

New South Wales Archaeology Pty Ltd ACN 106044366

**Erection of 5 Temporary and 8 Permanent Wind Monitoring Guyed Masts at
Taralga Wind Farm
Due Diligence Assessment**

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Local Government Area: Upper Lachlan Shire Council



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INTRODUCTION

Geolyse Pty Ltd is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) to support a minor modification of the existing Taralga Wind Farm development consent 241/04 for the erection of thirteen 80 metre wind monitoring guyed masts (here-after referred to as met-masts).

The original development application for the Taralga Wind Farm was lodged with Upper Lachlan Shire Council for assessment under Part 4 of the EP&A Act. The application was subsequently declared as State Significant by the Minister on the 15 December 2004, thereby making the Minister for Infrastructure and Planning the consent authority for the project.

New South Wales Archaeology Pty Ltd has been commissioned to undertake a heritage assessment of the proposal (Figure 1). The assessment has been undertaken in accordance with the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage – OEH (formally NSW DECCW) *Due Diligence Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales*¹ (NSW DECCW 2010). It has included a desktop study and a comprehensive field assessment.

For the purposes of this project, due diligence means ‘taking reasonable and practical steps to determine whether a person’s actions will harm an Aboriginal object and, if so, what measures can be taken to avoid that harm’ (NSW DECCW 2010: 18).

The *Due Diligence Code* outlines a number of steps to be adhered to in order to exercise due diligence when activities are undertaken that have the potential to cause harm to Aboriginal objects. The code stipulates that these steps should be followed in order to:

- identify whether or not Aboriginal objects are or are likely to be present in an area;
- ascertain whether or not the proposed activities are likely to harm Aboriginal objects (if present); and
- determine whether an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) application is required.

If Aboriginal objects are present or likely to be present *and* an activity will harm those objects, then an AHIP is required.

In order to determine if Aboriginal objects are likely to be present in the impact areas, a field inspection was conducted by Julie Dibden, NSW Archaeology Pty Ltd, on 14th October 2013.

As a result of the assessment the following conclusions are made:

- There are seven previously recorded Aboriginal object sites in the Taralga Wind Farm area, none of which are located within the proposed met-mast sites (AHIMS Site Search #114329). One of these (*TWF OS2*) is located in close proximity to an electrical cable trench which would extend between a met-mast and wind turbine (Met-mast #SD4 – Turbine #54).

¹ Hereafter referred to as the *Due Diligence Code*.

- One Aboriginal site (*TWF OS7*) was found in close proximity to an electrical cable trench which would extend between a met-mast and wind turbine (Met-mast #MET 28 – Turbine #28) during the field assessment.
- However, generally, the impacts areas have been assessed to be of very low archaeological sensitivity and found to be highly disturbed.
- Impacts can be avoided to the two Aboriginal sites and, accordingly, an AHIP is not required in respect of the proposed works.
- Management and mitigation strategies are proposed which would ensure that impacts to the two Aboriginal sites are avoided.

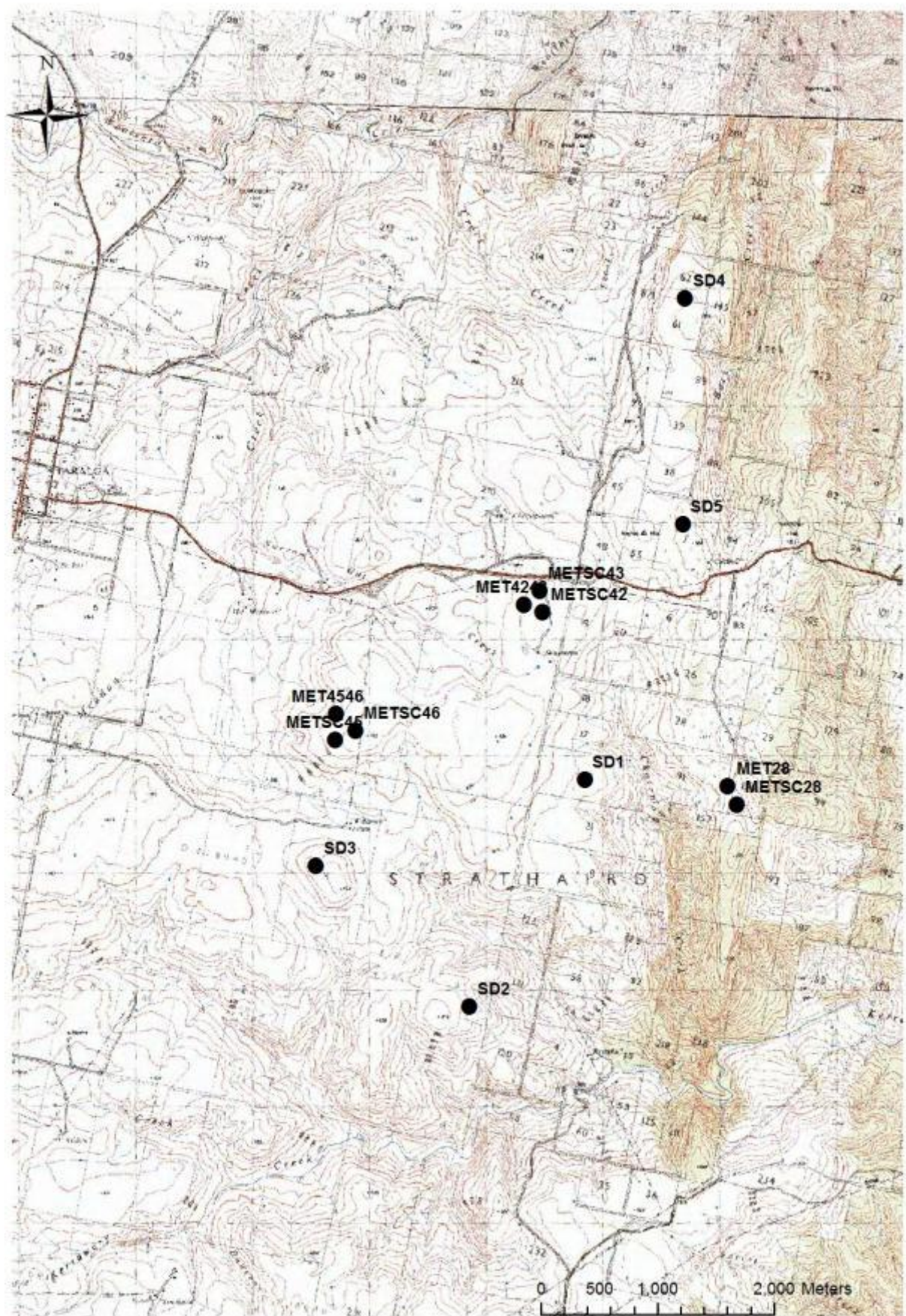


Figure 1 Location of the proposed met-masts in a local context.

1. IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The first question to be addressed in a process of due diligence is, *Will the activity disturb the ground surface or any culturally modified trees?* (NSW DECCW 2010: 11). If the proposed activity will disturb the ground surface there is a higher likelihood that Aboriginal objects will be harmed.

When machinery is used to dig, grade, bulldoze, scrape, plough or drill the ground, the accompanying disturbance to the ground surface is often significant, and consequently, there is a high likelihood for any Aboriginal objects which may be present to be harmed.

1.1 Proposed Impacts

It is proposed to erect 13 x 80 metre high met-masts consisting of five temporary and eight permanent met-masts (Table 1). Each met-mast tower requires three anchor blocks to which anchor wires are attached, together with a single foundation pad for the met-mast itself. Each foundation pad and anchor block consists of 5 cubic metres of concrete. The anchor blocks are each located 80 metres to the north, southeast and southwest from the met-mast foundation pad.

Each of the met-mast sites is listed in Table 1 where it is indicated whether the met-mast would be permanent or temporary. All temporary masts would be constructed at the exact site of proposed wind turbines which have been subject to a heritage assessment (OzArk 2004) and for which approval has been granted. In respect of the current proposal, masts would be powered by solar panels. Permanent masts would eventually be powered by the power source from the nearest wind turbine. Accordingly, a component of this current assessment is an electrical cable trench which would eventually extend between the permanent met-mast sites and the wind turbine. Figures 2 - 9 present diagrams of the met-mast sites, including the permanent masts which would have an electrical connection to the nearest wind turbine.

1.2 Impact Assessment

The Due Diligence Assessment has been conducted in respect of the following:

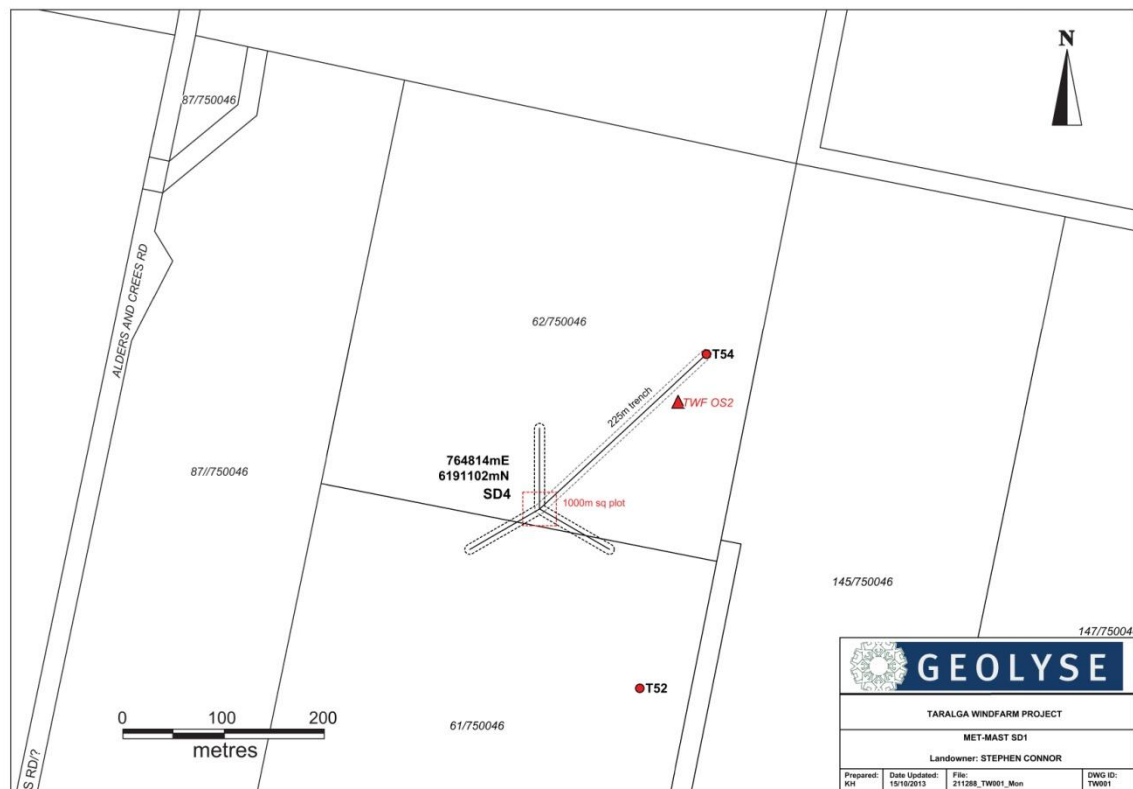
- Each mast location;
- The three guy rope impact locations (80m to the N, SE, and SW), and
- The trench for electrical connection to the nearest turbine.

Machinery will be used for the construction of each foundation pad and anchor block; the disturbance area for each of these is c. 1m x 1m. Machinery will be used in the installation of an electrical cable in a linear alignment. The length of each individual trench is noted on Figures 2 – 9. The trench would measure less than 0.5 metres in width.

Given the nature of proposed impacts there is potential for Aboriginal objects to be disturbed. No trees would be removed and, therefore, no culturally modified trees would be disturbed. Given the small areas of disturbance, it is emphasised that impacts would be minimal.

Table 1 Locational and impact nature of met-mast sites.

Mast	Permanent/Temporary	East	North
MET28 - see Figure 6	Permanent; electrical connection to Wind Turbine #28	765178	6186921
MET4243 - see Figure 4	Permanent; electrical connection to Wind Turbine #43	763432	6188473
MET4546 - see Figure 7	Permanent; electrical connection to Wind Turbine #46	761823	6187538
METSC28 - see Figure 6	Temporary, at Wind Turbine #28	765254	6186758
METSC42 - see Figure 4	Temporary, at Wind Turbine #42	763589	6188413
METSC43 - see Figure 4	Temporary, at Wind Turbine #43	763566	6188593
METSC45 - see Figure 7	Temporary, at Wind Turbine #45	761811	6187314
METSC46 - see Figure 7	Temporary, at Wind Turbine #46	761991	6187399
SD1 - see Figure 5	Permanent; electrical connection to Wind Turbine #19	763953	6186979
SD2 - see Figure 9	Permanent; electrical connection to Wind Turbine #12	762965	6185035
SD3 - see Figure 8	Permanent; electrical connection to Wind Turbine #10	761647	6186237
SD4 - see Figure 2	Permanent; electrical connection to Wind Turbine #54	764814	6191102
SD5 - see Figure 3	Permanent; electrical connection to Wind Turbine #51	764792	6189168

Figure 2 Plan of the proposed works at met-mast #SD4 and proposed trench to Turbine 54. Note location of Aboriginal site *TWF OS2*.

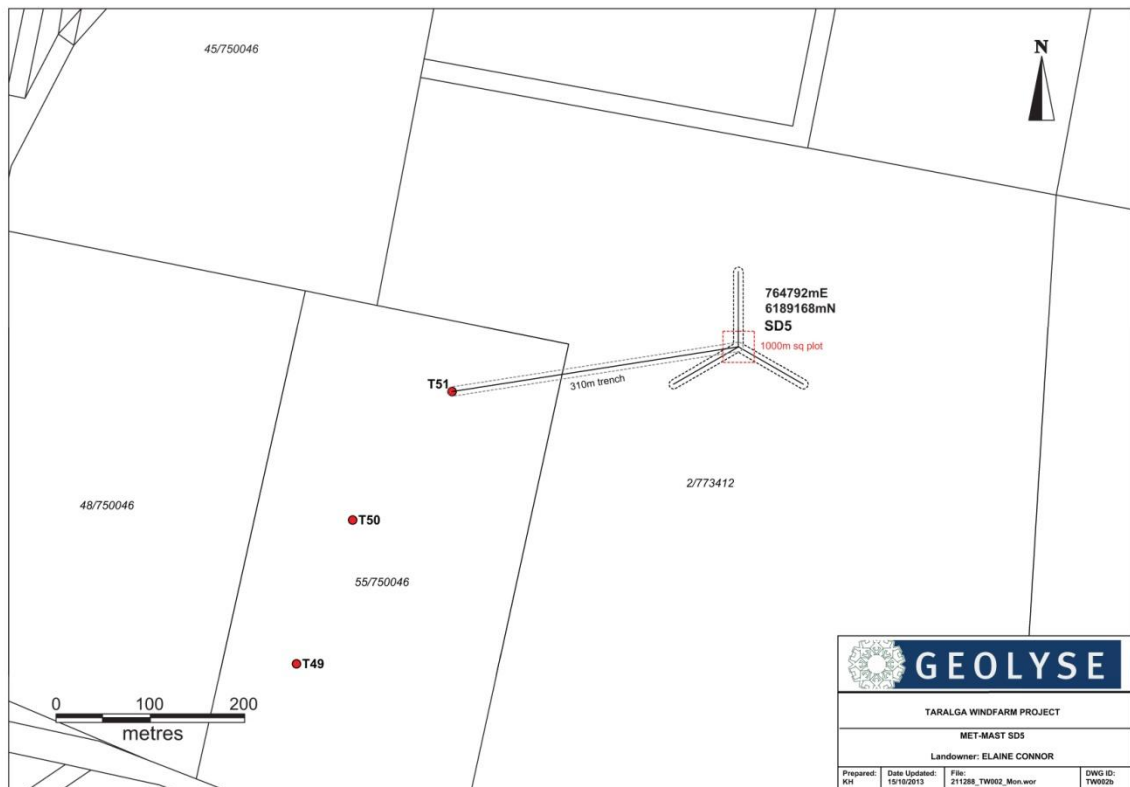


Figure 3 Plan of the proposed works at met-mast #SD5 and proposed trench to Turbine 51.

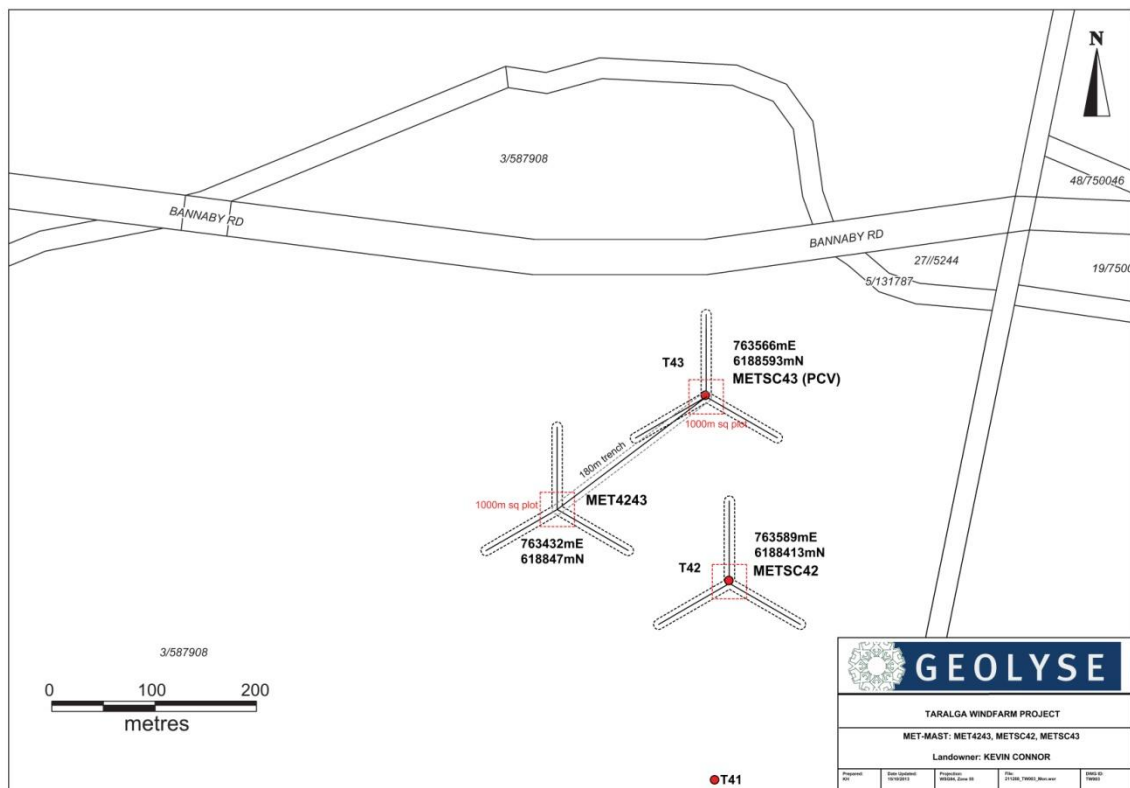


Figure 4 Plan of the proposed works at met-masts #MET4243, METSC43 (and proposed trench), and METSC42.

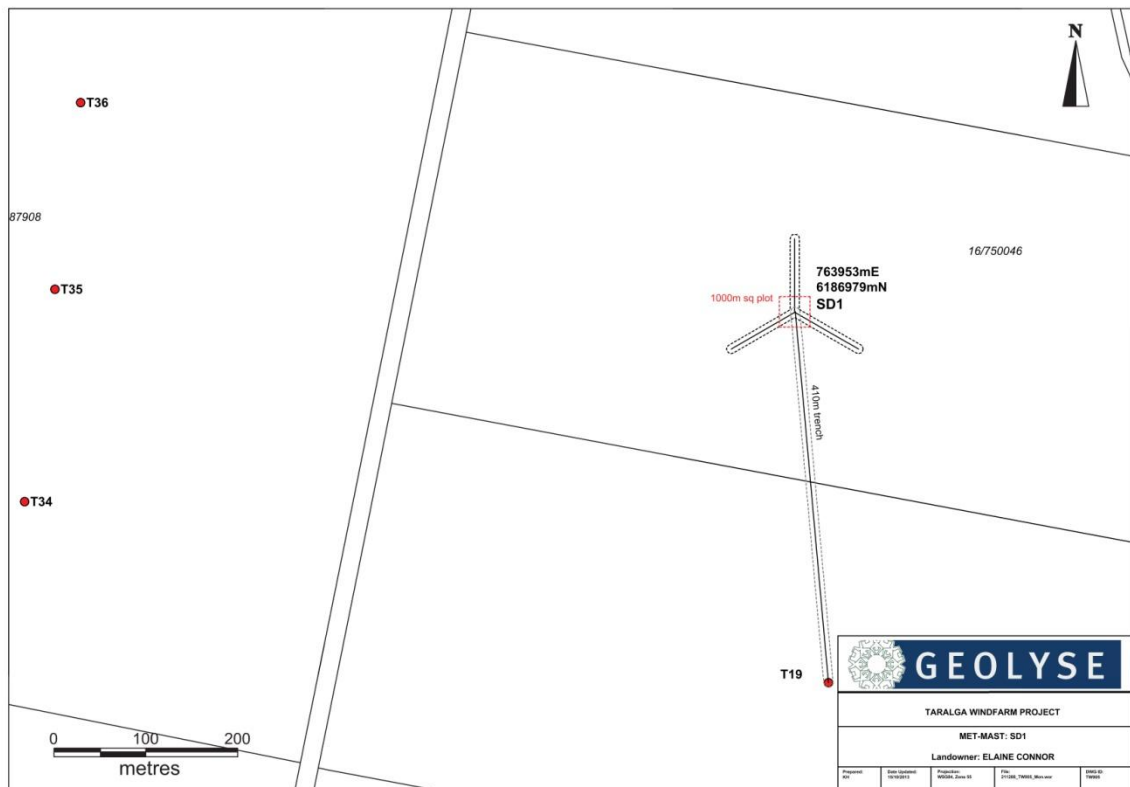


Figure 5 Plan of the proposed works at met-mast #SD1 and proposed trench to Turbine 19.

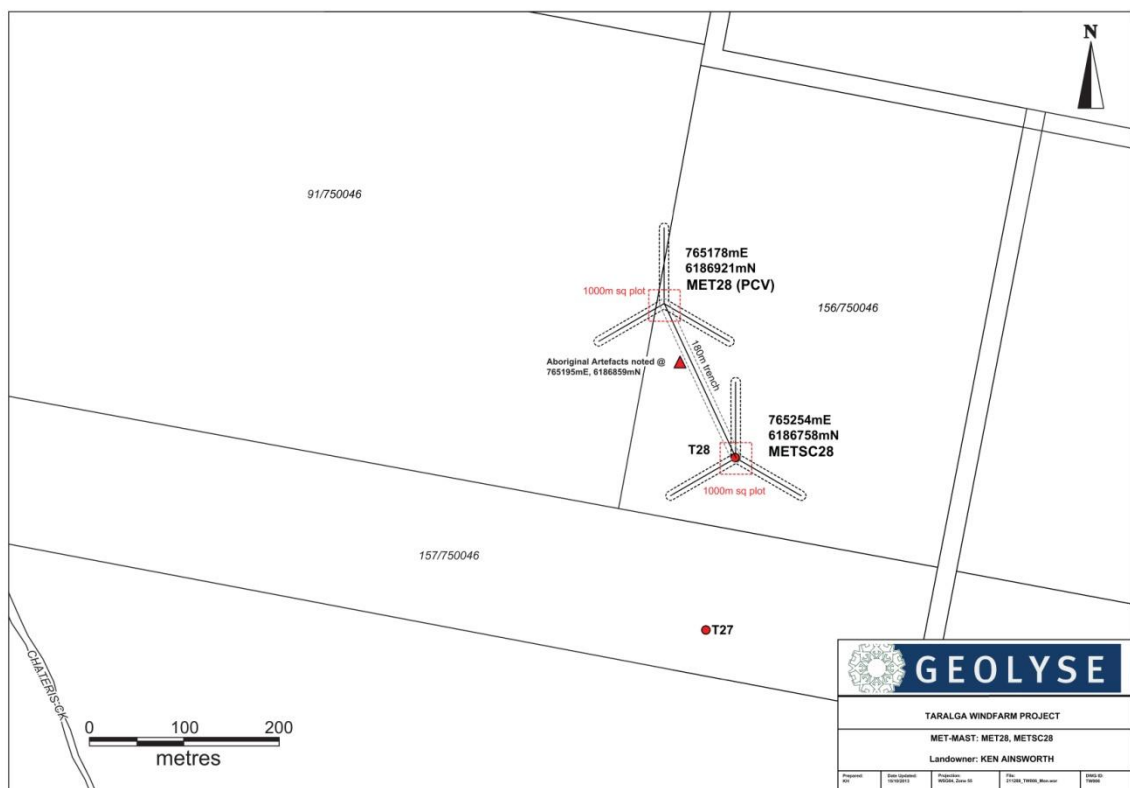


Figure 6 Plan of the proposed works at met-mast #MET28 and proposed trench to Turbine 28; note also location of Aboriginal artefacts found during assessment.

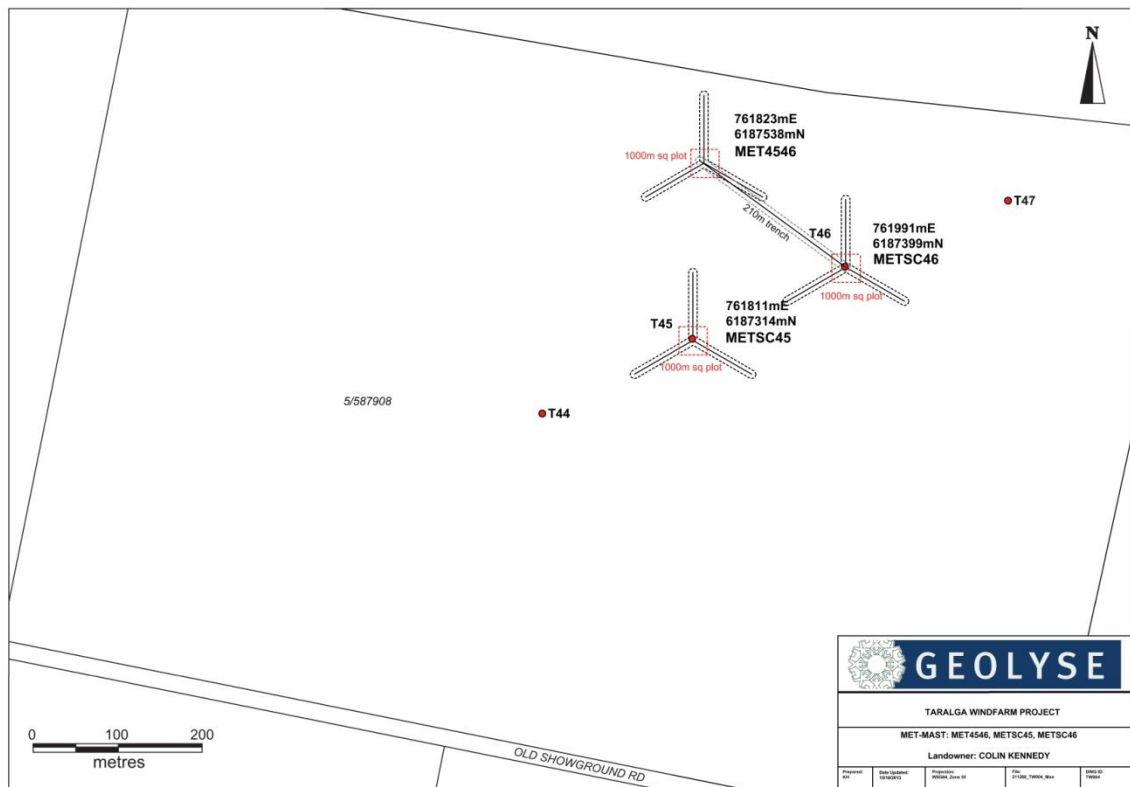


Figure 7 Plan of the proposed works at met-masts #MET4546, METSC46 (and proposed trench), and METSC45.

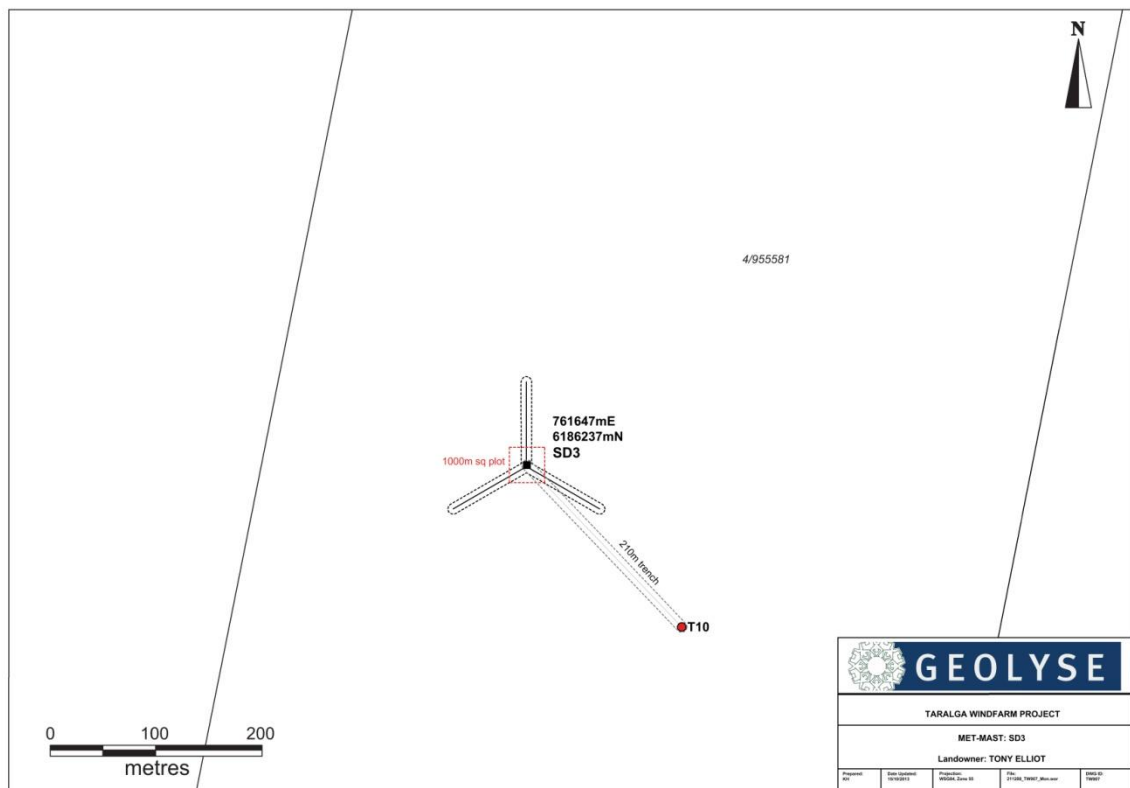


Figure 8 Plan of the proposed works at met-mast #SD3 and proposed trench to Turbine 10.

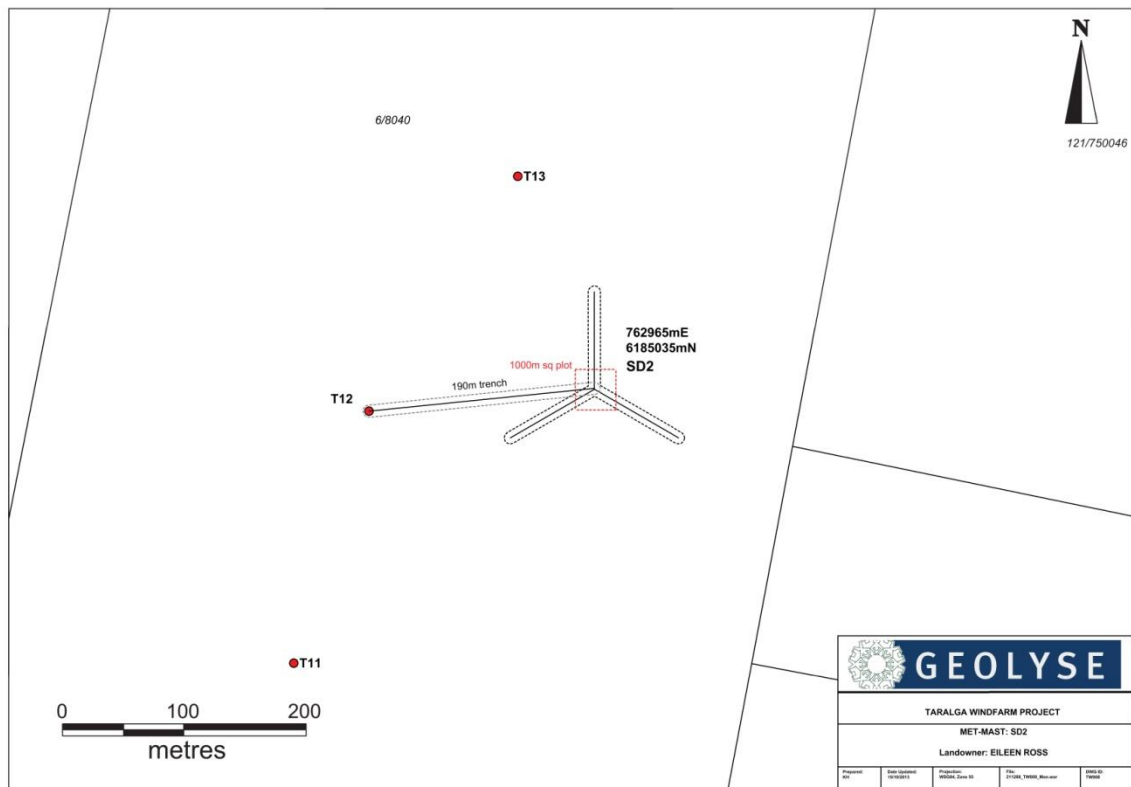


Figure 9 Plan of the proposed works at met-mast #SD2 and proposed trench to Turbine 12.

2. AHIMS DATABASE SEARCH AND LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT

2.1 AHIMS Site Search Results

A search of the NSW OEH Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) has been undertaken in respect of this study (AHIMS Search Reference: Taralga; Client Service ID #114329). The search covered an area of 110 square kilometres, encompassed by Eastings: 758000–768000 and Northings: 6183000–6194000, with a buffer of 50 metres (Appendix 1).

The previously recorded Aboriginal object sites ($N = 9$) listed on the AHIMS search are presented in Table 1. None are located within the proposed activity area, although one is close (see Figure 10). This site *TWF OS2* is located near to the proposed electrical trench between met-mast #SD4 and Turbine #54 and is discussed further below.

It is worth noting that the AHIMS register only includes sites which have been reported to the NSW OEH. Generally, sites are only recorded during targeted surveys undertaken in either development or research contexts. Accordingly, this AHIMS search cannot be considered to be an actual or exhaustive inventory of Aboriginal objects situated within the local area or indeed within the subject area itself.

Table 2 AHIMS sites in search area.

Site ID	Site name	Datum	Easting	Northing	Context	Site features	Recorders
51-3-0019	TWF OS1	AGD	764255	6188686	Open site	2 quartz flakes	OzArk 2004
51-3-0020	TWF OS2	AGD	764839	6191024	Open site	9 artefacts	OzArk 2004
51-3-0021	TWF OS3	AGD	763504	6190699	Open site	14 artefacts	OzArk 2004
51-3-0022	TWF OS4	AGD	763620	6190540	Open site	Plus PAD, 3 artefacts	OzArk 2004
51-3-0023	TWF OS5	AGD	763756	6183146	Open site	10 artefacts	OzArk 2004
51-3-0024	TWF OS6	AGD	764856	6192642	Open site	50+ artefacts	OzArk 2004
51-3-0025	TWF ST1	AGD	764893	6192683	Open site	Scarred tree	OzArk 2004
51-3-0045	TME-OS8	GDA	766959	6186537	Open site	PAD	OzArk 2005
51-3-0046	Taralga PAD	AGD	760240	6190350	Open site	PAD	R Parkes

The Aboriginal site *TWF OS2* was recorded by OzArk in 2004 during the original survey for the proposed wind farm (see OzArk 2004: 20). The site is an artefact scatter in an area measuring c. 30 square metres and containing nine artefacts. The location of the site is shown in the sketch plan on page 20 of the OzArk (2004) report.

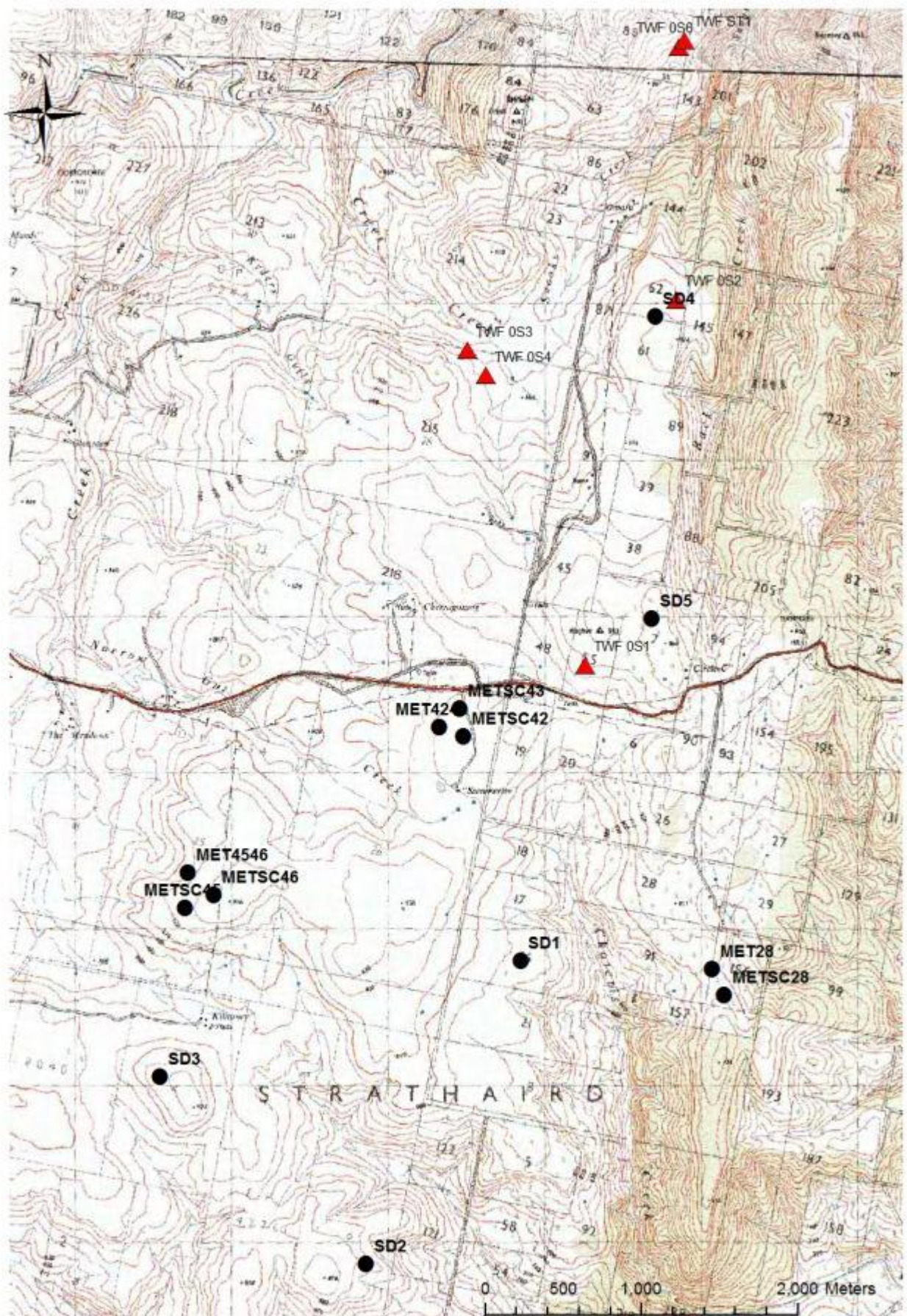


Figure 10 Location of TWF sites in respect of the current proposal.

2.2 Assessment of the Archaeological Sensitivity of Landscape Features in the Proposed Impact Area

Regardless of the AHIMS search results and whether or not they indicate the presence of Aboriginal objects, it is a requirement to consider if Aboriginal objects are likely to be in the proposed activity area. *The Due Diligence Code of Practice - Step 2b (NSW DECCW 2010)* lists the following landscape features that indicate the likely existence of Aboriginal objects. Areas located:

- within 200 metres of waters (including the sea), or
- within a sand dune system, or
- on a ridge top, ridge line or headland, or
- within 200 metres below or above a cliff face, or
- within 20 metres of or in a cave, rock shelter, or a cave mouth; and
- on land that is not disturbed land (as defined on page 18 of the Due Diligence Code).

The Due Diligence Code of Practice does not, however, take into consideration other factors which could influence whether or not an area may contain Aboriginal objects, such as, for example, factors such as gradient (i.e. steep land is unlikely to contain Aboriginal objects) or rockiness (i.e. very rocky land, irrespective of its location, may not be archaeologically sensitive).

The relevant predictive model suggests that locally, sites would be located on landforms situated at the confluence of waterways, close to permanent water and in areas of (formerly) high biodiversity (*cf.* OzArk 2004; 2005; 2007). In the local area, sites have not been recorded on ridge tops or sloping hillsides and in most cases are within 200 m of water, either in close proximity to a drainage feature, creek or river or, alternately, within a saddle of a ridge with a drainage feature or nearby natural spring. In all cases, the environment provide a degree of protection from the harsh winds of the area. While the predictive model indicated that certain features, such as stone formations (e.g. bora rings) and quarries, might be located on ridge tops, none have been identified during previous studies in the local area. However, such sites are unlikely to remain intact due to the heavy land use disturbance ridges within the study corridor have undergone (*cf.* OzArk 2004; 2005; 2007).

The proposed activity areas are located on very gently to gently undulating broad, ridge crest landforms. All areas are cleared, agricultural land, used for grazing sheep or cattle. The geomorphological context is erosional, primarily in the form of wind agency; all areas are highly exposed to wind. Most areas were found to be very rocky with exposures of basalt cobbles. Accordingly, the impact areas subject to this assessment are predicted to be of low archaeological sensitivity. Each impact area is described further below.

2.3 Field Survey Results

Met-mast #SD4 and electrical trench to T54

This site is located near to the north end of a broad relatively flat ridge landform (Plate 1). The area in which the met-mast is proposed is flat and highly exposed. The site is in a paddock of introduced pasture and, has presumably, been subject to repeated ploughing events. It has been

cleared of basalt cobbles which are piled up, but is still very rocky. The area is highly eroded by wind, and in places, clay and decomposing bedrock are exposed. At the time of the survey, pasture was well grazed. Ground exposed as bare earth patches measured c. 10% with c. 80% of that estimated to be archaeological visibility. Effective exposure is relatively low. No Aboriginal artefacts were seen in the impact area. Given the landform context and highly exposed nature of the site, the area is assessed to be of low archaeological potential and sensitivity.

Previously recorded Aboriginal site *TWF OS2* is located near to the proposed electrical connection trench. No artefacts were observed during the field survey. Management and mitigation measures will need to be implemented in order to ensure avoidance of impacts to this site.



Plate 1 Met-mast #SD4 near to car; looking 330°; note piles of cobbles to left and right of car in distance.



Plate 2 Met-mast #SD5 between figure and car; looking 230°. Note electrical trench would extend to Turbine #51 on knoll in distance immediately behind car.

Met-mast #SD5 and electrical trench to T51

This site is located on a broad, very gently undulating ridge landform (Plate 2). The area in which the met-mast is proposed slopes very gently to the west. The trench alignment is gently undulating along the ridge. The site is in paddocks with some scattered trees. The underling geology is meta-sedimentary, exposed in numerous places as broad areas of low bedrock. At the time of the survey ground exposure was found to be negligible. No previously recorded Aboriginal sites are located near the impact area. No artefacts were observed in this location during the field survey.

Given the landform context and exposed nature of the site, the impact area is assessed to be of low archaeological potential and sensitivity.



Plate 3 Met-mast #MET4243 near figure; looking 350°.

Met-mast #MET 4243 and electrical trench to T43

This site is located on a broad, very gently undulating ridge landform (Plate 3). The area in which the met-mast is proposed slopes very gently to the west. The trench alignment is very gently undulating across the crest of the ridge. The site is in a paddock in a highly exposed location. The underling geology is basalt and cobbles are extensive. At the time of the survey, pasture was well grazed. Ground exposed as bare earth patches measured c. 5% with c. 80% of that estimated to be archaeological visibility. Effective exposure is low. No previously recorded Aboriginal sites are located near the impact area. No artefacts were observed in this location during the field survey.

Given the landform context and exposed nature of the site, the impact area is assessed to be of low archaeological potential and sensitivity.

Met-mast #MET SC43

This site is located on a broad, very gently undulating ridge landform (Plate 4). This is the site of proposed Turbine #43 which has previously been assessed and approved. The met-mast would occupy a smaller footprint. The area in which the met-mast is proposed slopes very gently to the north. The geomorphological context is erosional. The site is in a grazed paddock of introduced pasture. The underling geology is basalt and cobbles are extensive. Ground exposure was negligible at the time of the survey. No previously recorded Aboriginal sites are located near the impact area. No artefacts were observed in this location during the field survey.

Given the landform context and exposed nature of the site, the impact area is assessed to be of low archaeological potential and sensitivity.



Plate 4 Met-mast #MET SC43 at car; looking south; note this is the site of Turbine #43.

Met-mast #MET SC42

This site is located on a broad, very gently undulating ridge landform (Plate 5). This is the site of proposed Turbine #42 which has previously been assessed and approved. The concrete supports for a previous wind monitoring mast is at the site. The site is in a paddock which is highly disturbed by a deep excavation (possible silage pit). The underling geology is basalt and cobbles are extensive. At the time of the survey, pasture was well grazed. Ground exposed as bare earth patches and sections in the excavation cut measured c. 2% with c. 80% of that estimated to be archaeological visibility. Effective exposure is very low. No previously recorded Aboriginal sites are located near the impact area. No artefacts were observed in this location during the field survey.

Given the landform context and exposed nature of the site, the impact area is assessed to be of low archaeological potential and sensitivity.



Plate 5 Met-mast #MET SC42 at car; looking south; note this is the site of Turbine #42.

Met-mast #SD1 and electrical trench to T19

This site is located on a broad, very gently undulating ridge landform (Plate 6). The area in which the met-mast is proposed is flat. The trench alignment is along a very gently undulating ridge. The site is in paddocks with some scattered trees. The underling geology is basalt which is exposed as cobbles. During the survey ground exposure was negligible. No previously recorded Aboriginal sites are located near the impact area. No artefacts were observed in this location during the field survey.

Given the landform context and exposed nature of the site, the impact area is assessed to be of low archaeological potential and sensitivity.



Plate 6 Met-mast #SD1 at figure; looking 180°. Note electrical trench would extend to Turbine #19 on ridge in distance to left of figure.

Met-mast #MET28 and electrical trench to T28

This site is located on a broad, gently undulating ridge landform (Plate 7). The area in which the met-mast is proposed is flat and highly exposed. The trench alignment is along a very gently undulating ridge. The site is in a paddock with some scattered trees. The geomorphological context is erosional. The underlying geology is basalt. Ground exposed as bare earth patches and a recent grader scrape measured c. 100 sq m with c. 80% of that estimated to be archaeological visibility. No Aboriginal artefacts were seen in the impact area of the met-mast. Given the landform context and highly exposed nature of the site, the area is assessed to be of generally low archaeological potential and sensitivity.

An Aboriginal site *TWF OS7* (nomenclature is continuous & sequential from OzArk's [2004] previous recording) is located near to the proposed electrical connection trench. Four artefacts were observed in a section of eroded vehicle track. Management and mitigation measures will need to be implemented in order to ensure avoidance of impacts to this site.

TWF OS7 is located at coordinates: 765193.6186857 (Plate 8). Four artefacts were found in an area measuring c. 8 x 2 metres on a track. The ground surface is erosional. The artefacts are:

- Brown tuff proximal flake portion, focal platform, measuring 14 x 15 x 3 mm.
- Brown chert medial flake portion (parallel arises on dorsal surface) measuring 18 x 16 x 3 mm.
- Brown tuff proximal flake portion, focal platform, measuring 18 x 28 x 5 mm.
- Grey chert flake, broad plain platform, feather termination measuring 38 x 22 x 13.



Plate 7 Met-mast #MET28 at figure; looking 310°.



Plate 8 Site TWF OS7, looking south. Artefacts were observed between the arrows. Note Turbine #28 location in distance to left of figure.

Met-mast #MET SC28

This site is located on a broad, gently undulating ridge landform (Plate 9). This is the site of proposed Turbine #28 which has previously been assessed and approved. The met-mast would occupy a smaller footprint. The area in which the met-mast is proposed slopes very gently to the north. The geomorphological context is erosional. The site is in a grazed paddock of introduced pasture with scattered trees. The underling geology is meta-sedimentary. Ground exposure measured c. 2 sq m with 90% of that assessed to be archaeological visibility. Effective survey exposure is low. No artefacts were recorded in the impact area. Given the landform context and exposed nature of the site, the impact area is assessed to be of low archaeological potential and sensitivity.



Plate 9 Met-mast #MET SC28 at peg in ground; looking 300°. Note Aboriginal site denoted by arrow.

Met-mast #MET SC45

This site is located on a broad, gently undulating ridge landform (Plate 10). This is the site of proposed Turbine #45 which has previously been assessed and approved. The geomorphological context is erosional. The area in which the met-mast is proposed slopes very gently to the west and is highly exposed to weather. The site is in a grazed paddock of introduced pasture. The underling geology is basalt, exposed as cobbles. Ground exposure was found to be negligible. No artefacts were recorded in the impact area. Given the landform context and exposed nature of the site, the impact area is assessed to be of low archaeological potential and sensitivity.



Plate 10 Met-mast #MET SC45 at peg in ground; looking 140°.

Met-mast #MET4546 and electrical trench to T46

This site is located on a broad, gently undulating ridge landform (Plate 11). The area in which the met-mast is proposed is gently sloping to the west and highly exposed. The geomorphological context is erosional. The trench alignment is along the crest of the gently undulating ridge. The site is in a paddock which was well grazed at the time of the survey. The underling geology is basalt. Ground exposure encountered was negligible. No Aboriginal artefacts were seen in the impact area. Given the landform context and highly exposed nature of the site, the area is assessed to be of generally low archaeological potential and sensitivity.

Met-mast #MET SC46

This site is located on a broad, gently undulating ridge landform (Plate 12). This is the site of proposed Turbine #46 which has previously been assessed and approved. The area in which the met-mast is proposed is a ridge crest. The geomorphological context is erosional. It slopes very gently to the northwest and is highly exposed to weather. The site is in a grazed paddock of introduced pasture. The underling geology is basalt, exposed as cobbles. Ground exposure was found to be negligible. No artefacts were recorded in the impact area. Given the landform context and exposed nature of the site, the impact area is assessed to be of low archaeological potential and sensitivity.



Plate 11 Met-mast #MET 4546 at figure; looking 240°.



Plate 12 Met-mast #MET SC46 at peg; looking 180°.

Met-mast #SD3 and electrical trench to T10

This site is located on a broad, gently undulating ridge landform (Plate 13). The area in which the met-mast is proposed is gently sloping to the west and highly exposed. The geomorphological context is erosional. The trench alignment is along the crest of the gently undulating ridge. The site is in a paddock which was well grazed at the time of the survey. The underling geology is basalt. Ground exposure encountered was negligible. No Aboriginal artefacts were seen in the impact area. Given the landform context and highly exposed nature of the site, the area is assessed to be of generally low archaeological potential and sensitivity.



Plate 13 Met-mast #SD3 at car; looking 190°.

Met-mast #SD2 and electrical trench to T12

This site is located on a gently undulating ridge landform (Plate 14). The area in which the met-mast is proposed is gently sloping to the east and highly exposed. The geomorphological context is erosional. The trench alignment is along the crest of the gently undulating ridge. The site is in a paddock which was well grazed at the time of the survey. The underling geology is basalt; it is very rocky (technically rockland) with cobbles. Ground exposure encountered is estimated to have been c. 50% with archaeological visibility in that exposure c. 80%. Effective survey coverage was moderate. No Aboriginal artefacts were seen in the impact area. Given the landform context and highly exposed nature of the site, the area is assessed to be of generally low archaeological potential and sensitivity.



Plate 14 Met-mast #SD2 at figures; looking 110°.

2.4 Conclusion

The proposed activity areas where impacts would occur are all assessed to be of generally low archaeological sensitivity due primarily to their remoteness from a permanent source of water and high exposure to wind and weather. The proposal area is located well away from reliable and abundant water, where focused Aboriginal occupation in the local area is expected to have occurred. In addition, it is located within a generally amorphous landscape. Given the above, the proposal area is assessed to be unlikely to have been targeted by Aboriginal people for intensive occupation which would result in significant levels of artefact discard. It is therefore predicted to be of generally low archaeological sensitivity, that is, to contain very low density artefacts only. All impact areas are highly disturbed and eroded.

3. LEGISLATION

The National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 (NPW Act) is the primary legislation for the protection of some aspects of Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW. One of the objectives of the NPW Act is:

... the conservation of objects, places or features (including biological diversity) of cultural value within the landscape, including but not limited to: (i) places, objects and features of significance to Aboriginal people ... (s.2A(1)(b))

Part 6 of the NPW Act is administered by the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (NSW OEH) and provides specific protection for Aboriginal objects and declared Aboriginal places by establishing offences of harm. Harm is defined to mean destroying, defacing or damaging an Aboriginal object or declared Aboriginal place, or moving an object from the land.

At this time, the proponent has sought to avoid causing harm to the Aboriginal object sites which have been found on the property and an AHIP would not be sought. Accordingly, measures would need to be implemented to ensure that harm, inadvertent or otherwise, would not occur to the two recorded sites.

Section 86 of the NPW Act, *Harming or desecrating Aboriginal objects and Aboriginal places*, sets out the penalties for harming an Aboriginal object. For an individual, the penalty for harming an object the person knows is an Aboriginal object, is imprisonment for up to 2 years and a significant fine (>\$200,000).

Anyone proposing to carry out an activity that may harm an Aboriginal object or declared Aboriginal place must investigate, assess and report on harm that may be caused by the activity they propose. An Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) may be required if harm to Aboriginal objects and declared Aboriginal places is proposed. When this is the case, an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) is required to support the AHIP application.

In the next section of this report it will be recommended that harm is avoided to the two known Aboriginal sites by re-routing the electrical trenches and incorporating a no-development area in the site design. However, if impacts cannot be avoided, an AHIP would be required.

4. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The area is assessed to be of very low archaeological potential and has been found to be highly disturbed. However, two known Aboriginal sites occur near to the proposed works.
2. An AHIP is not required in respect of the proposed works if the proposed electrical trenching is re-routed to avoid sites *TWF OS2* and *TWF OS7*.
3. In order to ensure that inadvertent impacts do not occur, a 30 m buffer which is fenced, should be installed around each of the two sites. A qualified archaeologist should advise the proponent in regard to the correct location of the sites.
4. If Aboriginal objects are found while undertaking the activity the proponent must stop work and notify the NSW OEH; an AHIP may need to be sought.
5. If human skeletal remains are found the proponent must stop work immediately, secure the area to prevent unauthorized access and contact the NSW Police and OEH.
6. No further archaeological assessment is required in respect of the works as described in this report.
7. The sites identified in the this assessment, and specific controls relating to them, should be added to the Taralga Wind Farm Heritage Sub-Plan. This report should be appended to the Heritage Sub-Plan. A copy of the updated Heritage Sub-Plan should be provided to NSW OEH.
8. An AHIMS site card is required to be completed for the site found during this assessment and submitted to NSW OEH.

5. REFERENCES

OzArk Environmental & Heritage Management P/L (September 2004) Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Heritage Assessment: Taralga Windfarm.

OzArk Environmental & Heritage Management P/L (July 2005) Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Heritage Assessment: Proposed Transmission Line from Taralga to Marulan, NSW.

OzArk Environmental & Heritage Management P/L (May 2007) Addendum: Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Heritage Assessment: Remaining access tracks for the proposed transmission line from Taralga to Marulan, NSW.

NSW DECCW 2010 Due Diligence Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales.

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APPENDIX 1 – AHIMS DATABASE SEARCH

NSW

GOVERNMENT

Office of Environment & Heritage

AHIMS Web Services (AWS)

Extensive search - Site list report

Your Ref Number : Taralga

Client Service ID : 114333

SiteID	SiteName	Datum	Zone	Eastings	Northings	Context	Site Status	SiteFeatures	SiteTypes	Reports
51-3-0019	TWF 051	AGD	55	764255	6188686	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -		99898
	Contact	T Russell				Doctor,Jodie Benton,OzArk Cultural Heritage Management			Permits	
51-3-0020	TWF 052	AGD	55	764839	6191024	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -		99898
	Contact	T Russell				Doctor,Jodie Benton,OzArk Cultural Heritage Management			Permits	
51-3-0021	TWF 053	AGD	55	763504	6190699	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -		99898
	Contact	T Russell				Doctor,Jodie Benton,OzArk Cultural Heritage Management			Permits	
51-3-0022	TWF 054 WITH PAD	AGD	55	763620	6190540	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -		99898
	Contact	T Russell				Doctor,Jodie Benton,OzArk Cultural Heritage Management			Permits	
51-3-0023	TWF 055	AGD	55	763756	6183146	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -		99898
	Contact	T Russell				Doctor,Jodie Benton,OzArk Cultural Heritage Management			Permits	
51-3-0024	TWF 056	AGD	55	764856	6192642	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -		99898
	Contact	T Russell				Doctor,Jodie Benton,OzArk Cultural Heritage Management			Permits	
51-3-0025	TWF 571	AGD	55	764893	6192683	Open site	Valid	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) : 1		99898
	Contact	T Russell				Doctor,Jodie Benton,OzArk Cultural Heritage Management			Permits	
51-3-0045	TME-058	GDA	55	766959	6186537	Open site	Valid	Potential Archaeological Deposit (PAD) :-		100599
	Contact	Searle				OzArk Cultural Heritage Management			Permits	
51-3-0046	Taralga PAD	AGD	55	760240	6190350	Open site	Valid	Potential Archaeological Deposit (PAD) : 1		100371,10088 2,101005
	Contact					Doctor,Rebecca Parkes			Permits	2948,2949,3038

Report generated by AHIMS Web Service on 16/10/2013 for Julie Dibden for the following area at Datum iGDA, Zone : 55, Eastings : 758000 - 768000, Northings : 6183000 - 6194000 with a Buffer of 50 meters. Additional Info : Archaeological Assessment. Number of Aboriginal sites and Aboriginal objects found is 9

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