



Reference: 22062

30 August 2022

Hugo Hannah  
Assistant Development Manager  
Altis Property  
hugo.hannah@altisproperty.com.au

Dear Hugo,

**RE: HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL ADVICE FOR 10, 20 & 30 BERWICK PARK ROAD AND 25, 45, 55, 75, 85 & 95 WILTON PARK ROAD, WILTON, NEW SOUTH WALES**

Austral Archaeology Pty Ltd (Austral) has been engaged by Altis Property Group to provide a heritage Letter of Advice (LoA) as part of a planning proposal for rezoning of the land at 10, 20 and 30 Berwick Park Road and 25, 45, 55, 75, 85, and 95 Wilton Park Road, Wilton, New South Wales (NSW) [the study area].

The location of the study area can be seen in Figure 1, a detailed aerial in Figure 2, and the cadastral boundaries related to the study area are shown in Figure 3.

The study area is currently zoned 'RU2 – Rural Landscape', under the *Wollondilly Local Environmental Plan 2011* (Wollondilly LEP). The proposed works involved rezoning of the subject land to an employment land use (E4 – General Industrial type zoning).

Following the rezoning, the construction of the subsequent subdivision will involve the removal of existing vegetation, bulk earthworks to level the ground, trenching for the installation of underground infrastructure and construction of warehouses and roadways. All these activities have the potential to harm any subsurface heritage should they be present within the study area.

## UNDERSTANDING OF THE PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

Austral understands that the project will be assessed under Part 4 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. This LoA has been undertaken to determine whether any historical heritage values are likely to be present within the study area which may be impacted as part of the planning proposal.

The study area does not contain any previously identified heritage items that are listed on the State Heritage Register (SHR) or the *Wollondilly LEP 2011*. However, there a search of the State Heritage Inventory identified several heritage sites in proximity to the study area:

'Cottage' - 180 Wilton Park Road, Wilton (Wollondilly LEP Item I279) – located 500 metres north of the study area;

Upper Nepean Scheme – Upper Canal (Wollondilly LEP Item No I16) – located 1.4 kilometres south-east of the study area;

Upper Canal System (Pheasants Nest Weir to Prospect Reservoir) [Wollondilly LEP Item I278] – located 1.1 kilometres south-east of the study area;

Upper Canal System (Pheasants Nest Weir to Prospect Reservoir) [SHR Item 01373] – located 1.4 kilometres south-east of the study area;

'Kedron' - 305 Wilton Park Road, Wilton (Wollondilly LEP Item I280) – located 1.3 kilometres north-west of the study area; and,

'Wilton Park' – 370 Wilton Road, Wilton (Wollondilly LEP Item I277, SHR Item 00257) – located approximately 1.9 kilometres north-west of the study area.

The location of these heritage sites in relation to the study area is shown in Figure 4.

In order to understand the archaeological potential within the study area, this report provides an assessment of the potential historical archaeological resource through a review of documentary sources. The historical research that forms the basis of this assessment included an inspection of title documents, Crown plans and historical aerial images available through NSW Department of Lands. Research was also undertaken through the National Library of Australia, NSW State Library and NSW State Archives. This process has quantified the nature, extent and significance of any historical heritage values that may be present within the study area. In particular, whether any relics may be present that may require approvals under Section 140 under the *NSW Heritage Act 1977* as part of the proposed development.

The report is underpinned by the philosophy of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) and the *Burra Charter: Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance, 2013* (Burra Charter), the practices and guidelines of Heritage NSW and the requirements of the Wollondilly LEP and the *Wollondilly Development Control Plan 2016*.

## HISTORICAL CONTEXT

The following historical background is designed to contextualise a site-specific history which will aid in the understanding of the heritage values of the study area. This work will provide a useful and concise summary of the history of the study area.

### PRE-EUROPEAN OCCUPATION

Aboriginal occupation of the Cumberland Lowlands and Nepean River Valley, within which the study area is situated, extends back well into the Pleistocene, or 10,000 years ago. Currently, the oldest accepted date for an archaeological site in the Sydney region is a date of about 14,700 years Before Present (BP), which was obtained from Shaws Creek Rockshelter K2, located to the north of Penrith (Attenbrow 2010, p.20). Relatively early dates were also obtained by McDonald *et al* (1996, p.20) for artefact bearing deposits at open site RS1 (AHIMS #45-5-0982) on Mulgoa Creek, Regentville, but the reliability of these dates is uncertain (McDonald. *et al.* 1996, pp.61–62).

The study area is thought to lie within the boundaries of the Tharawal tribe, as mapped by Tindale (1974), whose territory extended south from Botany Bay to the Shoalhaven River, and inland as far as Campbelltown and Camden (Attenbrow 2010, p.20) while the Gundungurra occupied the land to the west of the Tharawal (AECOM 2015, p.14, Niche Environment and Heritage 2010, p.17). However, Aboriginal people formed part of a dynamic culture which allowed movement throughout the landscape to assist in the ceremonial and functional practicalities of daily life (Niche Environment and Heritage 2010, p.17). As such, defined borders for tribal groups are an artificial constraint designed by anthropologists (Organ 1990, p.xliii) and, in the words of Traditional Owner Glenda Chalker, the area is both “Gundungurra and Tharawal tribal country” (Niche Environment and Heritage 2010, p.10).

The pre-contact population numbers for the study area are not known and, due to smallpox and influenza epidemics preceding the arrival of European settlers (Attenbrow 2010, p.21), it is unlikely that the early European explorers were able to successfully grasp the traditional population size.

While early contact between Aboriginal people and Europeans in the area was initially neutral, a combination of a long drought and an influx of Aboriginal people pushed off neighbouring lands resulting in escalating violence from 1814 through to 1816 (Austral Archaeology Pty Ltd 2011, p.12). The inevitable conclusion was reached in 1816 when troops under the command of Captain Wallis caused the death of several Aboriginal people camped at Cataract Gorge (Heritage Concepts 2007, p.13). This saw the end of spirited resistance and led to an increased attempt by Aboriginal people to enter into the cultural and economic lifestyle of the European settlers.

Following the massacre, the number of Aboriginal people in the Maldon area remained low, with 63 Aboriginal people being reported as living at Stonequarry in 1838, and over 80 Aboriginal people reported at Picton in 1862 (Dibden, in AECOM Australia Pty Ltd 2010, p.14). Despite this, there were still reports of Aboriginal people in the Camden area hunting using traditional methods and camping along the Nepean River up to the late 19<sup>th</sup> century (AECOM Australia Pty Ltd 2010, p.14, Atkinson 1988, p.7).

## SETTLEMENT IN THE MACARTHUR REGION

In 1795, the region was visited by Governor Hunter, who travelled to the country south of the Nepean River to determine the truth of rumours that herds of cattle were roaming the hills. During his trip, Hunter found a herd of about 60 wild cattle that had escaped from the Government Farm at Sydney Cove and named the area 'Cowpastures' (Heritage NSW 2018). Hunter was impressed with the quality of the soil, timber and water in the district. In 1802, Francis Barrallier explored the area, and botanist George Caley mapped the Cowpastures and camped at Menangle. The area became a Government Reserve for the purpose of raising stock (Sidman 1995, p.5) and the Government prohibited anyone from crossing the Nepean River without a permit in order to not disturb the cattle (Jervis 1941, p.277, Vincent 1996, p.3). Cowpastures extended from present day Camden to Picton and prevented any settlement to the south-west of Sydney.

The first land grant in Cowpastures was issued to John Macarthur, who was promised land to encourage his pastoral endeavours, and in 1805 he was granted 5,000 acres [2023.4 hectares] (Massy 1990, pp.27–28). Macarthur named his grant Camden Park and he made the first export of saleable wool to Britain when he dispatched 245 pounds (111.1 kilograms) in 1807 (Massy 1990, pp.30–32).

During 1810, Governor Macquarie visited the area to choose the site of the future township of Liverpool, and he named the district around present-day Campbelltown *Airds*. Within a year, there were 107 settlers in the district. This level of development and continued expansion of the edge of settlement to the south-west required formal road construction and staging posts to accommodate through-traffic. In 1815, James Meehan surveyed a road from Liverpool to Appin and reserved land that became Campbelltown, a major settlement on the main route to the south-west grazing plains. The road also linked with the route through Appin to the Illawarra. The farms in the Airds district focused on produce to supply the Sydney markets such as growing crops and grazing animals. Fruit and grapes were also commonly grown. Appin was surveyed by Walker Davidson in 1834 (Whittaker 2005, p.2). During the 1820s, grain became the most popular crop in the district with mills being built at Mount Gilead near Menangle in 1836 and at Windmill Hill in 1846 (Whittaker 2005, pp.30–31).

The first settler in the Macarthur area was Arthur Douglass, who was granted 800 acres (324 hectares) in 1822. Douglass named his estate "Hoare Town", and to fulfil the terms of the land grant, he lived there for 3 years with his mother (Mylrea 2000, p.12, Wrigley 1988, p.8). As the Hoare Town land grant was sold and sub-divided, the area became known as Douglass's Park and eventually Douglas Park (Sidman 1995, p.53). The next land grant was 2,000 acres (809 acres) issued to Jean Baptiste Lehimaz De Arrietta on 9 July 1822. The land became known as Morton Park (also the Morton Park Estate) and was bounded to the north-west by the extensive land grants of John McArthur, to the west by Harris Creek, to the east by the Nepean River and to the south-west by Arthur Douglass (Mylrea 2000, pp.10–12). De Arrietta took 20 convicts to assist with clearing and farming the land, and following an unsuccessful attempt to grow tobacco, he began to sell off his land by the 1830s (Mylrea 2000, pp.8–9, Wrigley 1988, p.8). In 1831, Samuel Terry, a former convict, bought Morton Park and built the existing Morton Park homestead.

In 1834, Major Thomas Mitchell, surveyor general, received the first land grant in the Wilton region. Wilton's development has been associated with Mitchell's 'Parkhall' and is often described as being influenced by it (Heritage NSW 2018). In 1844, the first town lots were sold and by 1855, Wilton was officially declared a town with a population increase connected to the construction of the Upper Nepean Water Supply scheme.

On 1 March 1864, a road was gazetted that ran north to south through the Nepean Towers Estate; this road, linking to the east to west road between Appin and Wilton, appeared to follow an earlier track.

## SETTLEMENT IN THE STUDY AREA

The study area was originally granted by Governor Thomas Brisbane in 1823, consisting of a complete 60 acre (24 hectares) grant to Henry Pullen and parts of grants of 80 acres (32 hectares) to William Britton, 30 acres (12 hectares) to James Vaughan, 100 acres (40 hectares) to Harman Luke (HL) Printz and 50 acres (20 hectares) to William Smith (Table 0.1 and Figure 5) [*The Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser*, 10 June 1824, pg 1]. It is unknown what happened to the study area during this time as no further information could be found on the individuals or the use of the study area.

**Table 0.1 1823 Grants allocated by Sir Thomas Brisbane**

Camden Parish Portion	Lot	Grantee	Portion size	Date of Grant
6	30	Harman Luke Printz	Part of 100 acres	1823
38	26	Henry Pullen	60 acres	
39	27	William Smith	Part of 50 acres	
42	-/-	James Vaughan	Part of 30 acres	
43	25	William Britton	Part of 80 acres	

In 1857, Printz, Smith, Pullen and Britton advertised their properties for sale and although it is unknown when Vaughan sold his property, later the same year all their properties, including the study area, were purchased by William Bradbury, who had previously been granted 100 acres (40 hectares) in 1823 by Governor Darling (*The Sydney Morning Herald*, 22 January 1857, pg 7; *New South Wales Government Gazette* [NSWGG], 3 January 1862, pg 17). Within 5 years, in 1862, the study area was transferred to John Joseph Sheil but within the same year, John Downes Badham took John Joseph Sheil to the Supreme Court due to his debt, which led to the auction of his properties, including the study area:

*...sold by public auction, at the Commercial Hotel, King-street Sydney, at noon, on Thursday, the sixth day of February 1862, all the estate, right, title, and interest of the abovenamed defendant, John Joseph Sheil... in the whole 1,460 acres [590 hectares]* [NSWGG, 3 January 1862, pg 17).

In August 1894, Sir Samuel Hordern, a merchant and stockbroker, purchased 1,873 acres (758 hectares) of land in Wilton on the Nepean River, including the study area (Vol. 1134-Fol. 249; Primary Application 8724). Hordern established the Wilton Park Estate in 1891, which consisted of 2,500 acres (1,011.7 hectares), although preliminary research has not identified any particular use of the study area (Heritage NSW 2018).

The study area remained with Hordern until 1926, when he began selling portions of his larger property and in 1927, David Roy Asimus, a farmer, accumulated a large estate of 460 acres, 1 rood and 24 perches (186 hectares), including the entirety of the study area (Vol.4059. Fol.88).

The estate and study area remained in the Asimus family with small changes, such as the resumption of land in 1943 where land north of the study area was resumed and declared a public road, until 1955 when Ernest Doubleday, a Menangle farmer, took out a mortgage for the study area (Vol. 4059 Fol. 88).

Within 10 years, James Vernon Haig McCann, a dairy farmer became the proprietor of the property but by 1967 the Cambridge Credit Corporation Limited took over ownership of the estate. By 1969 other small changes were present within the study area, with the construction of dams in Lot 40, Lot 6 and Lot 7, and the construction of a structure in Lot 2 (Figure 6). By 1975, 6 years later, additional structures were present within the study area, including within Lot 40, Lot 5 Lot 6 and Lot 7 and Lot 16 (Figure 7).

## **HISTORICAL LAND USE AND SENSITIVITY**

An assessment of archaeological potential usually considers the historic sequence of occupation in comparison to the structures which are currently extant, as well as the impact that the more recent constructions and works would have had on earlier occupation phases and, as such, the likely intactness of the archaeological resource. This, in turn, is tied in with the extent to which a site may contribute knowledge not available from other sources to current themes in historical archaeology and related disciplines.

Regarding the assessment of the study area, the archaeological potential depends upon the anticipated likelihood for the survival of buried structural fabric and cultural deposits as well as an estimation of archaeological integrity. Structural fabric refers to what is generally regarded as building or civil engineering remnants. Cultural deposits refer to archaeological deposits, i.e., deposited sediments containing artefacts etc.

Having analysed the historical evidence in the previous chapters, the following section presents a summary of the potential for a physical archaeological resource to be present in the study area, that is, its archaeological sensitivity/potential. As a rule, archaeological sites first redeveloped in either the 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> century can also retain evidence of occupation from earlier periods. It is also very common that such evidence can be recovered even when sites have been redeveloped or disturbed by modern construction activity.

It is generally uncommon for mid- to late 19<sup>th</sup> century farmhouses to completely disappear from the historical record, as either the buildings continue to be lived and visible on aerial photos through to the post-WW2 period, when rural subdivisions started to become common, or the houses are abandoned and left dilapidated. Still, evidence of occupation is usually visible, such as planting along driveways or around former buildings, or through landscape modifications. The absence of any such evidence within the study area in the aerial imagery suggests that the study area was not occupied and is unlikely to contain historical archaeological material.

Based on the detailed background history, the following general predictive statements can be made:

There is low potential for the study area to contain any historical structures as it was used mainly for agricultural purposes. Any heritage identified is likely to be in the form of fencing or postholes.

## **SITE INSPECTION**

A visual inspection of the study area was undertaken by Stephanie Moore (Senior Archaeologist, Austral) on 14 July 2022. The visual inspection included a systematic survey of the study area to identify any historic heritage values that may be present.

The study area consists of a series of rural residential properties with varying levels of development on each block. Development within the blocks consists of houses, storage containers, sheds and outbuildings, driveways and access roads, a tennis court and an ad-hoc airstrip (Figure 8 to Figure 10). There are also a number of artificial dams of varying sizes throughout the properties. The houses are generally of brick construction and appear to date from the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century – no early homesteads were identified. Disturbances throughout the study area are limited to where these developments have occurred, with the remaining land appearing in a natural state.

The site inspection did not identify any evidence of historical archaeological potential or historic heritage values within the properties inspected (Figure 11).

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

This preliminary assessment has identified that the study area sits within a number of historical land grants that were utilised for agricultural activities throughout most of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Intensified rural residential development came much later, in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. The land usage is not indicative of activity that would produce lasting archaeological remains and the area is assessed as having low archaeological potential. No historic heritage values or areas of archaeological potential were identified during the site inspection.

Based on these results, it is recommended that:



Works can proceed with caution and no further historical assessment is required.

An unexpected finds procedure should be developed prior to the commencement of any bulk earth works and incorporated into an environmental management policy for the site.

Please do not hesitate to contact me on 0434 688 859 if you wish to discuss any aspect of this submission.

Yours sincerely,



Stephanie Moore  
Senior Archaeologist  
Austral Archaeology Pty Ltd  
ABN: 55 629 860 975  
M: 0431 688 859  
E: [stephm@australarch.com.au](mailto:stephm@australarch.com.au)

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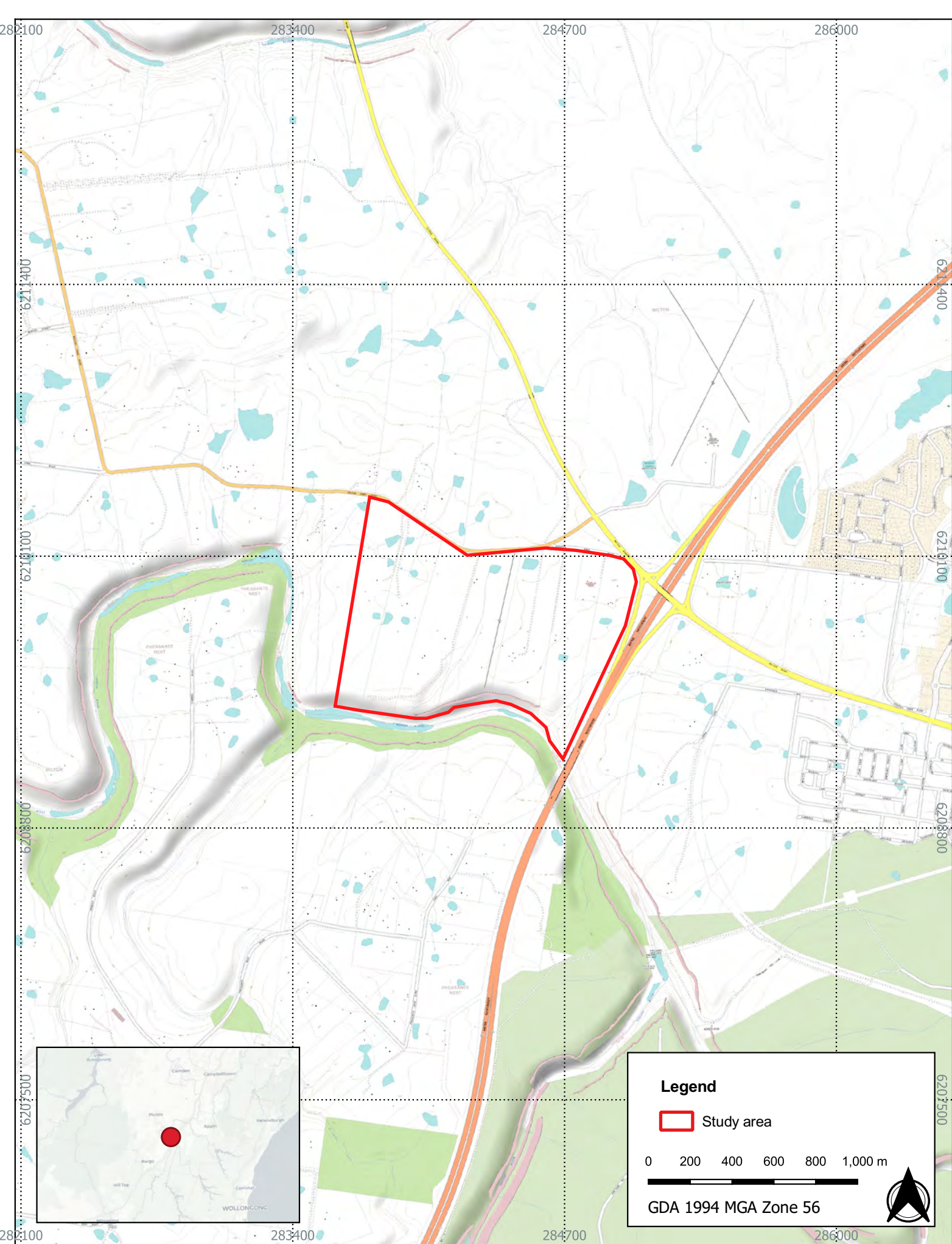
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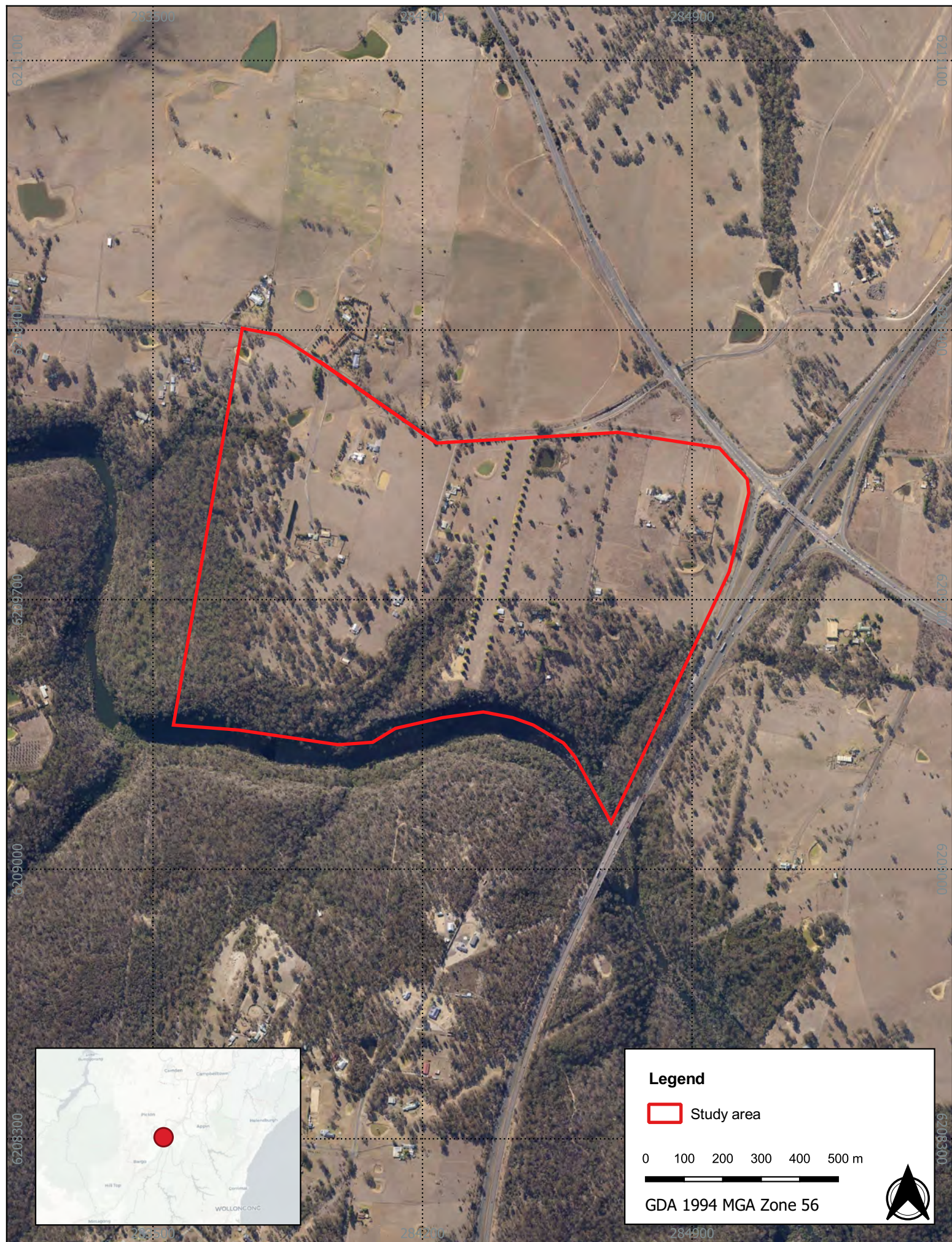
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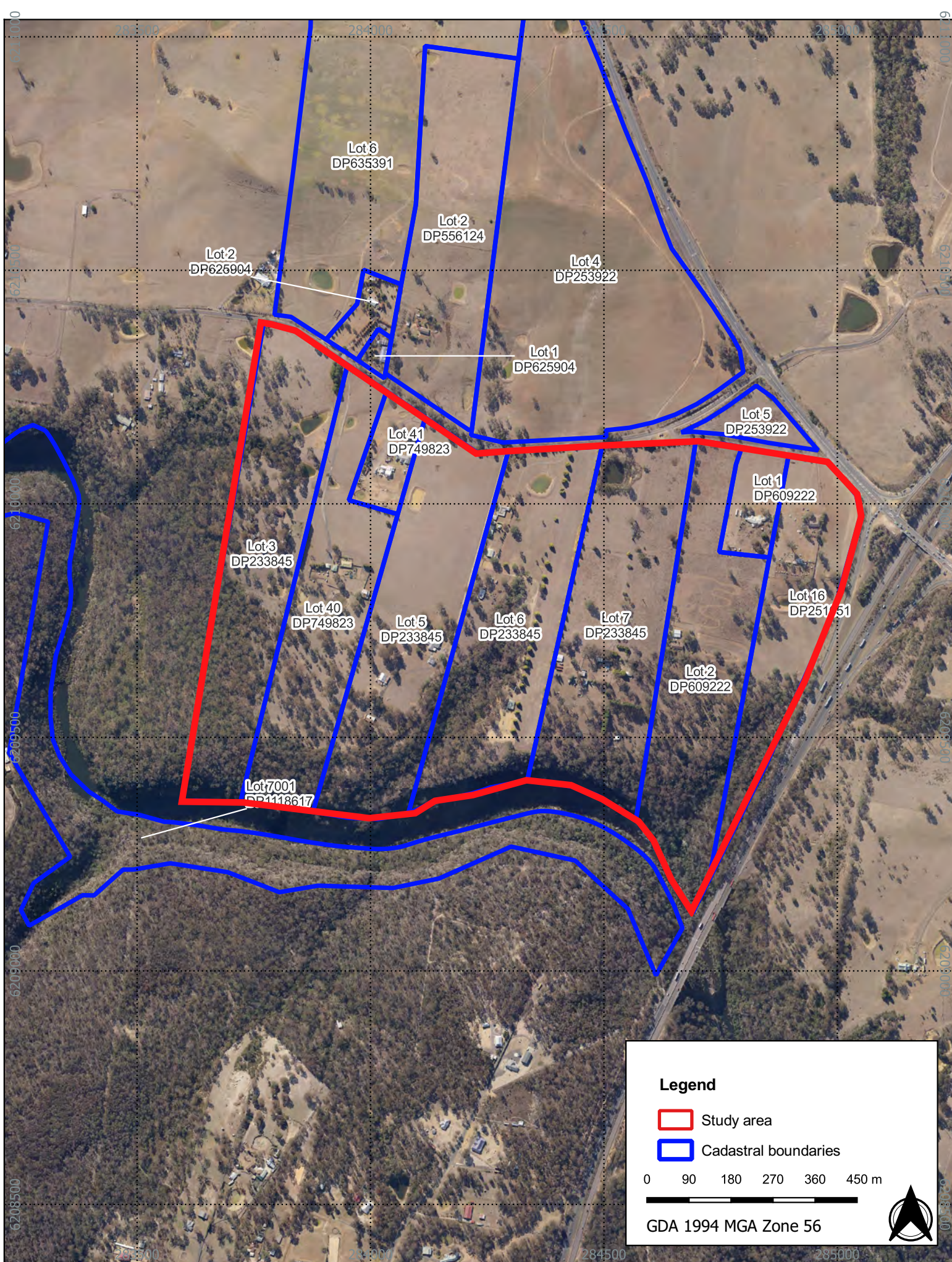


**Figure 2 - Detailed aerial of the study area**

22062 - Berwick Park Road and Wilton Park Road, Wilton







**Figure 3 - Cadastral boundaries in relation to the study area**

22062 - Berwick Park Road and Wilton Park Road, Wilton

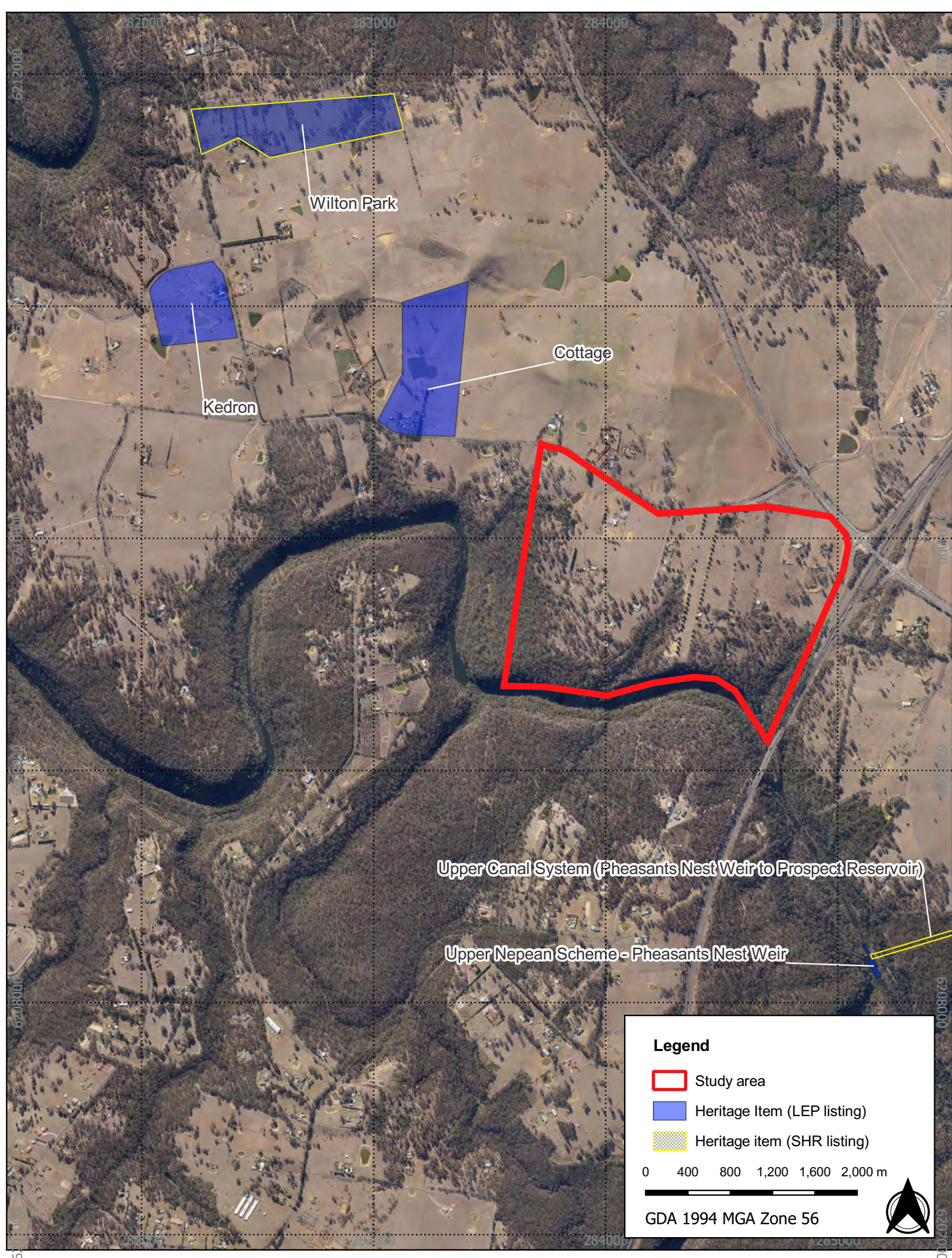
Source: NSW LPI Aerial

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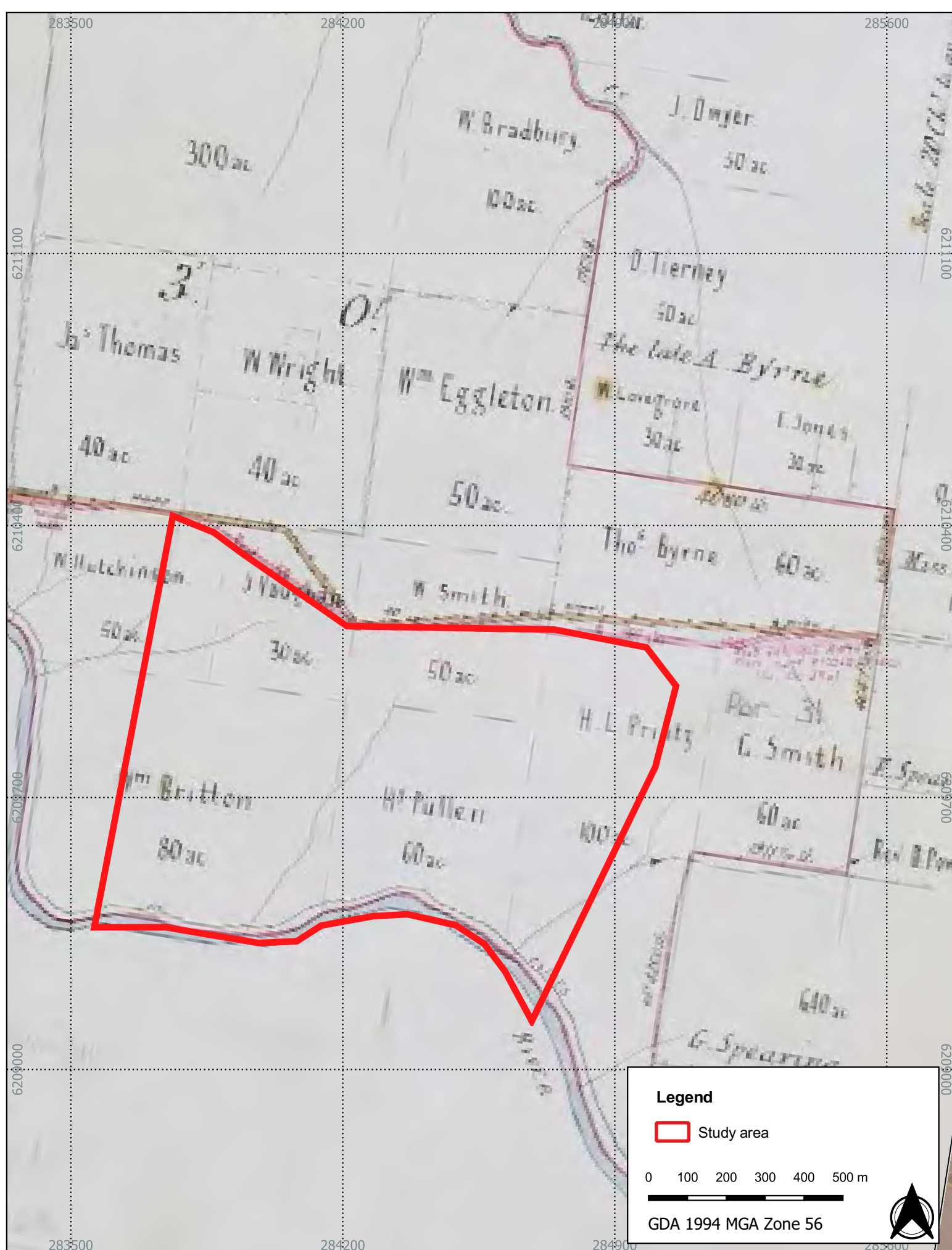


**Figure 4 - Heritage items in relation to the study area**

22062 - Berwick Park Road and Wilton Park Road







**Figure 5 - 1870 Title deeds maps showing the study area**

22062 - Berwick Park Road and Wilton Park Road

Source: NSW Spatial Services

Drawn by: ARH    Date: 2022-07-29



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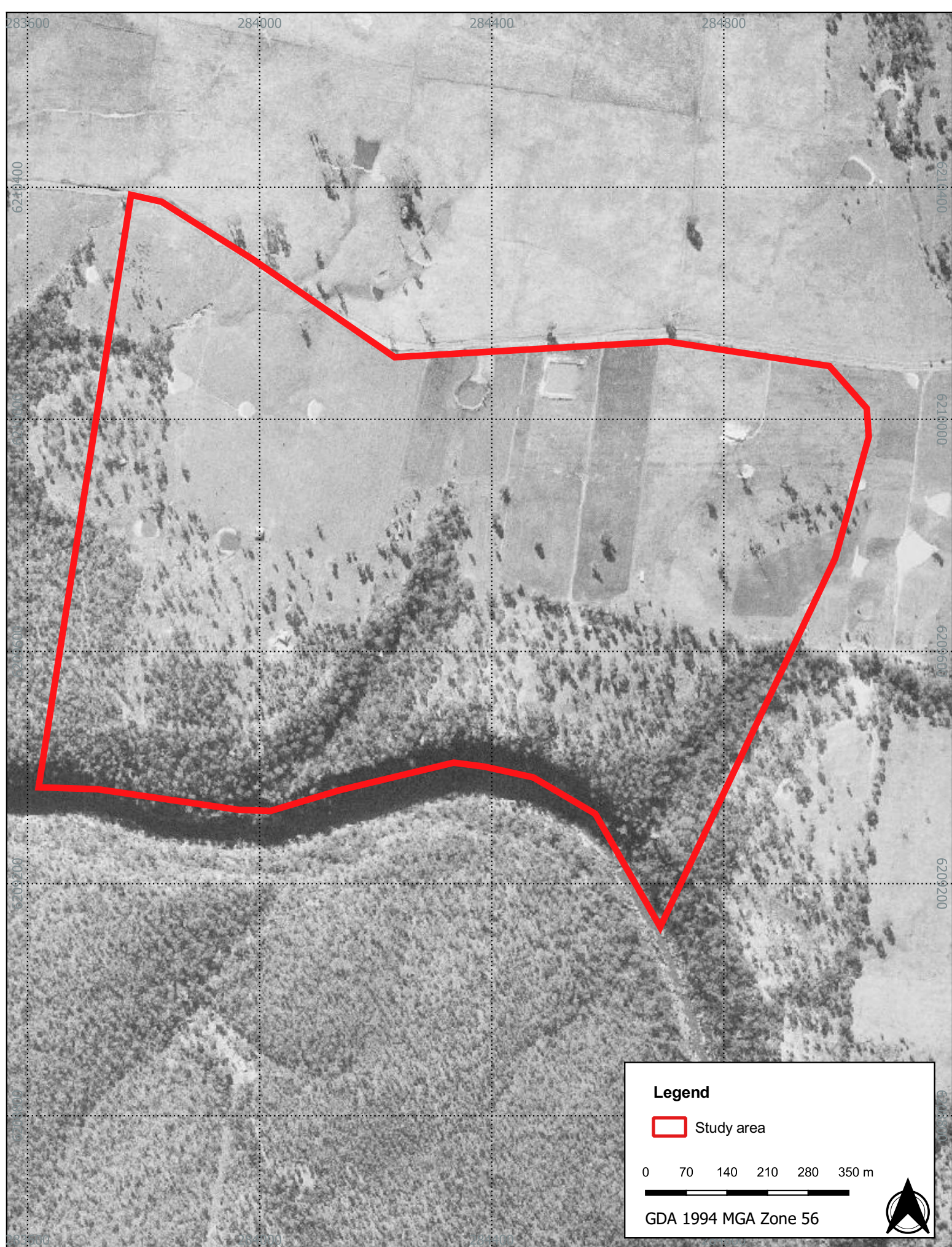
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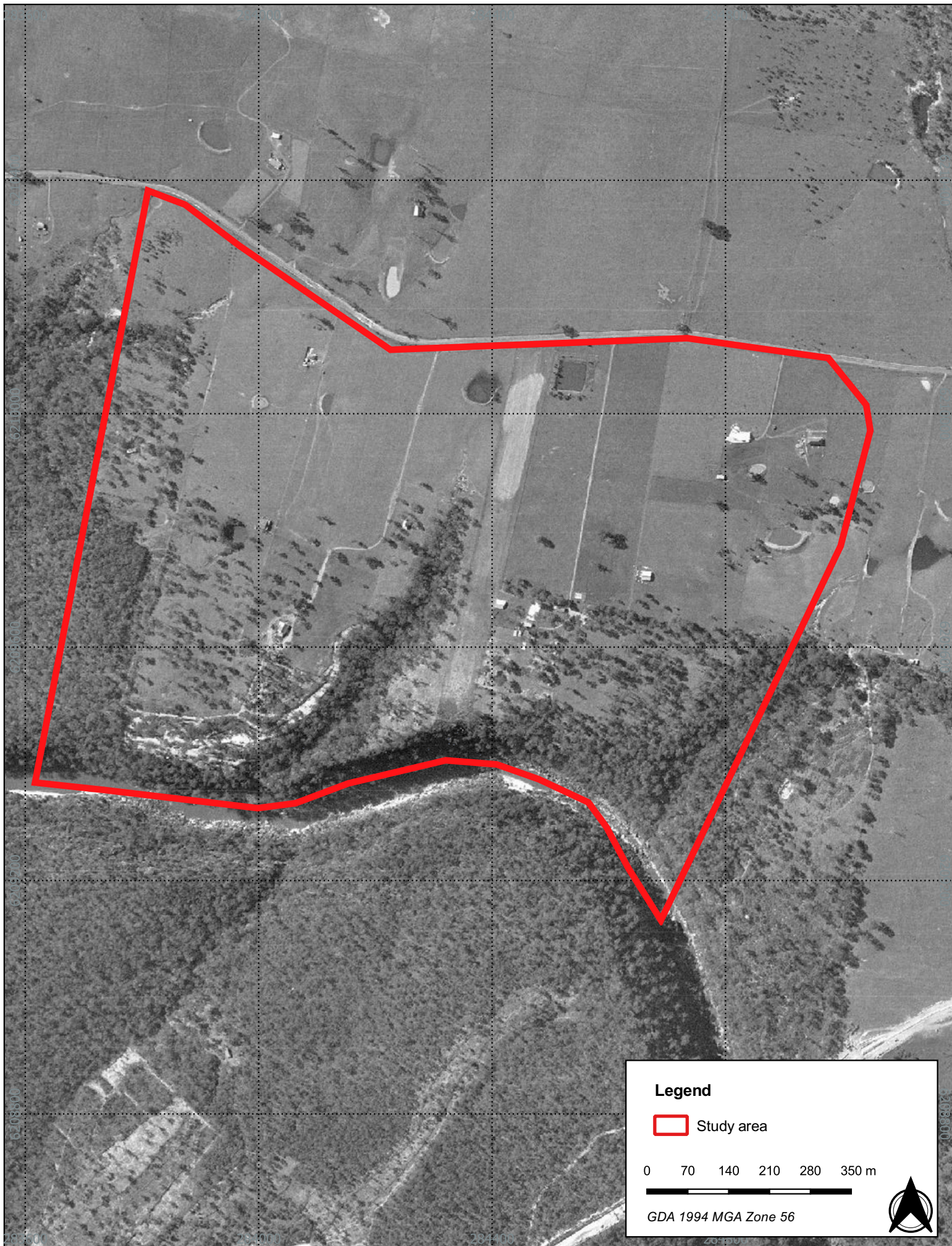


**Figure 6 - 1969 aerial of the study area**

22062 - Berwick Park Road and Wilton Park Road







**Figure 7 - 1975 aerial of the study area**

22062 - Berwick Park Road and Wilton Park Road







**Figure 8** 10 Berwick Park Road, showing general setting of the area



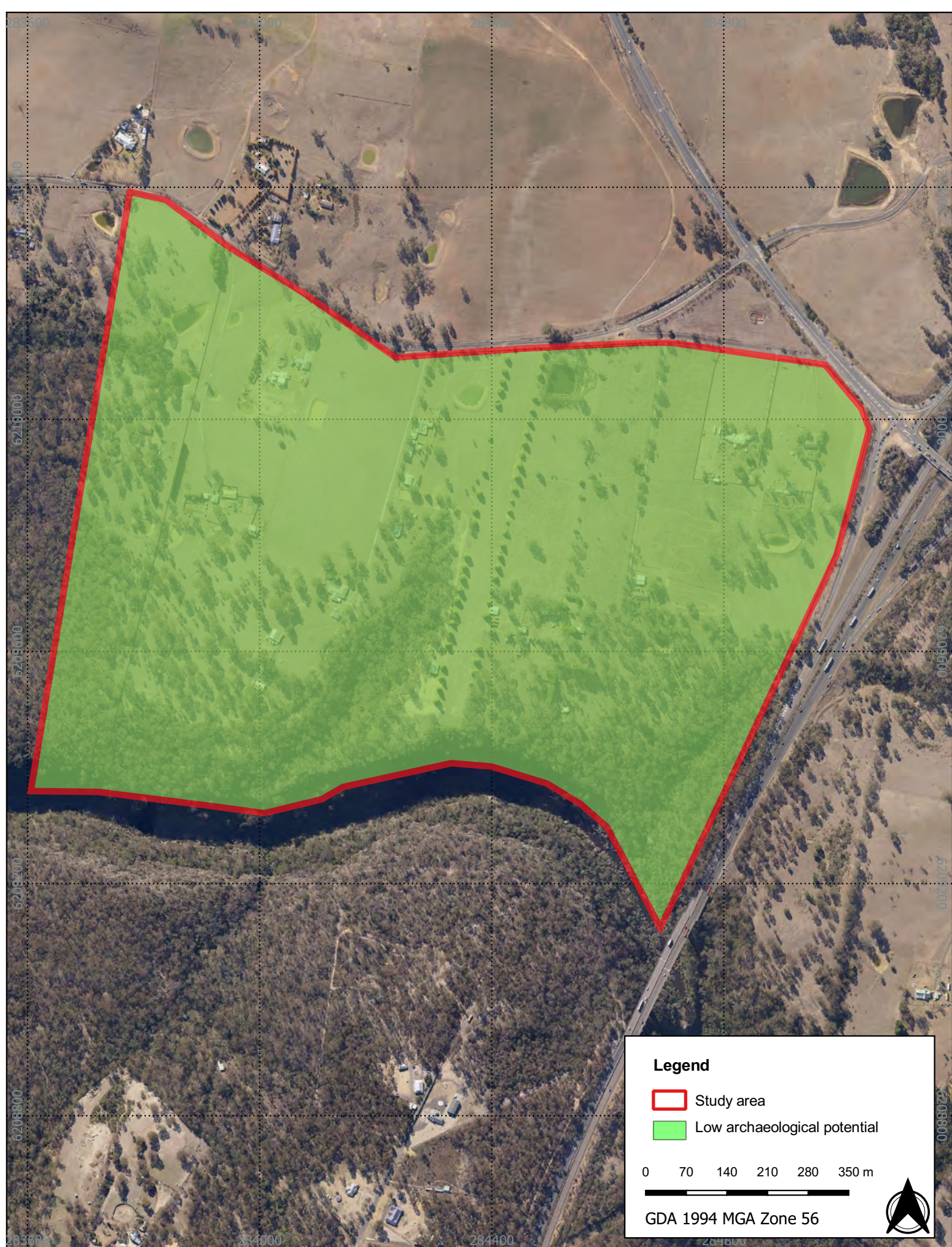
**Figure 9** 25 Wilton Park Road, showing outbuildings and tennis court





**Figure 10**      **75 Wilton Park Road, showing ancillary structures**





**Figure 11 - Archaeological potential of the study area**

22062 - Berwick Park Road and Wilton Park Road

Source: NSW Spatial Services

Drawn by: DRM Date: 2022-08-23



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