

**Concept Design of a Planning Proposal for  
“Rosalind Park”, 33 Medhurst Road,  
101 & 111 Menangle Road, Menangle Park,  
City of Campbelltown, NSW**  
Connecting with Country Report

Prepared for Leda Holdings

August 2022

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## **Acknowledgement of Country**

Aboriginal people have had a continuous connection with the Country encompassed by the Menangle/Campbelltown areas for more than 60,000 years. They have cared for Country and lived in deep alignment with this important landscape, sharing and practicing culture while using it as a space for movement and trade.

We acknowledge that the Dharawal groups have primary custodial care obligations for the area. We also acknowledge others who have passed through this Country for trade and care purposes: Dharug, Gundungurra, Coastal Sydney people, Wiradjuri and Yuin.

Diverse, strong and connected Aboriginal communities have established their families in southwestern Sydney over generations, even if their connection to Country exists elsewhere.

Ensuring that Aboriginal communities, their culture and obligations for Country are considered and promoted will be vital for this project. A unique opportunity exists to establish a platform for two-way knowledge sharing, to elevate Country and to learn from cultural practices that will create a truly unique and vibrant place for all.

#### Document Status

Version No.	Purpose of Document	Orig	Review	Review Date	Approval for Issue	Date Issued
1.0	Internal Review	NS	LS	19/07/2022	LS	21/07/2022
1.1	Client Review	DA	Leda Holdings	21/07/2022	Leda Holdings	5/08/2022
1.2	CBNTCAC Review	DA	CBNTCAC	5/08/2022		

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## CONTENTS

<b>1</b>	<b>Introduction .....</b>	<b>6</b>
1.1	Location of the Subject Area .....	6
1.2	Proposed Works .....	6
1.3	Purpose and Objectives .....	7
1.4	CwC Review and Update .....	7
1.5	Personnel .....	7
<b>2</b>	<b>Connecting to Country Draft Framework .....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Methodology .....</b>	<b>13</b>
3.1	Data Collection/Desktop Assessment .....	13
3.2	Site Visit Fieldwork .....	14
3.3	Concept Design .....	14
3.4	Consultation with Aboriginal Stakeholders.....	14
3.5	Concept Design Portfolio .....	14
3.6	Preparation of Final Design Options.....	14
3.7	CwC Report .....	14
<b>4</b>	<b>Results .....</b>	<b>15</b>
4.1	Desktop Assessment .....	15
4.1.1	Historic Land Use .....	15
4.1.2	Aboriginal Cultural Heritage .....	20
4.1.2.1	Tangible Sites.....	20
4.1.2.2	Intangible Sites .....	26
4.1.3	Archaeologically Sensitive Landforms .....	28
4.2	Site Visit .....	30
4.3	Concept Design .....	30
4.3.1	Cultural celebration .....	30
4.3.2	Infrastructure and facilities .....	30
<b>4.4</b>	<b>Consultation with Aboriginal Stakeholders.....</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Next Steps.....</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>References .....</b>	<b>33</b>

## LIST OF TABLES

Table 1: Kayandel personnel involved in the preparation of this report .....	7
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Table 2: GANSW 'Statement of Commitment' and 'Principles for Action' (source: GANSW (2020, p. 10)) .....	12
Table 3: Opportunities for cultural celebration .....	30
Table 4: Opportunities for infrastructure and facilities .....	30

## LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1: Project Location .....	8
Figure 2: Subject Area .....	9
Figure 3: Draft Indicative Layout Plan – Rosalind Park .....	10
Figure 4: Connecting with Country reflects a range of wider influences (source: GANSW (2020, p. 10)) .....	11
Figure 5: Kayandel's CwC assessment and reporting process .....	13
Figure 6: AHIMS Sites in Proximity .....	22
Figure 7: AHIMS Sites in Proximity – Map A .....	23
Figure 8: AHIMS Sites in Proximity – Map B .....	24
Figure 9: AHIMS Sites in Proximity – Map C .....	25
Figure 10: Map of cultural values including sites and places identified by Aboriginal community (source: AHMS (2017)). The Subject Area is circled red .....	27
Figure 11: Archaeologically Sensitive Landforms .....	29

## LIST OF PLATES

Plate 1: 1947 aerial photograph of the Subject Area .....	16
Plate 2: 1956 aerial photograph of the Subject Area .....	17
Plate 3: 1969 aerial photograph of the Subject Area .....	18
Plate 4: 1975 aerial photograph of the Subject Area .....	18
Plate 5: 1980 aerial photograph of the Subject Area .....	19
Plate 6: 2004 aerial photograph of the Subject Area .....	20

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

Kayandel has been engaged by Leda Holdings (the Proponent) to undertaking a Connection with Country (CWC) assessment and report for the concept design of a Planning Proposal for "Rosalind Park", 33 Medhurst Road, and 101 and 111 Menangle Road, Menangle Park.

This CwC report is a living document, the strategy outlined within will evolve as added feedback on the cultural connections of the landscape is provided, and as the project develops.

This report has been prepared with only input from Cubbitch Barta Native Title Claimants Aboriginal Corporation (CBNTCAC). As the project develops, and a consultation process as per Heritage NSW's *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents* (DECCW, 2010) is undertaken, input from other Aboriginal stakeholders will be sought and fed into this CwC report.

### 1.1 Location of the Subject Area

The Subject Area is located within the City of Campbelltown Local Government Area (LGA) and the Tharawal Local Aboriginal Land Council (TLALC). The Subject Area is located within the Menangle Parish, Cumberland County.

The Subject Area is located on the eastern side of the Nepean River and the Hume Highway, approximately 7km southwest of Campbelltown (refer to Figure 1).

The Subject Area is 264ha and is defined as (refer to Figure 2):

- 33 Medhurst Road;
  - Lots 2 & 3 DP622362;
  - Lot 35 DP230946;
  - Lot 58 DP632328;
- 101 Menangle Road;
  - Lot 1 DP589241;
- 111 Menangle Road;
  - Lot 1 DP622362.

### 1.2 Proposed Works

The Proponent is proposing to lodge a Planning Proposal with the City of Campbelltown for approval by Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) for the rezoning of the Subject lands from RU2 to a mix of Residential, Retail, and Community uses, presented in Figure 3.

It is proposed that a Development Application will be made for each Stages of the development.

The future subdivision will provide a range of lot sizes for residential housing, as well as parkland and recreation areas (refer to Figure 3).

The future works will include, but are not limited to:

- Tree removal;
- Site remediation;
- Filling and remediating the sandstone quarry;
- Creation of residential lots, Retail, and parkland/recreational areas;
- Road construction;
- Servicing;
- Civil construction; and

- Associated site works.

The current proposal also includes the retention of the existing Federation-era house, removal of its modern extensions, and adaptive reuse as a café/restaurant/bar, or community centre. The house's ancillary buildings are in various states of disrepair, and subject to further design investigation, may be removed, with material reused where possible.

### 1.3 Purpose and Objectives

As part of preparing the CwC assessment, a CwC strategy has been developed for the concept design and future development of Rosalind Park. The CwC strategy is an opportunity for Aboriginal culture to be included in the built form and design of the proposal. The primary purpose of the CwC strategy is to:

1. Consider cultural connection to the landscape of the site where the development is to take place;
2. Document the cultural heritage of place through time; and,
3. Recommend approaches for the architect and designers to incorporate Aboriginal cultural meaning and connectedness to place in the design and built form of the proposal.

### 1.4 CwC Review and Update

Opportunities to review and update this CwC report will occur as the project develops, as Aboriginal stakeholders provide feedback, and as further archaeological investigations of the Subject Area are undertaken.

The purpose of this is to:

- Document the collaboration process with Aboriginal stakeholders on the formation of design concepts for CwC
- Develop strategies for how CwC will be implemented;
- Document any changes in CwC strategies;
- Revise the objectives of the CwC accordingly.

This will occur as needed. A copy of the updated ACHMSP and changes will be distributed to all relevant stakeholders in accordance with the approved document control procedure. The ACHMSP will also be updated and resubmitted for approval in the event a previously unidentified heritage item is found.

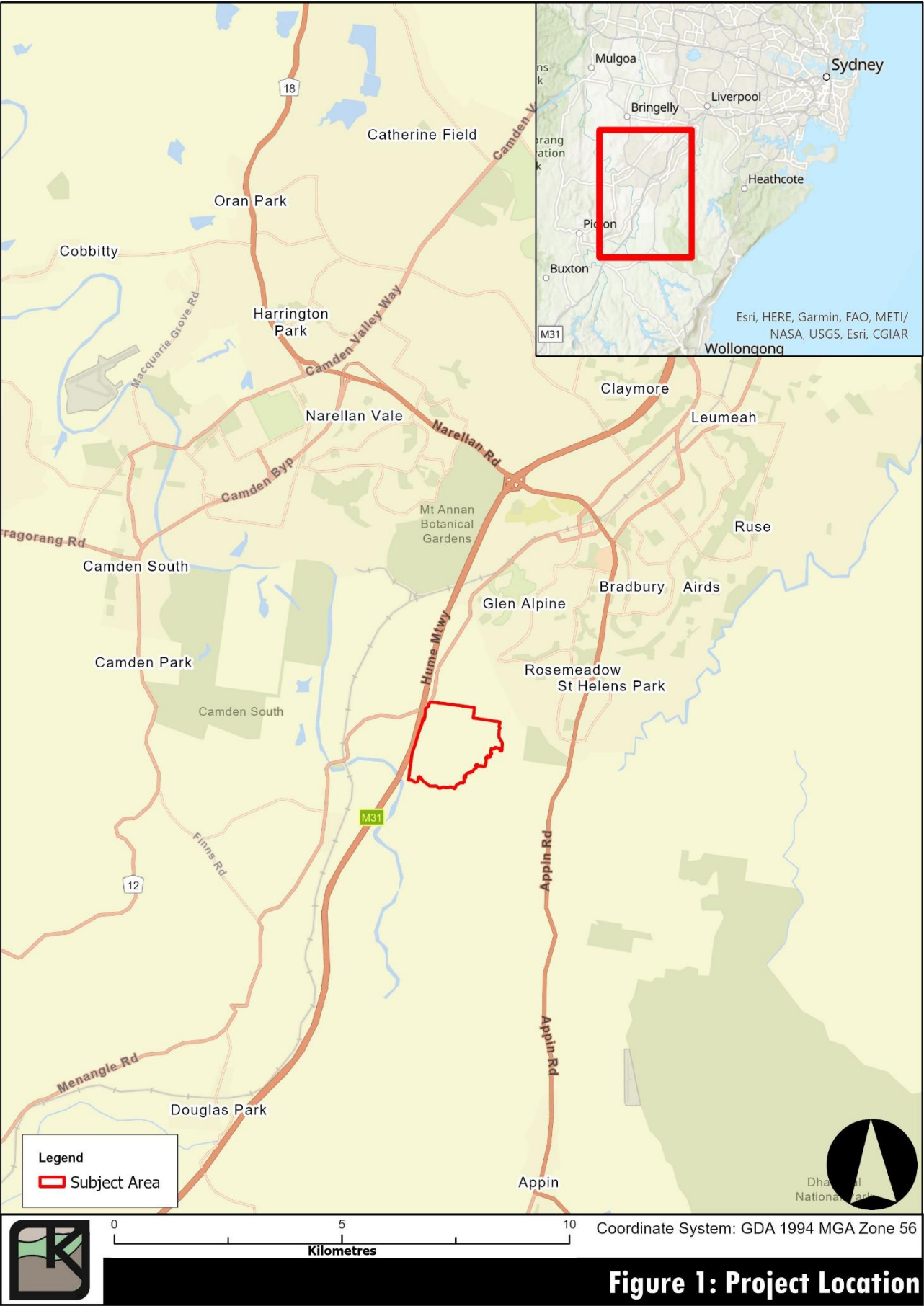
### 1.5 Personnel

This study has been carried out by Kayandel (refer to Table 1).

Person	Qualifications	Experience	Tasks
Britt Andrews	B. Arts (His. and Anc. His. and Arch.) - B. Com. and Media Studies (Digital Media and Com.)	>1 year	Background research, report drafting
Natalie Stiles	B. Arts (Arch/Palaeo), Grad Cert. Arts (Arch), MGIS&RemoteSens	10 years	Mapping, field survey, report drafting, report review
Lance Syme	B. Arts (Arch/Palaeo), Grad. Dip. (Heritage Cons.), M. ICOMOS	>20 years	Project supervision

**Table 1:** Kayandel personnel involved in the preparation of this report











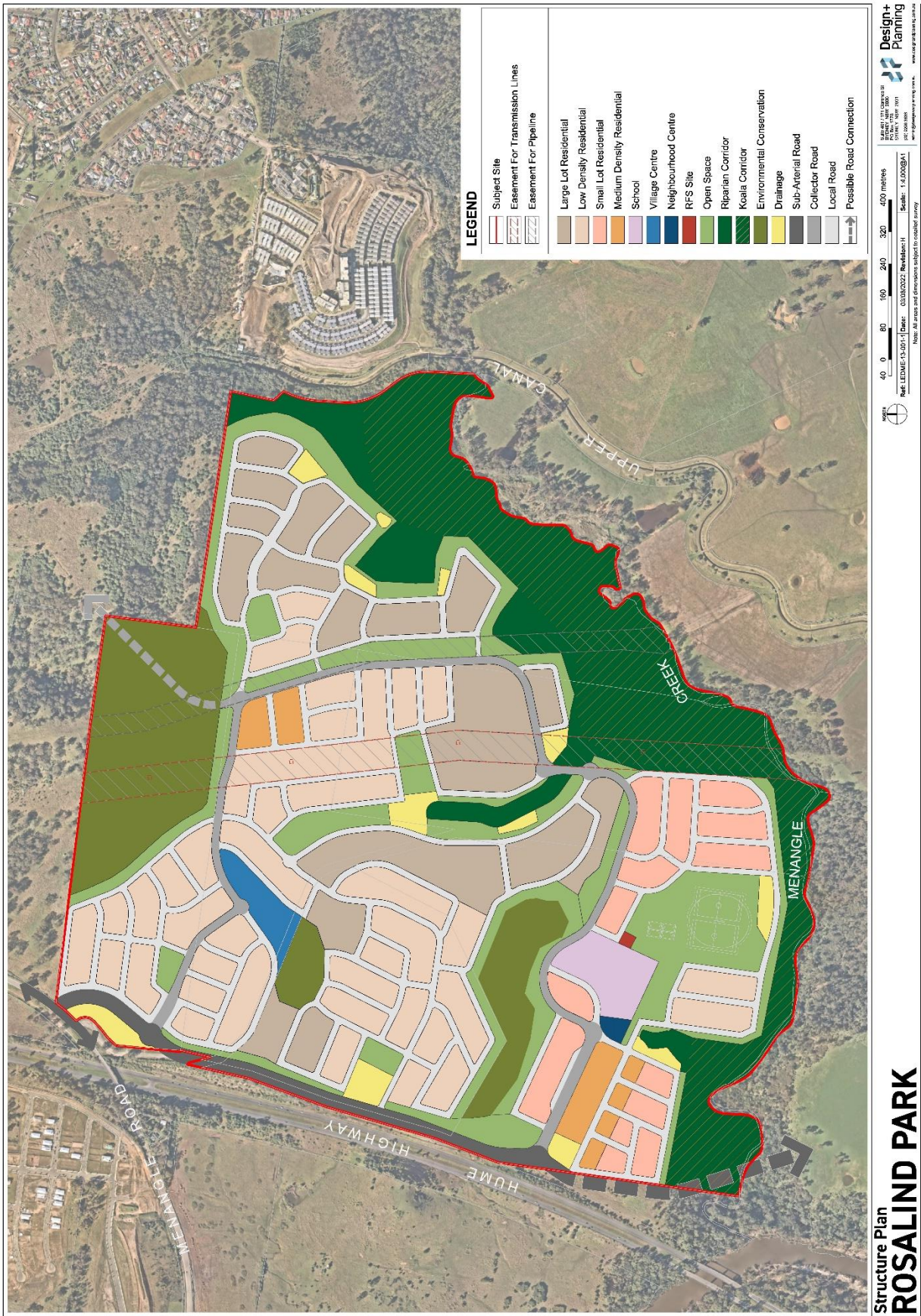


Figure 3: Draft Indicative Layout Plan – Rosalind Park

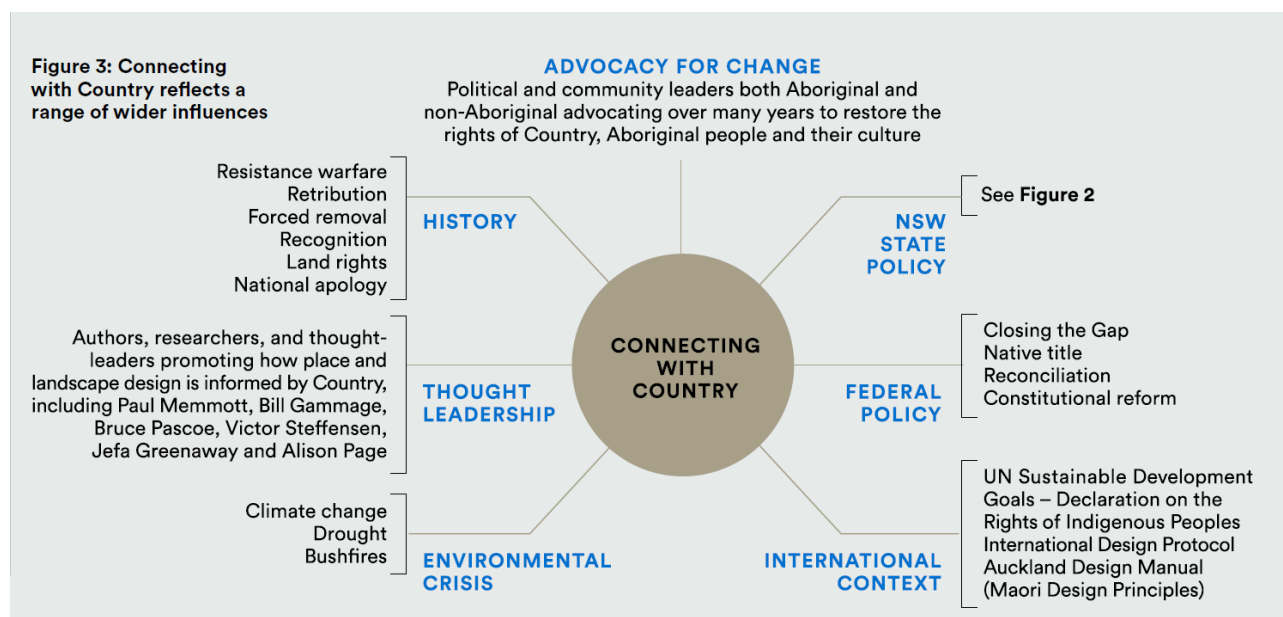
## 2 CONNECTING TO COUNTRY DRAFT FRAMEWORK

The Connecting with Country is a framework for developing connections with Country that can inform the planning, design, and delivery of built environment projects in NSW (GANSW, 2020).

The objective of Connecting with Country is that everyone who is involved in delivering government projects will adopt the following commitment (GANSW, 2020, p. 8):

*Through our projects, we commit to helping support the health and wellbeing of Country by valuing, respecting, and being guided by Aboriginal people, who know that if we care for Country – it will care for us.*

The framework is informed by, and supports, a wider range of policies and objectives as show in the image below.



**Figure 4:** Connecting with Country reflects a range of wider influences (source: GANSW (2020, p. 10))

The Connecting with Country Framework details seven Statement of Commitment' points, with the corresponding 'Principles for Action' that on Aboriginal people (refer to Table 2). This is a reflection on where industry is currently and what needs to change within it. We would note that for Aboriginal people prioritising Country is always first. We hope that as the development, design, architecture, planning and construction industries improve their practices to be more culturally respectful of protocols, that future commitments and principles will prioritise Country first.



GANSW Statement of Commitment	GANSW Principles for Action
Statement of Commitment 1 - We will respect the rights of Aboriginal peoples to Indigenous cultural intellectual property, and we will support the right of Country to be cared for.	Connect with Country through first languages in collaboration with local community groups and their recognised Aboriginal knowledge-holders. Incorporate shared histories of cultural landscapes into project design principles.
Statement of Commitment 2 - We will prioritise Aboriginal people's relationship to Country, and their cultural protocols, through education and enterprise by and for Aboriginal people.	Connect with Country by engaging with, and responding to, cultural practices led by community groups and their recognised Aboriginal knowledge-holders with spiritual links to Country.
Statement of Commitment 3 - We will prioritise financial and economic benefits to the Country where we are working, and by extension to the Traditional Custodians of that Country.	Include impacts to Country and culture when evaluating economic, environmental, and social benefits and disadvantages of the project.
Statement of Commitment 4 - We will share tangible and intangible benefits with the Country where we are working, and by extension the Traditional Custodians of that Country, including current and future generations.	As a part of work moving forward, develop indicators to measure impacts to Country and culture during project formation.
Statement of Commitment 5 - We will respect the diversity of Aboriginal cultures, but we will prioritise the local, place-specific cultural identity of the Country we're working on. Aboriginal people will determine the representation of their cultural materials, customs, and knowledge.	Build relationships with local Aboriginal communities and incorporate enterprise opportunities for Aboriginal businesses (local and beyond, existing and emerging) at all stages through the project life cycle, including future opportunities.
Statement of Commitment 6 - We will prioritise recognition and responsibility of Aboriginal people, supporting capacity building across Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities, and across government project teams.	Partner with Aboriginal-owned and run businesses and professional services, from project formation through to delivery and maintenance, to help guide design and engagement processes.
Statement of Commitment 7 - We will support Aboriginal people to continue their practices of managing land, water, and air through their ongoing reciprocal relationships with Country. We will create opportunities for traditional first cultures to flourish.	Build relationships with local Aboriginal communities and incorporate enterprise opportunities for Aboriginal businesses (local and beyond, existing and emerging) at all stages through the project life cycle, including future opportunities.

**Table 2:** GANSW 'Statement of Commitment' and 'Principles for Action' (source: GANSW (2020, p. 10))

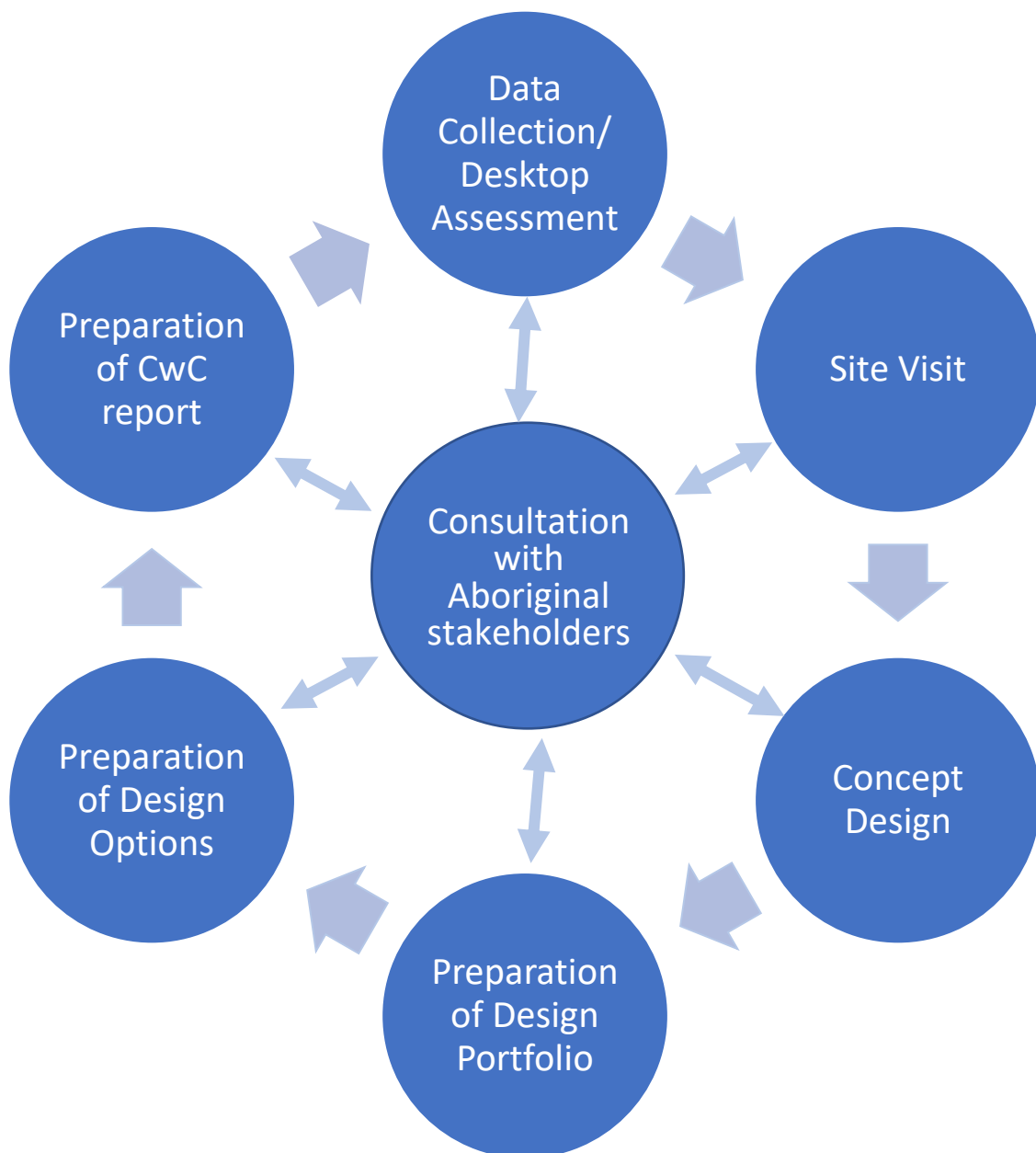
The CwC process is separate to the statutory requirements to assess how a development site may impact evidence of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage.

### 3 METHODOLOGY

The project is currently in the Planning Proposal for the concept design phase. Once the Planning Proposal for the concept design has been approved, individual DAs for the detailed design of each of the development stages will be prepared and lodged with the City of Campbelltown.

Kayandel's approach includes a seven-stage process that includes data collection, consultation, assessment and reporting (refer to Figure 4). Kayandel's approach focusses on inclusive equitable stakeholder engagement that strives to provide a sense of ownership of place.

Figure 4 depicts the iterative nature of the CwC framework, with an ongoing consultation process with Aboriginal stakeholders.



**Figure 5:** Kayandel's CwC assessment and reporting process

#### 3.1 Data Collection/Desktop Assessment

The desktop assessment considers both published and unpublished sources such as:

- Previous Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment reports;
- Primary and secondary historical sources such as diaries, maps, or photos in the first instance and published historical accounts in the latter instance. This includes a review of historical aerial photography;
- Published geological and soil mapping and associated reports to identify the relevant landscape conditions; and,
- Any study area specific ancillary data such as geotechnical or land-use history studies commissioned which are usually provided by the client.

### **3.2 Site Visit Fieldwork**

Site visits are necessary to contextualise the information that has been collected as part of the desktop assessment of the CwC assessment process.

### **3.3 Concept Design**

Kayandel archaeologists in conjunction with input provided by Aboriginal stakeholders as part of the site visit will develop built form, cultural and artistic design concepts that will best incorporate the Aboriginal cultural significance of the Subject Area.

### **3.4 Consultation with Aboriginal Stakeholders**

A 28-day consultation and review period is used to gather input and feedback from Aboriginal stakeholders on the built form, cultural and artistic design concepts that have been developed.

At this current point in time consultation has only been undertaken with CBNTCAC.

When a consultation process as per Heritage NSW's *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents* (DECCW, 2010) is undertaken, the Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) will be invited to provide comment on the overall design(s), offer suggestions for additional considerations to incorporate in the design(s), and provide examples of motifs, artefacts or artworks for inclusion in the design(s).

### **3.5 Concept Design Portfolio**

A concept design portfolio will be used to inform discussions in a meeting with the Client to discuss the design concept(s) and the input from the consultation stage.

### **3.6 Preparation of Final Design Options**

Kayandel will develop a short list of final design options. These design options will be incorporated into the CwC report.

### **3.7 CwC Report**

A report that details the findings of the CwC assessment and presents final design(s) for incorporating CwC design principles into the development will be prepared.

## 4 RESULTS

As part of informing the CwC for the concept design, Kayandel has undertaken the data collection/desktop assessment and the site visit. Consultation with CBNTCAC will be undertaken as part of preparing this report.

These works were undertaken in conjunction with preparing the Kayandel (2022) "Rosalind Park" Planning Proposal, 33 Medhurst Road, 101 & 111 Menangle Road, Menangle Park, City of Campbelltown, NSW: Aboriginal Heritage Due Diligence Assessment.

### 4.1 Desktop Assessment

#### 4.1.1 Historic Land Use

The earliest European activity within the vicinity of Menangle Park occurred almost immediately following settlement at Sydney Cove, when two bulls and five cows which had escaped from the Sydney Cove colony were found in 1795, thriving on grasslands along the Nepean River near Camden.

The initial land grants at Menangle Park comprised of two 200-acre land parcels made to James Harrex and Henry Kable in December 1809. The majority of Menangle Park was then divided into small 30-60-acre land grants from August 1812, with larger land parcels provided to prominent individuals. Additional grants were made in 1816, 1821, 1831, and 1835. Overall, most land holders within Menangle Park are known to have undertaken land clearances and fencing, attempting agricultural activities on their properties (Casey & Lowe, 2010). This is supported by Governor Lachlan Macquarie's writings, where he stated the following regarding his October 1815 tour of the area:

*"where we crossed the River Nepean into the District of Airds, first passing through Harrex's and then afterwards thro' several other smaller farms, some few of which were tolerably well improved, and the crops in the ground looking well and healthy"* (Evans, 2013).

Parish maps would indicate that the Subject Area falls within original land grants made to James Harrex (60 acres), John William Lewin (200-acres), Charles Gray (104 acres) and George Marriott Woodhouse (200 acres) at the turn of the nineteenth century. Initial disturbance activities within the Subject Area would likely have comprised land clearances and fencing, whilst crops were grown up until the collapse of the wheat industry during the 1860s, at which point dairying redefined the region.

There is a Federation-era house in the northwest portion of the Subject Area, located within an area of an original 60-acre land grant made to convict James Harrex in 1812. The property has operated in a pastoral and dairying capacity from the 1860s and comprises a brick Federation era house (1890-1915), which has been extensively modified, and timber and brick ancillary buildings.

A review of historical aerial imagery indicates that the Subject Area continued to be utilised for agricultural purposes into the twentieth century. Evidence of development appears to be limited to fence lines, cropland, and grazing paddocks, whilst modifications were made to the federation-era house and associated gardens and outbuildings (see Plate 1 to Plate 3).

The historical aerial imagery also shows that the sandstone quarry located within the southern portion of the Subject Area was developed between 1969 and 1975 (see Plate 4). Aerial imagery suggests the Subject Area has remained in its present configuration since the development of the sandstone quarry (see Plate 5 and Plate 6).



Summarily, the level of disturbance in the Subject Area is varying. The sandstone quarry in the southern portion is categorised as having gross levels of disturbance. Conversely, the vast majority of the northern portion of the Subject Area has remained in use for agricultural purposes only and would be categorised as having low-to-moderate levels of disturbance.



**Plate 1:** 1947 aerial photograph of the Subject Area



**Plate 2:** 1956 aerial photograph of the Subject Area





**Plate 3:** 1969 aerial photograph of the Subject Area



**Plate 4:** 1975 aerial photograph of the Subject Area



**Plate 5:** 1980 aerial photograph of the Subject Area





**Plate 6:** 2004 aerial photograph of the Subject Area

#### **4.1.2 Aboriginal Cultural Heritage**

##### **4.1.2.1 Tangible Sites**

Three categories of tangible Aboriginal cultural heritage may be defined:

- Things that have been observably modified by Aboriginal people;
- Things that may have been modified by Aboriginal people, but no discernible traces of that activity remain; and/or,
- Things never physically modified by Aboriginal people (but associated with Dreamtime Ancestors who shaped those things).

A search of the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) identified four (4) Aboriginal that have been recorded within the Subject Area (refer Figure 6 to Figure 9):

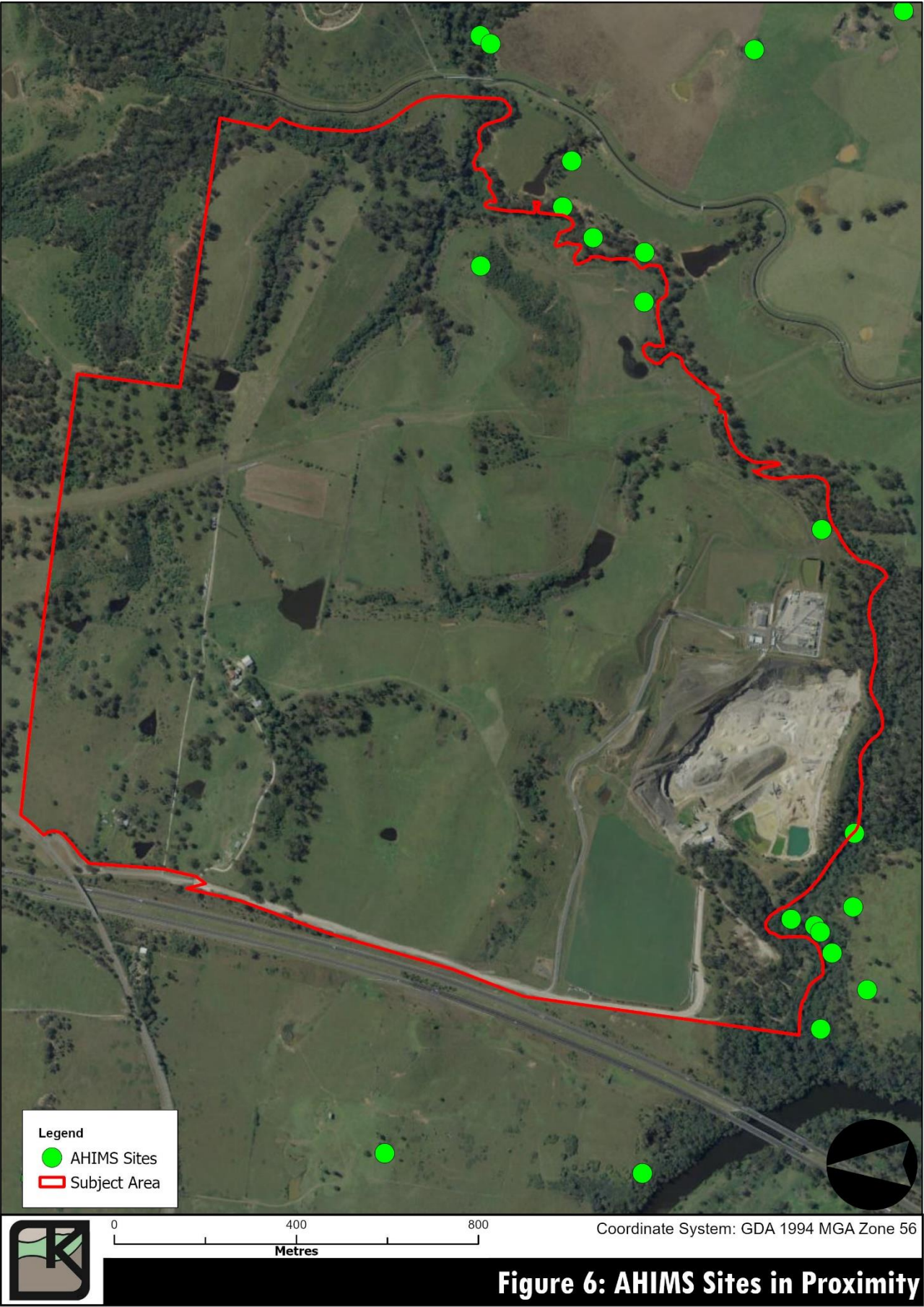
- AHIMS #52-2-2273, RP2 – open camp site;
- AHIMS #52-2-2278, RP1 – open camp site;
- AHIMS #52-2-4288, MG PAD30 – PAD; and,
- AHIMS #52-2-4331, MGA14 – PAD – art (pigment/engraved), artefact and stone arrangement.

While a further nine (9) Aboriginal sites have been recorded within 100m of the Subject Area (refer to Figure 6 to Figure 9):

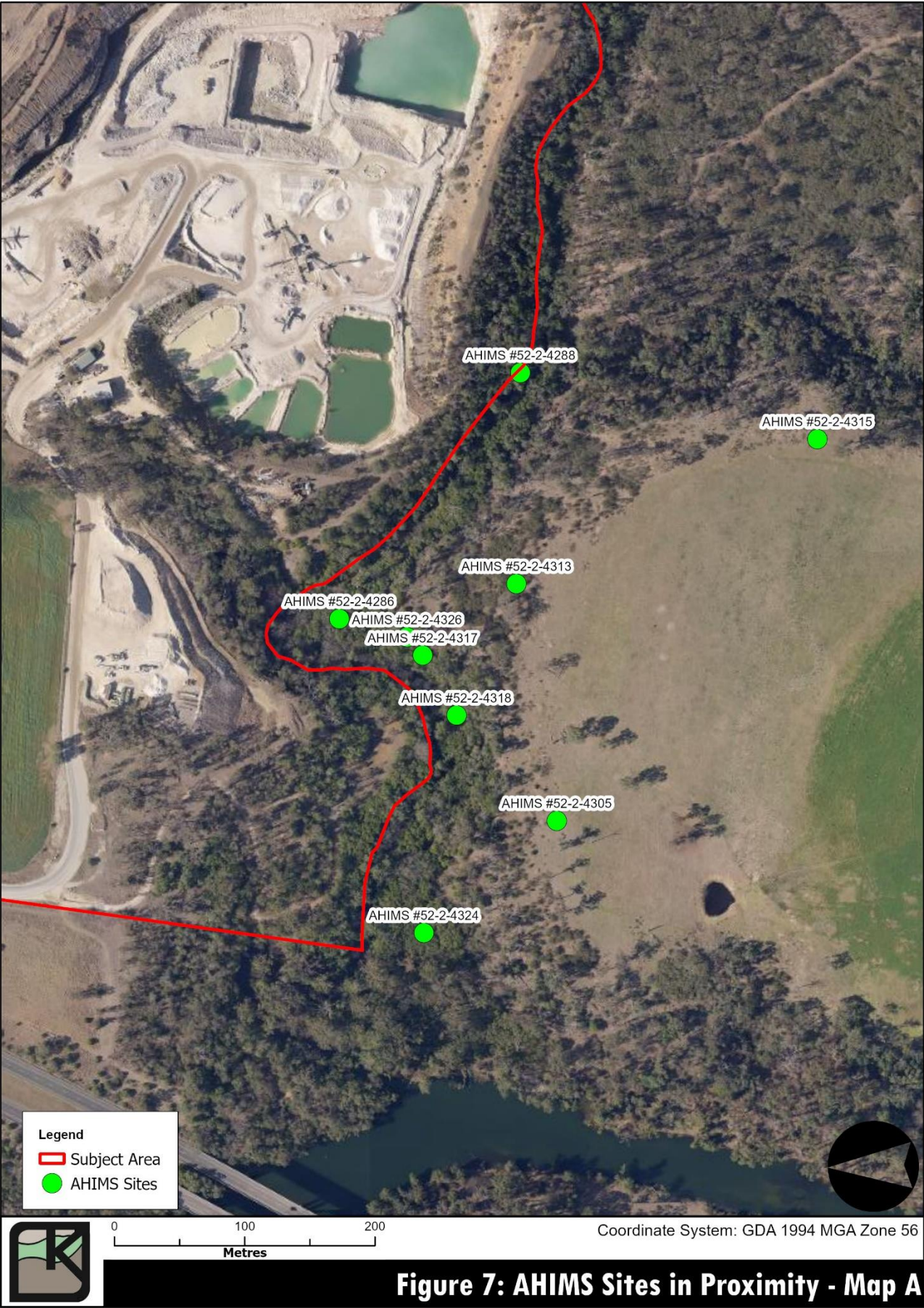
- AHIMS #52-2-4313, MGA22 – isolated artefact;
- AHIMS #52-2-4286, MG PAD31 – PAD;

- AHIMS #52-2-4326, MG PAD32 – PAD;
- AHIMS #52-2-4317, MG PAD33 – PAD;
- AHIMS #52-2-4318, MG PAD34 – PAD;
- AHIMS #52-2-4324, MG PAD35 – PAD;
- AHIMS #52-2-4328, MGA14 EXP.1 - art (pigment/engraved), artefact and stone arrangement;
- AHIMS #52-2-4329, MGA14 EXP.2 – art (pigment/engraved), artefact and stone arrangement;  
and,
- AHIMS #52-2-4330, MGA14 EXP.3 – art (pigment/engraved), artefact and stone arrangement.

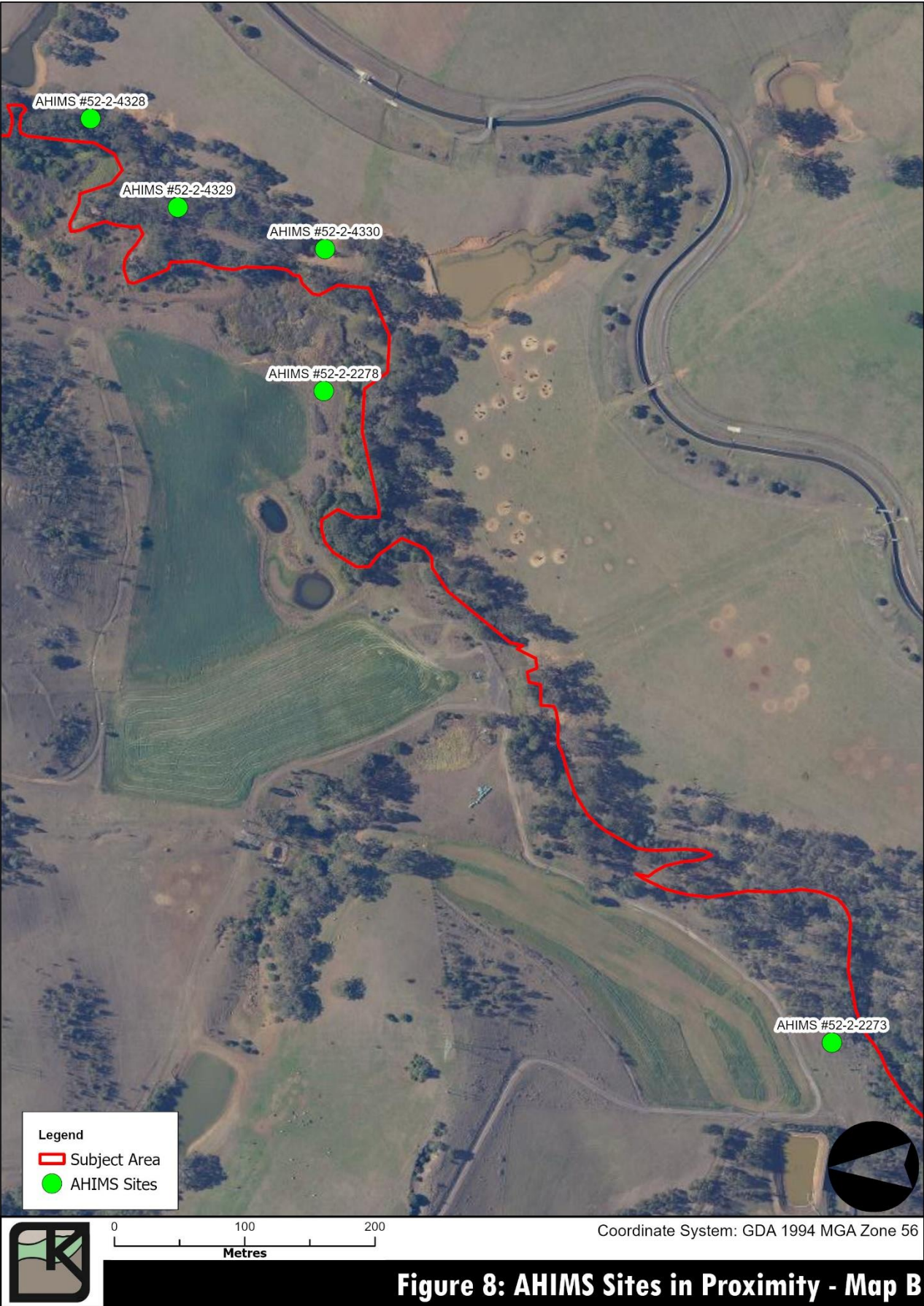




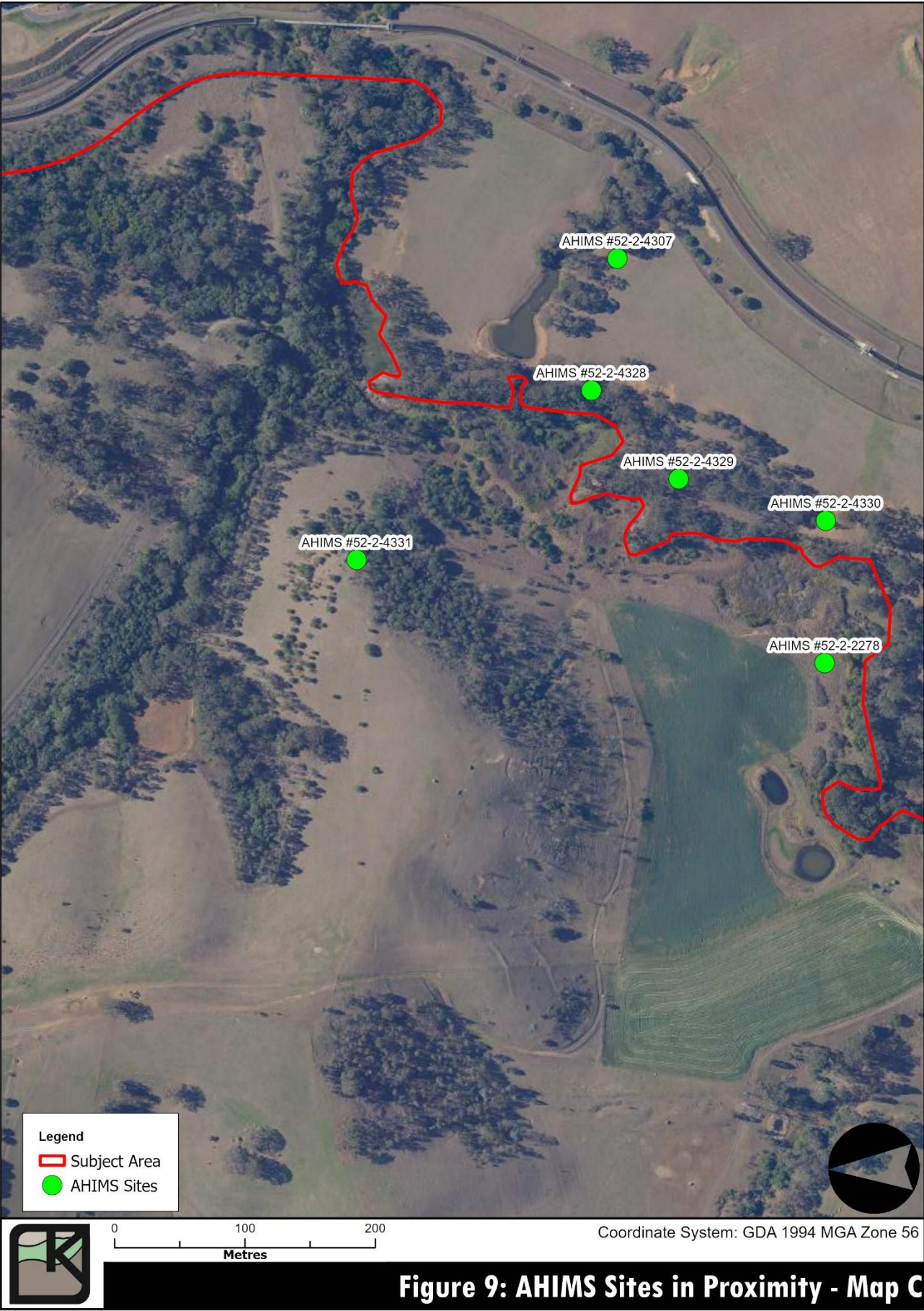












#### 4.1.2.2 Intangible Sites

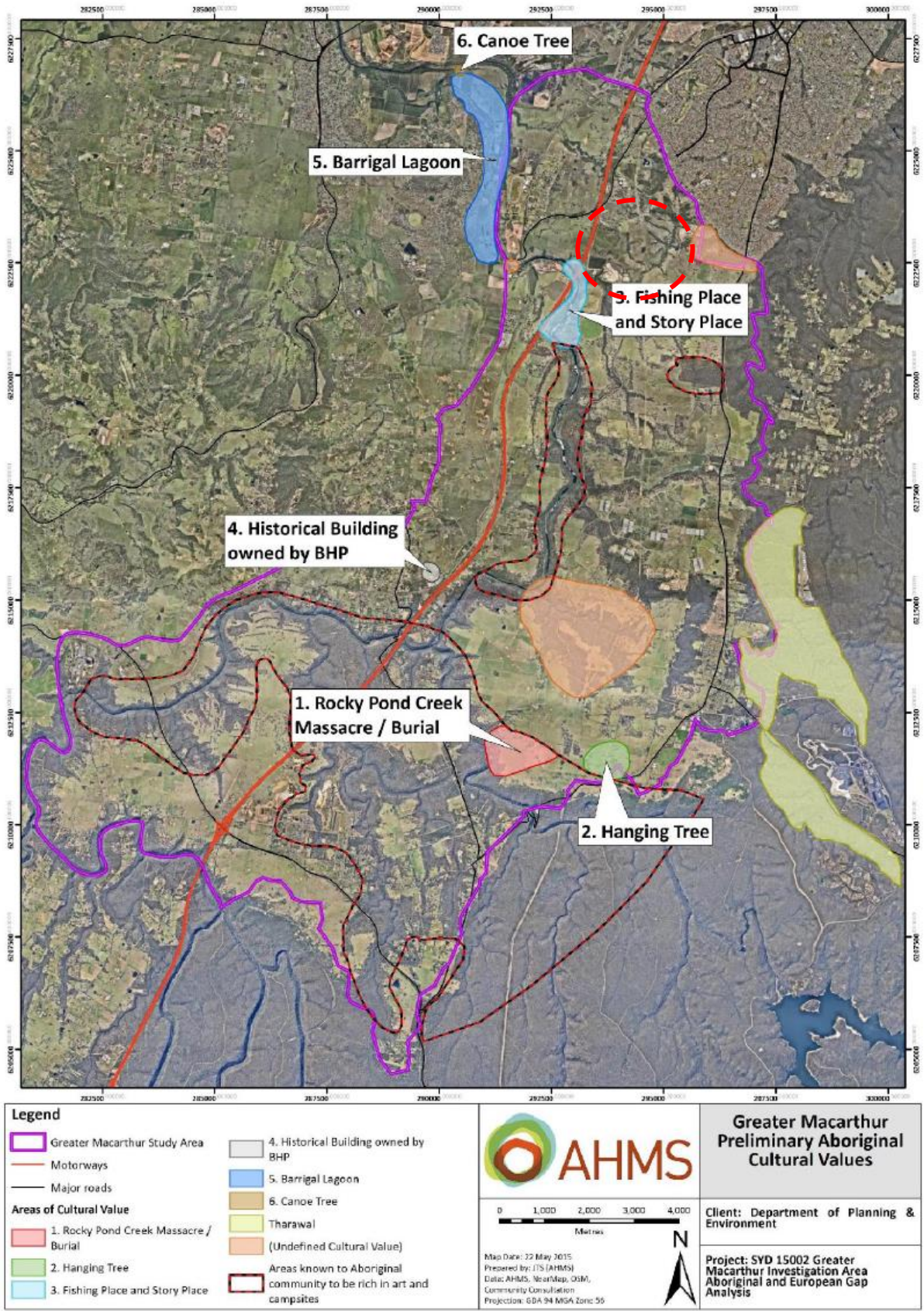
Examples of intangible Aboriginal cultural heritage include memories of stories and 'ways of doing', which would include language and ceremonies (DECCW, 2010, p. 3).

A review of the ethnographic record for the Menangle/Menangle Park includes several instances of early Aboriginal interactions with Europeans (AHMS, 2017, p. 5 & 7).

AHMS (2017, pp. 26-28) has undertaken preliminary cultural values mapping of the Greater Macarthur area, during which Aboriginal stakeholders identified two areas of cultural significance in close proximity to the current Subject Area - "Fishing and story place", and an area of undefined cultural value (refer to Figure 10).

According to AHMS (2017) the "Fishing and story place" refers to a stretch of the Nepean River, east of Menangle near Birdseye corner, which was known to have good fish and eels. It has been used extensively by Aboriginal people in the recent past and continues to be used today. Within this stretch of river is an important Story Place, which AHMS (2017) notes that the knowledge holder did not want more precisely identified within a public document.





**Figure 10:** Map of cultural values including sites and places identified by Aboriginal community (source: AHMS (2017)). The Subject Area is circled red

#### **4.1.3 Archaeologically Sensitive Landforms**

As part of preparing the Aboriginal heritage due diligence assessment (Kayandel, 2022), mapping of archaeologically sensitive landforms was undertaken (refer to Figure 11).

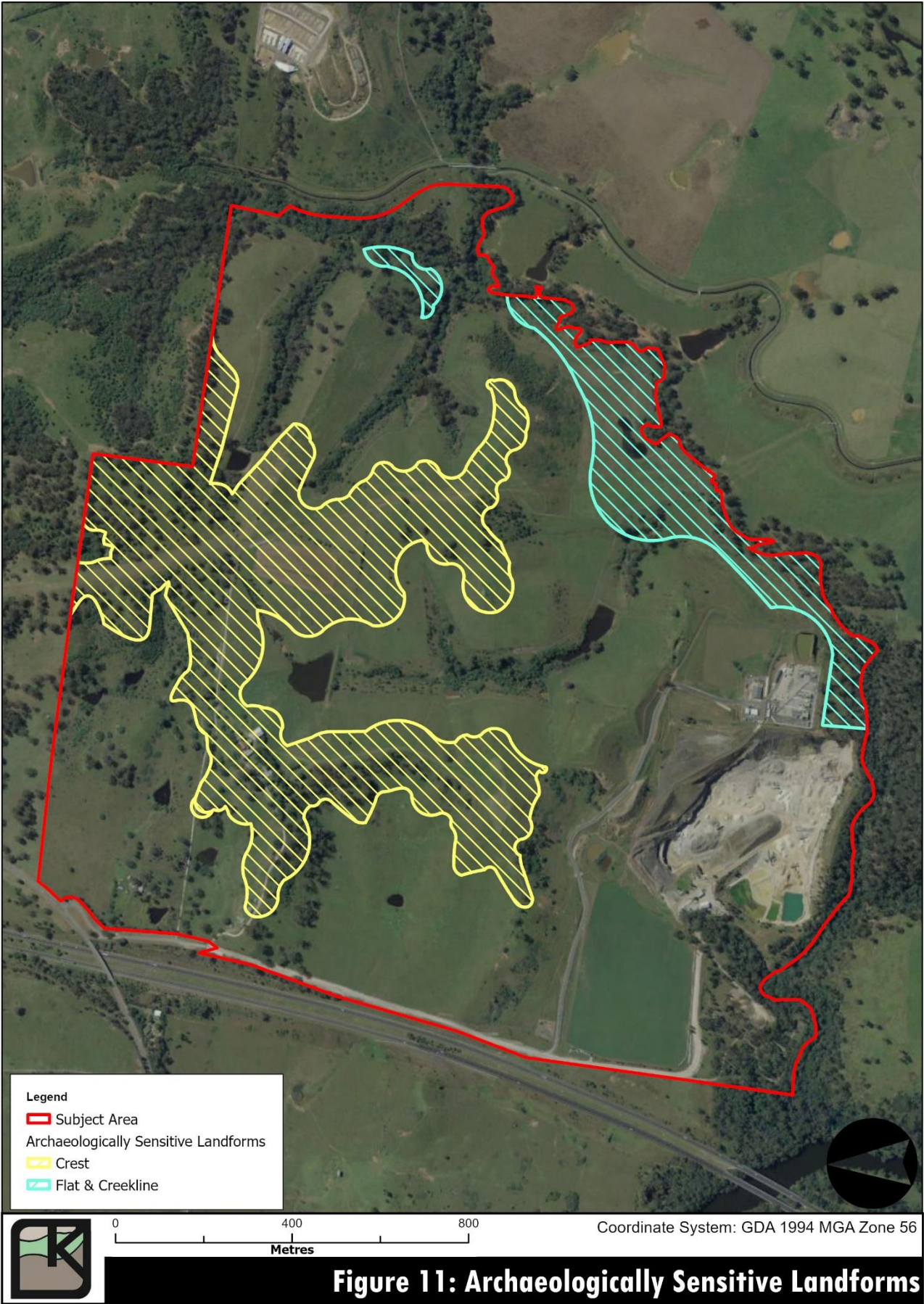
This mapping was prepared based on infield conversations with Kirsty-Lee, as well as previous archaeological investigations of the Subject Area, and other archaeological assessments in similar landforms of Menangle and Mount Gilead.

Previous archaeological investigations of the Subject Area and the adjoining properties have identified Aboriginal sites on the flats associated with Menangle Creek, and the creek line itself as being a landform with high archaeological sensitivity (see Figure 6 to Figure 9).

As a result of Kayandel's background research for this assessment, the crests, and the flats and the Menangle Creek have been assessed as being archaeologically sensitive landforms (refer to Figure 11). The steep slopes across the Subject Area are assessed to have low archaeological sensitivity.

Kayandel (2022) recommended further archaeological investigation of the archaeologically sensitive landforms would be required. Depending on the results of the further investigation and feedback received from Aboriginal stakeholders, this CwC report will be revised to include the input.





## 4.2 Site Visit

A Kayandel archaeologist conducted 'walk over' visual assessments in February and May of 2022 with a representative of CBNTCAC (Kirsty-Lee Chalker), and representatives of the Proponent noting specific features and contexts that will inform the CwC concept design portfolio and design options.

During the site visit, Kirsty-Lee identified that the ridge lines were used as travel routes by Aboriginal people, as well as providing vantage points to view the landscape.

Menangle Creek was identified as being of significance because there were rock shelters suitable for occupation, as well being a permanent water source, and having a wide range of resources.

Kirsty-Lee promoted that removal of invasive plants and the planting of local flora within riparian corridors and open spaces is part of CwC and should be incorporated into any land management plans.

## 4.3 Concept Design

The sections below summarise opportunities for the future residential subdivision development there were identified during the initial engagement with CBNTCAC.

### 4.3.1 Cultural celebration

Cultural celebration is a practical way to embed Country and culture into the residential subdivision.

Top Opportunities	Summary
Place-naming	Place naming throughout public spaces contributes to cultural celebration through acknowledging Country and celebrating culture. Examples of how place naming can be implemented include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Integrate Aboriginal place names throughout the development, for example at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Streets</li> <li>Public places and spaces</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Artwork and installations	Celebrate culture through artwork, murals, installations such as totem poles, or presentation of key artefacts found during future heritage assessments.
Cultural design	Embed culture and celebrate local stories through the design and layout of places and buildings
Aboriginal place	Space within Rosalind Park for Aboriginal communities to gather and connect to culture and Country. This may include native gardens, a yarning circle, and some artwork.

**Table 3:** Opportunities for cultural celebration

### 4.3.2 Infrastructure and facilities

Providing the Aboriginal community and the wider community can be offered opportunities to connect with Country through the establishment of hard and soft infrastructure.

Top Opportunities	Summary
Cultural infrastructure	Facilities for cultural celebration, information and education. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Keeping place</li> <li>Cultural centre (including information centre for tourists)</li> <li>Yarning circles</li> </ul>

**Table 4:** Opportunities for infrastructure and facilities

## 4.4 Consultation with Aboriginal Stakeholders

This draft report will be provided to CBNTCAC allow initial feedback on the initial design concepts. Once it has been received it will be incorporated into the final report.

FEEDBACK TO BE INCLUDED IN FINAL REPORT



## 5 NEXT STEPS

The next step is to provide a draft copy of this report to CBNTCAC to seek their input in the initial design concepts.

The below activities will be undertaken as part of the detailed design for each of the development stages:

- Concept Design Portfolio
- Preparation of Final Design Options

As part of each detailed design DA, the consultation would be undertaken with the Aboriginal stakeholders to (but not limited to):

- Identify Aboriginal words that may be used for the names of streets, and public places and spaces;
- Identify possible locations for the establishment of Yarning Circle(s);
- Discuss design options for the Yarning Circle(s);
- Assist the landscape architect in identifying local plant species to be established in the riparian corridors and public places and spaces;

As feedback is received from this ongoing consultation process, this CwC report will evolve to reflect this process.

## 6 REFERENCES

- AHMS. (2017). *Greater Macarthur Investigation Area: Aboriginal and Historic Heritage - Gap Analysis and Future Direction - Final*. Prepared for the Department of Planning & Environment.
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