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Denman Solar Park, Denman Road, Muswellbrook

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment

Prepared for DPI Australia

Muswellbrook Local Government Area

May 2021



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Executive summary

Background

DPI Australia (DPI) is proposing to develop a solar photovoltaic (PV) generation and storage facility (Solar Park), including network connection to the adjoining 66 kilovolt Ausgrid Power line (the Project). The Project is located at Lot 400 Denman Road, Muswellbrook, New South Wales (NSW) on a single 40 hectare (ha) site (the Project Area).

An Aboriginal heritage due diligence assessment was prepared for the proposed Solar Park by Ecological Australia (ELA) (2020) and nine Aboriginal sites were identified and registered on the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) within the Project Area (Figure 1-2). Eight of the nine Aboriginal sites were isolated finds of stone artefacts (AHIMS ID 37-2-5971 - 37-2-5978). The other site was an artefact scatter (AHIMS ID 37-2-5979). In response to the Development Application No 2020-49 the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Regulation Team, Heritage NSW, has stated that an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) is required to be prepared in order to support an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) application for impact to the nine identified sites under section 90 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 (NSW)*.

Everick Heritage Pty Ltd (Everick Heritage) has been engaged to undertake survey and test excavation (Appendix D) and prepare this Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment to support an AHIP for the Project.

The Project Area

The Project Area comprises Lot 400 DP 791860, Denman Road, Muswellbrook, NSW. The Project Area is located wholly within the Muswellbrook Local Government Area (LGA) approximately 13 kilometres (km) southwest of Muswellbrook and 10 km northeast of Denman (Figure 1-1). The Project Area consists of 40 hectares (ha) of cleared, grazing land, parts of which have been recently cultivated for agriculture. The infrastructure present on site consists of farm tracks, dams, portable sheep yards and fencing.

Consultation

Aboriginal community consultation has been conducted in accordance with the Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010 (Consultation Requirements) (Department of Environment Climate Change and Water [DECCW] 2010a). Table 4-1 lists the 14 Aboriginal groups and individuals who registered an interest in the Project. Section 4 details the Consultation Requirements process and Appendices A to C provide evidence of the Consultation Requirements undertaken.

Survey

A survey was undertaken of the Project Area over four days between 15 – 18 March 2021. Personnel and timing for the attending the survey are listed in Table 7-1. A further 54 surface stone artefacts were identified across the crest, upper, middle and lower slopes of the Project Area (Figure 7-1). No further artefacts were located on the floodplain. Areas of potential archaeological deposit (PAD 1-5) were identified on the basis of paddocks which generally corresponded to fence lines, landforms and soil landscapes.

Test Excavation

Test excavations were undertaken across four days between 15 – 18 March 2021. One 1 m x 1 m Test Pit and 34 Shovel Test Pits (STP) were undertaken in an approximate 100 m grid across the Project Area (Figure 8-1). All PAD, landforms and soil landscapes were sampled. One stone artefact was recovered from STP5 and one stone artefact from STP6. These STP were located along the crest landform in PAD1 to the west of the Project Area. Table 9-1 and Table 9-2 summarises details regarding location (landform and PAD), total depth and numbers of artefacts found. The artefacts retrieved through test excavation are being temporarily stored in a locked cupboard in the Everick Heritage Sydney Office:

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Conclusions

Survey and test excavation suggests that the crest landform is the most archaeologically sensitive landform in the Project Area. This landform would have provided an elevated, relatively flat and well drained campsite location with views across the floodplain to the Hunter River. Decades of clearing, ploughing and grazing have likely brought subsurface artefacts in the Project Area to the surface, particularly from the shallow sediments of the crest landform but also elsewhere on the upper and middle slope landforms.

The archaeological signature of the Project Area is best represented by the low density surface scatter of predominantly silcrete stone artefacts, that is Denman AS2 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5976). The two subsurface stone artefacts recovered during test excavation also form part of that site. It is possible that silcrete angular rocks found on the crest and upper slope landforms may be the source of silcrete artefacts found there.

Scientific and cultural significance

The Project Area forms part of the Hunter Valley landscape which is significant to the Wonnarua people in representing a landscape through which their ancestors travelled and camped, hunted and gathered and held ceremonies. No specific social or historic values has been identified for the Project Area although it is assessed as having moderate aesthetic values.

Nine Aboriginal sites have been identified in the Project Area. These are primarily isolated finds of stone artefacts and heavily disturbed surface scatters. Denman AS1 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5979) is a small, sparse surface scatter of four stone artefacts. This site was unable to be relocated during the current survey and is assessed as being of low scientific significance. Denman AS2 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5976) comprises an extensive but sparse surface scatter of 54 stone artefacts as well as two subsurface stone artefacts from a disturbed context. The raw materials and artefact types are varied and there is moderate research potential for this site based on its size, content and location. Therefore, Denman AS2 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5976) is assessed as being of low to moderate scientific significance. Denman IF1-5 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5971 - 5975) and Denman IF7-8 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5977 - 5978) are mostly single stone artefacts and separately are assessed as being of low scientific significance. However, when assessed as being part of Denman AS2 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5976) their significance would be elevated to low to moderate

Impact assessment

The likelihood of impact from the Project on Aboriginal objects or places is high. Options regarding mitigation of impact (avoidance of all individual surface stone artefacts) have been considered and assessed as being impractical. It is likely that the proposed Project would not result in impact to all of the surface stone artefacts however identification of every single stone artefact in order to avoid impact to it is not considered feasible due to ground surface visibility conditions. It is likely that salvage collection of artefacts will still result in some artefacts being left on site for future generations.

A search of the AHIMS database indicates that of the 64 stone artefact scatters within the search region that 16 (25 per cent) have already been destroyed. The destruction of Denman AS1 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5979), Denman AS2 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5976), Denman IF1-5 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5971 - 5975) and Denman IF7-8 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5977 - 5978) would result in an increase to around 28 per cent. Thus, the cumulative impact would be small but nevertheless contribute to the loss of Aboriginal cultural heritage values for the region.

Recommendations and management measures

- Denman IF6 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5976) Aboriginal site recording form (ASRF) has been updated to Denman AS2 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5976) and the extent includes Denman IF1-5 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5971

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- 5975) and Denman IF7-8 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5977 - 5979). This has been done in order to better manage Aboriginal cultural material within the Project Area and amended ASRF have been submitted to AHIMS.

- An Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) will be required for Denman AS1 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5976), Denman AS2 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5976), Denman IF1-5 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5971 - 5975) and Denman IF7-8 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5977 - 5978) in order for the proposed Denman Solar Park to proceed. It is recommended that an area AHIP to cover the entire Project Area be applied for to cover unexpected finds. It is recommended that the AHIP be for a term of five years. This ACHAR and all required documentation will be submitted in support of the AHIP application.
- As a condition of the AHIP it is recommended that salvage is undertaken. A thorough walkover of the Project Area must be undertaken by suitably qualified archaeologists and RAP representatives prior to construction so that all visible surface stone artefacts can be collected. The collected artefacts must be subject to detailed recording and analysis and a salvage report prepared which presents the recording and analysis including comparative analysis with artefacts from other sites in the region where this is possible. The report would investigate the source of raw materials within Denman AS1 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5976), Denman AS2 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5976), Denman IF1-5 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5971 - 5975) and Denman IF7-8 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5977 - 5978) and whether artefact size and type indicates any particular activities which might have occurred in the Project Area, such as hunting, gathering, quarrying, stone artefact manufacture etc.
- As part of the salvage walkover it would be worthwhile undertaking a detailed inspection and recording of a sample of the silcrete angular rocks scattered across the crest and upper slope landforms to investigate the potential of these as a source of the raw materials.
- On completion of the works an Aboriginal Site Impact Recording Form must be prepared for Denman AS1 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5976), Denman AS2 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5976), Denman IF1-5 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5971 - 5975) and Denman IF7-8 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5977 - 5978) and submitted to AHIMS.
- Options for the long term management arrangements for Aboriginal objects (stone artefacts) recovered from the Project Area during test excavation and salvage collection would be in accordance with Requirement 26 of the Code of Practice. An additional option has been proposed for the Aboriginal objects to be stored or reburied at a previously organised offset site associated with the local mining industry (section 12.4).
- The Project is being undertaken in consideration of impacts to and improvement of the local environment (renewable energy). Wherever possible consideration should be given to the employment of local Aboriginal people and/or organisations to encompass more fully the principle intergenerational equity.

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- Native indigenous plants should be used for landscaping of the Project Area perimeter in order to respect the cultural values of the place, that is the long occupation and traditions of the Wonnarua people.
- A procedure is provided in section 12.7 for if suspected human remains are discovered and/or harmed in, on or under the land within the Project Area.

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Definitions and abbreviations

ACHAR	means Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report
ACHCRP	means Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010
AHC	means Australian Heritage Council
<i>Australian Heritage Council Act</i>	means <i>Australian Heritage Council Act 2003 (Cth)</i>
AHIMS	means Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System
AHIP	means Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit
<i>ALR Act</i>	means <i>Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983</i>
ASR	means Aboriginal Archaeological Survey Report
ASRF	means Aboriginal Site Recording Form
<i>ATSIHP Act</i>	means <i>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984 (Cth)</i>
BP	means Before Present (that is 1950)
CHL	means Commonwealth Heritage List
Code of Practice	means Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales
DCP	means Development Control Plan
DECCW	means Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (now DPIE)
DPIE	means Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
due diligence	means Aboriginal heritage due diligence assessment
ELA	means Ecological Australia
<i>EP&A Act</i>	means <i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (NSW)</i>

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<i>EPBC Act</i>	means <i>Environment Protection and Diversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cth)</i>
ESD	means Ecologically Sustainable Development
Everick Heritage	means Everick Heritage Pty Ltd
the Guide	means Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW
GPS	means Global Positioning System
ha	means hectares
<i>ISEPP</i>	<i>State Environmental Planning Policy (Infrastructure) 2007 (NSW)</i>
km	means kilometres
LALC	means Local Aboriginal Land Council
LEP	means Local Environmental Plan
LGA	means Local Government Area
m	means metres
mm	means millimetres
NHL	means National Heritage List
<i>NPW Act</i>	means <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 (NSW)</i>
OEH	means (former) New South Wales Office of Environment and Heritage
PAD	means Potential Archaeological Deposit
Project Area	means Figure 1-1
RAP	means Registered Aboriginal Party
RNE	means Register of the National Estate
s	means section

1. Introduction

1.1. Project background

DPI Australia (DPI) is proposing to develop a solar photovoltaic (PV) generation and storage facility (Solar Park), including network connection to the adjoining 66 kilovolt (kv) Ausgrid Power line (the Project). The Project is located at Lot 400 Denman Road, Muswellbrook, New South Wales (NSW) on a single 40 hectare (ha) site (the Project Area).

An Aboriginal heritage due diligence assessment (due diligence) was previously prepared for the proposed Solar Park by Ecological Australia (ELA) (2020). Nine Aboriginal sites were identified and registered on the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) as a result of the due diligence (Figure 1-2). These sites included eight isolated artefacts and one artefact scatter. The due diligence recommended that further archaeological assessment through test excavations and detailed field survey be undertaken as a result of the undisturbed and archaeologically sensitive nature of the Project Area. It was also recommended that with the support of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR), an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit application should be submitted to the Aboriginal Heritage Regulation Team (Heritage NSW) if Aboriginal sites cannot be avoided by future development. A copy of the due diligence is supplied in Appendix D of the Archaeological Technical Report (Edmonds 2021) as part of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Methodology.

In response to the Development Application (DA) No 2020-49 the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Regulation Team, Heritage NSW, has stated that an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) is required to be prepared in order to support an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) application for impact to the nine identified sites under section 90 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 (NSW)*. In particular, Heritage NSW concerns relate to:

- The proposed activity and assessment of impact
- Aboriginal consultation process
- Assessment of surface sites
- Potential archaeological deposits and subsurface testing
- Aboriginal cultural landscape
- Significance assessment

- Ecologically sustainable development

Everick Heritage Pty Ltd (Everick Heritage) has been engaged to prepare the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for this Project. This report comprises the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report. The Archaeological Technical Report (ATR) which presents the results of the survey and test excavations for the Project Area is provided in Appendix D.

1.2. Project Area

The Project Area is located at Denman Road, Muswellbrook, NSW (Lot 400 DP 791860). The Project Area is located wholly within the Muswellbrook Local Government Area (LGA) approximately 13 kilometres (km) southwest of Muswellbrook and 10 km northeast of Denman (Figure 1-1). The Project Area consists of 40 hectares (ha) of cleared, grazing land, parts of which have been recently cultivated for agriculture. The infrastructure present on site consists of farm tracks, dams, portable sheep yards and fencing.

1.3. Study objectives

The objectives of this ACHAR are to summarise the results of the survey and test excavation and to identify whether Aboriginal cultural values will be impacted through via consultation with the registered Aboriginal parties (RAPs) for the Project Area. This ACHAR has been undertaken in accordance with the following guidelines:

- Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales 2010 (Code of Practice) (DECCW 2010b).
- Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW (the Guide) (OEH 2011).
- Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010 (Consultation Requirements) (DECCW 2010a).
- The Burra Charter 2013 (Australia ICOMOS 2013).

1.4. Authors and contributors

Vanessa Edmonds (Principal, Everick Heritage) supervised the test excavation undertook the stone artefact recording and analysis and contributed to the production of the ATR and ACHAR. Vanessa has over 35 years' experience in cultural heritage management.

Caitlin Marsh (Archaeologist, Everick Heritage) supervised the survey and assisted with test excavation. Caitlin has a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Archaeology and five years experience in the consulting industry. Caitlin has assisted with test excavation in the Denman area previously.

Jason Giang (Archaeologist, Everick Heritage) assisted with survey and test excavation. Jason also prepared the stratigraphic drawings and technical tables as well assisting with mapping and other technical requirements. Jason has two years of consulting experience in the heritage consulting industry in NSW.

Pav Klein (GIS, Everick Heritage) prepared the mapping.

1.5. Report structure

The purpose of this report is to document the results of an investigation of Aboriginal heritage at the Project Area. As such, the structure of this report includes:

- Section 1 – Introduction providing information on the project background and legislative framework.
- Section 2 – Detailed description of the proposed development
- Section 3 - Statutory requirements: outlines relevant legislation for this assessment.
- Section 4 – Consultation: provides information on the Aboriginal consultation process.
- Section 5 - Environmental context: provides an overview of the environmental conditions to provide context for the predictive model
- Section 6 – Ethnohistoric and Archaeological context: presents the results of the background ethnohistoric and literature research, summary of relevant previous assessments, and database searches. This section also presents a predictive model as background to the survey sampling strategy.
- Section 7 – Archaeological survey: discusses the aims, timing and personnel, constraints, survey sampling strategy, methodology and coverage.

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- Section 8 – Test excavation: discusses the aims, timing and personnel, constraints, excavation sampling strategy, methodology and coverage; and results and discussion
- Section 9 – Significance assessment: presents the results of the cultural heritage assessment identifying Aboriginal cultural values and landscapes as well as scientific significance assessment and a cultural significance assessment for the Project Area.
- Section 10 - Impact assessment: assesses potential impacts to Aboriginal objects and places as well discussion of ecologically sustainable principles and cumulative impact.
- Section 11 – Recommendations: Details appropriate recommendations for the management and mitigation of Aboriginal cultural heritage values in the Project Area
- References
- Appendices

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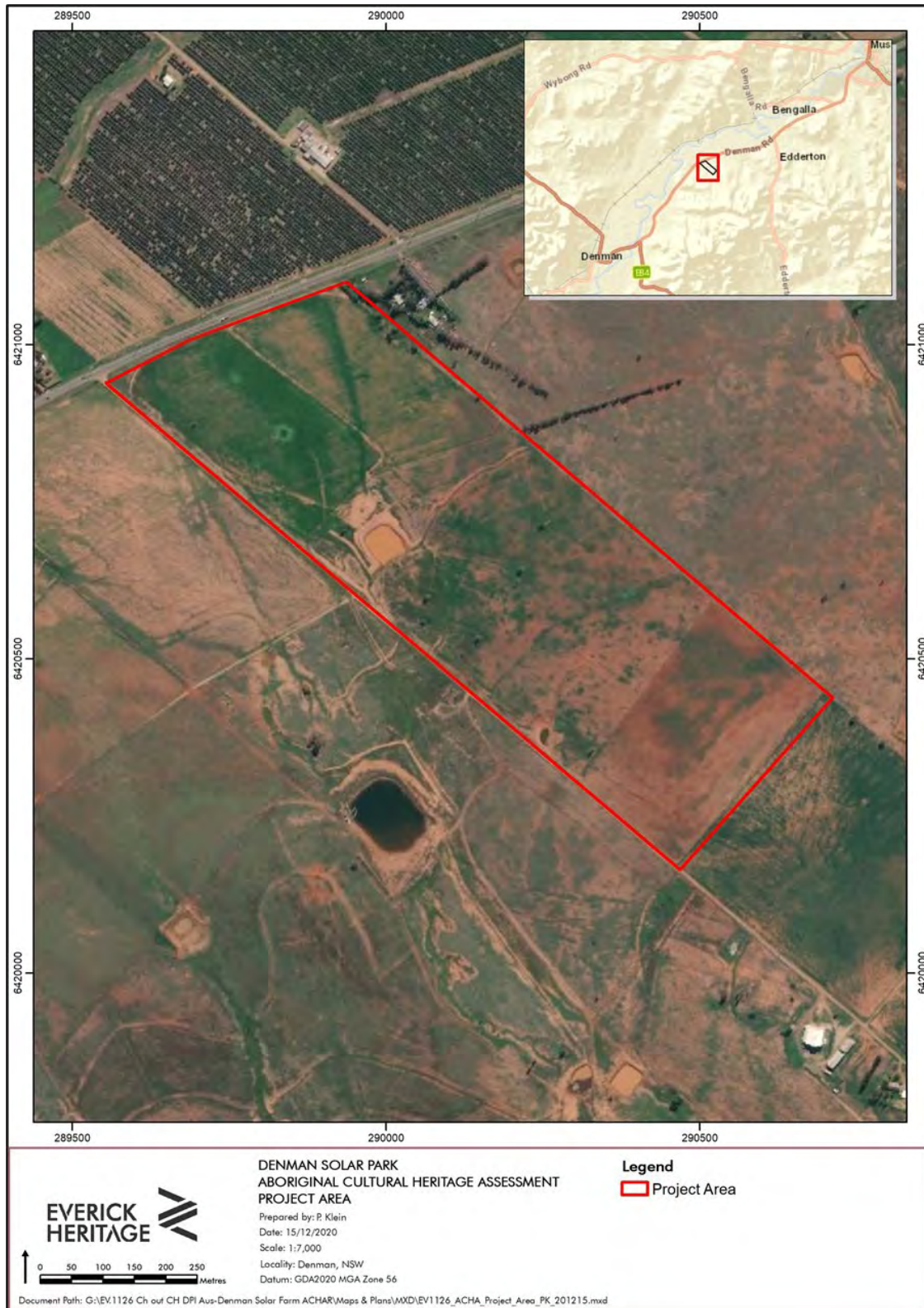


Figure 1-1: The Project Area – Denman Solar Park

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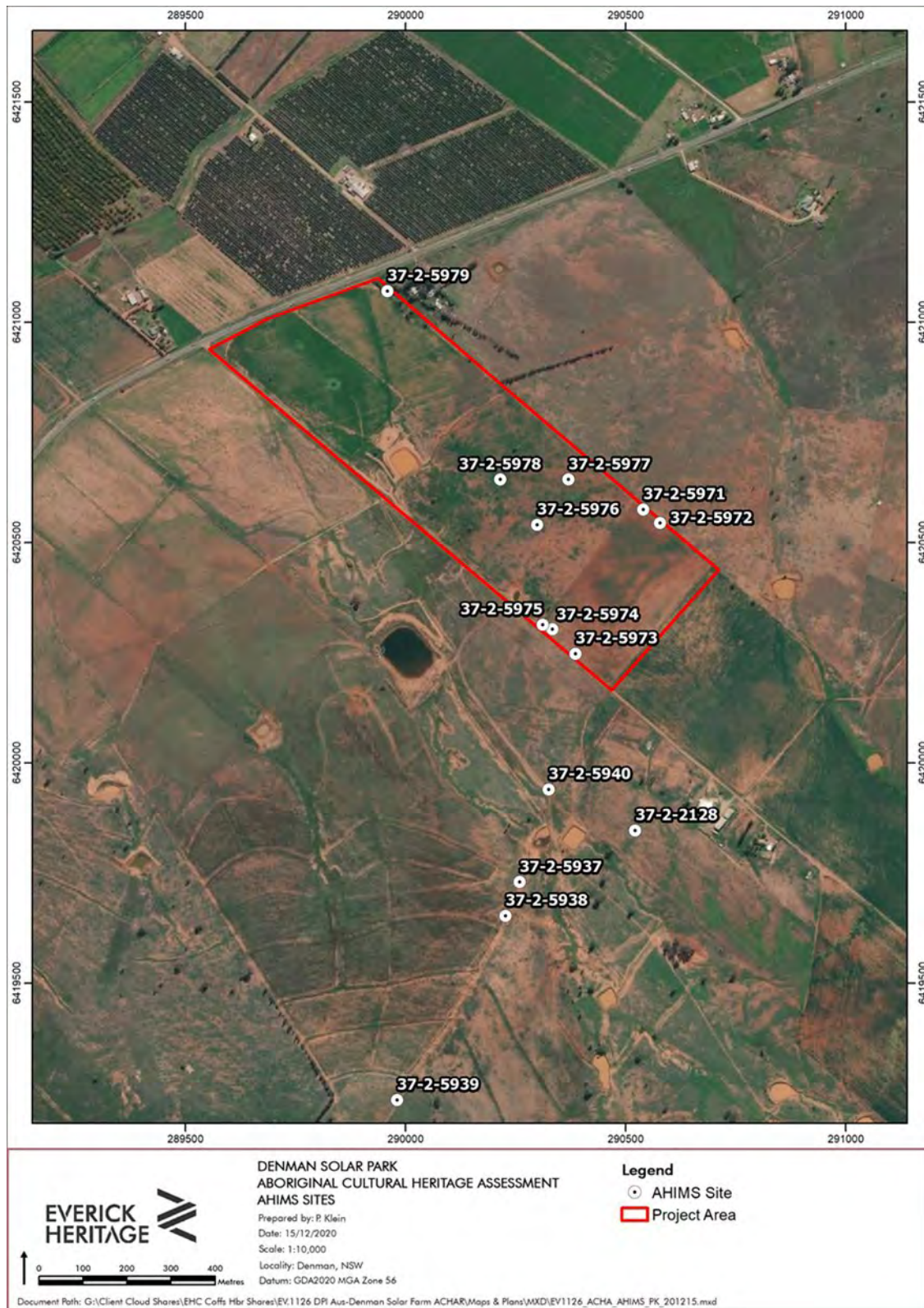


Figure 1-2: Showing the nine Aboriginal sites recorded by ELA (2020) within the Project Area. Also showing previously registered Aboriginal sites outside the Project Area.

2. Project description

The following Project description is adapted from the Statement of Environmental Effects prepared by ASLAT Consulting (2020) for the Project. The proposed development consists of a photovoltaic (PV) Solar Park using modules mounted on a single axis tracking system with piled support posts. The facility will have a potential peak power generation of up to 20 megawatts. The Denman Road Solar Park will be connected to the Distribution Network Service Provider – Ausgrid.

The Solar Generation Facility includes the following components:

- PV modules located within the Array Area mounted on a single axis tracking system with a maximum height of four metres above natural ground at maximum tilt (Figure 2-1). The mounting racks will number approximately 20,000. Minimum spacing between rows of trackers would be 4.5 m to enable vehicles to move between rows for maintenance. The tracking system will be supported by piles mechanically driven or screwed into the ground. These piles are typically spaced 5-10 m apart.
- Inverters stations and batteries. Electricity will be converted from DC to AC at approximately five inverters housed in containers or located on platforms either measuring 6.1 m long x 2.5 m wide or 12.2 m long x 2.5 m wide. Inverters are prefabricated and self contained and would be either attached to steel or concrete pilings approximately 1.6 m deep. Batteries are also prefabricated in containers will be placed on footings or slabs and co-located with the inverters.
- Underground cabling connecting the PV modules to and between inverters. Where possible, trenches will be located alongside/underneath internal access tracks to minimise ground disturbance. Trenches will be approximately .55 m wide x .30 m deep (Figure 2-3).
- A property boundary Fence 1.2 m high and a perimeter security fence up to 2.5 m high. There will be a 10 m separation area between the perimeter security fence and the site boundary to accommodate vegetated landscape screening, maintained to be at least four metres high. A 10 m firebreak will be established as part of the landscape design. It is comprised of a two metre unvegetated area immediately outside the perimeter fence and eight metres inside. The four metre access track will be installed in the eight metre firebreak around the Array Area inside the perimeter security fence (Figure 2-4).
- Substation area and operations compound. These will be adjacent to each other and comprise a carparking area for up to eight vehicles. The substation and operations compound will be collocated within an area measuring 32 m x 32 m (Figure 2-2).

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- Internal access tracks within the perimeter security fencing will be four metres wide and constructed of compacted gravel to a depth of 150 mm. Culverts will be constructed to cross low areas where required.
- A dedicated water tank for firefighting at the highest point of the site.
- Site access from Denman Road.



Figure 2-1: Single axis tracking mounted PV modules (ASLAT Consulting 2020: Figure 11)

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Figure 2-2: Typical substation and operations compound (ASLAT Consulting 2020: Figure 24)

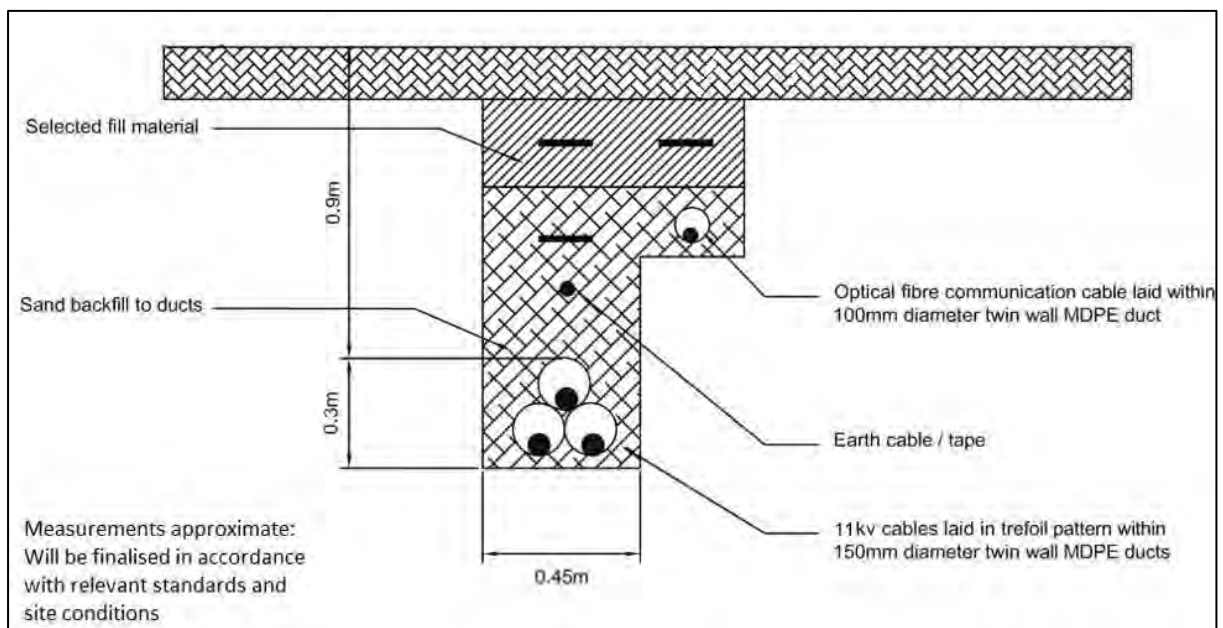


Figure 2-3: Typical 11 kV cable trench (ASLAT Consulting 2020: Figure 26)

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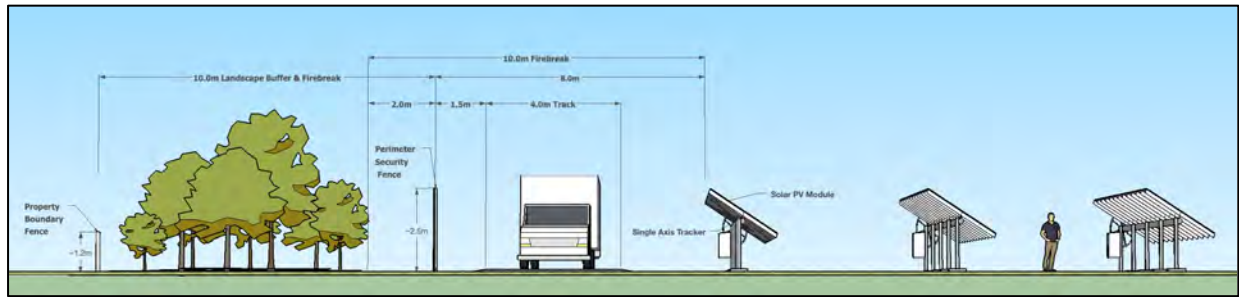


Figure 2-4: Typical site boundary composition (ASLAT Consulting 2020: Figure 32)

The following construction activities have been identified:

- mobilisation, establishment of temporary construction compound and laydown areas
- planting of the vegetation screens
- infill of the farm dam
- construction of internal tracks and culverts
- construction of the perimeter fence and the establishment of the firebreak area
- establishment of the Substation and support buildings
- preparation of the Array Area
- installation of piles and the tracking system (Figure 2-5)
- securing modules to the tracking system
- installation and connection of inverters
- trench digging, cable laying
- grid connection
- Solar Park commissioning
- removal of temporary construction compound and facility
- rehabilitation of disturbed areas of the Solar Park.

Large-scale bulk earthworks will not be required. Ground disturbance is low, and it will be principally associated with the installation of steel piles/posts driven or screwed into the ground to support and orientate the solar tracking system and PV modules (ASLAT Consulting 2020: 15). Plant and machinery

will comprises pile drivers, mobile crane, diesel generators, earth moving and concreting equipment for Substation and support buildings.



Figure 2-5: Pile driving mounting rack posts (ASLAT Consulting 2020: Figure 14)

A concept plan and layout for the Solar Park is shown in Figure 2-6 although the final plan will be dependent of the results of this report and the ACHAR. It is anticipated the proposed development will take six months to construct. At the end of the Solar Park operational period (around 30 years or more) all above ground infrastructure would be removed from the Project Area.

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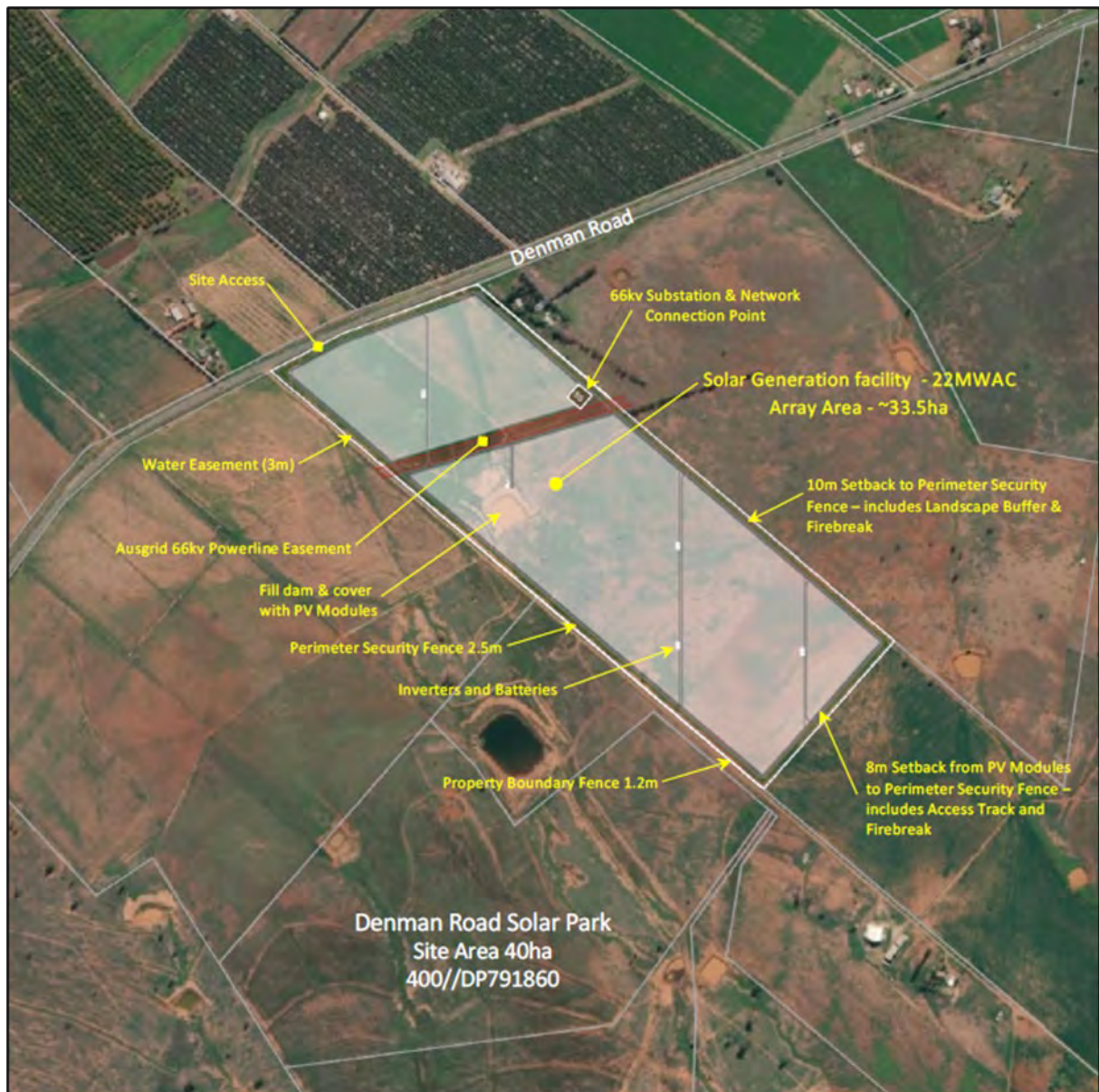


Figure 2-6: Denman Solar Park layout (ASLAT Consulting 2020: Figure 10)

3. Legislative context

3.1. State legislation

3.1.1. National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 (NSW)

The *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 (NSW) (NPW Act)* provides statutory protection to all Aboriginal places and objects. An Aboriginal object is defined as:

any deposit, object or material evidence (not being a handicraft made for sale) relating to the Aboriginal habitation of the area that comprises New South Wales, being habitation before or concurrent with (or both) the occupation of that area by persons of non-Aboriginal extraction, and includes Aboriginal remains.

An Aboriginal Place is declared by the Minister under section (s) 86 of the *NPW Act*. Aboriginal Places are recognised for their special significance to Aboriginal culture. Aboriginal Places gazetted under the *NPW Act* are listed on the State Heritage Register established under the *Heritage Act 1977 (NSW)*.

Part 6 of the *NPW Act* provides specific protection for Aboriginal objects and declared Aboriginal places by establishing offences of harm. Harm is defined to mean:

destroying, defacing, damaging or moving an object from the land.

The protection provided to Aboriginal objects applies regardless of the level of their significance or issues of land tenure. Aboriginal objects and places are afforded statutory protection in that it is an offence to knowingly or unknowingly desecrate an Aboriginal object or place under section (s) 86 of the *NPW Act*.

In accordance with s 89A any person who is aware of the location of an Aboriginal object must notify the Chief executive in the prescribed manner within a reasonable time of becoming aware of that object. The prescribed manner is through preparation and submission of an Aboriginal Site Recording Form (ASRF) to the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) (DECCW 2010b: 14).

In order to undertake a proposed activity which is likely to involve harm to an Aboriginal object or Aboriginal Place it is necessary to apply to the Aboriginal Heritage Regulation Team (Heritage NSW), for an AHIP. AHIPs are issued by Heritage NSW under s 90 of the *NPW Act* and permit harm to certain Aboriginal objects and Aboriginal Places.

3.1.2. Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979 (NSW)

The *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (NSW) (EP&A Act)* requires that environmental impacts are considered in land-use planning, including impacts on Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal heritage.

The *EP&A Act* requires councils to consider environmental effects when assessing new developments. Heritage is one of the matters for consideration. Sites of environmental heritage (including historic heritage sites and sometimes Aboriginal heritage sites) are protected by gazetted Local Environment Plans (LEP) and Development Control Plans (DCP) which specify the constraints on development in the vicinity of these sites unless being assessed under Part 5 of the *EP&A Act*. The Muswellbrook LEP 2009 has provided a Schedule (Schedule 5) of Environmental Heritage which provides statutory protection for those items listed. There are no Aboriginal sites listed on Schedule 5 of the Muswellbrook LEP.

A Development Application (No 2020-49) has been applied for and the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Regulation Team, Heritage NSW, has stated that an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) is required to be prepared in order to support an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) application for impact to the nine identified sites under section 90 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 (NSW)*.

3.1.3. Native Title Act 1994 (NSW)

The *Native Title Act 1994* was introduced to work in conjunction with the *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)*. Native Title claims, registers and Indigenous Land Use Agreements are administered under the Act. A search of National Native Title Tribunal was undertaken on 24 March 2021. The search showed that Native Title does not exist across the Project Area.

3.1.4. Aboriginal Lands Right Act 1983 (NSW)

Aboriginal Land Councils (at the State and local level) were established by the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983 (ALR Act)*. Aboriginal Land Councils have a statutory obligation under the *ALR Act* to:

- a) take action to protect the culture and heritage of Aboriginal persons in the council's area, subject to any other law, and
- b) promote awareness in the community of the culture and heritage of Aboriginal persons in the council's area.

The Project Area is within the boundary of the Wanaruah LALC who is a registered Aboriginal party for this Project and have been included in the consultation process and in the fieldwork.

3.2. Commonwealth legislation

3.2.1. *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cth)*

The *Environment and Heritage Legislation Amendment Act (No. 1) 2003 (Cth)* amends the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cth) (EPBC Act)* to include 'national heritage' as a matter of National Environmental Significance and protects listed places to the fullest extent under the Constitution. It also establishes the National Heritage List (NHL) and the Commonwealth Heritage List (CHL).

The *Australian Heritage Council Act 2003 (Cth) (AHC Act)* establishes the Australian Heritage Council (AHC), an advisory body to the Minister for the Environment and Heritage and retains the Register of the National Estate (RNE).

The *Australian Heritage Council (Consequential and Transitional Provisions) Act 2003 (Cth) (Australian Heritage Council Act)* repeals the *Australian Heritage Commission Act 1975 (Cth)*, amends various Acts as a consequence of this repeal and allows the transition to the current heritage system.

Together the above three Acts provide protection for Australia's natural, Indigenous and non- Indigenous heritage. Features include:

- The NHL of places of national heritage significance.
- The CHL of heritage places owned or managed by the Commonwealth.
- The creation of the AHC, an independent expert body to advise the Minister on the listing and protection of heritage places.
- Continued management of the Register of the National Estate (RNE).

3.2.1.1. National Heritage List

The NHL is a list of places with outstanding heritage value to our nation, including places overseas. So important are the heritage values of these places that they are protected under the *EPBC Act*. This means that a person cannot take an action that has, will have, or is likely to have, a significant impact on the

national heritage values of a national heritage place without the approval of the Australian Government Minister for the Environment and Heritage. It is a criminal offence not to comply with this law and there are significant penalties.

3.2.1.2. Commonwealth Heritage List

The CHL is a list of places managed or owned by the Australian Government and not of relevance to this project.

3.2.1.3. Register of the National Estate

The RNE is an evolving record of Australia's natural, cultural and Aboriginal heritage places that are worth keeping for the future. The AHC compiles and maintains the RNE under the *Australian Heritage Council Act*. Places on the RNE that are in Commonwealth areas, or subject to actions by the Australian Government, are protected under the *EPBC Act* by the same provisions that protect Commonwealth heritage places (see above).

Following amendments to the *Australian Heritage Council Act*, the RNE was frozen on 19 February 2007, meaning no new places can be added, or removed. From 2012, all references to the RNE were removed from the *EPBC Act* and the *AHC Act*. The RNE is now maintained on a non- statutory basis as a publicly available archive.

3.2.2. *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984 (Cth)*

Most State Aboriginal heritage databases provide protection for those sites with physical evidence. The *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984 (Cth)* (*ATSHP Act*) deals with Aboriginal cultural property in a wider sense. Such cultural property includes any places, objects and folklore that 'are of particular significance to Aboriginals in accordance with Aboriginal tradition'. In most cases, archaeological sites and objects registered under the State Act will also be Aboriginal places subject to the provisions of the *ATSHP Act*.

There is no cut-off date and the *ATSHP Act* may apply to contemporary Aboriginal cultural property as well as ancient sites. The *ATSHP Act* takes precedence over State cultural heritage legislation where there is conflict. The responsible Minister may make a declaration under Section 10 of the *ATSHP Act* in situations where state or territory laws do not provide adequate protection of heritage places.

4. Consultation

Everick Heritage has conducted the community consultation process in accordance with the Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010 (Consultation Requirements) (DECCW 2010a), the Code of Practice (DECCW 2010b) and the Burra Charter 2013 (Australia ICOMOS 2013).

In accordance with Step 4.1.2 of the Consultation Requirements the following organisations were contacted to request names of Aboriginal people or organisations who may hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the significance of Aboriginal objects and/or places within the project Area or nearby:

- Wanaruah LALC
- The Registrar, *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983 (NSW)*
- National Native Title Tribunal
- NTSCORP
- Muswellbrook Shire Council
- Hunter Local Land Services
- Aboriginal Heritage Regulation Team, Heritage NSW, Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC)

In accordance with Step 4.1.3 of the Consultation Requirements, an advertisement was placed in the Muswellbrook Chronicle on 18 December 2020 seeking to consult with Aboriginal persons regarding the project and who hold cultural knowledge of the region to register their interest by 5 January 2021 (Appendix C).

In accordance with Step 4.1.3 of the Consultation Requirements, letters and emails were sent to all Aboriginal people and organisations identified through the response by the agencies contacted as part of Step 4.1.2, primarily Heritage NSW. These letters and emails provided details about the location and nature of the project and invited those with an interest to register.'

Table 4-1 provides a list of those Aboriginal parties who registered. In accordance with Step 4.1.6 of the Consultation Requirements a list of the registered Aboriginal parties (RAPs) and a copy of the advertisement (Step 4.1.3) were forwarded to Heritage NSW and Wanaruah LALC.

In accordance with Step 4.3 of the Consultation Requirements a copy of the ACHA methodology was sent to the RAPs by email on 14 December 2021 requesting a response by requesting a response by the 5

January, allowing extra time to account for the Christmas period. Ten RAPs responded in support of the methodology. No further comment was provided by the remaining RAPs.

Table 4-1: Registered Aboriginal parties. Responses to Archaeological Methodology highlighted in bold.

Organisation	First Name	Last Name
A1 Indigenous Services	Carolyn	Hickey
Corroboree Aboriginal Corporation	Marilyn	Carroll-Johnson
D F T V Enterprises	Derek	Vale Snr
Didge Ngunawal Clan	Lilly	Carroll
Gungeewong	Cherie	Carroll Turrise
Jumbunna Traffic Management Group Pty Ltd	Norm	Archibald
Murra Bidgee Mullangari Aboriginal Corporation	Darleen	Johnston
Nunnawanna Aboriginal Corporation	Colin	Ahoy
Ungooroo Aboriginal Corporation	Alan	Paget
Wanaruah LALC	Georgia	Pascoe
Wattaka Wonnarua CC Service	Des	Hickey
Widescope Indigenous Group	Steven	Hickey
Gomerioi People	Steven	Talbot
Upper Hunter Wonnarua Council	Rhoda and Georgina	Perry

A fieldwork roster for survey and test excavation was based on those groups and/or individuals who provided responses to the Archaeological Methodology, provided insurances and those who provided a statement of cultural attachment to the area (Table 4-2). Survey and test excavation was conducted over four days from the 15 to the 18 March 2021.

The RAP field representatives provided input into the placement and termination of all excavation units. The issue of long term management of recovered Aboriginal objects (stone artefacts) was raised, and it was suggested by Steven Talbot (Gomerioi People) that one of the neighbouring mines had provided an offset where stone artefacts from the district could be reburied.

Table 4-2: RAP representatives participating in fieldwork

RAP name	RAP organisation
Stephen Hickey	Widescope Indigenous Group
Christine Paul	Upper Hunter Wonnarua Council
Steven Talbot	Gomerioi People
David Horton	Wanaruah Land Council

The draft ACHAR was sent for RAP review on the 23 April 2021 with a covering email highlighting the recommendations and various options as well as requesting any further information on cultural values. In error, the draft ACHAR was sent not just to the Aboriginal Parties registered for the Project (Table 4-1) but also to the wider list sent through by Heritage NSW. This list was initially used to request interest for registration to the Project. As a result the following two emails were sent by Scott Franks (Tocumwall) to Everick and to Heritage NSW on 23 April 2021 as follows:

This is the first time I have been contacted regarding this project. Not even sure how you have got to this point with out any consultation. Tocomwall and the PCWP reject the attached and would not even bother to read the attached. department of environment can you please issue a stop work and have this project started again. (email received 23 April 2021

Everick Heritage responded to Mr. Franks that he had indeed been contacted for registration and sent thought a copy of the letter and covering email. In response Mr. Franks stated:

Regardless I am one on the authorise person to lodge native title snd a representative of of the PCWP, I briefly looked at you log and I note you have me on it under a notification name that I have not used for over 12 years. I am extremely concerned that you have not edited until you were provided with a current contact list.

I still request this project is rejected by the department of Environment as this is the second project your firm has now done in our claim area that I have not been notified of until after you have walked our lands with people not authorise by The PCWP. Show some respect I am over it.

In response Everick Heritage confirmed that Native Title had been searched and no claim found. In addition, NTSCORP had been contacted and they had not forwarded his name as a claimant with whom to consult. It was apparent that the list provided to Everick Heritage still had previous contact details for Mr. Franks. Everick Heritage has now updated its contact list. A response email to Mr Franks from Sam Higgs (Senior Team Leader, Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Regulation – North, Heritage NSW) on the 27

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April 2021 indicated that the project could not be stopped at the assessment phase and that all documentation would be reviewed when the ACHAR and AHIP were submitted. All documentation pertaining to this complaint by Mr. Franks has been saved in Appendix C.

One further comment was received from Corroboree Aboriginal Corporation with regard to the ACHAR agreeing with the methodology.

5. Environmental context

The following paragraphs summarise the known environmental conditions as a backdrop to the survey and test excavation methodology.

5.1. Geomorphology and soils

The Project Area forms part of the Central Lowlands geomorphic region and is entirely located within the Jerrys Plains geological subgroup (part of the Singleton Supergroup), which comprises coarse-grained sandstone, fine to medium grained lithic (to quartz-lithic) sandstone, mudstone, coal seams, carbonaceous claystone, tuffaceous claystone and siltstone with fossil plant debris and pebble paraconglomerate. The Jerrys Plains subgroup is a result of depositional environment (Quaternary Alluvium), representing a sequence of deltaic deposits. Whilst sandstone, mudstone, siltstone and claystone are all common raw materials in manufacture of Aboriginal stone artefacts it is not clear how close to the surface these materials might be. It is possible that these types of materials may have been accessible at the surface via eroded gravels in creek and riverbeds.

The Project Area is located within two different soil landscapes (Figure 5-1). The northwest third of the Project Area is situated in the Hunter soil landscape. These soils have developed on the floodplains and river terraces of the Hunter River and associated tributaries (Regal et al 2017: 19). Soils within the Hunter soil landscape are typically well-drained, with low to moderate levels of acidity and low to moderate erodibility. The soils include Brown Clays and Black Earths are present in this landscape with Chernozems on prior stream channels adjacent to the Dartbrook soil landscape. Brown Clays are brownish black to brown clay becoming darker with depth. Black Earths comprise very dark brown silty clay up 150 mm in depth with a gradual change to clay. ELA (2020: 12) predicts these soils will allow for the retainment of intact stratigraphic layers and archaeological deposits.

The southeast two third of the Project Area is situated in the Dartbrook soil landscape which possesses similar characteristics to the Hunter soil landscape but with well-draining soils that are slightly more acidic than Hunter soils and slightly more prone to eroding (**Error! Reference source not found.**). Based on the ELA (2020: 12) prediction regarding the Hunter soil landscape that there may be less probability of finding intact stratigraphic layers in the Dartbrook soil landscape where erodibility is higher.

The Project Area landscape is gently sloping downwards from the southwest towards Denman Road (Figure 5-2). Elevation varies between 50 m above sea level in the south and 130 m above sea level in the north.

5.2. Hydrology

A second-order drainage line runs north to south through the northeast of the Project Area and would likely have provided a temporary water source to past Aboriginal populations traversing the landscape. The Project Area is also situated, at its closest point, approximately 800 m from the Hunter River, a major river system in the Hunter Valley and focal point of Aboriginal activity in the past providing a permanent water source.

5.3. Vegetation

The Project Area is situated within the Hunter sub-bioregion, which forms one of the northernmost portions of the Sydney Basin bioregion. There is no native vegetation left within the Project Area (or surrounds) due to clearing for intensive agriculture. Prior to clearance, the native vegetation was likely to have comprised open woodland of White Box, Forest Red Gum, Narrow-leaved Ironbark, Grey Box, Grey Gum, Spotted Gum, Rough-barked Apple. River Oak and River Red Gums would have occurred along the Hunter. This open woodland would have provided ample habitat for animals, reptiles and birds as a food resources as well as supplying material items such as bark for shelter, canoes, container, string and weapons.

5.4. Land use history

The Project Area has been entirely cleared of vegetation for agriculture. Dams, track and fencelines have created moderate disturbance in those areas. More generally, ploughing, cultivation and grazing have occurred across the Project Area resulting in moderate exposure of the ground surface



Figure 5-1: Soil landscapes of the Project Area

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Figure 5-2: Contours of the Project Area

6. Ethnohistoric and archaeological context

6.1. Ethnohistoric context

Clans were the basic units of pre-colonisation Aboriginal society and comprised patrilineal or matrilineal descent groups with territories defined by ritual and economic responsibilities. Clusters of neighbouring clans, which shared a common dialect and political and economic interest distinguished themselves from other clusters by the use of a language name (Barwick 1984; Tindale 1974).

In the Upper Hunter Valley region, identifying associations between Aboriginal people and Language Groups is often a difficult task due to the changing understanding of Aboriginal social and territorial systems. Tindale's (1974) often cited tribal map of the Hunter Valley places the Project Area within the northern area of the Wonnarua speaking region, close to the border with the Geawegal speaking clans. However as argued by Lissarague (2006), this may be an overly simplistic representation of Aboriginal social organisation. Based on archival sources, Lissarague (2006) suggests that several groups shared a single language which was named 'Hunter River and Lake Macquarie Language (HRLM language)' which included the Wonnarua and also possibly the Geawegal language groups. The exact geographic boundaries of where this language is spoken is unclear (Wafer and Lissarague 2008:159-167).

Due to violence, disease and historical movement, Aboriginal people living today in the local area include both descendants of the original owners as well as from the nearby surrounding groups. The earliest accounts of contact between Aboriginals and Colonists were characterized by violence and resistance. Many of these accounts depicted similar stories of conflict arising from Colonists moving into the region to occupy Crown lands for grazing pastures and the Aboriginal groups who would defend their homes as a response (Blyton et al. 2004, 15-17). By the turn of the nineteenth century, there was little evidence that traditional Aboriginal society had survived the colonization of the Upper Hunter Valley with the remaining Aboriginal people forcibly relocated to reserves such as St Clair at Mount Olive and Caroona on the outskirts of Quirindi (Blyton et al. 2004, 57-60).

6.2. Archaeological context

6.2.1. Database searches

A search of AHIMS was initially conducted on 15 December 2020 (Client Service ID: 557180) with the following coordinates:

Lat, Long From : -32.3489, 150.7403

Lat, Long To : -32.3128, 150.7974

Buffer: 1 km

A total of 64 Aboriginal sites were returned. Nine Aboriginal objects and zero Aboriginal Places were identified as located within the Project Area. All nine Aboriginal objects were identified and recorded as part of the Due Diligence (ELA 2020). Eight of the nine Aboriginal sites were isolated finds of stone artefacts (AHIMS ID 37-2-5971 - 37-2-5978). The other site was an artefact scatter (AHIMS ID 37-2-5979). The distribution of those sites and other AHIMS sites close to the Project Area is shown in Figure 1-2.

The nearest site located outside of the Project Area was located approximately 290 m to the south (AHIMS ID 37-2-5940). All sites identified within the AHIMS search were artefact sites, and 16 of the sites are listed as 'Destroyed'. A summary of all 64 Aboriginal sites returned in the AHIMS search is provided in Appendix B of the ATR (Edmonds 2021).

The following heritage registers were also accessed on 15 December 2020 to determine if any Aboriginal heritage sites or cultural values were present:

- The National Heritage List - Contains no heritage listings within or within close proximity to the Project Area.
- Commonwealth Heritage List - Contains no heritage listings within or within close proximity to the Project Area.
- Register of the National Estate - Contains no heritage listings within or within close proximity to the Project Area.
- The State Heritage Register - Contains no heritage listings under Section 1 or 2 (Aboriginal Places listed under the *NPW Act* and Items listed under the *Heritage Act 1977 (NSW)* within or within close proximity to the Project Area.

- The Register of the National Trust of Australia - Contains no listings within or within close proximity to the Project Area.
- Muswellbrook LEP 2009 – Contains no listings within or within close proximity to the Project Area.
- AHIP public register – There are no current AHIPs across the Project Area.

6.2.2. Previous archaeological assessment

6.2.2.1. Regional context

Two major regional archaeological studies have been carried out for the Hunter Valley in the past 35 years. Commissioned by the National Parks and Wildlife Service of NSW (NPWS), Hughes (1984) produced a large scale report on the Aboriginal archaeological resources in the Hunter Valley. Additionally, ERM (2004) also conducted a baseline study for Aboriginal Heritage resources for the Upper Hunter Valley region.

In summary, these investigations suggest that the highest density of Aboriginal sites are found in the Central Lowlands Subregion, of which the Project Area is located. It is theorized that this is the product of a concentration of development and thus archaeological investigation of the area rather than being a product of Aboriginal occupation patterns. The most common types of sites are open sites associated with surface stone artefacts (artefact scatters or isolated finds). Following this, axe grinding groove sites are the next most common site.

Other previous assessments have concentrated on coal mining operations in the region such as Mount Arthur, Muswellbrook Coal Company and Mount Pleasant. The result of assessment for those coal mines generally demonstrate that artefact sites (surface and subsurface) are the most commonly occurring type of Aboriginal archaeological site found. The closest coal mine, Mt Pleasant is approximately 10-12 km north of the Project Area. The most recent assessment for this coal mine was conducted in 2017 by Niche Environment and Heritage (Niche). Niche (2017: 29) provided a predictive model based on criteria relating to known patterns of Aboriginal land use and occupation of the region, distribution of known sites in their Study Area (Mount Pleasant), geomorphology, terrain and land use. Aspects of that predictive model are provided below where these are likely to be relevant to the current Project Area.

- Open lithic sites (artefact scatters and isolated artefacts) would be the most likely site type to occur, being most common in proximity to water-related landforms such as floodplains, alluvial terraces and gentle slopes <100 m from natural watercourses.

- Ceremonial sites are unlikely to occur due to recent land use history.
- Stone arrangements are very rare but do occur in the much broader region. There is limited chance of these occurring in the Study Area due to the level of surface disturbance from past land use.
- The geological characteristics of the Study Area are not consistent with those required for rock shelters. As such, closed sites (such as rock shelters with potential for art, artefacts and/or PADs) are unlikely to occur.
- Limited potential for bedrock exposure consequently reduces the potential for sites such as axe grinding grooves or quarries, although they may be present in association with the hill slopes and crest located above the flood plains of the Hunter River.
- Scarred trees exhibit scars caused by the removal of bark or wood. There is almost nil possibility for scarred trees to occur due to the extensive clearing and agricultural activities that have occurred since European colonisation.
- Burials are rare but do occur in the wider region and are associated with sandy soils and rockshelters. Burials are unlikely to occur due to the lack of suitable contexts, absence of rockshelters, the high level of erosion present and historic surface disturbance.
- Artefact scatters and isolated artefacts in open site context would be the most likely Aboriginal archaeological sites to occur. Isolated artefacts occur in almost every part of the landscape and the identification of those sites will be dependent on ground surface visibility and exposure.

Subsurface test excavation, as part of an ACHA, was undertaken and focused on landform units of potential archaeological sensitivity and included landforms of both higher and lower archaeological potential including within the Hunter soil landscape (west side of the river) (Niche 2017: 37).

Test pits were excavated in accordance with Requirement 16 and Requirement 17 of the Code of Practice as follows:

- The test excavation pits were placed in systematic manner appropriate to the scale and locations being investigated, with each investigation point being separated by at least 5 m. Original layout of test excavation pits were on a 20 m x 20 m grid system.
- Test excavation pits measure 500 mm x 500 mm.
- Test excavation pits extended into 1 m by 1 m units in the event of deposits of deeper than 600 mm were found or any archaeological features were located.
- The test excavation pits were hand excavated using hand tools only.

- The test excavation program utilised 50 mm spits for the first test pit for each location, and 100 mm spits for each test pit thereafter (or appropriate sediment profile/stratigraphic excavation, whichever is smaller).
- Spits re-adjusted to 50 mm should cultural layers, features or high density of artefacts located. Should well defined cultural layers be found, the program allowed for spits to follow the actual horizons of those layers until all cultural materials are excavated.
- All excavated soil dry sieved through 5 mm aperture wire mesh. Dry sieving was conducted next to each pit, on a tarpaulin and the pits were backfilled upon completion of the excavation of each sample location.
- Any artefacts and samples were provided with unique identification numbers, tagged, bagged and prepared for further analysis on site/at excavation base.
- Excavation units were recorded using standard archaeological practises including written information of the test unit, and photographic and scale-drawn records of the stratigraphy/soil profile, features and informative Aboriginal objects were made for each single excavation point

Test excavation occurred across four areas. Of these only Areas 2 and 4 were located in the Hunter soil landscape. The test excavation areas were also much closer the Hunter River (within 200 m). Areas 1 and 3 were located in the Bayswater soil landscape on higher ground overlooking the river. The Bayswater soil landscape occurs just outside the current Project Area (Figure 5-1 **Error! Reference source not found.**). Generally, a sterile B clay horizon was reached between 200-300 mm in depth except in Area 4, on the banks of the Hunter River where the B horizon appeared at 100-120 mm in depth. No artefacts were found in Areas 1 or 2. One artefact was found in Area 3 and 17 artefacts were found in Area 4. In all but one test pits the artefacts were found in the top 200 mm of deposit. The majority of artefacts were made from silcrete with a smaller component made from quartz, slate and quartzite. Nearly all artefacts comprised broken flakes. Niche (2017: 48) attributed the high level of breakage to agricultural activities such as clearing and ploughing.

6.2.2.2. Local context

Of most relevance to this report is the previous due diligence undertaken by ELA (2020) and a copy of this is provided as an appendix to the ACHA methodology in the ATR (Edmonds 2021). A site inspection of the Project Area was carried out on 14 February 2020 by ELA (2020). Ground disturbance within the Project Area was considered to be low to moderate, with disturbances associated with land used for

pastoral grazing, low intensity crop cultivation and the construction of dams within the central portion of the property (ELA 2020: 15).

A total of nine Aboriginal sites were identified within the Project Area. The sites comprised eight isolated stone artefact finds (AHIMS ID 37-2-5971 - 5978) and one artefact scatter site (AHIMS ID 37-2-5979) (Figure 1-2.). The majority of these sites were found to occur '...on a gently sloping landform located approximately 850 m southeast of the Hunter River.' The identification of the nine artefact sites was aided by high ground exposure across the Project Area due to drought and livestock grazing (ELA 2020: 15). It was predicted that additional surface artefacts would be present across the Project Area but ELA (2020: 15) were unable to identify these due to time and personnel constraints.

Based on the assessed low levels of ground disturbance within the Project Area, the second-order drainage line traversing the central portion of the Project Area and the nearby presence of the Hunter River, ELA (2020: 15) assessed the Project Area as possessing moderate to high archaeological potential. The following recommendations were made (ELA 2020: 20):

Recommendation 1 –ACHA, Community Consultation and Test Excavation

Based on the relatively undisturbed, archaeologically sensitive nature of the study area and the identification of multiple Aboriginal sites, an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) should be prepared which would include an impact assessment of the proposed development. The ACHA would entail Aboriginal community consultation following the 'Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010' (DECCW 2010) to identify Aboriginal cultural heritage values through consultation with Aboriginal stakeholders.

Further archaeological assessment including detailed field survey with Aboriginal stakeholders should be undertaken to inform archaeological values across the developable area. Subsurface archaeological excavation may be required. The ACHA can be prepared in advance of any DA and inform areas of opportunity and constraint for development.

Recommendation 2 – Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) Application

The ACHA can be used to support a future Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) application to the DPIE if Aboriginal sites cannot be avoided by future development. The DPIE require that AHIP applications are supported by an approval under Part 4 or Part 5 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (such as a DA) as a supporting document

6.2.3. Summary and predictive model

Nine AHIMS registered sites are located within the Project Area. Based on recent test excavations at Mount Pleasant Coal Mine by Niche (2017) the following predictive statements regarding the proposed test excavation of the Project Area can be made:

- The A horizon is likely to be shallow at between 0-300 mm maximum
- The subsurface nature of archaeological deposit across the Project Area, where present, is likely to comprise very sparse numbers of stone artefacts
- No other archaeological features or site types (eg hearths) are likely to be found
- If stone artefacts are present these will likely be found in the top 200 mm of deposit
- Potentially numbers of subsurface artefacts may increase with proximity to water.

7. Archaeological survey

The following sections provide a summary of the survey aims, methodology, coverage and results. Further detail, including a photographic record of the survey and a glossary of terms can be found in the ATR provided in Appendix D.

7.1. Previous site inspection

A site inspection of the Project Area was carried out on 14 February 2020 (ELA 2020). The site inspection,

....covered the entirety of the property, targeting areas identified as possessing archaeological potential.

Unfortunately, the site inspection did not identify which areas possessed archaeological potential nor did not it supply information in accordance with the Code of Practice. No Aboriginal field representatives were present, and no areas of potential archaeological deposit (PAD) were identified although nine Aboriginal sites were identified and recorded.

7.2. Aims

The primary aims of this survey were:

- Provide the RAPs with an opportunity to walk across the Project Area and comment on potential archaeological and cultural sensitivity
- Relocate all nine registered Aboriginal sites (artefacts)
- Locate and record any new Aboriginal sites
- Identify any landscape features in the Project Area which might contain Aboriginal objects, that is areas of potential archaeological deposit (PAD).
- To establish if the Project Area contained areas of ground disturbance and map the extent and nature of that disturbance.

7.3. Timing and personnel

A survey was undertaken of the Project Area over four days between 15 – 18 March 2021. Personnel and timing for the attending the survey are listed in Table 7-1.

Table 7-1: Personnel and timing for field survey

Name	Organisation	Role	Dates
Caitlin Marsh	Everick Heritage	Survey supervisor	15-18 March 2021
Jason Giang	Everick Heritage	Survey assistant	15-18 March 2021
Steven Talbot	Gomerioi People	RAP	16-17 March 2021
Steven Hickey	Widescope	RAP	15-18 March 2021
David Horton	Wanaruah LALC	RAP	15-17 March 2021
Christine Paul	Upper Hunter Wonnarua Council Inc	RAP	15-18 March 2021

7.4. Constraints

The survey was generally undertaken in partially cloudy and windy conditions. The final day of survey (18 March 2021) survey was undertaken in moderate rain and harsh winds. Ground cover across the Project Area consisted of dense, tall grass covering with extensive weed inclusions and presented the only major constraint to the survey by severely limiting ground surface visibility.

7.5. Survey strategy

Although previous inspection of the Project Area had recorded nine Aboriginal sites, eight of these were isolated stone artefacts spread across the Project Area. No specific area of PAD had been identified. Therefore, prior to excavation, it was proposed to survey each paddock in conjunction with the RAPs to establish if any patterning to the artefacts may lead to an interpretation regarding the existence of potential archaeological deposit. The survey strategy was generally to undertake linear pedestrian transects targeting area of ground surface visibility. Five general survey units were identified based on fencelines/paddocks within the Project Area (Figure 7-1; Table 7-2). These survey units did approximately correspond with landform units and soil landscapes.

7.6. Survey methodology

All requirements under the Code of Practice were fulfilled. The methodology was to undertake a series of pedestrian transect across the entire Project Area targeting ground surface exposures for evidence of stone artefacts. The survey was generally conducted for each paddock in the morning to establish whether areas of PAD were present prior to test excavation (section 8).

Only one survey team member had possession of the Global Positioning System (GPS) consequently only one set of transects was able to be recorded (Figure 7-1). Where sites and/or objects were identified during field survey, their location was recorded with a GPS (using GDA 94 datum) using a Samsung Tablet S2. The platform used for this mapping of data is called Avenza, which records the GPS points, track logs, and enables photographs to be taken with the GPS data. Survey notes were then described using the platform, Avenza Maps, a digital recording sheet. Within Avenza, notes were made of observable disturbance, vegetation communities and soil exposures where visible. Hand written survey notes were also made. A photographic record was kept of all survey units to record aspects such as surface exposures, vegetation, disturbance and areas of archaeological potential. Scales were used for photographs where appropriate.

7.7. Survey coverage

Five Survey Units were identified across the Project Area which generally conformed to paddock fencelines (Figure 7-1). Conveniently, the Survey Units also generally aligned with landforms and soil landscapes. In general vegetation cover was high and exposure correspondingly low. Exposure was higher in the crest and upper slopes due to eroding soils. Elsewhere exposure was generally limited to fencelines, tracks and dams. After vegetation cover and exposure conditions were taken into account the survey effectively covered around 2.7 per cent of the total Project Area (Table 7-2).

Table 7-2: Survey coverage

Survey Unit	Landform	Size (square metres)	Vegetation cover (%)	Exposure (%)	Effective coverage (%)	PAD	Number of new surface artefacts
1	Crest and upper slopes	87,200	80	30	5,232 (6)	PAD 1	34
2	Middle and lower slopes	100,600	85	20	3,018 (3)	PAD 2	16

Survey Unit	Landform	Size (square metres)	Vegetation cover (%)	Exposure (%)	Effective coverage (%)	PAD	Number of new surface artefacts
3	Middle and lower slopes	60,900	85	10	913.50 (1.5)	PAD 3	1
4	Lower slopes	20,800	90	10	208 (1)	PAD 4	3
5	Floodplain	130,500	80	5	1,305 (1)	PAD 5	0
		400,000			10,676.50 (2.7)		

7.8. Survey results

Despite low effective survey coverage of the Project Area, a total of 54 surface artefacts were located during the survey (Table 7-2). This number is high given that visibility conditions were better during the Due Diligence assessment which only recorded eight isolated finds and one artefact scatter. Approximately 50 per cent of the previously registered AHIMS sites were able to be relocated during the survey.

The majority of surface artefacts were found on the crest and upper slopes landform which offers an elevated well drained situation overlooking the Hunter floodplain with views across the landscape (Figure 7-1). The numbers of surface artefacts decreased downslope on the middle to lower slopes with none located on the floodplain (SU5). However, the decrease in numbers of artefacts downslope also corresponds with the rise in vegetation cover. Nevertheless, given that the fenceline between SU1 and SU2 would have acted as a constraint to the movement of artefacts downslope the higher artefact numbers may be a true representation for the focus of occupation being the crest and upper slopes landforms.

The majority of the artefacts were flakes (n=45) with a small quantity of cores (n=7) (Table 7-3). The most common raw material was coarse grained silcrete but a small number of indurated mudstone and quartzite was noted with a unusual banded chert backed blade also found. A representative sample of 22 surface stone artefacts were recorded in detail and those details can be found in Appendix C. Numerous large angular rocks were noted across the surface of the crest and upper slopes. It is not clear if these are the source of the silcrete. Possibly these were being quarried and broken up on site for large primary flakes to take off site. Some of these rocks were inspected for negative flake scars however due

to the high number it was impossible to check all. The material found in the rocks appeared fairly coarse but may have contained finer grained seams in their interior.

Both the newly discovered surface artefacts and the previously registered isolated finds all occur within the Dartbrook soil landscape and between the 135 m and 155 m contour line. It was considered that the newly recorded surface artefacts and the previously registered isolated finds all form part of the same site extent. It is proposed to update one of the previously registered isolated finds, Denman IF6 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5976), to Denman AS2 and include the remaining isolated seven finds within that site extent (Figure 7-2).

For the purposes of the test excavation, the presence of surface artefacts (including the AHIMS registered sites) in each paddock, led to the identification of PADs for each paddock (PAD 1-5) (Table 7-2).

Table 7-3: Artefact type and number per survey unit and landform

Survey Unit (landform)	Artefact type	Count	Percentage of all artefacts)
1 (crest and upper slopes)	Flakes	28	51.85
	Cores	5	9.26
	Angular Fragments	1	1.85
	Total	34	63.96
2 (upper and middle slopes)	Flakes	14	25.93
	Cores	1	1.85
	Angular Fragments	1	1.85
	Total	16	29.63
3 (middle-lower slope)	Flakes	1	1.85
	Cores	0	0
	Angular Fragments	0	0
	Total	1	1.85
4 (lower slope)	Flakes	2	3.70
	Cores	1	0
	Angular Fragments	0	0

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Survey Unit (landform)	Artefact type	Count	Percentage of all artefacts)
	Total	3	5.56
5 (floodplain)	Flakes	0	0
	Cores	0	0
	Angular Fragments	0	0
	Total	0	0
	Grand Total	54	100

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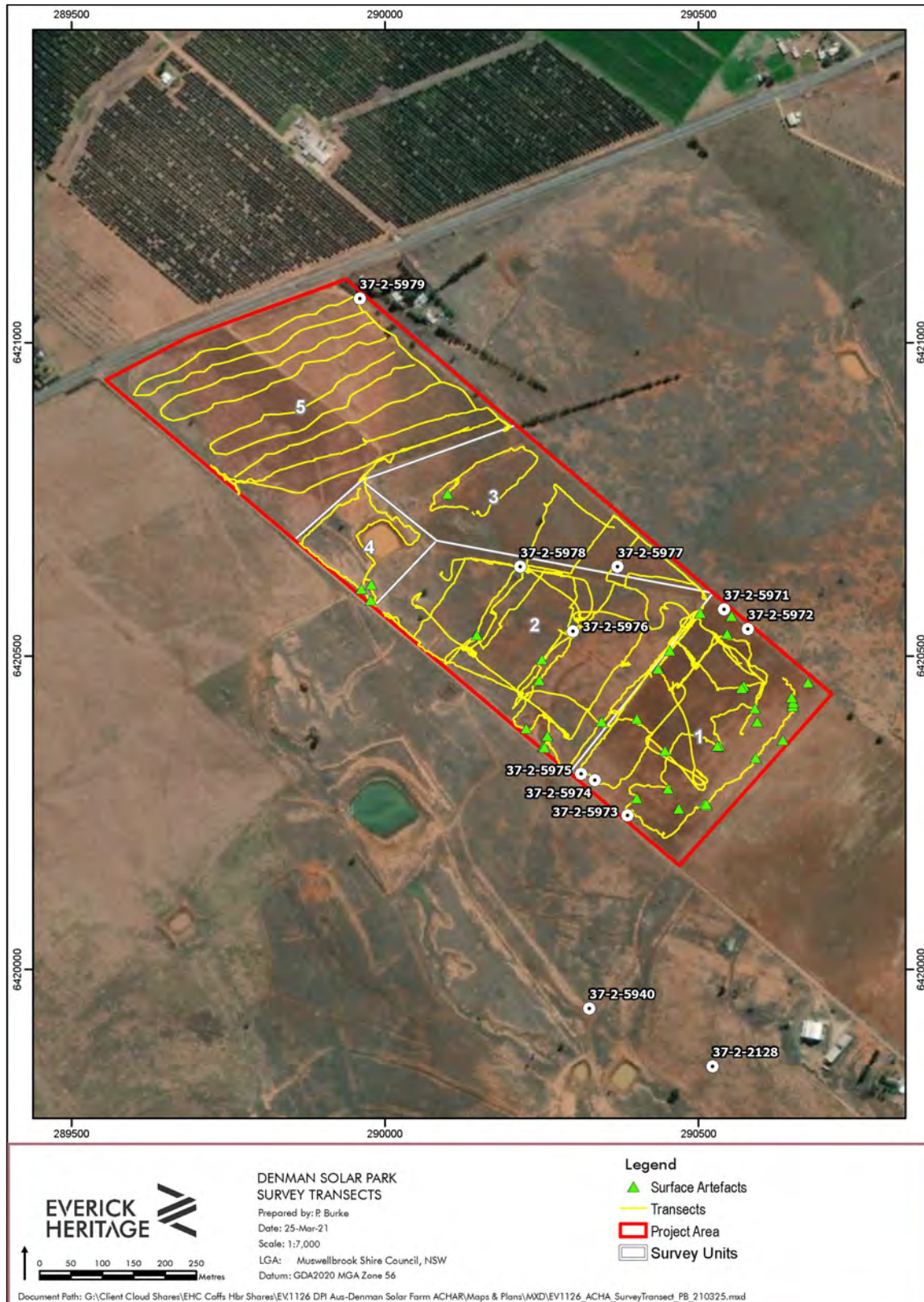


Figure 7-1: Survey transects, survey units, AHIMS registered sites and surface artefacts located during the survey

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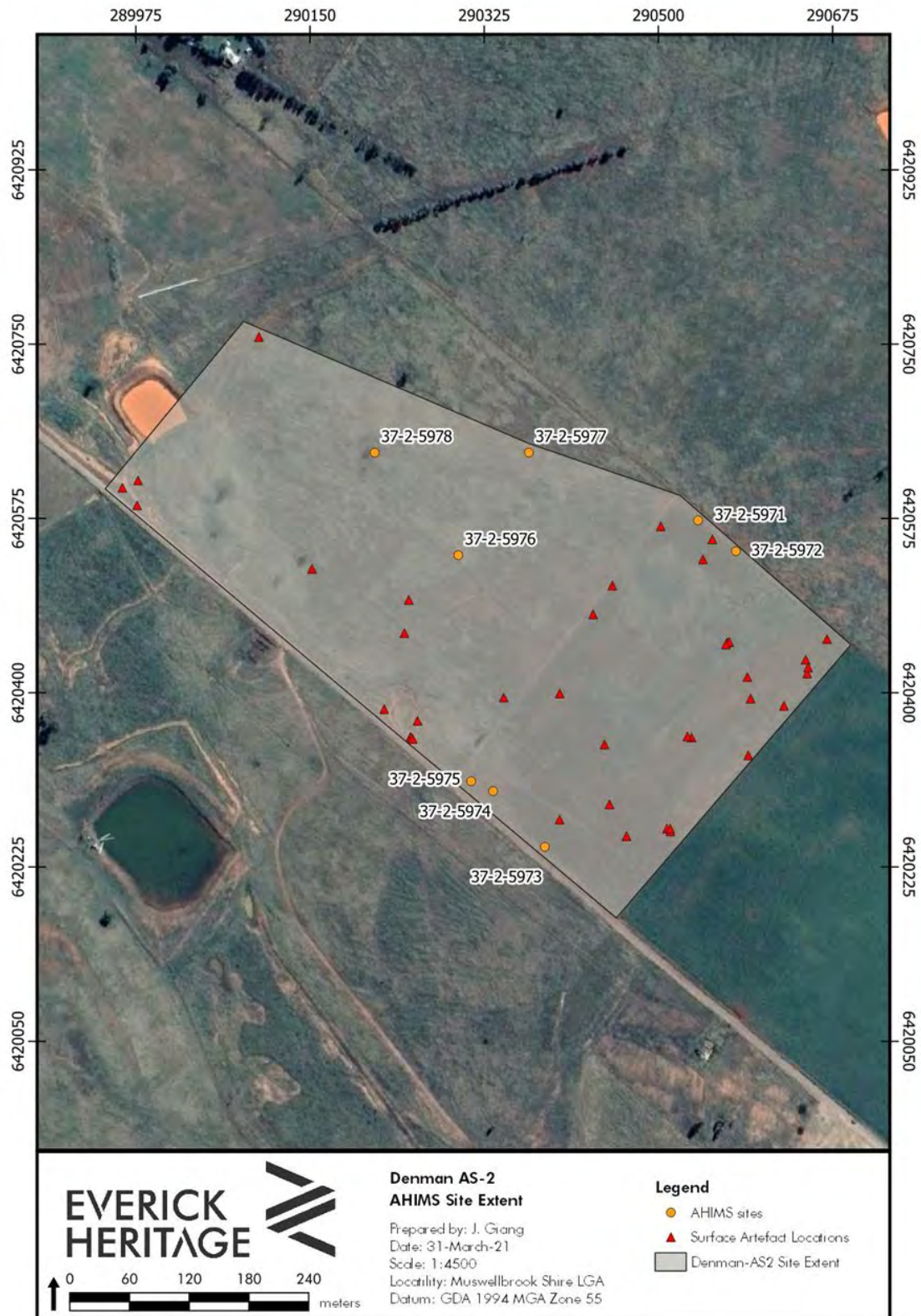


Figure 7-2: Proposed extent – Denman AS2 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5976)

8. Test excavation

The following sections provide a summary of the test excavation aims, methodology, coverage and results. Further detail, including a glossary of terms, can be found in the ATR provided in Appendix D.

8.1. Aims and objectives

In accordance with archaeological best practice as outlined by the Code of Practice, the aims and objectives of archaeological test excavation within the Project Area were to:

- Establish if subsurface archaeological deposit is present within the Project Area and its nature and extent.
- Establish the subsurface nature and extent of previously registered sites (AHIMS ID 37-2-5971 - AHIMS ID 37-2-5971) within the Project Area.
- Provide an opportunity for registered Aboriginal stakeholders to comment on the Aboriginal cultural heritage values of the Project Area and any Aboriginal cultural heritage identified there.
- Assess the scientific significance of any archaeological deposits identified during the excavation and following the assessment of test excavation results.
- Provide recommendation for the management of Aboriginal cultural heritage where present.
- Address the research questions raised in the Archaeological Methodology (section 8.6.5).

8.2. Timing and personnel

The test excavation was undertaken over four days across the 15th – 18th March 2021. Table 8-1 provides a list of the field personnel present during test excavations.

Table 8-1: Fieldwork personnel

Name	Organisation	Role	Date
Vanessa Edmonds	Everick Heritage	Excavation supervisor	15 – 18 March 2021
Caitlin Marsh	Everick Heritage	Excavation assistant	15 – 18 March 2021

Name	Organisation	Role	Date
Jason Giang	Everick Heritage	Excavation assistant	15 – 18 March 2021
Stephen Hickey	Widescope	Excavation assistant	15 – 18 March 2021
Christine Paul	Upper Hunter Wonnarua Council Inc	Excavation assistant	15 – 18 March 2021
Stephen Talbert	Gomeroi People	Excavation assistant	16 – 17 March 2021
David Horton	Wanaruah Land Council	Excavation assistant	15 – 17 March 2021

8.3. Constraints

Fencelines, transmission lines and dams created constraints to the layout of a systematic grid pattern for test excavation units. Other than that mild weather constraints comprising rain and wind on the last day of test excavation slowed progress.

8.4. Sampling strategy

No specific areas of PAD were noted during the Due Diligence and there were no discernible patterns observed of the AHIMS registered site distribution in relation to soil landscapes, contour or distance from the second order watercourse. Due to the random distribution of registered Aboriginal sites across the Project Area landscape, it was proposed to excavate a series of 500 mm x 500 mm shovel test pits in linear transects every 100 m across the Project Area. An additional 1 m x 1 m was proposed to be excavated to establish the nature of the stratigraphy and any archaeological deposit. It was thought there would be the opportunity to increase the excavation area if time and conditions permitted. Consultation will be continuously undertaken with the RAPs on site during excavations to determine what cultural values might be present within or close to the Project Area.

8.5. Methodology

The excavation methodology was based on the Archaeological Methodology provided to the RAPs on the 6 January 2021.

8.5.1. Excavation units

Test excavation units comprised test pits (TP) and shovel test pits (STP). One 1 m x 1 m TP and thirty-four 0.5 m x 0.5 m STP were excavated across the Project Area. Figure 8-1 shows the location of the PADs and excavation units in relation to soil landscapes and contour.

Test excavation units were placed on a systematic grid appropriate to the scale of the area being investigated. Grid squares of approximately 100 m distance apart, in roughly parallel transects, were laid out across the PAD. The exact placement and number of excavation units were determined by the supervising archaeologist in consultation with the RAP nominated field representatives and the identified constraints in section 7.4. Some STP were placed as close as practical to previously registered artefact locations.

All excavation was undertaken manually using trowel and shovel. The grass layer (25-50 mm) was first removed and examined underneath for the presence of artefacts then kept aside for reinstatement of the excavation unit. The first excavation unit, TP1, was excavated and documented in 50 mm spits to establish the stratigraphy. The remaining STP were all excavated in 100 mm spits.

8.5.2. Sieving

Dry sieving with hand sieves was employed. Excavated deposit was placed in buckets and transported to a sieve area adjacent to the excavation, but at a distance so as not contaminate sieved sediment with yet to be excavated sediment. All soils will be sieved through 5 mm wire mesh and the spoil was be used to backfill test pits manually following recording.

8.5.3. Recording

Photographic and scale-drawn records of the stratigraphy/soil profile were taken for TP1 and a representative sample of STP. A photographic record was taken for all the STP at the end of excavation.

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Soil colour (Munsell) and type, texture, acidity (pH) were recorded for the TP and a representative sample of the STP to increase understanding of the sub-surface conditions of the PAD and how they may relate to site formation processes influencing the presence and condition of subsurface archaeological deposits.

The location of each excavation unit was recorded using GDA 94 datum with a mobile GIS unit (Samsung Tablet S2).

All artefacts retrieved during test excavation (n=2) were double bagged and labelled with appropriate contextual information. The subsurface artefacts were analysed and recorded in the Everick Heritage Office (see Appendix C in the ATR). The artefacts retrieved through test excavation are being temporarily stored in a locked cupboard in the Everick Heritage Sydney Office:

6B Reserve Street

Annandale, NSW, 2038

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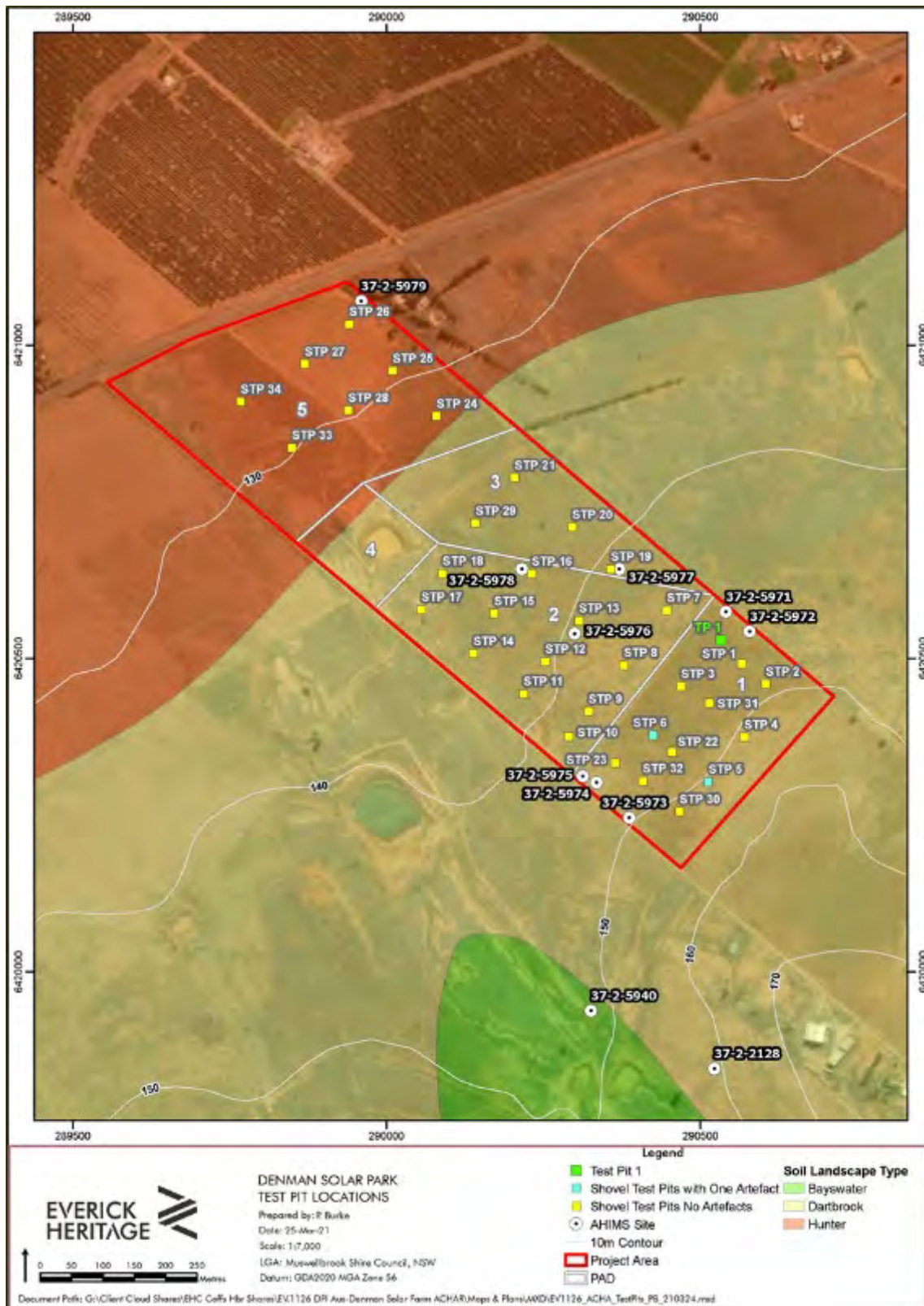


Figure 8-1: Location of TP and STP across the Project Area

8.6. Results and discussion

8.6.1. Summary

One stone artefact was recovered from STP5 and one stone artefact from STP6. These STP were located along the crest landform in PAD1 to the west of the Project Area. Table 8-2 and Table 8-3 summarises details regarding location (landform and PAD), total depth and numbers of artefacts found.

Table 8-2: Summary description of TP1

PAD ID	TP number	Landform	Total depth (mm)	Munsell soil colour	pH	No of artefacts
1	1	Upper slope	210	5yr 3/3 / 3/4	7	-

Table 8-3: Summary description of STPs

PAD ID	STP number	Landform	Total depth (mm)	No of artefacts	Depth of artefacts (mm)
1	1	Upper slope	300	0	-
1	2	Crest	100	0	-
1	3	Upper slope	150	0	-
1	4	Crest	100	0	-
1	5	Crest	100	1	50-100
1	6	Upper slope	150	1	50-100
2	7	Upper slope	190	0	-
2	8	Upper slope	150	0	-
2	9	Upper slope	150	0	-
2	10	Upper slope	240	0	-
2	11	Mid slope	240	0	-
2	12	Mid slope	180	0	-
2	13	Mid slope	200	0	-

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PAD ID	STP number	Landform	Total depth (mm)	No of artefacts	Depth of artefacts (mm)
2	14	Mid slope	200	0	-
2	15	Mid slope	170	0	-
2	16	Mid slope	150	0	-
2	17	Lower slope	180	0	-
2	18	Lower slope	170	0	-
3	19	Mid slope	160	0	-
3	20	Mid slope	200	0	-
3	21	Lower slope	170	0	-
2	22	Crest	100	0	-
2	23	Upper slope	150	0	-
5	24	Flood plain	270	0	-
5	25	Flood plain	280	0	-
5	26	Flood plain	230	0	-
5	27	Flood plain	370	0	-
5	28	Flood plain	300	0	-
2	29	Lower slope	140	0	-
1	30	Crest	100	0	-
1	31	Crest	100	0	-
1	32	Crest	100	0	-
5	33	Flood plain	200	0	-
5	34	Flood plain	200	0	-

8.6.2. Coverage

A total of 9.5 square metres was excavated across the Project Area. This represents a total of 2.4 per cent of the Project Area. Whilst it is plausible that this small subsurface coverage could account for the very low numbers of subsurface stone artefacts (n=2) it is more likely to be representative of the nature of the archaeological deposit. Despite positioning excavation units in close proximity to surface artefact locations no further subsurface deposit was recovered.

Test excavation was undertaken in all PAD except PAD4 where disturbance was heavy due to dam construction. It was assessed that PAD4 was not a PAD. Both the Dartbrook and Hunter soil landscapes were sampled through test excavation as were the range of landforms present (Figure 8-1; Table 8-3).

8.6.3. Soils and stratigraphy

Overall sediments were very shallow across the Project Area from around 100 mm deep on the crest through to 370 mm deep on the floodplain (Table 8-2; Table 8-3). The stratigraphic profiles from TP1 on the upper slopes and from STP25 on the floodplain do however illustrate that on average soil depth and sediment type are not dissimilar across the Project Area and soil landscapes (Table 8-2; Table 8-3; Table 8-5; Table 8-6; Figure 8-4; Figure 8-5). Given the gradient between crest and floodplain is around 15 m it is likely that sediments have washed downslope as a result of past and current agricultural land use (clearing, ploughing, grazing). Despite the shallowness of sediments on the crest, this was only landform where subsurface artefacts were recovered (STP5 and STP6; Table 8-3).

8.6.4. Contents

Two subsurface artefacts were recovered, one from STP5 and one from STP6. Both were recovered from 50-100 mm in depth so quite close to the ground surface. Details of the stone artefacts are provided in Table 8-4. These two artefacts fall within the extent of Denman AS2 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5976).

Table 8-4: Summary details subsurface artefacts

STP	Raw material	Artefact type	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness	Comments
5	Dark red quartzite	Retouched flake	41.25	27.19	18.76	-
6	Pink silcrete	Flake	19.09	12.06	13.48	-

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Table 8-5: Stratigraphic details for Test Pit 1

Test Pit 1	
A1 Horizon	Depth: 0-8 mm
	pH: 7
	Munsell: 5YR 3/3
	Description: Humic clay loam topsoil. Around 20-30% of the A1 horizon consists of the roots and rootlets of the overlying grasses. The deposit contained no visible inclusions
A2 Horizon	Depth: 8-20 mm
	pH: 7
	Munsell: 5YR 3/3
	Description: Clay loam deposit similar to the A1 horizon. Inclusions included small quarts and stone nodules. Clay content increased with depth.
B Horizon	Depth: 21 mm +
	pH: 7
	Munsell: 5YR 3/4
	Description: Excavation of Test Pit 1 stopped 2-3 mm after the B horizon was reached. It is a loamy clay with about five per cent loam content.

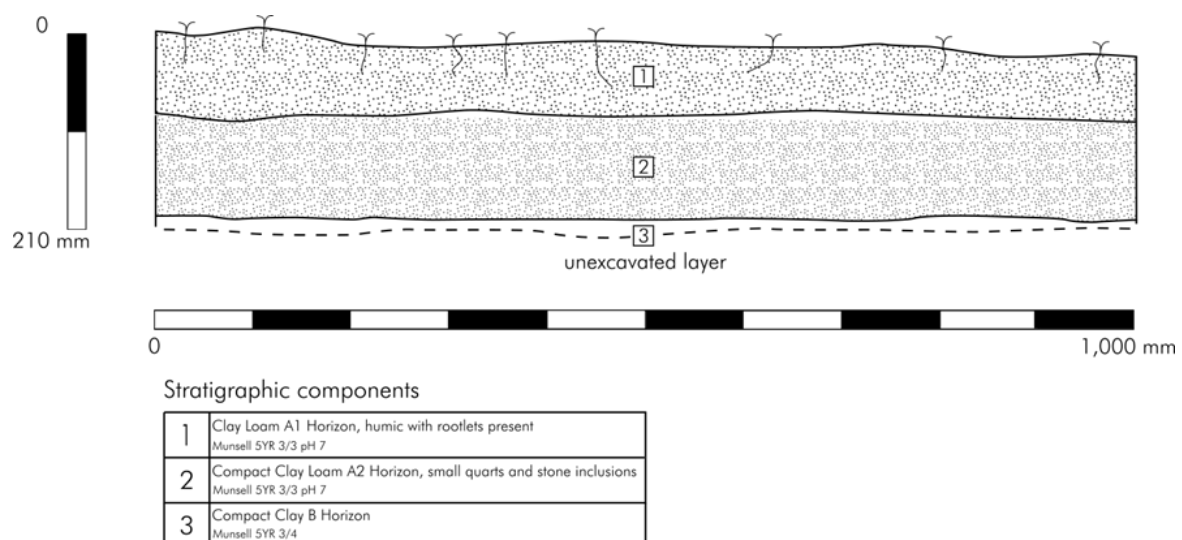


Figure 8-2: Stratigraphic profile – Test Pit 1

Table 8-6: Stratigraphic details for Shovel Test Pit 25

Shovel Test Pit 25	
A1 Horizon	Depth: 0-30 mm
	Description: Humic clay loam topsoil, dark reddish brown colour with rootlets from the surface.
A2 Horizon	Depth: 30-200 mm
	Description: Clay loam (higher clay content than the A1 horizon), reddish brown colour.
B Horizon	Depth: 200 mm +
	Description: Clean loamy clay, red brown colour.
	Depth: 150 mm +
	Description: Cemented light brown/tan, fine-grained calcrete layer.

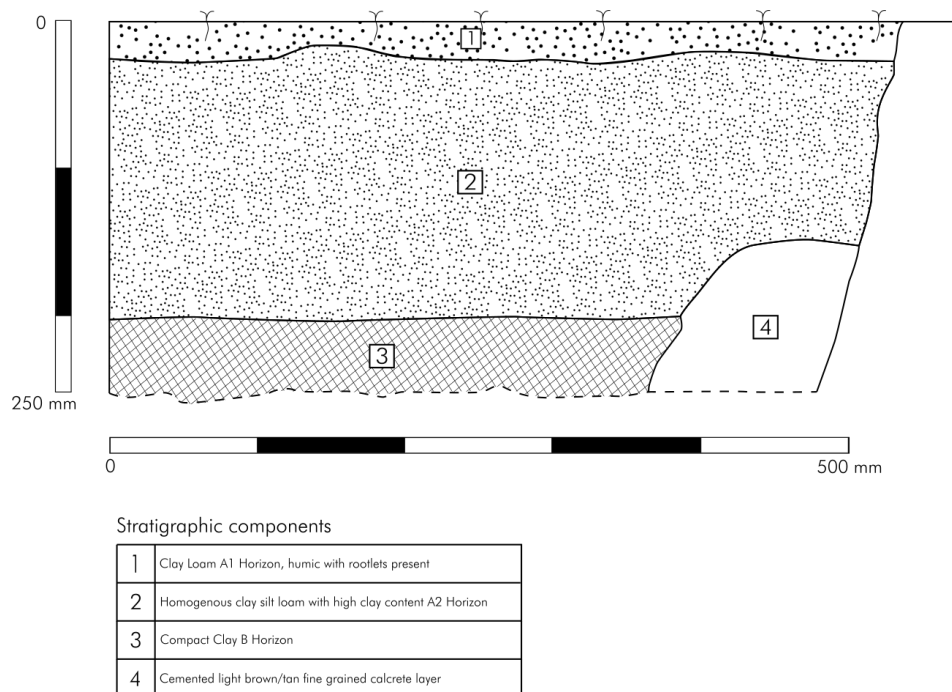


Figure 8-3: Stratigraphic profile – Shovel Test Pit 25

8.6.5. Research framework

Research questions provide a framework for undertaking test excavation and ensure that the information collected during the program contributes to the knowledge of sites locally and within the regional archaeological record. The test excavations will attempt to address the following research questions:

- Do stratified in situ deposits exist within the Project Area?
 - No stratified in situ deposits exist within the Project Area although a very low density subsurface stone artefact scatter is likely to be present across the crest and upper slopes landforms.
- How does the subsurface archaeological deposit (if present) relate to the nine AHIMS registered sites within the Project Area?
 - There was no apparent patterning between the location of the surface artefacts (both previously registered and identified as part of the current survey) and the two subsurface artefact locations. It is apparent that any subsurface stone artefacts in the Project Area occurred at a shallow depth (100-200 mm) below the surface and that these have been disturbed and brought to the surface through decades of clearing and cultivating.
- Does the subsurface deposit (where present) relate to landscape features such as contour, soil landscape or proximity to watercourses?
 - Both the surface and subsurface deposit appears to be closely associated with the crest, upper and middle slopes of the Project Area indicating that these well drained, elevated landforms were a favourable campsite location off the floodplain and with good views across the landscape to the Hunter River.
- How does the nature of any archaeological deposit compare with other excavated archaeological sites in the region?
 - The closest test excavations have occurred at the Mount Pleasant Coal Mine by Niche (2017). Test excavations were undertaken there in the Bayswater soil landscape on higher ground overlooking the river. The results from test excavation of the Project Area very closely fits the predictive model developed by Niche (2017) (see below).
- Are there features such as hearths (as represented by lenses of ash and charcoal) present?
 - No archaeological features were noted in either the TP or any of the STP.
- Are stone artefacts present and if so, what is the nature of the stone assemblage?
 - Only two subsurface stone artefacts were recovered through test excavation. This low number is likely to be representative of the nature of both the surface and subsurface stone assemblage in

being very low density and predominantly made from silcrete raw materials which are available on site.

- Is it possible to determine the age of the archaeological deposit?
 - No. Unfortunately, the sediments were highly disturbed and no culturally derived charcoal for dating purposes was found.
- What is the scientific and cultural significance of the archaeological deposit?
 - Due to the small number the scientific significance is low. No comment on the cultural significance of the deposit was made during test excavations.
- How do the results of test excavation fit the predictive model presented in section 6.2.3?
 - The results of the test excavation closely fits the predictive model stated in section 6.2.3 except that numbers of subsurface artefacts did not increase with proximity to water. The predictive model stated the following:
 - The A horizon is likely to be shallow at between 0-300 mm maximum
 - The subsurface nature of archaeological deposit across the Project Area, where present, is likely to comprise very sparse numbers of stone artefacts
 - No other archaeological features or site types (eg hearths) are likely to be found
 - If stone artefacts are present these will likely be found in the top 200 mm of deposit

8.7. Conclusion

Survey and test excavation suggests that the crest landform is the most archaeologically sensitive landform in the Project Area. This landform would have provided an elevated, relatively flat and well drained campsite location with views across the floodplain to the Hunter River. Decades of clearing, ploughing and grazing have likely brought subsurface artefacts in the Project Area to the surface, particularly from the shallow sediments of the crest landform but also elsewhere on the upper and middle slope landforms.

The archaeological signature of the Project Area is best represented by the low density surface scatter of predominantly silcrete stone artefacts, that is Denman AS2 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5976). The two subsurface stone artefacts recovered during test excavation also form part of that site. It is possible that silcrete angular rocks found on the crest and upper slope landforms may be the source of silcrete artefacts found there.

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While further subsurface deposit may be present in the Project Area this would likely comprise a very, very low density distribution of stone artefacts. However, there is a high likelihood that further surface stone artefacts are present across the Project Area.

Photograph

Description



Figure 8-4: View north across Test Pit 1
(Photo: V Edmonds, 15/03/21)



Figure 8-5: Shovel Test Pit 25
(Photo: C Marsh, 17/03/21)

9. Significance assessment

9.1. Significance assessment criteria

An assessment of the cultural heritage significance of an item or place is required in order to form the basis of its management. The Guide (OEH 2011: 10) provides guidelines for identification and assessment of cultural significance assessment with reference to the Burra Charter (Australia ICOMOS 2013) and the NSW Heritage Office guidelines (2001):

- Social values – does the area have a strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.
- Historic values – is the area important to the cultural or natural history of the local area and/or region and/or state
- Scientific values - does the area have the potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the cultural and natural history of the local area and/or region and/or state
- Aesthetic values – is the area important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics in the local and/or region and/or state.

Scientific values should be further considered in light of the following criteria (OEH 2011: 10) and rated low, moderate or high:

- Research potential - does the evidence suggest any potential to contribute to an understanding of the area and/or region and/or state's natural and cultural history?
- Representativeness - how much variability (outside and/or inside the subject area) exists, what is already conserved, how much connectivity is there?
- Rarity - is the subject area important in demonstrating a distinctive way of life, custom, process, land-use, function or design no longer practised? Is it in danger of being lost or of exceptional interest?
- Education potential - does the subject area contain teaching sites or sites that might have teaching potential?

9.2. Scientific significance assessment

Denman AS1 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5979) is a small, sparse surface scatter of four stone artefacts. This site was unable to be relocated during the current survey. The nature and content of this site is better represented by Denman AS2 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5976) and is therefore assessed as being of low scientific significance (Table 9-1). Similarly, Denman IF1-5 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5971 - 5975) and Denman IF7-8 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5977 - 5978) are mostly single stone artefacts and separately are assessed as being of low scientific significance (Table 9-1). However, when assessed as being part of Denman AS2 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5976) their significance would be elevated to low to moderate

Denman AS2 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5976) comprises an extensive but sparse surface scatter of stone artefacts as well as two subsurface stone artefacts. The raw materials and artefact types are varied and there is moderate research potential for this site based on its size, content and location.

This type of site is moderately represented in the region although a number of artefact scatters have been destroyed. The stone artefact types and raw materials are also moderately represented in the region. In addition, there is evidence from the test excavation that Denman AS2 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5976) is from a highly disturbed context. Therefore, Denman AS2 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5976) is assessed as being of low to moderate scientific significance (Table 9-1).

Table 9-1: Summary of scientific significance

Site name (AHIMS ID)	Research potential	Education potential	Representative value	Rarity	Overall scientific significance
Denman AS1 (37-2-5979)	Low	Low	Low	Moderate	Low
Denman AS2 (37-2-5976) ¹	Moderate	Moderate	Low	Low	Low-Moderate
Denman IF1 (37-2-5971)	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
Denman IF2 (37-2-5972)	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
Denman IF3	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low

¹ Previously Denman IF6 (AHIMS ID 37-2-596)

Site name (AHIMS ID)	Research potential	Education potential	Representative value	Rarity	Overall scientific significance
(37-2-5973)					
Denman IF4 (37-2-5974)	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
Denman IF5 (37-2-5975)	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
Denman IF7 (37-2-5977)	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
Denman IF8 (37-2-5978)	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low

9.3. Cultural values assessment

9.3.1. Cultural landscapes

Cultural landscapes are defined as:

A place or area valued by an Aboriginal group (or groups) because of their long and complex relationship with that land. It expresses their unity with the natural and spiritual environment. It embodies their traditional knowledge of spirits, places, land uses, and ecology. (US/ICOMOS 1996 in Andrews et al 2006).

Andrews et al (2006) suggest the following guiding principles for evaluating Aboriginal cultural landscapes.

- The long associated Aboriginal group or groups have participated in the identification of the place and its significance, through the consultation process. This principle ensures that Aboriginal peoples will be consulted, involved and participate in the identification of frameworks and sites
- Spiritual, cultural, economic, social and environmental aspects of the group's long attachment with the identified place, including continuity of use and traditions, social and kinship relationships, intimate knowledge of the area, and spiritual affiliations illustrate its cultural value.

- The interrelated cultural and natural attributes of the identified place make it a valued cultural landscape. Recognising the integrated nature of Aboriginal relationship to place, including the inseparability of cultural and natural values. Tangible evidences may be largely absent, with the attributes primarily in oral and spiritual traditions and in activities related to the place. However, there could be tangible attributes which include natural resources, archaeological sites, burials/graves, material culture, and written or oral records.

This guiding principle also recognises natural components such as ecosystem, climate, geology, topography, water, soils, views, and dominant and culturally significant fauna and flora in the context of the associated Aboriginal people's relationship to the place.

- The cultural and natural attributes that embody the significance of the place are identified through traditional knowledge of the associated Aboriginal group(s) including traditional environmental knowledge, narratives, place names, language, traditional uses, rituals, and behaviour related to the identified place. It recognises that some knowledge cannot be shared, but available knowledge must be sufficient to demonstrate the significance of the place in the culture of the associated group.
- The cultural and natural attributes that embody the significance of the place may be additionally understood through academic studies such as histories, including oral history and ethno-history, archaeology, anthropology, and environmental sciences.

Aboriginal cultural knowledge was traditionally bequeathed through oral traditions from generation to generation. Within all Aboriginal communities there was a time of dislocation and upheaval associated with the arrival of colonial settlers. This widespread disruption resulted in much of the detailed knowledge and understanding of many of the elements of the cultural landscape being lost from the Aboriginal community, nonetheless many Aboriginal people maintain a strong connection to the land of their ancestors and collectively possess a wealth of knowledge passed down through the generations.

The following cultural landscape summary is from AECOM (2015) and refers to an assessment for the Drayton South Coal Project. Some of the RA organisations for that assessment are the same as for this Project (AECOM 2015: Table 1). Mount Arthur is approximately five kilometres northeast of the Project Area:

The dominant landscape feature of cultural significance in the local area is Mt Arthur. First references to the cultural significance of Mt Arthur to the local Aboriginal community was in Dyall 1997. Umwelt (2006) noted the significance of Mt Arthur and identifies a prominent ridgeline extending southeast as of particular importance as an Aboriginal burial site was located on this feature. (AECOM 2015: 77)

The Plains Clan of the Wonnarua People (United Collieries 2016: 72) has provided the following statement regarding their cultural landscape (Hunter Valley):

The land around the project is extremely important to our people. Today, the lands, as in most other areas, are one of many pages in a book and allow us look back in time. It gives our people a better understanding of the stories we were told, when we were young, what they were about and about why. The land still has the footprints of our people from the beginning of time and allows our people to have direct contact with our lands and our elders.

As we looked around the landscape, and participated in surveys or test excavations we found many artefacts. Each time we encountered these objects we felt the presence of our people and the excitement that we were now standing in one of our people's houses. It is a firsthand experience and shows where our people lived, hunted, fought to defend their lands, thrived and were happy and cried. This part of the Hunter Valley makes us feel like we are coming home. The reality is though that this is a place that will not be here in the future. Just as what has happened to the other homes of our people it will be lost. To try and put in words exactly what this place is worth is beyond comprehension. (Plains Clan of the Wonnarua People 2015).

9.3.2. Social values

No specific social values have been identified for the Project Area.

9.3.3. Historic values

No specific historic values associated with people or events were identified for the Project Area.

9.3.4. Aesthetic values

No specific aesthetic values were identified for the Project Area. There are good views across the landscape to the north, west and south including the Hunter River from the highest points of the Project Area. This elevation and aspect is likely to have been a determining factor for the presence of Denman AS2 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5976). Therefore, the Project Area is assessed as having moderate aesthetic value.

9.4. Summary statement of significance

The Project Area forms part of the Hunter Valley landscape which is significant to the Wonnarua people in representing a landscape through which their ancestors travelled and camped, hunted and gathered and held ceremonies. No specific social or historic values has been identified for the Project Area although it is assessed as having moderate aesthetic values.

Nine Aboriginal sites comprising two stone artefact scatters and seven isolated finds of stone artefacts have been identified in the Project Area. Denman AS1 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5979) is small and is assessed as having low scientific significance. Denman AS2 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5976) is extensive and varied in content and has moderate research potential. Due to the disturbed nature of this site and its representativeness in the region it is assessed as being of moderate scientific significance. Denman IF1-5 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5971 - 5975) and Denman IF7-8 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5977 - 5978) are mostly single stone artefacts and separately are assessed as being of low scientific significance. However, when assessed as being part of Denman AS2 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5976) their significance would be elevated to low to moderate

10. Impact assessment

Survey and test excavation of the Project Area has identified there are nine Aboriginal sites present. The previously registered Denman AS1 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5979), is a small, sparse surface scatter of four stone artefacts on the floodplain. Denman AS2 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5976), is an extensive mostly surface scatter of at least 56 stone artefacts located across the eastern two thirds of the Project Area along the crest, upper, middle and lower slope landforms (Figure 6-12). Denman IF1-5 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5971 - 5975) and Denman IF7-8 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5977 - 5978) are best considered as part of Denman AS2 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5976). It is highly likely that further surface and subsurface stone artefacts exist across these landforms. The potential for surface and subsurface stone artefacts across the floodplain landform to the west of the Project Area is low, although it must be noted that a previously registered scatter Denman AS1 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5979), is located there.

Large-scale bulk earthworks will not be required for the construction of Denman Solar Park. Ground disturbance will be low, and it will be principally associated with the installation of steel piles/posts driven or screwed into the ground to support and orientate the solar tracking system and PV modules (ASLAT Consulting 2020: 15). Plant and machinery will comprises pile drivers, mobile crane, diesel generators, earth moving and concreting equipment for Substation and support buildings. However, it is likely that both Denman AS1 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5979), Denman AS2 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5976), Denman IF1-5 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5971 - 5975) and Denman IF7-8 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5977 - 5978) will be impacted to some extent by the proposed works. It would not be feasible to identify every surface stone artefact occurring in both sites so that these could be avoided particularly as ground surface visibility conditions vary greatly depending on the season. Therefore, it is unlikely that impact to those nine sites can be avoided.

10.1. Summary of impacts

It is likely that both Denman AS1 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5979), Denman AS2 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5976), Denman IF1-5 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5971 - 5975) and Denman IF7-8 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5977 - 5978) will be impacted to some extent by the proposed works. It would not be feasible to identify every surface stone artefact occurring in both sites so that these could be individually avoided particularly as ground surface visibility conditions vary greatly depending on the season and grazing of sheep across all the paddocks will result in the movement and covering over of surface artefacts. Therefore, it is unlikely that impact to either site can be avoided.

10.2. Ecologically sustainable development principles

The Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW (OEH 2011) specifies that Ecological Sustainable Development (ESD) principles must be considered when assessing harm and recommending mitigation measures in relation to Aboriginal objects.

The following relevant ESD principles are outlined in Section 3A of the *EPBC Act*:

- Decision-making processes should effectively integrate both long term and short term economic, environmental, social and equitable considerations (the 'integration principle')
- If there are threats of serious or irreversible environmental damage, lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing measures to prevent environmental degradation (the Precautionary Principle)
- The present generation should ensure that the health, diversity and productivity of the environment is maintained or enhanced for the benefit of future generations (the Principle of Intergenerational Equity).
- The conservation of biological diversity and ecological integrity should be a fundamental consideration in decision making (Conservation of Biodiversity).
- Improved valuation, pricing and incentive mechanisms should be promoted (Improved Valuation, Pricing and Incentive).

OEH (2011: 13) states that consideration of these principles should result in:

- An understanding of the cumulative impact of the proposal on Aboriginal objects or places in relation to other identified sites in the region.
- Ascertaining how wherever possible or practicable harm to significant Aboriginal objects or places can be avoided.
- Establishing and assessing the risks and consequences of various options.
- Assessing the costs and benefits of various options for future generations.
- Suggesting actions proposed to help promote intergenerational equality.

10.2.1. The Integration Principle

The Aboriginal heritage values of have been fully considered in the ATR (Edmonds 2021) and this ACHAR. These values have been considered with regard to the planning and approvals process for the Project Area and therefore, comply with the integration principle by considering long term and short term environmental and social effects.

10.2.2. The Precautionary Principle

Five areas of PAD were identified during the archaeological survey of the Project Area. To address the precautionary principle with regard to uncertainty associated with those area of PAD, archaeological test excavations were conducted which provided evidence that the archaeological signature of the Project Area was best represented by Denman AS2 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5976), an extensive, but moderately sparse surface scatter of stone artefacts across the higher elevations of the Project Area. Only two subsurface stone artefacts were recovered from the test excavation.

The combination of background research and test excavation results have been used to assess the probable nature of the archaeological nature of the Project Area (Edmonds 2021). Salvage of surface artefacts from Denman AS1 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5979), Denman AS2 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5976), Denman IF1-5 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5971 - 5975) and Denman IF7-8 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5977 - 5978) has been recommended as a condition of an area AHIP for the Project Area as mitigation against loss of scientific and cultural information.

10.2.3. The Principle of Intergenerational Equity

The principle of intergenerational equity has been addressed through the assessments undertaken by Edmonds (2021). These assessments will ensure that information regarding the site is available for future generations. In addition, salvage of surface stone artefacts will provide additional information regarding the site and Project Area.

10.2.4. Conservation of Biodiversity

Cultural values associated with biodiversity are interwoven with the lives of Aboriginal people and their use of the landscape. The Project is being undertaken in consideration of impacts to and improvement of the local environment (renewable energy).

10.2.5. Improved Valuation, Pricing and Incentive

DPI Australia is committed to comprehensively assess impacts, avoid impacts (where feasible), work with the Aboriginal community, and implement mitigation and management measures which strike a balance between meeting the Project needs and protecting Aboriginal heritage values as evidenced through the ATR (Edmonds 2021), this ACHAR and the commitment to meet the salvage conditions of any AHIP.

10.2.6. Summary statement of ecologically sustainable principles

The likelihood of impact from the Project on Aboriginal objects or places is high. Options regarding mitigation of impact (avoidance of all individual surface stone artefacts) have been considered and assessed as being impractical. It is likely that the proposed Project would not result in impact to all of the surface stone artefacts however identification of every single stone artefact in order to avoid impact to it is not considered feasible. It is likely that salvage collection of artefacts will still result in some artefacts being left on site for future generations. This would mitigate to some extent the cumulative impact to loss of Aboriginal cultural heritage values for the region

10.3. Cumulative impact

A cumulative impact is the combined effects of environmental or social impacts that occur because of a range of activities or developments within a particular local area or region that impact on Aboriginal cultural heritage. Ideally cumulative impacts should be assessed from a baseline of data relating to the incremental impact of the actions of a development when added to other past, present and reasonably foreseeable future impacts.

A search of the AHIMS database indicates that of the 64 stone artefact scatters within the search region that 16 (25 per cent) have already been destroyed. The destruction of Denman AS1 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5979), Denman AS2 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5976), Denman IF1-5 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5971 - 5975) and Denman IF7-8 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5977 - 5978) would result in an increase to around 28 per cent. Thus, the cumulative impact would be small but nevertheless contribute to the loss of Aboriginal cultural heritage values for the region.

11. Recommendations

11.1. Guiding principles

The overall guiding principle for cultural heritage management is that where possible, Aboriginal sites should be conserved. If conservation is not practicable, measures should be taken to mitigate impacts to Aboriginal sites.

The nature of the recommendations provided is based on the assessed significance of Denman AS1 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5979), Denman AS2 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5976), Denman IF1-5 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5971 - 5975) and Denman IF7-8 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5977 - 5978) and acknowledges the existing and potential impacts to the site. The final recommendations have been informed by the RAPs in their responses during the ACHAR review period.

11.2. Denman AS2 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5976)

Denman IF6 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5976) Aboriginal site recording form (ASRF) has been updated to Denman AS2 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5976) and the extent includes Denman IF1-5 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5971 - 5975) and Denman IF7-8 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5977 - 5979). This has been done in order to better manage Aboriginal cultural material within the Project Area and amended ASRF have been submitted to AHIMS.

11.3. Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit

An Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) will be required for Denman AS1 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5979), Denman AS2 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5976), Denman IF1-5 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5971 - 5975) and Denman IF7-8 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5977 - 5978) in order for the proposed Denman Solar Park to proceed. It is recommended that an area AHIP to cover the entire Project Area be applied for to cover unexpected finds (Figure 11-1). It is recommended that the AHIP be for a term of five years. This ACHAR and all required documentation must be submitted in support of the AHIP application.

As a condition of the AHIP it is recommended that salvage is undertaken. A thorough walkover of the Project Area must be undertaken by suitably qualified archaeologists and RAP representatives prior to construction so that all visible surface stone artefacts can be collected. The collected artefacts must be

subject to detailed recording and analysis and a salvage report prepared which presents the recording and analysis including comparative analysis with artefacts from other sites in the region where this is possible. The report would investigate the source of raw materials within Denman AS1 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5979), Denman AS2 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5976), Denman IF1-5 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5971 - 5975) and Denman IF7-8 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5977 - 5978) and whether artefact size and type indicates any particular activities which might have occurred in the Project Area, such as gathering, quarrying, stone artefact manufacture etc.

As part of the salvage walkover it would be worthwhile undertaking a detailed inspection and recording of a sample of the silcrete angular rocks scattered across the crest and upper slope landforms to investigate the potential of these as a source of the raw materials.

On completion of the works an Aboriginal Site Impact Recording Form must be prepared for Denman AS1 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5979), Denman AS2 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5976), Denman IF1-5 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5971 - 5975) and Denman IF7-8 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5977 - 5978) and submitted to AHIMS.

11.4. Long term management of stone artefacts

The long term management arrangements for the Aboriginal objects (stone artefacts) recovered from the Project Area during test excavation and salvage collection would include the following options in accordance with Requirement 26 of the Code of Practice:

- Aboriginal objects to be provided to the Australian Museum
- Aboriginal objects to be curated by an Aboriginal community in conjunction with a Care and Control permit
- Aboriginal objects to be reburied in within the Project Area at a location safe from future disturbance and with that reburial location recorded and submitted to AHIMS
- Aboriginal objects to be stored or reburied at a previously organised offset site associated with the local mining industry.

The ACHA consultation did not receive any comments regarding the long term management of the Aboriginal objects recovered though test excavation and potentially salvage collection. The Aboriginal objects do not fulfil the requirements of the Australian Museum, therefore it is proposed that all Aboriginal objects will be buried on site in a safe location.

11.5. Employment

The Project is being undertaken in consideration of impacts to and improvement of the local environment (renewable energy). Wherever possible consideration should also be given to the employment of local Aboriginal people and/or organisations to encompass more fully the principle intergenerational equity.

11.6. Landscaping

Native indigenous plants should be used for landscaping of the Project Area perimeter in order to respect the cultural values of the place, that is the long occupation and traditions of the Wonnarua people.

11.7. Discovery of human remains

If suspected human remains are discovered and/or harmed in, on or under the land within the Project Area, the following actions must be undertaken:

- The remains must not be harmed/further harmed
- Immediately cease all works at that particular location
- Secure the area so as to avoid further harm to the remains
- Notify the NSW Police and the Environment Line (Department of Planning, Industry and Environment) on 131 555 as soon as practicable and provide any details of the remains and their location
- Do not recommence any work at that particular location unless authorised in writing by DPIE.

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Figure 11-1: AHIP area boundary

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Appendix A – Consultation log

Organisation	First name	Surname	registration request sent	Registered	Method	Methodology sent	Response	Method	Reminder email	Response	Method	Draft ACHA	Response	Method	Reminder Email	Response	Method
A1 Indigenous Services	Carolyn	Hickey	14/12/2021	16/12/2020	Email	21/01/2021	26/01/2021	email	16/02/2021			23/04/2021					
AGA Services	Ashley, Gregory & Adam	Sampson	14/12/2021			21/01/2021						23/04/2021					
Aliera French Trading	Aliera	French	14/12/2021			21/01/2021						23/04/2021					
Cacatua Culture Consultants	Donna & George	Sampson	14/12/2021			21/01/2021						23/04/2021					
Corroboree Aboriginal Corporation	Marilyn	Carroll-Johnson	14/12/2021	27/12/2020	Email	21/01/2021			16/02/2021	16/02/2021	email	23/04/2021	10/05/2021	Email	19/05/2021		
Crimson-Rosie	Jeffery	Matthews	14/12/2021			21/01/2021						23/04/2021					
Culturally Aware	Tracey	Skene	14/12/2021			21/01/2021						23/04/2021					
D F T V Enterprises	Derrick	Vale Snr	14/12/2021	14/12/2020	Email	21/01/2021						23/04/2021					
Deslee Talbott Consultants	Deslee	Matthews	14/12/2021			21/01/2021						23/04/2021					
Didge Ngunawal Clan	Paul Boyd	& Lilly Carroll	14/12/2021	14/12/2020	Email	21/01/2021	21/01/2021	Email	16/02/2021	16/02/2021	email	23/04/2021			19/05/2021		
Divine Diggers Aboriginal Cultural Consultants	Deidre	Perkins	14/12/2021			21/01/2021						23/04/2021					
Gidawaa Walang & Barkuma Neighbourhood Centre Inc.	Craig Horne	Debbie Dacey-Sullivan	14/12/2021			21/01/2021						23/04/2021					
Gomerai People (c/- NRSCORP)	Mishka	Holt	14/12/2021			21/01/2021						23/04/2021					
Hunter Traditional Owner	Paulette	Ryan	14/12/2021			21/01/2021						23/04/2021					
Hunter Valley Aboriginal Corporation	Rhonda	Griffiths	14/12/2021			21/01/2021						23/04/2021					
Hunters & Collectors	Tania	Matthews	14/12/2021			21/01/2021						23/04/2021					
Indigenous Learning	Craig	Archibald	14/12/2021			21/01/2021						23/04/2021					
Jarban & Mugrebea	Les	Atkinson	14/12/2021			21/01/2021						23/04/2021					
Jumbunna Traffic Management Group Pty Ltd	Norm	Archibald	14/12/2021	14/12/2020	Email	21/01/2021			16/02/2021			23/04/2021					
Kawul Pty Ltd trading as Wonn1 Sites	Arthur	Fletcher	14/12/2021			21/01/2021						23/04/2021					
Lower Hunter Aboriginal Incorporated	David	Ahoy	14/12/2021			21/01/2021						23/04/2021					
Lower Hunter Wonnarua Cultural Services	Lea-Anne	Ball	14/12/2021			21/01/2021						23/04/2021					
Michael Green Cultural Heritage Consultant	Michael	Green	14/12/2021			21/01/2021						23/04/2021					
Murra Bidgee Mullangari Aboriginal Corporation	Ryan Johnson	& Darleen Johnson-Carroll	14/12/2021	18/12/2021	Email	21/01/2021	13/2021		16/02/2021			23/04/2021			19/05/2021		
Myland Cultural & Heritage Group	Warren	Schillings	14/12/2021			21/01/2021						23/04/2021					
Nunnawanna Aboriginal Corporation	Colin	Ahoy	14/12/2021	14/12/2020	Email	21/01/2021			16/02/2021			23/04/2021			19/05/2021		

[illegible]

Appendix B – Newspaper notice

Registration of Interest - Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment

Everick Heritage Pty Ltd (ABN 78 102 206 682) is seeking to consult with interested Aboriginal persons in preparation for the new solar park development on Lot 400, DP 791860 Denman Road Muswellbrook, NSW on behalf of:

Denman Solar Park Pty Ltd

Shop 2 169 Leichardt St

Spring Hill 4000 QLD

avega@dpigroup.org

What do you need to do?

Aboriginal persons who hold cultural knowledge of the region are invited to register their interest in writing with:

Everick Heritage

Suite 101, 1 Booth Street

ANNANDALE NSW 2038 /or v.edmonds@everick.net.au

It should be noted that if you register your interest in this project then your details will be passed onto the Heritage NSW (Department of Premier & Cabinet) and the Wonnarua Local Aboriginal Land Council unless you notify us that you do not wish to have your details shared.

When must registration be received?

Registration must be received by 5 January 2021

Appendix C – Consultation documentation

EVERICK HERITAGE

14 December 2020

EV.1126

Jeffery Matthews
6 Eucalypt Avenue
MUSWELLBROOK NSW

Dear Jeffery,

**RE: ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT UPDATE
DENMAN SOLAR PARK, DENMAN**

At the request of the Heritage NSW, Department of Premier and Cabinet (Heritage NSW), we wish to inform you that Everick Heritage have been engaged to undertake an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for the proposed development of the Denman Solar Park, in Muswellbrook NSW (Lot 400, DP 791860 Denman Road Muswellbrook, NSW). The work is to be undertaken on behalf of the Proponent, Denman Solar Park Pty Ltd. The ACHA report will support an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) application for the harm to nine (9) Aboriginal sites within the Project Area.

The Proponent details for this Project are as follows:

Alfonso Vega de Seoane
DPI Australia
avega@dpigroup.org
Shop 2 169 Leichardt Street
Spring Hill 4000 Qld

Earlier in 2020, Eco Logical Australia (ELA) conducted a Due Diligence Assessment in accordance with the *Due Diligence Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales* (DECCW 2010). During the field inspection, nine Aboriginal objects were identified, as well as an identified low level of ground disturbance and areas of archaeological potential. As a result of the site inspection, an ACHA is required to support the application for an AHIP.

Denman Solar Park Pty Ltd wishes to engage any Aboriginal people and organisations with knowledge of the local area to provide any information they may know about the history and cultural significance of

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the area. The consultation will be undertaken to inform the ACHA, which is required by Muswellbrook Shire Council and Heritage NSW.

Consultation will be consistent with the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents (DECCW 2010). If you are interested or know of persons who may be interested, we request that you contact us by 5 January 2021 to register your interest. Please write to

Vanessa Edmonds
Principal – Sydney
Everick Heritage
Suite 101, 1 Booth Street
Annandale NSW 2038 / or v.edmonds@everick.net.au

If you have any questions about the Project, please contact Vanessa on 0429 144 188. If you wish to find out more about our qualifications, please visit our website www.everick.com.au. We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,



Vanessa Edmonds
Principal - Sydney
Everick Heritage



EVERICK HERITAGE

14 December 2020

EV.1126

Barry Anderson
156 The Inlet Road
BULGA NSW

Dear Barry,

**RE: ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT UPDATE
DENMAN SOLAR PARK, DENMAN**

At the request of the Heritage NSW, Department of Premier and Cabinet (Heritage NSW), we wish to inform you that Everick Heritage have been engaged to undertake an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for the proposed development of the Denman Solar Park, in Muswellbrook NSW (Lot 400, DP 791860 Denman Road Muswellbrook, NSW). The work is to be undertaken on behalf of the Proponent, Denman Solar Park Pty Ltd. The ACHA report will support an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) application for the harm to nine (9) Aboriginal sites within the Project Area.

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If you have any questions about the Project, please contact Vanessa on 0429 144 188. If you wish to find out more about our qualifications, please visit our website www.everick.com.au. We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,



Vanessa Edmonds
Principal - Sydney
Everick Heritage



EVERICK HERITAGE

14 December 2020

EV.1126

John Matthews
4 Calgaroo Ave
MUSWELLBROOK NSW

Dear John,

**RE: ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT UPDATE
DENMAN SOLAR PARK, DENMAN**

At the request of the Heritage NSW, Department of Premier and Cabinet (Heritage NSW), we wish to inform you that Everick Heritage have been engaged to undertake an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for the proposed development of the Denman Solar Park, in Muswellbrook NSW (Lot 400, DP 791860 Denman Road Muswellbrook, NSW). The work is to be undertaken on behalf of the Proponent, Denman Solar Park Pty Ltd. The ACHA report will support an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) application for the harm to nine (9) Aboriginal sites within the Project Area.

The Proponent details for this Project are as follows:

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avega@dpigroup.org
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Spring Hill 4000 Qld

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If you have any questions about the Project, please contact Vanessa on 0429 144 188. If you wish to find out more about our qualifications, please visit our website www.everick.com.au. We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,



Vanessa Edmonds
Principal - Sydney
Everick Heritage



EVERICK HERITAGE

14 December 2020

EV.1126

Roger Matthews
105 View Street
GUNNEDAH NSW

Dear Roger,

**RE: ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT UPDATE
DENMAN SOLAR PARK, DENMAN**

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avega@dpigroup.org
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Spring Hill 4000 Qld

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14 December 2020

EV.1126

Gordon Griffiths
19 O'Donnell Crescent
METFORD NSW

Dear Gordon,

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EVERICK HERITAGE

14 December 2020

EV.1126

Richard Edwards
PO Box 844
CESSNOCK NSW

Dear Richard,

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EVERICK HERITAGE

14 December 2020

EV.1126

Rhonda and Georgina Perry
PO Box 184
SINGLETON NSW

Dear Rhonda and Georgina,

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EVERICK HERITAGE

14 December 2020

EV.1126

A1 Indigenous Services
Carolyn Hickey
10 Marie Pitt Place
GLENMORE PARK NSW

Dear Carolyn,

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DENMAN SOLAR PARK, DENMAN**

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Principal - Sydney
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Figure 1: Project Area, outlined in red and recorded Aboriginal sites (Source: ELA 2020)

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14 December 2020

EV.1126

AGA Services
Ashley, Gregory & Adam Sampson
22 Ibis Parade
WOODBERRY NSW

Dear Ashley, Gregory & Adam,

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DENMAN SOLAR PARK, DENMAN**

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Figure 1: Project Area, outlined in red and recorded Aboriginal sites (Source: ELA 2020)

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14 December 2020

EV.1126

Aliera French Trading
Aliera French
17 Kalinda St
BLACKSMITHS NSW

Dear Aliera,

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DENMAN SOLAR PARK, DENMAN**

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Figure 1: Project Area, outlined in red and recorded Aboriginal sites (Source: ELA 2020)

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14 December 2020

EV.1126

Cacatua Culture Consultants
Donna & George Sampson
22 Ibis Parade
WOODBERRY NSW

Dear Donna & George,

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DENMAN SOLAR PARK, DENMAN**

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14 December 2020

EV.1126

Corroboree Aboriginal Corporation
Marilyn Carroll-Johnson
PO Box 3340
ROUSE HILL NSW

Dear Marilyn,

**RE: ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT UPDATE
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14 December 2020

EV.1126

Culturally Aware
Tracey Skene
7 Crawford Place
MILFIELD NSW

Dear Tracey,

**RE: ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT UPDATE
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EVERICK HERITAGE

14 December 2020

EV.1126

D F T V Enterprises
Derrick Vale Snr
5 Mountbatten Close
RUTHERFORD NSW

Dear Derrick,

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EV.1126

Deslee Talbott Consultants
Deslee Matthews
Unit 2 / 19 South Street
GUNNEDAH NSW

Dear Deslee,

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EV.1126

Didge Ngunawal Clan
Paul Boyd & Lilly Carroll
33 Carlyle Crescent
CAMBRIDGE GARDENS NSW

Dear Paul Boyd,

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Yours sincerely,



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Figure 1: Project Area, outlined in red and recorded Aboriginal sites (Source: ELA 2020)

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14 December 2020

EV.1126

Divine Diggers Aboriginal Cultural Consultants
Deidre Perkins
6 Ashleigh Street
HEDDON GRETA NSW

Dear Deidre,

**RE: ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT UPDATE
DENMAN SOLAR PARK, DENMAN**

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14 December 2020

EV.1126

Gidawaa Walang & Barkuma Neighbourhood Centre Inc.
Craig Horne Debbie Dacey-Sullivan
76 Lang Street
KURRI KURRI NSW

Dear Craig Horne,

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DENMAN SOLAR PARK, DENMAN**

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14 December 2020

EV.1126

Gomeroi People (c/- NRSCORP)
Mishka Holt
PO Box 2015
STRAWBERRY HILLS NSW

Dear Mishka,

**RE: ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT UPDATE
DENMAN SOLAR PARK, DENMAN**

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14 December 2020

EV.1126

Hunter Traditional Owner
Paulette Ryan
165 Susan Street
SCONE NSW

Dear Paulette,

**RE: ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT UPDATE
DENMAN SOLAR PARK, DENMAN**

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14 December 2020

EV.1126

Hunter Valley Aboriginal Corporation
Rhonda Griffiths
165 Susan Street
SCONE NSW

Dear Rhonda,

**RE: ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT UPDATE
DENMAN SOLAR PARK, DENMAN**

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14 December 2020

EV.1126

Hunters & Collectors
Tania Matthews
Unit 1/19 South Street
Gunnedah NSW

Dear Tania,

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DENMAN SOLAR PARK, DENMAN**

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14 December 2020

EV.1126

Indigenous Learning
Craig Archibald
2 Victoria Street
BELLBIRD HEIGHTS NSW

Dear Craig,

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14 December 2020

EV.1126

Jarban & Mugrebea
Les Atkinson
11 Nelson Street
CESSNOCK NSW

Dear Les,

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14 December 2020

EV.1126

Jumbunna Traffic Management Group Pty Ltd
Norm Archibald
17 Flobern Ave
WAUCHOPE NSW

Dear Norm,

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14 December 2020

EV.1126

Kawul Pty Ltd trading as Wonn1 Sites
Arthur Fletcher
619 Main Road
GLENDALE NSW

Dear Arthur,

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14 December 2020

EV.1126

Lower Hunter Aboriginal Incorporated
David Ahoy
5 Killara Drive
CARDIFF SOUTH NSW

Dear David,

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14 December 2020

EV.1126

Lower Hunter Wonnarua Cultural Services
Lea-Anne Ball
51 Bowden Street
HEDDON GRETA NSW

Dear Lea-Anne,

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EV.1126

Michael Green Cultural Heritage Consultant
Michael Green
115A Lakeview Parade
BLACKSMITHS NSW

Dear Michael,

**RE: ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT UPDATE
DENMAN SOLAR PARK, DENMAN**

At the request of the Heritage NSW, Department of Premier and Cabinet (Heritage NSW), we wish to inform you that Everick Heritage have been engaged to undertake an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for the proposed development of the Denman Solar Park, in Muswellbrook NSW (Lot 400, DP 791860 Denman Road Muswellbrook, NSW). The work is to be undertaken on behalf of the Proponent, Denman Solar Park Pty Ltd. The ACHA report will support an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) application for the harm to nine (9) Aboriginal sites within the Project Area.

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Alfonso Vega de Seoane
DPI Australia
avega@dpigroup.org
Shop 2 169 Leichardt Street
Spring Hill 4000 Qld

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Vanessa Edmonds
Principal – Sydney
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Suite 101, 1 Booth Street
Annandale NSW 2038 / or v.edmonds@everick.net.au

If you have any questions about the Project, please contact Vanessa on 0429 144 188. If you wish to find out more about our qualifications, please visit our website www.everick.com.au. We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,



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Principal - Sydney
Everick Heritage



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Figure 1: Project Area, outlined in red and recorded Aboriginal sites (Source: ELA 2020)

EVERICK HERITAGE

14 December 2020

EV.1126

Murra Bidgee Mullangari Aboriginal Corporation
Ryan Johnson & Darleen Johnson-Carroll
PO Box 246
SEVEN HILLS NSW

Dear Ryan Johnson,

**RE: ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT UPDATE
DENMAN SOLAR PARK, DENMAN**

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EVERICK HERITAGE

14 December 2020

EV.1126

Myland Cultural & Heritage Group
Warren Schillings
30 Taurus Street
ELERMORE VALE NSW

Dear Warren,

**RE: ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT UPDATE
DENMAN SOLAR PARK, DENMAN**

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14 December 2020

EV.1126

Nunnawanna Aboriginal Corporation
Colin Ahoy
10 Dale Crescent
ARMIDALE NSW

Dear Colin,

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DENMAN SOLAR PARK, DENMAN**

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Figure 1: Project Area, outlined in red and recorded Aboriginal sites (Source: ELA 2020)

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14 December 2020

EV.1126

Ungooroo Aboriginal Corporation
Alan Paget
PO Box 3095
SINGLETON NSW

Dear Alan,

**RE: ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT UPDATE
DENMAN SOLAR PARK, DENMAN**

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Figure 1: Project Area, outlined in red and recorded Aboriginal sites (Source: ELA 2020)

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14 December 2020

EV.1126

Wallagan Cultural Services
Maree Waugh
PO Box 40
CESSNOCK NSW

Dear Maree,

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DENMAN SOLAR PARK, DENMAN**

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Principal - Sydney
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14 December 2020

EV.1126

Wattaka Wonnarua CC Service
Des Hickey
4 Kennedy Street
SINGLETON NSW

Dear Des,

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DENMAN SOLAR PARK, DENMAN**

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EVERICK HERITAGE

14 December 2020

EV.1126

Widescope Indigenous Group
Steven Hickey
73 Russell Street
EMU PLAINS NSW

Dear Steven,

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14 December 2020

EV.1126

Wonnarua Nation Aboriginal Corporation
Laurie Perry
254 John St
SINGLETON NSW

Dear Laurie,

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EVERICK HERITAGE

14 December 2020

EV.1126

Yarrowalk (A division of Tocomwall Pty Ltd), Tocomwall Pty Ltd on behalf of Scott Franks and Anor on behalf of the Plains Clans of the Wonnarua People NSD1680/2013

Scott Franks
PO Box 76
CARRINGBAH NSW

Dear Scott,

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14 December 2020

EV.1126

Yinarr Cultural Services
Kathleen Steward Kinchela
Lot 5 Westwood Estate
MERRIWA NSW

Dear Kathleen,

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14 December 2020

EV.1126

Kevin Duncan
95 Moala Parade
CHARMHAVEN NSW

Dear Kevin,

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EV.1126

Robert Syron
6a Cockshell Drive
GAWLER EAST SA

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Denman Solar Park Pty Ltd wishes to engage any Aboriginal people and organisations with knowledge of the local area to provide any information they may know about the history and cultural significance of

EVERICK HERITAGE

the area. The consultation will be undertaken to inform the ACHA, which is required by Muswellbrook Shire Council and Heritage NSW.

Consultation will be consistent with the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents (DECCW 2010). If you are interested or know of persons who may be interested, we request that you contact us by **5 January 2021** to register your interest. Please write to

Vanessa Edmonds
Principal – Sydney
Everick Heritage
Suite 101, 1 Booth Street
Annandale NSW 2038 / or v.edmonds@everick.net.au

If you have any questions about the Project, please contact Vanessa on 0429 144 188. If you wish to find out more about our qualifications, please visit our website www.everick.com.au. We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,



Vanessa Edmonds
Principal - Sydney
Everick Heritage



EVERICK HERITAGE



Figure 1: Project Area, outlined in red and recorded Aboriginal sites (Source: ELA 2020)

EVERICK HERITAGE

14 December 2020

EV.1126

Steve Talbott
73 Kiah Road
GILLIESTON HEIGHTS NSW

Dear Steve,

**RE: ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT UPDATE
DENMAN SOLAR PARK, DENMAN**

At the request of the Heritage NSW, Department of Premier and Cabinet (Heritage NSW), we wish to inform you that Everick Heritage have been engaged to undertake an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for the proposed development of the Denman Solar Park, in Muswellbrook NSW (Lot 400, DP 791860 Denman Road Muswellbrook, NSW). The work is to be undertaken on behalf of the Proponent, Denman Solar Park Pty Ltd. The ACHA report will support an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) application for the harm to nine (9) Aboriginal sites within the Project Area.

The Proponent details for this Project are as follows:

Alfonso Vega de Seoane
DPI Australia
avega@dpigroup.org
Shop 2 169 Leichardt Street
Spring Hill 4000 Qld

Earlier in 2020, Eco Logical Australia (ELA) conducted a Due Diligence Assessment in accordance with the *Due Diligence Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales* (DECCW 2010). During the field inspection, nine Aboriginal objects were identified, as well as an identified low level of ground disturbance and areas of archaeological potential. As a result of the site inspection, an ACHA is required to support the application for an AHIP.

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EVERICK HERITAGE

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Everick Heritage
Suite 101, 1 Booth Street
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If you have any questions about the Project, please contact Vanessa on 0429 144 188. If you wish to find out more about our qualifications, please visit our website www.everick.com.au. We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,



Vanessa Edmonds
Principal - Sydney
Everick Heritage



EVERICK HERITAGE



Figure 1: Project Area, outlined in red and recorded Aboriginal sites (Source: ELA 2020)

EVERICK HERITAGE

14 December 2020

EV.1126

Everick Heritage
Caitlin Marsh

Dear Caitlin,

**RE: ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT UPDATE
DENMAN SOLAR PARK, DENMAN**

At the request of the Heritage NSW, Department of Premier and Cabinet (Heritage NSW), we wish to inform you that Everick Heritage have been engaged to undertake an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) for the proposed development of the Denman Solar Park, in Muswellbrook NSW (Lot 400, DP 791860 Denman Road Muswellbrook, NSW). The work is to be undertaken on behalf of the Proponent, Denman Solar Park Pty Ltd. The ACHA report will support an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) application for the harm to nine (9) Aboriginal sites within the Project Area.

The Proponent details for this Project are as follows:

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avega@dpigroup.org
Shop 2 169 Leichardt Street
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EVERICK HERITAGE

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Consultation will be consistent with the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents (DECCW 2010). If you are interested or know of persons who may be interested, we request that you contact us by **5 January 2021** to register your interest. Please write to

Vanessa Edmonds
Principal – Sydney
Everick Heritage
Suite 101, 1 Booth Street
Annandale NSW 2038 / or v.edmonds@everick.net.au

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Yours sincerely,



Vanessa Edmonds
Principal - Sydney
Everick Heritage



EVERICK HERITAGE



Figure 1: Project Area, outlined in red and recorded Aboriginal sites (Source: ELA 2020)

EVERICK HERITAGE



From: [Carolyn.H](#)
To: [Caitlin Marsh](#)
Subject: Re: Denman Solar Park ACHA Invite to Register
Date: Tuesday, 15 December 2020 10:35:29 PM
Attachments: A1.WC2021.pdf
A1.PL2021.pdf



INDIGENOUS SERVICES PTY LTD

Contact: Carolyn Hickey
M: 0411650057
E: Cazadirect@live.com
A: 10 Marie Pitt Place, Glenmore Park, NSW 2745
ACN: 639 868 876
ABN: 31 639 868 876

Hi,
Thank you for your email, I would like to register in being involved in all levels of consultation for this project, such as, Meetings, Reports, Sharing Cultural Information and available Field Work.

I am a traditional owner.
I've had many years experience in helping preserve Aboriginal cultural heritage on projects, I hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the cultural significance of Aboriginal objects and values that exist in the project area.

I have attached *A1 Indigenous Services Insurances*.

Please feel free to contact me on details supplied
Kind Regards,
Carolyn Hickey

From: Caitlin Marsh <c.marsh@everick.net.au>
Sent: Monday, 14 December 2020 8:54 AM
To: Cazadirect@live.com <Cazadirect@live.com>
Subject: Denman Solar Park ACHA Invite to Register

Good Morning,

Please find attached letter requesting your response by 5 January 2021.

Kind Regards and I hope you have a pleasant Christmas,

Caitlin Marsh

From: [Corroboree Aboriginal Corporation](#)
To: [Caitlin Marsh](#)
Cc: [Marilyn Carroll-Johnson](#)
Subject: Re: EOI Denman Solar Park
Date: Sunday, 27 December 2020 12:06:25 AM

Attention: Caitlin Marsh

Re: Denman Solar Park

Please register Corroboree Aboriginal Corporation. My family members have lived in the area and family currently reside in the areas and surrounding areas. We are registering in a full capacity. We are aboriginal people who are culturally aware. We have the necessary ability, awareness, experience, skills, insight and the knowledge to identify artefacts on field work. And as Aboriginal People we connect thru the land, thru our ancestors and our heritage. Therefore we are able participate on all levels. We have worked with many archaeologists across a broad landscape. We have consulted with your company on previous projects. We have all the relevant insurances and safety gear. We are all fit and adapt to a vast landscape.

Contact is preferred via email: corroboreecorp@bigpond.com. The contact number, email and contact person is also listed in the signature.

Please do not disclose any of our details to LALC nor publish our correspondence for LALC to peruse. Please only note our corporation details i.e. our name and only for registration purposes. As noted our details are not to be passed on/disclosed to LALC. We understand your need for confirmation of our corporations name on your lists for registered stakeholders, in that we have responded for inclusion, to participate on all levels. The use of our name as registered party, is fine, however non-disclosure of our actual correspondence, please. Just our name and contact details as registered stakeholders for your records and proponents. Thanks.

Kind regards
Marilyn Carroll-Johnson
Director
Corroboree Aboriginal Corporation
Mob: [0415911159](tel:0415911159)
Ph: [0288244324](tel:0288244324)
E: corroboreecorp@bigpond.com
Address: PO Box 3340
ROUSE HILL NSW 2155

On 14 Dec 2020, at 8:54 am, Caitlin Marsh <c.marsh@everick.net.au> wrote:

Good Morning,

Please find attached letter requesting your response by 5 January 2021.

Kind Regards and I hope you have a pleasant Christmas,

Caitlin Marsh
<[EV1126_ACHA_InviteToRegister.pdf](#)>

From: [Derrick Vale](#)
To: [Caitlin Marsh](#)
Subject: Re: Denman Solar Park ACHA Invite to Register
Date: Monday, 14 December 2020 12:15:27 PM

G'day Caitin

DFTV ENTERPRISES Indigenous Corporation would like to register an interest in this project.

Kind Regards

Derrick Vale
Managing Director

DFTV ENTERPRISES
Indigenous Corporation

DFTV ENTERPRISES Indigenous Corporation acknowledges the traditional custodians of country throughout Australia. We pay our respect to them, and to the Elders past, present and future

From: Caitlin Marsh <c.marsh@everick.net.au>
Sent: Monday, 14 December 2020 8:54 AM
To: deckavale@hotmail.com <deckavale@hotmail.com>
Subject: Denman Solar Park ACHA Invite to Register

Good Morning,

Please find attached letter requesting your response by 5 January 2021.

Kind Regards and I hope you have a pleasant Christmas,

Caitlin Marsh

From: [lilly.carroll](#)
To: [Caitlin Marsh](#)
Subject: Re: Denman Solar Park ACHA Invite to Register
Date: Monday, 14 December 2020 10:25:38 AM

Hi Caitlin/ Vanessa,

DNC would like to register an interest into the Denman Solar Park

Kind regards
Paul Boyd & Lilly Carroll
Directors DNC

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

On Monday, December 14, 2020, 8:54 am, Caitlin Marsh <c.marsh@everick.net.au> wrote:

Good Morning,

Please find attached letter requesting your response by 5 January 2021.

Kind Regards and I hope you have a pleasant Christmas,

Caitlin Marsh

From: [Cherie Carroll Turrise](#)
To: [Caitlin Marsh](#); [Cherie Carroll](#)
Subject: Re: Registration Denman Solar Park
Date: Sunday, 27 December 2020 12:07:21 AM

Dear Caitlin

Re: Registration Denman Solar Park

Please register our corporation for full process on this project. We are aboriginal people. We are all Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Site Officers. We have our history & stories passed down by our Elders. We have assisted in surveys, salvage & consulting in with archaeologists over a vast number of years. We are experienced in the field of identifying artefacts, Including our learned history and knowledge passed down by our Elders. We appreciate the opportunity to be part of protecting and preserving our Aboriginal heritage. We are very proud of our heritage passed to us by our Elders and our Ancestors. We are therefore pleased with being a part of this research and provide our experience in cultural heritage input.

The potential to contain evidence of Aboriginal of actual occupation on the specific project area and provide cultural links to our past ancestors is of great value and significance. Our organisation has a current public liability insurance policy and OHS compliant and all members hold white cards and all the required safety gear.

All our members are Aboriginal and very experienced in the identification of Aboriginal artefacts and we have consulted with numerous Archeologists in surveys including excavation/fieldwork. We are very passionate about land and conservation matters to which some of members are currently studying cultural heritage. We hold strong links to our our ancestors, our culture and our heritage.

Please note we do not want our details forwarded to LALC, please do not release our correspondence nor any details.

Please update Email: gunjeewong@yahoo.com.au

and phone number Mob: 0438 428 805. Please forward a copy of project to my postal address: 15 Burton Road PORTLAND NSW 2847 and to this email. Please remove any other phone numbers and emails as per ORIC website & OEH. My details have also been updated with all the relevant requirements.

Sincerely

Cherie (Carroll) Turrise

Aboriginal Heritage Custodian

Mob: 0438 428 805

Email: gunjeewong@yahoo.com.au

15 Burton Road

PORTLAND NSW 2847

Mob: 0438 428 805

Email: gunjeewong@yahoo.com.au



From: [JTM traffic management](#)
To: [Caitlin Marsh](#)
Subject: Re: Denman Solar Park ACHA Invite to Register
Date: Monday, 14 December 2020 4:52:17 PM

Hi Caitlin

Please register my company as stakeholder for the project of the Solar Park ACHA.

Cultural Unity
Norman Archibald
0413718149

From: Caitlin Marsh <c.marsh@everick.net.au>
Sent: Monday, 14 December 2020 8:54 AM
To: jtmanagement@live.com.au <jtmanagement@live.com.au>
Subject: Denman Solar Park ACHA Invite to Register

Good Morning,

Please find attached letter requesting your response by 5 January 2021.

Kind Regards and I hope you have a pleasant Christmas,

Caitlin Marsh

From: [Darleen Johnson](#)
To: [Caitlin Marsh](#)
Subject: Re: Denman Solar Park ACHA Invite to Register
Date: Friday, 18 December 2020 12:44:35 PM

Hi Caitlin

Please register our corporation for the above project, we have been doing aboriginal cultural heritage projects for over 26 years and have done many projects in the area and surrounding areas.

Kind regards

Ryan Johnson

0475565517

On Monday, 14 December 2020, 08:54:48 am AEDT, Caitlin Marsh <c.marsh@everick.net.au> wrote:

Good Morning,

Please find attached letter requesting your response by 5 January 2021.

Kind Regards and I hope you have a pleasant Christmas,

Caitlin Marsh

From: [James MacLeod](#)
To: [Vanessa Edmonds](#)
Cc: [Caitlin Marsh](#); [Maeve Parker](#); [Matilda Vaughan](#)
Subject: RE: Denman Solar Park ACHA Invite to Register
Date: Tuesday, 19 January 2021 5:16:37 PM
Attachments: [image006.png](#)

Dear Vanessa

We received one response from Steven Talbott, who indicated he would like to be registered as a RAP for this project.

Kind regards

James

James MacLeod | Senior Solicitor



NTSCORP proudly acknowledge that our office is situated on the country of the Gadigal People of the Dharug Nation. We also acknowledge and pay our respect to their Elders past and present.

t 02 9310 3188 | f 02 9310 4177

d 02 8306 2735 | m 0498 980 212

e jmacleod@ntscorp.com.au | w www.ntscorp.com.au

Level 1, 44-70 Rosehill Street, Redfern, NSW 2016 Australia



Caution: This message is intended only for the addressee. It is confidential and may be legally privileged. If you are not the intended recipient, any disclosure, copying, or distribution is prohibited and may be unlawful. By opening any attachment, you agree that NTSCORP Limited (NTSCORP) will not be liable for any loss resulting from viruses or other defects. Any views in this message are those of the individual sender, except where the sender expressly and with authority, states them to be the views of NTSCORP.

Please consider the environment before printing this email

From: Vanessa Edmonds <v.edmonds@everick.net.au>

Sent: Tuesday, 19 January 2021 12:37 PM

To: James MacLeod <jmacleod@ntscorp.com.au>

Cc: Caitlin Marsh <c.marsh@everick.net.au>

Subject: Denman Solar Park ACHA Invite to Register

Hi James,

In response to your email on the 5 January regarding the potential NT claimants I was wondering if you had been able to contact anyone as yet. We have had a number of registrations and now need to send out the Archaeological Methodology for review.

Regards Vanessa

Vanessa Edmonds

Principal-Sydney

Full Member of AACA

Suite 101/1 Booth Street, Annandale

Ph: 02 9552 2944

Mob: 0429 114 188

Everick Heritage Pty Ltd

ABN 78 102 206 682

Brisbane - Townsville - Sydney - Coffs Harbour - Tweed Heads - Canberra - Alice Springs

Web: www.everick.com.au

I acknowledge the traditional owners and custodians of country throughout Australia and their continuing connection to land, culture and community. I pay my respect to Elders past, present and future



Nunawanna Aboriginal Corporation
Armidale, NSW 2350
Email: cahoy7@myune.edu.au
Phone: 0421655192

14/12/2020

Dear Vanessa,

I am writing to you in response to the proposed development of the Denman Solar Park, in Muswellbrook NSW (Lot 400, DP 791860 Denman Road Muswellbrook, NSW).

I would like to register Nunawanna Aboriginal Corporation to your list as an Aboriginal stake holder in the proposed work area.

As an Aboriginal stake holder, we would kindly ask if our organisation be involved in the Aboriginal cultural and heritage assessment. I have a strong cultural connection to the land and waterways.

I have worked with many archeologists over the years and I have the trust and respect from those archaeologists. Please feel free to contact me by the email provided.

Regards

Colin Ahoy

Nunawanna Aboriginal Corporation

From: [Vanessa Edmonds](#)
To: [Caitlin Marsh](#)
Subject: FW: Aboriginal Community Registration, Re:Denman Solar Park
Date: Friday, 18 December 2020 9:10:46 AM
Attachments: image002.png

Vanessa Edmonds

Principal-Sydney

Full Member of AACAI

Suite 101/1 Booth Street, Annandale

Ph: 02 9552 2944

Mob: 0429 114 188

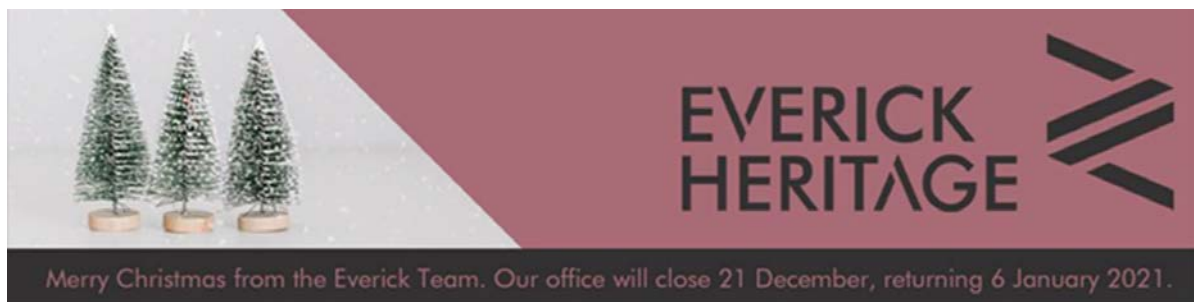
Everick Heritage Pty Ltd

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I acknowledge the traditional owners and custodians of country throughout Australia and their continuing connection to land, culture and community. I pay my respect to Elders past, present and future



From: WIDESCOPE . <widescope.group@live.com>
Sent: Thursday, 17 December 2020 6:06 PM
To: Vanessa Edmonds <v.edmonds@everick.net.au>
Subject: Aboriginal Community Registration, Re:Denman Solar Park

Hi Vanessa,

Please register Steven Hickey interest in the Denman Solar Park Project

Regards
D Hickey
Administration
0425232056

From: [Steven Talbott](#)
To: [Caitlin Marsh](#)
Subject: Re: Denman Solar Park ACHA Invite to Register
Date: Wednesday, 16 December 2020 3:36:00 PM

Hi Caitlyn

I would like to register my expression of interest to be involved in all phases of the project for Denman Solar Park

Please let me know if you require any further information

thanks

Steven

From: Caitlin Marsh <c.marsh@everick.net.au>
Sent: Sunday, 13 December 2020 12:55 PM
To: gomerioi.namoi@outlook.com <gomerioi.namoi@outlook.com>
Subject: Denman Solar Park ACHA Invite to Register

Good Morning,

Please find attached letter requesting your response by 5 January 2021.

Kind Regards and I hope you have a pleasant Christmas,

Caitlin Marsh

From: [Admin](#)
To: [Vanessa Edmonds](#)
Cc: [Taasha Layer](#); [sites](#)
Subject: Expression of Interest - Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Update to Denman Solar Park, Denman NSW
Date: Tuesday, 15 December 2020 2:19:59 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[EV1126_ACHA_InviteToRegister.pdf](#)

Good afternoon Vanessa Edmonds,

Ungooroo Aboriginal Corporation would like to register an expression of interest for the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Update to Denman Solar Park, Denman NSW.

If you require additional information please let me know.



Kind Regards,
Cheyenne Chong
ADMIN COORDINATOR



PHONE 02 6571 5111
FAX 02 6571 5777
EMAIL EMAIL@ungooroo.com.au
WEB www.ungooroo.com.au

POST
PO Box 3095
Singleton NSW 2330

LOCATION

Shop 1 - 4
157-159 John Street
The Singleton Centre
Singleton NSW 2330



Ungooroo Aboriginal Corporation acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the Traditional Owners. We would like to acknowledge the Traditional Owners of our area, the Wanaruah People. We pay our respect to the elder's past, present and future for they hold the memories, traditions, culture and hope of Indigenous peoples in Australia.

From: [Georgia Pascoe](#)
To: [Caitlin Marsh](#)
Subject: RE: Denman Solar Park Registered Aboriginal Groups
Date: Friday, 22 January 2021 12:02:12 PM
Attachments: image006.png

Hi Caitlin,

Thank you for your response!

I did receive your email with the methodology attached and have forwarded it the board for further feedback

Kind Regards

Georgia Pascoe

Administration Officer



Wanaruah Local Aboriginal Land Council

PO Box 127

Muswellbrook NSW 2333

Ph: 02 6543 1288

admin@wanaruahlandcouncil.com.au

<https://wanaruahalc.wixsite.com/bindj>

<https://www.facebook.com/wanaruah.aboriginallandcouncil/>

I acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land I work upon, The Wanaruah People and pay my respects to Elders past, present and future.

From: Caitlin Marsh <c.marsh@everick.net.au>
Sent: Friday, 22 January 2021 11:37 AM
To: Georgia Pascoe <admin@wanaruahlandcouncil.com.au>
Subject: RE: Denman Solar Park Registered Aboriginal Groups

Good Morning Georgia,

We have you automatically registered for this project as the LALC. I think I sent the Methodology to you (admin@wanaruahlandcouncil.com.au) yesterday at 11am. If you could respond with your thoughts on the methodology by 18 February 2021 I would appreciate it.

If you did not receive my email yesterday, please let me know and I will send it through to you again

Caitlin Marsh

Archaeologist-Sydney

Suite 101/1 Booth Street, Annandale

Ph: 02 9552 2944

Everick Heritage Pty Ltd

ABN 78 102 206 682

Brisbane - Townsville - Sydney - Coffs Harbour - Tweed Heads - Canberra - Alice Springs

Web: www.everick.com.au



From: [Georgia Pascoe](#)

Sent: Friday, 22 January 2021 11:29 AM

To: [Caitlin Marsh](#)

Subject: RE: Denman Solar Park Registered Aboriginal Groups

Good Morning Caitlin,

Apologies for the inconvenience

Is it too late for the Wanaruah Land Council to register interest in this assessment?

Let me know

Kind Regards

Georgia Pascoe

Administration Officer



Wanaruah Local Aboriginal Land Council

PO Box 127

Muswellbrook NSW 2333

Ph: 02 6543 1288

admin@wanaruahlandcouncil.com.au

<https://wanaruahlalc.wixsite.com/bindi>

<https://www.facebook.com/wanaruah.aboriginallandcouncil/>

I acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land I work upon, The Wanaruah People and pay my respects to Elders past, present and future.

From: Caitlin Marsh <c.marsh@everick.net.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 20 January 2021 5:13 PM

To: admin@wanaruahlandcouncil.com.au

Subject: FW: Denman Solar Park Registered Aboriginal Groups

Good Afternoon,

I am writing to provide a list of Aboriginal corporations and individuals who have registered for involvement in the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for the Denman Solar Farm, in Denman NSW.

The following groups registered either via email to direct communication, or via telephone. One additional corporation responded to the mailout, but did not wish to be identified in communications with the Local Aboriginal Land Council.

Organisation	First name	Surname
A1 Indigenous Services	Carolyn	Hickey
D F T V Enterprises	Derrick	Vale Snr
Didge Ngunawal Clan	Paul Boyd	& Lilly Carroll
Jumbunna Traffic Management Group Pty Ltd	Norm	Archibald
Murra Bidgee Mullangari Aboriginal Corporation	Ryan Johnson	& Darleen Johnson-Carroll
Nunnawanna Aboriginal Corporation	Colin	Ahoy
Ungooroo Aboriginal Corporation	Alan	Paget
Wattaka Wonnarua CC Service	Des	Hickey
Widescope Indigenous Group	Steven	Hickey
	Steve	Talbott
Gunjeewong	Cherie	Carroll Turrise
Upper Hunter Wonnarua Council Inc	Rhonda and Georgina	Perry

If you have any information regarding the project at Denman Solar, please do not hesitate to get in contact with me, or Vanessa Edmonds (cc'd on this email).

Kind Regards,

Caitlin Marsh

Archaeologist-Sydney

Suite 101/1 Booth Street, Annandale

Ph: 02 9552 2944

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Web: www.everick.com.au



From: [Des Hickey](#)
To: [Caitlin Marsh](#)
Subject: RE: Denman Solar Park ACHA Invite to Register
Date: Thursday, 7 January 2021 2:23:16 PM

Hi Caitlin

Please register my group WattakaW.C.C.services on this project sorry for the late reply I was away just got back.

Thanks"

Des

From: [Caitlin Marsh](#)
Sent: Monday, 14 December 2020 8:54 AM
To: deshickey@bigpond.com
Subject: Denman Solar Park ACHA Invite to Register

Good Morning,

Please find attached letter requesting your response by 5 January 2021.

Kind Regards and I hope you have a pleasant Christmas,

Caitlin Marsh

From: [Carolyn .H](#)
To: [Caitlin Marsh](#)
Subject: Re: ACHA Methodology for Denman Solar Farm, Denman
Date: Tuesday, 26 January 2021 7:42:57 PM
Attachments: image003.png



Contact: Carolyn Hickey
M: 0411650057
E: Cazadirect@live.com
A: 10 Marie Pitt Place, Glenmore Park, NSW 2745
ACN: 639 868 876
ABN: 31 639 868 876

Hi,
I have reviewed the document and support the Information and Methodology.
A1 would like to be involved in any future Meetings and field work.
Kind regards
Carolyn Hickey

From: Caitlin Marsh <c.marsh@everick.net.au>
Sent: Thursday, 21 January 2021 11:08 AM
Cc: Caitlin Marsh <c.marsh@everick.net.au>
Subject: ACHA Methodology for Denman Solar Farm, Denman

Good Morning,

Thank you for taking the time to reply to the request for registrations sent out in December last year. I have attached Everick Heritage's methodology for the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment and test excavation.

Please take your time and respond to the methodology with any thoughts or comments you may have. If you could please respond by COB 18 February 2021, at the latest.

Kind Regards, and I hope to hear from you soon.

Caitlin Marsh
Archaeologist-Sydney

Suite 101/1 Booth Street, Annandale
Ph: 02 9552 2944

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Brisbane - Townsville - Sydney - Coffs Harbour - Tweed Heads - Canberra - Alice Springs

Web: www.everick.com.au



From: [lilly carroll](#)
To: [Caitlin Marsh](#)
Cc: [Caitlin Marsh](#)
Subject: Re: ACHA Methodology for Denman Solar Farm, Denman
Date: Thursday, 21 January 2021 10:55:31 PM
Attachments: image003.png

Hi Caitlin

I'm just trying to let you know that we agree to the proposals for Denman solar farm

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

On Thursday, January 21, 2021, 11:09 am, Caitlin Marsh <c.marsh@everick.net.au> wrote:

Good Morning,

Thank you for taking the time to reply to the request for registrations sent out in December last year. I have attached Everick Heritage's methodology for the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment and test excavation.

Please take your time and respond to the methodology with any thoughts or comments you may have. If you could please respond by COB 18 February 2021, at the latest.

Kind Regards, and I hope to hear from you soon.

Caitlin Marsh

Archaeologist-Sydney

Suite 101/1 Booth Street, Annandale

Ph: 02 9552 2944

Everick Heritage Pty Ltd

ABN 78 102 206 682

Brisbane - Townsville - Sydney - Coffs Harbour - Tweed Heads - Canberra - Alice Springs

Web: www.everick.com.au



From: [Darleen Johnson](#)
To: [Caitlin Marsh](#)
Subject: Re: ACHA Methodology for Denman Solar Farm, Denman
Date: Saturday, 13 February 2021 7:25:28 AM
Attachments: image003.png

Hi Caitlin,
I have read the project information and methodology for the above project, I endorse the recommendations made.

Kind regards
Ryan Johnson
0475565517

On Thursday, 21 January 2021, 11:09:14 am AEDT, Caitlin Marsh <c.marsh@everick.net.au> wrote:

Good Morning,

Thank you for taking the time to reply to the request for registrations sent out in December last year. I have attached Everick Heritage's methodology for the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment and test excavation.

Please take your time and respond to the methodology with any thoughts or comments you may have. If you could please respond by COB 18 February 2021, at the latest.

Kind Regards, and I hope to hear from you soon.

Caitlin Marsh

Archaeologist-Sydney

Suite 101/1 Booth Street, Annandale

Ph: 02 9552 2944

Everick Heritage Pty Ltd

ABN 78 102 206 682

Brisbane - Townsville - Sydney - Coffs Harbour - Tweed Heads - Canberra - Alice Springs

Web: www.everick.com.au



From: [WIDESCOPE.](#)
To: [Caitlin Marsh](#)
Subject: RE: ACHA Methodology for Denman Solar Farm, Denman
Date: Sunday, 24 January 2021 9:49:47 AM
Attachments: D41C7706DE8D4164B1EE1D7D884FE078.png

Hi Caitlin,

Thank you for providing me with the Methodology Re: Denman Solar Farm, Denman

I have reviewed and support the recommendations outlined in the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA)

I would like to be considered for field work, I am a recognised cultural Knowledge holder with many years of experience in Cultural and heritage work, I am able to supply relevant Insurances on request

Regards
Steven Hickey

From: [Caitlin Marsh](#)
Sent: Thursday, 21 January 2021 11:10 AM
Cc: [Caitlin Marsh](#)
Subject: ACHA Methodology for Denman Solar Farm, Denman

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Caitlin Marsh

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Sent: Friday, 19 February 2021 4:33 PM
To: Caitlin Marsh
Subject: RE: Denman Solar Farm ACHA update
Attachments: WIG Workers Comp 2020-2021.pdf; Certificate of Currency Steven Hickey 2020-2021.pdf

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Cultural Attachment: . I hold cultural knowledge relevant in determining the significance of Aboriginal objects and places in the vicinity of the study area. I hold a cultural connection to the area of the project and surrounding areas

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Sent: Tuesday, 16 February 2021 8:44 AM
Cc: [Caitlin Marsh](#)
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Currently we are looking at commencing fieldwork around the 15 March but this date to be confirmed.

Regards Vanessa

Vanessa Edmonds

Principal-Sydney

Full Member of AACAI

Suite 101/1 Booth Street, Annandale
Ph: 02 9552 2944
Mob: 0429 114 188

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From: [Steven Talbott](#)
To: [Caitlin Marsh](#)
Subject: Re: Denman Solar Farm ACHA update
Date: Tuesday, 16 February 2021 1:28:11 PM
Attachments: image001.png
GIO Mobile Business Protect Certificate of Currency CURRENT.pdf
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Hi Caitlin

I agree with the AHCA methodology.

Caitlin can you please confirm if this falls in the Gomeroi native title claim area

regards

Steven

From: Caitlin Marsh <c.marsh@everick.net.au>
Sent: Monday, 15 February 2021 12:44 PM
Cc: Caitlin Marsh <c.marsh@everick.net.au>
Subject: Denman Solar Farm ACHA update

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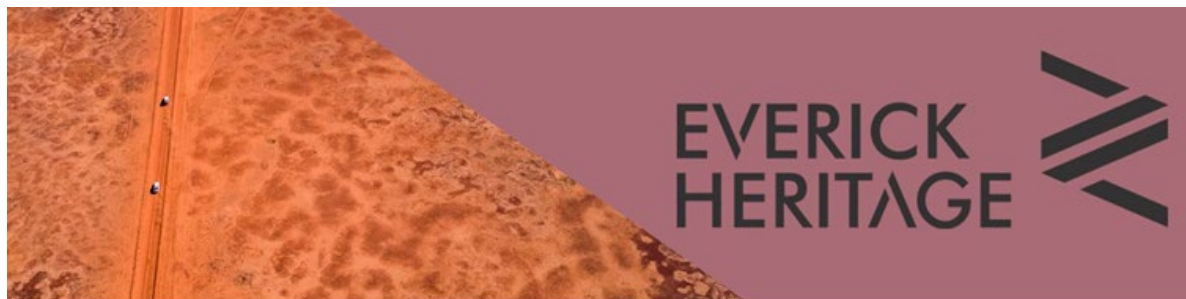
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From: [lilly_carroll](#)
To: [Caitlin Marsh](#)
Cc: [Caitlin Marsh](#)
Subject: Re: Denman Solar Farm ACHA update
Date: Tuesday, 16 February 2021 9:39:40 AM
Attachments: image001.png

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We will have someone ready when you begin

Cheers Paul

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

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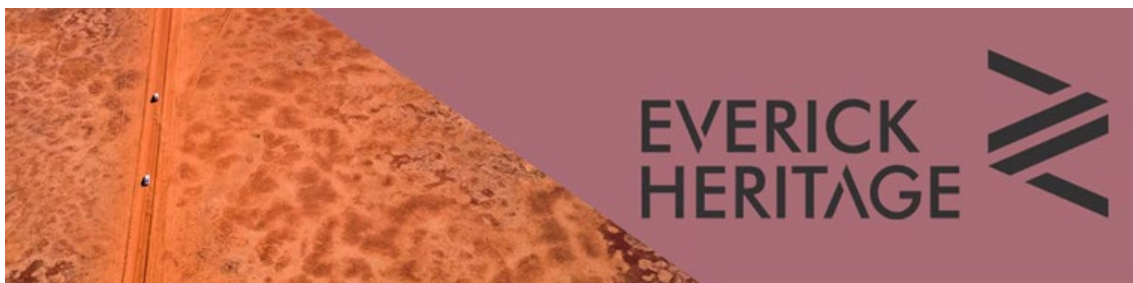
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From: [Cherie Carroll Turrise](#)
To: [Caitlin Marsh](#)
Cc: [Caitlin Marsh](#)
Subject: Re: Denman Solar Farm ACHA - field work EO1
Date: Tuesday, 16 February 2021 11:02:18 AM
Attachments: image001.png

Morning Caitlin

We agree with methodology. We are available should work on field proceed in March. Our cultural connection is that we are aboriginal people that go back to our ancestors. Our ancestors are known to be nomadic. Our family in particular lived up to this nature. We have worked on many projects in the area for years. We have also lived in the area.

Cheers

Cherie (Carroll) Turrise - Director
Gunjeewong Cultural Heritage Corporation
Heritage Preservation
1 Bellevue Place
PORTLAND NSW 2847
Mob: 0438 428 805
Email: gunjeewong@yahoo.com.au



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From: [Corrob](#)
To: [Caitlin Marsh](#)
Subject: Re: Denman Solar Farm - participate in field work
Date: Tuesday, 16 February 2021 10:51:59 AM

Hi Caitlin

We agree with methodology. We would like participate in field work. We are aboriginal people, our ancestors were nomadic Our family have lived in the area.

Kind regards

Marilyn Carroll-Johnson

Director

Corroboree Aboriginal Corporation

Mob: [0415911159](tel:0415911159)

Ph: [0288244324](tel:0288244324)

E: corroboreecorp@bigpond.com

Address: PO Box 3340

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<image001.png>

From: [Perry](#)
To: [Caitlin Marsh](#)
Subject: RE: Denman Solar Farm ACHA update
Date: Tuesday, 16 February 2021 3:11:10 PM
Attachments: image001.png
IMG_20210216_0001.pdf
IMG_20210216_0002.pdf
IMG_20210216_0003.pdf

Hi Caitlin, Emailing the Insurances for the upcoming excavation sieving work -Denman Solar Farm .
UHCW: M/s R Perry

From: Caitlin Marsh [mailto:c.marsh@everick.net.au]
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2021 8:44 AM
Cc: Caitlin Marsh
Subject: Denman Solar Farm ACHA update

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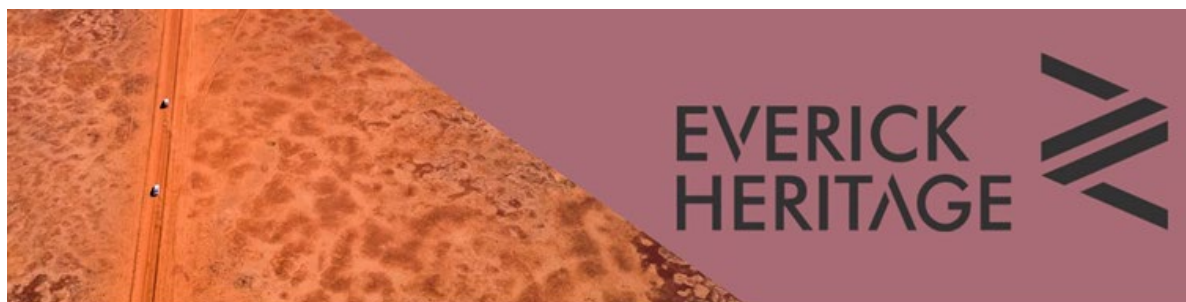
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**Policy number****109XN24758COM****Period of Insurance****From 9 August 2020****To 4pm on 9 August 2021****24 July 2020**

Your Small Business Advantage Pack Certificate of Currency

This Certificate of Currency has been issued by the Insurer and confirms that on the Date of Issue the Policy is current for the Period of Insurance and Sums Insured and other limits as shown herein.

This Certificate of Currency is issued as a matter of information only and confers no rights upon its holder. This Certificate of Currency does not form part of the terms and conditions of the Policy and does not amend, extend, replace or alter the terms, conditions, definitions, limitations and exclusions noted therein.

This Certificate of Currency is provided as a summary only of the cover provided and is current only at the Date of Issue. The Policy may be subsequently altered or cancelled in accordance with its terms after the Date of Issue of this notice without further notice to the holder of this notice.

Certain words used in this document and the Policy have special meanings. The General Definitions Section of the Product Disclosure Statement (PDS) contains such terms. Please read the PDS, the Schedule and any other documents that form part of the Policy for the terms and conditions of cover:

Date of Issue:

24 July 2020

Insurer

Allianz Australia Insurance Limited
ABN 15 000 122 850
AFS Licence No. 234708 (Allianz)
2 Market Street, Sydney NSW 2000

Details

Insured(s)

Steven Hickey

ABN

85 534 438 671

Trading as

Widescope Indigenous Group

Business

Land surveying service

Situation

73 Russell St EMU PLAINS NSW 2750

Public and Products Liability

Description	Limit of Indemnity
Public Liability any one Occurrence	\$10,000,000
Products Liability any one Occurrence and in the aggregate any one Period of Insurance	\$10,000,000
Property in Your care, custody or control any one Occurrence and in the aggregate any one Period of Insurance	\$250,000

Cover is provided anywhere within the Territorial Limits, including Australia or its external territories and the Situations and any other Australian locations set out in this document. Refer to the Product Disclosure Statement (PDS) for full details.

Insured Person	Steven Hickey
	Nature of interest
	Principal

This Certificate of Currency notes the Insured Person's liabilities arising solely and directly from an act or omission out of the Insured only. No cover is provided for the Insured Person's liabilities arising independently of acts of the Insured.

Kind regards,



Richard Feledy
Managing Director
Allianz Australia Limited

From: [Caitlin Marsh](#)
To: [Vanessa Edmonds](#)
Subject: Fwd: Denman Solar Farm
Date: Monday, 1 March 2021 4:12:06 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)

Caitlin Marsh
Everick Heritage Field Office

From: Georgia Pascoe <admin@wanaruahlandcouncil.com.au>
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 4:02:04 PM
To: Caitlin Marsh <c.marsh@everick.net.au>
Subject: RE: Denman Solar Farm

Hi Caitlin,

Thank you for the email.

David Horton will be the representative for the Wanaruah Land Council

Kind Regards

Georgia Pascoe

Administration Officer



Wanaruah Local Aboriginal Land Council

PO Box 127

Muswellbrook NSW 2333

Ph: 02 6543 1288

admin@wanaruahlandcouncil.com.au

<https://wanaruahlalc.wixsite.com/bindi>

<https://www.facebook.com/wanaruah.aboriginallandcouncil/>

I acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land I work upon, The Wanaruah People and pay my respects to Elders past, present and future.

From: Caitlin Marsh <c.marsh@everick.net.au>
Sent: Friday, 26 February 2021 5:41 PM
To: admin@wanaruahlandcouncil.com.au
Subject: Denman Solar Farm

Good Afternoon Georgia,

Please find Attached the fieldwork request letter.

If you have any questions please get in contact with me by 5 March 2021.

Thanks,

Caitlin Marsh

Archaeologist-Sydney

Suite 101/1 Booth Street, Annandale

Ph: 02 9552 2944

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Address: PO Box 3340

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<image001.png>

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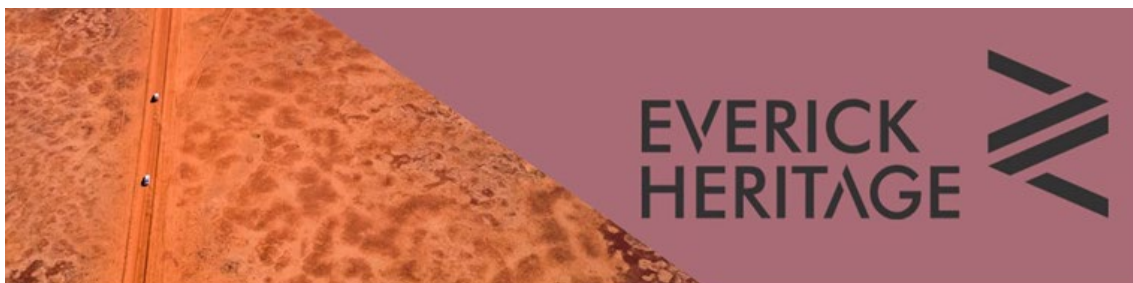
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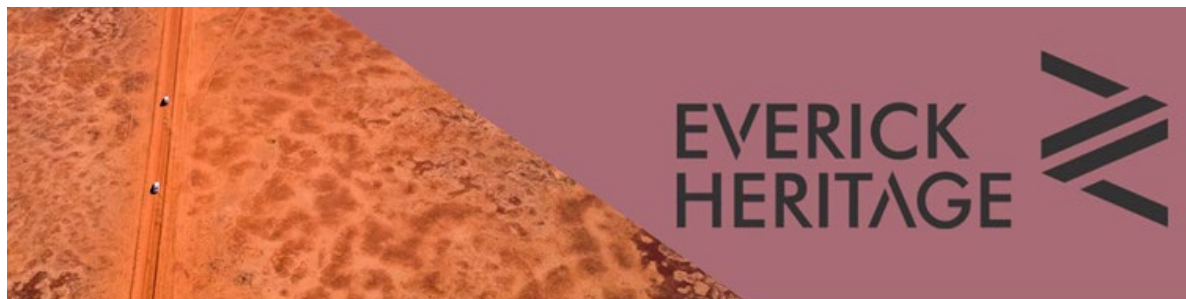
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From: [Corroboree Aboriginal Corporation](#)
To: [Caitlin Marsh](#)
Subject: Re: Denman Solar Farm ACHAR [Our Ref: 1126]
Date: Monday, 10 May 2021 2:53:15 PM

Hi Caitlin
We agree with methodology.

Kind regards
Marilyn Carroll-Johnson
Director
Corroboree Aboriginal Corporation
Mob: [0415911159](tel:0415911159)
Ph: [0288244324](tel:0288244324)
E: corroboreecorp@bigpond.com
Address: PO Box 3340
ROUSE HILL NSW 2155

On 23 Apr 2021, at 2:23 pm, Caitlin Marsh <c.marsh@everick.net.au> wrote:

Hi,
Please find attached a draft ACHAR for the proposed Denman Solar Farm. Due diligence assessment (ELA 2020), survey and test excavation (Everick 2021). Nine Aboriginal sites have been identified in the Project Area. These are primarily isolated finds of stone artefacts and heavily disturbed surface scatters. Denman AS1 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5979) is a small, sparse surface scatter of four stone artefacts. Denman AS2 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5976) comprises an extensive but sparse surface scatter of 54 stone artefacts as well as two subsurface stone artefacts from a disturbed context. Denman IF1-5 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5971 - 5975) and Denman IF7-8 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5977 - 5978) are mostly single stone artefacts.

The likelihood of impact from the Project on Aboriginal objects or places is high. Options regarding mitigation of impact (avoidance of all individual surface stone artefacts) have been considered and assessed as being impractical. It is likely that the proposed Project would not result in impact to all of the surface stone artefacts however identification of every single stone artefact in order to avoid impact to it is not considered feasible due to ground surface visibility conditions. It is likely that salvage collection of artefacts will still result in some artefacts being left on site for future generations.

- Denman IF6 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5976) Aboriginal site recording form (ASRF) has been updated to Denman AS2 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5976) and the extent includes Denman IF1-5 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5971 - 5975) and Denman IF7-8 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5977 - 5979). This has been done in order to better manage Aboriginal cultural material within the Project Area and amended ASRF have been submitted to AHIMS.
- An Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) will be required for Denman AS1 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5976), Denman AS2 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5976), Denman IF1-5 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5971 - 5975) and Denman IF7-8 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5977 - 5978)

in order for the proposed Denman Solar Park to proceed. It is recommended that an area AHIP to cover the entire Project Area be applied for to cover unexpected finds. It is recommended that the AHIP be for a term of five years.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->As a condition of the AHIP it is recommended that salvage (surface collection only) is undertaken.

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- Options for the long term management arrangements for Aboriginal objects (stone artefacts) recovered from the Project Area during test excavation and salvage collection would be in accordance with Requirement 26 of the Code of Practice. An additional option has been proposed for the Aboriginal objects to be stored or reburied at a previously organised offset site associated with the local mining industry (section 12.4).

If you could provide comment on the ACHAR by the 21 May 2021 it would be greatly appreciated, particularly whether you are in agreeance with and AHIP and if so whether this would be for 5 years. Secondly on what long term arrangements would be suitable for any salvaged stone artefacts. The Australian Museum would not be an option.

Warm regards,

Caitlin Marsh

Archaeologist-Sydney

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6B Reserve Street, Annandale 2038

Ph: 02 9552 2944

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<image001.png>

<EV.1126-Denman Solar Farm ACHAR-ATER_20210423.pdf>

From: [Sam Higgs](#)
To: scott@tocomwall.com.au
Cc: [Caitlin Marsh](#); [Vanessa Edmonds](#); [OEH ROGHD Hunter Compliance Mailbox](#)
Subject: RE: Denman Solar Farm ACHAR [Our Ref: 1126]
Date: Tuesday, 27 April 2021 4:59:13 PM
Attachments: image001.png

Hi Scott,

My understanding from the emails forwarded to us is that this project is still at the assessment phase. We have no power to order work stop on an assessment.

If the ACHAR is submitted in support of an AHIP application we will review all of the material to ensure all concerns have been addressed in accordance with the NPW Act and our guidance material. At that point we will be able to request more information or action as appropriate.

Regards,

Sam

Dr Samantha Higgs | Senior Team Leader Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Regulation - North

Heritage NSW, Community Engagement, Department of Premier and Cabinet
Level 6, 10 Valentine Ave, Parramatta | Locked Bag 5020 Parramatta 2124
T: 02 9995 6824 | M: 0499 488 540 | E: sam.higgs@environment.nsw.gov.au



**Premier
& Cabinet**

I acknowledge and respect the traditional custodians and ancestors of the lands I work across.

Heritage NSW and coronavirus (COVID-19)

Heritage NSW has taken steps to protect the safety, health and wellbeing of our staff, communities and customers. Whilst our offices remain open, we have put in place flexible working arrangements for our teams across NSW and continue to adapt our working arrangements as necessary. Face-to-face meetings and field work/site visits with our customers are subject to rules on gatherings and social distancing measures. We thank you for your patience and understanding at this time.

From: Scott Franks <scott@tocomwall.com.au>
Sent: Friday, 23 April 2021 2:29 PM
To: Caitlin Marsh <c.marsh@everick.net.au>; Samantha Gibbins
<Samantha.Gibbins@environment.nsw.gov.au>
Cc: Vanessa Edmonds <v.edmonds@everick.net.au>; OEH ROGHD Hunter Compliance Mailbox
<hunter.compliance@environment.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Re: Denman Solar Farm ACHAR [Our Ref: 1126]

Dear Vanessa,

This is the first time I have been contacted regarding this project. Not even sure how you have got to this point with out any consultation. Tocomwall and the PCWP reject the attached and would not even bother to read the attached. department of environment can you please issue a stop work and have this project started again.

Regards

Scott Franks
Registered native title claimant PCWP
Tocomwall PTY Limited
Scott@tocomwall.com.au
Ph: 0404171544

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On 23 Apr 2021, at 2:24 pm, Caitlin Marsh <c.marsh@everick.net.au> wrote:

Hi,

Please find attached a draft ACHAR for the proposed Denman Solar Farm. Due diligence assessment (ELA 2020), survey and test excavation (Everick 2021). Nine Aboriginal sites have been identified in the Project Area. These are primarily isolated finds of stone artefacts and heavily disturbed surface scatters. Denman AS1 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5979) is a small, sparse surface scatter of four stone artefacts. Denman AS2 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5976) comprises an extensive but sparse surface scatter of 54 stone artefacts as well as two subsurface stone artefacts from a disturbed context. Denman IF1-5 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5971 - 5975) and Denman IF7-8 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5977 - 5978) are mostly single stone artefacts.

The likelihood of impact from the Project on Aboriginal objects or places is high. Options regarding mitigation of impact (avoidance of all individual surface stone artefacts) have been considered and assessed as being impractical. It is likely that the proposed Project would not result in impact to all of the surface stone artefacts however identification of every single stone artefact in order to avoid impact to it is not considered feasible due to ground surface visibility conditions. It is likely that salvage collection of artefacts will still result in some artefacts being left on site for future generations.

* Denman IF6 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5976) Aboriginal site recording form (ASRF) has been updated to Denman AS2 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5976) and the extent includes Denman IF1-5 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5971 - 5975) and Denman IF7-8 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5977 - 5979). This has been done in order to better manage Aboriginal cultural material within the Project Area and amended ASRF have been submitted to AHIMS.

* An Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) will be required for Denman AS1 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5976), Denman AS2 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5976), Denman IF1-5 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5971 - 5975) and Denman IF7-8 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5977 - 5978) in order for the proposed Denman Solar Park to proceed. It is recommended that an area AHIP to cover the entire Project Area be applied for to cover unexpected finds. It is recommended that the AHIP be for a term of five years.

· As a condition of the AHIP it is recommended that salvage (surface collection only) is undertaken.

· On completion of the works an Aboriginal Site Impact Recording Form must be prepared for Denman AS1 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5976), Denman AS2 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5976), Denman IF1-5 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5971 - 5975) and Denman IF7-8 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5977 - 5978) and submitted to AHIMS.

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Warm regards,

Caitlin Marsh
Archaeologist-Sydney

We have moved!
6B Reserve Street, Annandale 2038
Ph: 02 9552 2944

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[cid:image001.png@01D7384B.6AF59120]



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From: [Vanessa Edmonds](#)
To: [Scott Franks](#)
Cc: [Caitlin Marsh](#); [Sam OEH sydney](#); hunter.compliance@environment.nsw.gov.au
Subject: RE: Denman Solar Farm ACHAR [Our Ref: 1126]
Date: Friday, 23 April 2021 2:58:18 PM
Attachments: image001.png

Hi Scott,

My apologies again - we were going by the list sent to us by the Aboriginal Heritage Regulation Team, Heritage NSW. We do not know when or how they update their lists and whilst we endeavour to keep up with RAP name changes and contact details it is extremely difficult on a state-wide basis.

Just so you are aware this area does not appear to be within any Native Title claim under your name and when I spoke with NTSCORP at the registration stage they did not mention that you were a contact for Native Title for that area only Gomeroi.

With regard to the recent contact details I can assure you we will immediately update our log and would expect that now you have pointed it out, Heritage NSW will also. I understand that this is no resolution for you and I will await further advice from the Aboriginal Heritage Regulation Team, Heritage NSW.

Regards Vanessa

Vanessa Edmonds

Principal-Sydney

Full Member of AACAI

6B Reserve Street, Annandale

Ph: 02 9552 2944

Mob: 0429 114 188

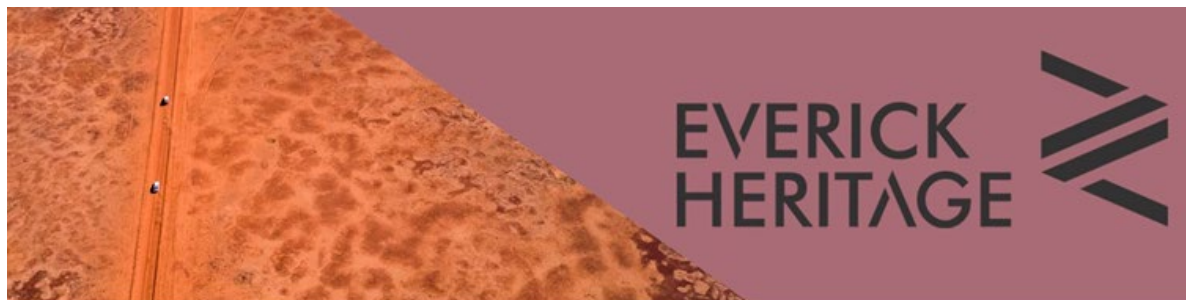
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Web: www.everick.com.au

I acknowledge the traditional owners and custodians of country throughout Australia and their continuing connection to land, culture and community. I pay my respect to Elders past, present and future



From: Scott Franks <scott@tocomwall.com.au>
Sent: Friday, 23 April 2021 2:46 PM
To: Vanessa Edmonds <v.edmonds@everick.net.au>
Cc: Caitlin Marsh <c.marsh@everick.net.au>; Sam OEH sydney <samantha.gibbins@environment.nsw.gov.au>; hunter.compliance@environment.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Re: Denman Solar Farm ACHAR [Our Ref: 1126]

Venessa

Regardless I am one on the authorise person to lodge native title snd a representative of of the PCWP, I briefly looked at you log and I note you have me on it under a notification name that I have not used for over 12 years. I am extremely

concerned that you have not edited until you were provided with a current contact list.

I still request this project is rejected by the department of Environment as this is the second project your firm has now done in our claim area that I have not been notified of until after you have walked our lands with people not authorised by The PCWP. Show some respect I am over it.

Regards

Scott Franks

Registered native title claimant PCWP

Tocomwall PTY Limited

Scott@tocomwall.com.au

Ph: 0404171544

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On 23 Apr 2021, at 2:40 pm, Vanessa Edmonds <v.edmonds@everick.net.au> wrote:

Hi Scott,

Yes it is problematic and I can understand your unwillingness to even bother looking at this report however you were invited to register and yet we had no response. I have attached the Invitation to Register and a copy of the covering email sent by Caitlin (below).

I know how easy it is to miss incoming emails with so many coming in. Next time we will endeavour to follow up with a reminder email. I did mention to Caitlin at the time that it was unusual we had not received a response from Tocomwall. My apologies for any offence or inconvenience we have caused. It was totally unintentional.

Regards Vanessa

Everick Heritage Pty Ltd

-----Original Message-----

From: Caitlin Marsh

Sent: Monday, 14 December 2020 8:55 AM

To: 'scott@tocomwall.com.au' <scott@tocomwall.com.au>

Subject: Denman Solar Park ACHA Invite to Register

Good Morning,

Please find attached letter requesting your response by 5 January 2021.

Kind Regards and I hope you have a pleasant Christmas,

Caitlin Marsh

Vanessa Edmonds

Principal-Sydney

Full Member of AACAI

6B Reserve Street, Annandale

Ph: 02 9552 2944

Mob: 0429 114 188

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<image001.png>

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Warm regards,

Caitlin Marsh
Archaeologist-Sydney

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Ph: 02 9552 2944

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[cid:image001.png@01D7384B.6AF59120]



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<EV1126_ACHA_InviteToRegister.pdf>

From: [Caitlin Marsh](#)
To: [Vanessa Edmonds](#)
Bcc: [Cazadirect@live.com](#); [corroboreecorp@bigpond.com](#); [deckavale@hotmail.com](#); [didgengunawalclan@yahoo.com.au](#); [itmanagement@live.com.au](#); [murrabidgeemullangari@yahoo.com.au](#); [caho77@myune.edu.au](#); [admin@ungooroo.com.au](#); [deshickey@bigpond.com](#); [Widescope.group@live.com](#); [gomerol.namoi@outlook.com](#); [gunjeewong@yahoo.com.au](#); [yunaga1@bigpond.com](#); [admin@wanaruahlandcouncil.com.au](#)
Subject: Denman Solar Farm Draft ACHA response period
Date: Wednesday, 19 May 2021 2:36:00 PM
Attachments: image001.png

Good Afternoon,

This is a reminder that the consultation period for the Draft ACHA for Denman Solar comes to an end on Friday 21 May COB. If you have not already responded with comment about the report, if you have the time we would appreciate comment about the recommendation for an AHIP with a 5 year timeframe. We would also like input for the long term storage of the salvaged stone artefacts. Unfortunately the Australian Museum would not be an option.

If you have any other questions please do not hesitate to get in contact with Vanessa or myself.

Kind regards,

Caitlin Marsh
Archaeologist-Sydney

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Ph: 02 9552 2944

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Appendix D – Archaeological Technical Report

EVERICK HERITAGE

Denman Solar Park, Denman Road, Muswellbrook

Archaeological Technical Report

Written for DPI Australia

Muswellbrook Local Government Area

April 2021



EVERICK HERITAGE

Report Reference:

Edmonds, V. 2021. *Denman Solar Park, Denman Road, Muswellbrook: Archaeological Technical Report*.
Everick Heritage Pty Ltd unpublished report prepared for DPI Australia.



EVERICK HERITAGE PTY LTD

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Ver.	Author(s)	Sections Edited	Date	Authorised
1	V. Edmonds	All	31.03.21	T. Robins
2	V. Edmonds	All	2.04.21	T. Robins

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Executive summary

Background

DPI Australia (DPI) is proposing to develop a solar photovoltaic (PV) generation and storage facility (Solar Park), including network connection to the adjoining 66 kilovolt Ausgrid Power line (the Project). The Project is located at Lot 400 Denman Road, Muswellbrook, New South Wales (NSW) on a single 40 hectare (ha) site (the Project Area).

An Aboriginal heritage due diligence assessment was prepared for the proposed Solar Park by Ecological Australia (ELA) (2020) and nine Aboriginal sites were identified and registered on the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) within the Project Area (Figure 1-2). Eight of the nine Aboriginal sites were isolated finds of stone artefacts (AHIMS ID 37-2-5971 - 5978). The other site was an artefact scatter (AHIMS ID 37-2-5979). The distribution of those sites and other AHIMS sites close to the Project Area is shown in Figure 5-1. In response to the Development Application (DA) No 2020-49 the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Regulation Team, Heritage NSW, has stated that an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) is required to be prepared in order to support an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) application for impact to the nine identified sites under section 90 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 (NSW)*.

Everick Heritage Pty Ltd (Everick Heritage) has been engaged to prepare the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for this Project. This report comprises the Archaeological Technical Report (ATR) which presents the results of the survey and test excavations for the Project Area. A copy of the ACHA Methodology and previous due diligence is provided in Appendix D. This ATR will contribute to an ACHAR to support a DA and AHIP application for works where required.

The Project Area

The Project Area comprises Lot 400 DP 791860, Denman Road, Muswellbrook, NSW. The Project Area is located wholly within the Muswellbrook Local Government Area (LGA) approximately 13 kilometres (km) southwest of Muswellbrook and 10 km northeast of Denman (Figure 1-1). The Project Area consists of 40 hectares (ha) of cleared, grazing land, parts of which have been recently cultivated for agriculture. The infrastructure present on site consists of farm tracks, dams, portable sheep yards and fencing.

Survey

A survey was undertaken of the Project Area over four days between 15 – 18 March 2021. Personnel and timing for the attending the survey are listed in Table 6-1. A further 54 surface stone artefacts were

identified across the crest, upper, middle and lower slopes of the Project Area (Figure 6-1). No further artefacts were located on the floodplain. Areas of potential archaeological deposit (PAD 1-5) were identified on the basis of paddocks which generally corresponded to fencelines, landforms and soil landscapes.

Test excavations

Test excavations were undertaken across four days between 15 – 18 March 2021. One 1 m x 1 m Test Pit and 34 Shovel Test Pits (STP) were undertaken in an approximate 100 m grid across the Project Area (Figure 7-1). All PAD, landforms and soil landscapes were sampled. One stone artefact was recovered from STP5 and one stone artefact from STP6. These STP were located along the crest landform in PAD1 to the west of the Project Area. Table 8-1 and Table 8-2 summarises details regarding location (landform and PAD), total depth and numbers of artefacts found.

Conclusions

Survey and test excavation suggests that the crest landform is the most archaeologically sensitive landform in the Project Area. This landform would have provided an elevated, relatively flat and well drained campsite location with views across the floodplain to the Hunter River. Decades of clearing, ploughing and grazing have likely brought subsurface artefacts in the Project Area to the surface, particularly from the shallow sediments of the crest landform but also elsewhere on the upper and middle slope landforms.

The archaeological signature of the Project Area is best represented by the low density surface scatter of predominantly silcrete stone artefacts, that is Denman AS2 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5976). The two subsurface stone artefacts recovered during test excavation also form part of that site. It is possible that silcrete angular rocks found on the crest and upper slope landforms may be the source of silcrete artefacts found there.

Denman AS1 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5979) is a small, sparse surface scatter of four stone artefacts. This site was unable to be relocated during the current survey and is assessed as being of low scientific significance. Denman AS2 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5976) comprises an extensive but sparse surface scatter of stone artefacts as well as two subsurface stone artefacts from a disturbed context. The raw materials and artefact types are varied and there is moderate research potential for this site based on its size, content and location. Therefore, Denman AS2 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5976) is assessed as being of low to moderate scientific significance. The artefacts retrieved through test excavation are being temporarily stored in a locked cupboard in the Everick Heritage Sydney Office:

6B Reserve Street

Annandale, NSW, 2038

Management measures

- Denman IF6 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5976) Aboriginal site recording form (ASRF) has been updated to Denman AS2 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5976) and the extent includes Denman IF1-5 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5971 - 5975) and Denman IF7-8 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5977 - 5978). This has been done in order to better manage Aboriginal cultural material within the Project Area and an amended ASRF has been submitted to AHIMS.
- An Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) will be required for Denman AS1 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5976), Denman AS2 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5976), Denman IF1-5 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5971 - 5975) and Denman IF7-8 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5977 - 5978) in order for the proposed Denman Solar Park to proceed. It is recommended that an area AHIP to cover the entire Project Area be applied for to cover unexpected finds. As a condition of the AHIP it is recommended that salvage is undertaken. On completion of the works an Aboriginal Site Impact Recording Form must be prepared for Denman AS1 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5976), Denman AS2 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5976), Denman IF1-5 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5971 - 5975) and Denman IF7-8 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5977 - 5978) and submitted to AHIMS.
- An Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) in accordance with the Guide to investigating, assessing and reporting on Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW (OEH 2011) and the Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010 (DECCW 2010a) is being prepared to support the application to Heritage NSW for an AHIP for the Project Area and to consult with the registered Aboriginal parties regarding management measures provide above.
- Options in accordance with Requirement 26 of the Code of Practice are provided for the long term management arrangements for the Aboriginal objects (stone artefacts) recovered during test excavation of the Project Area in section 11.5. The ACHA consultation and report will determine the outcome of the long term management of the Aboriginal objects recovered though test excavation and potentially salvage collection.

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Definitions and abbreviations

ACHA	means Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment
ACHAR	means Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report
AHIMS	means Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System
AHIP	means Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit
<i>ALR Act</i>	means <i>Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983</i>
ASRF	means Aboriginal Site Recording Form
<i>ATSIHP Act</i>	means <i>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984 (Cth)</i>
BP	means Before Present (that is 1950)
Code of Practice	means Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales
Consultation Requirements	means Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010
DA	means Development Application
DECCW	means Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (now Heritage NSW)
DPI	means DPI Australia
DPIE	means Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
due diligence	means Aboriginal heritage due diligence assessment
ELA	means Ecological Australia
<i>EPBC Act</i>	means <i>Environment Protection and Diversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cth)</i>
Everick Heritage	means Everick Heritage Pty Ltd

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the Guide	means Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW
GPS	means Global Positioning System
ha	means hectares
km	means kilometres
LALC	means Local Aboriginal Land Council
LGA	means Local Government Area
m	means metres
mm	means millimetres
<i>NPW Act (NSW)</i> means <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 (NSW)</i>	
OEH	means (former) New South Wales Office of Environment and Heritage (now Heritage NSW)
PAD	means Potential Archaeological Deposit
Project	means solar photovoltaic generation and storage facility (Solar Park)
Project Area	means Lot 400 Denman Road, Muswellbrook
PV	means photovoltaic
RAP	means Registered Aboriginal Party
s	means section

1. Introduction

1.1. Project background

DPI Australia (DPI) is proposing to develop a solar photovoltaic (PV) generation and storage facility (Solar Park), including network connection to the adjoining 66 kilovolt Ausgrid Power line (the Project). The Project is located at Lot 400 Denman Road, Muswellbrook, New South Wales (NSW) on a single 40 hectare (ha) site (the Project Area).

An Aboriginal heritage due diligence assessment (due diligence) was prepared for the proposed Solar Park by Ecological Australia (ELA) (2020) and nine Aboriginal sites were identified and registered on the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) within the Project Area (Figure 1-2). A copy of the Due Diligence is supplied as an appendix to the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Methodology in Appendix D of this report. The following recommendations were made (ELA 2020: 20):

Recommendation 1 –ACHA, Community Consultation and Test Excavation

Based on the relatively undisturbed, archaeologically sensitive nature of the study area and the identification of multiple Aboriginal sites, an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) should be prepared which would include an impact assessment of the proposed development. The ACHA would entail Aboriginal community consultation following the 'Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010' (DECCW 2010) to identify Aboriginal cultural heritage values through consultation with Aboriginal stakeholders.

Further archaeological assessment including detailed field survey with Aboriginal stakeholders should be undertaken to inform archaeological values across the developable area. Subsurface archaeological excavation may be required. The ACHA can be prepared in advance of any DA and inform areas of opportunity and constraint for development.

Recommendation 2 – Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) Application

The ACHA can be used to support a future Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) application to the DPIE if Aboriginal sites cannot be avoided by future development. The DPIE require that AHIP applications are supported by an approval under Part 4 or Part 5 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (such as a DA) as a supporting document

In response to the Development Application (DA) No 2020-49 the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Regulation Team, Heritage NSW, has stated that an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) is required to be prepared in order to support an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) application for impact to the nine identified sites under section 90 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 (NSW)*. In particular, Heritage NSW concerns relate to:

- The proposed activity and assessment of impact
- Aboriginal consultation process
- Assessment of surface sites
- Potential archaeological deposits and subsurface testing
- Aboriginal cultural landscape
- Significance assessment
- Ecologically sustainable development

Everick Heritage Pty Ltd (Everick Heritage) has been engaged to prepare the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for this Project. This report comprises the Archaeological Technical Report (ATR) which presents the results of the survey and test excavations for the Project Area.

1.2. Project Area

The Project Area comprises Lot 400 DP 791860, Denman Road, Muswellbrook, NSW. The Project Area is located wholly within the Muswellbrook Local Government Area (LGA) approximately 13 kilometres (km) southwest of Muswellbrook and 10 km northeast of Denman (Figure 1-1). The Project Area consists of 40 hectares (ha) of cleared, grazing land, parts of which have been recently cultivated for agriculture. The infrastructure present on site consists of farm tracks, dams, portable sheep yards and fencing.

1.3. Project description

The proposed development consists of a photovoltaic (PV) Solar Park using modules mounted on a single axis tracking system with piled support posts. The facility will have a potential peak power generation of up to 20 megawatts. The Denman Road Solar Park will be connected to the Distribution Network Service Provider – Ausgrid. Other infrastructure includes:

- underground and overhead electrical cabling

- internal access tracks
- small operational buildings with parking
- single vehicular access from Denman Road
- full security fencing
- 10 m buffer with landscape screening and fire breaks
- substation and network connection

The following construction activities have been identified:

- mobilisation, establishment of temporary construction compound and laydown areas
- planting of the vegetation screens
- infill of the farm dam
- construction of internal tracks and culverts
- construction of the perimeter fence and the establishment of the firebreak area
- establishment of the Substation and support buildings
- preparation of the Array Area
- installation of piles and the tracking system
- securing modules to the tracking system
- installation and connection of inverters
- trench digging, cable laying
- grid connection
- Solar Park commissioning
- removal of temporary construction compound and facility
- rehabilitation of disturbed areas of the Solar Park.

Large-scale bulk earthworks will not be required. Ground disturbance is low, and it will be principally associated with the installation of steel piles/posts driven or screwed into the ground to support and orientate the solar tracking system and PV modules (ASLAT Consulting 2020: 15). Plant and machinery will comprises pile drivers, mobile crane, diesel generators, earth moving and concreting equipment for Substation and support buildings.

A concept plan and layout for the Solar Park is shown in Figure 1-3 although the final plan will be dependent of the results of this report and the ACHAR. It is anticipated the proposed development will take six months to construct. At the end of the Solar Park operational period (around 30 years or more) all above ground infrastructure would be removed from the Project Area.

1.4. Study aims and objectives

The objectives of this ATR are to document the methodology and results of further survey and test excavation of the Project Area. This ATR will contribute to an ACHAR to support a DA and AHIP application for works where required. This ATR been prepared in accordance with the following guidelines:

- Guide to investigating, assessing and reporting on Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW (the Guide) (OEH 2011).
- Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010 (Consultation Requirements) (Department of Environment Climate Change & Water [DECCW] 2010a).
- Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales 2010 (Code of Practice) (DECCW 2010b).

1.5. Authors and contributors

Vanessa Edmonds (Principal, Everick Heritage) supervised the test excavation undertook the stone artefact recording and analysis and contributed to the production of this ATR. Vanessa has over 35 years' experience in cultural heritage management.

Caitlin Marsh (Archaeologist, Everick Heritage) supervised the survey and assisted with test excavation. Caitlin has a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Archaeology and five years experience in the consulting industry. Caitlin has assisted with test excavation in the Denman area previously.

Jason Giang (Archaeologist, Everick Heritage) assisted with survey and test excavation. Jason also prepared the stratigraphic drawings and technical tables. Jason has two years of consulting experience in the heritage consulting industry in NSW.

Pav Klein (GIS, Everick Heritage) prepared the mapping.

1.6. Report structure

The purpose of this report is to document the methodology and results of the survey and test excavation undertaken for Denman Solar Park. Report structure is as follows:

- Section 1 – Introduction
- Section 2 – Statutory requirements
- Section 3 – Aboriginal stakeholder consultation
- Section 4 – Environmental background: outlines to environmental background of the Project Area
- Section 5 – Archaeological background: outlines to archaeological background of the Project Area
- Section 6 –Details the archaeological survey undertaken of the Project Area
- Section 7 – Details of the test excavation
- Section 8 – Results and discussion
- Section 9 - Significance assessment
- Section 10 – Impact assessment
- Section 11 – Recommendations
- References
- Appendices

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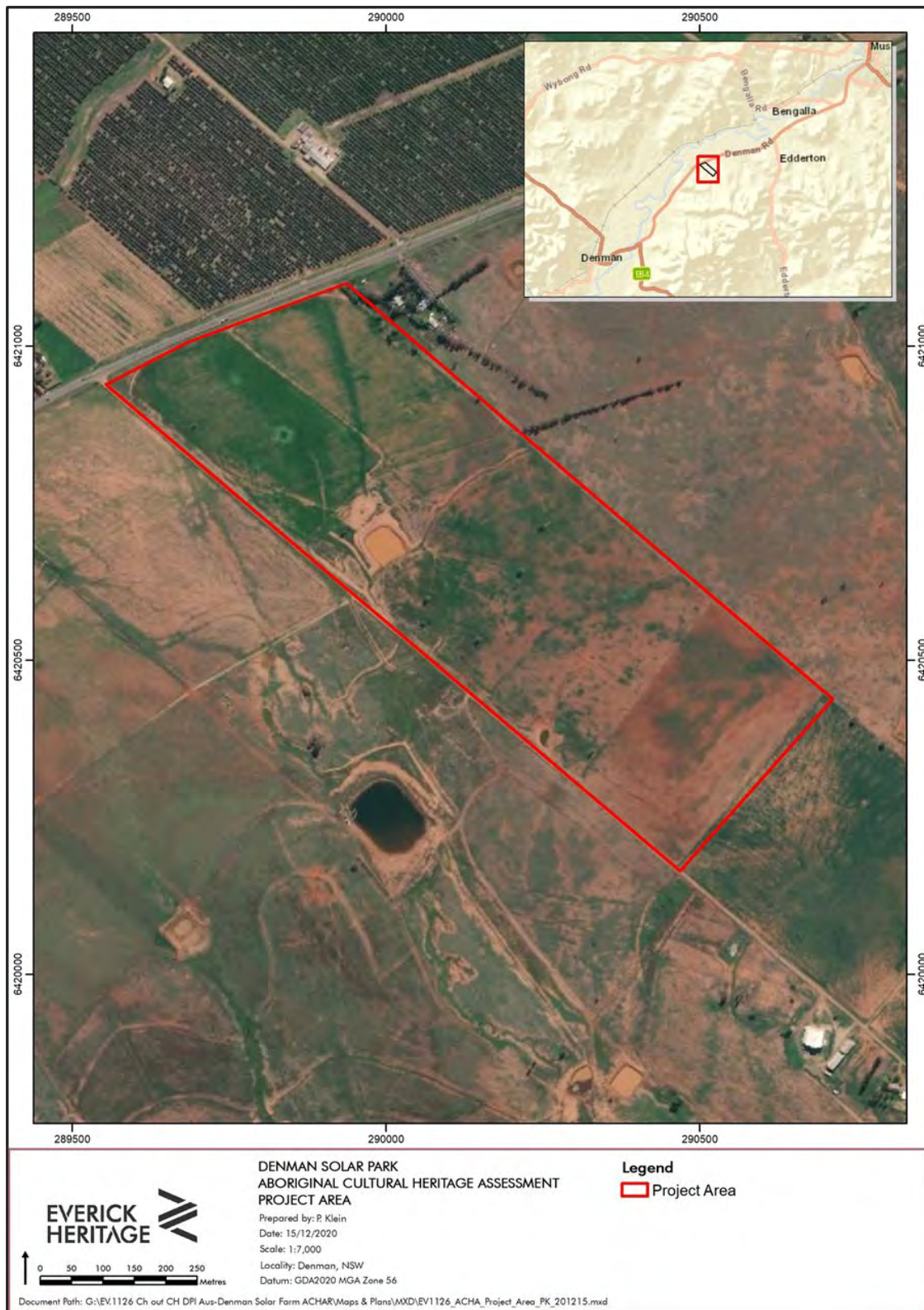


Figure 1-1: The Project Area – Denman Solar Park

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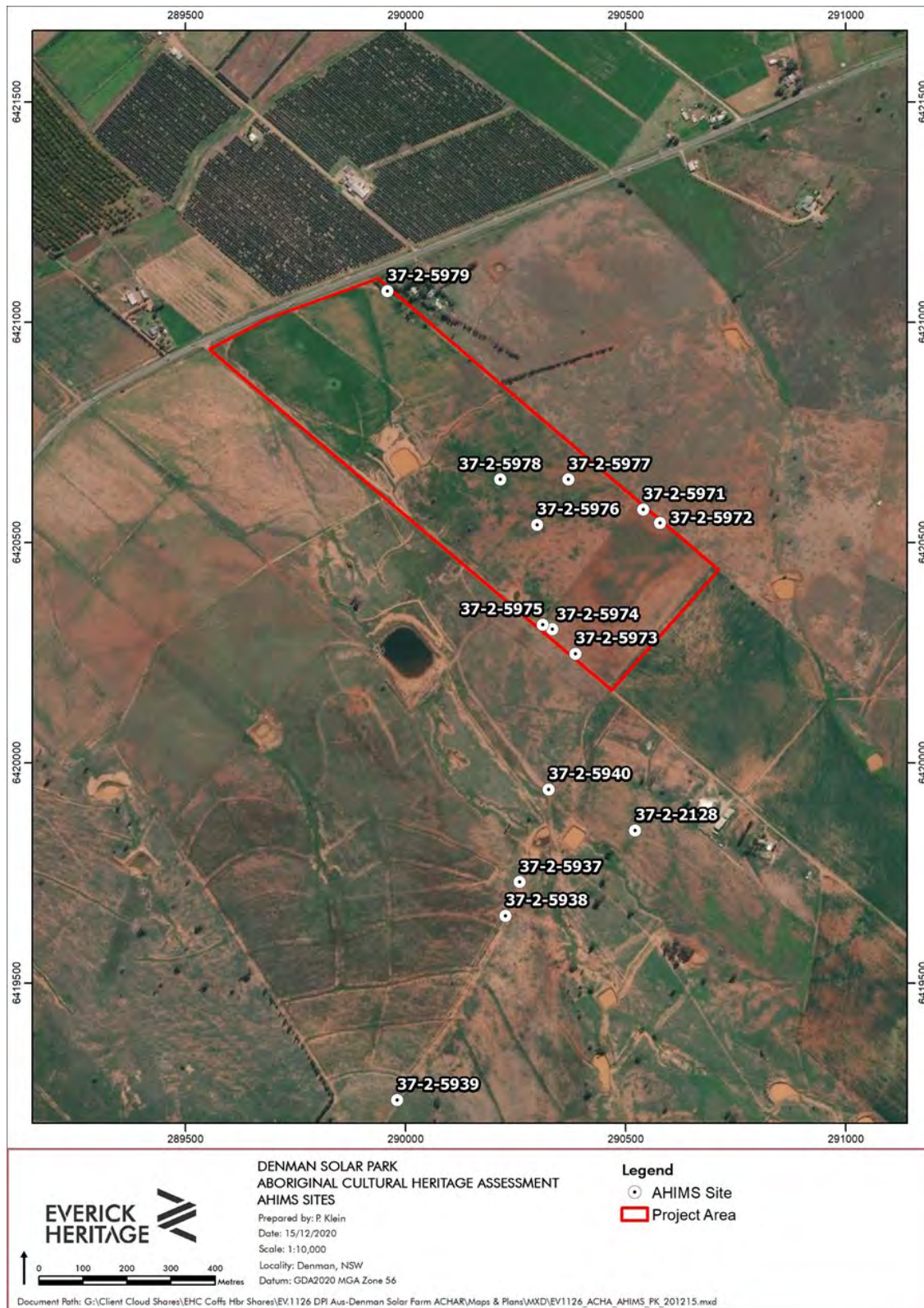


Figure 1-2: Showing the nine Aboriginal sites recorded by ELA (2020) within the Project Area. Also showing previously registered Aboriginal sites outside the Project Area.

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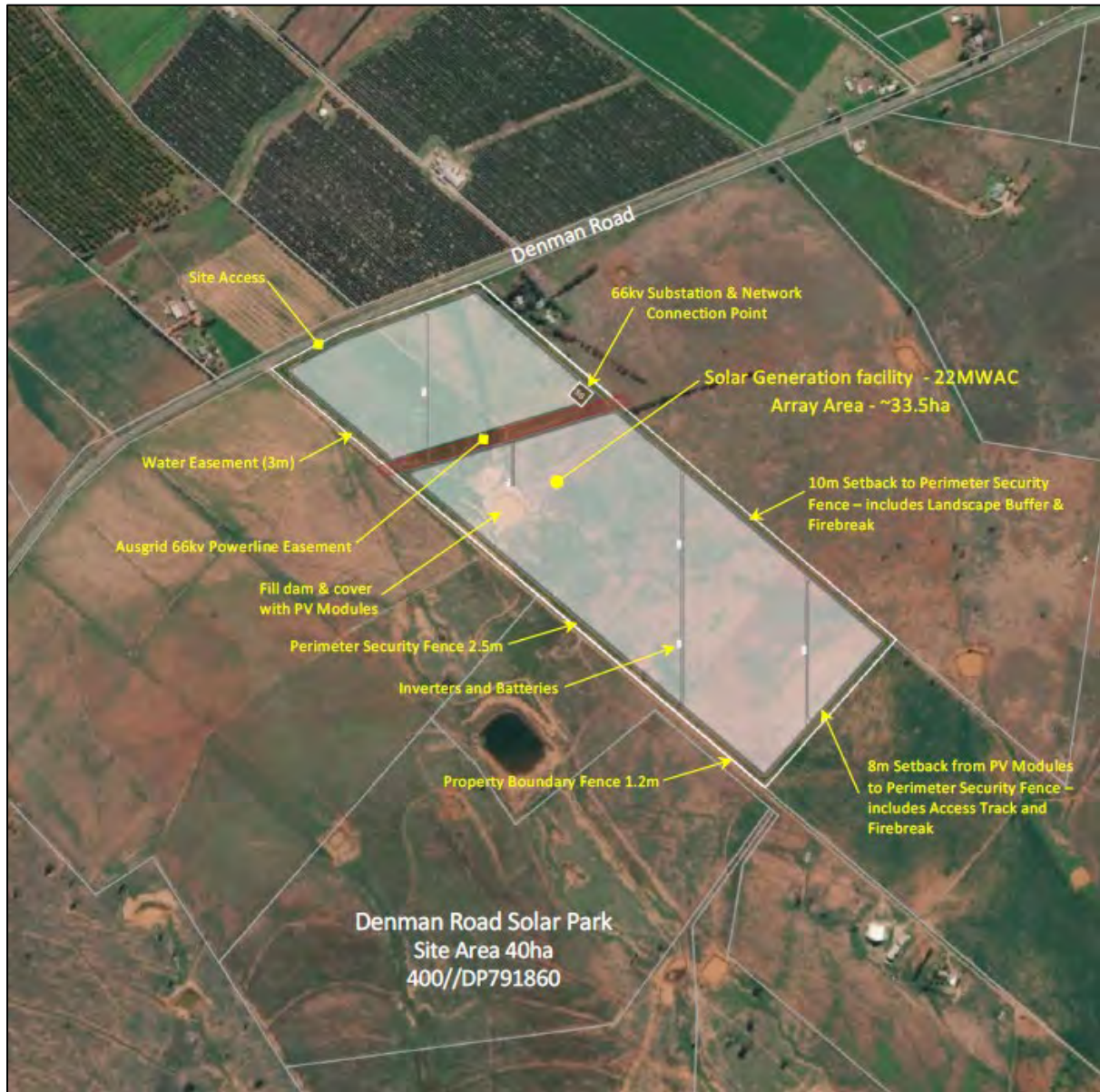


Figure 1-3: Denman Solar Park layout (ASLAT Consulting 2020: Figure 10)

2. Legislative context

2.1. *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 (NSW)*

The *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 (NSW)* (*NPW Act*) provides statutory protection to all Aboriginal places and objects. An Aboriginal object is defined as:

any deposit, object or material evidence (not being a handicraft made for sale) relating to the Aboriginal habitation of the area that comprises New South Wales, being habitation before or concurrent with (or both) the occupation of that area by persons of non-Aboriginal extraction, and includes Aboriginal remains.

An Aboriginal Place is declared by the Minister under section 86 of the *NPW Act*. Aboriginal Places are recognised for their special significance to Aboriginal culture. Aboriginal Places gazetted under the *NPW Act* are listed on the State Heritage Register established under the *Heritage Act 1977 (NSW)*.

Part 6 of the *NPW Act* provides specific protection for Aboriginal objects and declared Aboriginal places by establishing offences of harm. Harm is defined to mean:

destroying, defacing, damaging or moving an object from the land.

The protection provided to Aboriginal objects applies regardless of the level of their significance or issues of land tenure. Aboriginal objects and places are afforded statutory protection in that it is an offence to knowingly or unknowingly desecrate an Aboriginal object or place under section 86 of the *NPW Act*.

In accordance with section 89A, any person who is aware of the location of an Aboriginal object must notify the Chief Executive in the prescribed manner within a reasonable time of becoming aware of that object. The prescribed manner is through preparation and submission of an Aboriginal Site Recording Form to the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) (Department of Environment, Climate Change & Water [DECCW] 2010b: 14).

In order to undertake a proposed activity which is likely to involve harm to an Aboriginal object or Aboriginal Place it is necessary to apply to Heritage NSW for an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP). AHIPs are issued by Heritage NSW under section 90 of the *NPW Act* and permit harm to certain Aboriginal objects and Aboriginal Places.

2.2. *National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2009 (NSW)*

The Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales (Code of Practice), (DECCW 2010a) was adopted was adopted by Clause 3 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2009 (NSW) (NPW Regulation)* and introduced in October 2010 by Heritage NSW (previously DECCW then Office of Environment & Heritage [OEH]).

The purpose of the Code of Practice is to:

- Establish the requirements for undertaking test excavation as a part of an archaeological investigation without an AHIP. If these requirements are complied with and harm is done to an Aboriginal object when undertaking test excavations, those actions will be excluded from the definition of harm and as such will not be considered as committing an offence of harm to an Aboriginal object.
- Establish the requirements that must be followed when carrying out archaeological investigation in NSW where an application for an AHIP is likely to be made.

The Code of Practice also explains what information is required in relation to an archaeological investigation and to support the process of investigating and assessing Aboriginal cultural heritage by specifying the minimum standards for archaeological investigation undertaken in NSW under the *NPW Act*. The Code of Practice also states that for test excavation Aboriginal consultation must be completed to the stage described in subclause 80C(5c) of the *NPW Regulation*.

The *NPW Regulation* states that the proposed applicant must carry out Aboriginal community consultation in accordance with Clause 80 C before applying for an AHIP. The consultation process is detailed in the Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010 (Consultation Requirements) (DECCW 2010a). Briefly, the process requires the registering of interested Aboriginal parties (registered Aboriginal parties [RAPs]), providing those registered Aboriginal parties with a proposed methodology to be used in the preparation of ACHA report to be submitted with the AHIP application and give those parties an opportunity to make submissions on the proposed methodology.

Part 6 of the *NPW Act*, states that anyone proposing to carry out an activity that may harm an Aboriginal object or a declared Aboriginal place must investigate, assess and report on the harm that may be caused by the activity they propose. An Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment report (ACHAR) is a written report detailing the results of the assessment and recommendations for actions to be taken before, during and after an activity to manage and protect Aboriginal objects and declared Aboriginal places identified by the investigation and assessment. The ACHAR will support any application made to Heritage NSW for an AHIP where harm cannot be avoided.

2.3. *Native Title Act 1994 (NSW)*

The *Native Title Act 1994 (NSW)* was introduced to work in conjunction with the *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)*. Native Title claims, registers and Indigenous Land Use Agreements are administered under the Act. A search of National Native Title Tribunal was undertaken on 24 March 2021. The search showed that there are no claims made within the Muswellbrook Shire Council LGA.

2.4. *Aboriginal Lands Right Act 1983 (NSW)*

Aboriginal Land Councils (at the State and local level) were established by the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983 (NSW) (ALR Act)*. Aboriginal Land Councils have a statutory obligation under the ALR Act to:

- take action to protect the culture and heritage of Aboriginal persons in the council's area, subject to any other law, and
- promote awareness in the community of the culture and heritage of Aboriginal persons in the council's area.

The Project Area is within the boundary of the Wanaruah LALC who is a registered Aboriginal party for this Project and have been included in the consultation process and in the fieldwork.

3. Consultation

The Aboriginal community consultation for this Project has commenced in accordance with the Consultation Requirements. Consultation for the test excavations has commenced in accordance with *NPW Regulation* 80C and completed to the stage described in subclause 80C(5c).

Table 3-1 provides a list of those Aboriginal parties who registered an interest in the Project. In accordance with Step 4.3 of the Consultation Requirements and in accordance with subclause 80C(6) of the *NPW Regulation*. A copy of the ACHA methodology was sent to the registered Aboriginal parties (RAPs) by email and mail on 14 December 2020 requesting a response by the 5 January, allowing extra time to account for the Christmas period (Appendix D). Ten RAPs responded in support of the methodology. No further comment was provided by the remaining RAPs.

Table 3-1: Registered Aboriginal parties. Responses to Archaeological Methodology highlighted in bold.

Organisation	First Name	Last Name
A1 Indigenous Services	Carolyn	Hickey
Corroboree Aboriginal Corporation	Marilyn	Carroll-Johnson
D F T V Enterprises	Derek	Vale Snr
Didge Ngunawal Clan	Lilly	Carroll
Gungeewong	Cherie	Carroll Turrise
Jumbunna Traffic Management Group Pty Ltd	Norm	Archibald
Murra Bidgee Mullangari Aboriginal Corporation	Darleen	Johnston
Nunnawanna Aboriginal Corporation	Colin	Ahoy
Ungooroo Aboriginal Corporation	Alan	Paget
Wanaruah LALC	Georgia	Pascoe
Wattaka Wonnarua CC Service	Des	Hickey
Widescope Indigenous Group	Steven	Hickey
Gomerioi People	Steven	Talbot
Upper Hunter Wonnarua Council	Rhoda and Georgina	Perry

A fieldwork roster for survey and test excavation was based on those groups and/or individuals who provided responses to the Archaeological Methodology, provided insurances and those who provided a statement of cultural attachment to the area (Table 3-2). Survey and test excavation was conducted over four days from the 15 to the 18 March 2021. The ACHAR will provide full details of the consultation process.

A copy of this ATR was provided to the RAPs for review with the ACHAR on the 23 April 2021.

Table 3-2: RAP representatives participating in fieldwork

RAP name	RAP organisation
Stephen Hickey	Widescope Indigenous Group
Christine Paul	Upper Hunter Wonnarua Council
Steven Talbot	Gomeroi People
David Horton	Wanaruah Land Council

4. Environmental context

The following paragraphs summarise the known environmental conditions as a backdrop to the survey and test excavation methodology.

4.1. Geomorphology and soils

The Project Area forms part of the Central Lowlands geomorphic region and is entirely located within the Jerrys Plains geological subgroup (part of the Singleton Supergroup), which comprises coarse-grained sandstone, fine to medium grained lithic (to quartz-lithic) sandstone, mudstone, coal seams, carbonaceous claystone, tuffaceous claystone and siltstone with fossil plant debris and pebble paraconglomerate. The Jerrys Plains subgroup is a result of depositional environment (Quaternary Alluvium), representing a sequence of deltaic deposits. Whilst sandstone, mudstone, siltstone and claystone are all common raw materials in manufacture of Aboriginal stone artefacts it is not clear how close to the surface these materials might be. It is possible that these types of materials may have been accessible at the surface via eroded gravels in creek and riverbeds.

The Project Area is located within two different soil landscapes (Figure 4-1). The northwest third of the Project Area is situated in the Hunter soil landscape. These soils have developed on the floodplains and river terraces of the Hunter River and associated tributaries (Regal et al 2017: 19). Soils within the Hunter soil landscape are typically well-drained, with low to moderate levels of acidity and low to moderate erodibility. The soils include Brown Clays and Black Earths are present in this landscape with Chernozems on prior stream channels adjacent to the Dartbrook soil landscape. Brown Clays are brownish black to brown clay becoming darker with depth. Black Earths comprise very dark brown silty clay up 150 mm in depth with a gradual change to clay. ELA (2020: 12) predicts these soils will allow for the retainment of intact stratigraphic layers and archaeological deposits.

The southeast two third of the Project Area is situated in the Dartbrook soil landscape which possesses similar characteristics to the Hunter soil landscape but with well-draining soils that are slightly more acidic than Hunter soils and slightly more prone to eroding (Figure 4-1). Based on the ELA (2020: 12) prediction regarding the Hunter soil landscape that there may be less probability of finding intact stratigraphic layers in the Dartbrook soil landscape where erodibility is higher.

The Project Area landscape is gently sloping downwards from the southwest towards Denman Road (Figure 4-2). Elevation varies between 50 m above sea level in the south and 130 m above sea level in the north.

4.2. Hydrology

A second-order drainage line runs north to south through the northeast of the Project Area and would likely have provided a temporary water source to past Aboriginal populations traversing the landscape. The Project Area is also situated, at its closest point, approximately 800 m from the Hunter River, a major river system in the Hunter Valley and focal point of Aboriginal activity in the past providing a permanent water source.

4.3. Vegetation

The Project Area is situated within the Hunter sub-bioregion, which forms one of the northernmost portions of the Sydney Basin bioregion. There is no native vegetation left within the Project Area (or surrounds) due to clearing for intensive agriculture. Prior to clearance, the native vegetation was likely to have comprised open woodland of White Box, Forest Red Gum, Narrow-leaved Ironbark, Grey Box, Grey Gum, Spotted Gum, Rough-barked Apple. River Oak and River Red Gums would have occurred along the Hunter. This open woodland would have provided ample habitat for animals, reptiles and birds as a food resources as well as supplying material items such as bark for shelter, canoes, container, string and weapons.

4.4. Climate

Denman has hot summers and cold winters. Annually, the temperature typically varies from 3 degrees Celsius to 32 degrees Celsius and is rarely below -0 degrees Celsius or above 38 degrees Celsius.

4.5. Land use history

The Project Area has been entirely cleared of vegetation for agriculture. The adjoining land is also cleared grazing land, which has been cultivated for agriculture since the 1800s. Much of the land is part of the BHP, Mt Arthur Coal Mine Buffer Area (ASLAT Consulting 2020). Dams, track and fence lines have created moderate disturbance in those areas. More generally, ploughing, cultivation and grazing have occurred across the Project Area resulting in moderate exposure of the ground surface.

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Figure 4-1: Soil landscapes of the Project Area

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Figure 4-2: Contours of the Project Area

5. Archaeological context

5.1. Database searches

Caution should be taken when using the Heritage NSW Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) database to reach conclusions about site prevalence or distribution. For example, a lack of sites in a given area should not be seen as evidence that the area was not occupied by Aboriginal people. It may simply be an indication that it has not been surveyed for cultural heritage, or that the surveys were undertaken in areas of poor surface visibility. Further to this, care needs to be taken when looking at the classification of sites. For example, the decision to classify a site an artefact scatter containing shell, rather than a midden can be a highly subjective exercise, the threshold for which may vary between archaeologists. It is also important to note that the nature and location of Aboriginal sites is can be culturally sensitive information and should only be made publicly available with the consent of the Aboriginal community.

A search of AHIMS was initially conducted on 15 December 2020 (Client Service ID: 557180) with the following coordinates:

Lat, Long From : -32.3489, 150.7403

Lat, Long To : -32.3128, 150.7974

Buffer: 1 km

A total of 64 Aboriginal sites were returned, a summary of the AHIMS search is detailed in Table 5-1. Nine Aboriginal objects and zero Aboriginal Places were identified as located within the Project Area. All nine Aboriginal objects were identified and recorded as part of the Due Diligence (ELA 2020). Eight of the nine Aboriginal sites were isolated finds of stone artefacts (AHIMS ID 37-2-5971 - 37-2-5978). The other site was an artefact scatter (AHIMS ID 37-2-5979). The distribution of those sites and other AHIMS sites close to the Project Area is shown in Figure 5-1.

The nearest site located outside of the Project Area was located approximately 290 m to the south (AHIMS ID 37-2-5940). All sites identified within the AHIMS search were artefact sites, and 16 of the sites are listed as 'Destroyed'. A summary of all 64 Aboriginal sites returned in the AHIMS search is provided in Appendix B.

Table 5-1: Summary of site types in AHIMS search (Client Service ID: 557180)

Site type	Number	Percentage of total (%)
Artefact (Isolated or Scatter)	64	100
Total	64	100

5.2. Other database searches

The following heritage registers were also accessed on 15 December 2020 to determine if any Aboriginal heritage sites or cultural values were present:

- The National Heritage List - Contains no heritage listings within or within close proximity to the Project Area.
- Commonwealth Heritage List - Contains no heritage listings within or within close proximity to the Project Area.
- Register of the National Estate - Contains no heritage listings within or within close proximity to the Project Area.
- The State Heritage Register - Contains no heritage listings under Section 1 or 2 (Aboriginal Places listed under the *NPW Act* and Items listed under the *Heritage Act 1977 (NSW)* within or within close proximity to the Project Area.
- The Register of the National Trust of Australia - Contains no listings within or within close proximity to the Project Area.
- Muswellbrook LEP 2009 – Contains no listings within or within close proximity to the Project Area.
- AHIP public register – There are no current AHIPs across the Project Area.

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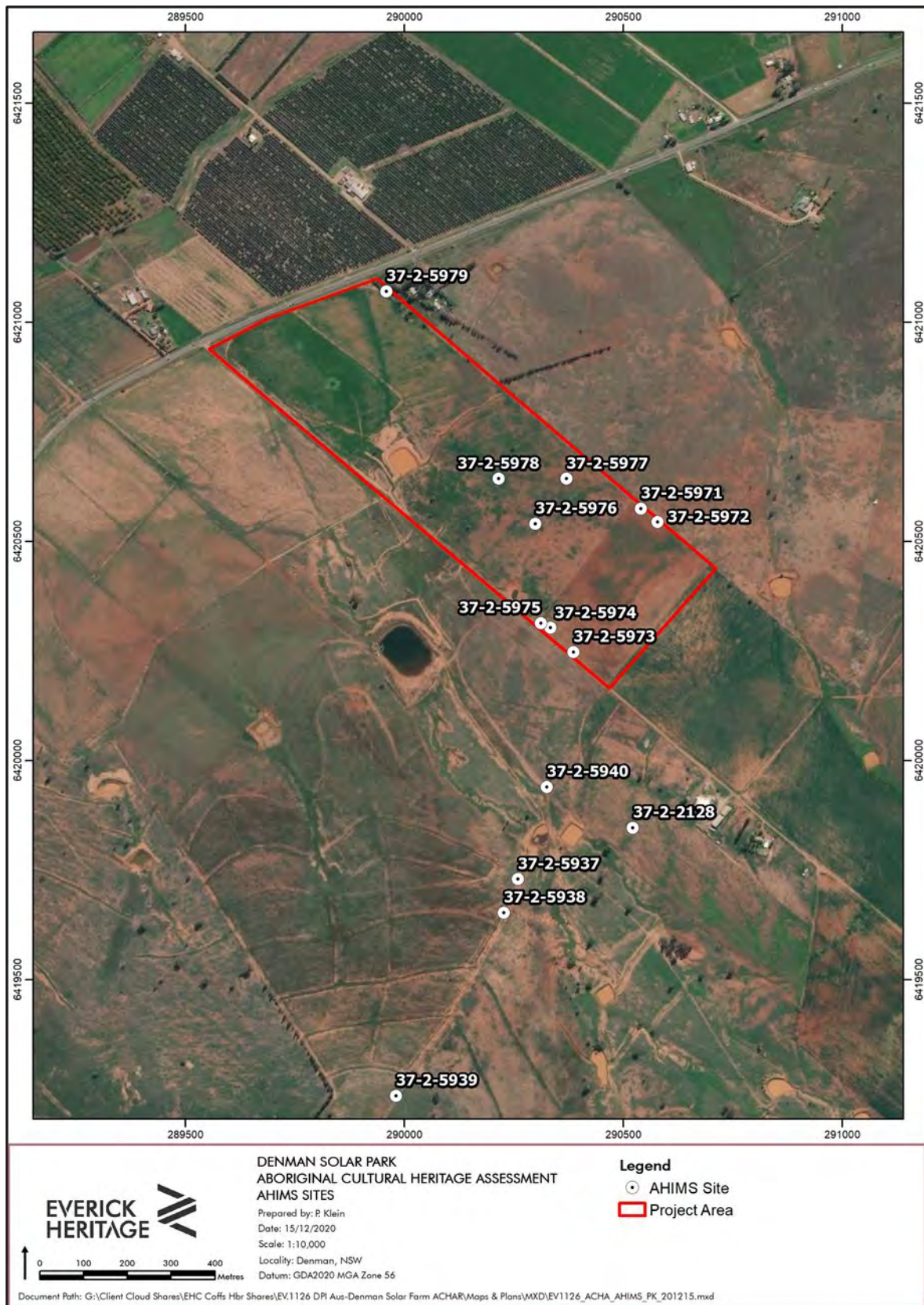


Figure 5-1: AHIMS registered sites within and close to the Project Area

5.3. Previous archaeological assessment

Of most relevance to this report is the previous due diligence undertaken by ELA (2020) and a copy of this is provided as an appendix to the ACHA methodology in Appendix D. A site inspection of the Project Area was carried out on 14 February 2020 by ELA (2020). The site inspection,

....covered the entirety of the property, targeting areas identified as possessing archaeological potential.

Ground disturbance within the Project Area was considered to be low to moderate, with disturbances associated with land used for pastoral grazing, low intensity crop cultivation and the construction of dams within the central portion of the property (ELA 2020: 15).

A total of nine Aboriginal sites were identified within the Project Area. The sites comprised eight isolated stone artefact finds (AHIMS ID 37-2-5971 - 5978) and one artefact scatter site (AHIMS ID 37-2-5979) (Figure 5-1). The majority of these sites were found to occur '...on a gently sloping landform located approximately 850 m southeast of the Hunter River.' The identification of the nine artefact sites was aided by high ground exposure across the Project Area due to drought and livestock grazing (ELA 2020: 15). It was predicted that additional surface artefacts would be present across the Project Area but ELA (2020: 15) were unable to identify these due to time and personnel constraints.

Based on the assessed low levels of ground disturbance within the Project Area, the second-order drainage line traversing the central portion of the Project Area and the nearby presence of the Hunter River, ELA (2020: 15) assessed the Project Area as possessing moderate to high archaeological potential. The recommendations of that due diligence have been summarised in section 1.1.

Other previous assessments have concentrated on coal mining operations in the region such as Mount Arthur, Muswellbrook Coal Company and Mount Pleasant. The result of assessment for those coal mines generally demonstrate that artefact sites (surface and subsurface) are the most commonly occurring type of Aboriginal archaeological site found. The closest coal mine, Mt Pleasant is approximately 10-12 km north of the Project Area. The most recent assessment for this coal mine was conducted in 2017 by Niche Environment and Heritage (Niche). Niche (2017: 29) provided a predictive model based on criteria relating to known patterns of Aboriginal land use and occupation of the region, distribution of known sites in their Study Area (Mount Pleasant), geomorphology, terrain and land use. Aspects of that predictive model are provided below where these are likely to be relevant to the current Project Area.

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- Open lithic sites (artefact scatters and isolated artefacts) would be the most likely site type to occur, being most common in proximity to water-related landforms such as floodplains, alluvial terraces and gentle slopes <100 m from natural watercourses.
- Ceremonial sites are unlikely to occur due to recent land use history.
- Stone arrangements are very rare but do occur in the much broader region. There is limited chance of these occurring in the Study Area due to the level of surface disturbance from past land use.
- The geological characteristics of the Study Area are not consistent with those required for rock shelters. As such, closed sites (such as rock shelters with potential for art, artefacts and/or PADs) are unlikely to occur.
- Limited potential for bedrock exposure consequently reduces the potential for sites such as axe grinding grooves or quarries, although they may be present in association with the hill slopes and crest located above the flood plains of the Hunter River.
- Scarred trees exhibit scars caused by the removal of bark or wood. There is almost nil possibility for scarred trees to occur due to the extensive clearing and agricultural activities that have occurred since European colonisation.
- Burials are rare but do occur in the wider region and are associated with sandy soils and rockshelters. Burials are unlikely to occur due to the lack of suitable contexts, absence of rockshelters, the high level of erosion present and historic surface disturbance.
- Artefact scatters and isolated artefacts in open site context would be the most likely Aboriginal archaeological sites to occur. Isolated artefacts occur in almost every part of the landscape and the identification of those sites will be dependent on ground surface visibility and exposure.

Subsurface test excavation, as part of an ACHA, was undertaken and focused on landform units of potential archaeological sensitivity and included landforms of both higher and lower archaeological potential including within the Hunter soil landscape (west side of the river) (Niche 2017: 37).

Test pits were excavated in accordance with Requirement 16 and Requirement 17 of the Code of Practice as follows:

- The test excavation pits were placed in systematic manner appropriate to the scale and locations being investigated, with each investigation point being separated by at least 5 m. Original layout of test excavation pits were on a 20 m x 20 m grid system.
- Test excavation pits measure 500 mm x 500 mm.

- Test excavation pits extended into 1 m by 1 m units in the event of deposits of deeper than 600 mm were found or any archaeological features were located.
- The test excavation pits were hand excavated using hand tools only.
- The test excavation program utilised 50 mm spits for the first test pit for each location, and 100 mm spits for each test pit thereafter (or appropriate sediment profile/stratigraphic excavation, whichever is smaller).
- Spits re-adjusted to 50 mm should any cultural layers, features or high density of artefacts located. Should well defined cultural layers be found, the program allowed for spits to follow the actual horizons of those layers until all cultural materials are excavated.
- All excavated soil dry sieved through 5 mm aperture wire mesh. Dry sieving was conducted next to each pit, on a tarpaulin and the pits were backfilled upon completion of the excavation of each sample location.
- Any artefacts and samples were provided with unique identification numbers, tagged, bagged and prepared for further analysis on site/at excavation base.
- Excavation units were recorded using standard archaeological practises including written information of the test unit, and photographic and scale-drawn records of the stratigraphy/soil profile, features and informative Aboriginal objects were made for each single excavation point

Test excavation occurred across four areas (Figure 3-3). Of these only Areas 2 and 4 were located in the Hunter soil landscape. The test excavation areas were also much closer the Hunter River (within 200 m). Areas 1 and 3 were located in the Bayswater soil landscape on higher ground overlooking the river. The Bayswater soil landscape occurs just outside the current Project Area (Figure 2-1). Generally, a sterile B clay horizon was reached between 200-300 mm in depth except in Area 4, on the banks of the Hunter River where the B horizon appeared at 100-120 mm in depth. No artefacts were found in Areas 1 or 2. One artefact was found in Area 3 and 17 artefacts were found in Area 4. In all but one test pits the artefacts were found in the top 200 mm of deposit. The majority of artefacts were made from silcrete with a smaller component made from quartz, slate and quartzite. Nearly all artefacts comprised broken flakes. Niche (2017: 48) attributed the high level of breakage to agricultural activities such as clearing and ploughing.



Figure 5-2: Test Areas 1-4, Mount Pleasant (Niche 2017: Figure 8)

5.4. Summary and predictive model

Nine AHIMS registered sites are located within the Project Area. Based on recent test excavations at Mount Pleasant Coal Mine by Niche (2017) the following predictive statements regarding the proposed test excavation of the Project Area can be made:

- The A horizon is likely to be shallow at between 0-300 mm maximum

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- The subsurface nature of archaeological deposit across the Project Area, where present, is likely to comprise very sparse numbers of stone artefacts
- No other archaeological features or site types (eg hearths) are likely to be found
- If stone artefacts are present these will likely be found in the top 200 mm of deposit
- Potentially numbers of subsurface artefacts may increase with proximity to water.

6. Archaeological survey

6.1. Previous site inspection

A site inspection of the Project Area was carried out on 14 February 2020 (ELA 2020). The site inspection,

.....covered the entirety of the property, targeting areas identified as possessing archaeological potential.

Unfortunately, the site inspection did not identify which areas possessed archaeological potential nor did not it supply information in accordance with the Code of Practice. No Aboriginal field representatives were present, and no areas of potential archaeological deposit (PAD) were identified although nine Aboriginal sites were identified and recorded.

6.2. Aims

The primary aims of this survey were:

- Provide the RAPs with an opportunity to walk across the Project Area and comment on potential archaeological and cultural sensitivity
- Relocate all nine registered Aboriginal sites (artefacts)
- Locate and record any new Aboriginal sites
- Identify any landscape features in the Project Area which might contain Aboriginal objects, that is areas of potential archaeological deposit (PAD).
- To establish if the Project Area contained areas of ground disturbance and map the extent and nature of that disturbance.

6.3. Survey strategy

Although previous inspection of the Project Area had recorded nine Aboriginal sites, eight of these were isolated stone artefacts spread across the Project Area. No specific area of PAD had been identified. Therefore, prior to excavation, it was proposed to survey each paddock in conjunction with the RAPs to establish if any patterning to the artefacts may lead to an interpretation regarding the existence of

potential archaeological deposit. The survey strategy was generally to undertake linear pedestrian transects targeting area of ground surface visibility. Five general survey units were identified based on fencelines/paddocks within the Project Area (Figure 6-1; Table 6-2). These survey units did approximately correspond with landform units and soil landscapes.

6.4. Timing and personnel

A survey was undertaken of the Project Area over four days between 15 – 18 March 2021. Personnel and timing for the attending the survey are listed in Table 6-1.

Table 6-1: Personnel and timing for field survey

Name	Organisation	Role	Dates
Caitlin Marsh	Everick Heritage	Survey supervisor	15-18 March 2021
Jason Giang	Everick Heritage	Survey assistant	15-18 March 2021
Steven Talbot	Gomeroi People	RAP	16-17 March 2021
Steven Hickey	Widescope	RAP	15-18 March 2021
David Horton	Wanaruah LALC	RAP	15-17 March 2021
Christine Paul	Upper Hunter Wonnarua Council Inc	RAP	15-18 March 2021

6.5. Constraints

The survey was generally undertaken in partially cloudy and windy conditions. The final day of survey (18 March 2021) survey was undertaken in moderate rain and harsh winds. Ground cover across the Project Area consisted of dense, tall grass covering with extensive weed inclusions and presented the only major constraint to the survey by severely limiting ground surface visibility.

6.6. Survey methodology

All requirements under the Code of Practice were fulfilled. The methodology was to undertake a series of pedestrian transect across the entire Project Area targeting ground surface exposures for evidence of stone artefacts. The survey was generally conducted for each paddock in the morning to establish whether areas of PAD were present prior to test excavation (section 7).

Only one survey team member had possession of the Global Positioning System (GPS) consequently only one set of transects was able to be recorded (Figure 6-1). Where sites and/or objects were identified during field survey, their location was recorded with a GPS (using GDA 94 datum) using a Samsung Tablet S2. The platform used for this mapping of data is called Avenza, which records the GPS points, track logs, and enables photographs to be taken with the GPS data. Survey notes were then described using the platform, Avenza Maps, a digital recording sheet. Within Avenza, notes were made of observable disturbance, vegetation communities and soil exposures where visible. Hand written survey notes were also made. A photographic record was kept of all survey units to record aspects such as surface exposures, vegetation, disturbance and areas of archaeological potential. Scales were used for photographs where appropriate.

6.7. Survey coverage

Five Survey Units were identified across the Project Area which generally conformed to paddock fencelines (Figure 6-1). Conveniently, the Survey Units also generally aligned with landforms and soil landscapes. In general vegetation cover was high and exposure correspondingly low (Figure 6-5 - Figure 6-7). Exposure was higher in the crest and upper slopes due to eroding soils. Elsewhere exposure was generally limited to fencelines, tracks and dams (Figure 6-2-Figure 6-4). After vegetation cover and exposure conditions were taken into account the survey effectively covered around 2.7 per cent of the total Project Area (Table 6-2).

Table 6-2: Survey coverage

Survey Unit	Landform	Size (square metres)	Vegetation cover (%)	Exposure (%)	Effective coverage (%)	PAD	Number of new surface artefacts
1	Crest and upper slopes	87,200	80	30	5,232 (6)	PAD 1	34
2	Middle and lower slopes	100,600	85	20	3,018 (3)	PAD 2	16
3	Middle and lower slopes	60,900	85	10	913.50 (1.5)	PAD 3	1
4	Lower slopes	20,800	90	10	208 (1)	PAD 4	3
5	Floodplain	130,500	80	5	1,305 (1)	PAD 5	0
		400,000			10,676.50 (2.7)		

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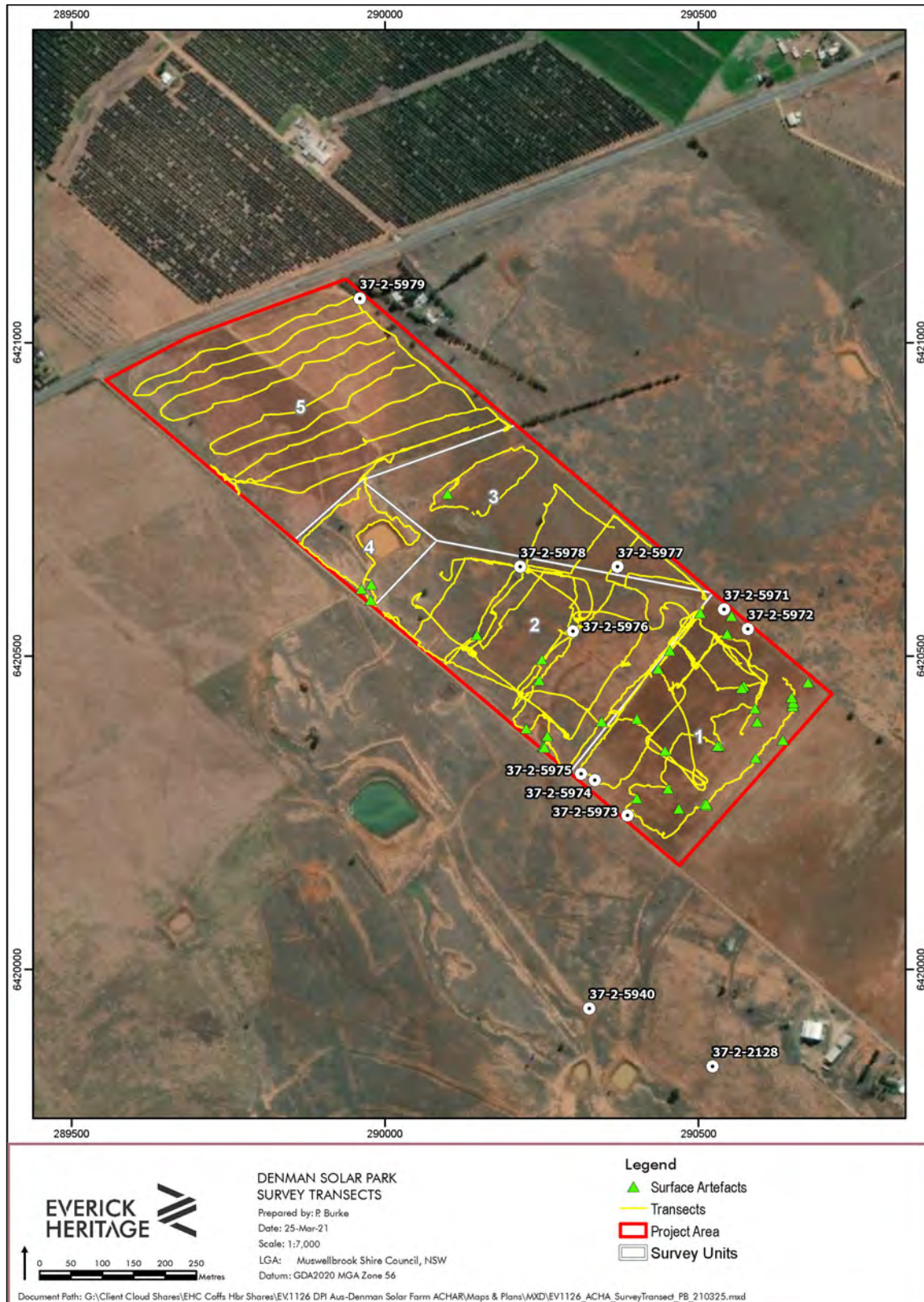


Figure 6-1: Survey transects, survey units, AHIMS registered sites and surface artefacts located during the survey

6.8. Survey results

Despite low effective survey coverage of the Project Area, a total of 54 surface artefacts were located during the survey (Table 6-2). This number is high given that visibility conditions were better during the Due Diligence assessment which only recorded eight isolated finds and one artefact scatter. Approximately 50 per cent of the previously registered AHIMS sites were able to be relocated during the survey.

The majority of surface artefacts were found on the crest and upper slopes landform which offers an elevated well drained situation overlooking the Hunter floodplain with views across the landscape (Figure 6-1). The numbers of surface artefacts decreased downslope on the middle to lower slopes with none located on the floodplain (SU5). However, the decrease in numbers of artefacts downslope also corresponds with the rise in vegetation cover. Nevertheless, given that the fenceline between SU1 and SU2 would have acted as a constraint to the movement of artefacts downslope the higher artefact numbers may be a true representation for the focus of occupation being the crest and upper slopes landforms.

The majority of the artefacts were flakes (n=45) with a small quantity of cores (n=7) (Table 6-3). The most common raw material was coarse grained silcrete but a small number of indurated mudstone and quartzite was noted with a unusual banded chert backed blade also found (Figure 6-8; Figure 6-9). A representative sample of 22 surface stone artefacts were recorded in detail and those details can be found in Appendix C. Numerous large angular rocks were noted across the surface of the crest and upper slopes. It is not clear if these are the source of the silcrete (Figure 6-10; Figure 6-11). Possibly these were being quarried and broken up on site for large primary flakes to take off site. Some of these rocks were inspected for negative flake scars however due to the high number it was impossible to check all. The material found in the rocks appeared fairly coarse but may have contained finer grained seams in their interior.

Both the newly discovered surface artefacts and the previously registered isolated finds all occur within the Dartbrook soil landscape and between the 135 m and 155 m contour line. It was considered that the newly recorded surface artefacts and the previously registered isolated finds all form part of the same site extent. It is proposed to update one of the previously registered isolated finds Denman IF6 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5976) to Denman AS2 and include the remaining isolated seven finds within that site extent (Figure 6-12).

For the purposes of the test excavation, the presence of surface artefacts (including the AHIMS registered sites) in each paddock, led to the identification of PADs for each paddock (PAD 1-5) (Table 6-2).

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Table 6-3: Artefact type and number per survey unit and landform

Survey Unit (landform)	Artefact type	Count	Percentage of all artefacts)
1 (crest and upper slopes)	Flakes	28	51.85
	Cores	5	9.26
	Angular Fragments	1	1.85
	Total	34	63.96
2 (upper and middle slopes)	Flakes	14	25.93
	Cores	1	1.85
	Angular Fragments	1	1.85
	Total	16	29.63
3 (middle-lower slope)	Flakes	1	1.85
	Cores	0	0
	Angular Fragments	0	0
	Total	1	1.85
4 (lower slope)	Flakes	2	3.70
	Cores	1	0
	Angular Fragments	0	0
	Total	3	5.56
5 (floodplain)	Flakes	0	0
	Cores	0	0
	Angular Fragments	0	0
	Total	0	0
	Grand Total	54	100

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Photograph

Description



Figure 6-2:
Typical exposure
along fencelines
SU1 (Photo: C
Marsh, 15/03/21)



Figure 6-3:
Typical exposure
along base of
trees – SU2
(Photo: C Marsh,
16/03/21)



Figure 6-4:
Typical exposure
around dams –
SU1 and SU 2
SU4 ((Photo: C
Marsh, 16/03/21)

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Photograph

Description



Figure 6-5: View northwest across SU2, SU3 and SU5 (Photo: C Marsh, 17/03/21)



Figure 6-6: View northwest across SU5 (floodplain) (Photo: C Marsh, 17/03/21)



Figure 6-7: View east across SU1 (crest and upper slopes) from SU 2 (upper and middle slopes) (Photo: C Marsh, 16/03/21)

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Photograph



Description

Figure 6-8:
Typical coarse
grained silcrete
surface artefacts
(Photo: C Marsh,
16/03/21)



Figure 6-9:
Banded chert
broken backed
blade – SU 2
(Photo: C Marsh,
16/03/21)

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Photograph



Description

Figure 6-10: View north. Typical surface scatter of coarse grained silcrete angular rocks SU1 (Photo: C Marsh, 15/03/21)



Figure 6-11: Typical surface scatter of coarse grained silcrete angular rocks SU4 exposed by dam construction (Photo: C Marsh, 15/03/21)

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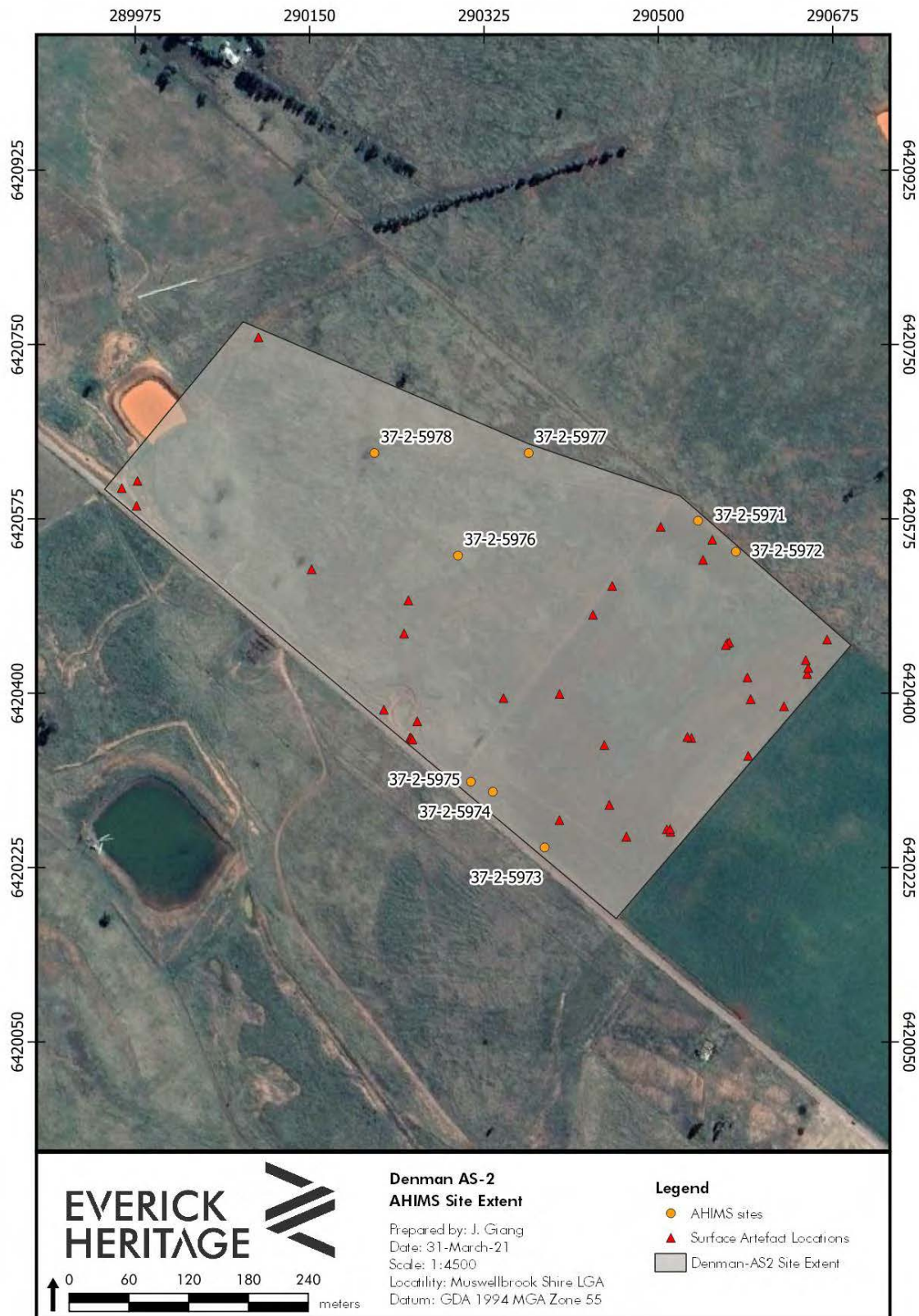


Figure 6-12: Proposed extent – Denman AS2 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5976)

7. Test excavation

7.1. Aims and objectives

In accordance with archaeological best practice as outlined by the Code of Practice, the aims and objectives of archaeological test excavation within the Project Area were to:

- Establish if subsurface archaeological deposit is present within the Project Area and its nature and extent.
- Establish the subsurface nature and extent of previously registered sites (AHIMS ID 37-2-5971 - AHIMS ID 37-2-5971) within the Project Area.
- Provide an opportunity for registered Aboriginal stakeholders to comment on the Aboriginal cultural heritage values of the Project Area and any Aboriginal cultural heritage identified there.
- Assess the scientific significance of any archaeological deposits identified during the excavation and following the assessment of test excavation results.
- Provide recommendation for the management of Aboriginal cultural heritage where present.
- Address the research questions raised in the Archaeological Methodology (section 8.5).

7.2. Timing and personnel

The test excavation was undertaken over four days across the 15th – 18th March 2021. Table 7-1 provides a list of the field personnel present during test excavations.

Table 7-1: Fieldwork personnel

Name	Organisation	Role	Date
Vanessa Edmonds	Everick Heritage	Excavation supervisor	15 – 18 March 2021
Caitlin Marsh	Everick Heritage	Excavation assistant	15 – 18 March 2021
Jason Giang	Everick Heritage	Excavation assistant	15 – 18 March 2021
Stephen Hickey	Widescope	Excavation assistant	15 – 18 March 2021

Name	Organisation	Role	Date
Christine Paul	Upper Hunter Wonnarua Council Inc	Excavation assistant	15 – 18 March 2021
Stephen Talbert	Gomeri People	Excavation assistant	16 – 17 March 2021
David Horton	Wanaruah Land Council	Excavation assistant	15 – 17 March 2021

7.3. Constraints

Fencelines, transmission lines and dams created constraints to the layout of a systematic grid pattern for test excavation units. Other than that mild weather constraints comprising rain and wind on the last day of test excavation slowed progress.

7.4. Sampling strategy

No specific areas of PAD were noted during the due diligence and there were no discernible patterns observed of the AHIMS registered site distribution in relation to soil landscapes, contour or distance from the second order watercourse. Due to the random distribution of registered Aboriginal sites across the Project Area landscape, it was proposed to excavate a series of 500 mm x 500 mm shovel test pits in linear transects every 100 m across the Project Area. This would result in a minimum of 30 test pits or 7.5 square metres. An additional 1 m x 1 m was proposed to be excavated to establish the nature of the stratigraphy and any archaeological deposit. It was thought there would be the opportunity to increase the excavation area if time and conditions permitted. Consultation will be continuously undertaken with the RAPs on site during excavations to determine what cultural values might be present within or close to the Project Area.

7.5. Methodology

The excavation methodology was based on the ACHA Methodology provided to the RAPs on the 6 January 2021 (Appendix D).

7.5.1. Excavation units

Test excavation units comprised test pits (TP) and shovel test pits (STP). One 1 m x 1 m TP and thirty-four 0.5 m x 0.5 m STP were excavated across the Project Area. Figure 7-1 shows the location of the PADs and excavation units in relation to soil landscapes and contour.

Test excavation units were placed on a systematic grid appropriate to the scale of the area being investigated. Grid squares of approximately 100 m distance apart, in roughly parallel transects, were laid out across the PAD. The exact placement and number of excavation units were determined by the supervising archaeologist in consultation with the RAP nominated field representatives and the identified constraints in section 7.4.

All excavation was undertaken manually using trowel and shovel. The grass layer (25-50 mm) was first removed and examined underneath for the presence of artefacts then kept aside for reinstatement of the excavation unit. The first excavation unit, TP1, was excavated and documented in 50 mm spits to establish the stratigraphy. The remaining STP were all excavated in 100 mm spits.

7.5.2. Sieving

Dry sieving with hand sieves was employed. Excavated deposit was placed in buckets and transported to a sieve area adjacent to the excavation, but at a distance so as not contaminate sieved sediment with yet to be excavated sediment. All soils will be sieved through 5 mm wire mesh and the spoil was be used to backfill test pits manually following recording.

7.5.3. Recording

Photographic and scale-drawn records of the stratigraphy/soil profile were taken for TP1 and a representative sample of STP. A photographic record was taken for all the STP at the end of excavation.

Soil colour (Munsell) and type, texture, acidity (pH) were recorded for the TP and a representative sample of the STP to increase understanding of the sub-surface conditions of the PAD and how they may relate to site formation processes influencing the presence and condition of subsurface archaeological deposits.

The location of each excavation unit was recorded using GDA 94 datum with a mobile GIS unit (Samsung Tablet S2).

All artefacts retrieved during test excavation (n=2) were double bagged and labelled with appropriate contextual information. The subsurface artefacts were analysed and recorded in the Everick Heritage Office (Appendix C). The artefacts retrieved through test excavation are being temporarily stored in a locked cupboard in the Everick Heritage Sydney Office:

6B Reserve Street

Annandale, NSW, 2038

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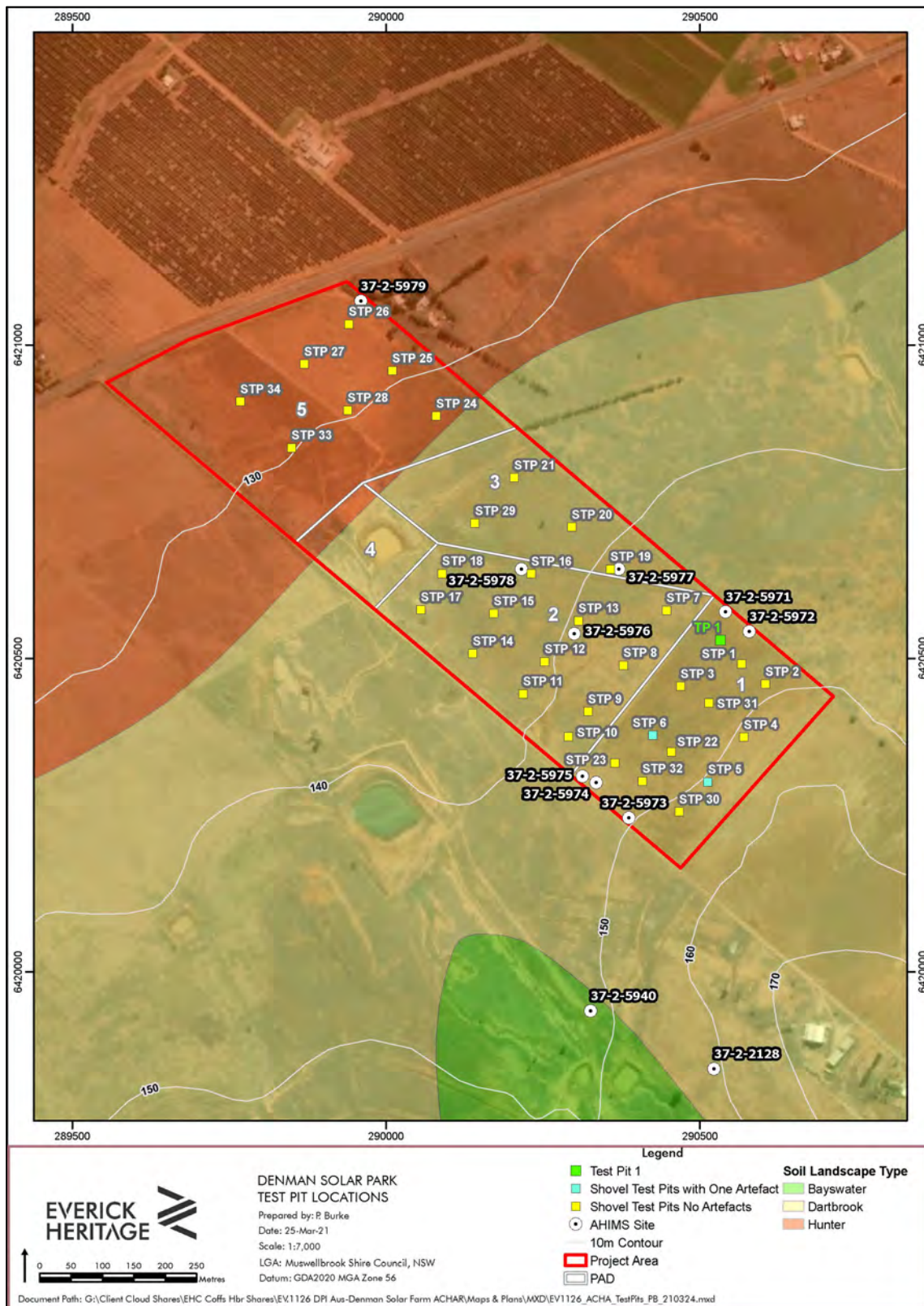


Figure 7-1: Location of TP and STP across the Project Area

8. Results and discussion

8.1. Summary

One stone artefact was recovered from STP5 and one stone artefact from STP6. These STP were located along the crest landform in PAD1 to the west of the Project Area. Table 8-1 and Table 8-2 summarises details regarding location (landform and PAD), total depth and numbers of artefacts found.

Table 8-1: Summary description of TP 1

PAD ID	TP number	Landform	Total depth (mm)	Munsell soil colour	pH	No of artefacts
1	1	Upper slope	210	5yr 3/3 / 3/4	7	-

Table 8-2: Summary description of STPs

PAD ID	STP number	Landform	Total depth (mm)	No of artefacts	Depth of artefacts (mm)
1	1	Upper slope	300	0	-
1	2	Crest	100	0	-
1	3	Upper slope	150	0	-
1	4	Crest	100	0	-
1	5	Crest	100	1	50-100
1	6	Upper slope	150	1	50-100
2	7	Upper slope	190	0	-
2	8	Upper slope	150	0	-
2	9	Upper slope	150	0	-
2	10	Upper slope	240	0	-
2	11	Mid slope	240	0	-
2	12	Mid slope	180	0	-
2	13	Mid slope	200	0	-

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PAD ID	STP number	Landform	Total depth (mm)	No of artefacts	Depth of artefacts (mm)
2	14	Mid slope	200	0	-
2	15	Mid slope	170	0	-
2	16	Mid slope	150	0	-
2	17	Lower slope	180	0	-
2	18	Lower slope	170	0	-
3	19	Mid slope	160	0	-
3	20	Mid slope	200	0	-
3	21	Lower slope	170	0	-
2	22	Crest	100	0	-
2	23	Upper slope	150	0	-
5	24	Flood plain	270	0	-
5	25	Flood plain	280	0	-
5	26	Flood plain	230	0	-
5	27	Flood plain	370	0	-
5	28	Flood plain	300	0	-
2	29	Lower slope	140	0	-
1	30	Crest	100	0	-
1	31	Crest	100	0	-
1	32	Crest	100	0	-
5	33	Flood plain	200	0	-
5	34	Flood plain	200	0	-

8.2. Coverage

A total of 9.5 square metres was excavated across the Project Area. This represents a total of 2.4 per cent of the Project Area. Whilst it is plausible that this small subsurface coverage could account for the very low numbers of subsurface stone artefacts (n=2) it is more likely to be representative of the nature of the archaeological deposit. Despite positioning excavation units in close proximity to surface artefact locations no further subsurface deposit was recovered.

Test excavation was undertaken in all PAD except PAD4 where disturbance was heavy due to dam construction. It was assessed that PAD4 was not a PAD. Both the Dartbrook and Hunter soil landscapes were sampled through test excavation as were the range of landforms present (Figure 7-1; Table 8-2).

8.3. Soils and stratigraphy

Overall sediments were very shallow across the Project Area from around 100 mm deep on the crest through to 370 mm deep on the floodplain (Table 8-1; Table 8-2). The stratigraphic profiles from TP1 on the upper slopes and from STP25 on the floodplain do however illustrate that on average soil depth and sediment type are not dissimilar across the Project Area and soil landscapes (Table 8-1; Table 8-2; Table 8-4; Table 8-5; Figure 8-3; Figure 8-4). Given the gradient between crest and floodplain is around 15 m it is likely that sediments have washed downslope as a result of past and current agricultural land use (clearing, ploughing, grazing). Despite the shallowness of sediments on the crest, this was only landform where subsurface artefacts were recovered (STP5 and STP6; Table 8-2).

8.4. Contents

Two subsurface artefacts were recovered, one from STP5 and one from STP6. Both were recovered from 50-100 mm in depth so quite close to the ground surface. Details of the stone artefacts are provided in Table 8-3. These two artefacts fall within the extent of Denman AS2 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5976).

Table 8-3: Summary details subsurface artefacts

STP	Raw material	Artefact type	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness	Comments
5	Dark red quartzite	Retouched flake	41.25	27.19	18.76	-
6	Pink silcrete	Flake	19.09	12.06	13.48	-

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Table 8-4: Stratigraphic details for Test Pit 1

Test Pit 1	
A1 Horizon	Depth: 0-8 mm
	pH: 7
	Munsell: 5YR 3/3
	Description: Humic clay loam topsoil. Around 20-30% of the A1 horizon consists of the roots and rootlets of the overlying grasses. The deposit contained no visible inclusions
A2 Horizon	Depth: 8-20 mm
	pH: 7
	Munsell: 5YR 3/3
	Description: Clay loam deposit similar to the A1 horizon. Inclusions included small quarts and stone nodules. Clay content increased with depth.
B Horizon	Depth: 21 mm +
	pH: 7
	Munsell: 5YR 3/4
	Description: Excavation of Test Pit 1 stopped 2-3 mm after the B horizon was reached. It is a loamy clay with about five per cent loam content.

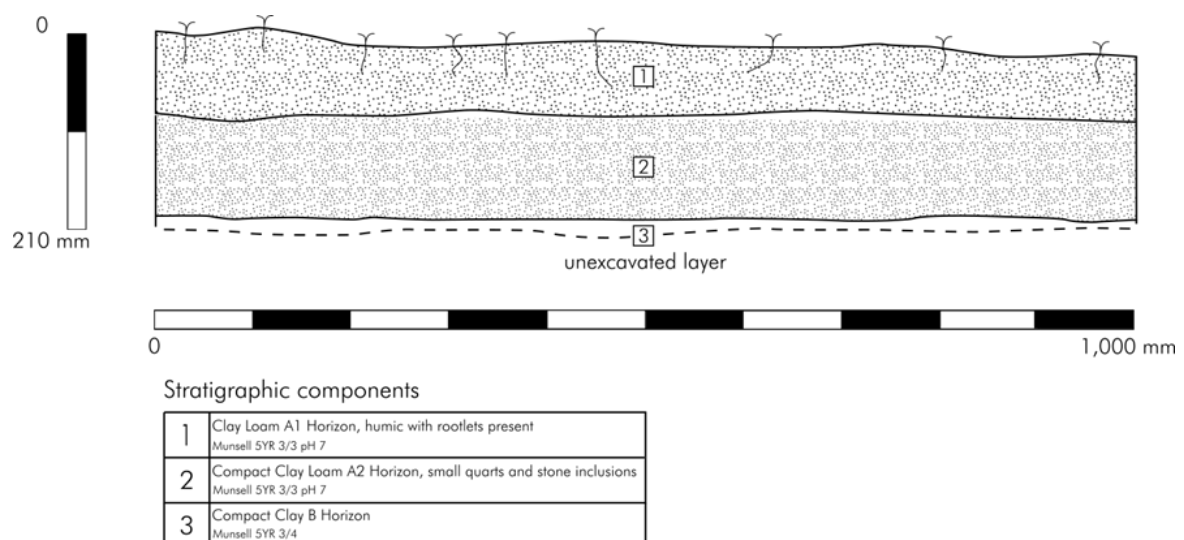


Figure 8-1: Stratigraphic profile – Test Pit 1

Table 8-5: Stratigraphic details for Shovel Test Pit 25

Shovel Test Pit 25	
A1 Horizon	Depth: 0-30 mm
	Description: Humic clay loam topsoil, dark reddish brown colour with rootlets from the surface.
A2 Horizon	Depth: 30-200 mm
	Description: Clay loam (higher clay content than the A1 horizon), reddish brown colour.
B Horizon	Depth: 200 mm +
	Description: Clean loamy clay, red brown colour.
	Depth: 150 mm +
	Description: Cemented light brown/tan, fine-grained calcrete layer.

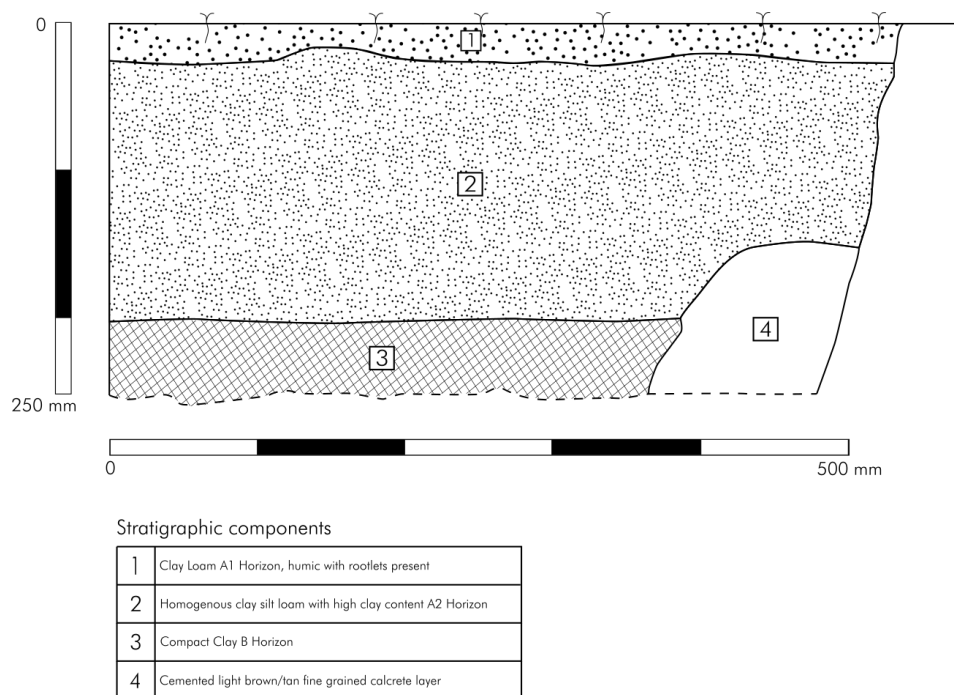


Figure 8-2: Stratigraphic profile – Shovel Test Pit 25

8.5. Research framework

Research questions provide a framework for undertaking test excavation and ensure that the information collected during the program contributes to the knowledge of sites locally and within the regional archaeological record. The test excavations will attempt to address the following research questions:

- Do stratified in situ deposits exist within the Project Area?
 - No stratified in situ deposits exist within the Project Area although a very low density subsurface stone artefact scatter is likely to be present across the crest and upper slopes landforms.
- How does the subsurface archaeological deposit (if present) relate to the nine AHIMS registered sites within the Project Area?
 - There was no apparent patterning between the location of the surface artefacts (both previously registered and identified as part of the current survey) and the two subsurface artefact locations. It is apparent that any subsurface stone artefacts in the Project Area occurred at a shallow depth (100-200 mm) below the surface and that these have been disturbed and brought to the surface through decades of clearing and cultivating.
- Does the subsurface deposit (where present) relate to landscape features such as contour, soil landscape or proximity to watercourses?
 - Both the surface and subsurface deposit appears to be closely associated with the crest, upper and middle slopes of the Project Area indicating that these well drained, elevated landforms were a favourable campsite location off the floodplain and with good views across the landscape to the Hunter River.
- How does the nature of any archaeological deposit compare with other excavated archaeological sites in the region?
 - The closest test excavations have occurred at the Mount Pleasant Coal Mine by Niche (2017). Test excavations were undertaken there in the Bayswater soil landscape on higher ground overlooking the river. The results from test excavation of the Project Area very closely fits the predictive model developed by Niche (2017) (see below).
- Are there features such as hearths (as represented by lenses of ash and charcoal) present?
 - No archaeological features were noted in either the TP or any of the STP.
- Are stone artefacts present and if so, what is the nature of the stone assemblage?

- Only two subsurface stone artefacts were recovered through test excavation. This low number is likely to be representative of the nature of both the surface and subsurface stone assemblage in being very low density and predominantly made from silcrete raw materials which are available on site.
- Is it possible to determine the age of the archaeological deposit?
 - No. Unfortunately, the sediments were highly disturbed and no culturally derived charcoal for dating purposes was found.
- What is the scientific and cultural significance of the archaeological deposit?
 - Due to the small number the scientific significance is low. No comment on the cultural significance of the deposit was made during test excavations.
- How do the results of test excavation fit the predictive model presented in section 5.4?
 - The results of the test excavation closely fits the predictive model stated in section 5.4 except that numbers of subsurface artefacts did not increase with proximity to water. The predictive model stated the following:
 - The A horizon is likely to be shallow at between 0-300 mm maximum
 - The subsurface nature of archaeological deposit across the Project Area, where present, is likely to comprise very sparse numbers of stone artefacts
 - No other archaeological features or site types (eg hearths) are likely to be found
 - If stone artefacts are present these will likely be found in the top 200 mm of deposit

8.6. Conclusion

Survey and test excavation suggests that the crest landform is the most archaeologically sensitive landform in the Project Area. This landform would have provided an elevated, relatively flat and well drained campsite location with views across the floodplain to the Hunter River. Decades of clearing, ploughing and grazing have likely brought subsurface artefacts in the Project Area to the surface, particularly from the shallow sediments of the crest landform but also elsewhere on the upper and middle slope landforms.

The archaeological signature of the Project Area is best represented by the low density surface scatter of predominantly silcrete stone artefacts, that is Denman AS2 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5976). The two subsurface stone artefacts recovered during test excavation also form part of that site. It is possible that silcrete

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angular rocks found on the crest and upper slope landforms may be the source of silcrete artefacts found there.

While further subsurface deposit may be present in the Project Area this would likely comprise a very, very low density distribution of stone artefacts. However, there is a high likelihood that further surface stone artefacts are present across the Project Area.

Photograph

Description



Figure 8-3: View north across Test Pit 1 (Photo: V Edmonds, 15/03/21)



Figure 8-4: Shovel Test Pit 25 (Photo: C Marsh, 17/03/21)

9. Significance assessment

9.1. Significance assessment criteria

An assessment of the cultural heritage significance of an item or place is required in order to form the basis of its management. The Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW (the Guide) (OEH 2011: 10) provides guidelines, in accordance with the Burra Charter (Australia ICOMOS 2013) and the NSW Heritage Branch (Heritage Office 2001) for significance assessment with assessments being required to consider the following criteria:

- Social values – does the area have a strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons
- Historic values – is the area important to the cultural or natural history of the local area and/or region and/or state
- Scientific values - does the area have the potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the cultural and natural history of the local area and/or region and/or state
- Aesthetic values – is the area important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics in the local and/or region and/or state.

Scientific values should be considered in light of the following criteria:

- Research potential - does the evidence suggest any potential to contribute to an understanding of the area and/or region and/or state's natural and cultural history?
- Representativeness - how much variability (outside and/or inside the subject area) exists, what is already conserved, how much connectivity is there?
- Rarity - is the subject area important in demonstrating a distinctive way of life, custom, process, land-use, function or design no longer practised? Is it in danger of being lost or of exceptional interest?
- Education potential - does the subject area contain teaching sites or sites that might have teaching potential?

It is important to note that heritage significance is a dynamic value and will be considered in the ACHAR. This ATR only presents the scientific or archaeological significance of Denman AS1 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5979) and Denman AS2 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5976). Ratings are low, moderate or high.

9.2. Scientific significance

Denman AS1 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5979) is a small, sparse surface scatter of four stone artefacts. This site was unable to be relocated during the current survey. The nature and content of this site is better represented by Denman AS2 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5976) and is therefore assessed as being of low scientific significance. Similarly, Denman IF1-5 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5971 - 5975) and Denman IF7-8 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5977 - 5978) are mostly single stone artefacts and separately are assessed as being of low scientific significance. However, when assessed as being part of Denman AS2 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5976) their significance would be elevated to low to moderate

Denman AS2 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5976) comprises an extensive but sparse surface scatter of stone artefacts as well as two subsurface stone artefacts. The raw materials and artefact types are varied and there is moderate research potential for this site based on its size, content and location.

This type of site is moderately represented in the region although a number of artefact scatters have been destroyed. The stone artefact types and raw materials are also moderately represented in the region. In addition, there is evidence from the test excavation that Denman AS2 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5976) is from a highly disturbed context. Therefore, Denman AS2 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5976) is assessed as being of low to moderate scientific significance.

Table 9-1: Summary of scientific significance

Site name (AHIMS ID)	Research potential	Education potential	Representative value	Rarity	Overall scientific significance
Denman AS1 (37-2-5979)	Low	Low	Low	Moderate	Low
Denman AS2 (37-2-5976) ¹	Moderate	Moderate	Low	Low	Low-Moderate
Denman IF1 (37-2-5971)	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
Denman IF2 (37-2-5972)	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
Denman IF3	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low

¹ Previously Denman IF6 (AHIMS ID 37-2-596)

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Site name (AHIMS ID)	Research potential	Education potential	Representative value	Rarity	Overall scientific significance
(37-2-5973)					
Denman IF4 (37-2-5974)	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
Denman IF5 (37-2-5975)	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
Denman IF7 (37-2-5977)	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
Denman IF8 (37-2-5978)	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low

10. Impact assessment

Survey and test excavation of the Project Area has identified there are nine Aboriginal sites present. The previously registered Denman AS1 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5979), is a small, sparse surface scatter of four stone artefacts on the floodplain. Denman AS2 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5976), is an extensive mostly surface scatter of at least 64 stone artefacts located across the eastern two thirds of the Project Area along the crest, upper, middle and lower slope landforms (Figure 6-12). Denman IF1-5 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5971 - 5975) and Denman IF7-8 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5977 - 5978) are best considered as part of Denman AS2 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5976). It is highly likely that further surface and subsurface stone artefacts exist across these landforms. The potential for surface and subsurface stone artefacts across the floodplain landform to the west of the Project Area is low, although it must be noted that a previously registered scatter Denman AS1 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5979), is located there.

Large-scale bulk earthworks will not be required for the construction of Denman Solar Park. Ground disturbance will be low, and it will be principally associated with the installation of steel piles/posts driven or screwed into the ground to support and orientate the solar tracking system and PV modules (ASLAT Consulting 2020: 15). Plant and machinery will comprises pile drivers, mobile crane, diesel generators, earth moving and concreting equipment for Substation and support buildings. However, it is likely that both Denman AS1 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5979), Denman AS2 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5976), Denman IF1-5 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5971 - 5975) and Denman IF7-8 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5977 - 5978) will be impacted to some extent by the proposed works. It would not be feasible to identify every surface stone artefact occurring in both sites so that these could be avoided particularly as ground surface visibility conditions vary greatly depending on the season. Therefore, it is unlikely that impact to those nine sites can be avoided.

11. Management measures

11.1. Guiding principles

The overall guiding principle for cultural heritage management is that where possible, Aboriginal sites should be conserved. If conservation is not practicable, measures should be taken to mitigate impacts to Aboriginal sites.

The nature of the recommendations provided is based on the assessed significance of Denman AS1 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5979), Denman AS2 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5976), Denman IF1-5 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5971 - 5975) and Denman IF7-8 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5977 - 5978) and acknowledges the existing and potential impacts to the sites. The final recommendations would also be informed by the RAPs in their responses during the next stage of consultation.

11.2. Denman AS2 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5976)

Denman IF6 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5976) Aboriginal site recording form (ASRF) has been updated to Denman AS2 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5976) and the extent includes Denman IF1-5 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5971 - 5975) and Denman IF7-8 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5977 - 5979). This has been done in order to better manage Aboriginal cultural material within the Project Area.

11.3. Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit

An Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) will be required for Denman AS1 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5979), Denman AS2 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5976), Denman IF1-5 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5971 - 5975) and Denman IF7-8 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5977 - 5978) in order for the proposed Denman Solar Park to proceed. It is recommended that an area AHIP to cover the entire Project Area be applied for to cover unexpected finds.

As a condition of the AHIP it is recommended that salvage is undertaken. A thorough walkover of the Project Area must be undertaken by suitably qualified archaeologists and RAP representatives prior to construction so that all visible surface stone artefacts can be collected. The collected artefacts must be subject to detailed recording and analysis and a salvage report prepared which presents the recording and analysis including comparative analysis with artefacts from other sites in the region where this is

possible. The report would investigate the source of raw materials within Denman AS1 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5976), Denman AS2 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5976), Denman IF1-5 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5971 - 5975) and Denman IF7-8 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5977 - 5978) and whether artefact size and type indicates any particular activities which might have occurred in the Project Area, such as gathering, quarrying, stone artefact manufacture etc.

As part of the salvage walkover it would be worthwhile undertaking a detailed inspection and recording of a sample of the silcrete angular rocks scattered across the crest and upper slope landforms to investigate the potential of these as a source of the raw materials.

On completion of the works an Aboriginal Site Impact Recording Form must be prepared for Denman AS1 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5976), Denman AS2 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5976), Denman IF1-5 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5971 - 5975) and Denman IF7-8 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5977 - 5978) and submitted to AHIMS.

11.4. Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report

An Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) in accordance with the Guide to investigating, assessing and reporting on Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW (the Guide) (OEH 2011) and the Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010 (ACHCRP) (DECCW 2010a) is being prepared to support the application to Heritage NSW for an AHIP for the Project Area and to consult with the registered Aboriginal parties regarding management measures provide above.

11.5. Long term management of stone artefacts

The long term management arrangements for the Aboriginal objects (stone artefacts) recovered during test excavation of the Project Area would include the following options in accordance with Requirement 26 of the Code of Practice:

- Aboriginal objects to be provided to the Australian Museum
- Aboriginal objects to be curated by an Aboriginal community in conjunction with a Care and Control permit
- Aboriginal objects to be reburied in within the Project Area at a location safe from future disturbance and with that reburial location recorded and submitted to AHIMS

- Aboriginal objects to be stored or reburied at a previously organised offset site associated with the local mining industry.

The ACHA consultation and report will determine the outcome of the long term management of the Aboriginal objects recovered through test excavation and potentially salvage collection.

References

ASLAT Consulting 2020. Denman Road Solar Park Statement of Environmental Effects. Prepared for Denman Road Solar Park Pty Ltd.

Department of Environment Climate Change & Water. 2010a. Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010. Department of Environment Climate Change & Water NSW.

Department of Environment Climate Change & Water. 2010b. Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales 2010. Department of Environment Climate Change & Water NSW.

Office of Environment and Heritage. 2011. Guide to investigating, assessing and reporting on Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW. Office of Environment and Heritage, Department of Premier and Cabinet, Sydney.

Eco Logical Australia 2020. Denham Road Solar Park - Aboriginal Heritage Due Diligence Assessment. Report to DPI Australia.

Niche Environment and Heritage 2017. Mount Pleasant Operation Rail Modification Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment. Report to MACH Energy Australia Pty Ltd.

Appendix A – Glossary

Aboriginal cultural heritage: The material (objects) and intangible (mythological places, dreaming stories etc.) traditions and practices associated with past and present day Aboriginal communities.

Aboriginal object: Any deposit, object or material evidence (not being a handicraft made for sale), including Aboriginal remains, relating to the Aboriginal habitation of NSW.

Archaeological site: A location that has evidence of past Aboriginal activity (both material and mythological/ritual).

Artefact: An item of cultural material created by humans.

Artefact scatter: Where two or more stone artefacts are found within an area of potential archaeological deposit or a site.

Clay: A type of sediment with particles less than 4 microns in size and that is composed of clay minerals (Keary 2001: 49).

Flake: A stone piece removed from a core by percussion (striking it) or by pressure. It is identified by the presence of a striking platform and bulb of percussion, not usually found on a naturally shattered stone.

Floodplain: The area covered by water during a major flood and/or the area of alluvium deposits laid down during past floods.

In situ: A description of any cultural material that lies undisturbed in its original point of deposition.

Land system: Description for an area of land based on an assessment of a series of environmental characteristics including geology, geomorphology, climate, soils and vegetation.

Midden: The term midden is a Danish word meaning a mound of kitchen refuse. In archaeological terms, a midden refers to an accumulation of shell deposited after people had collected and eaten shellfish. These could contain estuarine and freshwater shellfish species in addition to faunal remains, stone artefacts and charcoal from cooking fires. In northern NSW in many areas, burials have been recorded in direct association with midden deposits.

Potential Archaeological Deposit (PAD): A PAD is a location that is considered to have a potential for subsurface cultural material. This is determined from a visual inspection of the site, background research of the area and the landform's cultural importance.

Pleistocene: The Pleistocene is an epoch within the early Quaternary period, extending from about 1.6 million years ago to about 11,700 years ago. The end of the Pleistocene is marked by the last of the great ice ages.

Quarry: In this report, 'quarry' can refer to a source of stone that was mined by Aboriginal people in the past. Rock from these sites could be used to make artefacts.

Sand: A material composed of small grains (0.625-2.0 mm) (Keary 2001: 233). Sand is formed from a variety of minerals and rocks, but commonly contains silica, such as quartz.

Sediment: Is a mineral that has undergone erosion or weathering and that is then deposited via aeolian, glacial or fluvial means.

Silcrete: Soil, clay or sand sediments that have silicified under basalt through groundwater percolation. It ranges in texture from very fine grained to coarse grained. At one extreme it is cryptocrystalline with very few clasts. It generally has characteristic yellow streaks of titanium oxide that occur within a grey and less commonly reddish background. Used for flaked stone artefacts.

Silt: A sediment with grains ranging from 4.0-62.5 microns in size (Keary 2001: 245). It can be found as a soil or in water.

Spit: Refers to an arbitrarily defined strata of soil removed during excavation (often 50 to 100 mm in depth).

Stone artefact: a piece or fragment of stone showing evidence of intentional human creation or modification

Stratification: The way in which soil forms in layers.

Stratigraphy: The study of soil stratification (layers) and deposition.

Test excavation: An archaeological method used to determine the cultural sensitivity of an area by excavating small (eg 1 m x 1 m) pits and recording the stratigraphy, material remains (such as stone tools) and disturbance.

Survey: In archaeological terms, this refers to walking over a surface while studying the location of artefacts and landmarks. These are then recorded and photographed.

TP: Acronym for 'test pit'. Generally, this refers to a 1 m x 1 m or 2 m x 1 m pit dug by shovel, trowel or mattock. Test pits were used to determine the extent of possible features (such as shell middens) in a controlled excavation of 50 mm spits

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Appendix B – AHIMS database search results

Site ID	Site name	Site features	Site status
37-2-0507	BMP 7;Muswellbrook;	Artefact	Valid
37-2-0508	BMP 8;Muswellbrook;	Artefact	Valid
37-2-2128	Lind 1	Artefact : 1	Valid
37-2-2669	HRO1	Artefact : 14	Destroyed
37-2-2595	hr02	Artefact	Valid
37-2-2596	hr03	Artefact	Valid
37-2-2599	QC03	Artefact : 19	Destroyed
37-2-2603	qc07	Artefact : 12	Valid
37-2-2604	qc08	Artefact : 10	Valid
37-2-2605	qc09	Artefact : 22	Valid
37-2-2606	qc10	Artefact : 3	Valid
37-2-2607	qc11	Artefact : 18	Valid
37-2-2612	qc16	Artefact : 1	Valid
37-2-2613	qc17	Artefact : 7	Valid
37-2-2614	qc18	Artefact : 1	Valid
37-2-2615	qc19	Artefact : 4	Valid
37-2-2636	WC09A	Artefact : 1	Valid
37-2-3993	Denman Rd 1 (DR1)	Artefact	Valid
37-2-4025	SC67	Artefact : 1	Valid
37-2-4026	SC68	Artefact	Valid
37-2-4027	SC69	Artefact	Valid

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Site ID	Site name	Site features	Site status
37-2-3994	Denman Rd 2 (DR2)	Artefact	Valid
37-2-4151	MAC15	Artefact : 1	Destroyed
37-2-4365	HR01	Artefact : 1	Destroyed
37-2-4835	Spur Hill 251	Artefact	Valid
37-2-4836	Spur Hill 252	Artefact	Valid
37-2-4837	Spur Hill 253	Artefact	Valid
37-2-4839	Spur Hill 255	Artefact	Valid
37-2-5069	SPUR HILL 272	Artefact	Valid
37-2-5070	SPUR HILL 273	Artefact	Valid
37-2-5071	SPUR HILL 274	Artefact	Valid
37-2-5827	RPS MAC BS AS3	Artefact	Destroyed
37-2-5828	MAC RPS GG 582	Artefact	Destroyed
37-2-5829	MAC RPS BS AS 3	Artefact	Destroyed
37-2-5971	Denman-IF1	Artefact : 1	Valid
37-2-5972	Denman-IF2	Artefact : 1	Valid
37-2-5973	Denman-IF3	Artefact : 1	Valid
37-2-5974	Denman-IF4	Artefact : 1	Valid
37-2-5975	Denman-IF5	Artefact : 1	Valid
37-2-5976	Denman-IF6	Artefact : 1	Valid
37-2-5977	Denman-IF7	Artefact	Valid
37-2-5978	Denman-IF8	Artefact : 1	Valid
37-2-5979	Denman-AS1	Artefact : 4	Valid
37-2-5980	MAC-WP20-2	Artefact	Destroyed
37-2-5981	MAC-WP20-1	Artefact	Destroyed
37-2-5982	MAC-WP20-3	Artefact	Destroyed

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Site ID	Site name	Site features	Site status
37-2-5983	MAC-WP20-5	Artefact	Destroyed
37-2-5984	MAC-WP20-4	Artefact	Destroyed
37-2-5985	MAC-WP20-7	Artefact	Destroyed
37-2-5986	MAC-WP20-6	Artefact	Destroyed
37-2-5937	MAC-19-MB5	Artefact	Valid
37-2-5938	MAC-19-MB4	Artefact	Valid
37-2-5939	MAC-19-MB3	Artefact	Valid
37-2-5940	MAC-19-MB2	Artefact	Valid
37-2-5941	MAC-19-MB1	Artefact	Valid
37-2-5966	MAC-19-ED4	Artefact	Destroyed
37-2-6037	MAC-LD19-001	Artefact	Valid
37-2-6038	MAC-LD19-002	Artefact	Valid
37-2-6017	MAC-LD19-003	Artefact	Valid
37-2-6099	MAC-WP20-05	Artefact	Destroyed
37-2-6023	MAC-LD19-009	Artefact	Valid
37-2-6024	MAC-LD19-010	Artefact	Valid
37-2-6025	MAC-LD19-011	Artefact	Valid
37-2-6033	MAC-LD19-020	Artefact	Valid

Appendix C – Stone artefact recording

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Site name		Denman AS 2 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5976)			Recorder	Vanessa Edmonds				Date	18 March 2021	
Item no	Easting	Northing	Raw material	Manufacture type	Length mm	Width mm	Thickness mm	Flake termination	Flake platform type	No of core scars	Tool type	Notes
1	290648.1153	6420433.098	Red Silcrete	Flaked	30.65	17.95	11.58	Step	Focal	-	Retouched Flake	Redirecting, fine grained, Eriallure scar
2	290649.6145	6420419.1451	Red/Grey Silcrete	Flaked	26.44	25.60	22.4	Step	Foal	-	Flake	Large silica grains, blocky, possible split cone
3	290590.3635	6420336.9482	Grey/Pink Silcrete	Flaked	38.81	21.68	17.05	Step	Focal	-	Flake	Redirecting to
4	290589.5409	6420415.6497	Grey/Pink Silcrete	Flaked	24.54	21.28	12.53	Feather	Focal	-	Flake	Double hinge percussion, platform preparation, cortex 20%
5	290529.2647	6420355.9723	Yellow Silcrete	Flaked	66.55	28.40	35.37	-	-	3+	Multiplatform Core	Platform preparation
6	290445.9404	6420347.8214	Yellow Silcrete	Flaked	19.23	18.74	5.5	Step or transverse breakage	Focal	-	Flake	Platform preparation, transverse break
7	290450.9526	6420287.7759	Red/Yellow Silcrete	Flaked	27.47	24.92	9.96	Feather	Focal	-	Flake	-
8	290592.7785	6420393.9576	Reddish Silcrete	Flaked	25.38	13.76	7.91	Hinge	Broad	-	Flake	Split Cone
9	290512.1758	6420260.6996	Pink Silcrete	Flaked	36.79	20.05	15.25	-	-	3	Core	Multi
10	290400.9814	6420399.1263	Yellow Silcrete	Flaked	113.96	67.05	37.34	Feather	Broad	-	Retouched Flake	Retouch all along lateral margin on dorsal, large primary flake on

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Site name		Denman AS 2 (AHIMS ID 37-2-5976)			Recorder	Vanessa Edmonds				Date	18 March 2021	
Item no	Easting	Northing	Raw material	Manufacture type	Length mm	Width mm	Thickness mm	Flake termination	Flake platform type	No of core scars	Tool type	Notes
11	290224.6267	6420383.3656	Yellow Silcrete	Flaked	39.51	20.87	6.77	Feather	Focal	-	Flake	Erailure scar, possible double hinge termination
12	290224.6267	6420383.3656	Red Silcrete	Flaked	12.43	18.78	4.90	Feather	Focal	-	Flake	Platform preparation
13	290224.6267	6420383.3656	Grey/Red Silcrete	Flaked	34.42	31.71	36.86	-	-	-	Core	-
14	290250.8611	6420355.4597	Yellow Silcrete	Flaked	44.50	12.72	6.49	Feather or step	Broad	-	Flake	Split core, platform preparation
15	290250.8611	6420355.4597	Red Mudstone	Flaked	23.68	20.07	3.85	Hinge	Broad	-	Flake	-
16	290252.0858	6420354.8256	Yellow Silcrete	Flaked	43.15	17.35	7.21	Hinge	Focal	-	Flake	-
17	290252.0858	6420354.8256	Red Silcrete	Flaked	17.15	32.33	6.93	Hinge	Broad	-	Flake	-
18	290252.0858	6420354.8256	Pink Silcrete	Flaked	20.79	28.89	7.76	Feather	Broken	-	Flake	-
19	290252.0858	6420354.8256	Grey Silcrete	Flaked	12.79	27.16	4.55	Step	Focal	-	Flake	-
20	289976.3275	6420588.0620	Yellow Silcrete	Flaked	96.61	100.14	39.85	Hinge	Broad Flaked	-	Retouched flake/Core	Primary flake
21	289961.5266	6420605.6758	Mudstone	Flaked	32.35	22.92	10.02	-	-	6+	Core	Multi
22	289977.2071	6420613.0612	Pink Silcrete	Flaked	68.32	41.00	23.51	Feather	Focal	-	Retouched Flake	Platform Prep
*STP5	290424.1790	6420376.4709	Dark Red Quartzite	Flaked	41.25	27.19	18.76	Step	Focal	-	Retouched Flake	-
*STP6	290511.5121	6420302.0174	Pink Silcrete	Flaked	19.09	12.06	13.48	Feather	-	-	Flaked Piece	-

Appendix D – ACHA Methodology