

Lots 332 & 333 DP755915 (Partial)
Larbert Quarry Future Planning
Aboriginal Cultural Heritage and Archaeological Report



Report Prepared for Outline Planning
By Past Traces Pty Ltd
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Document Control

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- ❖ Location or detailed information regarding places of Aboriginal cultural significance, as expressed or directed by Representative Aboriginal Organisations, Aboriginal elders, or members of the wider Aboriginal community.
- ❖ Other culturally appropriate restricted information as advised by Aboriginal representatives and traditional knowledge holders.

Information in the report covered by the above categories should be redacted before being made available to the general public. This information should only be made available to those persons with a just and reasonable need for access.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the Country on which we live and work and pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging. We thank all the community members who have taken the time to speak with us, share their knowledge and express their wishes for the area under assessment.

Past Traces acknowledges the assistance of the following people and organisations in the preparation of this report:

- ❖ Batemans Bay Local Aboriginal Land Council
- ❖ Didge Ngunawal Aboriginal Corporation
- ❖ Guntawang
- ❖ Adrian Brown
- ❖ Kamilaroi-Yankuntjatjara Working Group
- ❖ Gamila Roi
- ❖ Lyndsay Urquhart
- ❖ Sonione Rogers

Note on Terms

We have followed the NSW Heritage convention using terms such as 'Aboriginal' and defining groups of community, based on wide language groups i.e., 'Ngunnawal/Wiradjuri. We apologise to any First Nations members who find this usage offensive.

Limitations

Field survey effectiveness is based on ground conditions. The absence of identified sites does not imply that the area is free of heritage potential. In the event that any cultural material or other heritage items are discovered during works, the Unexpected Finds Protocol included in the appendix must be applied.

This assessment, whilst including discussions with RAPs in regards to intangible cultural heritage values does not include detailed cultural values mapping. All information is based from onsite discussions and feedback from RAPs.

This report covers the area of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage and does not include an assessment of historical archaeology or built heritage items. If the survey identifies these values as present, recommendations to further assessment would result.

History of the region is based on review of sources and does not constitute original or exhaustive historical research.

ABBREVIATIONS

ACHAR	Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report
AHIMS	Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System
AHIP	Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit
AR	Archaeological Report
ASDST	Aboriginal Sites Decision Support Tool
DECCW	NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water now NSW Heritage
DP	Deposited Plan
GPS	Global Positioning System
GSV	Ground Surface Visibility
LALC	Local Aboriginal Land Council
MGA	Map Grid of Australia
OEH	formerly NSW Office of Environment and Heritage
PAD	Potential Archaeological Deposit
RAP	Registered Aboriginal Party
SU	Survey Unit

GLOSSARY

Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit – permit issued under the NPW Act, authorising harm to an Aboriginal place or object.

Aboriginal object - A statutory term, meaning: ‘... any deposit, object or material evidence (not being a handicraft made for sale) relating to the Aboriginal habitation of the area that comprises NSW, being habitation before or concurrent with (or both) the occupation of that area by persons of non-Aboriginal extraction, and includes Aboriginal remains’ (s.5 NPW Act).

Archaeological Survey (Field survey) – a method of data collection for assessment involving the survey team walking across the project area in a systematic way, recording information about the landscape and recording any archaeological sites or materials.

Artefact - an object formed by Aboriginal people on stone material.

Declared Aboriginal place - A statutory term, meaning any place declared to be an Aboriginal place (under s.84 of the NPW Act) by the Minister administering the NPW Act, by order published in the NSW Government Gazette, because the Minister is of the opinion that the place is or was of special significance with respect to Aboriginal culture. It may or may not contain Aboriginal objects.

Harm - A statutory term meaning ‘... any act or omission that destroys, defaces, damages an object or place or, in relation to an object – moves the object from the land on which it had been situated’ (s.5 NPW Act).

Heritage site – an area containing material traces of Aboriginal use.

Place - An area of cultural value to Aboriginal people in the area (whether or not it is an Aboriginal place declared under s.84 of the Act).

Potential archaeological deposit (PAD) - is an area where sub-surface stone artefacts and/or other cultural materials are likely to occur (DEC 2005: 67)

Proponent - A person proposing an activity that may harm Aboriginal objects or declared Aboriginal places and who may apply for an AHIP under the NPW Act.

Proposed activity - The activity or works being proposed.

Project area - The area that is the subject of archaeological investigation and will be impacted by the project.

Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) – Aboriginal representatives registered for the project.

Subsurface testing – test excavations under the Code of Practice to determine the presence of archaeological deposits.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Past Traces has been engaged by Outline Planning to undertake an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) to explore future staging options for the Larbert Quarry at Lots 333 & 332 DP755915 (552 Larbert Road, Larbert) directly north and west of the existing quarry within the Queanbeyan-Palerang Local Government Area. The project area is located at 552 Larbert Road off the Kings Highway, between Bungendore and Braidwood and covers an approximate area of 20ha.

The project area is shown in a regional context in Figure 1 and in detail in Figure 2. The project is being undertaken to allow for the future planning and possible expansion of the Larbert Quarry.

Any potential future impacts will likely include the following:

- ❖ Vegetation clearance
- ❖ Significant excavation and landscaping of soils
- ❖ Construction of access roads and site facilities
- ❖ Installation of infrastructure and services such as electricity and communications
- ❖ Installation of boundary fences and landscaping.

The Larbert Quarry is currently exploring future options and possible expansion of the facility, covering the following stages:

- ❖ Stage 1: 48,933m². Includes existing approved extraction area of 19,200m².
- ❖ Stage 2: 28,446m².
- ❖ Stage 3: 32,470m².
- ❖ Stage 4: 34,425m².
- ❖ Stage 5: 40,415m².
- ❖ Stage 6: 15,520m².

The project area is shown on Figure 1 and 2.

Consultation with the Aboriginal community has been undertaken since registration for the initial Larbert quarry project in 2024, to assist the heritage team in assessing significance of any identified heritage sites and to provide guidance in the development of culturally appropriate management strategies. Consultation was in accordance with the *Consultation Guidelines for Proponents NSW* (DECCW 2010a) with a number of Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) participating in the project.

Field survey was undertaken with the assistance of the Batemans Bay Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC). The field survey identified six heritage sites, 4 within the project area, which are avoided through design from all impacts.

The management recommendations have been separated into each of the proposed development stages for the project for clarity and are detailed below:

Stage 1A

- ❖ Within the Stage [REDACTED] area, three Aboriginal heritage sites, two with associated areas of PAD are present (Larbert Quarry [REDACTED]). These sites have been impacted by the construction of the sediment ponds and quarrying operations.
- ❖ Design has been undertaken to avoid further impacts to the three heritage sites and no impacts will result from the ongoing use of the area as construction has been completed.
- ❖ Vehicle access to the areas of sites and PADs must be avoided to prevent further impact and only foot traffic in these areas is allowed.
- ❖ No impacts can occur to the heritage sites prior to the approval of an AHIP by NSW Heritage and if any works are to occur in the vicinity, then barrier fencing will be required to be installed at the site boundary with a buffer of 10m to prevent impacts prior to works proceeding.
- ❖ If, in the future, further construction works are to be undertaken in the area and the present sites cannot be reasonably avoided and works will impact these sites, then an Aboriginal heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) will be required to allow works to proceed.
- ❖ If, in the future, impacts are to occur within the areas of PAD (Larbert Quarry [REDACTED]), then a programme of subsurface testing will be required to determine the areal extent and the degree of intrusion into areas planned for development of any heritage deposits. The subsurface testing will be conducted using methodology in accordance with the Code of Practice (see Section 8.1.2).
- ❖ It is an offence to disturb an Aboriginal site without an AHIP as all Aboriginal objects are protected under the NSW *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*. Should any Aboriginal objects be encountered during works, then works must cease and implementation of the Unexpected Finds Protocol included in the appendix must be applied. This Unexpected Finds Protocol is detailed in Appendix 3.

Stage [REDACTED]

- ❖ As a result of background research, an AHIMS search and field survey, no Aboriginal heritage sites or areas of PAD have been identified within the Stage [REDACTED] area.
- ❖ No further heritage actions are required for this stage of works.
- ❖ It is an offence to disturb an Aboriginal site without an AHIP as all Aboriginal objects are protected under the NSW *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*. Should any Aboriginal objects be encountered during works, then works must cease and implementation of the Unexpected Finds Protocol included in the appendix must be applied. This Unexpected Finds Protocol is detailed in Appendix 3.

Stage [REDACTED]

- ❖ As a result of background research, an AHIMS search and field survey, no Aboriginal heritage sites or areas of PAD have been identified within the Stage [REDACTED] area.
- ❖ No further heritage actions are required for this stage of works.
- ❖ It is an offence to disturb an Aboriginal site without an AHIP as all Aboriginal objects are protected under the NSW *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*. Should any Aboriginal objects be encountered during works, then works must cease and implementation of the Unexpected Finds Protocol included in the appendix must be applied. This Unexpected Finds Protocol is detailed in Appendix 3.

Stage [REDACTED]

- ❖ As a result of background research, an AHIMS search and field survey, no Aboriginal heritage sites or areas of PAD have been identified within the Stage [REDACTED] area.
- ❖ One Aboriginal heritage site (Larbert Quarry [REDACTED]) with an associated with area of PAD and an area of PAD (Larbert Quarry [REDACTED]) are located in close proximity to the west boundary of the Stage [REDACTED] works area. As these sites are within proximity to works (within 20m), heritage fencing will be required to prevent accidental impacts.
- ❖ Protective barrier fencing consisting of a minimum of star pickets and high visibility flagging or construction temporary fencing must be installed at the boundary of the heritage site and/or PAD area with a 10m buffer to protect the sites from accidental impacts.
- ❖ It is an offence to disturb an Aboriginal site without an AHIP as all Aboriginal objects are protected under the NSW *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*. Should any Aboriginal objects be encountered during works, then works must cease and implementation of the Unexpected Finds Protocol included in the appendix must be applied. This Unexpected Finds Protocol is detailed in Appendix 3.

Stage [REDACTED]

- ❖ Within the Stage [REDACTED] area, one Aboriginal heritage site (Larbert Quarry [REDACTED]) is present with an associated with area of PAD. No impacts can occur to the heritage site prior to the approval of an AHIP by NSW Heritage. Design has been undertaken to remove impacts from this site and contain the site within a conservation area.
- ❖ If, in the future, the site cannot be reasonably avoided and works will impact this site, then an Aboriginal heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) is required to allow works to proceed. No impacts can occur to the heritage sites prior to the approval of an AHIP by NSW Heritage and if any works are to occur in the vicinity, then barrier fencing will be required to be installed at the site boundary with a buffer of 10m to prevent impacts.

- ❖ If impacts are to occur within the area of PAD (Larbert Quarry [REDACTED]), then a programme of subsurface testing will be required to determine the areal extent and the degree of intrusion into areas planned for development of any heritage deposits. The subsurface testing will be conducted using methodology in accordance with the Code of Practice (see Section 8.1.2).
- ❖ It is an offence to disturb an Aboriginal site without an AHIP as all Aboriginal objects are protected under the NSW *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*. Should any Aboriginal objects be encountered during works, then works must cease and implementation of the Unexpected Finds Protocol included in the appendix must be applied. This Unexpected Finds Protocol is detailed in Appendix 3.

Stage [REDACTED]

- ❖ As a result of background research, an AHIMS search and field survey, no Aboriginal heritage sites or areas of PAD have been identified within the Stage [REDACTED] area.
- ❖ No further heritage actions are required for this stage of works.
- ❖ It is an offence to disturb an Aboriginal site without an AHIP as all Aboriginal objects are protected under the NSW *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*. Should any Aboriginal objects be encountered during works, then works must cease and implementation of the Unexpected Finds Protocol included in the appendix must be applied. This Unexpected Finds Protocol is detailed in Appendix 3.

It is also recommended that:

- ❖ Further archaeological assessment will be required if the proposal activity extends beyond the area of the current investigation.
- ❖ While rare, Aboriginal burials have a higher prevalence in areas with deep sandy deposits as exhibited across the current project area. In the unlikely event that human remains are discovered during the construction, all work must cease. The police must immediately be notified, and their directions followed in the management of the area. Further assessment would be undertaken to determine if the remains are Aboriginal or non-Aboriginal. This Unexpected Finds Protocol is detailed in Appendix 3.
- ❖ The [REDACTED] though outside the current project area, is highly sensitive with a high likelihood of Aboriginal heritage sites; any future works nearby should be preceded by an archaeological assessment to identify and protect cultural values.
- ❖ Continued consultation with the RAPs for the project should be undertaken. RAPs should be informed of any major changes in project design or scope, further investigations or finds.

- ❖ It is recommended that all personnel working across the quarry site undertake Cultural Sensitivity Training. Given the presence of Aboriginal heritage sites and the potential for Aboriginal burials. This training should be delivered by, or in consultation with, the Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) and focus on increasing awareness of cultural heritage sites, cultural values and appropriate site behaviour. Cultural Sensitivity Training will assist in minimising inadvertent impacts, ensuring compliance with statutory obligations, and fostering respect for the cultural significance of the area.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 PROJECT BRIEF

Past Traces has been engaged by Outline Planning to undertake an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) to explore future staging options for the Larbert Quarry at Lots 333 & 332 DP755915 (552 Larbert Road, Larbert) directly north and west of the existing quarry within the Queanbeyan-Palerang Local Government Area. The project area is located at 552 Larbert Road off the Kings Highway, between Bungendore and Braidwood and covers an approximate area of 20ha.

The project area is shown in a regional context in Figure 1 and in detail in Figure 2. The project is being undertaken to allow for the future planning and possible expansion of the Larbert Quarry.

Any potential future impacts will likely include the following:

- ❖ Vegetation clearance
- ❖ Significant excavation and landscaping of soils
- ❖ Construction of access roads and site facilities
- ❖ Installation of infrastructure
- ❖ Installation of boundary fences and landscaping.

Any future proposed works will involve the substantial displacement and removal of soil and the importation of materials within the immediate area of any future works. Ground disturbance has the potential to impact on Aboriginal heritage sites and objects which are protected under the NSW *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*. The purpose of this assessment is to investigate the presence of any heritage sites and to assess the impacts and management strategies that may mitigate impacts, including application for an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) if impacts are unavoidable.

The aim of this assessment is to inform the proponents of their responsibilities in regards to cultural heritage sites and values that exist within the project area and allow for design to minimise or avoid impacts. This process of refinement of design following the results of the assessment has been applied with a reduction in the project area size, removing all impacts to the identified heritage sites. The project area shown on Figure 1 and 2 and covers the following stages:

- ❖ Stage 1: 48,933m². Includes existing approved extraction area of 19,200m².
- ❖ Stage 2: 28,446m².
- ❖ Stage 3: 32,470m².
- ❖ Stage 4: 34,425m².
- ❖ Stage 5: 40,415m².
- ❖ Stage 6: 15,520m².

To determine the impacts of expansion of the initial quarry site, an ACHAR was undertaken by Past Traces in 2024, covering the now approved extraction area in the south east of the project area. (Lots 331 & 332 DP755915) and including registration with Aboriginal parties. Following on from this work, Past Traces is conducting the ACHAR of the adjacent Lots 333 & 332 DP755915 which contains these future stages as shown on Figures 1 and 2.

This report will provide supporting documentation if an AHIP is required. Reporting will follow the guidelines of NSW Heritage, in particular the *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW* (DECCW 2010a).

Consultation with the Aboriginal community has been ongoing since registration for the initial stages in 2024, and has been undertaken to assist the heritage team in assessing significance of identified heritage sites and to provide guidance in the development of culturally appropriate management strategies. Consultation was in accordance with the *Consultation Guidelines for Proponents NSW* (DECCW 2010a).

1.2 RESTRICTED AND CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

Information in this report is restricted due to cultural sensitivities. Appendix 1 contains site locational information which is confidential and not to be made public.

Any figures within the report which show the location of heritage sites is restricted and not to be made available to the general public. If required to be displayed, this information should be redacted.

1.3 ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVES

The following is a summary of the major objectives of the assessment:

- ❖ Identify and consult with Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs).
- ❖ Review previous heritage reports to identify patterns in Aboriginal site distribution.
- ❖ Search AHIMS register to identify listed Aboriginal cultural heritage sites within the project area.
- ❖ Summarise past Aboriginal occupation within the project area using the archaeological record and develop a predictive site location model.
- ❖ Complete pedestrian survey of the project area to identify any unrecorded heritage sites or areas of potential.
- ❖ Through consultation with the Aboriginal community assess the significance of identified heritage sites.
- ❖ Identify the impacts of the proposed development on heritage sites within the project area, including mapping of locations and completion of AHIMS site cards
- ❖ Develop management strategies for the identified heritage sites within the project area to mitigate or remove impacts.

1.4 INVESTIGATORS AND CONTRIBUTORS

1.4.1 *Lyn O'Brien*

This report has been reviewed by Lyn O'Brien, Director of Past Traces Pty Ltd who has over 25 years' experience in the heritage profession since completing her BA (Hons) in Archaeology at the Australian National University (ANU) in 1996. Lyn has extensive experience managing major and small-scale projects, conducting numerous field surveys and excavations and authoring reports across both Aboriginal and Historical archaeology.

1.4.2 *Nathaniel Cracknell*

Nathaniel is a graduate of the University of Wollongong (BA (Hons) 2017). In 2021 he graduated with a Masters of Archaeological and Evolutionary Science, specialising in Bioarchaeology and Forensic Anthropology from the Australian National University. Since 2020, Nathaniel has worked across NSW and the ACT, contributing to a range of archaeological projects. He has led and participated in numerous excavations and field surveys, with experience in field mapping, GIS, historical research, and photogrammetry.

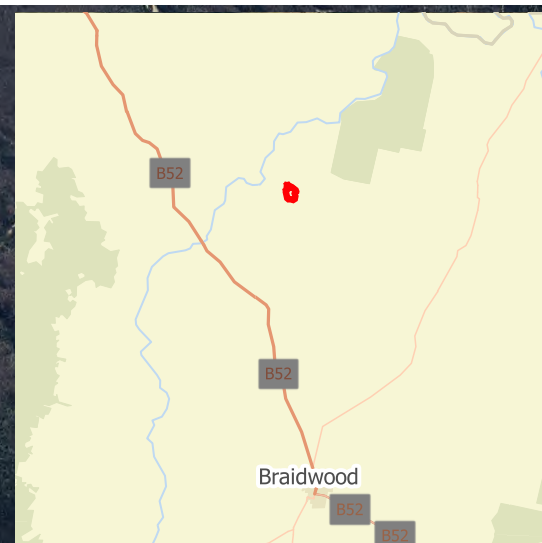
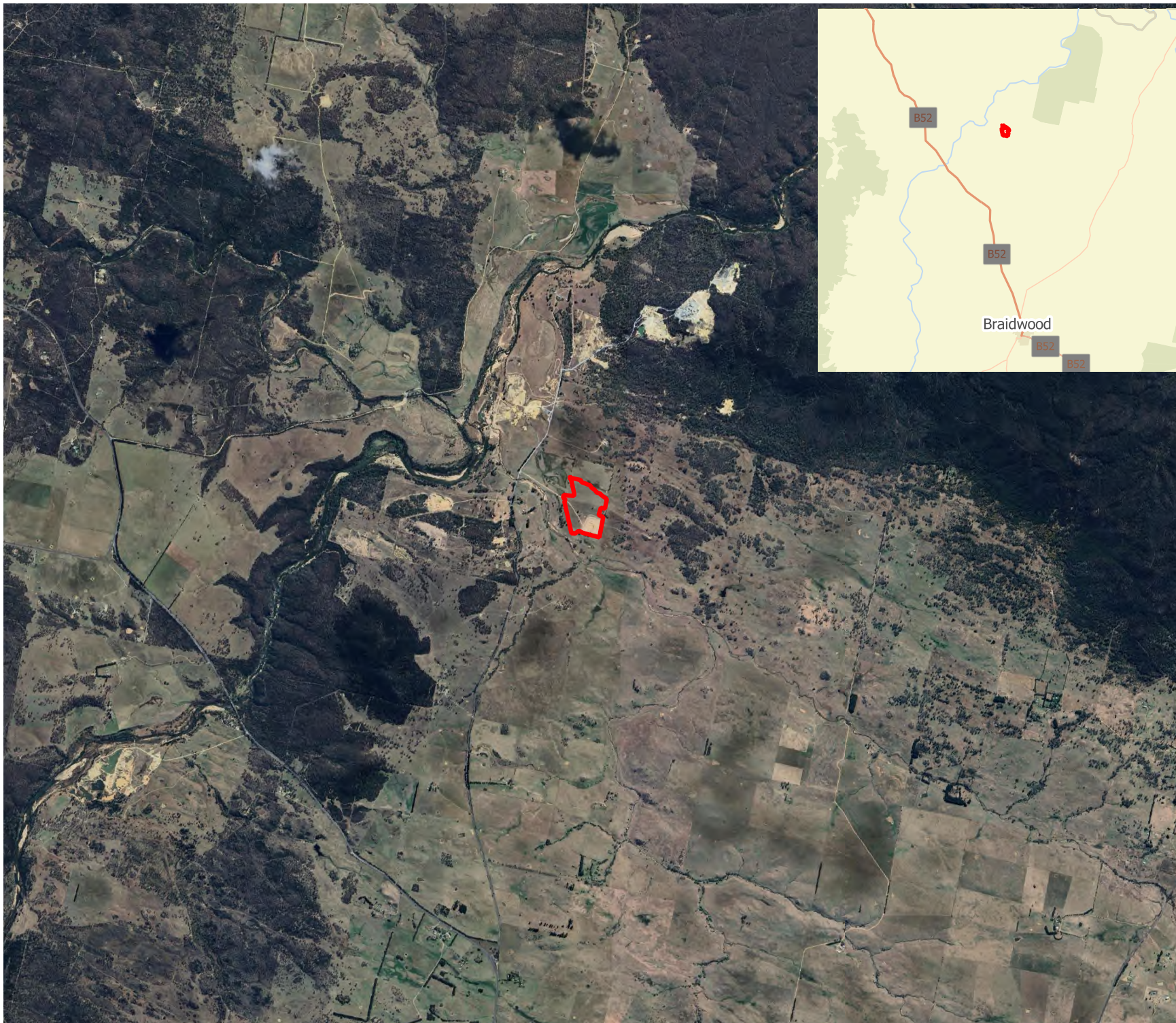


Figure 1: Regional Context

Legend

 Project Area



1:60,000

0 1,000 2,000 3,000 m



Imagery: Google Maps

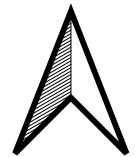
Past

Figure 2: Project Area



Legend

- Proposed Impact Area
- Study Area
- Existing Approved Area
- Watercourses



1:4,000

0 50 100 150 m



Imagery: Google Maps

Past

2 ABORIGINAL CONSULTATION

Consultation commenced with the Aboriginal community in 2023 for the ACHAR of the now approved extraction area.. Since that time, consultation has been ongoing, with the Project Pack and Methodology Pack having been sent to the RAPs for the proposed future options at the site.

Consultation with the Aboriginal community has been undertaken to assist the heritage team and to provide guidance in the development of culturally appropriate management strategies. Consultation was in accordance with the *Consultation Guidelines for Proponents NSW* (DECCW 2010a). Aboriginal representatives assisted with field survey, provided input into the management recommendations and significance assessment.

The *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* guideline (DECCW 2010a) outlines the following process to be undertaken:

- ❖ Notification of project proposal to Aboriginal stakeholders and invitation to register interest.
- ❖ Presentation of information about the proposed project and methodology to be followed with requests for comments.
- ❖ Gathering information about cultural significance from registered stakeholders by inviting comments, and input into management recommendations and significance
- ❖ Review of draft cultural heritage assessment report to ensure views are adequately captured and recommendations incorporated into report.

The consultation log for the project detailing the consultation steps completed and a full list of RAPs is provided in Appendix 2. Copies of notification letters, agency responses copies of email correspondence and comments from RAPs are provided as supporting documentation to this ACHAR.

A summary of actions completed for each of these stages are as follows.

2.1 2023 CONSULTATION PROCESS

Step 1. Letters outlining the project were sent to the statutory authorities including NSW Heritage, on the 19/9/2023 as identified under the consultation guidelines (DECCW 2010). Notification letters were then sent on the 18/9/2023 to the stakeholders identified by NSW Heritage with a request to register within the 14 day period. This included all previous RAPs for the 2022 Consultation.

A public notice was placed in the local newspaper the Queanbeyan Age (13/9/2023) and Braidwood Times on the 13/9/2023 seeking registrations of interest from Aboriginal stakeholders. The advertisement is provided in Appendix 2.

As a result of this process, eight (8) groups contacted the consultant to register their interest in the proposal. The Registered Aboriginal Groups (RAPs) who registered interest were:

- ❖ Batemans Bay Local Aboriginal Land Council
- ❖ [REDACTED]
- ❖ Didge Ngunawal Aboriginal Corporation
- ❖ Kamilaroi-Yankuntjatjara Working Group

❖ Guntawang

❖ Gamila Roi

❖

❖ [REDACTED] S

Step 2. A Project Pack document was sent to the RAPs (13/10/2023) providing details of the project with the registration letter. This project pack is attached at Appendix 2 of the ACHAR.

Step 3. A Methodology Pack with the proposed heritage assessment methodology for the proposal was sent to all RAPs (24/10/2023). The document invited comments regarding the proposed methodology and requested any information regarding known Aboriginal heritage sites or values within the project area.

Step 4. A draft version of the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report* for the initial quarry project was forwarded to the RAPs on the 23/11/2023 with a timeframe of 28 days provided to allow for responses to the document. This was extended due to the Christmas period with only one response being received. A final copy of the report was provided on the 16/01/2024.

Copies of all correspondence, emails, project packs, methodology packs and public notices were provided to NSW Heritage for their consideration as supporting documentation accompanying the previous ACHAR.

Step 5 – Status Updates. Emails were sent to the RAPs informing them of the progress of the DA through Council on the 16/7/2024, 15/1/2025, 15/6/2025.

2.2 2025 CONSULTATION PROCESS

Consultation has been ongoing from the 2023 consultation with all registered stakeholders being informed of this future stage of works at the Larbert Quarry.

Step 2. The initial commencement email and the Project Pack document was sent to the RAPs (4/08/2025) providing details of the future options project. This project pack is attached at Appendix 2 of the ACHAR.

Step 3. A Methodology Pack with the proposed heritage assessment methodology for the proposal was sent to all RAPs (4/08/2025). The document invited comments regarding the proposed methodology and requested any information regarding known Aboriginal heritage sites or values within the project area with the review period ending on the 1/09/2025.

Step 4. Field survey was completed with the field assistance of the Batemans Bay LALC. Onsite discussions as to significance, potential and known site patterning were discussed on site.

Step 5. A draft version of this *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report* for the project (this document) was forwarded to the RAPs with a timeframe of 28 days provided to allow for responses to the document. Any comments and feedback were noted and incorporated into the final report.

2.3 ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

Aboriginal consultation has been ongoing through the project with feedback requested during the design of methodology, field work and the draft cultural assessment. Information regarding the cultural values and known heritage sites surrounding the project area was provided onsite by the attending RAPs.

A draft of this report has been forwarded on its completion to the RAPs and any responses received have been included in the final ACHAR recommendations.

3 LANDSCAPE CONTEXT

3.1 GEOLOGY

The geology of the project area consists of Quaternary alluvium and aeolian deposits with fine quartz sands underlain by Devonian hornblende biotite 'Braidwood' granodiorite, adamellite and granite. These metasediments consist of undifferentiated Ordovician metasediments. Aeolian sands overlay the granitic rock of the Braidwood Batholith and Ordovician metasediments which include deep weathering profiles. The Geology of the project area is shown on Figure 3.

3.2 SOILS

Soils throughout the project area consist of the Oorong and Larbert Variant B 'lab' soil landscapes. All soils are deep consisting of sorted sandy loams on alluvial soils, with aeolian sands (Jenkins 2000:157). This distribution of soils is shown on Figure 6 and the soil composition is described as follows:

- ❖ Oorong (oo) – These soils consist of moderately deep rapidly drained Siliceous Sands on dunes, midslopes and lower slopes with shallow, rapidly drained Earthy Sands near granitic rock outcrops. Moderately deep, moderately well to imperfectly drained Yellow Podzolic Soils on upper slopes. Moderately deep to deep, poorly to very poorly drained Alluvial Soils, Gleyed Podzolic Soils and Humic Gleys on drainage lines.
- ❖ Larbert Variant B (lab) – Consists of moderately deep to deep, poorly drained Solodic Soils on old terraces with moderately deep to deep, moderately well-drained Noncalcic Brown Soils and Prairie Soils on younger terraces. Moderately deep to very deep, poorly to very poorly drained Alluvial Soils along drainage depressions and backswamps and deep to very deep, well-drained Alluvial Soils on floodplain. Well sorted sands present above riverbeds or floodplains.

3.3 FLORA AND FAUNA

The natural vegetation across the project area has been extensively cleared and is now considered as a modified environment consisting of cleared woodland, grassland and swamps. Within the active quarry area of Stage 1A all coverage has been removed. Within the remaining stages, grass coverage appears to have been subject to pasture improvement and provides sparse cover over the sandy loam soils. The natural vegetation of the area would have consisted of temperate grasslands/woodlands on the creek edges prior to clearing with native grasses under an understory of Eucalypts including *Eucalyptus melliodora* (Yellow box), *E. bridgesiana* (Apple box), *E. pauciflora* (Snow gum) and *E. viminalis* (Ribbon gum) (Jenkins 2000).



Figure 3: Geology

Legend

— Project Area

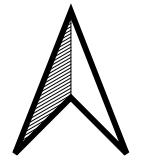
Geological Units:

Adaminaby Group

Alluvium 38485

Braidwood Granodiorite

Colluvium 38491



1:15,000

0 200 400 600 m



Imagery: Google Maps

Past

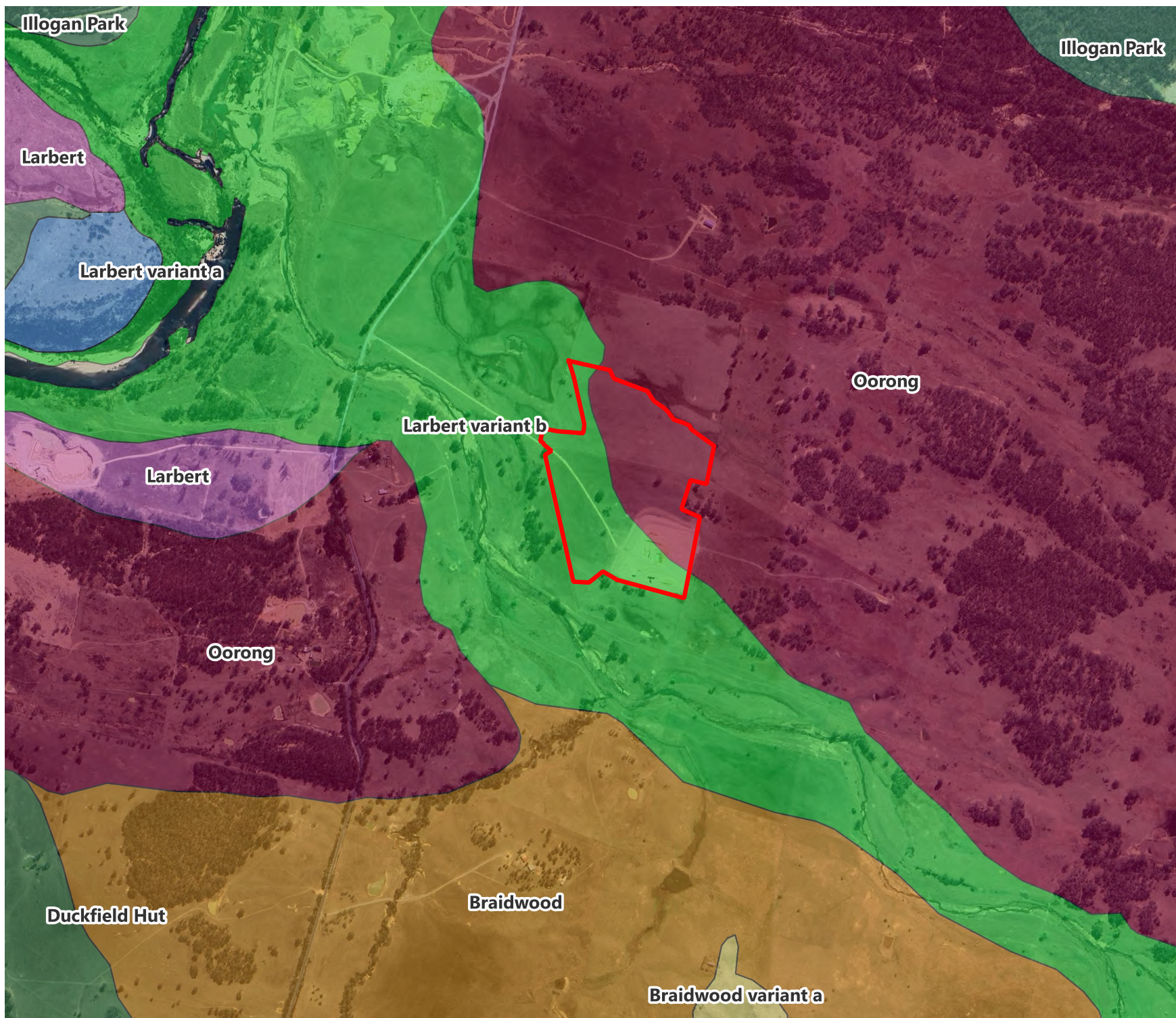


Figure 4: Soil Landscapes

Legend

— Project Area

Soil Landscapes:

- Braidwood
- Braidwood variant a
- Duckfield Hut
- Durran Durra
- Illogan Park
- Larbert
- Larbert variant a
- Larbert variant b
- Larbert variant c
- Oorong
- Sight Hill



1:15,000

0 200 400 600 m



Imagery: Google Maps

Past

The grassy and creek line environment supported a wide range of edible plant and fauna species. The area of Durran Durra Creek would have provided year round resources. Fauna present would range from fish, turtles, frogs, small marsupials (i.e. possums), to avian species and macropods. A range of lizards also inhabit this environment that would have been utilised by Aboriginal groups. Grass seeds and rushes from the flood zones may have been gathered for use in fibre production and ground into food supplies (Percival and Stewart 1997).

3.4 HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Land disturbance following European settlement affect the surviving archaeological record and by either obscuring sites through factors such as ploughing, vegetation removal or buildings, or by exposing sites through actions such as erosion, stock trails and road cuttings. Activities such as mining or large-scale forestry are highly destructive of the archaeological record of Aboriginal utilisation.

Within the project area settlement had occurred prior to the earliest available parish map of 1898. The 1898 (1st Edition) County of St Vincent, Parish of Bruce Map notes that the 65ac. Lot 332 was owned by Jennings and McDowall, with the 59ac. Lot 333 owned by G Bassingthwaighe. No Structures are shown as being present at this time.

3.5 LANDSCAPE CONTEXT

The landscape elements within the project area affect the findings of archaeological potential, based on the conditions for use and occupation of the landscape and the availability of resources present in the region. The presence or absence of landscape features, degree of slope and exposure to wind or cold drainage all affect the assessment of potential and influence predictive modelling for the presence of Aboriginal sites. In this instance, the project area is confined to undulating low slopes and creek flats.

The mapping of previous sites in the region suggests that the area of creek lines would be a focus of activity as water is a main resource. Being prone to flooding this landform may have held banks of rushes and may have been water laden during periods of rainfall resulting in 'boggy' ground. Preferred resting or camping locations would then be located on small rises of dry ground probably situated on alluvial terraces or lower slopes. These areas (generally classified as PADs) have been investigated in previous studies within the region, consistently returning low density presence of Aboriginal artefacts.

4 ABORIGINAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT

A desktop assessment has been undertaken to review existing archaeological studies for the Project Area, and the wider Braidwood region. This information has been used to identify previously recorded sites and to develop an Aboriginal site prediction model for the project area.

4.1 ABORIGINAL GROUPS WITHIN THE PROJECT AREAS

The major language groups identified in the Larbert area by Norman Tindale in his seminal work on Aboriginal tribal boundaries are the Walbunja (Walbanga) and Wandandian peoples, part of the larger Yuin Nation, the project area is located roughly at their boundaries.

The boundaries of the Walbunja covered the area from Cape Dromedary to the south to the vicinity of Ulladulla to the north and extending inland to the Shoalhaven River, including the areas of Braidwood and Araluen. To the north of Braidwood and the area of Ulladulla is the boundary with the Wandandian people. The Dhurga (also Thurga) language is widely the language of the Yuin nation but more specifically of the Walbunja and Wandandian peoples.

The Wandandian were associated with the larger Dharawal (Tharawal) who extended as far as Picton, and also associated with the Yuin (Eades 1976, Sefton 1980). The Tharumba language is spoken among the people of the Shoalhaven River, by the Wandandian Tribe, Thurawal in another part of the same district and also Wodi-Wodi in the south Illawarra. Thurawal appears to be the same word as Turrubul and Turuwal the names of the languages spoken at Moreton Bay and Port Jackson. The boundaries of the Wandandian ran from Ulladulla on the coast to the Shoalhaven River in the west and north in the area of Nowra (Tindale 1974).

According to Kwok (2013:17), the Shoalhaven River and the Moruya River catchment areas form a highly significant region for the Walbunja people, and the larger Yuin nation, forming a network of travelling routes in an area of abundant resources:

"Over time, anthropologists have come to appreciate that traditional Aboriginal relationships to land and socio-cultural formations are multilayered and highly complex. They range from the most intimate, local connections to place, through those that enable people to live together and gain their sustenance on a daily basis, to those bonds of recognition and mutual interest forged over wider distances by extended kinship and marriage networks, shared linguistic features, ceremonial cooperation and martial alliance."

The Walbunja people occupied land which included the Braidwood region. This group exploited the resources of the riverine, grassland and open forests of the region, as well as the hinterlands and coastal areas further east. Their choice of campsite was influenced by several factors, and from archaeological evidence Flood (1980: 158) indicates that camp-sites will be typically found within one kilometre of reliable water sources, most usually within 100 metres from water.

The Wandandian moved through their landscape gathering resources, travelling to gatherings and caring for country and totems. Interactions with neighbouring groups including trade and marriage were common. Areas of creeklines and the Shoalhaven River were a focus of fishing and gathering of

resources. In these areas it is documented that fishing occurred using traps and nets made from plant fibres gathered along the banks (Organ 1992: 223-224).

The Wandandian are noted as less nomadic than the surrounding groups and although their area extended further inland on the tableland, they were primarily coastal people (HO& DUAP 1996:108). The tableland provided consistent vegetable food source for a mobile people and from September until May there was an abundance of fish in the major rivers while crayfish, yabbies and platypus abounded most tributary streams. Meat from possums was in consistent supply and fire was often used to remove the underbrush and encourage the growth of grass to attract grazing animals (HO & DUAP 1996:108). Whereas there is little recorded information as to the traditional lifestyle of the Walbunja people. According to Flood (1980), these people formed small highly mobile kin-based groups that met periodically at large inter-tribal gatherings. These gatherings allowed for trade, marriage, ceremony, and the resolution of disputes between the smaller groups.

The Yuin ceremonies of initiation were attended by people from the Shoalhaven River (Wandandian), Braidwood (Walbanga), the southern part of Manero (Ngarigo), and Twofold Bay (Djiringanj & Thaua). Following the end of these ceremonies, trade was undertaken where articles which people had brought with them for exchange were bartered. This traditional way of life was disrupted with European settlement of the region.

4.2 PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK

A number of heritage studies have been undertaken in the Braidwood area, mainly for infrastructure upgrades, with very few in the immediate vicinity of the project area. A review of this body of work has been undertaken to provide context and site location modelling for the wider region which are applicable to the landforms for predictive modelling within the project area. The most relevant reports for the current project are summarised below.

4.2.1 Local Overview

Attenbrow and Hughes (1983) completed an assessment for the proposed Welcome Reef Dam on the Shoalhaven River, which included the areas along Durran Durra Creek adjacent to the project area. During the survey 117 sites were recorded within or immediately adjacent to the proposed inundation area of the dam; all but three were artefact scatters. It was recommended that prior to dam construction additional survey and a consequent program of salvaging selected sites is undertaken. This survey recorded sites along Durran Durra Creek to the west and south of the project area, with site 57-3-0019 recorded 200m west of the current project area and consisting of six silcrete artefacts.

Attenbrow (1984) further surveyed this area for the Welcome Reef Dam inundation Zone which covered the area north of the Shoalhaven River to Braidwood. Over 200 sites were identified the majority consisting of low-density artefact scatters in proximity to water courses. Attenbrow concluded that high areas of potential and the possibility of finding stratified deposits were in sand bodies located in association with water bodies. She designated these sites as not requiring conservation but should be excavated and recorded prior to the Dam proceeding.

Packard (1986) completed a survey of sand bodies in the region when he was commissioned by the National Parks and Wildlife Service to investigate the recognized archaeological potential of sand

deposits in the region. He located a number of large artefact scatters (+50 artefacts), small surface scatters and isolated finds on sand bodies. The sites were generally located on midslopes in conjunction with water courses and reflected camp sites with generalised utilisation activities. No quarry or specialised sites were identified. He concluded that a predictive model that located higher potential for sites on mid-slopes and crests with access to water resources was applicable to areas containing sand deposit landscapes. His findings showed that most sites were located within 500 m of a permanent or semi-permanent water course with the average distance being 325 m. Sites were mostly level, few displaying slopes steeper than 5 degrees and none steeper than 7. Based on the available data in 1988, Packard thought the distance to water may not be conclusive as an indicator of sub surface potential rather than the presence of sand bodies.

Ferguson (1988) followed on from the recommendations of Attenbrow completing test excavations on a sand body on the shores of Reedy Creek. This sand body was not Aeolian but alluvial deposits and the area investigated was in direct association with the creekline. Thus, the area fitted the designation of Attenbrow of high potential. Test excavations consisted of 37 1m x 1m trenches and 41 Auger holes recovering in total 2998 artefacts. The artefacts were mainly recovered from 20-40cm layer and extending to 80cm (Pg 13).

Robyn Mills Archaeological Services (2002) undertook the Nowra to Nerriga Main Road Upgrade. Eleven Aboriginal sites consisting of artefact scatters, scarred trees and an overhang were identified, none would be impacted by the development. Subsurface testing was then undertaken by NOHC in 2004 in areas of potential (creek slopes, crest and spurlines) with 101 artefacts recovered. A further report was submitted in 2006.

NSW Archaeology in 2005 completed a survey of the Kings Highway, Braidwood in a section of proposed realignment, west of Jamaleopa Road. No sites were recorded and the landforms were assessed as holding low potential.

NSW Archaeology in 2009 completed an assessment of a proposed sand quarry on Halls Lane, off the Nerriga Road, to the north of Braidwood. Dibden concluded the following predictive model:

In the Braidwood region stone artefact scatters of moderate or high density will occur adjacent to or in close proximity to reliable water sources on reasonably flat, elevated landforms. Landforms situated close to ephemeral water can be expected to contain low density artefact distributions only (2009:2).

One site consisting of two artefacts was recorded on the banks of an ephemeral tributary creek line. The site was assessed as holding low significance.

NOHC in 2020 completed an assessment of 30kms of optic fibre cable alignment running from Nerriga Road along the verge of Braidwood Road. Ten previously recorded sites were within the project area with an additional three sites identified by the field survey, all consisting of single stone artefacts on small crests prior to descending to a creek line. The project area was held to be highly disturbed by the road construction.

Past Traces in 2024 completed subsurface testing and survey of an upgrade of the Ningee Nimbee Creek Crossing on the Nerriga Road. A large site was identified on the lower slopes to the creek frontage confirming the locational model of creek line frontage.

The relationship between creek lines, sand deposit sites (relict shorelines, strand lines and aeolian deposits) has been focus of investigations following on from Packard with later studies (including those of Packard himself in 1988, 1991 and 1992) showing a relationship between high potential areas of sand bodies with access to water and lesser potential in areas of sand deposits away from creek lines (CHMA 2008). Sites in sand bodies are likely to contain high density artefacts retaining stratigraphic variability as opposed to individual artefacts or small sites within other landforms and alluvial environments.

4.3 HERITAGE REGISTERS

4.3.1 NSW State Heritage Inventory

The State Heritage Inventory (SHI) is maintained by NSW Heritage and consists of State heritage registered places, declared Aboriginal places and items listed on Local Environment Plans (LEPs).

A search of the SHI was undertaken on the 5/8/2025 with no listed heritage places or items within the project area. A search of the Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional LEP 2022 was undertaken on the 5/8/2025 with no listed heritage places or items within the project area.

4.3.2 Aboriginal Heritage Information Management Systems Search and Site Analysis

An extensive search of the NSW Heritage Aboriginal Heritage Information Management Systems (AHIMS) database was undertaken on the 4/8/2025 covering the approximate 2km surrounding area centred on the project area. The extensive search results revealed no previously recorded heritage sites within the project area with 32 sites within the wider 2km search area.

One registered site, Durran Durra Ck WR15 (57-3-0019) is located along the west boundary of the current Lot 332 DP755915, outside the project area, with another site, LQ1 (57-3-0493) located in the adjacent Lot 331 DP755915.

The recorded sites by type as listed on AHIMS are listed in Table 1 and shown on Figure 5 in relation to the project area. Site search results are provided in Appendix 1.

Table 1. AHIMS Site Details

Site Type	Number of Sites	Percentage in region
Isolated Finds	1	2.94%
Artefact Scatters	31	91.18%
Potential Archaeological Deposit (PAD)	2	5.88%

It is clear from these results that the dominant site type in the region are occurrences of stone artefacts, either as isolated finds or in clusters as small artefact scatters accounting for nearly all site types within the record. The recorded sites are located on areas of raised terrace or lower slopes in association with creek lines. The locations of these sites and the identification of the areas of PAD, conform to the predictive model for the placement of sites in the local region.

**Figure 5: Previously
Recorded Heritage Sites**



Legend

- Project Area
- AHIMS Sites
- Watercourses



1:22,000



Imagery: Google Maps

Past

4.3.3 Predictive Modelling

Based on the previous assessments completed through the region site locations and types can be summarised as follows:

- ❖ The majority of open artefact scatters are located near creek lines, particularly on reasonably level, elevated ground,
- ❖ artefact scatters occurring away from major creek lines tend to be small and sparse,
- ❖ scarred trees may occur wherever old growth trees of sufficient age have survived (locally at least 140-150 years); and
- ❖ stone procurement sites may occur where rock suitable for stone tool manufacture is present on the surface, but none are recorded in the area.

The following predictive model has been developed for the project area (Table 2).

Table 2. Site Prediction Model

Probability	Site Type	Definition	Typical Landform	Assessment
Moderate	Isolated finds and surface scatters of stone artefacts	Stone artefacts ranging from single artefact to high numbers	Most likely in proximity to creek lines and river flats	Previous agricultural impacts 
Moderate	Potential Archaeological Deposits (PADs)	Area considered on landform to hold higher potential for unidentified subsurface deposits	Varies, but most frequent on elevated terraces along creek lines and river frontage.	Previous agricultural impacts 
Very Low	Culturally Modified Trees (CMTs)	Trees which have been modified by scarring, marking or branch twining	Wherever old remnant trees remain	No old trees appear present within the project area. Remnant stands may be present.
Nil	Rock Engravings	Images engraved on flat rock surfaces	Escarpments, rock platforms or rock shelters	Not present
Nil	Stone arrangements	Arrangements of stones by human intention, including circles lines or patterns.	Any landform	Previous impacts and ongoing use suggest unlikely these sites would remain and none are previously recorded.
Nil	Stone quarries/Ochre sources	Quarry sites where resources have been mined.	Any landform	Not present based on geology.

Probability	Site Type	Definition	Typical Landform	Assessment
Nil	Axe grinding grooves	Grooves in stone caused by the grinding of stone axes	Usually in creek lines, as water is used as abrasive with sand.	None previously recorded.
Low	Burials	Burials of Aboriginal persons	Usually requiring deep sandy soils on eastern facing slopes	Relevant sandy soils present. None previously recorded.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD SURVEY

5.1 PAST TRACES 2025 SURVEY RESULTS

Field survey was conducted on the 12th September 2025 with pedestrian transects undertaken by Nat Cracknell of Past Traces and Peter White of Batemans Bay LALC in accordance with the requirements of the Code of Practice.

The field survey covered all landforms and visually inspected all trees standing in the survey area. The survey was undertaken to verify the findings of the desktop review of landforms and disturbance, and record any identified heritage sites or areas of potential archaeological Deposit (PAD). Based upon the background research, known Aboriginal site patterning, and current aerial photography, the entire block was inspected with particular focus taken in the areas of highest potential. The field survey area was larger than the current refined project area, covering all areas within the lot boundaries to provide a comprehensive understanding of the potential constraints on any future options and proposed expansions. The active quarry area in the south east of the survey area, was not surveyed due to safety concerns and the high degree of previous impact from ongoing quarry operations. The locations of survey transects are shown on Figure 6.

All surveyed areas and items of interest were recorded on a topographic map of the survey area (using a GPS and GDA94 MGA55 coordinates), along with levels of visibility, erosion, soil conditions, and evidence of land disturbance.

Ground surface visibility (GSV) is the percentage of ground surface that is visible during the field inspection. GSV increases in areas of exposures such as stock impact trails, roads, gates and along areas of erosion such as creek banks and dam walls. As a result, surveys undertaken in areas with high exposure rates result in a more effective survey coverage.

The field survey resulted in the following findings.

5.1.1 *Ground Surface Visibility*

The survey was undertaken at a time when surface visibility was moderate across the majority of the survey area with extensive grass coverage with GSV estimated across the survey area between 20-40%. In the southern section, where impacts have occurred from quarrying operations, conditions differed with large areas of exposures and overall higher levels of GSV. Exposures rates also varied across the area, with large areas of bare soils namely located in impacted areas, fence lines, vehicle tracks, erosional areas, animal diggings and impacts and under trees.

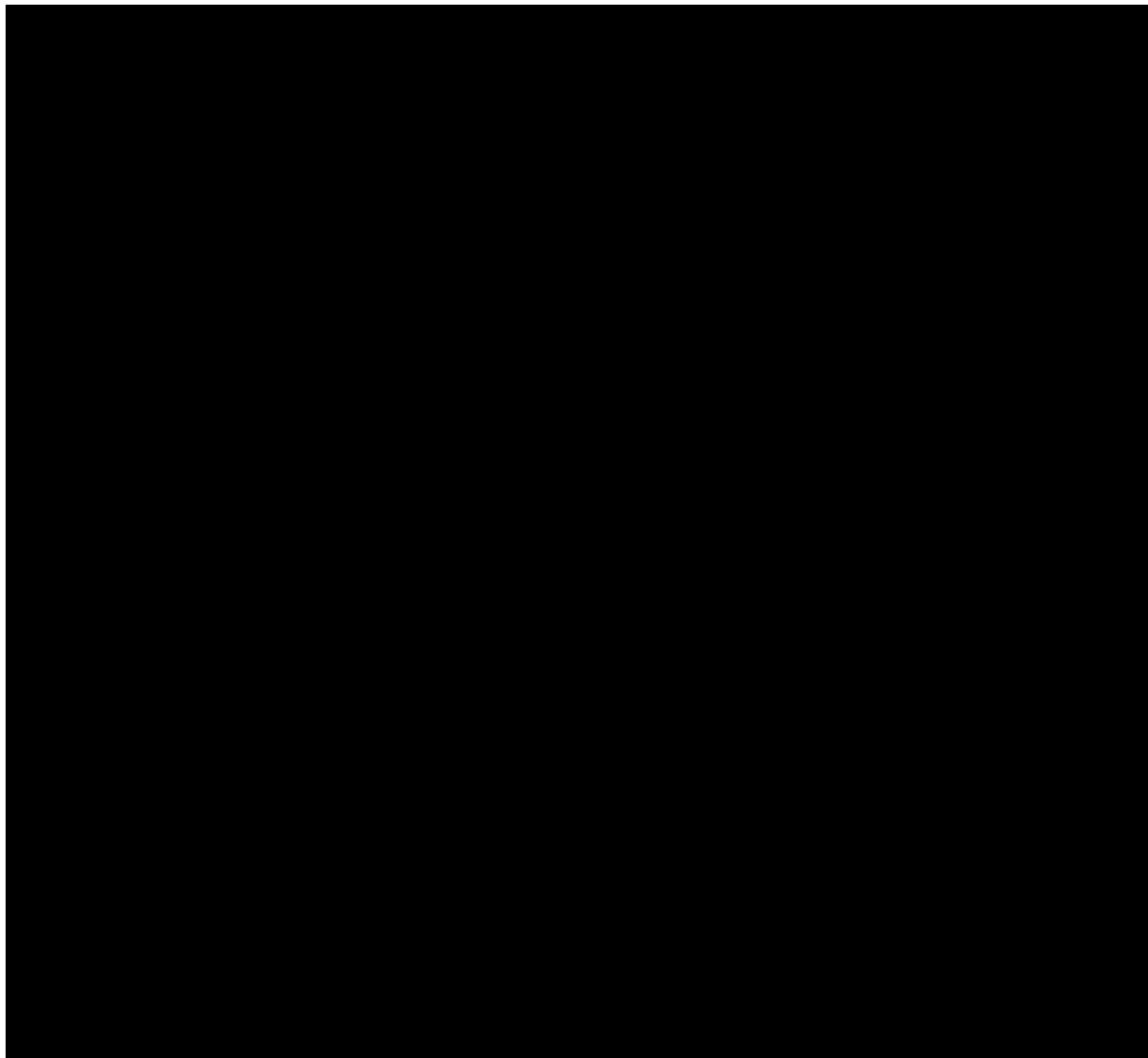
As a result, of these differing field conditions, the survey area was divided into two Survey Units, the majority consisting of the grazed, grassed paddocks and the southern impacted section being named as SU2.

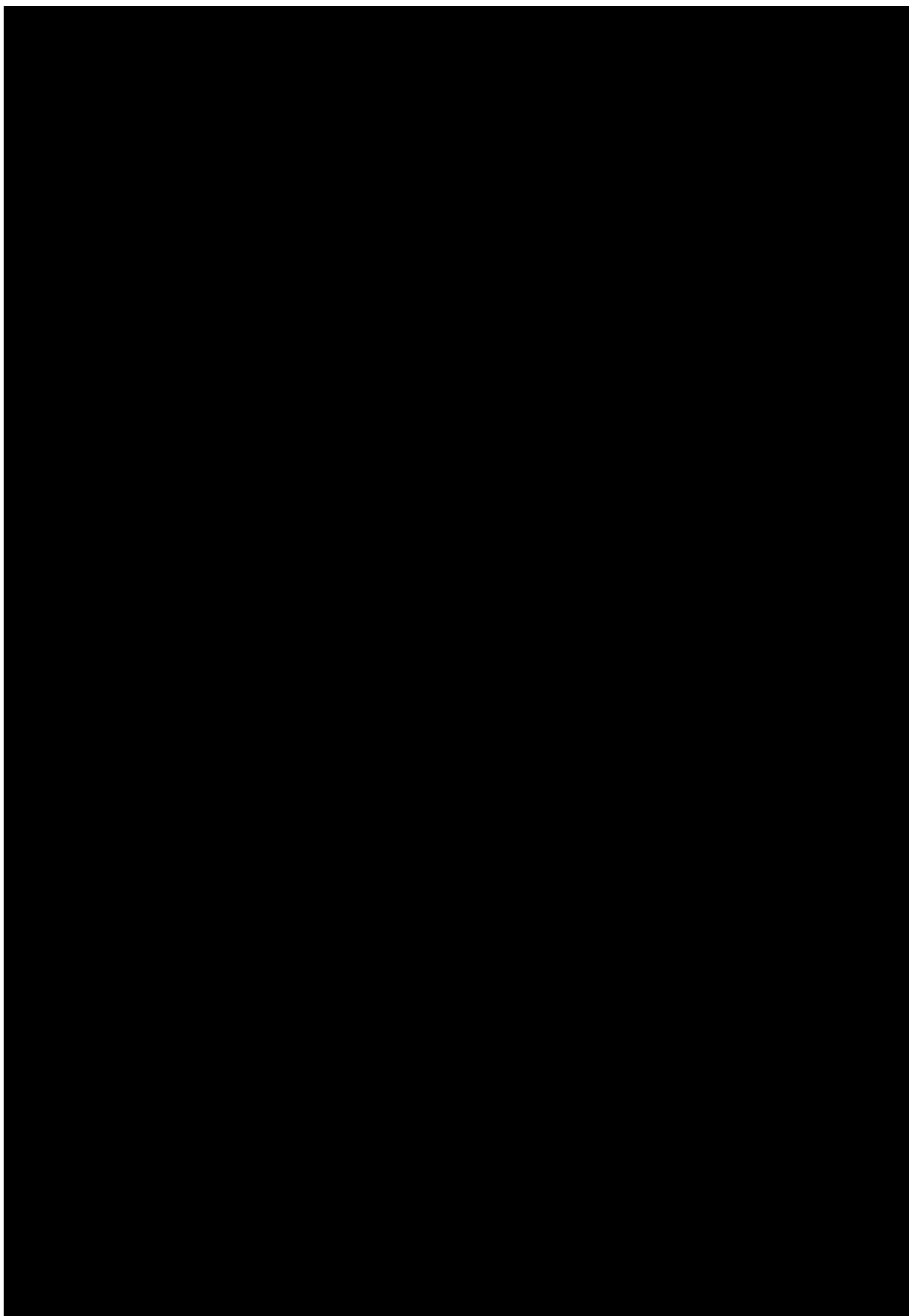
The GSV, degree of disturbance and rate of exposures for each landform within each of the survey units is provided in Table 3 below.

Table 3. Ground Surface Visibility Rating

Landform	GSV	Exposure Rate	Degree of Disturbance	Mechanism of disturbance
[REDACTED]	30%	20%	Low to Moderate	Vegetation clearing for stock grazing and previous pastoral improvement.
[REDACTED]	20%	20%	Moderate	Vegetation clearing for stock grazing. A constructed dam. Fence lines.
[REDACTED]	40%	70%	High	High levels of disturbance surrounding the quarry site, access road and drainage ponds with large amounts of earthworks.

The conditions at the time of the field survey are shown in Plates 1 to 10.





5.1.2 Survey Coverage

The factors of GSV, level of disturbance, the number of survey participants and the spacing of transects all combine to provide estimates of survey coverage and effectiveness.

Two team members completed the field survey, inspecting a minimum area of 2m on each side during the pedestrian walkover, considered to be the maximum distance of effective coverage (Burke and Smith 2004). The area was physically inspected with the GSV and exposure rate for each landform and survey unit taken into account to provide the survey coverage. At the levels recorded for the field survey, the effectiveness of the field survey is considered to be fair, and has acted to confirm the predictive landform assessment. The pedestrian transects with landform are shown on Figure 6.

The landform summary and a summary of effective survey coverage for the Project Area is provided in Table 4 and 5. These calculations are based on the formula provided in Requirement 10 of the Code of Practice.

Table 4. Survey Coverage

Landform	SU Area (m ²)	GSV %	Exposure %	Effective Coverage Area m ² (SU area x GSV% x Exp%)	Effective coverage (Eff coverage area ÷ SU Area x 100)
[REDACTED]	174382	30%	40%	20925.84	12%
[REDACTED]	680	20%	20%	27.2	4%
[REDACTED]	62938	40	70	17622.64	28%
Total	238,000			28,505.60	11.88%

5.1.3 Levels of Disturbance

The degree of disturbance across the study area was estimated as low to moderate in [REDACTED] increasing to high in the [REDACTED]. The project area has been subject to a long history of pastoral regimes with pastoral improvement having been previously undertaken as well as previous tree clearance. The project area has been split into two main areas, with [REDACTED] and a [REDACTED].

The [REDACTED] is considered to have been low to moderately impacted by its ongoing use as pastoral land. This includes pastoral improvement, shallow ploughing and reseeding, as well as the presence of stock. A transmission line is also present with several poles located within the project area.

the current quarry access road and the expanded 210x250m extraction area. The approved area covers the approximate 160x130m quarry site, however the quarry has since expanded to include a larger 210x250m area with an additional 200x80m system of drainage ponds located adjacent to the west. Surrounding the active extraction area, is a large dirt embankment with tracks, plant and vehicles accessing the quarry via a dirt road, constructed of imported and compacted materials.

To the west of the extraction areas, are a recently constructed 200x80m area of excavated drainage ponds and built-up embankments. This area had been heavily landscaped with large amounts of excavation having been undertaken for the construction of the ponds and their perimeter embankments. Several dirt roadways and eroded vehicle tracks were visible, as well as heavy vehicle and plant impacts creating areas of exposure. In these areas, impacts are considered very high, with the remainder of the paddock having been only pastorally impacted.

Overall disturbance across the remainder of the survey area is low to moderate with disturbance present in the form of prior vegetation and tree removal, stock impacts, vehicle impacts and fence lines.

Table 5. Landform Summary

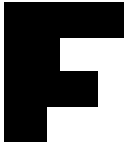
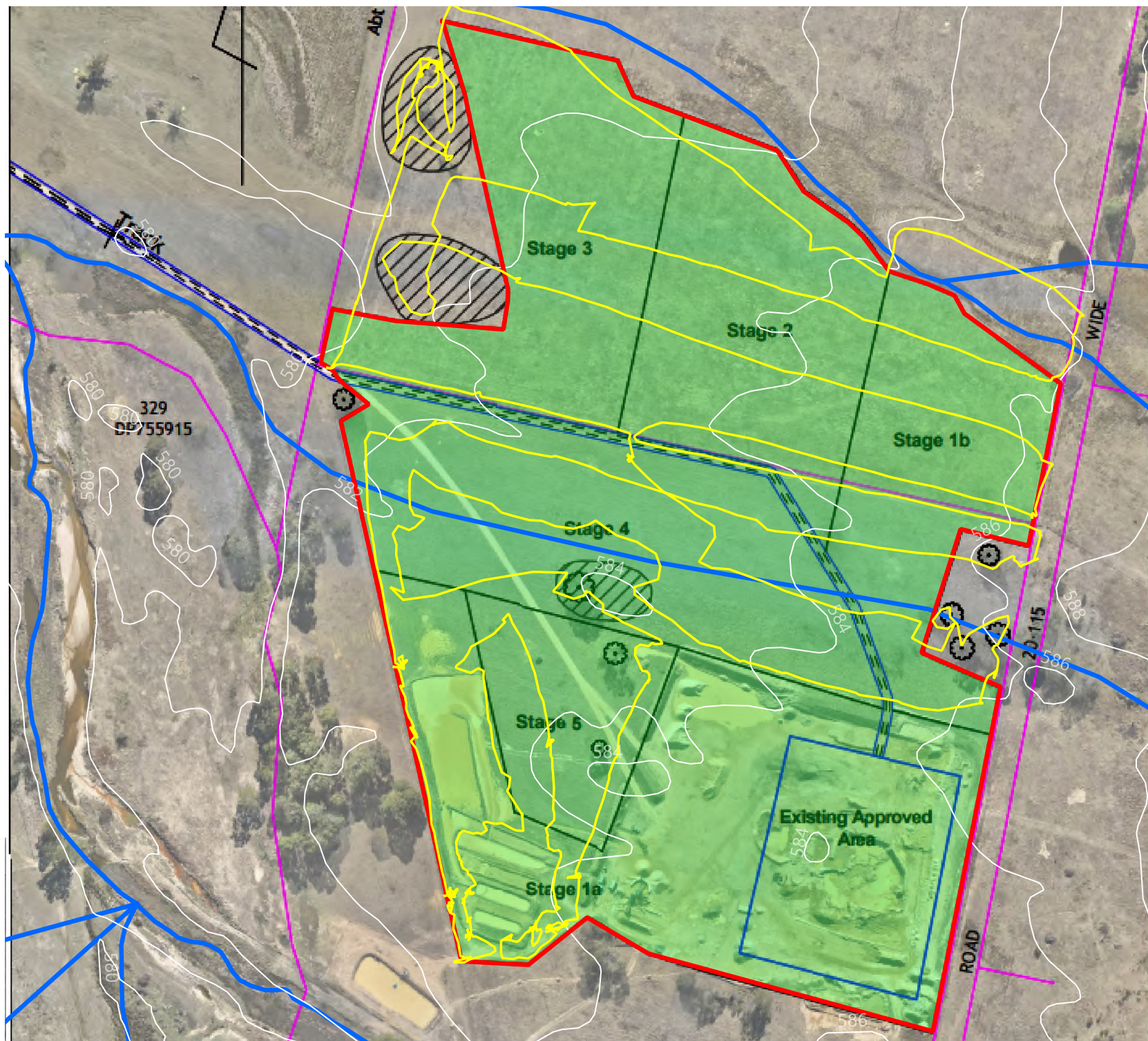
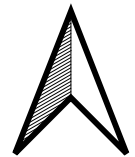
Landform	Area (m2)	effective coverage area (m2)	% of effective coverage	No. of sites	No of sites with PAD	No. of PAD
	174382	20925.84	12%	0	2	1
	680	27.2	4%	0	0	0
	62938	17622.64	28%	1	2	
Total	238,000	28,505.60	11.88%	1	4	1

Figure 6: Landforms and Pedestrian Transects



Legend

- Project Area
- Pedestrian Transects
- 2m Contours
- Watercourses
- Low Slopes



1:3,600

0 50 100 150 m

Imagery: 25/07/2025
Aerial Photograph

Past

5.2 RESULTS - ABORIGINAL HERITAGE SITES

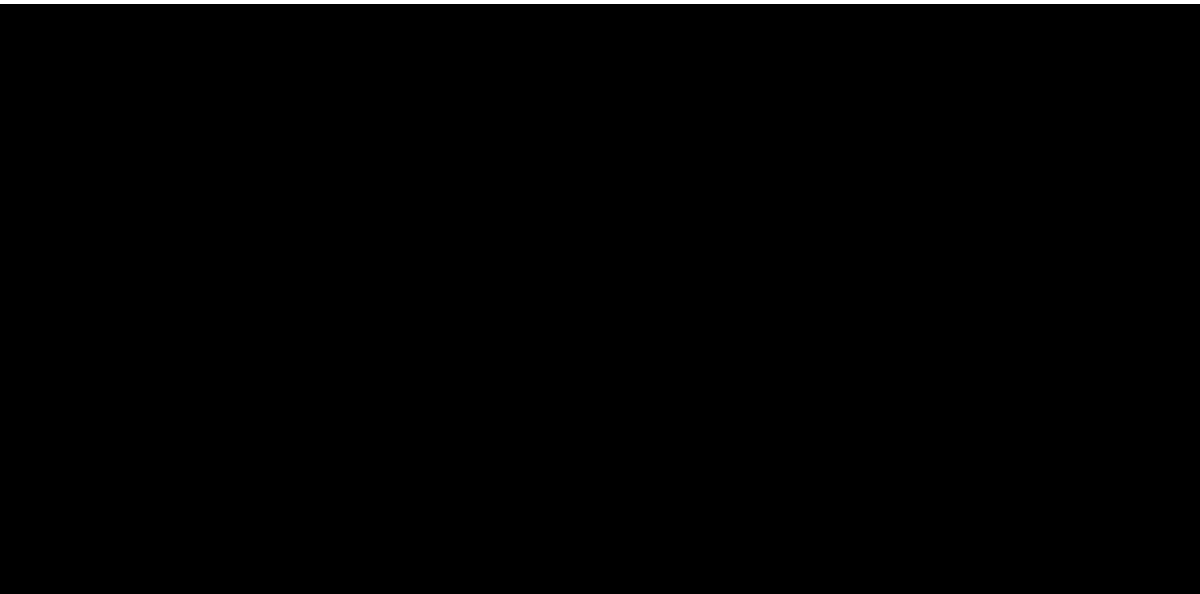
A total of five Aboriginal heritage sites and one area of PAD were identified during the field survey, which are discussed below with all coordinates recorded in [REDACTED]. Site locations are shown on Figure 7.

5.2.1 Larbert Quarry [REDACTED]

Site Larbert Quarry [REDACTED] is comprised of a single isolated silcrete flake [REDACTED]



The artefacts and site location are shown in the below Plates.

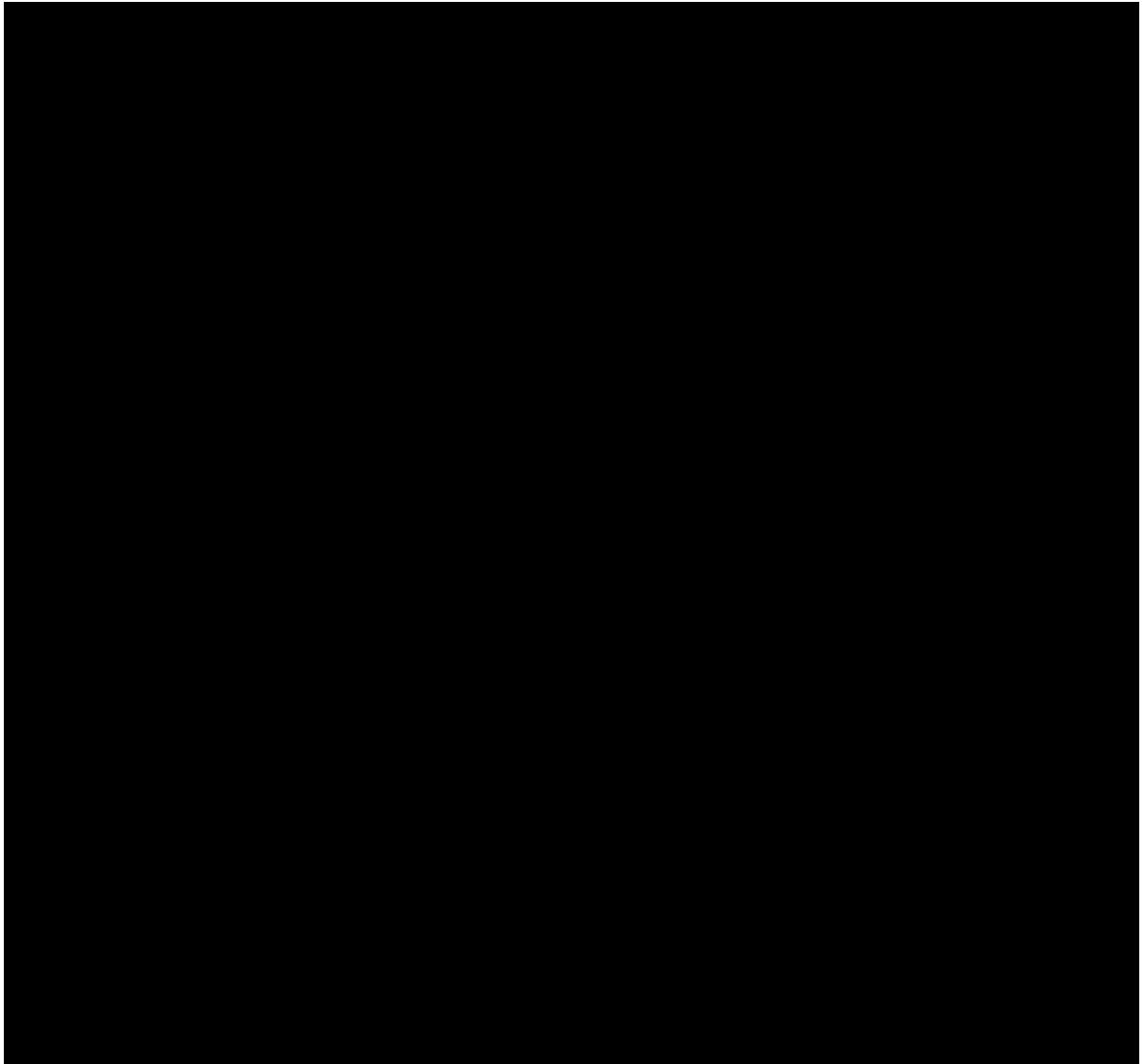


5.2.2 Larbert Quarry [REDACTED]

Site Larbert Quarry [REDACTED] is comprised of two silcrete artefacts [REDACTED]

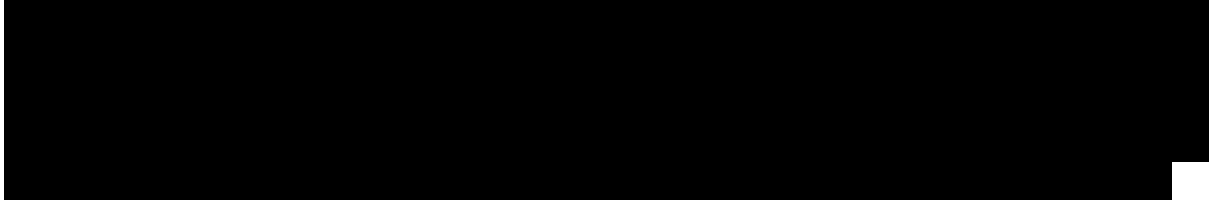


The artefacts and site location are shown in the below Plates.



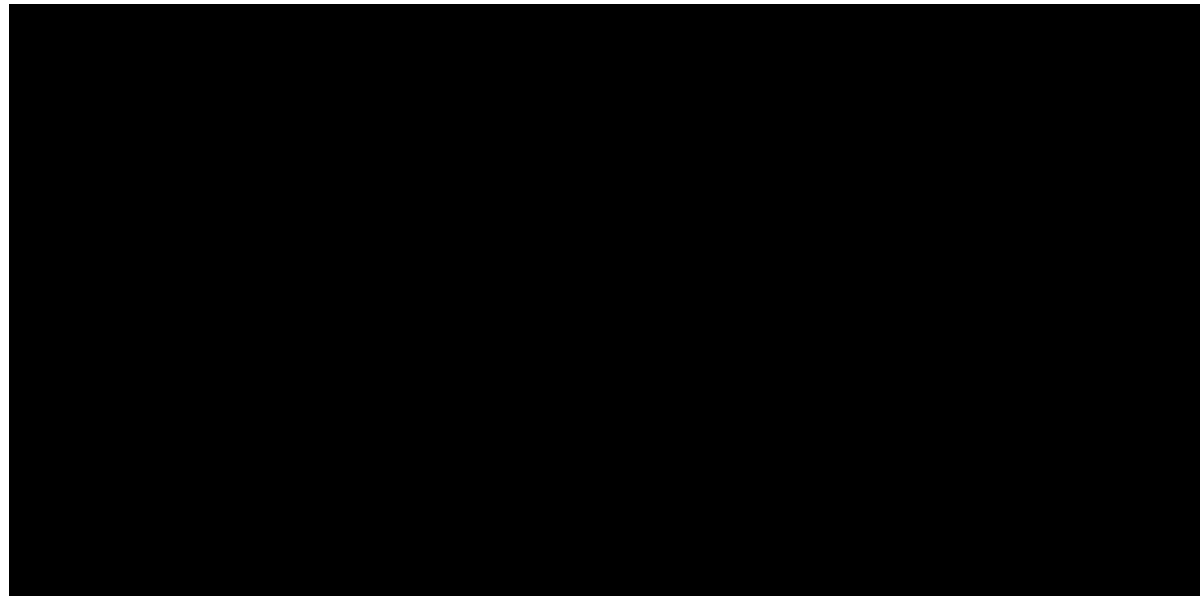
5.2.3 Larbert Quarry

Site Larbert Quarry is comprised of an artefact scatter of 14 artefacts



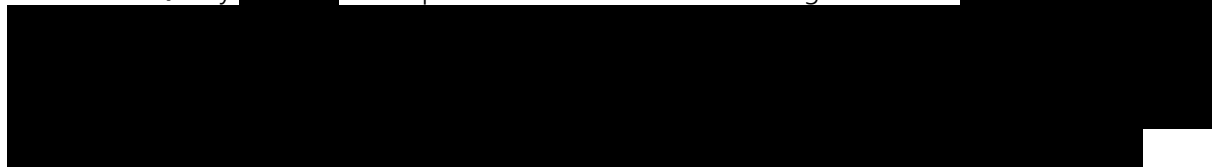


The artefacts and site location are shown in the below Plates.



5.2.4 Larbert Quarry

Site Larbert Quarry is comprised of an artefact scatter of eight artefacts

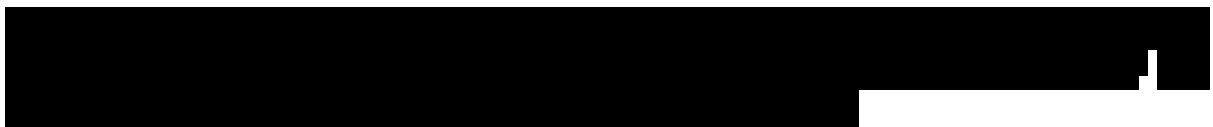
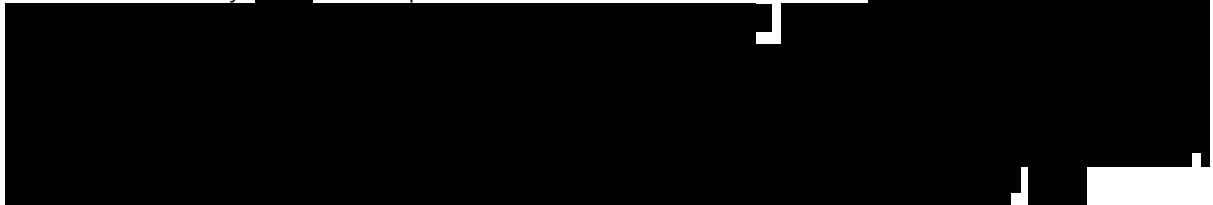


The artefacts and site location are shown in the below Plates.

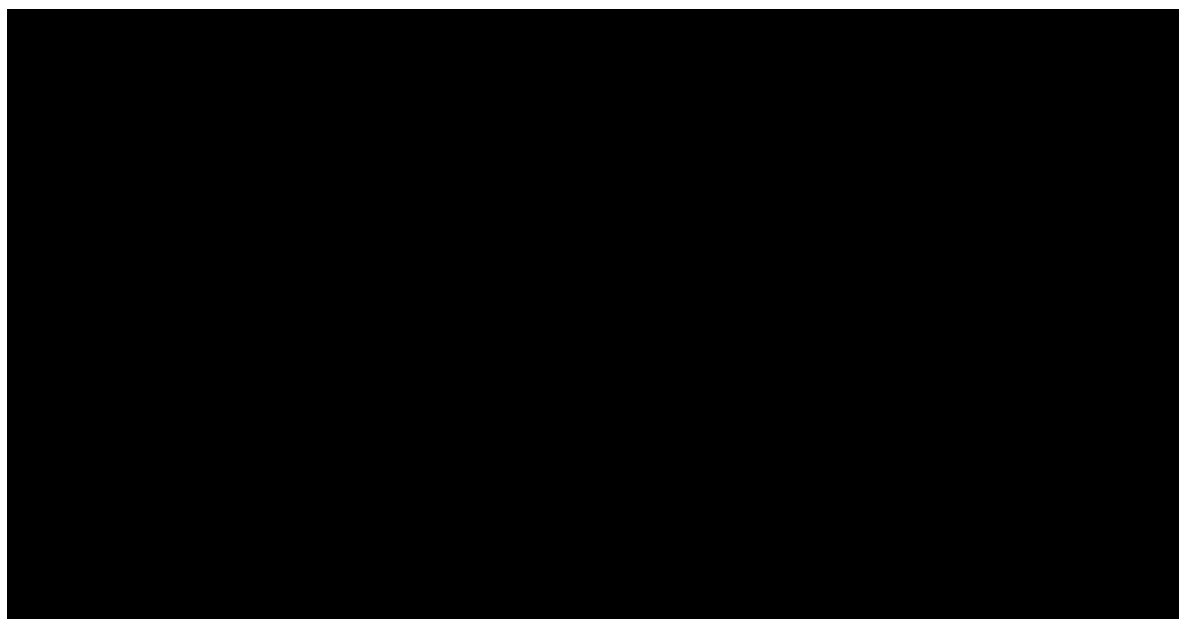


5.2.5 Larbert Quarry

Site Larbert Quarry is comprised of a freshwater shell midden



An example of the shell and site location are shown in the below Plates.



5.3 RESULTS - AREAS OF POTENTIAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL DEPOSIT (PAD)

Areas of PAD are defined as landforms that hold higher potential than their surrounds to contain subsurface deposits of past Aboriginal occupation. Based on a review of previous studies completed for the region, areas of PAD would be located in [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

As a result of the landforms and prior impacts, four areas of PAD have been recorded in association with surface sites and described in the preceding section. One additional area of PAD was recorded, with the remaining project area considered to hold low potential. This area of PAD is described in the following section.

5.3.1 Larbert Quarry [REDACTED]

Larbert Quarry [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

The area has been subject to previous pastoral improvements and ongoing pastoral impacts. While no artefacts were recorded, [REDACTED] indicates the potential for subsurface cultural material. The likelihood of intact deposits is considered moderate [REDACTED]

The PAD location is shown in the below Plates.



5.3.2 *Durran Durra Creek*

While not within the current project area, the Durran Durra Creek corridor is recognised as an area of high archaeological sensitivity. Watercourses are frequently associated with Aboriginal occupation due to the availability of water, plant and animal resources, and the suitability of creek flats and terraces for campsites and other activities. As such, there is a high probability for the presence of heritage sites along the banks of Durran Durra Creek, including artefact scatters, scarred trees, or subsurface deposits. Any future works proposed in proximity to the creek should therefore be preceded by detailed archaeological assessment to ensure that potential cultural heritage values are appropriately identified, managed, and protected.

5.4 RESULTS SUMMARY

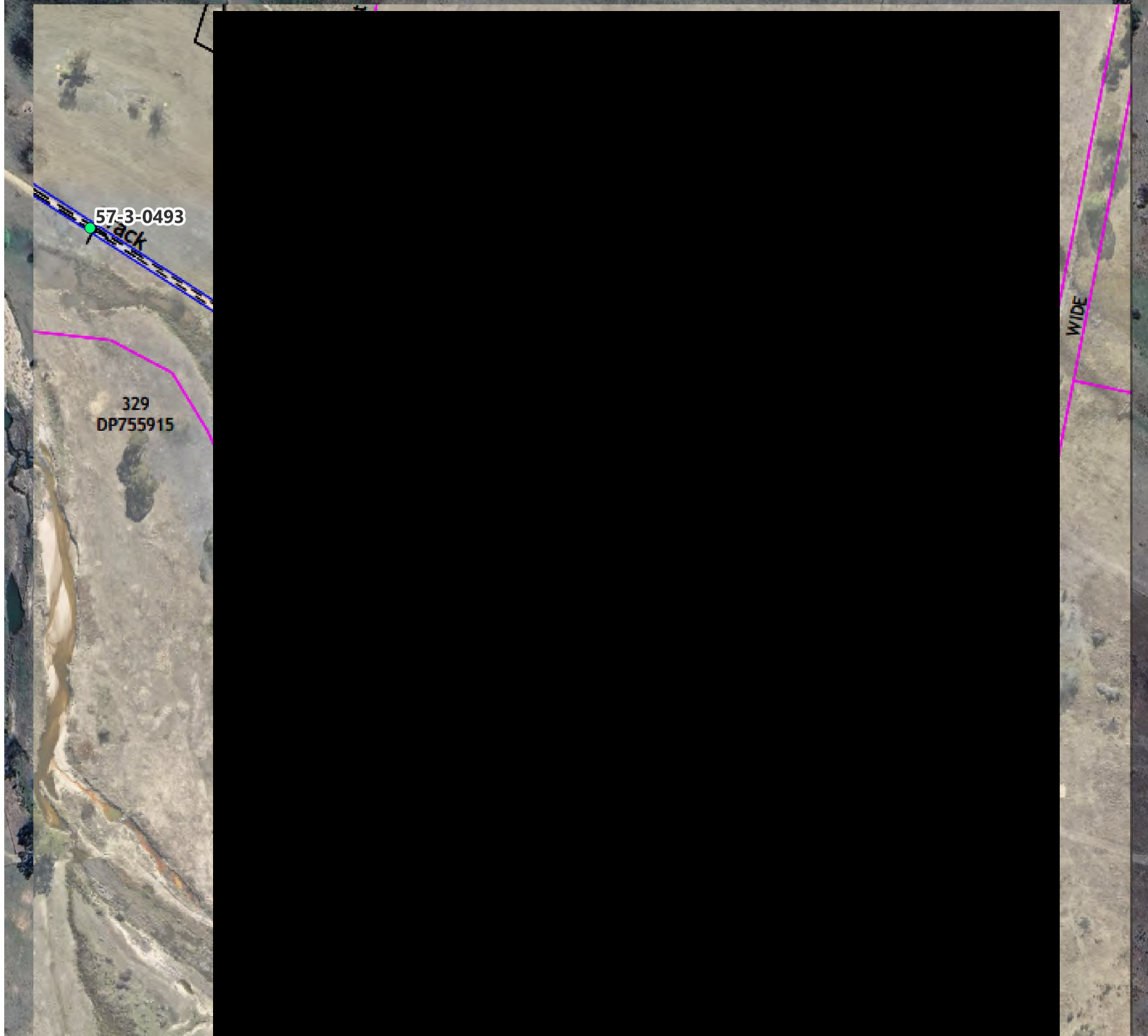
As a result of the 2025 Past Traces survey of the project area and background research, it is considered that the project has the potential to impact on Aboriginal heritage sites and areas of PAD unless avoided by design. Six Aboriginal heritage sites, consisting of five surface sites (Larbert Quarry [REDACTED]), and one additional area of PAD (Larbert Quarry [REDACTED]) were identified as a result of the assessment, located within the survey area.

Based on the assessment, the heritage restraints of the project are as follows:

- ❖ Five Aboriginal heritage sites (Larbert Quarry [REDACTED]) are located within the survey area.
- ❖ Sites Larbert Quarry [REDACTED] are associated with areas of moderate potential to contain unrecorded Aboriginal objects.
- ❖ One additional area of PAD was also recorded within the survey area (Larbert Quarry [REDACTED]) with moderate potential to contain unrecorded Aboriginal objects.

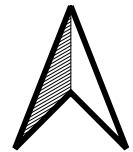
- ❖ The Durran Durra Creek frontage is highly sensitive with a high likelihood of Aboriginal heritage sites; any future works nearby should be preceded by an archaeological assessment to identify and protect cultural values.
- ❖ Large areas of the current project area have been heavily impacted by the expansion of the sand quarry and construction of a system of drainage ponds, with artefacts identified within [REDACTED]

Figure 7: Survey Results

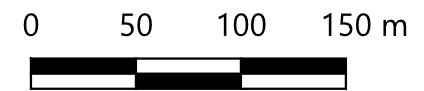


Legend

- Project Area
- Previously Recorded Sites
- Survey Results
- Artefact Scatter
- Areas of PAD



1:3,600



Imagery: 25/07/2025
Aerial Photograph

Past

6 SIGNIFICANCE ASSESSMENT

6.1 INTRODUCTION TO THE ASSESSMENT PROCESS

The NSW heritage assessment criteria is set out in the NSW Heritage guideline Assessing Heritage Significance (Department of Planning and Environment 2025) and requires assessment against the values in the Australia ICOMOS Burra Charter (2013) generally accepted as heritage best practice.

These values are (as defined in DPE 2025):

- ❖ **Historical Significance** - An item is important in the course, or pattern, of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).
- ❖ **Historical Association** - An item has strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).
- ❖ **Aesthetic/Creative/Technical Achievement** - An item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/ or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW (or the local area).
- ❖ **Social, Cultural and Spiritual** - An item has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in NSW (or the local area) for social, cultural, or spiritual reasons.
- ❖ **Research Potential** - An item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).
- ❖ **Rare** - An item possesses uncommon, rare, or endangered aspects of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).
- ❖ **Representative** - An item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW's cultural or natural places; or cultural or natural environments (or a class of the local area's cultural or natural places; or cultural or natural environments).

For assessing the significance of Aboriginal sites, the two main sections that are applicable are cultural values to the Aboriginal community and archaeological (scientific) values (ICOMOS 2013).

There are two criteria generally used in assessing the scientific significance of heritage sites:

- ❖ Research potential – the potential of a site to provide information which is of value in the scientific analysis of research questions.
- ❖ Representativeness – an assessment of whether the artefact or place is a good representative of its type.

Cultural value to the Aboriginal community can only be assessed by discussion with RAPs and feedback provided in response to the site identifications.

6.2 SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE ASSESSMENT

The following archaeological significance assessment is based on Requirement 11 of the *Code of practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales* (DECCW 2010). Using the Burra Charter assessment criteria of representativeness, condition and research potential, a rating of scientific significance was determined for the identified heritage sites. Scientific significance can be summarised as the potential of the site to provide important information on the past use of the area, Aboriginal technology, trade or movement.

Based on this criteria, different site types feature differing levels of scientific significance. The isolated finds and artefact scatters consist of artefacts common to the region in partially to highly disturbed contexts relating to a low significance, whereas the rarer shell midden site is a much rarer site type and therefore holds higher significance. The shell midden's state of preservation, however, is such that it does not warrant protection from future impacts following subsurface testing and approved AHIP. The density of artefacts and proximity of sites provides potential for additional information and data into Aboriginal lifeways.

Table 6 provides the results of the archaeological significance assessment when applied to the newly identified sites based on surface artefacts and predicted levels of subsurface deposits. These findings may be altered by the findings of subsurface testing if undertaken in the future.

Table 6. Scientific significance assessment of archaeological sites recorded within the project area.

AHIMS	Site name	Research Potential	Representativeness	Condition	Scientific Significance
Pending	Larbert Quarry [REDACTED]	Low	Common	Partially Disturbed	Low
Pending	Larbert Quarry [REDACTED]	Low	Common	Partially Disturbed	Low
Pending	Larbert Quarry [REDACTED]	Low	Common	Highly Disturbed	Low
Pending	Larbert Quarry [REDACTED]	Low	Common	Highly Disturbed	Low
Pending	Larbert Quarry [REDACTED]	Moderate	Rare	Highly Disturbed	Moderate
Pending	Larbert Quarry [REDACTED]	Low	Common	Partially Disturbed	Low

6.3 CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

All heritage sites are important to Aboriginal people, and all represent the past occupation and use of the region by Aboriginal people. As a reminder of the widespread nature of Aboriginal occupation, sites provide a physical guide to usage, and points for education, discussion and cultural transmission of knowledge.

Whilst on site, discussions were held with the RAP representative, that projects such as this only look at a small portion of the landscape defined by modern fence lines, and that efforts should be made to view the project area within the larger cultural landscape to better contextualise and inform heritage decision-making.

The sites within Larbert and the wider Braidwood region are generally small and common in their nature. The larger sites conform to the known camping sites of past peoples and confirms landscape use. The information they provide will further support existing information but will not provide new or innovative research themes. Aboriginal communities do not accept the western view of site importance with all sites being considered to be of overall importance within the landscape.

As a result of onsite discussion with the RAP present during the field survey, a low level of significance was allocated to the identified sites due to their common nature. This level of significance is due to the sites' role as markers in the landscape of Aboriginal occupation and the low number of artefacts present.

The disturbed nature of the sites lowers this feeling of connection but does not remove it. Appropriate management consists of minimisation of impacts whenever possible

The landform consisting of sand deposits and the location, close to Durran Durra Creek increase the cultural sensitivity of the area, with these conditions increasing the potential for larger sites or burials within sand deposits which have not been identified or recorded to date. Stop work procedures to address these concerns are required to be followed for the project.

The finding of cultural significance is based on the conversations with RAPs who are the primary determinants of cultural value, which can only be assessed by the Aboriginal community.

The outcomes of these discussions have been incorporated into the management recommendation for the project, provided in Section 8.

6.4 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Survey Area contains six Aboriginal heritage sites (Larbert Quarry [REDACTED]), consisting of one isolated find, three low-density artefacts scatters, one shell midden site, and one area of PAD (Larbert Quarry [REDACTED]). All of these sites were recorded in the vicinity of Durran Durra Creek or the surrounding tributaries.

The recorded sites are considered to hold a low level of cultural and scientific values due to the common nature of the identified artefacts and their overall low density across the landforms. Recording of these sites will assist in regional studies aimed at assessing Aboriginal usage of the landscape, technology and raw material trade and sourcing. Due to the nature of low-density sites, they are considered to hold a local level of significance not warranting conservation within the disturbed areas, however all sites should be avoided whenever possible and heritage impacts minimised or removed

One shell midden site was also recorded (Larbert Quarry [REDACTED]) and is associated with an area of PAD. This is considered a rare site type for this environment, however its state of preservation is such that it similarly does not warrant protection from the proposed works but should be avoided if possible

These values are provided in the following table as defined in Section 2.4 of the *Guide to Investigating, Assessing and Reporting on Aboriginal Culture in NSW* (OEH 2011).

Table 7. Table of assessed values

Value	Assessed Level
Social	The sites are assessed to hold low levels of cultural value based on discussions with RAPs due to their roles as markers of past occupation and continuing connection.
Aesthetic	The sites hold no aesthetic significance.
Historical	There are no historical items within the project area. There are no LEP or State registered historical sites.
Scientific	The sites generally hold a low scientific values based on the low-density, composition of common materials and common artefact types for the region, providing little new or significant information. The shell midden site (Larbert Quarry [REDACTED]) is considered to hold a moderate level of scientific value due to its rarer nature in the environment; however the significance has been diminished by its state of preservation.

Despite these findings of overall low scientific significance, the project aims to avoid all impacts to cultural heritage and redesign of the project area has been undertaken to avoid impacts to all identified sites.

7 IMPACT ASSESSMENT

7.1 DEVELOPMENT IMPACTS

Any future development or expansion of the sand extraction areas would require a high level of disturbance within the project area. Extraction will cause disturbance in the form of soil excavation, vegetation removal, infrastructure installation, heavy vehicle and plant movement across the site, formation of access roads and revegetation following completion of works. Impacts from these future works would be widespread across the majority of the project area.

The types of activities that may impact the ground surface and sub-soils include:

- ❖ Vegetation clearance
- ❖ Significant excavation and landscaping of soils
- ❖ Construction of access roads and site facilities
- ❖ Installation of infrastructure

Installation of boundary fences and landscaping. The proposed works will require high levels of disturbance and therefore have the potential to harm Aboriginal heritage directly or indirectly within the project area. Harm is defined by the NPW Act 1974 when regarding objects or places, as any act or omission that:

- a) Destroys, defaces or damages the object or place, or
- b) in relation to an object – moves the object from the land on which it had been situated, or
- c) is specified by the regulations, or
- d) causes or permits the object or place to be harmed in a manner referred to in paragraph a), b) or c).

An individual or corporation that knowingly destroys, defaces or damages, or knowingly causes or permits the destruction or defacement of, or damage to, an Aboriginal object or Aboriginal place is guilty of an offence against this Act.

Impacts as a result of works, but not anticipated by them, may also indirectly damage Aboriginal objects or places located within or in the vicinity of works.

Examples of indirect damage are:

- ❖ Damage to a CMT's root system from pedestrian and vehicular ground compaction.
- ❖ Damage to a site from increased erosion.
- ❖ Damage to a site from changes in water flow.
- ❖ Damage to a site from increased visitation.

Following identification of the heritage sites, redesign of the project area has been undertaken to avoid heritage impacts. As required by the Code of Practice, the assessed statement of impact for the Aboriginal archaeological sites within the project area are detailed below for each site.

7.1.1 Larbert Quarry [REDACTED] (AHIMS: Pending)

Site Larbert Quarry [REDACTED] comprised of a single isolated silcrete flake

The site has been allocated low cultural and scientific significance based on the artefact composition and has been excised from the project area to prevent impacts.

The site is to be protected from future harm by inclusion onto construction mapping as a no-go area, and barrier fencing installed to prevent accidental impact during works in the vicinity.

If this site is to be impacted by future works, then a program of subsurface testing must be undertaken across the impacted area of PAD and an AHIP application submitted. Following approval of an AHIP and the completion of salvage works (surface collection) at the site; works may proceed.

7.1.2 Larbert Quarry [REDACTED] (AHIMS: Pending)

Site Larbert Quarry [REDACTED] consists of two silcrete artefacts

The site has been allocated low cultural and scientific significance based on the composition of artefacts and has been excised from the project area to prevent impacts.

The site is to be protected from future harm by inclusion onto construction mapping as a no-go area, and barrier fencing installed to prevent accidental impact. These areas of constraint must also be communicated to any other contractors undertaking works in their vicinity.

If this site is to be impacted by future works, then a program of subsurface testing must be undertaken across the impacted area of PAD and an AHIP application submitted. Following approval of an AHIP and the completion of salvage works (surface collection) at the site; works may proceed.

7.1.3 Larbert Quarry [REDACTED] (AHIMS: Pending)

Site Larbert Quarry [REDACTED] consists of 14 artefacts [REDACTED]

All construction works have been completed in this area and no further disturbance to the area is anticipated. As a result, further impact to the site can be avoided and the artefacts can remain in their current locations.

The site has been allocated low cultural and scientific significance based on the artefact composition and high degree of disturbance. The following mitigation measures are required:

- No impacts can occur to the recorded site location
- An AHIP will be required if future impacts are anticipated

- Vehicles must be prevented from accessing this area, with maintenance works or access provided on foot only.

The site is to be protected from future harm by inclusion onto construction mapping as a no-go area, and barrier fencing installed to prevent accidental impact if any works are to be undertaken in the vicinity.

If this site is to be impacted by future works, then an approved AHIP will be required to allow for the salvage of the artefacts. Following the approval of an AHIP and the completion of salvage works (surface collection) at the site; works may be undertaken. Impacts to the heritage site, is not permitted without an AHIP.

7.1.4 Larbert Quarry AFT [REDACTED] (AHIMS: Pending)

Site Larbert Quarry [REDACTED] comprised of an artefact scatter of eight artefacts [REDACTED]

All construction works have been completed in this area and no further disturbance to the area is anticipated. As a result, further impact to the site can be avoided and the artefacts can remain in their current locations

The site has been allocated low cultural and scientific significance based on the artefact composition and the high degree of disturbance. The following mitigation measures are required:

- No impacts can occur to the recorded site location
- An AHIP will be required if future impacts are anticipated
- Vehicle must be prevented from accessing this area, with maintenance works or access provided on foot only.

The is to be protected from future harm by inclusion onto construction mapping as a no-go area, and barrier fencing installed to prevent accidental impact. These areas of constraint must also be communicated to any other contractors undertaking works in their vicinity

If this site is to be impacted by future works, then a program of subsurface testing must be undertaken across the impacted area of PAD and an AHIP application submitted. Following approval of an AHIP and the completion of salvage works at the site; works may be undertaken. Impacts to the heritage site, is not permitted without an AHIP.

7.1.5 Larbert Quarry [REDACTED] (AHIMS: Pending)

Site Larbert Quarry [REDACTED] consisting of a freshwater shell midden [REDACTED]

The site has been allocated moderate cultural and scientific significance based on the rare nature of the site in the region and the following mitigation measures are required:

The site is to be protected from future harm by inclusion onto construction mapping as a no-go area, and barrier fencing installed to prevent accidental impact. These areas of constraint must also be communicated to any other contractors undertaking works in their vicinity during future stages of the project, such as weed removal, landscaping or vegetation regeneration. Though these actions are conservation works, they are destructive of Aboriginal sites and require approvals within areas of potential or recorded heritage sites.

If this site is to be impacted by future works, then a program of subsurface testing must be undertaken across the impacted area of PAD. Following approval of an AHIP and the completion of salvage works at the site; works may be undertaken.

7.1.6 Larbert Quarry [REDACTED] (AHIMS: Pending)

Larbert Quarry [REDACTED]

Larbert Quarry [REDACTED] has not been subject to subsurface investigation. This area of PAD [REDACTED] and the location shall be marked on construction plans and included in toolbox talks to prevent any accidental impacts. No works can be undertaken in this area without further subsurface investigation and heritage approvals.

The assessed impacts from the project have been summarised in Table 8, along with recommended mitigation measures

Table 8. Summary of potential archaeological impact

AHIMS	Site name	Type of Harm	Degree of Harm	Impact of Harm	Mitigation Measures
Pending	Larbert Quarry [REDACTED]	Direct	Nil	Removal of values	If impacts unavoidable, then apply for AHIP and conduct subsurface testing of PAD area
		Indirect	None	Removal of values	Mapping of site extent on construction plans and inclusion into toolbox talks. Barrier fencing if works are to occur within 20m.
Pending	Larbert Quarry [REDACTED]	Direct	Nil	Removal of values	If impacts unavoidable, then apply for AHIP and conduct subsurface testing of PAD area
		Indirect	Nil	Partial to Total Removal of	Mapping of site extent on construction plans and inclusion into

AHIMS	Site name	Type of Harm	Degree of Harm	Impact of Harm	Mitigation Measures
				values	toolbox talks. Barrier fencing if works are to occur within 20m.
Pending	Larbert Quarry [REDACTED] [REDACTED]	Direct	Nil	Removal of values	If impacts unavoidable, then apply for AHIP
		Indirect	Nil	Partial to Total Removal of values	Mapping of site extent on construction plans and inclusion into toolbox talks. Barrier fencing if works are to occur within 20m.
Pending	Larbert Quarry [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]	Direct	Nil	Removal of values	If impacts unavoidable, then apply for AHIP and conduct subsurface testing of PAD area
		Indirect	Nil	Partial to Total Removal of values	Mapping of site extent on construction plans and inclusion into toolbox talks. Barrier fencing if works are to occur within 20m.
Pending	Larbert Quarry [REDACTED] [REDACTED]	Direct	Nil	Removal of values	If impacts unavoidable, then apply for AHIP and conduct subsurface testing of PAD area
		Indirect	Nil	Partial to Total Removal of values	Mapping of site extent on construction plans and inclusion into toolbox talks. Barrier fencing if works are to occur within 20m.
Pending	Larbert Quarry [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]	Direct	Nil	Removal of values	If impacts unavoidable, subsurface testing of PAD area. If subsurface deposit is identified, then apply for AHIP.
		Indirect	Nil	Partial to Total Removal of values	Mapping of site extent on construction plans and inclusion into toolbox talks. Barrier fencing if works are to occur within 20m.

7.2 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PRINCIPLES

Australia's *National Strategy for Ecologically Sustainable Development (1992)* defines ecologically sustainable development as: 'using, conserving and enhancing the community's resources so that ecological processes, on which life depends, are maintained, and the total quality of life, now and in the future, can be increased'.

In regards to cultural heritage the main aspects of the ESD (Ecologically Sustainable Development) principles are intergenerational equity and the assessing of cumulative impacts on the heritage resource.

7.2.1 Intergenerational Equity

The concept of Intergenerational equity can be explained as the concept that resources (such as heritage sites) do not belong to any generation but are to be administered in trust for all future generations.

A key factor in intergenerational equity is the preservation of sites to ensure cultural information can be communicated to future generations. This concept can be also be explained as sites that if lost cause pain or sorrow to the community. This is generally understood as sites that are highly valued by the community and play an active role in the transmission, education and continuance of Aboriginal tradition.

Within Aboriginal communities, intergenerational equity is maintained by the transmission of cultural knowledge, traditions and continued access and visitation to cultural sites. Loss of cultural knowledge, heritage sites or access to highly significant sites is detrimental to the current and future communities.

Destruction of cultural heritage sites may impact on future generations if by the action the cultural record is significantly altered or a continuing traditional link is broken. Assessing these impacts can be addressed by understanding the significance of sites, the range and variety of the site type that is present in the area and the role that the site plays with the Aboriginal community. Sites may play various roles as teaching sites, ceremonial areas or areas for cultural traditions (birthing trees, scarred trees, rock shelters for example).

In assessing the role of the sites at the Larbert Quarry, and the effects of their removal from the archaeological record, the main factors are the archaeological and cultural values.

7.2.2 Archaeological Values

- ❖ The sites' significance in the region
- ❖ The frequency of occurrence of this type of site in the region
- ❖ The effect of removal of these sites on the regional archaeological record

Sites Larbert Quarry [REDACTED] consist of low-density lithic sites and site [REDACTED] consists of a freshwater shell midden, with sites Larbert Quarry [REDACTED] associated with areas of subsurface potential. These sites consist of artefacts and materials common to the region and are low in density, resulting in a finding of low scientific significance. The areas of PAD will require subsurface testing to determine the presence and density of any subsurface deposits.

Based on extended AHIMS searches covering the approximate [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. These registered sites are protected under legislation and show the common nature of lithic sites in the region. It was highlighted by Attenbrow (1983) that shell midden sites are rare in the wider Braidwood region with only one of the 117 recorded during the 1983 assessment being a shell midden site (57-3-0067, located 7.5 km northwest). Similarly, out of the 32 Aboriginal heritage sites recorded within 2km of the current project, none are recorded as shell middens.

[REDACTED]

The high number of low-density lithic sites in the region listed on AHIMS shows that the removal of these artefact surface sites would not materially affect the archaeological record for the region.

One shell midden site was also recorded (Larbert Quarry [REDACTED] and is associated with an area of PAD. This is considered a rare site type for this environment; however, its state of preservation is such that it similarly does not warrant protection from the proposed works.

7.2.3 Cultural Values

- ❖ Whether sites are highly valued by community
- ❖ Play or may play an active role in communicating cultural information
- ❖ Whether the removal of these sites would result in significant loss of cultural knowledge or result in break of cultural tradition.

The heritage sites are considered to be of low cultural significance by the community. This association is mainly with the role of the site as a marker of past utilisation of the region, reflecting use of the landscape.

The sites at the Larbert Quarry are currently not playing any role in ongoing cultural traditions, transmission of knowledge or learning for the next generation. The site type of low-density lithic deposits are generally included in landscape discussions of cultural transmission in regards to connection to country, obligations to country and song lines. More visible sites such as large surface scatters, rock art, scarred trees or resource areas (waterholes, rivers, woodland, wetlands) are preferred centres for learning, generating discussion between participants. Whilst using the visible sites as anchors for discussions, intangible values, creation lore and song lines are the main focus.

As these sites are located on private land, they have not played any role in ongoing cultural traditions, transmission of knowledge or learning for the next generation as there has been no available access to them. As such, the impacts to the sites will not have a detrimental effect on continuing traditions and the transmission of knowledge to future generations, as they play no active role in the current and future community. Preservation of these sites would not increase cultural knowledge or provide a ready pathway of communication of cultural values.

These factors for assessing cultural impact are provided in Table 9.

Table 9. Site Factors

Factor	Role
Highly valued by Community	No
Plays active role in communicating cultural information	No
Loss will result in significant change in cultural record	No
Loss will result in break with cultural tradition	No
Frequency of site type in area	Common (Lithic Sites) Rare (Shell Midden)
Site occurrence in protected areas	Common (Lithic Sites) Rare (Shell Midden)

7.2.4 Cumulative Impacts

Developments in the Larbert area are planned for the future and the cumulative impacts by the continued destruction of sites is of concern to the community and should be addressed by continued assessments and focus on preserving sites that are either intact, contain many artefacts, or are significant to the community. The determination of which sites warrant conservation should be undertaken by heritage professionals and the Aboriginal community through a process of consultation and involvement.

The cumulative impact of future developments at Larbert should be considered, in the future planning for Larbert, considering the sensitivity of landforms, as well as the increase in the number of sand quarries in the area. The predictive model indicates that areas adjacent to creeks and water courses have the highest potential for surface and subsurface sites.

The cumulative impact of the current sand quarry at Larbert will be minimal, with the areas of impact occurring within areas of low density. Conservation of as much of the identified heritage sites and areas of PAD as possible should be, and has been undertaken. An environmentally sensitive design and minimisation of impacts must be an aim of the project. The surrounding Durran Durra Creek frontage (outside the current project area) is assessed as holding high sensitivity and should be avoided by any future works in the vicinity.

By applying this process, heritage sites can be identified prior to construction and a conservation approach can be applied to reduce or remove development impacts through these areas and conserve sites of importance.

8 MANAGEMENT AND MITIGATION STRATEGY

Avoidance of impact to archaeological and cultural heritage sites through design of the development is the primary mitigation and management strategy, and should be implemented where practicable. In cases where avoidance and conservation are not practical, the salvage of artefacts, gathering of information through collection (especially where impact cannot be avoided) and interpretation are management options.

For the Larbert Quarry, avoidance of impacts is a primary aim and redesign of future stages has been undertaken to remove all heritage impacts from future expansion or development options.

Further details of the proposed measures are provided within section 8.1.

8.1 MITIGATION MEASURES

For heritage sites within proximity to works, mitigation measures should be applied to retain the maximum amount of archaeological and cultural information possible. The mitigation measures have been discussed with the RAPs whilst on site and provided to each of the RAPs for their comments in the form of the draft report.

RAPS should be provided with an opportunity to participate in each of the below listed mitigation measures which will be undertaken under the guidance of a qualified heritage consultant.

The following mitigation measures have been developed for the heritage sites:

8.1.1 *Prevention from Accidental Impacts*

As heritage sites and areas of PAD are located within the project area or adjacent areas, appropriate protective measures must be followed to prevent any accidental impacts.

The location of the heritage sites and the areas of PAD (as shown on Figure 7) will be added to construction plans as no go areas and included in toolbox talks to ensure all personnel and contractors are aware of heritage responsibilities.

Protective barrier fencing consisting of a minimum of star pickets and high visibility flagging or construction temporary fencing will be installed at the boundary of the work construction area and marked as a no-go area. If any works are to be undertaken within 20m of any heritage sites and areas of PAD, then protective barrier fencing is to be installed around the heritage site and PAD are at a 10m radius to protect the sites from accidental impacts.

The correct installation of boundary fencing is to be confirmed by the environment manager prior to works being undertaken in the vicinity.

8.1.2 Subsurface Testing Program

Avoidance of impacts to areas of Potential Archaeological Deposit (PAD) remains the primary management objective. Under current planning all impacts to the areas of PAD are avoided, however if at any future stage, this alters and works are likely to impact PADs, a program of subsurface archaeological testing will be required to assess the extent and nature of potential impacts.

Five areas have been identified with areas of subsurface potential (Larbert Quarry [REDACTED]). Subsurface testing should be undertaken at all PAD locations that are anticipated to be affected by any future development.

This program of subsurface testing will be required to be undertaken in accordance with the Code of Practice. The Code of Practice limits the methodology that can be followed without an AHIP. If this step is required, a methodology will need to be developed taking into account the landform requirements. This methodology would include thresholds for expansion, artefact analysis, temporary storage and reburial locations.

8.1.3 Application for an AHIP

Currently, all impacts to heritage sites are avoided by the project. However, in the event that heritage sites cannot be reasonably avoided by continued quarry operations or future development, an application for an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) must be undertaken. The AHIP area will include all heritage sites that are to be impacted by the proposed works, including those identified as a result of the subsurface testing program. An approved AHIP is required prior to the commencement of any further disturbance or development works.

It is an offence to disturb an Aboriginal site without an AHIP as all Aboriginal objects are protected under the NSW *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*.

8.2 MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on results of the background research, field survey and consultation with the Registered Aboriginal Parties, the following recommendations have been developed in regards to Aboriginal Cultural Heritage values and heritage sites located within the project area. Following the implementation of these heritage recommendations development of the area should be able to proceed.

The management recommendations have been separated into each of the proposed development stages for the project for clarity, and are detailed below:

Stage [REDACTED]

- ❖ Within the [REDACTED] area, three Aboriginal heritage sites, two with associated areas of PAD are present (Larbert Quarry [REDACTED]). These sites have been impacted by the construction of the sediment ponds and quarrying operations.

- ❖ Design has been undertaken to avoid further impacts to the three heritage sites and no impacts will result from the ongoing use of the area as construction has been completed.
- ❖ Vehicle access to the areas of sites and PADs must be avoided to prevent further impact and only foot traffic in these areas is allowed.
- ❖ No impacts can occur to the heritage sites prior to the approval of an AHIP by NSW Heritage and if any works are to occur in the vicinity, then barrier fencing will be required to be installed at the site boundary with a buffer of 10m to prevent impacts prior to works proceeding.
- ❖ If, in the future, further construction works are to be undertaken in the area and the present sites cannot be reasonably avoided and works will impact these sites, then an Aboriginal heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) will be required to allow works to proceed.
- ❖ If, in the future, impacts are to occur within the areas of PAD (Larbert Quarry [REDACTED]), then a programme of subsurface testing will be required to determine the areal extent and the degree of intrusion into areas planned for development of any heritage deposits. The subsurface testing will be conducted using methodology in accordance with the Code of Practice.
- ❖ It is an offence to disturb an Aboriginal site without an AHIP as all Aboriginal objects are protected under the NSW *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*. Should any Aboriginal objects be encountered during works, then works must cease and implementation of the Unexpected Finds Protocol must be applied. This Unexpected Finds Protocol is detailed in Appendix 3.

Stage [REDACTED]

- ❖ As a result of background research, an AHIMS search and field survey, no Aboriginal heritage sites or areas of PAD have been identified within the Stage [REDACTED] area.
- ❖ No further heritage actions are required for this stage of works.
- ❖ It is an offence to disturb an Aboriginal site without an AHIP as all Aboriginal objects are protected under the NSW *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*. Should any Aboriginal objects be encountered during works, then works must cease and implementation of the Unexpected Finds Protocol included in the appendix must be applied. This Unexpected Finds Protocol is detailed in Appendix 3.

Stage [REDACTED]

- ❖ As a result of background research, an AHIMS search and field survey, no Aboriginal heritage sites or areas of PAD have been identified within the Stage [REDACTED] area.
- ❖ No further heritage actions are required for this stage of works.

- ❖ It is an offence to disturb an Aboriginal site without an AHIP as all Aboriginal objects are protected under the NSW *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*. Should any Aboriginal objects be encountered during works, then works must cease and implementation of the Unexpected Finds Protocol included in the appendix must be applied. This Unexpected Finds Protocol is detailed in Appendix 3.

Stage 1

- ❖ As a result of background research, an AHIMS search and field survey, no Aboriginal heritage sites or areas of PAD have been identified within the Stage 1 area.
- ❖ One Aboriginal heritage site (Larbert Quarry [REDACTED]) with an associated area of PAD and an area of PAD (Larbert Quarry [REDACTED]) are located in close proximity to the west boundary of the Stage 1 works area. As these sites are within proximity to works [REDACTED], heritage fencing will be required to prevent accidental impacts.
- ❖ Protective barrier fencing consisting of a minimum of star pickets and high visibility flagging or construction temporary fencing must be installed at the boundary of the heritage site and/or PAD area with a 10m buffer to protect the sites from accidental impacts.
- ❖ It is an offence to disturb an Aboriginal site without an AHIP as all Aboriginal objects are protected under the NSW *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*. Should any Aboriginal objects be encountered during works, then works must cease and implementation of the Unexpected Finds Protocol included in the appendix must be applied. This Unexpected Finds Protocol is detailed in Appendix 3.

Stage 2

- ❖ Within the Stage 2 area, one Aboriginal heritage site (Larbert Quarry [REDACTED]) is present with an associated area of PAD. No impacts can occur to the heritage site prior to the approval of an AHIP by NSW Heritage. Design has been undertaken to remove impacts from this site and contain the site within a conservation area.
- ❖ If, in the future, the site cannot be reasonably avoided and works will impact this site, then an Aboriginal heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) is required to allow works to proceed. No impacts can occur to the heritage sites prior to the approval of an AHIP by NSW Heritage and if any works are to occur in the vicinity, then barrier fencing will be required to be installed at the site boundary with a buffer of 10m to prevent impacts.
- ❖ If impacts are to occur within the area of PAD (Larbert Quarry [REDACTED]), then a programme of subsurface testing will be required to determine the areal extent and the degree of intrusion into areas planned for development of any heritage deposits. The subsurface testing will be conducted using methodology in accordance with the Code of Practice (see Section 8.1.2).
- ❖ It is an offence to disturb an Aboriginal site without an AHIP as all Aboriginal objects are protected under the NSW *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*. Should any

Aboriginal objects be encountered during works, then works must cease and implementation of the Unexpected Finds Protocol included in the appendix must be applied. This Unexpected Finds Protocol is detailed in Appendix 3.

Stage 1

- ❖ As a result of background research, an AHIMS search and field survey, no Aboriginal heritage sites or areas of PAD have been identified within the Stage 1 area.
- ❖ No further heritage actions are required for this stage of works.
- ❖ It is an offence to disturb an Aboriginal site without an AHIP as all Aboriginal objects are protected under the NSW *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*. Should any Aboriginal objects be encountered during works, then works must cease and implementation of the Unexpected Finds Protocol included in the appendix must be applied. This Unexpected Finds Protocol is detailed in Appendix 3.

It is also recommended that:

- ❖ Further archaeological assessment will be required if the proposal activity extends beyond the area of the current investigation.
- ❖ While rare, Aboriginal burials have a higher prevalence in areas with deep sandy deposits as exhibited across the current project area. In the unlikely event that human remains are discovered during the construction, all work must cease. The police must immediately be notified, and their directions followed in the management of the area. Further assessment would be undertaken to determine if the remains are Aboriginal or non-Aboriginal. This Unexpected Finds Protocol is detailed in Appendix 3.
- ❖ The frontage along Durran Durra Creek, though outside the current project area, is highly sensitive with a high likelihood of Aboriginal heritage sites; any future works nearby should be preceded by an archaeological assessment to identify and protect cultural values.
- ❖ Continued consultation with the RAPs for the project should be undertaken. RAPs should be informed of any major changes in project design or scope, further investigations or finds.
- ❖ It is recommended that all personnel working across the quarry site undertake Cultural Sensitivity Training. Given the presence of Aboriginal heritage sites and the potential for Aboriginal burials. This training should be delivered by, or in consultation with, the Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) and focus on increasing awareness of cultural heritage sites, cultural values and appropriate site behaviour. Cultural Sensitivity Training will assist in minimising inadvertent impacts, ensuring compliance with statutory obligations, and fostering respect for the cultural significance of the area.

9 REFERENCES

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A.1 AHIMS SITE SEARCH

AHIMS Web Services (AWS)

Extensive search - Site list report

Your Ref/PO Number : 2025-088

Client Service ID : 1029858

SiteID	SiteName	Datum	Zone	Easting	Northing	Context	Site Status **	SiteFeatures	SiteTypes	Reports
57-3-0014	Durran Durra Ck WR10	AGD	55	753760	6086750	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -	Open Camp Site	1032,1313
	Contact	Recorders	Permits							
57-3-0018	Durran Durra Ck WR14	AGD	55	752870	6087060	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -	Open Camp Site	1032,1313
	Contact	Recorders	Permits							
57-3-0013	Durran Durra Ck WR9	AGD	55	754240	6086290	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -	Open Camp Site	1032,1313
	Contact	Recorders	Permits							
57-3-0124	WR/118 Reedy Creek;Braidwood;	GDA	55	750862	6089059	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -, Potential Archaeological Deposit (PAD) : -	Open Camp Site	1313
	Contact	Recorders	Val Attenbrow,Ryees Jones,Kayandel Archaeological Services,Ms.Natalie Stiles						Permits	4863
57-3-0493	LQ1	GDA	55	752545	6088038	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -		
	Contact	Recorders	Permits							
57-3-0012	Durran Durra Ck WR8	AGD	55	753550	6086340	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -	Open Camp Site	1032,1313
	Contact	Recorders	Permits							
57-3-0021	Durran Durra Creek_11 WR17	AGD	55	751810	6088500	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -	Open Camp Site	1032,1313
	Contact	Recorders	Permits							
57-3-0543	Larbert Quarry AS01	GDA	55	750433	6087764	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -		
	Contact	Recorders	Mr.Phillip Cameron,AREA Environmental & Heritage - Dubbo						Permits	
57-3-0015	Durran Durra Ck WR11	AGD	55	753460	6086930	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -	Open Camp Site	1032,1313
	Contact	Recorders	Permits							
57-3-0477	MR-IF-003 (Mayfield Road)	GDA	55	750885	6089190	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -		
	Contact	Recorders	Kayandel Archaeological Services,Ms.Natalie Stiles						Permits	4863
57-3-0549	Larbert Rd Sand Mine Low Density Stone Artefact Scatter	GDA	55	752885	6089682	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -		
	Contact	Recorders	Mr.Phillip Cameron,AREA Environmental & Heritage - Dubbo						Permits	
57-3-0100	Shoalhaven River No.1/WR96	AGD	55	752150	6088310	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -	Open Camp Site	1032
	Contact	Recorders	Permits							
57-3-0102	Shoalhaven River No.2/WR98	AGD	55	752650	6089180	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -	Open Camp Site	1032,1313
	Contact	Recorders	Permits							
57-3-0010	Durran Durra Ck Bartley's Gully (2) WR6	AGD	55	752200	6086600	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -	Open Camp Site	1032
	Contact	Recorders	Permits							
57-3-0011	Durran Durra Ck WR7	AGD	55	753440	6086470	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -	Open Camp Site	1032,1313
	Contact	Recorders	Permits							
57-3-0020	Durran Durra Creek 10 WR16	AGD	55	751980	6088080	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -	Open Camp Site	1032,1313
	Contact	Recorders	Permits							
57-3-0002	Deep Willows WR 1	AGD	55	751630	6088000	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -	Open Camp Site	1032
	Contact	Recorders	Permits							
57-3-0009	Durran Durra Ck Bartley's Gully 1 WR5	AGD	55	752710	6086970	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -	Open Camp Site	1032

Report generated by AHIMS Web Service on 04/08/2025 for Lyn O'Brien for the following area at Lat, Long From : -35.3355, 149.7519 - Lat, Long To : -35.3005, 149.8137. Number of Aboriginal sites and Aboriginal objects found is 32

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

AHIMS Web Services (AWS)

Extensive search - Site list report

Your Ref/PO Number : 2025-088

Client Service ID : 1029858

SiteID	SiteName	Datum	Zone	Easting	Northing	Context	Site Status **	SiteFeatures	SiteTypes	Reports
	Contact	Recorders	Val Attenbrow					Permits		
57-3-0476	MR-IF-002 (Mayfield Road)	GDA	55	750877	6089186	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -		
	Contact	Recorders	Kayandel Archaeological Services,Ms.Natalie Stiles					Permits	4863	
57-3-0545	Larbert Quarry AS02	GDA	55	750691	6087910	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -		
	Contact	Recorders	Mr.Phillip Cameron,AREA Environmental & Heritage - Dubbo					Permits		
57-3-0154	WR/167 Pipe Clay Creek 5;	AGD	55	755420	6087800	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -	Open Camp Site	1313
	Contact	Recorders	Val Attenbrow					Permits		
57-3-0019	Durran Durra Ck WR15	AGD	55	752550	6087620	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -	Open Camp Site	1032,1313,102136
	Contact	Recorders	Val Attenbrow					Permits		
57-3-0544	Larbert Quarry AS03	GDA	55	751181	6088012	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -		
	Contact	Recorders	Mr.Phillip Cameron,AREA Environmental & Heritage - Dubbo,AREA Environmental					Permits		
57-3-0546	Shoalhaven River Western Terrace Mayfield Rd Open Site with potential archaeological deposit (PA)	GDA	55	751447	6088995	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -, Potential Archaeological Deposit (PAD) : -		
	Contact	Recorders	Mr.Phillip Cameron,AREA Environmental & Heritage - Dubbo					Permits		
57-3-0103	Shoalhaven River No.3/WR99	GDA	55	752562	6089443	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -	Open Camp Site	27,1032,1313
	Contact	Recorders	Val Attenbrow,Mr.Phillip Cameron,AREA Environmental & Heritage - Dubbo					Permits		
57-3-0101	Shoalhaven River Fairleys Creek No.1/WR97	AGD	55	754040	6088750	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -	Open Camp Site	1032,1313
	Contact	Recorders	Val Attenbrow					Permits		
57-3-0016	Durran Durra Ck WR12	AGD	55	753420	6087020	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -	Open Camp Site	1032,1313
	Contact	Recorders	Val Attenbrow					Permits		
57-3-0017	Durran Durra Ck WR13	AGD	55	753170	6087020	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -	Open Camp Site	1032,1313
	Contact	Recorders	Val Attenbrow					Permits		
57-3-0022	Reedy Creek WR18	AGD	55	750400	6088840	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -	Open Camp Site	1032,1313
	Contact	Recorders	Val Attenbrow					Permits		
57-3-0190	WR/194 Bartleys Gully.;	AGD	55	751860	6086070	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -	Open Camp Site	1313
	Contact	Recorders	Val Attenbrow					Permits		
57-3-0008	Durran Durra Ck Deep Willow 2 WR4	AGD	55	752160	6087600	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -	Open Camp Site	1032
	Contact	Recorders	Val Attenbrow					Permits		
57-3-0475	MR-IF-001 (Mayfield Road)	GDA	55	750868	6089181	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -		
	Contact	Recorders	Kayandel Archaeological Services,Ms.Natalie Stiles					Permits	4863	

** Site Status

Valid - The site has been recorded and accepted onto the system as valid

Destroyed - The site has been completely impacted or harmed usually as consequence of permit activity but sometimes also after natural events. There is nothing left of the site on the ground but proponents should proceed with caution.

Partially Destroyed - The site has been only partially impacted or harmed usually as consequence of permit activity but sometimes also after natural events. There might be parts or sections of the original site still present on the ground

Not a site - The site has been originally entered and accepted onto AHIMS as a valid site but after further investigations it was decided it is NOT an aboriginal site. Impact of this type of site does not require permit but Heritage NSW should be notified

Report generated by AHIMS Web Service on 04/08/2025 for Lyn O'Brien for the following area at Lat, Long From : -35.3355, 149.7519 - Lat, Long To : -35.3005, 149.8137. Number of Aboriginal sites and Aboriginal objects found is 32

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

A.2 CONSULTATION LOG

Larbert Quarry – Various – Consultation Log
Future Options 2025

Date/Time	Type of Consultation	Organisation	Response
Registration for Larbert Quarry			
2023 Registration			
	Step 1 – Public Notice (Braidwood Times – 13/9/23) Queanbeyan Age - 13/9/23 Ends 27/9/923	NA	No Responses
19/9/2023	Step 2 – Notice to Regulators		
	Online search	NNTT	- no owners
	Email	NTSCorp	
	Email	NSW Heritage	28/9 – list of stakeholders
	Email	Queanbeyan Palerang Regional Council	Responded 11/12 – all stakeholders on NSW Heritage List
	Email	Registrar ALR	- letter 20/9 referred to BBLALC
	Email	Batemans Bay LALC	
	Email	South East Local Land Services	
	Step 3 – letter/email to identified stakeholders from Above end 12/10/2023		
28/9/23			Registered 28/9/23
		Badu	
16/10/23	Follow up email. Rang on 16/10/2023 – new email provided Email with invitation letter and project pack provided.	Batemans Bay LALC	
		Bilinga	
		Buru Ngunawal	
		Corroboree	
		Didge Ngunawal	Registered 28/9
		Djirringanj Elders	
		Gadhu Dreaming	
		Ginninderra	
		Goobah	
		Goodradigbee	
		Gunjeewong	
		Guntawang	Registered 28/9
		Gunyuu	
		Jerringong	
		Kamilaroi	Registered 28/9

Larbert Quarry – Various – Consultation Log
Future Options 2025

Date/Time	Type of Consultation	Organisation	Response
Registration for Larbert Quarry			
2023 Registration			
		Ngunnawal Descendants	
		Karlari Ngunnawal	
		Karrial	
		Konanggo	
		Mirrabee	
		[REDACTED]	Registered 30/9
		[REDACTED]	
		Merrigarn	Email bounce – text and phone to check email.
		Mundawari	
		Munyunga	
		Mura	
		Muragadi	
		Murra Bidgee Mullangari	
		Murrumbul	
		Ngambri LALC	
		Ngunawal consultancy	
		Ngunawal Heritage	
		Ngunnawal Elders	
		Ngurambang	
	Letter	[REDACTED]	
		[REDACTED]	
		Nundagarri	
		Oak Hill Enterprises	
		Pemulwuy	
	Letter	[REDACTED]	
		[REDACTED]	Registered 29/9
		Thoorga Nura	
		Thunderstone	
		[REDACTED]	
		Walbunja	
		Walgalu	
		Wingikara	
		Wullung	
		Yerramurra	
		Yukumbruk	
		Yurwang Gundana	
		[REDACTED]	
		[REDACTED]	Registered 1/10
		Girragirra Murun	
		Wingirra Wilay	
		MAH	
		Gadu	
	Step 4 – List of Registrations		
28/9/23	Didge Ngunnawal		
28/9/23	Guntawang		
28/9/23	[REDACTED]		
28/9/23	Kamilaroi-Yankuntjatjara		

Larbert Quarry – Various – Consultation Log
Future Options 2025

Date/Time	Type of Consultation	Organisation	Response
Registration for Larbert Quarry			
2023 Registration			
29/9/23	Gamila – Roi		
30/9/23			
1/10/23			
18/10/23	BBLALC – Ros Carriage		
	Status updates /ongoing contacts		
16/01/2024	Email Final report	All RAPS	
16/7/2024	Email – status update		
15/1/2025	Email – status update		
15/6/2025	Email – status update		
Restarting of consultation for Future options project			
24/10/2025	Step 4A - List of RAPs to NSW Heritage and LALC		
	NSW Heritage		
	Batemans Bay LALC		
	Step 5 – Project Pack		
04/08/2025	Sent to all RAPS		
4/8/2025	Step 6 – Methodology pack (end review period 01/09/2025)		
	Sent to all RAPS		
	Step 7 - Field Survey		
12/9/2025	On site	BBLALC	
10/10/2025	Step 8 - Draft Reports end review period - 7/11/2025		
	Didge Ngunnawal		
	Guntawang		Email 15/10 – supports recommendations
	Kamilaroi-Yankuntjatjara		
	Gamila – Roi		
			Email requesting further information – responded 4/11/2025
	BBLALC –		

A.3 UNEXPECTED FINDS PROTOCOL

Due to the long occupation of the country, the possibility of Aboriginal items remaining within the work area is still present.

If any items are uncovered during the course of works, which are considered to possibly be of Aboriginal significance the following Unexpected Find Protocol should be activated. All Aboriginal heritage places or objects are protected under the NSW *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*. If any items are identified, then the following process outlined below should be followed to avoid breaching obligations under the Act.

1. UNEXPECTED DISCOVERY OF ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE

If suspected Aboriginal Heritage items (including but not limited to isolated stone artefacts, artefact scatters, archaeological deposits or scarred trees) are found then the following management process must be implemented:

1. Work must immediately stop in the area within a buffer zone of 10 metres from the primary grid coordinate installed with protective fencing.
2. A suitably qualified heritage advisor must be engaged to assess the potential site.
3. If the items are not considered to be Aboriginal, activity may recommence.
4. If the items are considered to be Aboriginal, all steps will be taken to avoid and minimise harm to the Aboriginal cultural heritage item, and the Proponent must avoid or minimise harm whenever possible.
5. If the items are considered to be Aboriginal, an assessment report will need to be prepared and submitted to NSW Heritage for approval of an AHIP. After approval from the NSW Heritage, the artefacts should be recorded and salvaged in accordance with the approved methodology.
6. After approval of the salvage report, works can recommence.

2. UNEXPECTED DISCOVERY OF HUMAN REMAINS

The discovery of human remains during works is a rare but highly sensitive occurrence. If any suspected human remains are discovered during any works, all activity in the areas must cease immediately. The remains may be heritage items or the remains of current crime.

In the event that human remains or suspected human remains are discovered, the following actions must be taken:

1. **Immediate Cessation of Works** – All works in the immediate vicinity must stop immediately. The items are not to be touched or moved. Personnel should vacate the area immediately.
2. **Notification of Project Manager** – The Project Manager must be contacted immediately.
3. **Contact NSW Police** – NSW Police must be notified immediately, providing full details of the location and nature of the remains.

4. **Secure the Area** – All non-essential personnel must vacate the area, and access must be restricted, in accordance with NSW Police directions.
5. **Leave Remains in Place** – The remains must not be moved, disturbed, or interfered with, and must be protected from harm or damage until further instruction is provided by NSW Police.
6. **Notification of Heritage NSW** – If there are reasonable grounds to believe the remains are Aboriginal, NSW Heritage must be contacted immediately on 02 9873 8500.
7. **Transfer of Control** – Where NSW Police determine that the remains are Aboriginal, control of the site will be transferred to Heritage NSW.
8. **Consultation and Management** – Heritage NSW, in consultation with the Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) and the Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC), will determine and implement an appropriate assessment, salvage, or management strategy.