

TransGrid Transmission Line Removal and Relocation, Molonglo
West Belconnen – Cultural Heritage Assessment



Report Prepared for Riverview Projects ACT Pty Ltd

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- ❖ Maps, Mapping Grid Reference Co-ordinates or images for Aboriginal heritage sites, places and objects.
- ❖ 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.

This report would not have been possible without the assistance of the following people and organisations in the preparation of this report:

- ❖ Paul House - Mirrabee
- ❖ James Mundy – Ngarigu Currawong Clan
- ❖ Adrian Brown – King Brown Tribal Group
- ❖ Wally Bell – Buru Ngunawal Aboriginal Corporation
- ❖ Matthew Frawley - Ginninderry

Abbreviations

CHA – Cultural Heritage Assessment

RAO – Representative Aboriginal Organisation registered under *Heritage Act 2004*

PAD – Potential Archaeological Deposit

SHE – Statement of Heritage Effects

UDP – Unanticipated Discovery Plan

Note on Terms

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

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Past Traces Pty Ltd has been engaged by Riverview Projects ACT Pty Ltd, to prepare a Cultural Heritage Assessment (CHA) for the proposed removal of TransGrid transmission line easements within the Ginninderry Development and the associated Ginninderry Conservation Corridor, and relocation of these TransGrid lines to the southwest of the development.

The CHA covers two sections:

1. The areas of the proposed removal over the 60m wide easement corridor for a length of approximately 14.5km and encompassing the current tower locations. The current alignments to be removed traverse a section of the Ginninderry Development and the associated Ginninderry Conservation Corridor, before continuing west, over the Murrumbidgee River to the ACT border and into NSW.
2. The CHA also covers areas of the proposed replacement Transgrid easement over a 60m wide corridor of approximately 5km, and 50m in radius of the proposed tower locations, and access tracks. This section is placed to the southwest of Stockdill Drive, from the Stockdill Drive substation to northeast of Uriarra Crossing.

The project area is shown in Figure 1 in a regional context and in detail in Figure 2.

Following the results of the original survey undertaken in 2022 realignment of the new easement and access tracks has been undertaken, deviating the proposed alignment to the south to avoid all heritage impacts. The revised track and easement corridor are also shown on Figure 2.

The proposed works are located within the following land parcels:

ACT

- ❖ Urban Block 1 Section 3, Macnamara ACT
- ❖ Rural Block 63, Coree ACT
- ❖ Rural Block 487, Stromlo ACT
- ❖ Rural Block 88, Coree ACT
- ❖ Rural Block 1634, Belconnen ACT
- ❖ Rural Block 1614, Belconnen ACT
- ❖ Proposed Rural Block 488, Stromlo ACT

NSW

- ❖ 1//DP1256278
- ❖ 3//DP1256278
- ❖ 10//DP1256278
- ❖ 11//DP1256278
- ❖ 14//DP1256278
- ❖ 15//DP1256278
- ❖ 16//DP1256278

A review of the information available on the ACT Heritage Register, the ACTMapi Heritage Overlay NSW Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS), NSW State heritage inventory, Commonwealth and National Heritage Databases was undertaken to determine if heritage sites were recorded in the vicinity. The CHA also reviewed previous work in the area to gain background information and to inform predictive modelling for Aboriginal heritage sites.

From the desktop review, the heritage listed site of Huntly is in the vicinity but will not be impacted by the development. No other historical items are listed in the vicinity on the ACT Heritage register with historical border markers noted in previous reports, which are not currently listed on any database. These border markers will not be impacted by the proposed works.

Aboriginal heritage sites are listed within the vicinity of works both within the ACT and NSW sections located outside of areas of works. No impacts are anticipated on these sites.

Field survey was undertaken across the project area in January 2022 along the length of the proposed removal of the TransGrid easement and expanding to cover a radius of 50m in tower locations. Survey also included the replacement easement corridor to a width of 60m and 50m at proposed new tower locations.

Following review of the findings of the 2022 field survey, revision of the route was undertaken in 2023 to avoid heritage sites. This revision resulted in an additional survey being undertaken in March 2023 along the revised section, with a follow-up survey in September 2023 for the new alignment of the Fairlight Road access track.

Consultation with the Aboriginal Representative Aboriginal Organisations (RAOs) has been undertaken in accordance with ACT Heritage guidelines and the *Heritage Act 2004*. The RAOs were provided with report details, participated in the 2022 and 2023 field surveys and provided guidance in regards to significance and appropriate management strategies. Details of consultation are provided in Appendix 1.

As a result of the assessment completed for the project the following findings and recommendations apply:

- ❖ Two Aboriginal heritage sites (TRG1, TRG2) and four areas of PAD (TRG PAD1, HPAD1, HPAD2 and HPAD3) were identified by the current field surveys. TRGPAD1 is avoided by the latest deviation, with the remaining sites TRG1, TRG2, HPAD1, HPAD2 and HPAD3 remain within the alignment, but are located in areas that will not be impacted.
- ❖ Six previously recorded sites (CR1, CR2, RC26, CAS361, MRC126 & PHIF1) are present within the current alignment planned for removal and installation, but are also located in areas that will not be impacted.
- ❖ Protective barrier fencing consisting of high visibility flagging and star pickets must be installed around sites within 20m of works with a minimum buffer of 5m or 10m if practical to prevent any accidental impacts. The site fencing will be demarcated by the heritage team (including RAOs) and installed by the heritage team or under their guidance. This applies to site TRG2, HPAD3, CR1, CR2, RC26, & CAS361.

- ❖ The current project will have no effect on the three listed requirements for Huntly's conservation. The proposal will have no impact on the property's pastoral or grazing ability. The Huntly Garden and all other intrinsic features will not be impacted by the current proposal, with the closest feature being the shearing shed approximately 2.6km from works.
- ❖ The current project will have no effect on the historical ACT/NSW Border markers. Their location will be marked on project mapping as avoidance areas.
- ❖ If design alters and impacts cannot be avoided at heritage sites then further works consisting of surface collection or subsurface testing will be required. Subsurface testing would require completion of an excavation methodology and application for approval by the ACT Heritage Council, prior to any works commencing. Surface collection would require approval from the ACT Heritage Council
- ❖ All Aboriginal objects are protected under the *NSW National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*. It is an offence to disturb an Aboriginal site without a consent permit issued by NSW Heritage. Impacts must be avoided to all heritage sites within the NSW sections. Should any Aboriginal objects be encountered during works then works must cease and the find should not be moved until assessed by a qualified archaeologist
- ❖ In the event of any alteration in development footprint additional assessment would be required.
- ❖ If unrecorded heritage items are located during works, then the process outlined in the Unanticipated Discovery Plan (Appendix 2) should be implemented.
- ❖ As impacts can be avoided no formal submission of a Statement of Heritage Effect (SHE) is required. This CHA should be submitted to the ACT Heritage Council for endorsement prior to any works commencing. No works can commence in the vicinity of any heritage sites until endorsement has been granted by the ACT Heritage Council.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

Past Traces Pty Ltd has been engaged by Riverview Projects ACT Pty Ltd, to prepare a Cultural Heritage Assessment (CHA) for the proposed removal of TransGrid transmission line easements within the Ginninderry Development and the associated Ginninderry Conservation Corridor, and relocation of these TransGrid lines to the southwest of the development.

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1. The areas of the proposed removal over the 60m wide easement corridor for a length of approximately 14.5km and encompassing the current tower locations. The current alignments to be removed traverse a section of the Ginninderry Development and the associated Ginninderry Conservation Corridor, before continuing west, over the Murrumbidgee River to the ACT border.
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The project area is shown in Figure 1 in a regional context and in detail in Figure 2.

Following the results of the original survey undertaken in 2022 realignment of the new easement and access tracks has been undertaken, deviating the proposed alignment to the south to avoid all heritage impacts. The revised track and easement corridor are also shown on Figure 2.

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- ❖ 14//DP1256278
- ❖ 15//DP1256278
- ❖ 16//DP1256278

The proposed development will involve limited areas of ground disturbance that has the potential to impact on unidentified Aboriginal and historic heritage sites (places and/or objects), which are protected under the ACT *Heritage Act 2004*. Impacts are confined to the tower locations and track construction with the majority of alignment resulting in no ground disturbance.

This CHA has reviewed heritage registers, previous work in the area to gain background information, inform predictive modelling and completed a field survey across the project area to determine if any heritage constraints apply to the project area or whether the potential to impact on any heritage sites is present.

1.2 PROPOSED WORKS AND IMPACTS

The proposal would result in the following impacts:

- ❖ Topsoil disturbance by plant during the removal of the existing transmission lines and towers in limited areas.
- ❖ Excavation and removal of topsoil associated with the installation of concrete footings and associated transmission lines and towers.
- ❖ Establishment of access tracks for use during construction which will be rehabilitated following works.
- ❖ Ongoing irregular maintenance activities within the transmission line easement.

Any heritage sites in the vicinity of works would be impacted by the proposed construction. As the project is at a design phase, any sites located in the proposed impact area, have been subject to re-designed to avoid impacts wherever possible.

1.3 ABORIGINAL CONSULTATION

Consultation with the Aboriginal community has been undertaken in accordance with ACT Heritage guidelines and the *Heritage Act 2004*. The four Representative Aboriginal Organisations (RAOs) participated in the field survey of the project area and provided guidance in regards to significance and appropriate management strategies. No concerns were raised during the surveys in regards to the project. The RAOs consulted were:

- ❖ Mirrabee
- ❖ King Brown Tribal Group
- ❖ Buru Ngunawal Aboriginal Corporation
- ❖ Ngarigu Currawong Clan

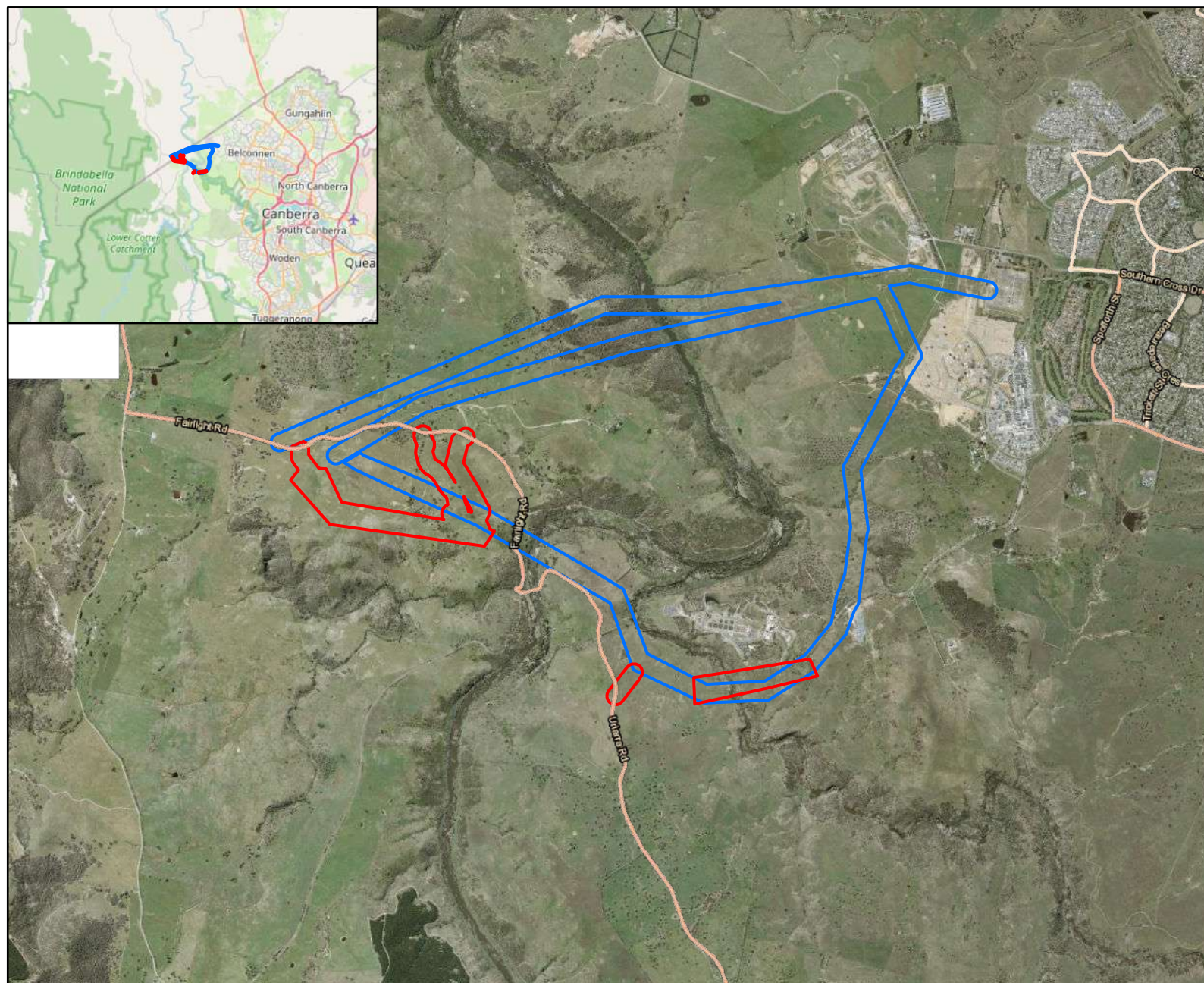
In addition to the discussions held on site with the RAOs drafts of the report was supplied for comments and follow up phone calls made to each of the RAOs to determine if they had any concerns with the management outcomes. No concerns were raised following review of the report. The process of consultation is provided in Appendix 1.

1.4 REPORT AIMS AND FORMAT

The CHA consisted of the following steps:

- ❖ Review of ACT, NSW, Commonwealth and National heritage databases for determination of location of previously recorded sites in relation to works (Aboriginal and Historical)
- ❖ Review of previous reports in area to develop predictive model of site location
- ❖ Consultation with RAOs
- ❖ Assess landforms present in project area against predictive model to determine potential for heritage sites
- ❖ Complete field surveys across project area.
- ❖ Record and assess sites identified during the survey as well as areas of Potential Archaeological Deposits (PADs)
- ❖ Identify potential impacts to all identified Aboriginal and historical heritage sites and places as a result of the proposed works
- ❖ Complete CHA report with management recommendations to avoid or minimise impacts within the project area.

Figure 1: Regional Context



Legend

- Study Area - 2023
- Study Area - 2022



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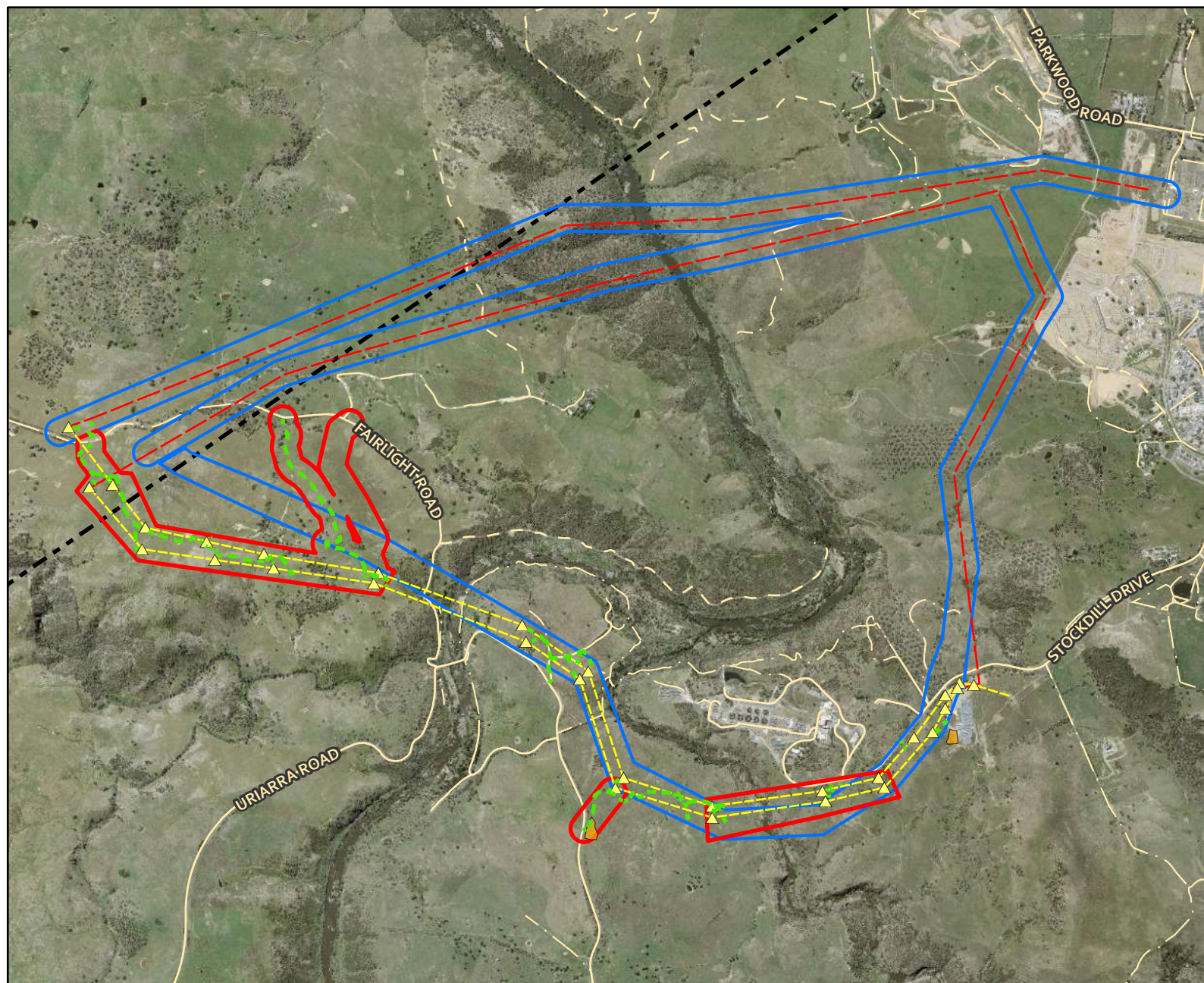
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Imagery: © ACTMapi

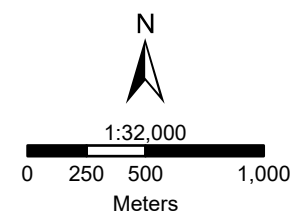
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Figure 2: Project Alignment



Legend

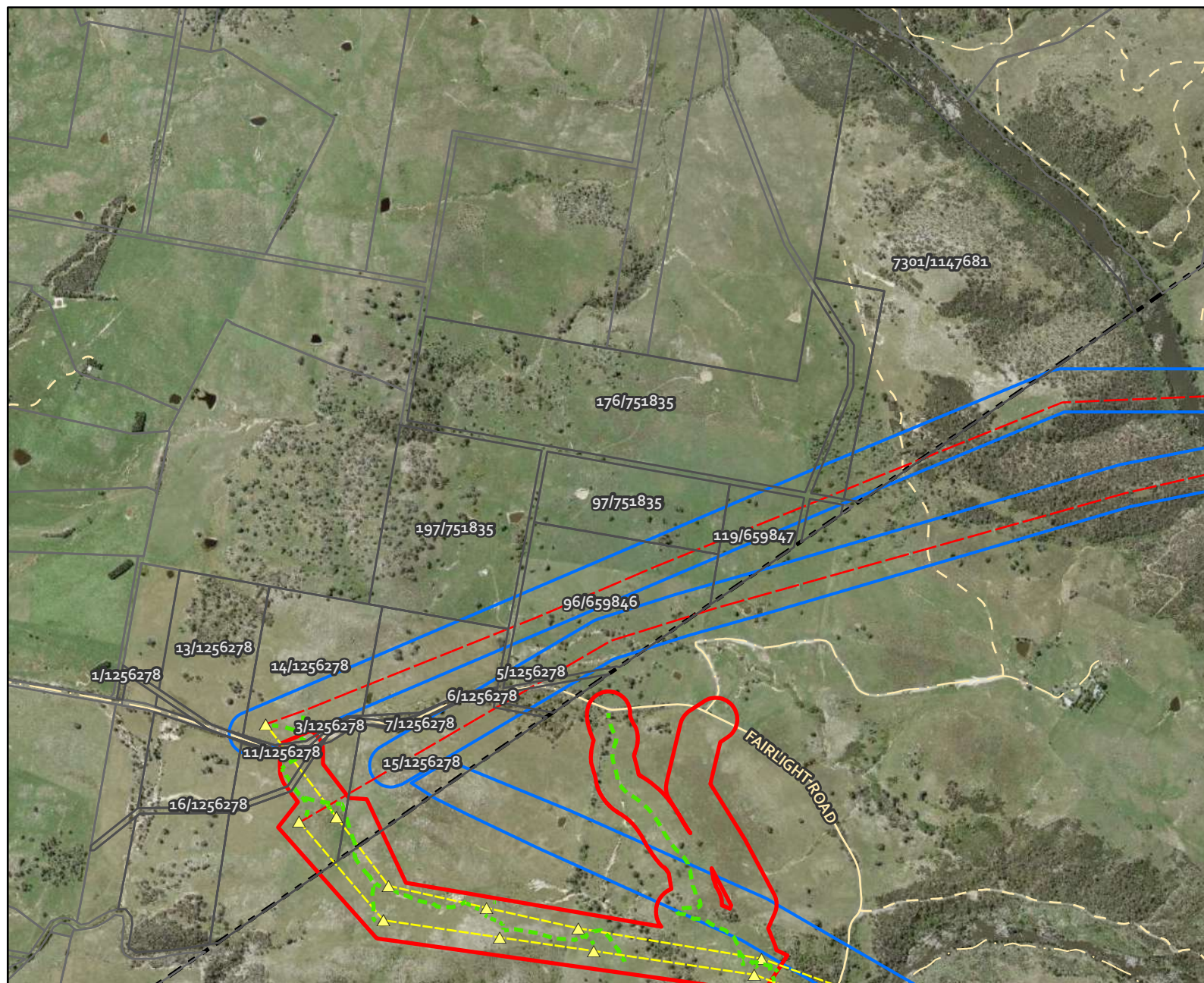
-  Pole Location
-  Transgrid Access Tracks
-  Transmission Line
-  Transmission Line Removal
-  Construction Areas - Laydown
-  Study Area - 2023 Survey
-  Study Area - 2022 Survey
-  ACT Border



Coordinate System:
GDA 1994 MGA Zone 55

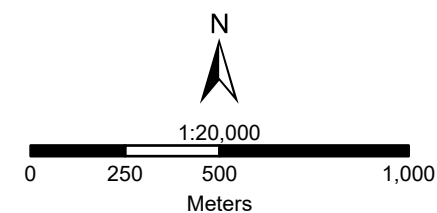
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Figure 2b: Project Alignment - NSW Lots



Legend

-  Pole Location
-  Transgrid Access Tracks
-  Transmission Line
-  Transmission Line Removal
-  Construction Areas - Laydown
-  Study Area - 2023 Survey
-  Study Area - 2022 Survey
-  ACT Border



Coordinate System:
GDA 1994 MGA Zone 55

Imagery: © ACTMapi

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2 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The following section briefly summarises the geology and landforms, flora and fauna of the project area. The discussion focuses on those elements of the natural environment that may have influenced past human behaviour and archaeological site formation processes.

2.1 REVIEW OF LANDSCAPE CONTEXT

2.1.1 *Geology and Topography*

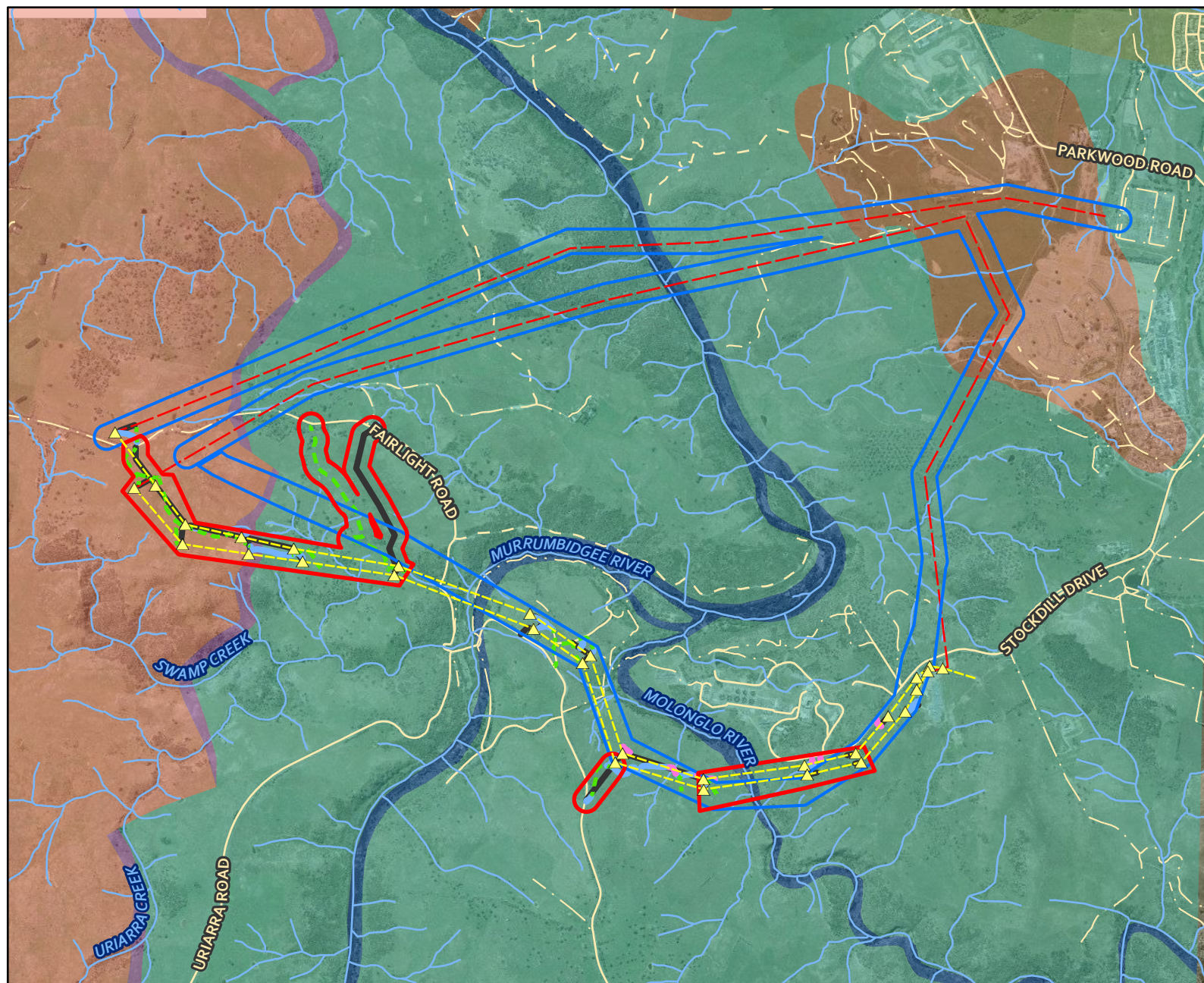
The project area is underlain by the Walker and Mt Painter Volcanics. These late Silurian volcanic systems consist mainly of rhyolitic and dacitic tuffs. Quartz will be present naturally within this formation along with shales. Thin shallow soils characterise the area, highly acidic and easily erodible. The geology of the project area is shown in Figure 3.

A thin duplex soil system overlaying clay bedrock appears in profile across the area. The soil landscapes within the project area belong to the Burra, Williamsdale, Campbell and Lower Molonglo groups, consisting of the following:

- Burra group – The Burra Group contains shallow, well drained rudosols on the crests and upper slopes, grading to moderately deep, well drained red Podzolic soils on the mid-slopes and lower slopes. Brown Chromosols are present along drainage lines (Jenkins 2000:44). Soils depth range from 20 – 50cm averages across the area.
- Williamsdale group – The Williamsdale Group contains moderately deep well drained Yellow Chromosols on Red and Brown Kandosols on upper rises and fan elements. Moderately to very deep Sodosols on lower rises and fan elements (Jenkins 2000: 132). These soils are hard setting and erodible and also part of a transferral landscape. The topsoils are typically acidic.
- Campbell group – The Campbell Group contains shallow (<50m) well drained Lithic Leptic Tensols and Brown Kandosols and moderately deep (50-100cm), well-drained to imperfectly drained Red and Brown Chromosols, red and Yellow Podzolic soils, and occasional Red Kandosols, and moderately deep (50-100cm) imperfectly to poorly drained Brown Chromosols and. This soil landscape is most common in foot slopes and drainage lines, rounded, steep to rolling mountains. Rocky outcrops are common.
- Lower Molonglo group – The Lower Molonglo Group contains deep (>100m) well drained Stratic Rudosols on floodplain elements and deep (>100m) imperfectly to poorly drained Stratic Rudosols in streambeds. Soils are generally unconsolidated alluvial layers, of well-sorted sands with common layers of gravel.

The soil landscapes across the project area are shown in Figure 4.

Figure 3: Geology



Legend

- Pole Location
- Previous Access Track Alignments
- Transmission Line
- New Access Track - No Sediment Control
- New Access Tracks - Sediment Control
- Transgrid Access Tracks
- Transmission Line Removal
- Watercourse
- Study Area - 2022 Survey
- Study Area - 2023 Survey

Geology

- Laidlaw Volcanics - dark to light grey porphyritic rhyodacite ignimbrite
- Uriarra Volcanics - dark grey to pink rhyodacite ignimbrite and air-fall tuff
- Uriarra Volcanics - fine-grained bedded ashstone
- Walker Volcanics - green to purple dacite ignimbrite and bedded tuff, minor andesite, volcaniclastic sediment and limestone
- Unnamed - quartz feldspar porphyry, adamellite, granodiorite
- Water

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 Imagery: © ACTMapi

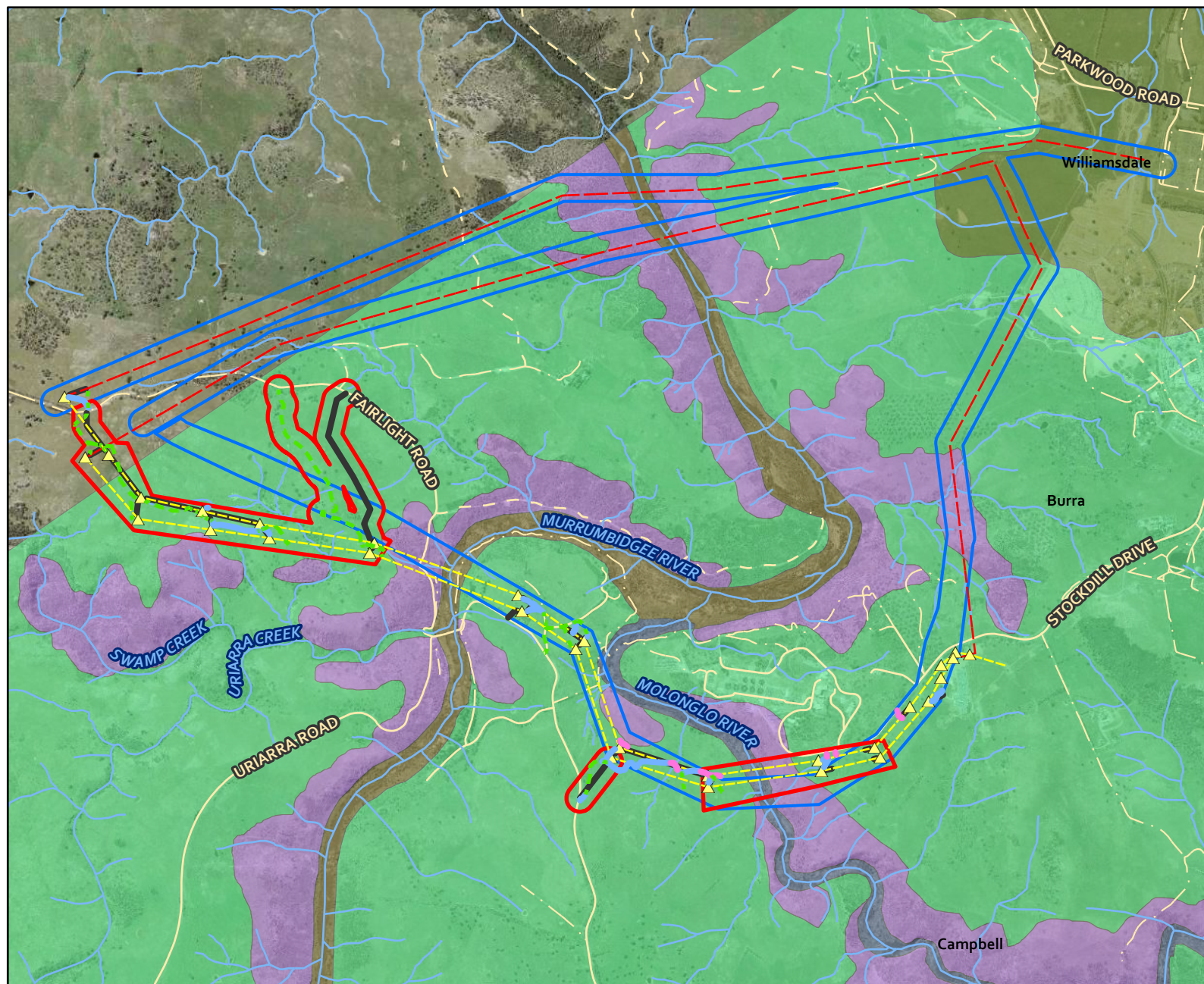


Figure 4: Soils

Legend

- Pole Location
- Transmission Line
- Previous Access Track Alignments
- Transmission Line Removal
- Transgrid Access Tracks
- New Access Tracks - Sediment Control
- New Access Track - No Sediment Control
- Watercourse
- Sealed Road
- Unsealed Road - 2WD
- 4WD Track
- Study Area - 2022 Survey
- Study Area - 2023 Survey

Soil Landscape

- Burra
- Campbell
- Lower Molonglo
- Lower Molonglo variant b
- Williamsdale



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Meters

Coordinate System:
GDA 1994 MGA Zone 55

Imagery: © ACTMapi

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The topography of the area consists of undulating to rolling hills with generally long to moderately inclining waning slopes (Jenkins 2000:132). Natural drainage lines through the area lead to the area of the Molonglo River in the east. Gradient are steep in sections approaching the River frontage.

The landform elements that are present within the project area consist of undulating gradient slopes and spur lines. These landform elements of sloping middle and lower slopes are assessed to hold low archaeological sensitivity based on previous site modelling and recorded site location. Areas approaching the Molonglo River frontage, if level in aspect, are considered to hold higher potential for site location.

The potential of different landforms is discussed in the predictive model in Section 2.4.

2.1.2 *Flora and Fauna*

The natural vegetation across the project area has been totally cleared for pastoral use historically. The natural vegetation of the area would most likely have consisted of Tableland grassy woodland prior to clearing with native grasses under an understory of Eucalypts on the higher elevations.

The grassy woodland environments supported a wide range of edible plant and fauna species. Fauna present would range from 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. NSW Heritage lists over 200 flora and fauna species as present within these woodlands, the majority of which had some utilisation in traditional Aboriginal lifeways.

The Molonglo River would have focused activity including camping sites with a variety of resources, such as fish, yabbies, turtles and in the past platypus. Tributary creeks also focused mammal and birdlife providing hunting opportunities and access to water supplies. Creek lines also supplied fibrous material for weaving into twine for use in a range of activities as well as providing edible tubers and reeds (Percival and Stewart 1971).

The riverine environment is known to be rich in resources, providing reed species for fibres and fishing equipment in addition to wood resources. The dominant Casuarina species were used for spears but did not have a bark that was amenable to utilisation. As a result of the density of resources, the area of the Molonglo River would have been a focus of the area and would have provided a wide variety of fish and resources throughout the year for utilisation.

2.2 REVIEW OF ABORIGINAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT

2.2.1 *Ethnohistoric Setting*

The major language group identified in the Canberra region by Norman Tindale in his seminal work on Aboriginal tribal boundaries are the Ngunnawal people. The Ngambri people hold affiliation with the central area of Canberra, where early accounts of settlers often refer to the group as the Ngambri or Ngamberri. Both groups hold cultural connections through the Canberra Region.

The boundaries of the Ngunnawal according to Tindale ran to the southeast where they met the Ngarigo at the Molonglo and the Gundungara to the north of Lake George (Tindale 1974). This distribution with minor amendments is still widely accepted and the review of tribal boundaries undertaken in the 1990s (Horton 1996) confirmed these earlier linguistic divisions. These findings are not accepted by all members of the Aboriginal community and it is beyond the scope of this report to determine connection to country. Currently the ACT Government accepts the ACT to be Ngunnawal/Ngambri Country.

The Molonglo River and the Murrumbidgee River represent the boundary between Ngunnawal and Ngarigo nations. Currently descendants of both Aboriginal groups hold cultural affiliation with the project area and have been consulted for the project.

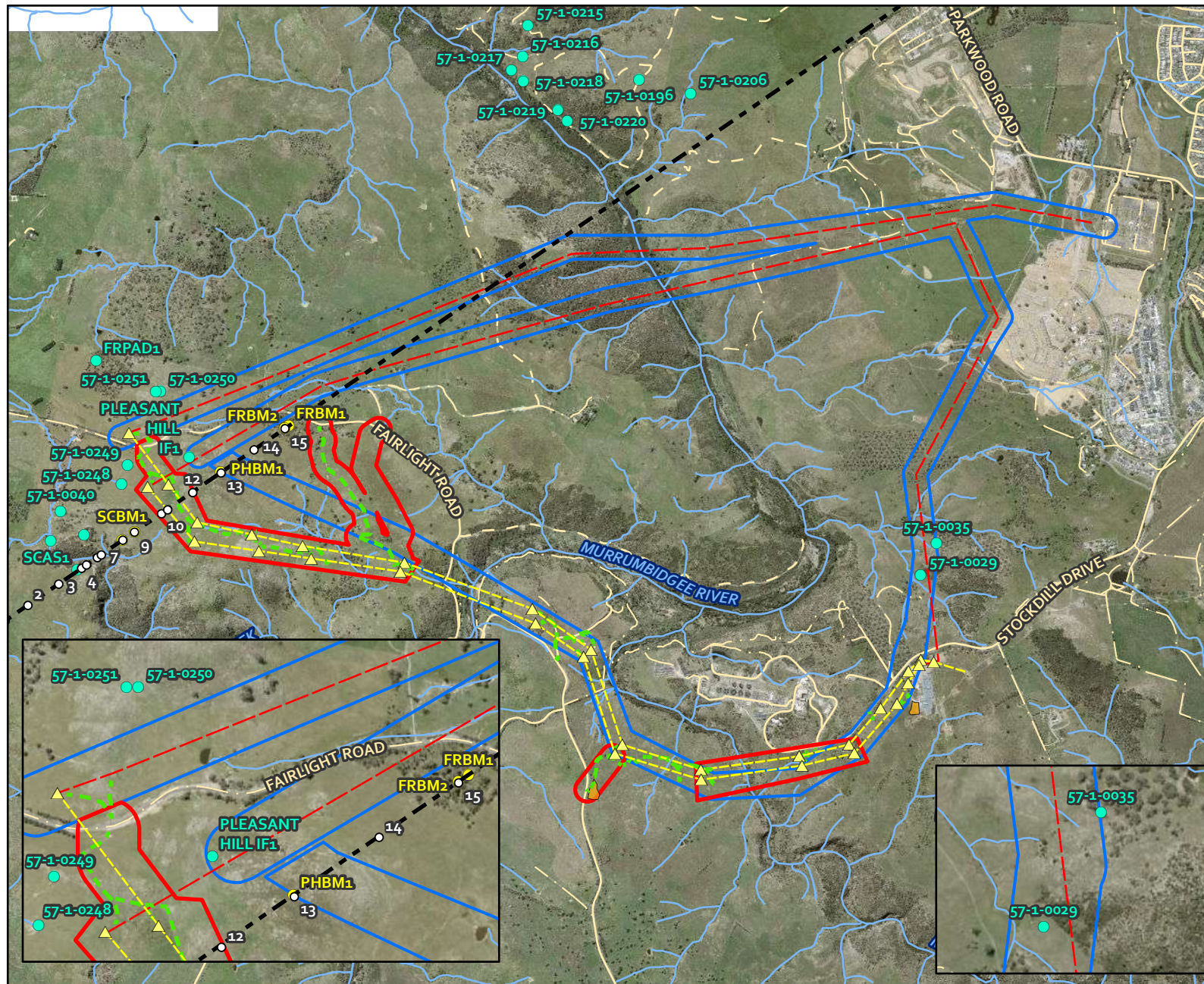
The traditional lifeways of the Aboriginal people were disrupted by the arrival of European settlers in the 1830's. The impact of new disease, displacement from traditional lands and disruption of hunting practices lead to a decline in the local population, with some remaining families finding employment on the large pastoral stations that had become established in the region. Blanket distribution lists from this period show a continuity of presence with recognised members of Ngambri and Ngunnawal families. How people identified during this period is difficult to know, but in the face of the European presence, the connections between Aboriginal people would have been strengthened into a picture of Aboriginal identity.

2.2.2 *ACT Heritage Register Search*

A request for a search of the ACT Heritage Register and relevant reports was submitted to ACT Heritage on the 14/01/2022. Numerous Aboriginal heritage sites are present in the vicinity with no European heritage other than the listed site of Huntly being present.

Locations of recorded heritage sites have been assessed based on a review of available reports on the area. As a result of the review, there are five artefact scatters recorded within the project area. Three sites within the current transmission line corridor which will be subject to tower removal and one site within the new transmission line corridor, subject to tower installation. The sites CR1, CR2, RC26, CAS 361 and MRC126 are not in the location of a transmission tower or access roads and will not be impacted by the proposed works. The location of previously recorded sites is shown in Figure 5 in relation to the proposed works, with a zoomed view of MRC126 in Figure 7 in section 3.5.

Figure 5b: Previously Recorded Sites



Legend

- Previous Recorded Sites
- Historical Site
- ▲ Pole Location
- Transmission Line Removal
- Transgrid Access Tracks
- Transmission Line
- Watercourse
- Sealed Road
- Unsealed Road - 2WD
- 4WD Track
- Study Area - 2023 Survey
- Study Area - 2022 Survey
- Construction Areas - Laydown
- ACT Border
- Border Markers


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 GDA 1994 MGA Zone 55
 Imagery: © ACTMapi

2.2.3 NSW Database Search

A search of the NSW AHIMS and NSW State heritage databases were completed on the 6/12/2023. A search was also undertaken on this date of the Commonwealth and National heritage databases as commonwealth properties are present in the project area.

The AHIMS Search identified a number of small Aboriginal artefact sites and areas of PAD in the region with one isolated find (PHIF1) being located within the alignment. This site will not be impacted as distant to any works. These site locations are shown on Figure 5b.

A review of the NSW reports, identified a series of ACT/NSW border markers which have been assessed by Biosis in 2014 as holding significance and warranting nomination to the Dept of Finance Heritage Register and Commonwealth Heritage listing. A follow up study was completed in 2020 by GML resulting in further recordings of border markers and preparation of a Heritage Management Plan. These border markers are listed on the Dept of Finance Register and all impacts should be avoided. The current alignment, tower locations and access tracks do not impact in any manner on these historical markers. The border markers are discussed further in Section 2.2.5.

2.2.4 Huntly Historic Pastoral Property

The Huntly Pastoral Property is registered on the ACT Heritage Register as item 20031. The wider property is located in the District of Stromlo, Blocks 412, 413, 426, 429 and 432 including all abutting road reservations.

The statement of significance for the heritage listing states:

Huntly, as evidenced by the features listed above, has historic associations with the development of the Limestone Plains and has associational significance with local figures of the pastoral era, eg. Mowatt, Murray and Campbell. It is the largest surviving part of Yarralumla property and is associated with the establishment of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) and the last phase of soldier settlement in the FCT.

Huntly is a representative element of the rural setting of the National Capital. The property is an example of a 20th Century grazing property, a characteristic land use of the ACT before the expansion of the National Capital in the second half of the century.

The homestead garden merges the European gardenesque design with the Australian landscape. The aesthetics are consistent with late 20th Century standards appropriate for staging cultural, political and social events.

The registration identifies the following features as intrinsic to the heritage significance of the Huntly property:

- ❖ The c.1933 main house and the Lee House;
- ❖ the carports, garages, farm buildings and garden sheds associated with these houses;
- ❖ the c.1935 manager's cottage;
- ❖ silos and stables associated with the manager's cottage;

- ❖ the c.1948 shearing shed and holding pens;
- ❖ a c.1961 cottage, formerly shearers' accommodation, outhouses and a meat house associated with the shearing shed;
- ❖ stone remains of a shepherd's hut standing on the arms of Cliffe Creek; and
- ❖ plantings around the buildings of indigenous plants and exotics, including windbreaks of *Cupressus arizonica*.

In accordance with heritage listing 20031, the following requirements are identified as essential to the conservation of the heritage significance of the Huntly property:

- i. Huntly is to be maintained predominantly as a grazing property and for other uses consistent with a rural property, subject to the requirements for the management of the Murrumbidgee River Corridor and the Lower Molonglo River Corridor in relation to those parts, which are designated as Public Land.
- ii. The Garden shall be conserved and appropriately maintained.
- iii. All features intrinsic to the significance of the place are to be conserved and appropriately maintained (listed above).

The current project will impact former Block 429 (now Block 487) with the clearance and construction of transmission towers and the construction and upgrade of vehicle access tracks. These impacts will have no effect on the three requirements for Huntly's conservation due to the distance from all works. These construction and maintenance impacts will have no impact on the property's pastoral or grazing ability and the land itself will remain under its current usage (pastoral)

The Huntly Garden and all other intrinsic features will not be impacted by the current proposal, with the closest feature being the shearing shed approximately 2.6km from works.

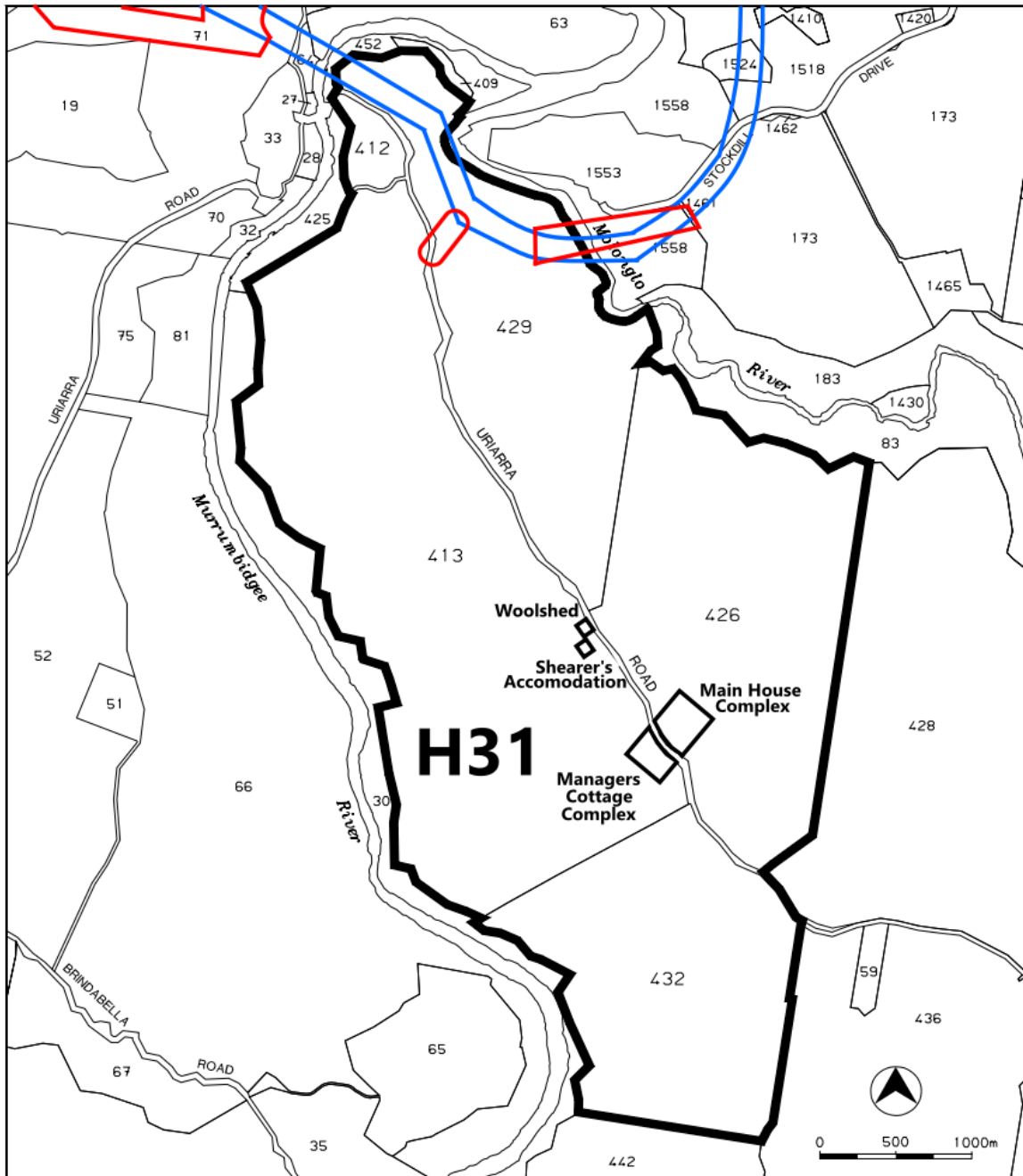


Figure 6. Huntly Property (20031) Heritage Curtilage with 2022 and 2023 project areas in blue and red.

2.2.5 *Previous archaeological studies.*

Archaeological evidence has shown that Aboriginal people have occupied the Australian continent for at least 40,000 years and perhaps 60,000 years and beyond (Mulvaney and Kamminga 1999). Excavations at Birrigai Rock shelter show evidence of occupation of 32,000 years (Flood et al 1987). No regional synthesis of archaeology for the West Belconnen region has been undertaken with most assessments being development focused.

Barz in 1980 undertook a survey for the route of the Canberra/Royalla Transmission Line. The survey identified within the project area sites CR1 – 7 flakes and CR2 an isolated find. These sites are listed on both the ACT and NSW heritage databases. Later surveys undertaken by Biosis and Past Traces have failed to relocate either of these surface finds due to the passage of time since recording.

Barz and Gregson in 1981 completed a wide survey along the Murrumbidgee River Corridor for the NCDC. The survey mapped a number of artefact scatters along the river frontage, concluding that the river was a major determinant of site location. This survey identified site MRC126 within the project area as consisting of 15 artefacts with an area of associated PAD.

In 1991, Navin Officer Heritage Consultants (NOHC) undertook preliminary archaeological surveys and assessment for the proposed West Belconnen Urban Release Area, which included the current project area. This study comprised three areas A, B & C and covered a large area for field survey. Area A covered the current project area and surrounding region. Predictive modelling reflected a concentration on the drainage and creek lines within the undulating slopes. This model was supported by the results of the field survey. Historical heritage sites were identified to the south of the project area consisting of the Weetangera cemetery and early remains of European settlement of the region.

The 1992 archaeological assessment undertaken by Packard identified two artefact scatters and three isolated finds across the proposed extensions of the Lower Molonglo Water Quality Control Centre. Of these scatters 13 artefacts were situated to the north of the LMWQCC along a steep ridge, with the scatter of three artefacts being identified to the west of the LMWQCC.

Navin Officer in 2007 completed a survey along Stockdill Dr for a water main, which was to be placed along the road reserve. The area was assessed as holding low potential for Aboriginal heritage sites, although one small area of PAD was identified along the crest on the southern side of Drake Brockman Drive. This area of PAD corresponds to the current Project Area. Recommendations for the area of PAD was monitoring and/or test excavations prior to completion. There is no record of these recommendations being implemented.

The MacGregor West Estate 2 was assessed by Biosis Research in 2009a. The field survey in 2009 resulted in the identification of five low density scatters and seven areas of potential archaeological deposit located on mid and upper slopes. These seven areas of PAD were subsequently test-excavated (2009b) to determine their potential. No high artefact densities were located with findings reflecting low density and sparse distributions.

In 2013, NOHC undertook a cultural heritage assessment of Block 1622 Belconnen regarding a proposed solar panel farm. The assessment did not identify any Aboriginal sites within the project study area, however the study area was noted as having archaeological potential due to particular landforms.

Biosis in 2014 completed an assessment for the Department of Finance for the ACT border properties. The assessment included a comprehensive survey of the blocks located along the ACT/NSW border, identifying and recording a number of Aboriginal sites and recording the historic border markers from the 1910 Scheaffe line survey. These border markers consisted of stone cairns built by the original surveyors and still function as the official border designation. A recommendation of nomination to the Commonwealth heritage list was made for the border markers. Several of the border markers are in the vicinity of the planned alignments, though none are placed within the actual alignments or areas of works based on desktop review.

In 2015, OzArk Environmental & Heritage Management performed a cultural heritage assessment of Block 1559 Belconnen regarding the potential impacts of the planned Canberra 330/132 kV substation project. This desktop survey identified no recorded Aboriginal sites within the study area.

With the development of the Ginninderry Residential Development, a CHA (Biosis 2015) was undertaken over the entirety of the large project area and Murrumbidgee conservation corridor, which included a summary of all previous work undertaken in the region. This synthesis of previous work indicated a model of past occupation focused on the Murrumbidgee River and Ginninderra Creek, with smaller sites being located on the verges of creek lines. This model was developed into a detailed GIS predictive model and shown as a coloured map of the development, with each colour denoting the level of archaeological sensitivity. Further works completed in 2015 (Biosis 2015b) consisting of additional field survey and sub surface testing supported and confirmed the predictive model.

Block 1606 Belconnen, on the northern side of Stockdill Drive was assessed by Biosis in 2015(c) for a further residential development. This block has been subject to high degree of disturbance with the construction of the current golf course, landscaping and dumping of building materials and other rubbish over the site. The field survey identified no heritage sites or areas of potential within the block boundaries and no further works were recommended.

Field survey and subsurface testing was undertaken in 2019 for the Murrumbidgee trunk sewer running across the Stage 1 Conservation Corridor. No additional surface sites were identified but two areas of subsurface artefacts were located at site locations RC29 and RC3. Both of these locations are on level areas overlooking tributary creek lines and in accordance with the site location model.

Navin Officer (2018) completed an assessment for the Stockdill Drive Substation Site on the southern side of Stockdill Drive (Block 1635) and the easement connecting the new substation to the Parkwood Road substation. This easement runs northeast through the current project area of Block 1582 before heading north across the Ginninderry Residential Development. The field survey identified no heritage sites within Block 1582, with one site near the Stockdill Substation and the remaining two distant on the northern section of the transmission line. All of these sites consisted of small artefact scatters which conforms to the predictive model of small sites away from water sources.

In 2019, Past Traces completed a survey to assess the heritage impacts of the Riverside Park. This assessment recorded eighteen surface heritage sites and two areas of PAD within the park boundary. The SST report and associated SHE (2021c) for the recreational area of Riverside Park detail the subsurface testing of two areas of PAD (RPPAD2 and RPPAD3) which were classified as heritage sites and designated as sites RP1 and RP2. The two sites and the surface finds located between them are considered to be part of the one site complex located along the Murrumbidgee River Frontage. An updated CHA and SHE were completed in 2023 following further consultation and redesign of park features.

In 2020, Past Traces prepared a Cultural Heritage Assessment (CHA) for the proposed Stage 1 recreational track located within Block 1 Section 37 Strathnairn (now Block 5 Section 37 Strathnairn). Further survey for redesigned sections were undertaken with the field survey identifying several Aboriginal heritage sites in the vicinity of the track alignment mainly located in association with creek crossings or descending spurlines. Stage 2 of the walking trails were assessed in 2023 with further small sites and isolated finds identified again mainly along tributary creeklines.

Following on from the work of Biosis in 2014, GML completed a Heritage Management Plan for the Border Markers with additional field surveys. Additional markers were recorded with a total of 15 border markers identified, and this designation used, rather than earlier labels given by Biosis. None of the markers are within the areas of works, with three, 11, 12, and 13 on the outer edges of alignments. Preventative measures may be required if works are within 20m of the recorded locations.

In 2021(a), Past Traces was engaged by the Suburban Land Agency for a CHA of Block 1582 Belconnen to the southeast of the current project area. This block was assessed for use as a green waste recycling and composting facility. Two isolated finds were recorded (SIF1 and SIF2) in the area but were distant to works and therefore no mitigation measures were necessary.

Past Traces was engaged by Riverview Projects in 2021 to undertake and prepare a Subsurface Testing report (SST) and a Statement of Heritage Effects (SHE) for the proposed Macnamara 1 residential development located within Block 1639 Belconnen. A CHA was completed by Past Traces in 2020 to assess the heritage impacts of the proposed development and identified two heritage sites and three areas of Potential Archaeological Deposits (PAD) (CLWB36 -PAD7, CLWB34 -PAD8 and CLWB35 -PAD9). The testing of these areas of PAD in 2021 resulted in a single stone artefact being excavated and the designation of PAD removed. The surface sites were also subject to salvage as part of project approvals.

2.3 ABORIGINAL LAND USE/PREDICTIVE MODEL

The results of previous archaeological surveys in the region indicates that the potential for sites is present in a range of landforms. A pattern of site location that relates to the presence of potential resources for Aboriginal use appears to be present, based on site locations recorded from the studies described in the previous section. The recorded sites, mainly consisting of small artefact scatters tend to be present due to the occurrence of small drainage or creek lines with their access to water resources, an essential factor for Aboriginal people (English 1985).

This model is based on stream order (Strahler 1952) and is considered applicable to a wider area of NSW (White and McDonald 2010) based on the similarity of Aboriginal landscape use and the need for base resources.

Based on this body of previous heritage work, the landscape context and previous disturbance to the area a site prediction model has been developed for the project (Table 1). This site prediction model is based on:

- ❖ landscape features within the project area
- ❖ Probability of site type to be present within the project area
- ❖ Natural resources that may have been present and of use to Aboriginal people within the project area
- ❖ Opportunities for movement through the landscape

Table 1. Site Prediction Model

Probability	Site Type	Definition	Landform
Moderate	Isolated finds and surface scatters of stone artefacts	Stone artefacts ranging from single artefact to high numbers	Creek lines and river flats. These features are present within the study area.
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 – project areas have previously been disturbed reducing potential.
Low	Culturally Modified Trees (CMTs)	Trees which have been modified by scarring, marking or branch twining	Wherever old remnant trees remain – may remain within project area but generally young
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.	All landforms have been impacted by forestry and pastoral activities – none would survive
Nil	Stone quarries/Ochre sources	Quarry sites where resources have been mined.	Any landform. – none previously recorded. Not present based on geology.
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 - N/A to project areas
Nil	Burials	Burials of Aboriginal persons	Usually requiring deep sandy soils on eastern facing slopes –

Probability	Site Type	Definition	Landform
			relevant soils not present and project area previously disturbed
Low	Aboriginal places	A place that holds spiritual, traditional, or historical significance to Aboriginal people	Any landform, identified through consultation with RAPs and historical sources - none previously identified

2.4 DESKTOP ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

The desktop assessment and review of previous studies has shown that there are six recorded Aboriginal heritage sites within the Project Area (CR1, CR2, RC26, CAS361, MRC126 & PHIF1). The recorded sites in the local region consist of artefact scatters and isolated finds of lithic artefacts. The artefact sites have been allocated low significance for both scientific and cultural values.

The review of the heritage listings shows a line of border markers consisting of stone cairns or lockspits as present through the region, with some of the border markers in proximity to works. None will be directly affected by the proposal. The border markers hold high regional significance and require impact avoidance.

The review of previous studies and landforms present within the project area indicate low potential for most of the project area, with areas of moderate Aboriginal potential considering its proximity to the Molonglo and Murrumbidgee Rivers. The proposed works cover a range of landforms with areas of potential present within proximity to water sources and in areas of crest along descending spur lines. Areas of disturbance are present throughout the project area, due to its past use for sub-surface and overhead power line electricity cabling and pastoral grazing. Impacts are confined within generally highly disturbed areas of the easement corridor.

An aim of the field survey will be to confirm the desktop findings of low potential along the alignments, map any areas of potential and determine previous disturbance levels and proximity of any known sites to proposed works.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD SURVEY

Field survey over the project area was undertaken across three days 20th and 21st of January 2022, and the 24th of February 2022 by Tom Knight, Georgia Scully and three members of the RAOs (Mirrabee, King Brown Tribal Group and Ngarigu Currawong Clan).

The 2023 survey of the revised alignment was undertaken on the 12/4/2023 by Nat Cracknell with two members of the RAOs – Mr James Mundy and Mr Adrian Brown. Results of the survey, the impacts from works, cultural significance and appropriate mitigation strategies were discussed through the survey with the RAOs. An additional survey was required for the altered alignment of the access track to Fairlight Road, which was conducted on the 21/09/2023 with three members of the RAOs - Mr James Mundy, Mr Jed Brown and Mr Wally Bell.

Results were communicated to Mr Paul House and a draft of this report provided to all RAOs for comments prior to finalisation. Feedback and RAO comments have been incorporated into the management recommendations for the project where applicable.

3.1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY AIMS

The principle aims of the field surveys were to:

- ❖ Provide the heritage team an opportunity to assess visually the Project Area and to identify landforms and levels of previous disturbance.
- ❖ Complete pedestrian survey of the Project Area focused on areas of construction impacts and visually inspecting areas and landforms with the potential for Aboriginal heritage.
- ❖ Identify and record any heritage sites visible on the ground surface.
- ❖ Identify and record areas of potential archaeological deposits (PADs).

3.2 FIELD SURVEY METHODOLOGY

Field survey consisted of pedestrian transects across the project area. With a team of five members, each transect covered an area of approximately 50-60m in width. The Project area was walked by all participants at an approximate spacing of 10m, depending on landforms and vegetation coverage. Any areas of exposure were closely examined for any cultural material. The spacing for the field survey is based on Burke and Smith (2004) who concluded that effective survey coverage extends 2m to the side of each field survey participant. Previously recorded site locations were also inspected to allow for a current condition assessment and potential for disturbance as a result of the proposed works to be determined.

Two main factors contribute to the effectiveness of a field survey, ground surface visibility and rate of exposures.

Ground Surface Visibility (GSV) is the proportion of ground surface visible during the field survey. GSV is affected by conditions of grass coverage, leaf litter, imported gravels and fallen timber. A percentage rating of GSV is applied to each survey area (Terry and Chillingier 1955) based on the proportion of bare soil visible through the surface conditions.

Exposures are defined as areas where bare soil is present due to erosional or disturbance factors and is separate and distinctive from the background GSV of the surrounding area. Exposures show the potential subsurface as well as surface contexts as they represent disturbed areas of soils. As GSV is high within any area of exposure, most sites are located in these exposed contexts.

3.3 FIELD SURVEY CONDITIONS 2022

The field surveys completed for the project cover three different survey units:

- ❖ the first pertaining to the transmission line easement set for removal,
- ❖ the second the new easement set for the relocation of TransGrid transmission lines commencing at the western end of alignment and:
- ❖ the third a continuation of the proposed TransGrid easement line (eastern section).

The conditions for each survey unit is discussed separately in the below sections.

3.3.1 *TransGrid Transmission Line Easement removal over Ginninderry Development*

The proposed impact areas resulting from the transmission line removal are contained to an area of 40m diameter around each powerline tower, of which there are 19 along the easement length of 14.5km. For each tower location the survey area was larger than the impact area at 50m distance. Vehicles will enter using existing access tracks with no additional impacts.

The transmission line ranges over several different landforms, in general over crested areas, side slopes and some rocky outcrops. All of these areas have been subject to field survey for previous assessments as part of the Ginninderry Development.

The conditions on the field survey day in January 2022 consisted of high vegetation coverage (high grasses, weeds and blackberry) across the majority of landforms, resulting in low levels of GSV. Few areas of exposure were present across the area due to the high ground coverage.

Areas of exposures were present at the base of each tower, where cattle tend to gather with high GSV rates. These base areas and the surrounding ground near the powerline towers are highly disturbed by their initial installation and continued pastoral use of the area.

The conditions at the time of field survey are shown in Plates 1 to 4.



Plate 1. Tower 2, facing west wards towards Murrumbidgee over crested slope.



Plate 2. Tower 6, facing westward directly over banks of Murrumbidgee, on steep elevated hilltop, densely covered by blackberry bushes.



Plate 3. Tower 18, south facing over steep side slope above creek line.



Plate 4. Tower 8, facing southeast of rocky sloping crest.

3.3.2 *Replacement TransGrid Transmission Line Easement over Woodstock and Huntly (Uriarra Crossing)*

This section of the proposed new easement was originally planned to be located further to the north and was surveyed in 2022. Following review, the alignment has now shifted southwards as shown in Figure 2 to avoid heritage sites. The revised sections were surveyed in 2023 to identify any heritage constraints.

The proposed impact areas of the powerline relocation are considered to consist of approximately 5km length for a 10m wide access track within the easement corridor and an area of 30 x 30m area at the base of each pole/tower location. Post construction the access track will be rehabilitated and trees will be kept clear at 20m distance from each tower.

Impacts will be confined to the new tower locations and the alignment of the access tracks between towers and connecting to Fairlight Road at two locations. A 50m wide corridor was surveyed along the proposed track alignments to allow for siting to avoid sites if required.

The alignment commences at the top of an elevated rocky hill amid rolling hills off Fairlight Rd, then proceeds over the Murrumbidgee River adjacent to Uriarra Crossing, onto the eastern side of Murrumbidgee River located on the Huntly property. The proposed line crosses over mixed terrain, including elevated rocky hills and hillsides, valley floors, slopes, and interfaces, mid- and side slopes, undulating slopes, and incised minor drainage lines. All of these landforms are considered to hold low potential for heritage sites, with potential areas of higher potential located close to tributary creeklines as discussed in the predictive model. The revised route is shown in Figure 2.

The GSV at the time of survey was low to moderate, with areas of dense vegetation and rocky outcrops, including areas densely covered by long grass, thistle, dense woodland, and bushy thickets present within areas of low grass and erosional exposures. The low overall GSV was countered by frequent areas of exposure present across the project area, at gate entrances, fence lines, stock and wildlife impact trails, access roads, vehicle tracks, under trees bases and areas of eroded creek line.

Conditions at the time of the survey are shown in Plates 5 to 8.



Plate 5. Area of access road to the north of transmission tower 224A.



Plate 6. Area surrounding transmission 259A with shallow soils and frequent rocky outcrops.



Plate 7. Several drainage line confluences meet in an area of large exposures with heavy erosion. Area between transmission towers 221A and 222A.



Plate 8. Area of transmission towers 262A and 224A

The access track from transmission towers 224A and 262A to Fairlight Road was rerouted following the 2022 survey, requiring additional survey of the new alignment. A survey of this alignment was conducted on the 21st September 2023 for the new alignment of the Fairlight Road access track with participation from three of the RAOS, unfortunately Mirrabee were unable to attend. No heritage sites or areas of sensitivity were identified, despite a high rate of GSV, due to the close cropping resulting from the sheep present at the time of survey. Conditions at the time of the September survey which were highly effective for site identification are shown in Plates 9 to 12.



Plate 9. Access road alignment across pastoral paddocks with low GSV



Plate 10. Erosion exposure resulting from livestock impacts



Plate 11. Overlooking the area of transmission towers 224A and 262A located on the small hill in the background



Plate 12. From area of transmission towers 224A and 262A overlooking new access road alignment

3.3.3 *TransGrid Transmission Line Easement Stockdill Dr to Huntly*

The proposed impact areas of the transmission line relocation are considered to be contained along a 10m wide corridor of approximately 5km within the easement corridor to be used for maintenance access and an area of 50m radius surrounding each of the proposed new tower locations.

Impacts will be confined to the new tower locations and the alignment of the access tracks between towers. A 50m wide corridor was surveyed along the proposed track alignments to allow for siting to avoid sites if required.

The alignment commences at the base of the Stockdill Dr substation, and proceeds west down a steep incline overlooking the river corridor of the Molonglo. Due to slope, this area is considered to hold low potential.

Directly crossing the Molonglo River, the easement line continues west across the Huntly property to join the survey area described in the section above. The landforms on the eastern side of the Molonglo River are generally gently rolling terrain with crested sides and lower order drainage lines, landforms considered to hold low potential. The alignment then traverses steeper slopes with rocky soils and outcrops closer to the river corridor.

This section of the alignment is highly disturbed by considerable levels of landscape alterations, including mechanical scraping, excavations and quarry, and a graded vehicle track running across the route of the proposed transmission line close to the river corridor, currently used as a public walking or cycling path.

On the western side of the Molonglo River, on the Huntly property, the easement moves north across a wide gully, with small drainage lines running through the proposed line before joining the Murrumbidgee to the east. The easement turns back towards the Molonglo River over another broad

steep gully and small creek line, up to a crested area of rocky outcrops overlooking the river corridor, and continues north towards the Stockdill Dr substation.

The GSV at the time of survey was low to moderate, with areas of dense vegetation and rocky outcrops, including areas densely covered by long grass, thistle, dense woodland, and bushy thickets. Areas of exposure were present across the project area, at gate entrances, fence lines, stock and wildlife impact trails, access roads, vehicle tracks, and under trees bases. Topsoils were particularly thin and highly degraded over the eastern side of the Molonglo River.

Conditions at the time of the survey are shown in Plates 9 to 14.



Plate 9. View South Stockdill Dr (Substation upslope).



Plate 10. View west on alignment, in area of two proposed structures, moderate to steep slopes, rocky crests and lower order drainage line.



Plate 11. Exposure example and local lithosols along proposed route, on eastern side of river.



Plate 12. Broad gully to west of river, facing northwest towards slopes beneath proposed area of two structures on Huntly property.



Plate 13. Location of a proposed structure, on southern side of upper slope of spur.



Plate 14. Location of last structure before river gorge, on western side.

3.4 PREVIOUSLY RECORDED SITES IN VICINITY

Following a review of heritage mapping, and previously completed reports for the area, six previously recorded sites are located within the study area. Sites CR1, CR2, RC26, CAS361 and PHIF1 are located within the transmission line corridor for removal, with site MRC126 located within the new transmission line corridor. None of these sites are located on vehicle tracks or areas of pole installation or removal and will not be directly impacted by works. The site locations are shown on Figure 5.

Sites CR1 and CR2 were located by Barz in 1980. The sites consist of an artefact scatter (CR1) and an isolated find (CR2). Both of these sites have not been re-identified since the original recording and no evidence of the artefacts were present during the current survey.

Site RC26 consists of two quartz flakes recorded by Past Traces in 2015 during the survey for the Ginninderry Development (680540.6098314 MGA Zone 55). These artefacts were not located during the current survey, despite a search of the location.

Site CAS361 was originally recorded by Barz in 1980 with few details. The site is listed as an artefact scatter extending in a radius of 50m from the recorded location. No artefacts have been recorded at this location since despite several surveys.

PHIF1 consists of an isolated find and was recorded by Biosis in 2014 as part of the Border properties survey. The site is not listed on any database and is located within the alignment for removal, but distant to any proposed works.

MRC126 was originally recorded by Barz and Winston-Gregson in 1982 as a scatter of stone artefacts located in a saddle feature to the north of Swamp Creek (676502.6098767 MGA Zone 55). While not specifically identified during the survey, it is within proximity of the newly recorded site TRG2 and PAD, which may be a re-recording of this site. The 1982 location of MRC126 is approximately 38m from impacts and is featured in Figure 7.

As no impacts are anticipated at these site locations, the sites will be noted on mapping and protected from accidental impact, and if works are within 20m of their locations, installation of barrier fencing prior to works commencing will be required.

The previously recorded historical survey markers were not relocated during the current field surveys due to the vegetation coverage. These border markers require impact avoidance, and the sites will be noted on mapping and protected from accidental impact, and if works are within 20m of their locations, installation of barrier fencing prior to works commencing will be required.

3.5 NEWLY IDENTIFIED HERITAGE SITES

The 2022 and 2023 field surveys identified two additional heritage sites within the areas of the proposed relocation line easements. These sites will not be directly impacted by the proposed works, but may require fencing to prevent accidental impacts. The locations of the recorded heritage sites are shown on Figure 6 and site details are provided in the following sections.

3.5.1 TRG1 – MGA55 677799. 6098493

Site TRG1 was recorded during the 2022 field survey and consists of an isolated artefact located on a middle basal slope on the eastern bank of the Murrumbidgee. This is within a disturbed context with a historical dump (concrete, iron sheeting, mechanical parts and other debris), at an exposure at a tree base. This site is located distant to all works and will not be impacted by the proposed works.

Details of the recorded artefact is provided in Table 2 and the artefact and site location are shown in Plates 15 and 16.

Table 2. Details of artefacts at Site TRG1.

Artefact No	Material	Type	Dimensions (L x w x b) mm	Comments
1	Volcanic river pebble	Hammerstone, transverse break	90x83x50	Pitting on one margin and partial pitting on one surface of the river pebble.



Plate 15. TRG1 Hammerstone transverse break.



Plate 16. TRG1 artefact location.

3.5.2 TRG2 – MGA55 676422. 6098757

Site TRG2 consists of a scatter of six stone artefacts within an associated area of PAD (approximately 70m x 30m). This site is located on the northern aspect of a gentle gradient mid slope spur crest overlooking a tributary to Uriarra Creek. Contiguous spur crests protrude to the north and east of the central coordinate 676435.6098769. This site may be associated to previously recorded site MRC126, recorded as an artefact scatter in 1982 by Barz and Winston-Gregson, which is located nearby.

Running easterly between the spur crests and the rocky mid slope crest is a linear vehicle track exposure, where five of the artefacts were located, with artefact 1 located on the rocky mid slope crest (676408.6098764). This site is located within proximity to works and is approximately 7m from a proposed access track. Site location and PAD is depicted in Figure 7. Due to proximity, barrier fencing will be required to prevent accidental impacts.

Details of the site and its recorded artefacts are provided in Table 3 and the artefacts and site location are shown in Plates 17 to 20.

Table 3. Details of artefacts at Site TRG2.

Artefact No	Material	Type	Dimensions (L x w x b) mm
1	Chert	Flake	14x14x6
2	Fine-Grained Volcanic	Flake	34x26x5
3	Chert	Flake	22x11x5
4	Fine-Grained Volcanic	Flake	32x22x7
5	Fine-Grained Volcanic	Flake	15x27x5
6	Fine-Grained Volcanic	Flake	19x14x5



Plate 17. Location of artefact 1 on rocky crest overlooking PAD (Facing North).



Plate 18. From southeast corner of TRG2 (Facing Northwest).



Plate 19. Artefact 1 (Dorsal Surface).



Plate 20. Artefacts 3 to 6 (Dorsal Surface).

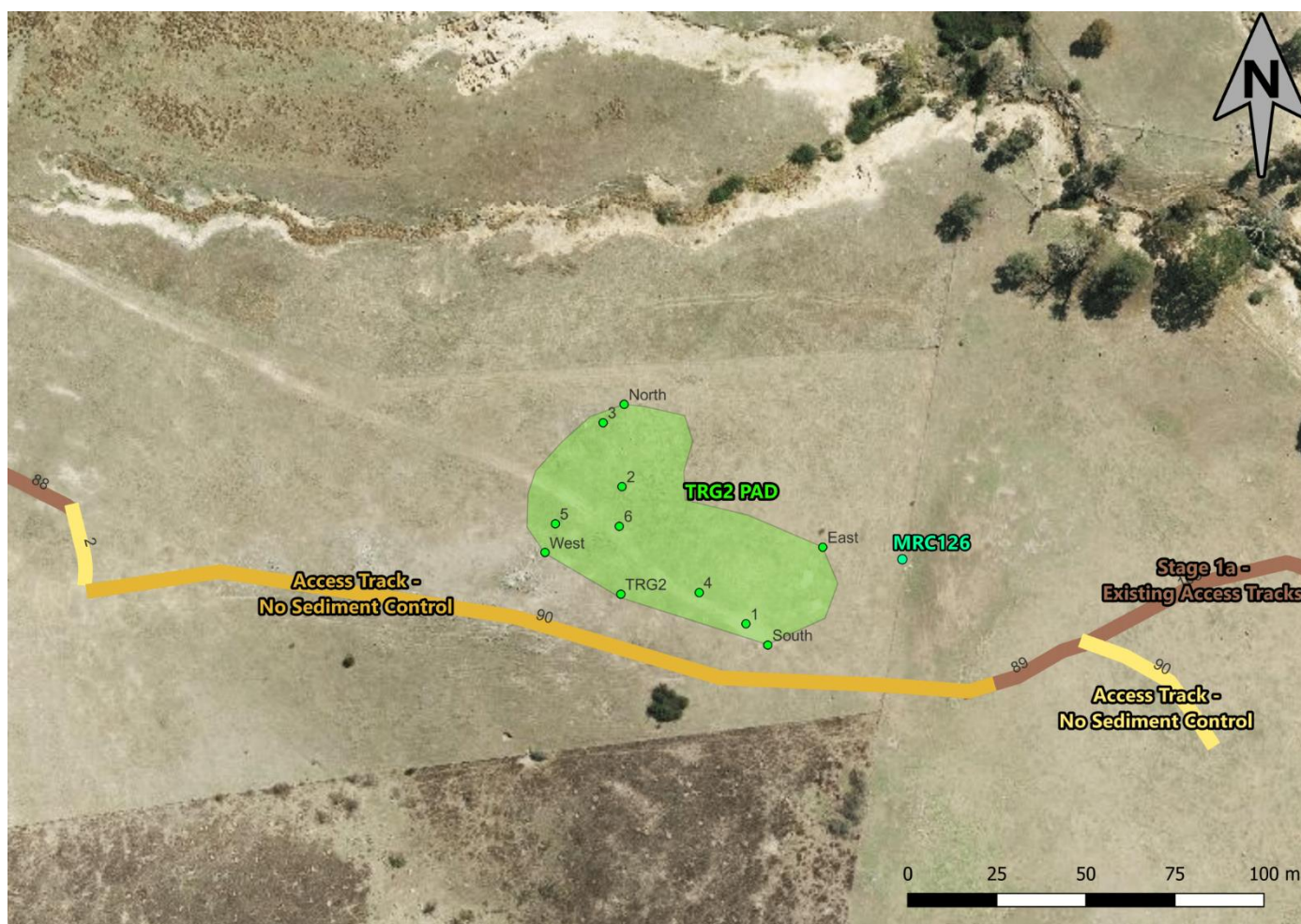


Figure 7. Area of TRG2 PAD and MRC126 in relation to works.

3.6 NEWLY IDENTIFIED AREAS OF PAD

Predictive modelling was undertaken for the project area based on the results from previous work undertaken in the area. This predictive model was based on the extensive review of previous work undertaken in the region and incorporated factors of landform, degree of slope, proximity to water resources and proximity to identified heritage sites. The designation of areas as PADs would be based on the following factors:

- ❖ Landform – level terrace, hill crests, spur line terminations or gently sloping areas,
- ❖ Proximity to sites – proximity to identified sites, showing utilisation of the area by past Aboriginal groups and possibly extending into PAD areas.
- ❖ Proximity to water resources – shown to be co-related to site location in the region.
- ❖ Disturbance – this area has suffered little disturbance and hold potential for *in situ* deposits

This modelling and the accompanying surveys identified three areas of PAD within the project area (HPAD1-3) and one on the discarded 2022 alignment west of the Molonglo (TRGPAD1). One further area of PAD was identified at TRG2 and has been detailed in the previous section under the site designation. No works are proposed in the areas of PAD and no direct impacts will result. Details of each of these areas of PAD are provided in the following sections and their locations in relation to the works are shown on Figure 6.

Table 4. Details of newly identified areas of PAD, GDA94 MGA55

Site ID	Easting. Northing	Site features	Comments
TRG PAD1	676658. 6099039 to 676442. 6099135	180 x 100m	-Basal slope between two drainage lines
TRGPAD2	North – 676424.6098810 East – 676479.6098769 South – 676463.6098742 West – 676401.6098769	70 x 30m	-Gentle gradient mid slope spur crest with contiguous spur crests protruding to the north and east of the central coordinate 676435.6098769
HPAD1	678376. 6097882	30 x 20m	-Low gradient spur line
HPAD2	678388. 6097803	30 x 30m	-Low gradient spur line
HPAD3	678839. 6097449	25 x 30m	-Raised slope above creek flats

3.6.1 TRG PAD 1 – MGA55 676658. 6099039 to 676442. 6099135

TRG PAD 1 is located on the level area of a basal hillslope between two drainage lines, along the original transmission realignment. The area extends from the edge of an eroded drainage line to a drainage line descending from the side of a spur, and covers an approximate area of 180m x 100m. The PAD is assessed to hold moderate potential for subsurface deposits and is shown in Plate 21.

Following realignment of the easement corridor this area of PAD is no longer within the current project area and no direct or indirect impacts will result from the proposed works.



Plate 21. East facing over TRG PAD 1 along centre of original proposed easement

3.6.2 HPAD1 – MGA55 678376. 6097882

HPAD1 is located on a low gradient compact spur line crest moving west to east towards the Molonglo River on a sandy loam deposit, within the broad gully of the project area on the Huntly Property and covers an approximate area of 30m x 20m. The PAD is assessed to hold moderate potential for subsurface deposits and is shown in Plate 22.



Plate 22. North facing view of HPAD1, small crest of spur line running east towards river.

3.6.3 HPAD2 – MGA55 678388.6097803

HPAD2 is located across a concise low gradient spur line crest running towards the Molonglo River to the east beneath an area of sandy loam deposit and covers an approximate area of 30m x 30m. The PAD is assessed to hold moderate potential for subsurface deposits and is shown in Plate 23.



Plate 23. North facing view over HPAD2, low gradient crest of spur running west-east towards river.

3.6.4 HPAD3 – MGA55 678839.6097449

HPAD3 is location on an elevated area of creek flats on the west side of a small eastward flowing drainage line to the Molonglo River, with a plentiful alluvial/colluvial deposit and covers an approximate area of 25m x 30m. The PAD is assessed to hold moderate potential for subsurface deposits and is shown in Plate 24.



Plate 24. South east view across HPAD3

3.7 SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESULTS

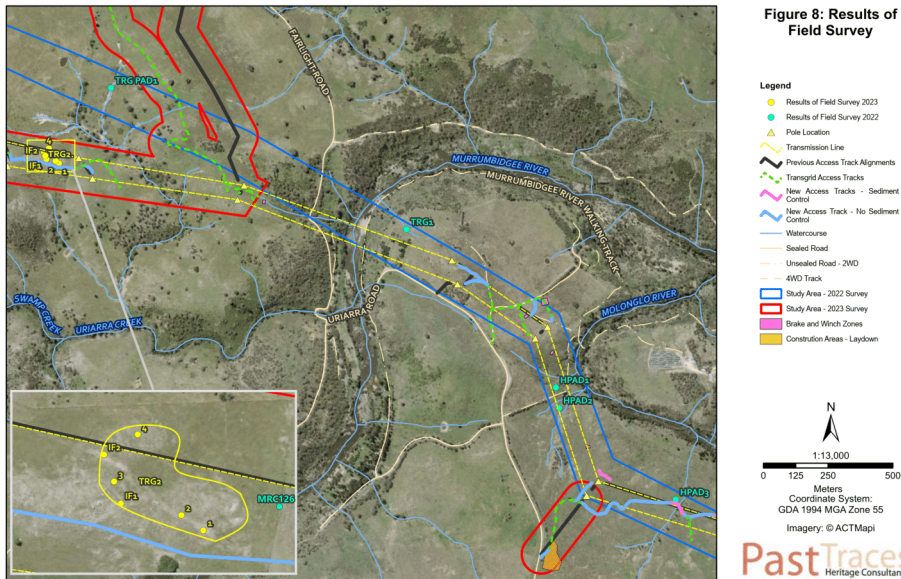
The desktop review over the project area identified six previously registered Aboriginal heritage sites within the project area with numerous recorded sites in the wider vicinity of the project area. The six sites (CR1, CR2, RC26, CAS361, MRC126 & PHIF1) are located within the easement corridor, but are not located in areas of works. As a result the site locations can be avoided by plant and vehicles and no direct impacts will occur. To prevent any accidental impacts, whilst moving through the corridor, mitigation measures consisting of barrier fencing will be required for sites within 20m of work areas.

The 2022 field survey identified two sites (TRG1 and TRG2) and four areas of PAD (TRG PAD 1, HPAD1, HPAD2 and HPAD3) within the project area. Redesign of the track alignment, to avoid impacts has been undertaken removing TRGPAD1 from the project area and relocating the track to the south of HPAD3 and TRG2. TRG1 and the two areas of PAD within the easement (HPAD1 and HPAD2) are located away from pole or work areas and can be avoided by works. As a result, no direct impacts to any of the heritage sites or areas of PAD will occur. Any PADS within 20m of works will also require installation of barrier fencing to prevent impacts.

None of the historical border markers were identified by the field survey, due to vegetation coverage. These sites require impact avoidance and hold high regional significance.

Due to the location of the Aboriginal and Historical sites, impacts can be avoided but will require mitigation measures to prevent accidental impacts as a result of the project. Conservation of these sites will be undertaken and all impacts avoided. The locations of the newly identified heritage sites in relation to the proposed works is provided in Figure 8. The impacts from the project and the required mitigation measures consisting of barrier fencing are discussed in detail in Section 5.

Figure 8: Results of Field Survey



4 SIGNIFICANCE ASSESSMENT

4.1 SIGNIFICANCE CRITERIA

Management of a heritage place or object is guided by the 'significance' or heritage value of the item or place. To assess this significance the Burra Charter (Icomos 2013) defines a 'best practice' and widely accepted methodology for assigning significance. The cultural heritage values of a site or place are broadly defined in the Burra Charter as the 'aesthetic, historic, scientific, or social values for past, present or future generations' (Marquis-Kyle and Walker 1992: 21).

In the assessment of Aboriginal heritage places or objects, although a range of values may be present, the primary criteria are scientific/archaeological values and social/Aboriginal cultural values. The definition of both of these terms as applied in the assessment process to the Aboriginal, historical and natural heritage sites present within the project area is provided below.

4.1.1 *Social Significance*

Social or cultural significance refers to items or places which are valued by the Aboriginal community. The level of social or cultural significance can only be decided by the Aboriginal community and is assessed through communication with community representatives. In the ACT these representatives are the Representative Aboriginal Organisation (RAO) who have been consulted for the project. Cultural values to the community may be the result of historical events, orally transmitted cultural knowledge, or archaeological sites that by demonstrating the past occupation of the landscape, provides a linking connection from the past to the present.

4.1.2 *Scientific Significance*

Scientific values are assessed on the potential of the heritage place or object to provide additional significant knowledge or data on the history, occupation or traditional lifeways of past Aboriginal people in all its forms. This knowledge or data can include past historical occupation of the landscape, activities (including European farming or Aboriginal hunting, fishing and gathering) and technology (including weaving, wood working and lithics). Scientific significance can be summarised as research potential, which is based on the occurrence rate of the site (representativeness) and its state of preservation (intactness or level of disturbance) within its local context. This system is shown in Table 4.

Table 4. Scientific Significance Matrix

Representativeness		Research potential			
	Rare	Moderate	High	High	High
	Occasional	Low	Moderate	Moderate	High
	Common	Low	Low	Low	Moderate
	State of Preservation	Highly disturbed	Partially disturbed	Slightly disturbed	Intact

4.2 ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The heritage sites identified during the project, when assessed against the criteria and in accordance with the Heritage Assessment Policy (*ACT Heritage Council 2018*) resulted in the following designations of significance.

4.2.1 Social values

Following discussions with the RAOs on site, the significance of the sites to the Aboriginal community has been assessed as generally low but still significant to the community. All sites hold heritage significance to the Aboriginal community, providing information and evidence of the past usage of the landscape by Aboriginal people. It is the view of the RAOs that all sites should be respected, either by avoidance of impacts or if impacts are unavoidable by mitigation strategies, such as recording and salvage collection. The return of artefacts to “country” is of utmost importance to maintain their connection to the landscape if salvage is required.

4.2.2 Scientific values

Based on the criteria in Section 4.1.2 rankings of scientific significance have been allocated to the known heritage sites. The results of the analysis are provided in the following table.

Table 5. Scientific values

Site Name	Site Type	Representative rating	Preservation rating	Scientific value
CR1	Artefact scatter	Common	Disturbed – not located	Low
CR2	Isolated Find	Common	Disturbed – not located	Low
RC26	Artefact scatter	Common	Disturbed - not located	Low
CAS361	Artefact scatter	Common	Disturbed – not located	Low

Site Name	Site Type	Representative rating	Preservation rating	Scientific value
MRC126	Artefact scatter	Common	Disturbed - not located	Low
PHIF1	Isolated Find	Common	Disturbed – not located	Low
TRG1	Isolated Find	Common	Highly Disturbed	Low
TRG2	Artefact scatter and PAD	Common	Disturbed	Low
TRG PAD 1	PAD	Common	Slightly Disturbed	Low
HPAD1	PAD	Common	Slightly Disturbed	Low
HPAD2	PAD	Common	Slightly Disturbed	Low
HPAD3	PAD	Common	Slightly Disturbed	Low
Border Markers 1-15	Border Markers	Uncommon	Fair	High

4.2.3 Heritage Act 2004 criteria

When assessed against the *Heritage Act 2004* criteria the following results:

(a) importance to the course or pattern of the ACT's cultural or natural history;

This criterion does not apply for any of the sites

(b) has uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of the ACT's cultural or natural history;

This criterion does not apply for any of the sites

(c) potential to yield important information that will contribute to an understanding of the ACT's cultural or natural history;

Partially Applicable – the sites can provide further data to support, overturn or strengthen theories of Aboriginal occupation.

The Heritage Assessment Policy (2018) defines the inclusion threshold for this criterion to be that:

“The information that might be obtained through the investigation of the place or object is likely to provide a *substantial* contribution to an understanding of an important aspect of the ACT's cultural or natural history (p18)”.

While the sites can provide additional information as to site location within the ACT, the practise and purpose is understood and no substantial new information can be gained from further study. They do not meet this criteria.

(d) importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural or natural places or objects;

This criterion does not apply as the sites whilst characteristic example of a class of artefacts are not important in demonstrating artefact features. Better examples are existing within the ACT.

(e) importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by the ACT community or a cultural group in the ACT;

This criterion does not apply

(f) importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement for a particular period;

This criterion does not apply

(g) has a strong or special association with the ACT community, or a cultural group in the ACT for social, cultural or spiritual reasons;

This criterion does not apply

The Heritage Assessment Policy (2018) states that evidence that the association between the place or object and the ACT community or a cultural group in the ACT is 'strong' or 'special' must be shown rather than asserted to fulfil this criterion. For an association to be 'strong' or 'special' the following must apply:

- the community or cultural group has a deep sense of ownership/stewardship and/or connectedness to the place or object
- the site symbolically represents some aspect of the past which contributes to a sense of identity for the community or a cultural group
- the community or a cultural group gathers for ritual or ceremonial purposes or for social or cultural (including recreational) interaction.

Feedback from consultation with the RAOs has demonstrated that the site does not meet this criteria.

(h) has a special association with the life or work of a person, or people, important to the history of the ACT.

This criterion does not apply.

4.2.4 *Summary*

As a result of the assessment against the criteria and the Heritage Assessment Policy (ACT Heritage Council 2018) the identified heritage sites do not meet the criteria for listing to the ACT Heritage Register. Despite this finding, the sites are protected under the *Heritage Act 2004* and can only be impacted with approval granted by the ACT Heritage Council.

A listed historic heritage site (Huntley) is within the wider region. The listed fabric of the homestead, gardens and property are distant to all works and will not be impacted by the proposed removal and

relocation of the transmission lines in any manner. No other historical archaeology or listed items are present within the vicinity of works.

A series of historical border markers are present in the vicinity of works but none are located within the works area or are at risk of accidental impact. These sites will also be marked on all work maps to ensure their avoidance. The location of these border markers in relation to the project are provided on Figure 5b for reference.

5 IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The project area extends over the proposed removal of the existing TransGrid transmission line easement over the Ginninderry Development and the associated Ginninderry Conservation Corridor, and the proposed relocation of the TransGrid Transmission line easement to the southwest of the Development. The proposed removal alignment covers a length of approximately 14.5km, the relocation alignment covers a length of approximately 5km. The proposed works are located within the following land parcels:

ACT

- ❖ Rural Block 1648, Belconnen ACT
- ❖ Urban Block 1 Section 3, McNamara ACT
- ❖ Urban Block 5 Section 37, Strathnairn ACT
- ❖ Rural Block 63, Coree ACT
- ❖ Rural Block 487, Stromlo ACT
- ❖ Rural Block 88, Coree ACT
- ❖ Rural Block 1635, Belconnen ACT
- ❖ Rural Block 1634, Belconnen ACT
- ❖ Rural Block 1602, Belconnen ACT
- ❖ Rural Block 497, Stromlo ACT
- ❖ Rural Block 413, Stromlo ACT
- ❖ Rural Block 1614, Belconnen ACT
- ❖ Proposed Rural Block 183, Belconnen ACT
- ❖ Proposed Rural Block 488, Stromlo ACT

NSW

- ❖ 1//DP1256278
- ❖ 3//DP1256278
- ❖ 10//DP1256278
- ❖ 11//DP1256278
- ❖ 14//DP1256278
- ❖ 15//DP1256278
- ❖ 16//DP1256278

The project area is shown in Figure 1 in a regional context and Figure 2 with the details of each section, positions of tower removal, tower installation and proposed access track alignments.

Areas of current transmission tower placements have been disturbed by the construction of the towers and are not considered to hold potential. Current access tracks are present to all tower locations and will be used for the removal operations. No impacts will result from the decommissioning of towers or use of existing tracks.

Six previously recorded Aboriginal heritage sites (CR1, CR2, RC26, CAS361, MRC126 & PHIF1) are present within the project area, located in areas distant to works and no direct impacts will result. Historical border markers are also present on the verges of the project area. Due to the proximity, potential for indirect impacts are present if these sites are within 20m of the proposed works.

Field survey undertaken for this assessment identified two heritage sites (TRG1, TRG2) and four areas of PAD within the transmission line easements, located outside of work impact areas or access tracks. As a result no direct impacts will occur. Indirect impacts may occur if these site and PAD locations are within 20m of works, in which case barrier fencing would be required. If over 20m from works, no mitigation measures are required. Locations of the newly recorded sites are shown in Figure 8 in relation to works.

No impacts will occur on the listed site of Huntly or the border markers on the ACT/NSW Border. For the information of all project personnel the border marker locations will be marked on construction mapping to prevent any inadvertent intrusion into their vicinity.

The potential impacts from the project on each of the identified heritage sites within the project area are provided in Table 6 for reference.

Table 6. Potential impacts on Heritage sites and areas of identified PAD.

Site Name	Site Type	Potential for impact	Mitigation measures
CR1	Artefact scatter	Low Indirect - outside of impact area	Barrier fencing
CR2	Isolated Find	Low Indirect – outside of impact area	Barrier fencing
RC26	Artefact scatter	Low Indirect – outside of impact area	Barrier fencing
CAS361	Artefact scatter	Low Indirect – outside of impact area	Barrier fencing
MRC126	Artefact scatter	Nil - distant to works	Map and Avoid - if within 20m of works, then installation of barrier fencing required
PHIF1	Isolated Find	Nil – distant to works	Map and Avoid - if within 20m of works, then installation of barrier fencing required
TRG1	Isolated find	Nil - distant to works	Map and Avoid - if within 20m of works, then installation of barrier fencing required

Site Name	Site Type	Potential for impact	Mitigation measures
TRG2	Artefact scatter and PAD	Indirect – outside of impact area - within proximity	Barrier fencing
TRG PAD 1	PAD	Nil – outside of project area	No action required
HPAD1	PAD	Nil - distant to works	Map and Avoid - if within 20m of works, then installation of barrier fencing required
HPAD2	PAD	Nil - distant to works	Map and Avoid - if within 20m of works, then installation of barrier fencing required
HPAD3	PAD	Direct – Access track	Barrier Fencing.
Border Markers	Stone Cairn	Nil – distant to works	Map and Avoid – if within 20m of works, installation of barrier fencing.

Based on current works planning, there are no direct heritage impacts from the proposed works, with a low potential for accidental impacts from movement of plant within the easement corridors. This risk can be mitigated by the installation of barrier fencing as shown in Table 6. Details of the mitigation measures to be undertaken at each site are provided in Section 5.2.

5.2 MITIGATION MEASURES

Avoidance of impact to archaeological and cultural heritage sites through design of the development is the primary mitigation and management strategy and has been implemented to remove all heritage impacts from the project.

To ensure avoidance or minimisation of any potential indirect harm resulting from works the following mitigation measures should be applied for the project.

5.2.1 Avoidance of heritage sites

Redesign of the alignment has been undertaken following the results of the 2022 survey. As a result of the 2023 redesign, no direct heritage impacts will result from the proposed works.

5.2.2 Fencing of heritage sites

Any heritage sites located in proximity of works (within 20m) are at low risk of indirect or accidental impacts. This applies to sites TRG2, HPAD3, CR1, CR2, CAS361 and RC26. The sites should be fenced with star pickets and high visibility flagging with a minimum buffer zone of 5m with a preferred boundary of 10m if practical to prevent accidental impacts to the sites.

If, due to placement of works and site access, these sites are located more distant to works than as in the following section, no fencing is required, but their locations will need to be noted and avoided on project construction documentation.

The boundaries of the fencing will be installed by the RAOs with the heritage consultant. Following installation, a letter of advice detailing the installation will be forwarded to ACT Heritage for their information. Following submission of this letter, works may commence in the site's vicinity.

5.2.3 *Mapping and continued Avoidance*

To ensure no additional accidental heritage impacts will occur, the locations of the heritage sites should be communicated to the Project Manager and mapped as avoidance areas on project mapping.

The ACT/NSW border markers due to their significance will be marked on all construction maps and avoidance ensured. These border markers are not located in proximity to works and no impacts direct or indirect will result from the project.

5.3 MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

The following management recommendations have been developed to minimise the potential heritage impacts from the project.

As a result of the assessment completed for the project the following findings and recommendations apply:

- ❖ Two Aboriginal heritage sites (TRG1, TRG2) and four areas of PAD (TRG PAD1, HPAD1, HPAD2 and HPAD3) were identified by the current field surveys. TRGPAD1 is avoided by the latest deviation, with the remaining sites TRG1, TRG2, HPAD1, HPAD2 and HPAD3 remain within the alignment, but are located in areas that will not be impacted.
- ❖ Six previously recorded sites (CR1, CR2, RC26, CAS361, MRC126 & PHIF1) are present within the current alignment planned for removal and installation, but are also located in areas that will not be impacted.
- ❖ Protective barrier fencing consisting of high visibility flagging and star pickets must be installed around sites within 20m of works with a minimum buffer of 5m or 10m if practical to prevent any accidental impacts. The site fencing will be demarcated by the heritage team (including RAOs) and installed by the heritage team or under their guidance. This applies to site TRG2, HPAD3, CR1, CR2, RC26, & CAS361.
- ❖ The current project will have no effect on the three listed requirements for Huntly's conservation. The proposal will have no impact on the property's pastoral or grazing ability. The Huntly Garden and all other intrinsic features will not be impacted by the current proposal, with the closest feature being the shearing shed approximately 2.6km from works.

- ❖ The current project will have no effect on the historical ACT/NSW Border markers. Their location will be marked on project mapping as avoidance areas.
- ❖ If design alters and impacts cannot be avoided at heritage sites then further works consisting of surface collection or subsurface testing will be required. Subsurface testing would require completion of an excavation methodology and application for approval by the ACT Heritage Council, prior to any works commencing. Surface collection would also require approval from the ACT Heritage Council.
- ❖ All Aboriginal objects are protected under the *NSW National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*. It is an offence to disturb an Aboriginal site without a consent permit issued by NSW Heritage. Impacts must be avoided to all heritage sites within the NSW sections. Should any Aboriginal objects be encountered during works then works must cease and the find should not be moved until assessed by a qualified archaeologist
- ❖ In the event of any alteration in development footprint additional assessment would be required.
- ❖ If unrecorded heritage items are located during works, then the process outlined in the Unanticipated Discovery Plan (Appendix 2) should be implemented.
- ❖ As heritage impacts can be avoided no formal submission of a Statement of Heritage Effect (SHE) is required. This CHA should be submitted to the ACT Heritage Council for endorsement prior to any works commencing. No works can commence in the vicinity of any heritage sites until endorsement has been granted by the ACT Heritage Council.

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Appendix 1. Aboriginal consultation

RAO	Date and type of contact	Response
All RAOs	11/1/2022 – Phone call to arrange field work on 20/1	
All RAOs	Phone call 19/1/2022 by Tom Knight to confirm work tomorrow.	Wally Bell cannot attend
All RAOs	20-21 January 2022 – Field survey	Following present: Paul House Adrian Brown James Mundy
All	17/2 – Phone call from Georgia Scully to arrange field work for 24/2	All can attend
KBTG and Ngarigu	23/2 – confirmation with Adrian Brown and James Mundy for field work tomorrow	
All	24 February 2022 – Final day of survey	Following present: Reuben House Adrian Brown James Mundy
All	8 April 2022 – Draft report sent to all for comments	
All	29 May 2022 (Friday) – Phone call to all RAOs for comments	Paul House – agrees with recommendations James Mundy & Adrian Brown – agrees with recommendations Wally Bell – left message, will contact if has any issues.

RAO	Date and type of contact	Response
All	Notification of recommencement of project and need to survey new alignment	
All	12/4/2023 - Field survey	Following present: James Mundy Adrian Brown No concerns raised during survey
All	1/5/2023 – Draft report emailed to all RAPs with request for comments within 14 days	
All	Notification of recommencement of project and need to survey new access track alignment	
All	21/9/2023 - Field survey	Following present: James Mundy Jed Brown Wally Bell No concerns raised with project or impacts during survey
All	30/10/2023 – Draft Report provided to all 10/11/2023 – Draft with updated mapping provided to all by email.	23/11/2023 – Follow up text/emails or phone calls to RAOs James Mundy – No concerns Adrian Brown – No additional comments Paul House – Message left to provide comments if any issues Wally Bell – Message left to provide comments if any issues.

Appendix 2. Unexpected Discovery Plan

The possibility of Aboriginal artefacts (items/objects) being present within the area of works has been assessed as low. However, 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 or historical significance the following unanticipated discovery plan should be activated. All Aboriginal and significant historical heritage places or objects within the ACT are protected under the *Heritage Act 2004*. Offence provisions (Section 74 and Section 75) of the Act apply to impacting heritage sites.

Heritage items are protected in NSW under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 and the Heritage Act 1977. No impacts can occur to any historical or Aboriginal items or places without a consent to harm permit.

If any heritage items are identified during works, then the following process outlined below should be followed to avoid breaching obligations.

6.1 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.
2. A suitably qualified heritage advisor and the Representative Aboriginal Organisation (RAOs) 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, notification to ACT heritage must occur within 5 working days and assessment report will need to be prepared and submitted to the ACT Heritage Council to allow salvage. If within NSW, a site card will be completed and submitted to the AHIMS database. If works will impact the find then a assessment report in line with NSW guidelines will be required to allow for an impact permit to be submitted.
6. After approval of the salvage report, works can recommence.

2. UNEXPECTED DISCOVERY OF HISTORICAL CULTURAL HERITAGE

If suspected historical items are found then the following management process must be followed:

1. Work must immediately stop in the area within a buffer zone of 10 metres from the primary grid coordinate.
2. A suitably qualified heritage advisor needs to be engaged to assess the potential site.
3. If the items are not considered to be historically significant, activity may recommence.
4. If the items are considered to be historically significant, ACT Heritage or NSW Heritage must be contacted for advice and management recommendations should be given by the heritage advisor.
5. Following approval by the relevant authority and completion of the management recommendation, the activity may then recommence.

3. UNEXPECTED DISCOVERY OF HUMAN REMAINS

The discovery of human remains is a rare event and has not occurred on an ACT worksite. 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 or historical criminal activity.

The following actions must be taken when human remains or suspected human remains are discovered.

1. If any suspected human remains are found during any activity, works in the vicinity must cease.
2. The Project Manager must be contacted immediately
3. The ACT Federal Police must be notified immediately. All details of the location and nature of the human remains must be provided to the relevant authorities.
4. All unnecessary personnel should leave the area immediately (as directed by Federal Police)
5. If there are reasonable grounds to believe that the remains are Aboriginal, ACT Heritage must be contacted immediately on 13 22 81.
6. The remains must be left in place, and protected from harm or damage (as directed by Federal Police).
7. If the remains are considered to be Aboriginal by the AFP control of the site will pass to ACT Heritage.
8. An assessment or salvage strategy will be implemented following consultation with the RAOs and ACT Heritage Council through ACT Heritage.