

8. Indigenous Heritage Issues

This chapter of the SEE provides a review of assessments of the indigenous heritage values of the project area impacted by the proposed expansion of Woodlawn Wind Farm to include an additional three turbines and their associated infrastructure (cabling and access routes).

8.1 Introduction

A detailed assessment of the Woodlawn Wind Farm site, turbine array and ancillary aspects was undertaken by Biosis and documented in the 2004 EIS for the Woodlawn Wind Farm. During this assessment, 21 previously unknown archaeological sites containing stone artefacts were discovered, with five sites assessed as having higher than usual potential for sub-surface artefacts.

As a result of this, in 2005 Biosis undertook archaeological subsurface testing of the site under Preliminary Research Permit and Consent # 2201 and 2202. Based on the findings of the sub-surface testing, Biosis recommended obtaining Consent to Destroy under Section 90 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* for those archaeological sites to which impact cannot be avoided. Subsequently, in September 2005 Biosis was granted a 'Consent to Destroy and Permit to Salvage' (Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) Permit/Consent # 2288 and 2289) which enabled salvage of recorded Aboriginal objects from sites on the Woodlawn Wind Farm site.

In November 2009, an amendment to the Woodlawn Wind Farm site required assessment of the route of a 33 kV line from the wind farm to Capital Wind Farm substation. The assessment was undertaken by Austral Archaeology, which identified two isolated finds, three open artefact scatters, and seven areas of archaeological potential.

In June 2010, Biosis Research were engaged by Infigin Energy Pty Ltd on behalf of Woodlawn Wind Farm Pty Ltd to undertake an Aboriginal archaeological and cultural heritage assessment at the proposed locations of the three additional Woodlawn Wind Farm turbines, and their associated infrastructure. The full report of these investigations is provided as Appendix G. An overview of the investigation and its key findings are provided in the following sections.

8.2 Cultural background

As stated by Biosis in Appendix G, the traditional owner's of the land in the Study Area are the Ngunawal people. The Ngunawal lands extend across the southern tablelands west from Goulburn to Yass and north from Tumut to Boorowa.

The traditional Ngunawal lands cover diverse ecological zones and mobility would have allowed the most efficient use of the resources of the land, this evidence suggests that the communities of the southern tablelands were highly mobile.

A review of predictive models developed of Aboriginal occupation in the region suggests that stone artefacts sites were more likely to be located within 100 m of water sources, and small sites consisting of isolated or few artefacts would be indicative of 'background scatter' left by travelling groups who were passing through the region or from short occupations.

Aboriginal consultation for the assessment was undertaken in compliance with the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (DECCW) guidelines for projects which do not require an application for a permit from DECCW. Consultation was limited to statutory stakeholders, including the Local Aboriginal Land Council and Registered Native Title claimants. Consultation was undertaken with representatives from the Pejar Local Aboriginal Land Council (PLALC), and Buru Ngunawal Aboriginal Corporation (BNAC).

8.3 Archaeological Assessment Indigenous Cultural Heritage

The field assessment which took place in June 2010 was attended by representatives from PLALC and BNAC, who contributed input into the survey methods used, and were asked to provide comments on the cultural significance of the locality and any archaeological objects or areas recorded during the survey.

A search of the AHIMS Database completed on 25/06/2010 identified 15 previously recorded Aboriginal sites with a 2 x 2 km search area centred on the Study Area. None of these sites are with the current Study Area. It should be noted that all the 15 sites are open sites consisting of small artefact scatters or isolated stone artefacts.

No items within the study area are listed on the National Heritage List, the Commonwealth Heritage List or the Register of National Estate. No heritage items classified (listed) by the National Trust of Australia are located within the Study Area associated with this proposal.

The field assessment methodology consisted of 100% survey coverage of the Study Area, and identified three Aboriginal cultural heritage sites, consisting of two small artefact scatters and one isolated stone artefact occurrence. The full report of these investigations is provided in Appendix G.

Table 8.1 below lists the sites identified in the July 2010 Biosis report for the area assessed.

Table 8.1 – Indigenous heritage sites associated with the additional three turbines and associated route

Site	Coordinates (MGA)		Artefact		Site type	Community or Cultural Value	Archaeological or Scientific Value
	Easting	Northing	Type	Material			
WLWF1	734,282	6,111,339	Proximal flake	Red silcrete	Artefact scatter	Medium	Low
			Proximal flake	Red silcrete			
			Proximal flake	Red silcrete			
			Proximal flake	Red silcrete			
			Flake	Quartz			
			Medial flake	Red silcrete			
			Distal flake	Red silcrete			
			Flake	Quartz			
			Medial flake	Grey silcrete			
WLWF2	734,495	6,111,439	Medial flake	Red silcrete	Artefact scatter	Low	Low
			Proximal flake	Red silcrete			
WLWF3	734,610	6,111,530	Proximal flake	Grey silcrete	Isolated artefact	Low	Low

8.4 Impacts of the additional wind turbines

The Biosis assessment (Biosis, 2010b) for the three additional wind turbines and associated facilities identified three additional artefact sites in proximity to the turbine locations (shown in Figure 8.1). The following actions will be required:

- Avoidance of the identified sites where practicable,
- Where these sites are not able to be avoided, additional Permit/Consents are required to enable any subsurface investigation and subsequent salvage of artefacts.
- Incorporation of the information relating to the three additional sites into an updated project Cultural Heritage Management Sub-Plan under the project CEMP which is currently under development for the approved project.

The Biosis archaeological assessment made the following management recommendations:

1. Impacts to the identified archaeological sites should be avoided. If impacts cannot be avoided an application is required to be made to NSW DECCW for a permit to allow the collection and destruction of the site. A condition of this permit would be to undertake full consultation with the relevant Aboriginal communities.
2. No further archaeological work is required. However, Aboriginal objects and places remain protected by the relevant legislation.
3. Should any previously unidentified Aboriginal objects or places be identified during any phase of the proposed development, all works must cease in the vicinity of the find. DECCW must be notified immediately. DECCW may require an archaeologist to make an assessment of the find, and an approval may be required before works can continue. Consultation will be required with the Aboriginal community should Aboriginal objects be discovered during the course of the works.
4. Provide one copy of this report to:
 - a. Buru Ngunawal Aboriginal Corporation
 - b. Pejar Local Aboriginal Land Council

In consideration of the above recommendations, minor changes have been made to the locations of turbines 21 and 22 and associated tracks and routes to avoid the identified impacts. Consistent with the Heritage consultants recommendation two, no further archaeological work is required.

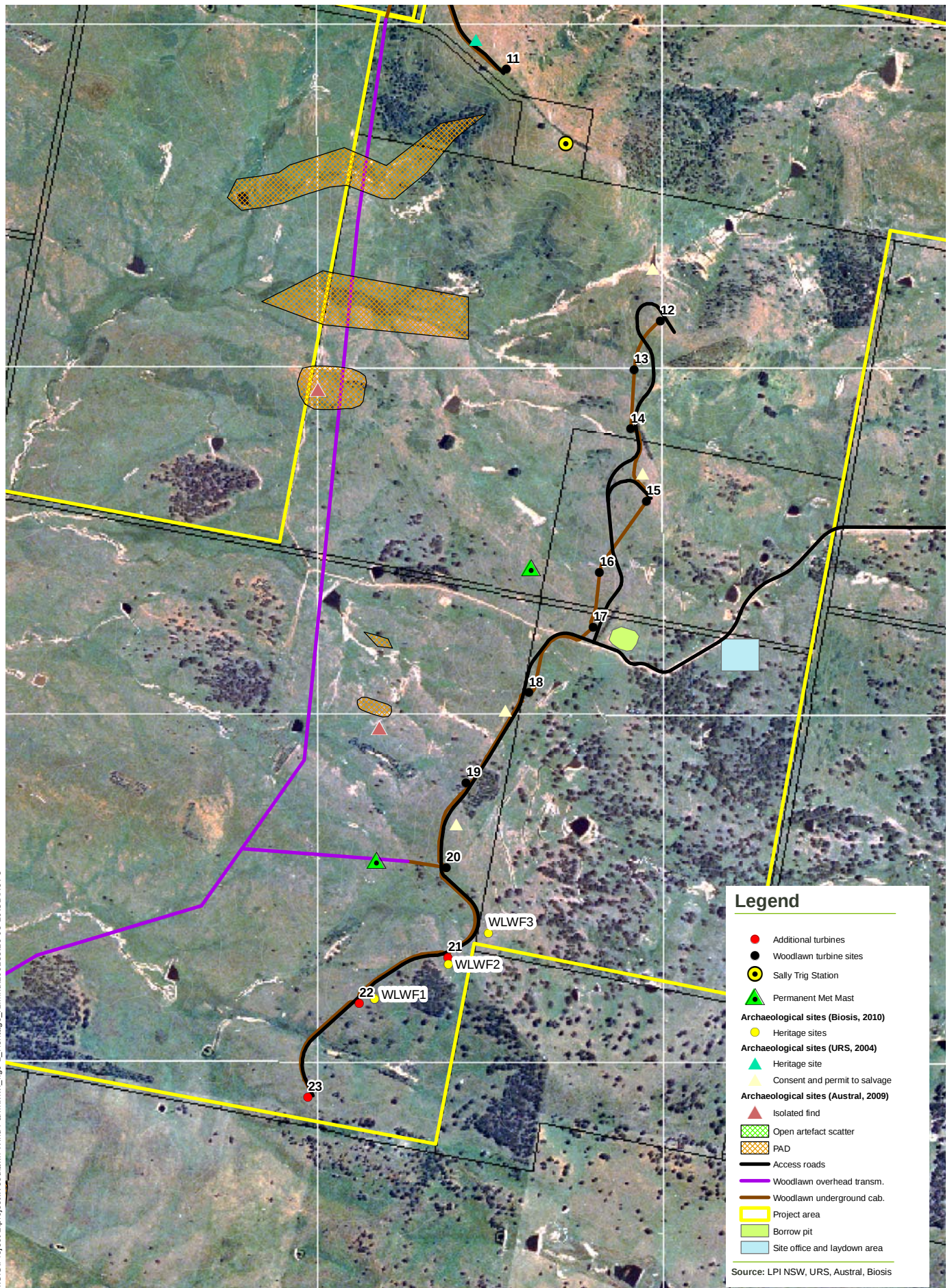
8.5 Mitigation measures to be included for the modified project

The following measures are required to avoid or mitigate the potential impacts on indigenous heritage values for the areas to be disturbed by the project construction works for the three additional wind turbines into the Woodlawn Wind Farm:

- Measures established in the 2004 EIS for salvage and care of surface artefact items at the Woodlawn Wind Farm site (Permit/Consents # 2288 and 2289) will be implemented.
- The project Cultural Heritage Management Sub-Plan under the project CEMP and subsequent OEMP will be updated to reflect safeguarding the integrity of the additional artefact sites identified in this assessment.
- Areas that are considered sensitive, and where salvage has not occurred, will be fenced off to avoid disturbance in accordance with the CEMP.

This will be undertaken prior to commencement of construction activities.

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Woodlawn Wind Farm **Supplementary Statement of Environmental Effects**

Projection: MGA

FIGURE 8.1: Heritage Sites