to creeks and ridges in the eastern section of the valley- particularly off Englands Road where the property owner had refused access. The survey had relatively good access to areas of farmland/mixed re-growth forest in the south west and north east (refer to map 2.).

6. Survey Results.

A total of 11km of pedestrian transects were completed during the survey. No archaeological sites or areas of potential archaeological deposits were recorded. Several springboard notched stumps were recorded during the survey. Remnants of the old forestry tramway which was used

to transport timber prior to World War 1 were visible through the southern part of the Valley. However evidence of this tramway is now reduced to several cuttings- all the tramline has been either removed and re-used to destroyed insitu.

Table 5.1. Summary of transects.

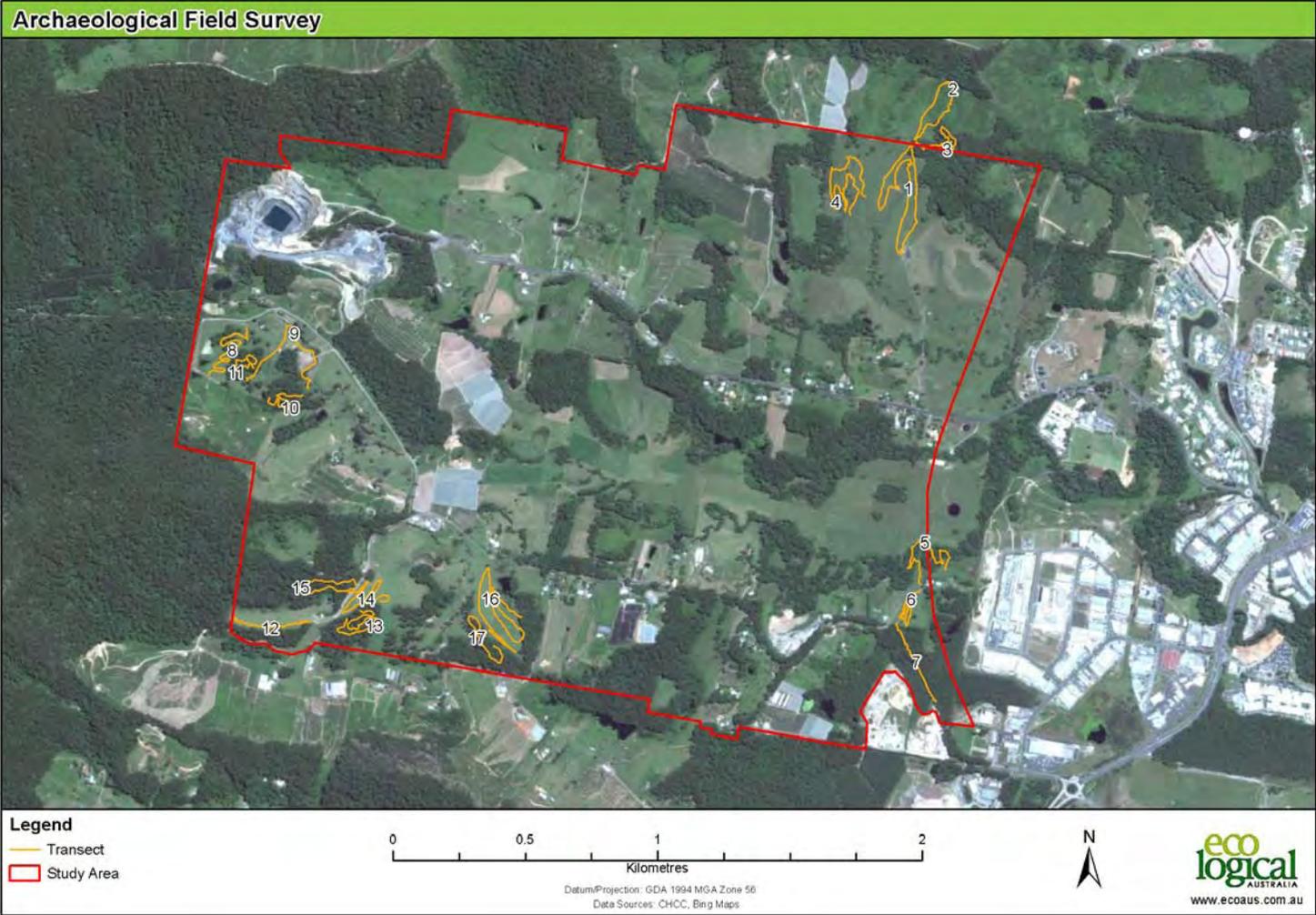
Trans	Length	Description	Features
1	1410	Lower ridge and slopes-cleared	Springboard notched stump
2	622	Upper ridge and slopes-cleared	Springboard notched stumps
3	469	Mid slopes- forested	Springboard notched stumps
4	1053	Lower slope/drainage- cleared	
5	726	Lower slope drainage- forested	
6	477	Lower ridge- cleared	
7	397	Lower slope- forested	Springboard notched stumps
8	599	Lower ridge and slopes- cleared	
9	649	Lower sloe and drainage- cleared	Possible tramway cuttings
10	347	Mid slopes- forested Lower slope and drainage-	
11	296	cleared	Possible tramway cuttings
12	471	Mid slopes- forested	
13	583	Upper slope- cleared	
14	711	Mid slope- forested Lower slope and drainage-	
15	499	cleared	Possible tramway cutting.
16	1274	Lower ridgeline- cleared	
17	447	Mid slope- forested	
11030m			

7. Survey discussion.

The likely factors contributing to the survey results include;

- The study area has a relatively low archaeological potential due to the nature of traditional use of the valley. Previous studies have identified a pattern of archaeological density focused along the estuarine areas and immediate coast. Whilst it is likely that valley such Boambee North were utilised in a systematic manner for hunting and resource collection, it is unlikely that they providing suitable areas for camping over longer periods. It is also
- The history of clearing- both for early forestry and then cattle- has resulted in significant vegetation and regrowth cover over the valley. Visibility over the field survey area was below 10% for all transects except 12, where a graded track had recently been cut along the ridgeline removing the grass layer. Rainfall over the previous three years has been significant and this also contributed to vegetation cover and reduced visibility.
- Several key areas of the study area were no able to be surveyed as landowners did not agree to access by the survey team. This was a particular issue along Newports creek and the south eastern section of the valley.

Map 2. Location of survey transects.



The predictive model proposes that areas of ridgelines (both forested and cleared) and lower slopes/creek lines have moderate archaeological sensitivity/risk. The restrictions of vegetation cover and limited access precluded sufficient testing of this prediction within the time allocated. Overall the results of the study suggest that the North Boambee Valley- being inland from the richer coastal/estuarine strip- has a relatively less archaeological record than areas to the east. Whilst it is possible that the forested slopes and creeks provided access routes for people travelling between the hinterland and the coast- use of the valley was likely of a nature which had a very minimal archaeological signature or footprint.

Future archaeological assessment through test-pit sampling would be appropriate for any future ground disturbance on ridgelines or on forested lower slopes. For the remaining slopes and cleared areas near creeks further archaeological assessment would not be warranted. The survey / assessment did not identify any sites- or potential sites- which would preclude development of residential or industrial development within the North Boambee Valley. However additional and more detailed location specific assessments should be undertaken for all future developments.

It is unlikely that the items of historic heritage (the springboard notched stumps and tramway cuttings) are of significance sufficient for registration as items under the Heritage Act. It is likely that similar stumps are located through the wider region. However measures to preserve- or at least further investigate- the values of the tramway should be considered during future planning.

8. Summary and Recommendations.

The archaeological survey was completed using pedestrian transects across the Valley and totaled more than 11km. No archaeological sites or sites of significance were identified during the study. The effectiveness of the study was constrained by the extent of land clearing, vegetation and grass cover limiting ground visibility and the restrictions in access imposed by private landowners.

Consultation with the Office of Environment and Heritage was undertaken to discuss the project generally and specifically the requirements of community consultation within the context of the Departmental 'Due Diligence' guidelines. It was determined that consultation with the Aboriginal community via Coffs Harbour Local Aboriginal Land Council was not strictly required on the basis the assessment process was being undertaken in the context of a strategic planning document (Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water 2010:3). Previous studies had also completed community consultation and no places of cultural significance had been identified.

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Recommendations include;

- There is an overall low likelihood of future landuse having an impact on significant Aboriginal or European heritage items due to the relatively low intensity of use by both Aboriginal people- with a preference for coastal and

estuarine resources- and the extent of landclearing and disturbance during the early-mid 1900's.

- Sub-surface archaeological survey techniques (test-pitting) should be adopted as an appropriate survey methodology for future land clearing proposals due to the extent of vegetation cover. Specifically this methodology should be applied for all ground clearing proposals along ridgelines within more mature forests where historic forest clearing has been not significantly disturbed the soil structure.
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9. Bibliography

Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water 2010. *Due Diligence Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales*. Department of Environment and Climate Change and Water, Sydney.

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Gutteridge Haskins Davey 1997. *North Boambee Valley Detention Ponds Environmental Impact Statement*. Unpublished report for Coffs Harbour City Council.

Gutteridge Haskins Davey 2009. *Coffs Harbour City Council North Boambee Valley (West) Structure Plan*. Unpublished report for Coffs Harbour City Council.

Appendix 1: Photos

Plate 1. Typical springboard notched stump. Transect 2.

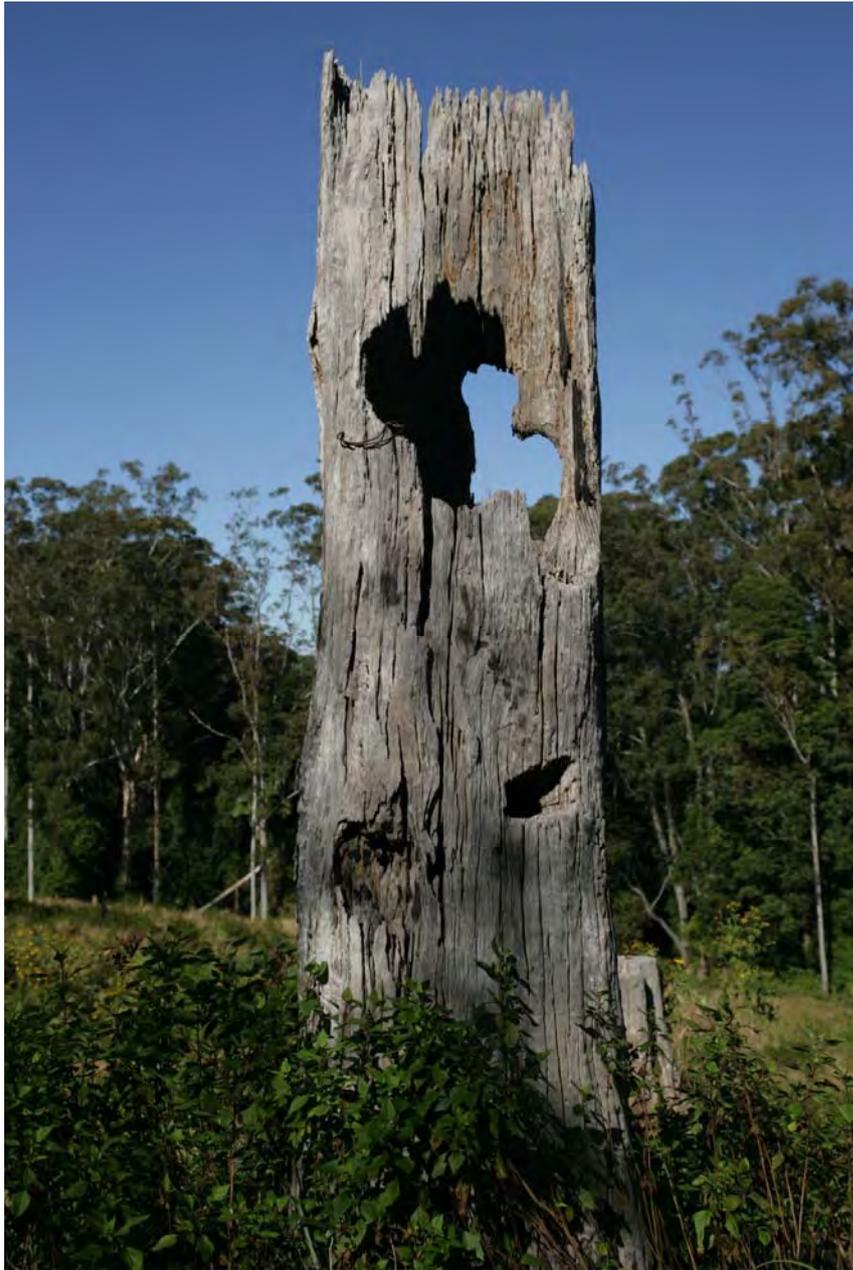


Plate 2. Potential old tramway cutting now obscured by grazing and regrowth.



Plate 3. Old mill and shunting yards- now work shed.

