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Aboriginal Heritage Due Diligence Assessment

Kidman Way 5MW Solar Farm Hillston

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Acronyms and abbreviations

ACHA	Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment
AHDDA	Aboriginal Heritage Due Diligence Assessment
AHIMS	Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System
AHIP	Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit
Cwth	Commonwealth
DAWE	Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (Cwth)
DCCEEW	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (NSW) (formerly DPE)
DECCW	(Former) Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (formerly responsible for heritage, now superseded by Heritage NSW)
DPHI	Department of Planning, Heritage and Infrastructure (NSW) (formerly DPE)
DPIE	(Former) Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (NSW) (now DCCEEW and DPHI)
EES	Environment, Energy and Science (NSW), Division of DPIE (formerly OEH, and, prior, DECCW)
GGE	Green Gold Energy
ha	Hectares
Heritage Act	<i>Heritage Act 1977</i> (NSW)
Heritage NSW	Heritage NSW, within the Department of Premier and Cabinet (formerly part of OEH)
LALC	Local Aboriginal Land Council
LGA	Local Government Area
MW	Megawatt
m	Metres
NPW Act	<i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i> (NSW)
NPW Regulation	National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2019 (NSW)
NSW	New South Wales
OEH	(Former) Office of Environment and Heritage (NSW) (now EES)
PAD	Potential Archaeological Deposit
QA	Quality Assurance

Executive summary

NGH Pty Ltd (NGH) was commissioned by Green Gold Energy (GGE) [the Proponent] to undertake an Aboriginal Heritage Due Diligence Assessment (AHDDA) in accordance with the *Due Diligence Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects in NSW* (DECCW, 2010) [Due Diligence Code] for a proposed 5 Megawatt (MW) Solar Farm. The Project Area includes Lot 1 DP626213, Kidman Way, Hillston within the Carrathool Shire Local Government Area (LGA) in the Riverina region of central western New South Wales (NSW). The Project Area currently includes a section of agricultural farmland in the western portion and semi-rural bushland in the eastern portion. For the purpose of this assessment, the portion of agricultural farmland will be referred to as the Impact Area as this section of land is where GGE is proposing to construct the solar farm.

Background and desktop assessment

This assessment process was a desktop exercise, using available information such as the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) register search results and relevant archaeological reports to develop a model of Aboriginal site predictions based on the type of activity proposed and the level of disturbance of the Project Area.

No previously recorded AHIMS sites exist within the boundaries or in close proximity (200 metres) of the Project Area. The research undertaken for the Project Area demonstrated that the Impact Area has been cleared of all native vegetation and used for farming since at least the late 1940s. As such there is no potential for any culturally modified trees to exist within the Impact Area but there is high potential for culturally modified trees to exist within the eastern portion of the Project Area as similar sites have been identified in previous assessments on properties ~700 metres from the Project Area.

The eastern portion of the project area has been briefly assessed as part of the archaeological survey of the proposed 132kV transmission line at Darlington Point, Hillston by Klimm Gollan in 1982. The results of the assessment determined that there was a considerable amount of “European detritus” (waste) within the property and there was no prehistoric archaeology visible on the ground surface.

Field results

The results of the desktop assessment concluded that a field inspection was not necessary to determine the archaeological potential of the impact area.

Impact assessment conclusion

The desktop assessment concluded that the Project Area does not require further investigation or assessment as there are no previously recorded Aboriginal sites within the Project Area and the historical land use of the Impact Area has likely resulted in any remnant Aboriginal cultural heritage being destroyed.

If for any reason the proposed development footprint should venture out of the Impact Area into the wider Project Area, an updated AHDDA including a field inspection must be prepared to determine whether any culturally modified trees or Potential Archaeological Deposits (PADs) exist.

Recommendations

The following recommendations are based on a number of considerations including:

- Background Aboriginal heritage research into the area;
- Assessment of Landscape;
- Land use and disturbance assessment;
- Consideration of the impact of the proposed works; and

- Legislative context for the development proposal.

The following recommendations apply:

1. The proposed works within the Impact Area can proceed with caution, with the following additional recommendations.
2. All works must be constrained to the areas of existing disturbance and any activity proposed outside of the current impact footprint area should also be subject to an Aboriginal heritage assessment.
3. All access to the site and laydown areas must be within existing tracks and disturbed areas otherwise visual inspection of the sites by a qualified archaeologist is required.
4. No old growth trees may be disturbed without inspection by a qualified archaeologist for scarring or modification.
5. If any items suspected of being Aboriginal in origin are discovered during the work, all work in the immediate vicinity must stop and the NSW Environment Line (1300 361 967) notified. The find will need to be assessed and, if found to be an Aboriginal object, an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment ACHA and AHIP may be required.

GGE is reminded that it is an offence under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* to disturb, damage or destroy an Aboriginal object without a valid AHIP.

1. Introduction

NGH was commissioned by the Proponent to undertake an AHDDA in accordance with the Due Diligence Code (DECCW, 2010) for the proposed development of a Solar Farm at Kidman Way, Hillston NSW (Lot 1, DP626213) [the Project Area].

The project involves the submission of a Development Application (DA) to the Carrathool Shire Council for the proposed construction and operation of the solar facility and the associated infrastructure in the western portion of the Project Area (the Impact Area). The proposed project would have a 5MW capacity, providing energy to the National Electricity Market (NEM) grid. Grid connection would be via a short overhead powerline connection directly south to the existing Essential Energy distribution line along the southern boundary of the subject land.

This Due Diligence assessment has been undertaken to evaluate whether Aboriginal objects are present, or likely to be present, within the proposed impact area of the development activity, and if those objects would be harmed by the activity.

1.1 Project Area

The Project Area comprises Lot 1, DP626213, Kidman Way Hillston; located approximately 3 km southwest of the township of Hillston within the Carrathool Shire LGA. The Project Area is 62.66 hectares (ha) in total, whilst the Impact Area comprises an area of 12.35ha.

The proposed solar farm will only be constructed in the Impact Area, which is comprised of cleared farmland, currently used for agricultural purposes (cotton, corn and wheat). The remainder of the Project Area comprises remnant vegetation with generally exotic and weedy groundcovers. The adjacent and surrounding properties are predominantly rural land used for a variety of agricultural activities including similar cropping.

1.2 Project personnel

The Due Diligence assessment was carried out by qualified archaeologist Peta Rice of NGH who completed background research and reporting for this assessment. Matthew Barber, Technical Director- Heritage, reviewed the report.

1.3 Aboriginal consultation

The Due Diligence process does not formally require consultation with Aboriginal community groups. No Aboriginal groups were contacted for this Due Diligence level assessment. The project area is within the boundaries of the Griffith Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC).

1.4 Approach and format of this report

This report has been drafted in keeping with the sequence of steps identified in the Due Diligence Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects in NSW (Due Diligence Code) (DECCW, 2010). The Due Diligence Code outlines a five-step approach to determine if an activity is likely to cause harm to an Aboriginal object, as defined by the NSW *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NPW Act). The steps follow a logical sequence of questions, and the answer to each question determines the need for the next step in the process in order to:

- Identify whether Aboriginal objects are, or are likely to be, present in the study area/proposal site etc;
- Determine whether or not the proposed activities are likely to harm Aboriginal objects (if present) in the study area; and
- Determine whether an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) application is required.

Table 1-1 Due Diligence steps.

	Due Diligence steps
Step 1.	Will the activity disturb the ground surface?
Step 2a.	Search the AHIMS database and use any other sources of information of which you are already aware.
Step 2b.	Are activities proposed in areas where landscape features indicate the presence of Aboriginal objects?
Step 3.	Can you avoid harm to the object or disturbance of the landscape feature?
Step 4.	Undertake a desktop assessment and visual inspection. Is it likely that Aboriginal objects will be impacted by the proposed works?
Step 5.	Further investigations and impact assessment.

If the proposed activities are not 'low impact activities' (a defence for which is provided under the NPW Regulation), the considerations result in a determination of whether or not:

- Further approval under the NPW Act is required, in the form of an AHIP; or
- Due Diligence obligations for the protection of Aboriginal objects are discharged by the process under the Code.

For the purposes of the Due Diligence assessment, disturbed land is defined in the Due Diligence Code. Land is disturbed if it has been the subject of a human activity that has changed the land's surface, with the changes remaining clear and observable.

The defence against prosecution offered by following the Due Diligence Code process does not apply to situations where it is known there is an Aboriginal object present. The defence does not authorise harm to Aboriginal objects.

Each section within this report follows the relevant step outlined in the Due Diligence Code (DECCW, 2010). Reference is also made, where relevant, to the *Guide to investigating, assessing and reporting on Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW* (OEH, 2011) and the *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW* (DECCW, 2010).



Figure 1-1 Location of the Project Area.

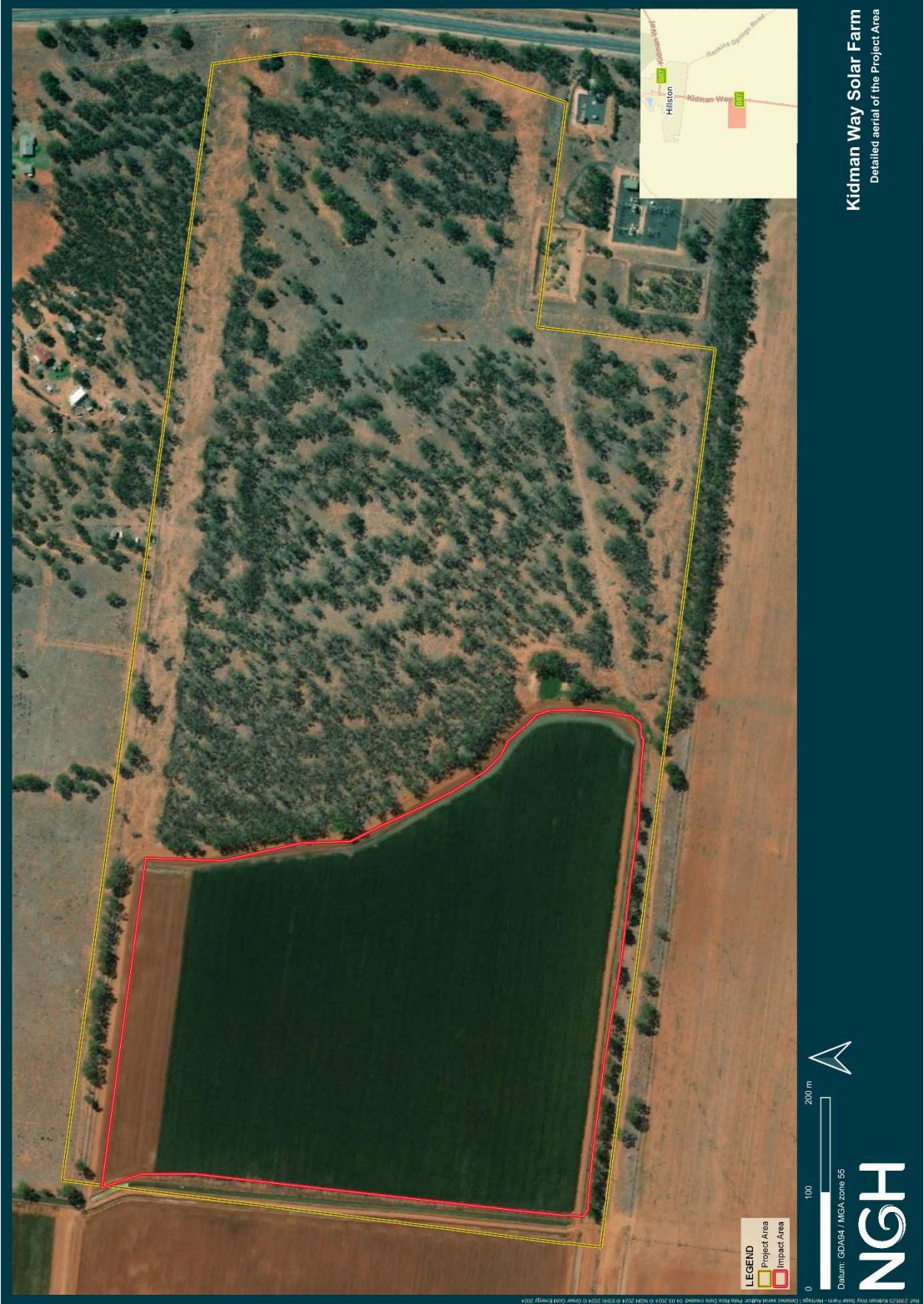


Figure 1-2 Detailed aerial image of the Project Area.



Figure 1-3 Proposed development within the Project Area.

2. Legislation

In NSW, Aboriginal heritage is principally protected by two legislative acts:

- *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NSW) (NPW Act) and its subordinate legislation, the National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2019; and
- *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (NSW) (EP&A Act).

2.1 National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974

Part 6 of the NPW Act concerns Aboriginal objects and places and various sections describe the offences, defences and requirements to harm an Aboriginal object or place. All Aboriginal material receives blanket protection under the NPW Act. The main offences under section 86 of the NPW Act are:

- A person must not harm or desecrate an object that the person knows is an Aboriginal object.
- A person must not harm an Aboriginal object.
- For the purposes of this section, "circumstances of aggravation" are:
 - that the offence was committed in the course of carrying out a commercial activity; or
 - that the offence was the second or subsequent occasion on which the offender was convicted of an offence under this section.
- A person must not harm or desecrate an Aboriginal place.

An Aboriginal object is defined as:

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

Section 87 sets out defences that are available to a person who is prosecuted for a particular harm offence under section 86. For example, it will be a defence in certain circumstances if the person who is being prosecuted can show that:

- the harm or desecration was authorised through an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) and conditions of the AHIP were not contravened;
- the person exercised due diligence to determine whether the act/omission constituted the offence would harm an Aboriginal object and reasonably determined no harm would occur;
- the person complied with requirements or a code of practice, as prescribed in the National Parks and Wildlife Regulation (2019); or
- was a low impact act or omission.

Section 89A of the NPW Act also requires that a person who is aware of an Aboriginal object, must notify the Director-General in a prescribed manner. In effect, this section requires the completion of AHIMS site cards for all sites located during heritage surveys.

2.2 Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979

The EP&A Act regulates development in NSW. It sets up a planning structure that requires developers (individuals or companies) to consider impact of the project on the environment and to promote the sustainable manage of built and cultural heritage (which includes Aboriginal cultural heritage). The EP&A Act requires that Aboriginal cultural heritage, and the possible impacts that development may have to Aboriginal heritage be considered, as part of the environmental impact assessment process under the EP&A Act. For

most projects requiring assessment under Part 4 and 5 of the EP&A Act, the NPW Act will apply and an AHIP may be required. However, where the project is a "State Significant" project approved under Part 3A of the EP&A Act, the operation of the NPW Act is excluded the Part 3A assessment will involve consideration of impact to Aboriginal cultural heritage.

It also provides for the identification, protection, and management of heritage items through inclusion of these items into schedules off planning instruments, such as Local Environmental Plans (LEPs).

2.3 Carrathool Local Environmental Plan 2012

The study area is located within the Carrathool Shire LGA. Clause 5.10 of the Carrathool LEP requires that development consent be obtained for any proposed activity which will result in impacts to an Aboriginal object or Aboriginal Place. This includes any identified within the LEP itself, or on any other register.

Schedule 5 of the Carrathool LEP 2012 details the included environmental heritage items covered by the plan. No Aboriginal sites or places listed on Schedule 5 are located within the project area.

3. Ground disturbance

Step 1. Will the activity disturb the ground surface or any culturally modified trees?

The proposed work to be undertaken by the construction and ongoing use of a solar facility within the Impact Area will involve the following:

- Site establishment and construction of temporary facilities (fencing, ground preparation, upgrade of existing access points/intersections (such as the intersection of the access road with Kidman Way), preliminary civil works, and drainage, weed management).
- Installation of steel post and framing system for the solar panels.
- Installation of PV panels.
- Installation of underground cabling.
- Installation of substation equipment – power and inverter station.
- Removal of temporary construction facilities and rehabilitation of disturbed areas.
- Installation of two new poles for transmission connection

Temporary facilities established at the site during the construction phase would include:

- Material laydown areas.
- Construction site offices, generator and skip bins with wind shield and lid.
- Car and bus parking areas for construction workers.
- Staff amenities (portable toilet/s).
- CCTV at construction compound.
- Waste management areas.

The proposed hardstand in the construction compound would comprise compacted stone / gravel to provide a clean, firm, level, and free draining surface suitable for cabins and heavy traffic. Temporary staff amenities would be designed to accommodate the proposed maximum number of workers simultaneously at the site at the peak of the construction period.

It should be noted that access to the solar farm will be permitted via an existing graded road track on the northern boundary of the Project Area, and construction will only occur within the specified Impact Area.

These activities require moderate ground disturbance. Any Aboriginal sites within the disturbance footprint could therefore be subject to harm. As the project will include ground disturbance, the next step in the due diligence process will be completed.

4. Register search and landscape assessment

Step 2a. Search the AHIMS Database and other information sources

A search of relevant heritage registers for Aboriginal sites and places provides an indication of the presence of previously recorded sites. A register search is not conclusive, however, as it requires that an area has been subject to archaeological survey, and information about any sites identified has been submitted for registration. However, as a starting point, the search will indicate whether any sites are known within or adjacent to the investigation area and provide oversight regarding the site types most commonly recorded within the locality. The Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) provides a database of previously recorded Aboriginal heritage sites. A search provides basic information about any sites previously identified within a search area. The results of the search are valid for 12 months for the purposes of a due diligence level assessment.

An extensive search of the AHIMS database was undertaken on 20 February 2024 which covered a 10 km search area centred on the Project Area. Details of the search are as follows:

- Client Service ID: 865732
- MGA Zone 55
- Eastings from 357651 m E to 367638 m E
- Northings from 6285783 m S to 6295791 m S
- Aboriginal objects:
 - 71
- Aboriginal Places:
 - None

There were 71 Aboriginal sites recorded within this search area and no declared Aboriginal Places. It should be noted that 41 out of the total 71 sites recorded in this search were listed as restricted sites, meaning their exact location and details are restricted. AHIMS was contacted on the same day of the search to enquire whether any were within the Project Area and they confirmed that no sites were within the Project Area. Table 4-1 below shows the breakdown of site types and Figure 4-1 and Figure 4-2 show the location of the AHIMS sites in relation to the Project Area.

Table 4-1 Breakdown of previously recorded Aboriginal sites in the region.

Site type	Number	Frequency (%)
Restricted Site	41	57.75
Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred)	27	38.03
Artefact	2	2.82
Burial, Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred)	1	1.41
Total	30	100.00

None of the archaeological sites currently recorded on AHIMS are located within or directly adjacent to the Project Area, however, two sites occur within ~1km. These sites are summarised in Table 4-2 below and shown in Figure 4-2.

Table 4-2 Sites within ~1km of project area.

Site number	Site name	Site type	Distance to project (m)	Site status on AHIMS
42-4-0017	Hillston 5	Modified Tree	770	Valid
42-4-0013	Hillston 1	Modified Tree	710	Valid

Hillston 5 (AHIMS #42-4-0017) is a modified tree located 20 m west of Kidman Way in the road reserve, approximately 3.5 km south of the township of Hillston. This modified box tree has a single east facing oval scar which was recorded by Biosis in 2017 during the archaeological surveys undertaken for the approved State Significant Development (SSD) the Hillston Solar Farm. The base of the scar is 70 cm from the ground and measures 220 cm in length by 40 cm in width. Plate 1 shows the image of Hillston 5 (AHIMS #42-4-0017) from the AHIMS site card. A copy of the AHIMS site card is provided in Appendix A.2 of this report.

Hillston 1 (AHIMS #42-4-0013) is also a modified tree located within the cadastral boundary of Lot 101, DP 755189, approximately 4.1 km south of the township of Hillston. This modified box tree has an east facing oval scar and has been recorded as being in good condition. The site was recorded by Biosis in 2018 as part of the Hillston Sun Farming Project. Biosis recorded the base of the scar being 65 cm from the ground and measuring 240 cm in length by 40 cm in width. Plate 2 shows the image of Hillston 1 (AHIMS #42-4-0013) from the AHIMS site card. A copy of the AHIMS site card is provided in Appendix A.3 of this report.

Other Heritage Register Searches

Other heritage register searches were also undertaken to identify any items or places in proximity to the Project Area and its immediate surrounding landscape. The following resources were used as part of this assessment:

- The NSW State Heritage Inventory (SHI), this includes items on the State Heritage Register and items listed by state agencies and local Government, to identify any items currently listed within or adjacent to the proposal site.
- The Australian Heritage Database, this includes items on the National and Commonwealth Heritage Lists, to identify any items that are currently listed within or adjacent to the proposal site.

The results of the Australian Heritage Database search indicated that there are three sites are located within Hillston, none of which are within or adjacent to the Project Area.

The results of the NSW SHI database search indicated that:

- One previously recorded Aboriginal Place is listed under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act* within the NSW State Heritage Inventory within the Carrathool LGA. This Aboriginal Place is not located within or adjacent to the Project Area.
- Two previously recorded non-Aboriginal heritage sites are listed under the NSW Heritage Act within the Carrathool LGA. None of the sites are located within or adjacent to the Project Area; and
- A total of 55 previously recorded non-Aboriginal heritage sites are listed by the Local and State Agencies within the Carrathool LGA. None of the sites are located within or adjacent to the Project Area.

No other known previously recorded heritage sites or known possible heritage sites are located within or adjacent to the Project Area. This Due Diligence Assessment does not address any potential impacts to non-Aboriginal heritage items.



Figure 4-1 AHIMS sites surrounding the Project Area.



Figure 4-2 AHIMS sites near Project Area.

4.1 Local and regional archaeological context

Aboriginal people have occupied what we now know as the Australian continent for at least 40,000 years and perhaps 60,000 years and beyond. All major environmental zones in Australia are known to have been occupied for the last 35,000 years. A number of archaeological studies have been completed across the Carrathool Shire LGA, including a number of those which are in proximity to the Lachlan River. Relevant assessments in proximity to Hillston and the Lachlan River have been summarised below to provide an indication of site modelling for the Project Area.

Gollan (1982) completed an archaeological survey for the proposed 132 kV transmission line between Darlington Point and Hillston. This assessment included a small portion of the Project Area surrounding the existing Hillston Substation. Gollan described the Project Area as lightly timbered with black box trees (*Eucalyptus largiflorens*) encompassing majority of the land alongside a reddish-brown soil that had likely never been cultivated. Due to the previous land use, Gollan detailed that there was “considerable European detritus on the block”. As such, there was no Aboriginal cultural heritage identified within this section of the Project Area at the time. Gollan did not detail any information regarding culturally modified trees within the Project Area.

Paton and Hughes (1984) completed an archaeological survey for the proposed re-regulation of weirs at two locations along the Lachlan River which included the inspection of the proposed weir locations and areas that would be back flooded by the proposed works. The locations for the survey were south of Condobolin and south of Hillston. The Hillston survey area is located approximately 20 km southwest of the township of Hillston and 23.5 km southwest of the current Project Area. The Hillston survey located five culturally modified trees, two low density surface stone artefact scatters and a shell midden. The results of the survey noted that the stone artefacts recorded were flakes, flaked pieces and grindstone fragments manufactured from quartz, chert and sandstone with stone artefacts found at one site in association with baked clay. The shell midden contained a surface scatter of freshwater mussel (*Velesunio ambiguus*). The culturally modified trees generally had scars which were 1 metre in length which were oval or rectangular shaped on River Red gum trees. Paton and Hughes noted that the environmental setting of the survey area, along the Lachlan River, provided a relatively permanent resource rich area that would have promoted year-round occupation with the areas further from the river generally considered to be a largely featureless and poorly watered plain.

Kelton (1998a) completed an archaeological assessment for a proposed fibre optic cable route between the township of Hillston west to Willanthry Station, which at its nearest point is 3.6 km northeast of the current Project Area. The assessment area was identified as slightly undulating floodplains with native mallees, saltbush and eucalypts vegetation. The survey involved vehicle and pedestrian surveys to inspect the entire route. The survey determined that the majority of the study area was previously degraded and disturbed by agricultural activities and therefore the potential of subsurface archaeological deposits was considered to be low. A total of four culturally modified trees were located in proximity of the survey route. All trees were old growth Black Box (*Eucalypt largiflorens*) with bark removal scars of possible to probable Aboriginal origin. It was noted that due to the distance of the majority of the survey area to reliable water that at least 90% of the survey area was not conducive to past Aboriginal occupation.

Kelton (1998b) completed an archaeological survey for a proposed fibre optic cable route between Hillston and Bunda which is 1.5 km east to the nearest location to the current Project Area. The assessment area occurred within a slightly undulating plain landform with extensively cleared mallee vegetation. The survey involved vehicle and pedestrian survey to inspect the entire route. The survey determined that the majority of the study area was previously degraded and disturbed by agricultural activities and therefore the potential of subsurface archaeological deposits was considered to be low. A total of three culturally modified trees and one stone artefact scatter were located in proximity of the survey route. All modified trees were old growth Black Box (*Eucalypt largiflorens*) with bark removal scars and were noted to be of possible to probable Aboriginal origin. The low-density stone artefact scatter was located in proximity to the known water source soak of Werrie Tank with silcrete and chert flakes and flaked pieces recorded.

Booth Associates (2000) completed an archaeological survey report for the development of a cotton plantation and water storage at Merrowie Station, northwest of Hillston and approximately 10 km northwest of the Project Area. An initial report was conducted for the development by Kelton in 1999, however, the report failed to consult with local Aboriginal stakeholders, therefore Booth Associates revisited the assessment after detailed consultation with the Griffith LALC to provide cultural context to the 47 culturally modified trees and two stone isolated finds located by Kelton during his 1999 survey. An additional survey was completed by Booth and Griffith LALC site officers to provide a representative assessment of archaeological sites on Merrowie Station. An additional 26 culturally modified trees were recorded in proximity to black box wetlands / depressions in the Rosehill Paddock area and 12 culturally modified trees were identified in the Five Mile Paddock. It was concluded that the culturally modified trees were representative of short-term foraging of favourable materials.

Navin Officer (2007) conducted an Aboriginal and historical heritage assessment at Lake Brewster and Mountain Creek approximately 38.5 km northeast of the current Project Area to assess the proposed impacts of the Lake Brewster Water Efficiency Project. Field surveys located 36 Aboriginal sites comprising of open stone artefact scatters (n= 11); isolated stone artefacts (n=9); possible culturally modified trees (n=12); and areas of Potential Archaeological Deposits (PAD) (n=4). A geomorphological assessment determined that landscapes related to the beach ridge and other locally elevated deposits associated with former lake shorelines contained subsurface potential for archaeological deposits. Analysis of the survey results noted the substantial presence of grindstone fragments on the lower shoreline formation, which suggested that the natural lake basin may have been an important source of plant foods that required processing through grinding, possibly grass seeds. Additionally, considerably higher densities of artefactual material were identified on the low gradient basal slopes adjacent to the western edge of the lake basin and on a low rise marking a former lower lake level shoreline within the lake basin (Navin Officer 2007: 110).

Following Navin Officer's assessment of Lake Brewster, OzArk Environment & Heritage (2008) undertook the archaeological test excavations across three areas of PAD which covered the following landforms: slope at the lakes edge, low level shoreline, the lunette beach and dune. A total of twenty-five 2 m x 2 m areas were excavated across the three areas of PAD with an area over 100 m² excavated. OzArk noted that not all pits excavated contained stone artefacts and generally the density of stone artefacts was low across all tested areas of the PAD. A total of 17 stone artefacts which included flakes, cores, flaked pieces, grindstone fragments and manuports were recovered along with probable/possible heat retainers (n=3) and an ochre fragment (n=1). Some shell (whelk and mussel) and non-diagnostic bone fragments were also recovered. The stone artefacts recovered were manufactured from quartz, quartzite, volcanic and chert. The results of the test excavation determined that the subsurface assemblage is of low technological diversity with poorly preserved stratigraphy.

Biosis (2017) completed an archaeological assessment for the Hillston Solar Farm which included the property directly south of the Project Area (Lot 101 DP755189). The area of assessment for the Hillston Solar Farm included farmland previously disturbed by cropping and road infrastructure. The pedestrian survey identified five new Aboriginal sites which included three modified trees (including AHIMS# 42-4-0017/ Hillston 5) an isolated find and a low-density artefact scatter. The modified trees were all box trees with two of scars noted to be canoe bark removal scars while the other was a small oval scar with steel axe marks. A total of four stone artefacts were recorded across the study area for the Hillston Solar Farm which included a quartz flaked piece, a silcrete core and two silcrete distal flake fragments. Biosis noted that fewer modified trees were identified during the survey than anticipated, and that this was likely the result of the extensive land clearing.

NGH (2023) completed a Due Diligence Assessment for a proposed 5 MW solar facility at 10378 Kidman Way, Hillston, consisting of the Kidman Way road reserve and Lot 63 DP664722 (the Proposal Area). This assessment included the property directly south-east of the Project Area. A desktop and field evaluation were undertaken for this project as the initial research for the Proposal Area revealed that landscape features that may have contained Aboriginal objects were present within the site. The field inspection of the Proposal Area

found low visibility and high disturbance within the road reserve and very high visibility in Lot 63 DP664722. The field inspection was able to relocate the previously recorded site Hillston 5 (AHIMS #42-4-0017), however, did not locate any unrecorded Aboriginal sites within the Proposal Area. The portion of the Proposal Area within Lot 63 DP664722 was flat with no discernible microtopographic features or areas observed during the field inspection which would be considered to hold water. NGH reported the ground surface as a flat featureless plain characterised by a reddish-brown fine clay silty loam and a grey-brown silty cracking clay with no visible stone material. Given this, and in consideration of the very high ground visibility, absence of any close water sources, and results of the previous survey of the area by Biosis for the Hillston Solar Farm (Biosis 2017), it was determined that Lot 63 DP664722 had negligible potential for subsurface material. NGH recommended that all works must avoid the previously recorded Aboriginal site Hillston 5 (AHIMS# 42-4-0017) and a 10m protection buffer must be implemented to ensure no inadvertent impacts to the tree trunk, canopy or root system were caused by the proposed works and that all other works could proceed without any further archaeological assessment.

4.2 Landscape assessment

Step 2b. Are there landscape features present likely to contain Aboriginal objects?

The Due Diligence Code outlines a range of general landscape features that are more likely to contain Aboriginal objects. These include land that is:

- Within 200m of water;
- Located within a sand dune system;
- Located on a ridge top, ridge line or headland;
- Located within 200m below or above a cliff face; or
- Within 20m of a cave, rock shelter or cave mouth.

It is also necessary to consider whether any sensitive landscape features present have been disturbed or modified which would reduce the potential for Aboriginal objects to occur.

The Project Area consists of relatively flat plains approximately 2.4 km east of the Lachlan River which flows through Hillston. There are no known natural water sources in close proximity (within 200 m) to the Project Area. Additionally, as the Project Area has been cleared of native and introduced trees from at least 1960, there is no potential for culturally modified trees to exist within the impact footprint. However, there is potential for culturally modified trees to exist in the vegetated area directly to the east of the impact footprint.

4.2.1 Geology, topography, soils and hydrology

Understanding the geological character of the local area can assist with understanding what, if any, raw stone materials may have been available for the manufacture and maintenance of stone tools or for use as shelter.

The geology underlying the Project Area is mostly comprised of Cenozoic undifferentiated sediments and sediment rocks (Czs) which consists of unconsolidated mud, silts, sand and gravels. Due to this, the potential for cultural material produced in this area is low, due to the lack of suitable outcrops traditionally used for manufacture of Aboriginal artefacts. However, it should also be noted that raw materials used for stone tool production were often traded long distances between communities and may be represented by exotic materials that are not characteristic of the region.

The Project Area is located within the Lachlan Depression Plains (Ldp) Mitchell landscape (DECC 2002: 101-102) as described in Table 4-3 below. The Project Area is characterised as a relatively flat featureless plain with reddish brown fine clay silty loam to fine grained clayey loam sand and a grey-brown silty cracking clay. The Lachlan River is an 8th stream order water course and is located approximately 2.4 km west and 2.5 km north of the Project Area. The Lachlan River courses through lands of the Wiradjuri, Yita Yita, Nari Nari and

Ngiyampaa nations (Commonwealth Environment Water Holder [CEWH] 2022). The Lachlan River has provided an abundance of vital resources including food, shelter and fresh water to Aboriginal communities in the Riverina for over 60,000 years (CEWH 2022). Despite this, the Project Area is not within close proximity to the Lachlan River, so therefore it is unlikely that remnant cultural heritage relating to the occupation of lands adjacent to the Lachlan River exist within the Project Area. Additionally, there are no known natural water sources located within 200 metres of the Project Area.

Table 4-3 Soil landscape descriptions for Lachlan Depression Plains (Ldp)

Soil landscape	Description
Lachlan Depression Plains (Ldp)	Quaternary alluvial plains with numerous circular depressions interpreted as high floodplains or low terraces beyond the reach of average floodwaters. Sandy rises and levees trace ancestral streams and stand above the general plain, relief 1 to 3 m. Grey and brown cracking and non-cracking clays often with gilgai on the plains. Sands and red or brown texture-contrast soils on the higher ground.

4.2.2 Flora and fauna resources

The entirety of the Project Area is located within a cleared area used for agricultural cropping.

The Project Area would once have been vegetated by a wide variety of plant species that were utilised by Aboriginal people. Plant species in the local area that are known to have been useful to Aboriginal people living traditionally include black box (*Eucalyptus largiflorens*), myall (*Acacia pendula*) and prickly wattle (*Acacia victoriae*) with saltbushes (*Atriplex* sp.) and grasses (DECC 2002: 102). Given this, the Project Area would have provided valuable plant resources to Aboriginal people in the form of bark, foods and medicines.

Furthermore, this area would have supported a variety of fauna that were vital food resources such as kangaroos, emu and possums. The proximity of the Project Area to the Lachlan River further suggests the use of the wider area to gather resources before congregating closer to the river for camping.

4.2.3 Historic land use

While the first European to travel through the Hillston area was John Oxley in 1817 (during his first expedition along the Lachlan River), the area was not settled by Europeans until 1839 when William Hovel took up a pastoral run along the Lachlan River called “Bellingerambil,” (Biosis 2017: 18).

The locality of present-day township of Hillston was a crossing-place for stock along the Lachlan River and Hillston developed to service the surrounding pastoral holdings with the first post office in Hillston opened in 1869.

The Project Area exists within the crown grant awarded to A. T. Finch on 7 July 1898 (Vol-Folio: 1694-177). The earliest Parish Map available is from 1927 which shows the Project Area as having the same lot boundaries as the present day and has been labelled as a Homestead Grant. The Project Area remained within the Finch family until 1947 when it was sold to C. W. Johns. It is not clear as to whether the Finch family used the land for agricultural purposes, however, the certificate of title for the transfer of ownership to C. W. Johns labels his occupation as a farmer, and as such, it can be assumed that the Project Area was used for farming and agriculture from at least 1947 onward (Vol-Folio: 4813-57).

Further, the historical aerals obtained for this assessment support the use of the Project Area as farmland from the late 1940s onward. The earliest available historical aerial for the Project Area is from 1960 which shows the land much resembling how it looks today with the western portion cleared of all vegetation with visible plough marks and the eastern portion covered with mature vegetation. Similarly, the 1973 aerial

shows that the Project Area was in the exact same condition that it was in 1960. The 1998 historical aerial exhibits a small amount of change in the eastern portion of the Project Area, with a substation and overhead transmission lines being constructed by this time. Since 1998, the Project Area has remained as agricultural farmland, and has not shown any further evidence of differing occupational activity.

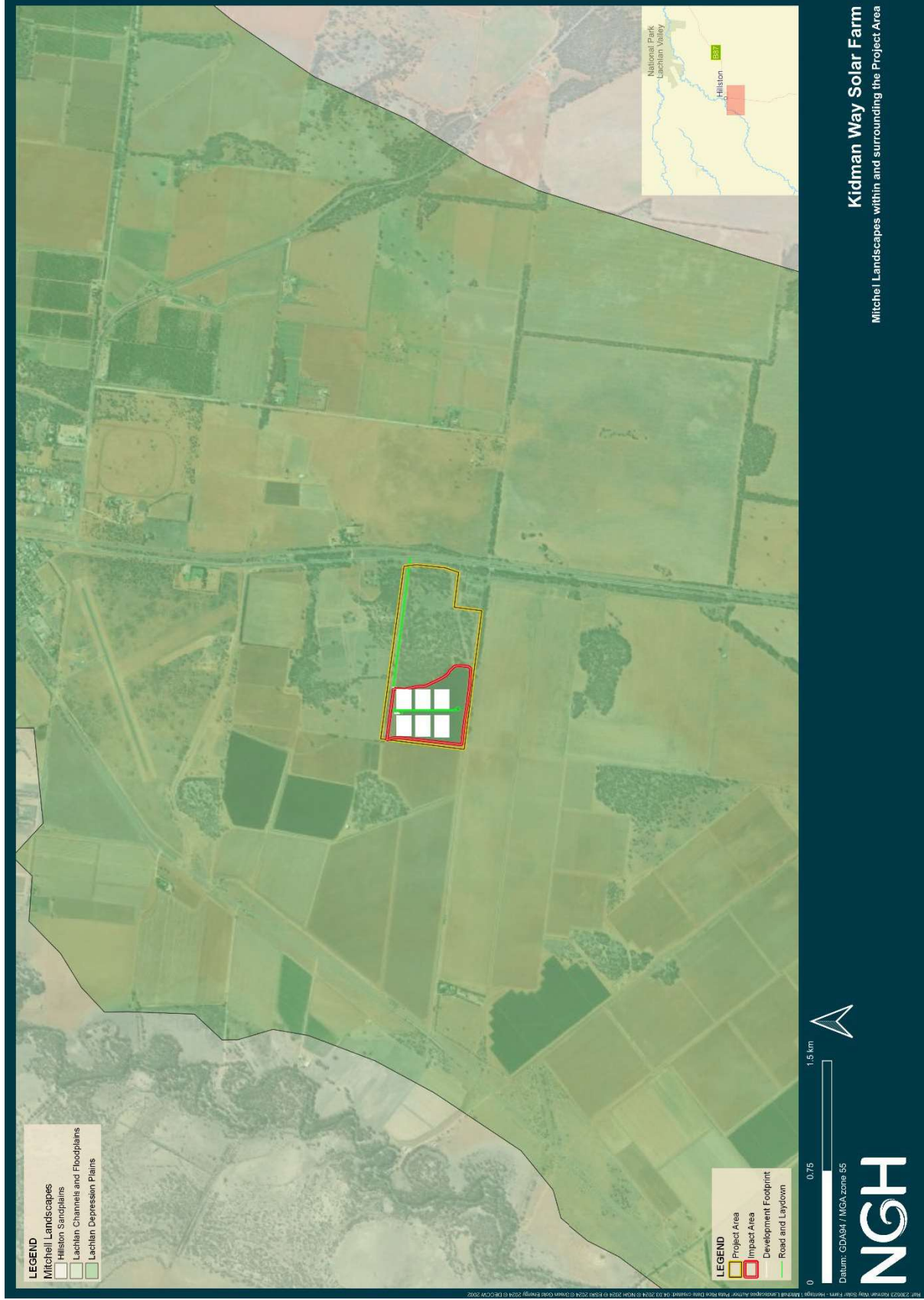


Figure 4-3 Mitchell Landscapes within and surrounding the Project Area.



Figure 4-4 Hydrology surrounding the Project Area.



Figure 4-5 1960 Historical aerial of the Project Area.



Figure 4-6 1973 Historical aerial of the Project Area.

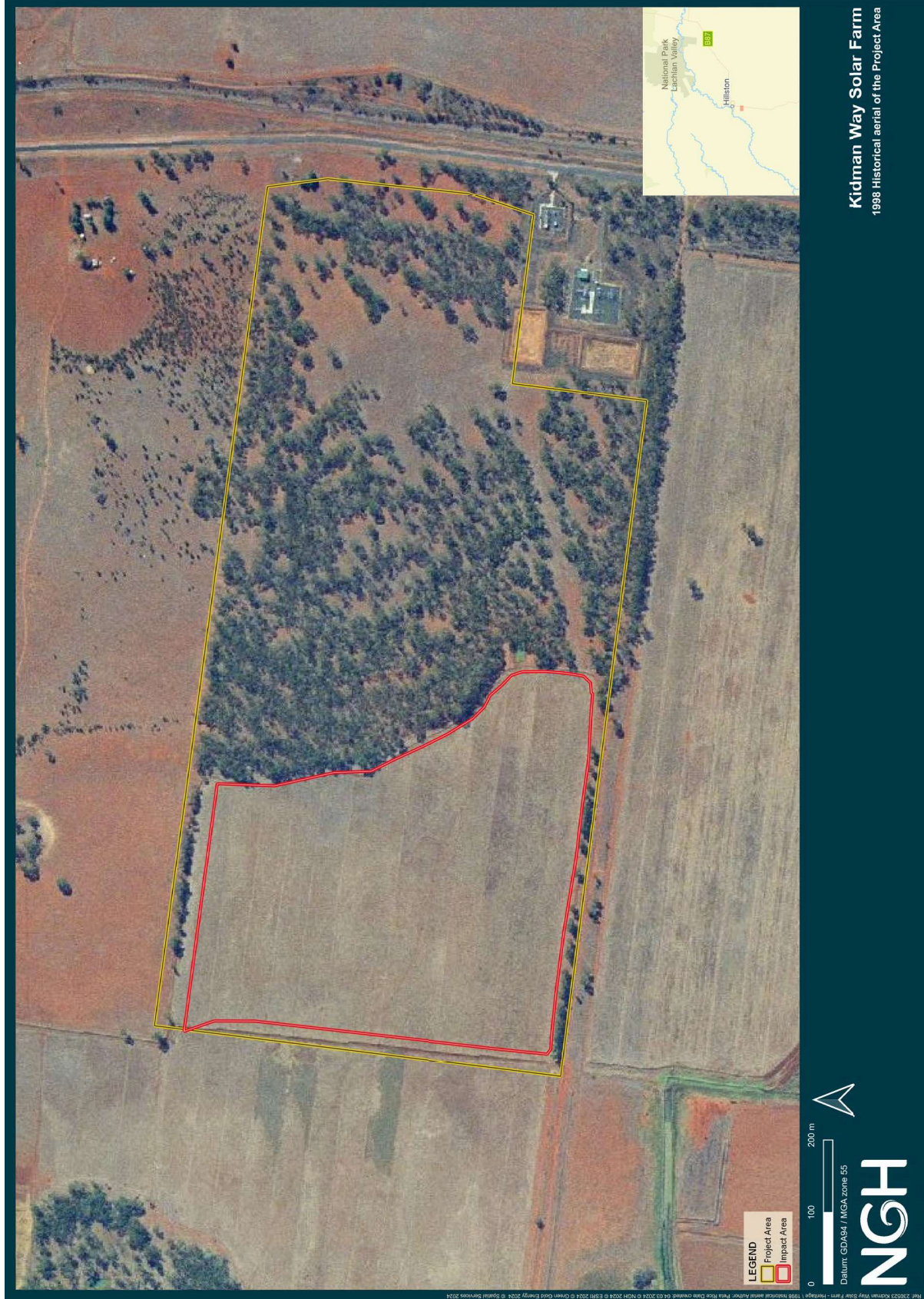


Figure 4-7 1998 Historical aerial of the Project Area.

4.3 Aboriginal site prediction

Based upon the initial desktop assessment, using satellite imagery and topographic data, it appears that there is a low potential for previously unrecorded Aboriginal objects to occur given that the Project Area consists of a relatively flat plain approximately 2.4 km east of the Lachlan River with no other known natural water sources in close proximity.

The previous archaeological assessment of the properties directly south of the Project Area by Biosis (2017) resulted in five modified trees being recorded within their study area, and research within the region clearly suggests that modified trees tend to occur on remnant black box vegetation across the plains. However, as all trees within the impact footprint have been removed, it is not possible for culturally modified trees to occur within the Impact Area, but it is highly likely that these sites will occur in the vegetated land adjacent to the proposed location of the solar farm within the broader Project Area.

An outline of predicted Aboriginal objects within the Project Area is provided in Table 4-4.

Table 4-4 Aboriginal site prediction statements

Site type	Site description	Potential
Modified trees	Trees that have undergone cultural modification	High potential to occur within the vegetated in areas where there are remnant mature native trees associated with Aboriginal occupation. This site type has previously been recorded in multiple assessments within close proximity to the Project Area.
Stone artefacts scatters and isolated artefacts	Artefact scatter sites can range from high-density concentrations through to isolated finds	Low potential to occur in low densities within the Project Area, however it is noted that none have been recorded during the previous assessments of land in close proximity to the Project Area.
Potential Archaeological Deposits (PADs)	Potential subsurface deposits of archaeological material	Negligible potential to occur within Project Area given the lack of any elevated areas associated with water sources.

5. Impact avoidance

Step 3. Can any AHIMS listed objects, or landscape features be avoided?

The proposed location of the solar farm is not located in an area which contains an identified Aboriginal object and is considered to have low archaeological potential based on the nature of the landscape. As the impact footprint within the Project Area has been cleared of vegetation since the 1960s, any culturally modified trees that once existed have consequently been destroyed by European farming practices. Further, the chance of isolated artefact finds to exist within the Project Area is low, however, it is likely that any artefacts identified will not be *in situ* due to the ground surface being continuously ploughed and disturbed for over 60 years.

6. Desktop assessment

Step 4. Does the desktop assessment confirm that there are likely to be Aboriginal objects present or below the ground surface?





The assessment process is primarily a desktop exercise, using available information such as the AHIMS search results and relevant archaeological reports to develop or refine a model of Aboriginal site prediction based on the type of activity proposed and the level of disturbance of the area. The desktop assessment of the Project Area was undertaken using satellite imagery, google earth street view, topographic data, the review of the archaeological context and the environmental location, and the previous archaeological surveys conducted adjacent to the Project Area.

The assessment of landscape features within the Project Area revealed that there is no permanent or periodic water sources within the Impact Area, nor any specific landforms such as sandy rises, hill crests or elevated flats to concentrate Aboriginal occupation. To support this, Elvis Digital Elevation Modelling (DEM) data was acquired to accurately identify the landforms present or any low areas potentially holding water within the Project Area without undertaking a site inspection. The DEMs for the Project Area revealed an extremely flat surface, with no evidence of culturally sensitive landscape features, and the only low areas being existing manmade dams of which are located outside of the Impact Area. As such, there are no landforms or landscape features within the Impact Area that are considered to have a higher sensitivity for focused Aboriginal occupation and use.

Additionally, the data from the field survey undertaken by NGH (2023) for the proposed solar farm within Lot 63, DP664772 (directly southeast of the Project Area) has been used as evidence to support this desktop assessment. The results of the field inspection for this project are detailed below. *“The portion of the Proposal Area within Lot 63 DP664722 was flat with no discernible microtopographic features or areas observed during the survey which would be considered to hold water, such as gilgai or soaks. The majority of the Proposal Area within Lot 63 DP664722 had very high ground surface visibility (80 to 100%) as it had been recently ploughed. The very high level of ground surface visibility across Lot 63 DP664722 during the survey was ideal for undertaking the visual inspection of the proposed development area, and the wider area of Lot 63 DP664722. Within Lot 63 DP664722 any stands of remnant vegetation and/or isolated paddock trees were visually inspected for the presence of Aboriginal cultural modification. None were considered to have scarring which conformed in any way to the standard scarring morphology accepted for Aboriginal modification (cf. Long 2005). The flat featureless plain was characterised by a reddish brown fine clay silty loam and a grey-brown silty cracking clay; it also contained no visible stone material. Given this, and in consideration of the very high ground visibility, absence of any close water sources, and results of the previous survey of the area by Biosis for the Hillston Solar Farm (Biosis 2017) it was determined that Lot 63 DP664722 has negligible potential for subsurface material”* (NGH 2023: 25).

It should be noted that between the Biosis (2017) and NGH (2023) field surveys conducted for the properties adjacent to the Project Area, a total of 832ha were physically surveyed. Over this sizeable area, only four stone artefacts in total were identified across the same landform in which the Project Area is located. The artefacts identified by Biosis (2017: 43-44) are located ~2.5 and ~2.7 km south of the Project Area and were described as being in a disturbed context. As the overall artefact density in the immediate vicinity and in the same landscapes as the Project Area have proven to be extremely low, the likelihood of Aboriginal stone artefacts being present in the 12.35 ha of the Impact Area is also considered extremely low.

In addition to this, the Statement of Environmental Effects (SEE) undertaken by NGH (2024) details the landscape of the Impact Area and the wider Project Area, as a site visit for a Preliminary Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (PBDAR) was conducted in October 2023. The images taken throughout the biodiversity survey confirm that the Impact Area is a cleared agricultural paddock located on a very flat landform with no mature vegetation present. The site photographs taken during field work for the biodiversity assessment are shown in Plate 6-1, Plate 6-2, Plate 6-3 and Plate 6-4.

	
<p>Plate 6-1: View of the cropped paddock showing the Impact Area</p>	<p>Plate 6-2: North west view of Impact Area</p>
	
<p>Plate 6-3: View along internal access road towards Kidman Way</p>	<p>Plate 6-4: Example of vegetation in the eastern portion of the Project Area</p>

Overall, the desktop assessment undertaken for this ADDA has determined that the Impact Area has no potential for culturally modified trees and very low potential for low-density artefact finds to exist. This is supported by the recent assessment NGH (2023) undertook for the adjacent property finding no surface artefacts within the high visibility of the landscape, as well as the Biosis (2017) assessment only identifying 4 artefacts over an 832 ha survey area, the robust historical land use of ploughing and grazing within the Impact Area, the distance of the overall Project Area to a substantial water course and the lack of landforms within the Impact Area that would support indicate potential for Aboriginal occupation. As such, the desktop assessment has determined that no visual inspection is warranted to assess potential impacts to Aboriginal objects at the location of the proposed solar farm. The desktop assessment alone is sufficient to conclusively define the archaeological potential of the landscape and identify the location of any Aboriginal objects.

7. Further assessment

Step 5. Is further investigation or impact assessment required?

The Due Diligence Code states that if, after the desktop research and visual inspection (if required) is completed, it is evident that harm will occur to Aboriginal objects or heritage places then further and more detailed assessment is required. However, if the research and inspection conclude that the proposed activity is unlikely to harm Aboriginal objects then the activity can proceed with caution.

The desktop assessment was determined to sufficiently assess the potential of impacts to Aboriginal objects at the proposed location of the solar farm, and as such, no further investigation is required. The location of the proposed solar farm was determined to not be located in an area that contains known Aboriginal objects or any archaeologically sensitive landforms. Given the previous disturbance, it has been concluded that there is negligible potential for Aboriginal objects to occur within the Impact Area and the proposed works can proceed with caution.

8. Recommendations

The following recommendations are based on a number of considerations including:

- Background Aboriginal heritage research into the area;
- Assessment of Landscape;
- Land use and disturbance assessment;
- Consideration of the impact of the proposed works; and
- Legislative context for the development proposal.

The following recommendations apply:

1. The proposed works within the Impact Area can proceed with caution, with the following additional recommendations.
2. All works must be constrained to the areas of existing disturbance and any activity proposed outside of the current impact footprint area should also be subject to an Aboriginal heritage assessment.
3. All access to the site and laydown areas must be within existing tracks and disturbed areas otherwise visual inspection of the sites by a qualified archaeologist is required.
4. No old growth trees may be disturbed without inspection by a qualified archaeologist for scarring or modification.
5. If any items suspected of being Aboriginal in origin are discovered during the work, all work in the immediate vicinity must stop and the NSW Environment Line (1300 361 967) notified. The find will need to be assessed and, if found to be an Aboriginal object, an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment ACHA and AHIP may be required.

GGE is reminded that it is an offence under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* to disturb, damage or destroy an Aboriginal object without a valid AHIP.

9. References

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Booth Associates 2000, *A Cultural Assessment of Aboriginal Sites at Merrowie Station, Hillston*, Report to Twynam Pastoral Company.

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NGH Pty Ltd 2023, *Aboriginal Heritage Due Diligence Assessment. 10738 Kidman Way Hillston*,.

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OzArk Environment & Heritage 2008, *Archaeological Test Excavations Lake Brewster, Southwest of Lake Cargelligo, NSW*, Report for State Water Corporation.

Paton, R & Hughes, P 1984, *An Archaeological Survey of two proposed re-regulation weirs along the Lachlan River near Condobolin and Hillston NSW.*, Report to NSW Water Resources Commission.

Appendix A AHIMS Results and Site Cards

A.1 AHIMS Search Results

AHIMS Web Services (AWS)

Extensive search - Site list report

Your Ref/PO Number : A230253
Client Service ID : 865732

SiteID	SiteName	Datum	Zone	Easting	Northing	Context	Site Status **	SiteFeatures	SiteTypes	Reports
42-1-0002	Multi-Scar Box Tree;T.S.R.2633;Hillston;	AGD	55	363160	6294360	Open site	Valid	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) :	Scarred Tree	
	Contact	Recorders	Mr.M Harris						Permits	
42-1-0017	Restriction applied. Please contact ahims@environment.nsw.gov.au.					Open site	Valid			
	Contact	Recorders	Steven Meredith						Permits	
42-1-0015	Restriction applied. Please contact ahims@environment.nsw.gov.au.					Open site	Valid			
	Contact	Recorders	Steven Meredith						Permits	
42-1-0014	Restriction applied. Please contact ahims@environment.nsw.gov.au.					Open site	Valid			
	Contact	Recorders	Steven Meredith						Permits	
42-1-0023	Restriction applied. Please contact ahims@environment.nsw.gov.au.					Open site	Valid			
	Contact	Recorders	Steven Meredith						Permits	
42-1-0012	Restriction applied. Please contact ahims@environment.nsw.gov.au.					Open site	Valid			
	Contact	Recorders	Steven Meredith						Permits	
42-1-0046	Restriction applied. Please contact ahims@environment.nsw.gov.au.					Open site	Valid			
	Contact	Recorders	Steven Meredith						Permits	
41-3-0009	Hillston Canoe;TSR 3023;Cowl Cowl;	AGD	55	357700	6291060	Open site	Valid	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) :	Scarred Tree	
	Contact	Recorders	Mr.M Harris						Permits	
41-3-0008	Chief Hunthawang;Bobbys Grave;Cowl Cowl;	AGD	55	357710	6291120	Open site	Valid	Burial : -, Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) : -	Burial/s,Scarred Tree	
	Contact	Recorders	Mr.M Harris,E.S Bowden						Permits	
41-3-0107	MF-ST9	AGD	55	358440	6295510	Open site	Valid	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) : 1		97728,98203
	Contact	Recorders	Steven Meredith						Permits	
42-1-0231	Hillston Bridge Scarred Tree Site 6	GDA	55	363327	6295333	Open site	Valid	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) :		
	Contact	Recorders	Mr.Josh Symons						Permits	
42-1-0230	Hillston Bridge Scarred Tree Site 5	GDA	55	363373	6295353	Open site	Valid	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) :		
	Contact	Recorders	Mr.Josh Symons						Permits	

SiteID	SiteName	Datum	Zone	Easting	Northing	Context	Site Status **	SiteFeatures	SiteTypes	Reports
42-1-0220	HB-ST-2 (Hillston)	GDA	55	363300	6295110	Open site	Valid	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) :		
Contact Mills Archaeological & Heritage Services Pty Ltd										
42-1-0034	Restriction applied. Please contact ahims@environment.nsw.gov.au.					Open site	Valid			
Contact Steven Meredith										
42-1-0236	Hillston Central School Scar Tree 2	GDA	55	364569	6294648	Open site	Valid	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) :		
Contact Mr.Mark Saddler										
Recorders										
42-1-0032	Restriction applied. Please contact ahims@environment.nsw.gov.au.					Open site	Valid			
Contact Steven Meredith										
42-1-0020	HN - ST 10	AGD	55	364617	6293283	Open site	Valid	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) : 46		
Recorders										
42-1-0030	HN - ST20	AGD	55	364618	6293718	Open site	Valid	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) : 46		
Contact Steven Meredith										
42-1-0028	HN - ST18	AGD	55	364630	6293674	Open site	Valid	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) : 46		
Recorders										
42-1-0029	HN - ST19	AGD	55	364630	6293686	Open site	Valid	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) : 46		
Contact Steven Meredith										
42-1-0041	Restriction applied. Please contact ahims@environment.nsw.gov.au.					Open site	Valid			
Contact Steven Meredith										
42-1-0249	Milton St Scar Tree	GDA	55	364339	6295297	Open site	Valid	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) :		
Recorders										
42-4-0015	Hillston 3	GDA	55	362489	6287534	Open site	Valid	Artefact :-		
Contact Biosis Pty Ltd - Wollongong,Biosis Pty Ltd - Wollongong,Mrs.Samantha Keats,Mrs.S										
42-4-0016	Hillston 4	GDA	55	363246	6287993	Open site	Valid	Artefact :-		
Recorders Biosis Pty Ltd - Wollongong,Biosis Pty Ltd - Wollongong,Mrs.Samantha Keats,Mrs.S										

<u>SiteID</u>	<u>SiteName</u>	<u>Datum</u>	<u>Zone</u>	<u>Eastng</u>	<u>Northing</u>	<u>Context</u>	<u>Site Status **</u>	<u>SiteFeatures</u>	<u>SiteTypes</u>	<u>Reports</u>
42-1-0219	HB-ST-1 (Hillston)	GDA	55	363330	6295080	Open site	Valid	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) :		
	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Recorders</u>	Mills Archaeological & Heritage Services Pty Ltd				Valid		<u>Permits</u>	
42-1-0016	Restriction applied. Please contact ahims@environment.nsw.gov.au.					Open site				
	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Recorders</u>	Steven Meredith			Open site	Valid		<u>Permits</u>	
42-1-0024	Restriction applied. Please contact ahims@environment.nsw.gov.au.									
	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Recorders</u>	Steven Meredith			Open site	Valid		<u>Permits</u>	
42-1-0021	Restriction applied. Please contact ahims@environment.nsw.gov.au.					Open site	Valid		<u>Permits</u>	
	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Recorders</u>	Steven Meredith			Open site	Valid		<u>Permits</u>	
42-1-0035	Restriction applied. Please contact ahims@environment.nsw.gov.au.					Open site	Valid		<u>Permits</u>	
	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Recorders</u>	Steven Meredith			Open site	Valid		<u>Permits</u>	
42-1-0043	Restriction applied. Please contact ahims@environment.nsw.gov.au.					Open site	Valid		<u>Permits</u>	
	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Recorders</u>	Steven Meredith			Open site	Valid		<u>Permits</u>	
42-1-0039	Restriction applied. Please contact ahims@environment.nsw.gov.au.					Open site	Valid		<u>Permits</u>	
	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Recorders</u>	Steven Meredith			Open site	Valid		<u>Permits</u>	
42-4-0013	Hillston 1	GDA	55	362632	6289856	Open site	Valid	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) :		
	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Recorders</u>	Biosis Pty Ltd - Wollongong,Biosis Pty Ltd - Wollongong,Mrs.Samantha Keats,Mrs.S				Valid		<u>Permits</u>	
42-1-0019	Restriction applied. Please contact ahims@environment.nsw.gov.au.					Open site				
	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Recorders</u>	Steven Meredith			Open site	Valid		<u>Permits</u>	
42-1-0036	Restriction applied. Please contact ahims@environment.nsw.gov.au.					Open site	Valid		<u>Permits</u>	
	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Recorders</u>	Steven Meredith			Open site	Valid		<u>Permits</u>	
42-1-0026	Restriction applied. Please contact ahims@environment.nsw.gov.au.					Open site	Valid		<u>Permits</u>	
	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Recorders</u>	Steven Meredith			Open site	Valid		<u>Permits</u>	
42-1-0038	Restriction applied. Please contact ahims@environment.nsw.gov.au.					Open site	Valid		<u>Permits</u>	
	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Recorders</u>	Steven Meredith			Open site	Valid		<u>Permits</u>	
42-1-0040	Restriction applied. Please contact ahims@environment.nsw.gov.au.					Open site	Valid		<u>Permits</u>	
	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Recorders</u>	Steven Meredith			Open site	Valid		<u>Permits</u>	

AHIMS Web Services (AWS)

Extensive search - Site list report

Your Ref/PO Number : A230253
Client Service ID : 865732

<u>SiteID</u>	<u>SiteName</u>	<u>Datum</u>	<u>Zone</u>	<u>Easting</u>	<u>Northing</u>	<u>Context</u>	<u>Site Status **</u>	<u>SiteFeatures</u>	<u>SiteTypes</u>	<u>Reports</u>
42-1-0049	Restriction applied. Please contact ahims@environment.nsw.gov.au. <u>Contact</u>					Open site	Valid			
42-1-0056	Restriction applied. Please contact ahims@environment.nsw.gov.au. <u>Contact</u>		Steven Meredith			Open site	Valid			<u>Permits</u>
42-1-0033	Restriction applied. Please contact ahims@environment.nsw.gov.au. <u>Contact</u>		Steven Meredith			Open site	Valid			<u>Permits</u>
42-1-0025	HN - ST15 <u>Contact</u>	AGD	55	364579	6293579	Open site	Valid	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) : 46		<u>Permits</u>
42-1-0031	Mr.Chris Johnston Restriction applied. Please contact ahims@environment.nsw.gov.au. <u>Contact</u>		Steven Meredith			Open site	Valid			<u>Permits</u>
42-1-0050	Restriction applied. Please contact ahims@environment.nsw.gov.au. <u>Contact</u>		Steven Meredith			Open site	Valid			<u>Permits</u>
42-4-0017	Hillston 5 <u>Contact</u>	GDA	55	363509	6290055	Open site	Valid	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) :		<u>Permits</u>
42-4-0014	Hillston 2 <u>Contact</u>	GDA	55	362091	6288003	Open site	Valid	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) :		<u>Permits</u>
42-1-0232	Hillston Bridge Scarred Tree Site 7 <u>Contact</u>		Biosis Pty Ltd - Wollongong,Biosis Pty Ltd - Wollongong,Mrs.Samantha Keats,Mrs.S			Open site	Valid	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) :		<u>Permits</u>
42-1-0053	Restriction applied. Please contact ahims@environment.nsw.gov.au. <u>Contact</u>		Mr.Josh Symons			Open site	Valid			<u>Permits</u>
42-1-0048	Restriction applied. Please contact ahims@environment.nsw.gov.au. <u>Contact</u>		Steven Meredith			Open site	Valid			<u>Permits</u>
42-1-0047	Restriction applied. Please contact ahims@environment.nsw.gov.au. <u>Contact</u>		Steven Meredith			Open site	Valid			<u>Permits</u>
42-1-0044	Restriction applied. Please contact ahims@environment.nsw.gov.au. <u>Contact</u>		Steven Meredith			Open site	Valid			<u>Permits</u>

AHIMS Web Services (AWS)

Extensive search - Site list report

Your Ref/PO Number : A230253
Client Service ID : 865732

SiteID	SiteName	Datum	Zone	Easting	Northing	Context	Site Status **	SiteFeatures	SiteTypes	Reports
42-1-0058	Hillston Carved Tree	Records AGD	Steven Meredith 55	365053	6293893	Open site	Valid	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) : 1	Permits	
		Records GDA	Steven Meredith 55	363513	6295530	Open site	Valid	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) : -	Permits	
42-1-0057	Hillston/Cowper St.1	Records AGD	Mr.Josh Symons 55	364437	6294434	Open site	Valid	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) : 2	Permits	
		Records GDA	Steven Meredith 55	363513	6295530	Open site	Valid	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) : -	Permits	
42-1-0022	Mr.Chris Johnston Restriction applied. Please contact ahims@environment.nsw.gov.au.	Records AGD	Steven Meredith 55	364437	6294434	Open site	Valid	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) : 2	Permits	
		Records GDA	Steven Meredith 55	363513	6295530	Open site	Valid	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) : -	Permits	
42-1-0013	Restriction applied. Please contact ahims@environment.nsw.gov.au.	Records AGD	Steven Meredith 55	364437	6294434	Open site	Valid	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) : 2	Permits	
		Records GDA	Steven Meredith 55	363513	6295530	Open site	Valid	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) : -	Permits	
42-1-0018	Restriction applied. Please contact ahims@environment.nsw.gov.au.	Records AGD	Steven Meredith 55	364437	6294434	Open site	Valid	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) : 2	Permits	
		Records GDA	Steven Meredith 55	363513	6295530	Open site	Valid	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) : -	Permits	
42-1-0042	Restriction applied. Please contact ahims@environment.nsw.gov.au.	Records AGD	Steven Meredith 55	364437	6294434	Open site	Valid	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) : 2	Permits	
		Records GDA	Steven Meredith 55	363513	6295530	Open site	Valid	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) : -	Permits	
42-1-0054	Restriction applied. Please contact ahims@environment.nsw.gov.au.	Records AGD	Steven Meredith 55	364437	6294434	Open site	Valid	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) : 2	Permits	
		Records GDA	Steven Meredith 55	363513	6295530	Open site	Valid	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) : -	Permits	
42-1-0055	Restriction applied. Please contact ahims@environment.nsw.gov.au.	Records AGD	Steven Meredith 55	364437	6294434	Open site	Valid	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) : 2	Permits	
		Records GDA	Steven Meredith 55	363513	6295530	Open site	Valid	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) : -	Permits	
42-1-0045	Restriction applied. Please contact ahims@environment.nsw.gov.au.	Records AGD	Steven Meredith 55	364437	6294434	Open site	Valid	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) : 2	Permits	
		Records GDA	Steven Meredith 55	363513	6295530	Open site	Valid	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) : -	Permits	
42-1-0218	HB-ST-3 (Hillston)	Records AGD	Steven Meredith 55	363330	6295090	Open site	Valid	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) : 1	Permits	
		Records GDA	Mills Archaeological & Heritage Services Pty Ltd 55	363416	6295200	Open site	Valid	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) : -	Permits	
42-1-0233	Hillston Bridge Scarred Tree Site 8	Records AGD	Mr.Josh Symons 55	363416	6295200	Open site	Valid	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) : -	Permits	
		Records GDA	Mr.Josh Symons 55	363416	6295200	Open site	Valid	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) : -	Permits	

<u>SiteID</u>	<u>SiteName</u>	<u>Datum</u>	<u>Zone</u>	<u>Easting</u>	<u>Northing</u>	<u>Context</u>	<u>Site Status **</u>	<u>SiteFeatures</u>	<u>SiteTypes</u>	<u>Reports</u>
42-1-0234	Hillston Bridge Scarred Tree Site 9	GDA	55	363429	6295189	Open site	Valid	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) :		
<u>Contact</u>										
42-1-0235	Hillston Central School 1	GDA	55	364538	6294620	Open site	Valid	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) :		
<u>Contact</u>										
42-1-0027	Restriction applied. Please contact ahims@environment.nsw.gov.au.		Mr.Josh Symons			Open site	Valid			<u>Permits</u>
<u>Contact</u>										
42-1-0037	Restriction applied. Please contact ahims@environment.nsw.gov.au.		Steven Meredith			Open site	Valid			<u>Permits</u>
<u>Contact</u>										
42-1-0010	H-ST-02	AGD	55	364740	6294200	Open site	Valid	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) :	Scarred Tree	4350
<u>Contact</u>										
42-1-0052	Restriction applied. Please contact ahims@environment.nsw.gov.au.		Central West Archaeological and Heritage Services Pty Ltd			Open site	Valid			<u>Permits</u>
<u>Contact</u>										
42-1-0051	Restriction applied. Please contact ahims@environment.nsw.gov.au.		Steven Meredith			Open site	Valid			<u>Permits</u>
<u>Contact</u>										
42-1-0008	H-ST=-01	AGD	55	364840	6294200	Open site	Valid	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) :	Scarred Tree	4350
<u>Contact</u>										
42-1-0011	Restriction applied. Please contact ahims@environment.nsw.gov.au.		Central West Archaeological and Heritage Services Pty Ltd			Open site	Valid			<u>Permits</u>
<u>Contact</u>										
<u>Permits</u>										

**** 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

A.2 Hillston 1 (AHIMS #42-4-0013)

Aboriginal Site Recording Form

AHIMS Registrar
PO Box 1967, Hurstville 2220 NSW

AHIMS site ID: 42-4-0013

Date recorded: 09-01-2018

Site Location Information

Site name: Hillston 1

Easting: 362632

Northing: 6289856

Coordinates must be in GDA (MGA)

Horizontal Accuracy (m):

5

Zone: 55

Location method:

Differential GPS

Recorder Information

(The person responsible for the completion and submission of this form)

Title

Surname

First name

Mrs.

Keats

Samantha

Organisation: Biosis Pty Ltd

Address: 8 Tate Street, Wollongong NSW 2500

Phone: 0242011061

E-mail: ahims@biosis.com.au

Site Context Information

Land Form
Pattern:

Floodplain

Land Use:

Pastoral/Grazing

Land Form
Unit:

Plain

Vegetation:

Cleared

Distance to
Water (m):

3500

Primary
Report:

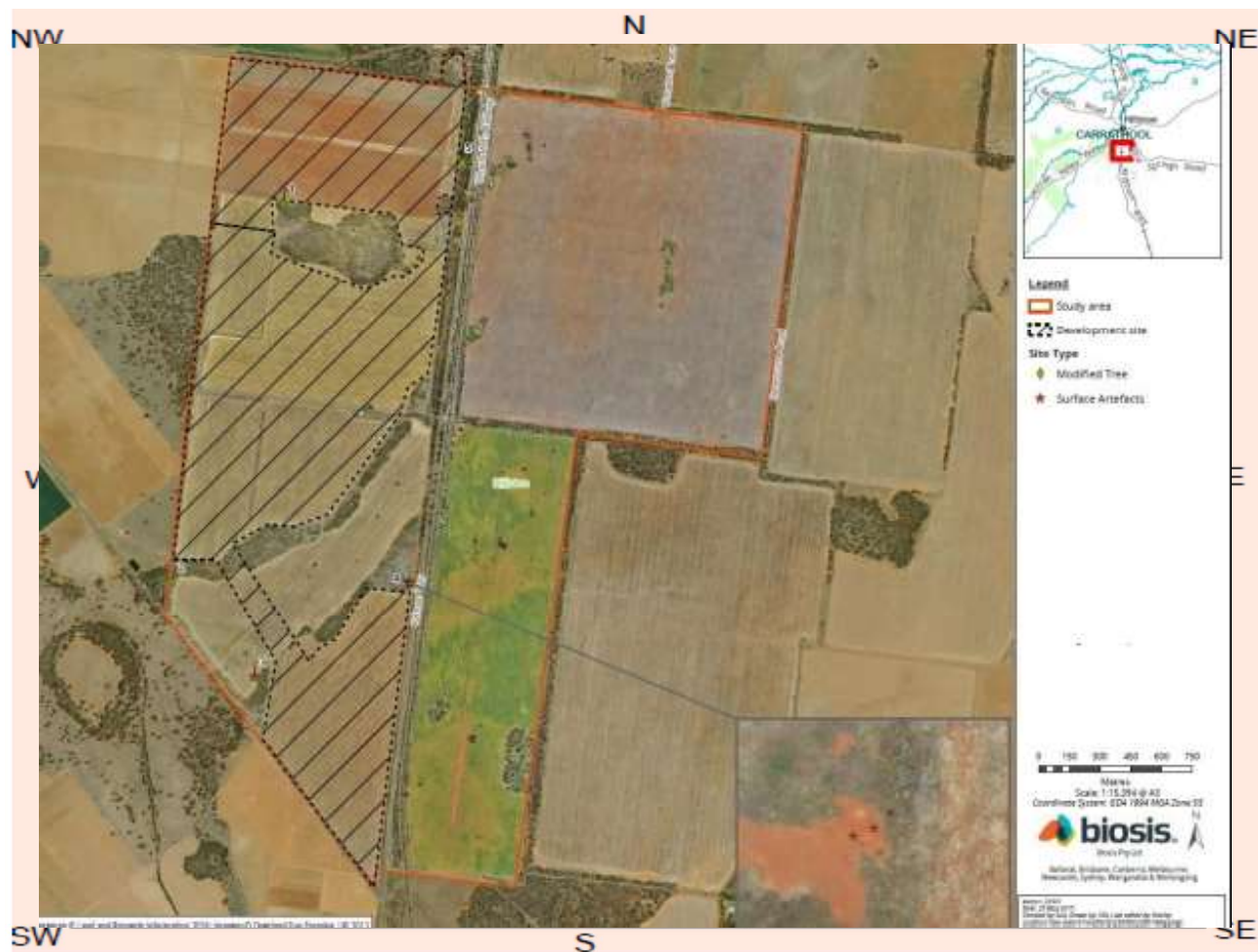
Hillston sun farming project, NSW: Archaeological report

How to get
to the site:

The study area is located on Kidman Way approximately 3.5 kilometres south from Hillston.

Other site
information:

Site location map



Site contents information

open/closed site:

Site condition:

Features:

	Number of features	Length of feature(s) extent (m)	Width of feature (s) extent (m)	Scar Depth (cm)	Regrowth (cm)	Scar shape	Tree Species
1. <input type="text" value="Modified Tree"/>	<input type="text" value="1"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text" value="10"/>	<input type="text" value="10"/>	<input type="text" value="240"/>	<input type="text" value="40"/>
				<input type="text" value="Oval"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text" value="Box"/>	<input type="text"/>

Description:

Hillston 1 is a modified box tree bearing a large, east facing oval with no visible axe marks. The tree and scar are in good condition, with the scar located 65cm from the ground. The size of the scar indicates it was likely caused by the removal of bark to make a canoe.

Features:

	Number of features	Length of feature(s) extent (m)	Width of feature (s) extent (m)	Scar Depth (cm)	Regrowth (cm)	Scar shape	Tree Species
2. <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Description:

Features:

3.

Description:

Scarred Trees

Scar Depth (cm)	Regrowth (cm)	Scar shape	Tree Species
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Features:

4.

Description:

Scarred Trees

Scar Depth (cm)	Regrowth (cm)	Scar shape	Tree Species
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Features:

5.

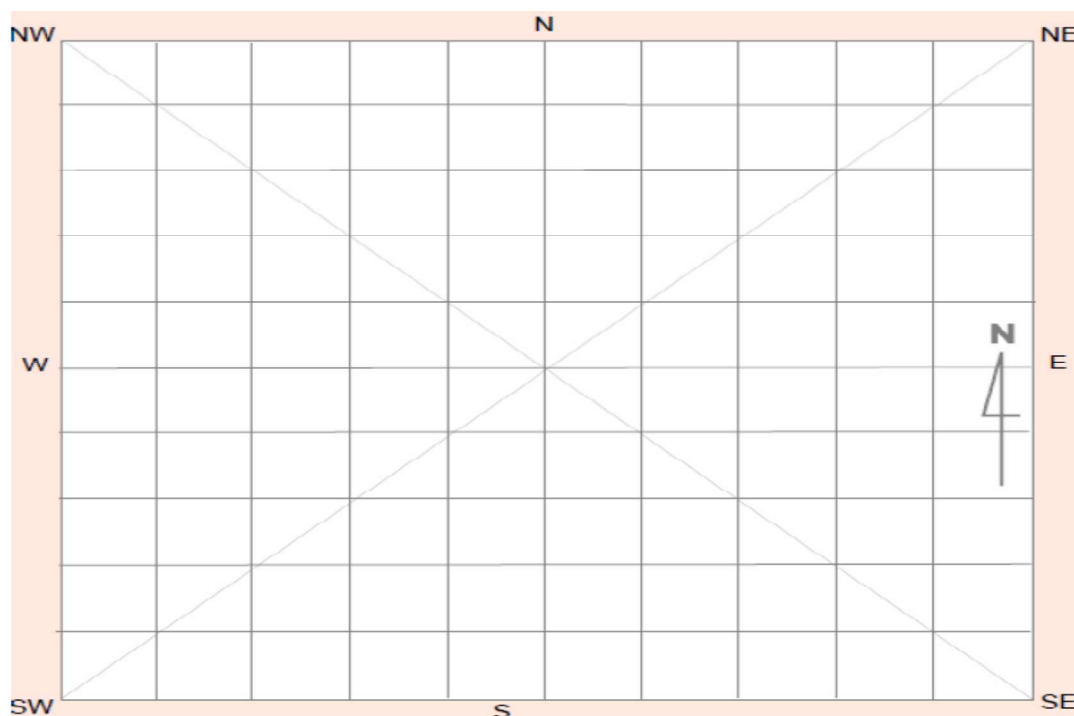
Description:

Scarred Trees

Scar Depth (cm)	Regrowth (cm)	Scar shape	Tree Species
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Other Site Info:

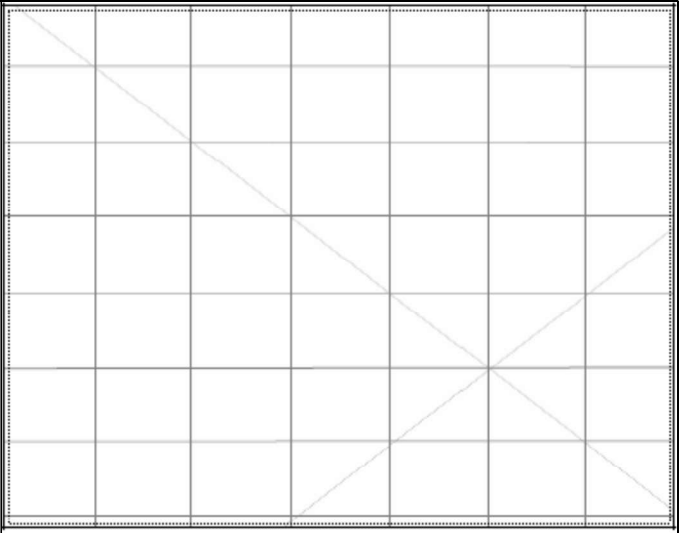
Site plan



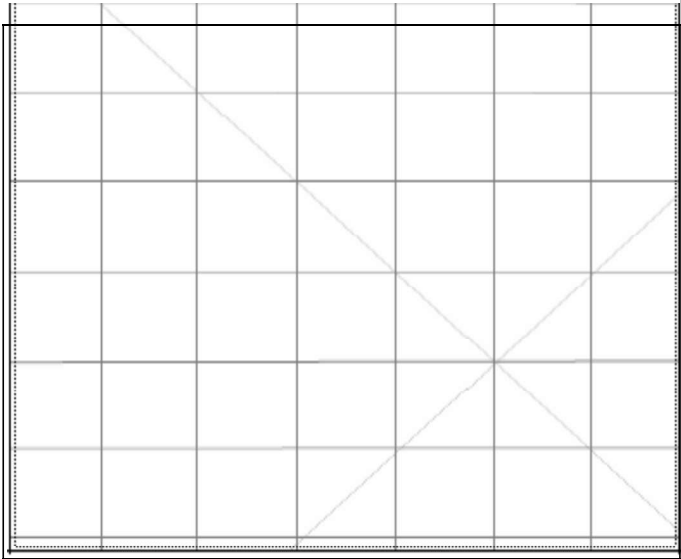
Site photographs



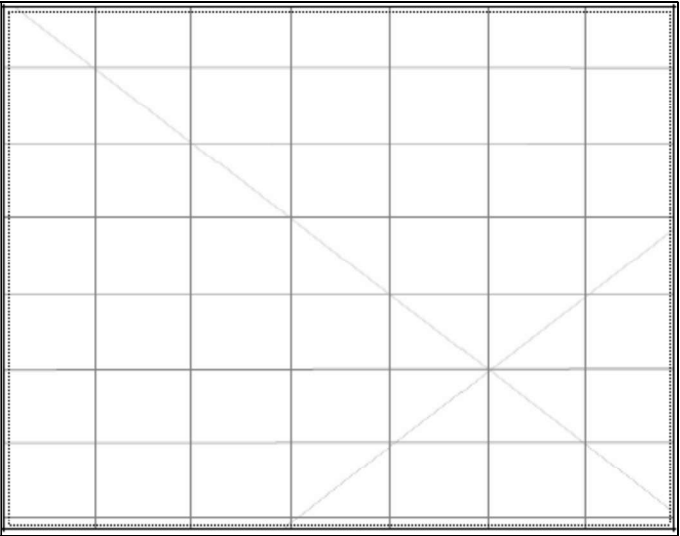
Description:



Description:



Description:



Description:

Site restrictions

Do you want to Restrict this site?:

Restriction type:

Gender

General

Location

Why is this site restricted?:

Further information contact

Title

Surname

First name

Organisation:

Address:

Phone: E-mail:

A.3 Hillston 5 (AHIMS #42-4-0017)

Aboriginal Site Recording Form

AHIMS Registrar
PO Box 1967, Hurstville 2220 NSW

AHIMS site ID: 42-4-0017

Date recorded: 09-01-2018

Site Location Information

Site name: Hillston 5

Easting: 363509

Northing: 6290055

Coordinates must be in GDA (MGA)

Horizontal Accuracy (m):

5

Zone: 55

Location method:

Differential GPS

Recorder Information

(The person responsible for the completion and submission of this form)

Title

Surname

First name

Mrs.

Keats

Samantha

Organisation: Biosis Pty Ltd

Address: 8 Tate Street, Wollongong NSW 2500

Phone: 0242011061

E-mail: ahims@biosis.com.au

Site Context Information

Land Form
Pattern:

Floodplain

Land Use:

Pastoral/Grazing

Land Form
Unit:

Plain

Vegetation:

Cleared

Distance to
Water (m):

3500

Primary
Report:

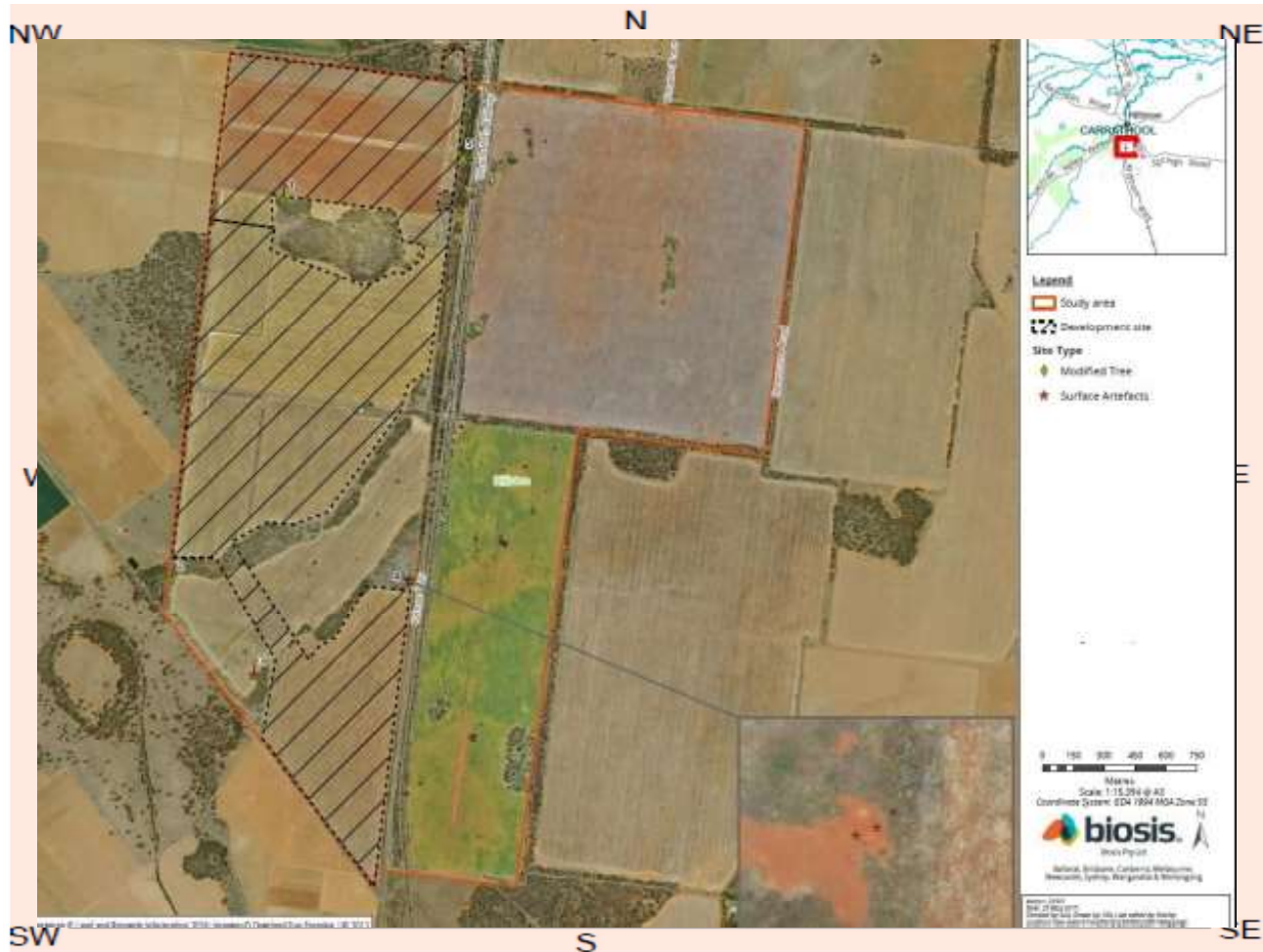
Hillston sun farming project, NSW: Archaeological report

How to get
to the site:

The study area is located on Kidman Way approximately 3.5 kilometres south from Hillston.

Other site
information:

Site location map



Site contents information

open/closed site:

Site condition:

Features:

	Number of features	Length of feature(s) extent (m)	Width of feature (s) extent (m)	Scar Depth (cm)	Regrowth (cm)	Scar shape	Tree Species
1.	<input type="text" value="1"/>	<input type="text" value="20"/>	<input type="text" value="20"/>	<input type="text" value="220"/>	<input type="text" value="40"/>	<input type="text" value="Oval"/>	<input type="text" value="Box"/>

Description:

Hillston 5 is a modified box tree with a large, east facing oval scar with no visible axe marks. The size of the scar suggests it was the result of the removal of bark to create a canoe.

Features:

	Number of features	Length of feature(s) extent (m)	Width of feature (s) extent (m)	Scar Depth (cm)	Regrowth (cm)	Scar shape	Tree Species
2.	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Description:

Features:

	Number of features	Length of feature(s) extent (m)	Width of feature (s) extent (m)
3.	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Description:

Scarred Trees

Scar Depth (cm)	Regrowth (cm)	Scar shape	Tree Species
-----------------	---------------	------------	--------------

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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Features:

	Number of features	Length of feature(s) extent (m)	Width of feature (s) extent (m)
4.	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Description:

Scarred Trees

Scar Depth (cm)	Regrowth (cm)	Scar shape	Tree Species
-----------------	---------------	------------	--------------

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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Features:

	Number of features	Length of feature(s) extent (m)	Width of feature (s) extent (m)
5.	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

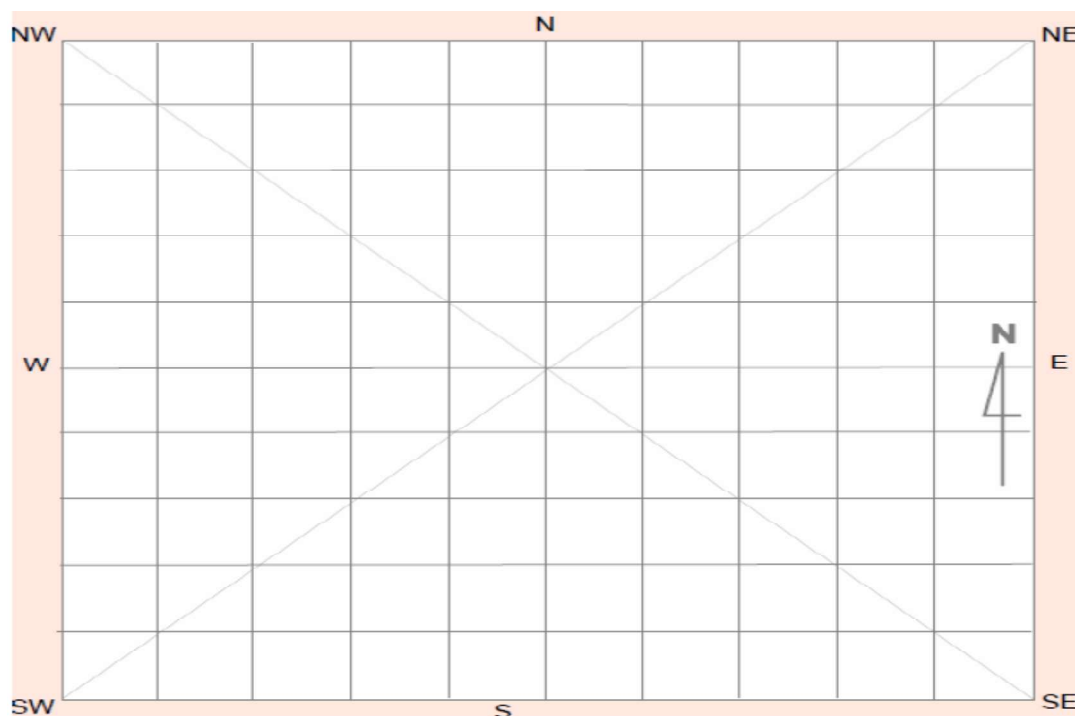
Description:

Scarred Trees

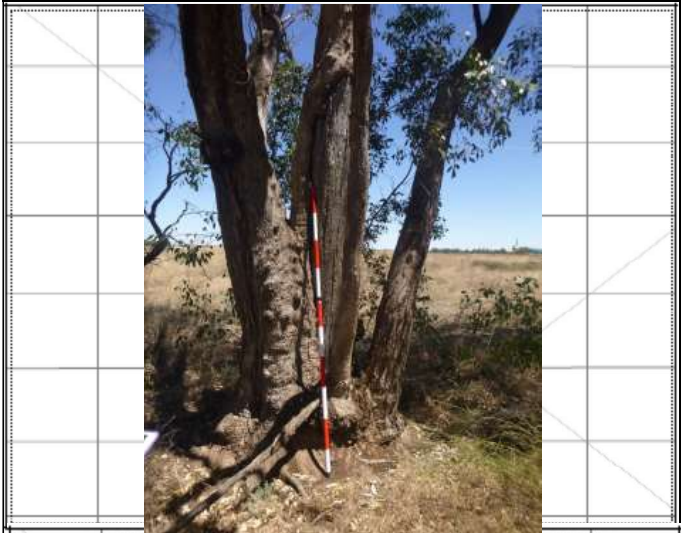
Scar Depth (cm)	Regrowth (cm)	Scar shape	Tree Species
-----------------	---------------	------------	--------------

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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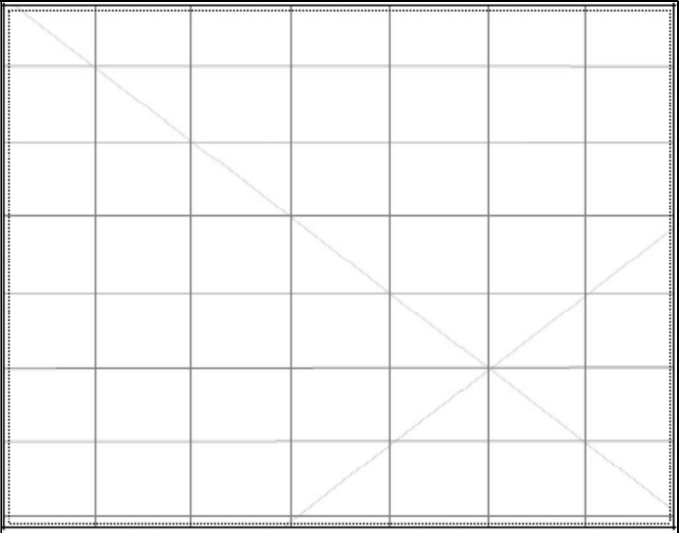
Other Site Info:

Site plan

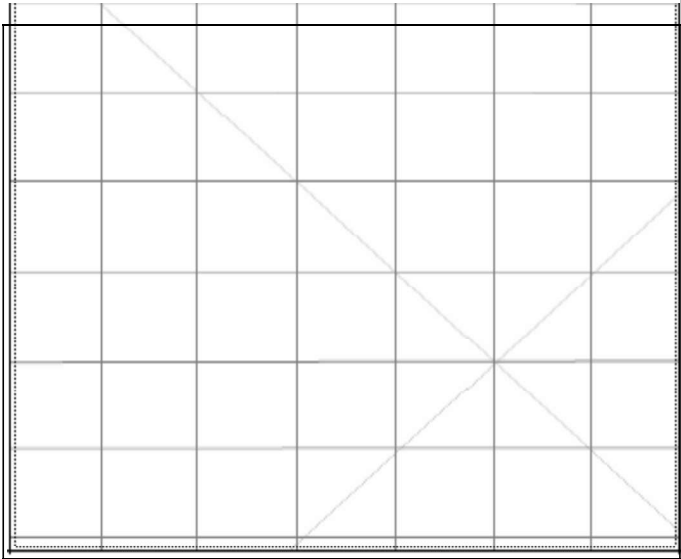
Site photographs



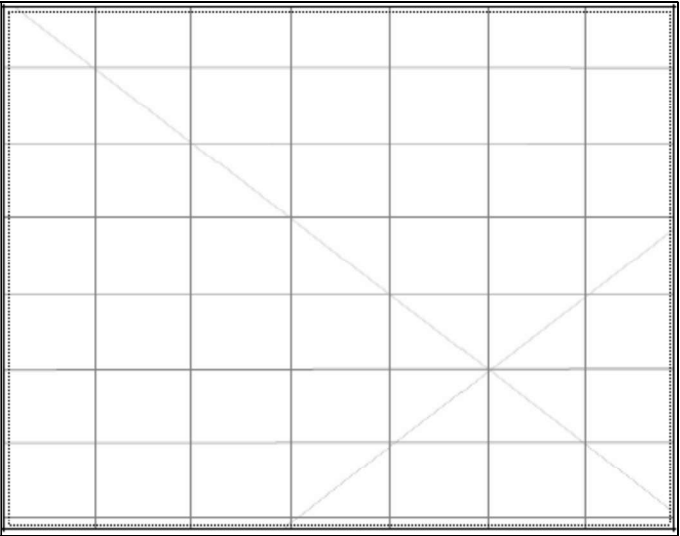
Description:



Description:



Description:



Description:

Site restrictions

Do you want to Restrict this site?:

Restriction type:

Gender

General

Location

Why is this site restricted?:

Further information contact

Title

Surname

First name

Organisation:

Address:

Phone: E-mail:



NGH Pty Ltd

NSW • ACT • QLD • VIC

ABN 31 124 444 622 ACN 124 444 622

E: ngh@nghconsulting.com.au

GOLD COAST

2B 34 Tallebudgera Creek Road
Burleigh Heads QLD 4220

T. (07) 3129 7633

SYDNEY REGION

Unit 17, 21 Mary Street
Surry Hills NSW 2010

T. (02) 8202 8333

BEGA

Suite 11, 89-91 Auckland Street
(PO Box 470)
Bega NSW 2550

T. (02) 6492 8333

MELBOURNE

Level 14, 10-16 Queen Street
Melbourne VIC 3000

T: (03) 7031 9123

TOWNSVILLE

Level 4, 67-75 Denham Street
Townsville QLD 4810

T. (07) 4410 9000

BRISBANE

T3, Level 7, 348 Edward Street
Brisbane QLD 4000

T. (07) 3129 7633

NEWCASTLE - HUNTER & NORTH COAST

Level 1, 31-33 Beaumont Street
Hamilton NSW 2303

T. (02) 4929 2301

WAGGA WAGGA - RIVERINA & WESTERN NSW

35 Kincaid Street (PO Box 5464)
Wagga Wagga NSW 2650

T. (02) 6971 9696

CANBERRA

Unit 8, 27 Yallourn Street
(PO Box 62)
Fyshwick ACT 2609

T. (02) 6280 5053

SUNSHINE COAST

Building 1, 30 Chancellor Village Boulevard
Sippy Downs QLD 4556

T: 13 54 93

WODONGA

Unit 2, 83 Hume Street
(PO Box 506)

Wodonga VIC 3690

T. (02) 6067 2533