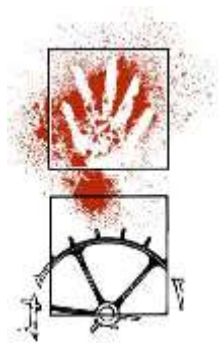


Eastern Creek Resource Recovery Facility

Addendum Due Diligence Archaeological Assessment

December 2021



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This assessment has been prepared on behalf of Hanson Construction Materials Pty Ltd (Hanson) in support of a Development Application (DA) that seeks approval for a Resource Recovery Facility at Honeycomb Drive, Eastern Creek, within the Blacktown Council Local Government Area. The assessment is undertaken to satisfy the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage *Due Diligence Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales (DECCW 2010)* and is an addendum to ERM 2021.

ERM completed an extensive search of the AHIMS database in 2019. 39 Aboriginal recordings are in the search area. One of these sites, #45-5-0556 is located in the wider Hanson project area.

The current project area has been heavily disturbed by past and recent land uses and approved development. The current proposal is wholly within the area already impacted. The previously recorded site #45-5-0556 is within a reserved conservation area/riparian corridor and will not be impacted by the current project. A visual inspection of the project area found that the area is highly disturbed and that the location of the recorded AHIMS site is within the riparian corridor.

There is therefore no impact to Aboriginal objects from the current proposal and no further Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment is required.

The recommendations from ERM 2021 stand and include that in the event that items of heritage value are identified during construction works that an unexpected finds protocol be implemented on site. This protocol would include the following key elements:

- In the unlikely event that heritage items, archaeological objects, or Aboriginal objects are located within the Site, works should cease immediately;
- The location of the finds should be cordoned off and a suitably qualified heritage consultant should be contacted; and
- Works will only recommence once the area has been cleared by further assessment.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Framework

This assessment has been prepared on behalf of Hanson Construction Materials Pty Ltd (Hanson) in support of a Development Application (DA) that seeks approval for a Resource Recovery Facility at Honeycomb Drive, Eastern Creek, within the Blacktown Council Local Government Area (Figure 1.1). The assessment is undertaken to satisfy the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage *Due Diligence Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales (DECCW 2010)* and is an addendum to ERM 2021.

On 3 June 2010, the Deputy Director-General, as delegate of the Minister for Planning, granted Concept Approval to MP 06_0225 for the Hanson Asphalt and Concrete Production & Recycling Facility. MP 06_0225 has subsequently been modified several times. The concept approval and modifications included a Riparian Corridor/Conservation Area to retain Aboriginal site #45-5-0556, this area remains as approved.

Hanson is now looking to obtain Project Approval for a resource recovery facility, consistent with that approved as part of Concept Approval MP 06_0225. On 27 February 2019, the Secretary of the Department of Planning and Environment (DP&E) issued the environmental assessment requirements (SEARs) for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

The site is located approximately 1km south of the M4 Western Motorway, and 5km west of Prospect Reservoir and is identified as Lots 3, 4 and 5 in DP1225803, and is one part of a larger site owned and operated by Hanson. The project involves the construction of a recycling facility wholly within the area that has been impacted by the above concept approval. No new ground disturbing works will be undertaken (Figure 1.2).

In 2021 ERM produced a due diligence assessment for the project that concluded that (pp 14):

The search of the Aboriginal Heritage databases indicated that there was one item of Aboriginal Heritage located on the Site. The item, identified as AHIMS #45-5-0556 is located within the riparian area at the south-western corner of the Site and as such will not be subject to impacts.

Searches of relevant Non-Aboriginal databases did not identify any items of heritage value within or in close proximity to the Site.

Therefore, based on these background searches, there are no identified constraints associated with the development of the site in areas outside of the riparian area.

Subsequently the proponent has received advice from Heritage NSW that a full ACHAR assessment is required including the conduct of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents (DECCW 2010). NOHC have reviewed the ERM assessment and the project area and provide the following additional information to supplement the 2021 ERM report. NOHC have assessed that an ACHAR is not required as the project area has been heavily disturbed and the previously recorded site #45-5-0556 is within the riparian corridor. This project will therefore not impact Aboriginal objects.



Figure 1.1 Site location (from ERM 2021), current project impact area shaded yellow

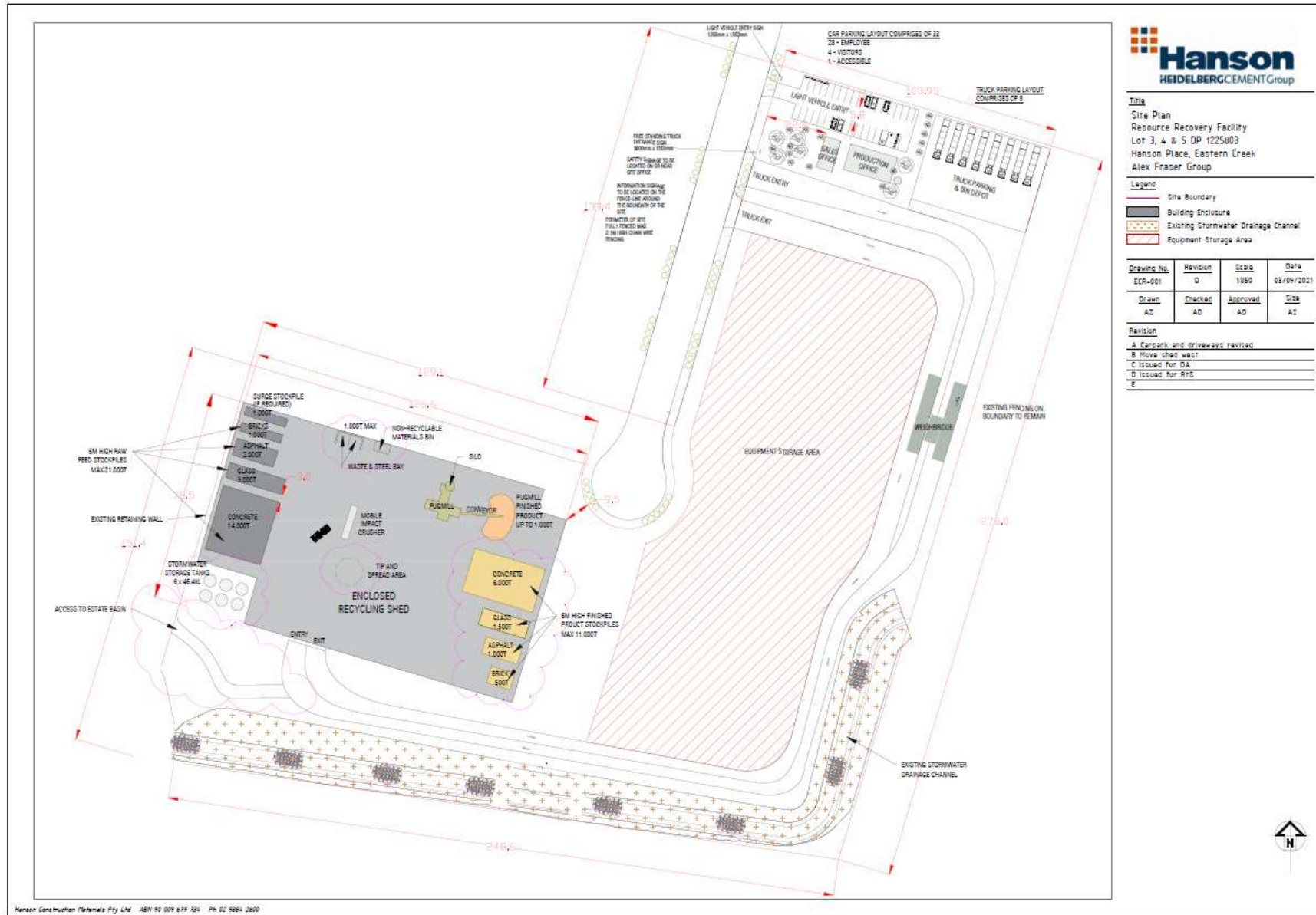


Figure 1.2 Current project development plan showing area of impact



2 AHIMS SEARCH AND LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 AHIMS Search Results

ERM completed an extensive search of the AHIMS database in 2019. 39 Aboriginal recordings are in the search area (Figure 2.1). One of these sites, #45-5-0556 is located in the wider Hanson project area.

AHIMS Site #45-5-0556 is recorded as an Artefact Scatter (Open Camp Site), originally recorded by Jim Kohen in 1986. The site was recorded as a scatter of artefacts located on an erosion scar adjacent to a dam. Mapping of the site notes that it is wholly contained within the designated riparian zone, which will be protected from development within the Site.

2.2 Previous Aboriginal Archaeological Research

As mentioned above ERM completed a due diligence assessment of the project area in 2021, this assessment did not include a site visit or survey.

In 2012, Archaeological and Heritage Management Solutions (AHMS) completed an Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment of the Hanson Asphalt and concrete Facility. This project included part of the current project area where impact from the then asphalt and concrete facility had not occurred (Figure 2.2). The assessment was undertaken for the proposed modification to the Hanson Asphalt and Concrete Facility. The Hanson Asphalt and Concrete Facility had Concept Plan and Project Approval (06_0225) under Part 3A of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act). Hanson was seeking to modify the Concept Masterplan under Section 75W of the EP&A Act.

As the modification proposed works in an area established as an area of high Aboriginal archaeological sensitivity in State Environmental Planning Policy 59 – Eastern Creek Precinct (Stage 3) Precinct Plan (SEPP 59) and subject to Condition 28 of the Project Approval of January 2010, which required that 'the proponent shall not disturb those areas identified as 'High Sensitivity' in the Precinct an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) was undertaken (AHMS, 2012). The registered site #45-5-0556 was retained within a Riparian Corridor/Conservation Area.

The proposed development included bulk earthworks for the construction of roads, the creation of building lots and the installation of services. The proposed modifications did not include impacts that would affect the Riparian Corridor/Conservation Area.

Subsequent to the current assessment the works approved under the modification have been carried out and the subject site has been heavily modified (see Section 3 below). The location of site #45-5-0556 remains within a riparian corridor/conservation area.

Section 3 of the Aboriginal archaeological report attached to the AHMS ACHAR (2012) provides a full documentation of the previous assessments undertaken in the local area and will not be repeated here.

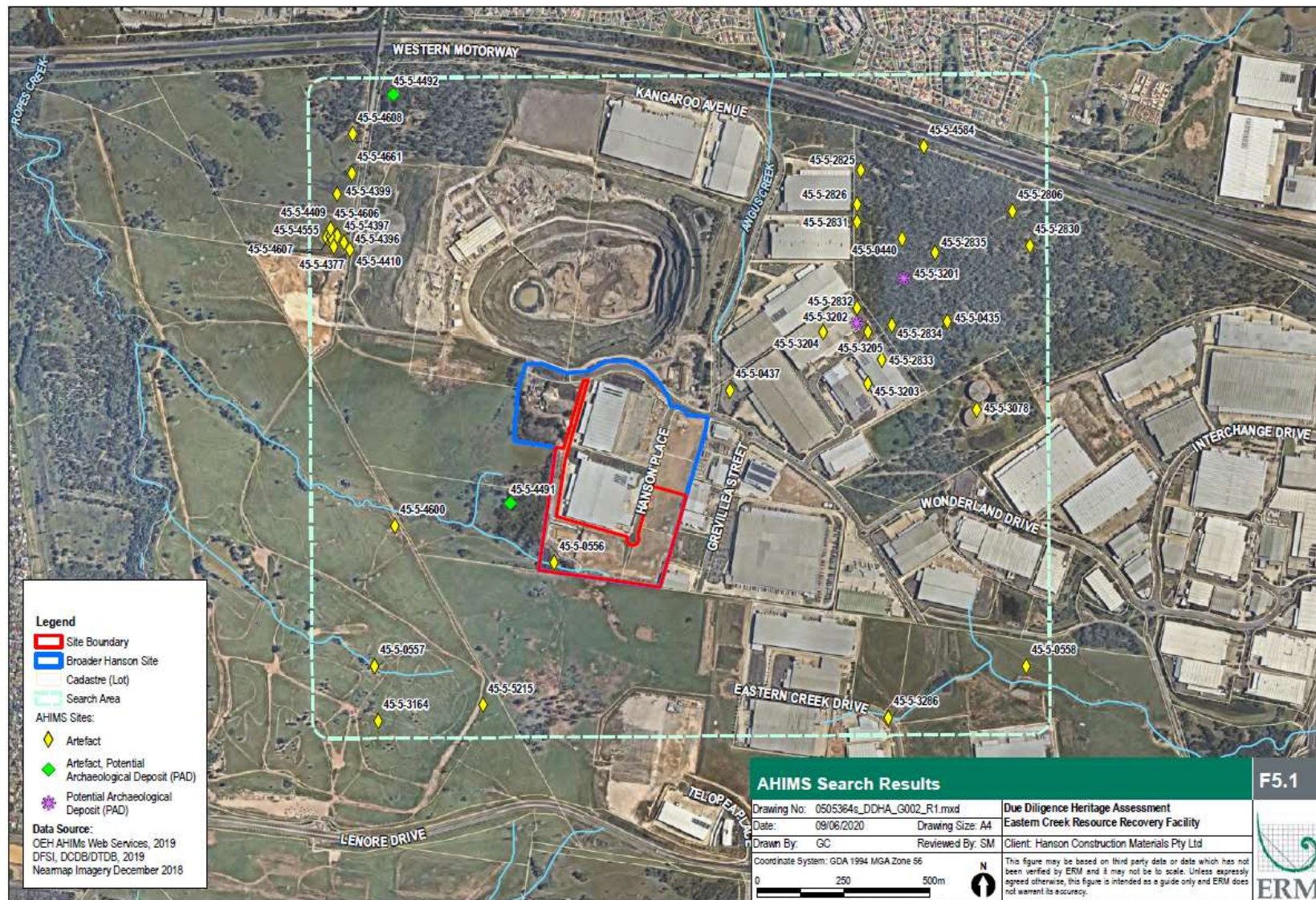


Figure 2.1 AHIMS Search Result's ERM 2021



Figure 2.2 Area subject to assessment by AHMS 2012 (figure 2) and current project area (blue dotted line)



3 LANDSCAPE CONTEXT

As detailed in the AHMS ACHAR the wider Hanson block has undergone extensive impact from the industrial uses and the recent development of the site. The 1965 aerial image show the use of the area as a quarry/processing facility (Figure 3.1). The project area was used for this purpose for many years and expanded as can be seen in the 2006 aerial image (Figure 3.2). The 2017 aerial image shows the works following the project modification in 2012 (Figure 3.3) and the 2018 aerial shows the surrounding development (Figure 3.4)



Figure 3.1 1965 aerial photograph with the approximate location of the 2012 assessment area marked in red, and current project area in blue dotted line (Land and Property Information Services)



Figure 3.2 Current project area (yellow) and 2006 aerial image (Google Earth 2021)



Figure 3.3 Current project area (yellow) and 2017 aerial image (Google Earth 2021)



Figure 3.4 Current project area (yellow) and 2018 aerial image (Google Earth 2021)



4 VISUAL ASSESSMENT

A site visit was undertaken by archaeologist Dr Susan McIntyre-Tamwoy on Thursday 18 November 2021. Susan was accompanied by Hanson representatives. The visual inspection found that the entire project area and wider Hanson property has been disturbed and there is no natural ground surface remaining.

The northern third of the property to the east of the road has been filled and there is approximately 1.5 – 2 metre drop to the remaining 2/3 of that rectangular block. The southern block (at right angles to the other) has also been filled. There is a 4 metre drop from the existing factory on the northern boundary to this block which is a black besa-block wall. A large erosion rill could be seen running through the fill.

The whole site on this side of eastern creek contrasts vividly with the natural landscape on the southern side of the creek. That property is still used for grazing.

Erosion from the fill into the creek is prevented by a large deposit of rock fill along the southern boundary of the property. It is largely covered by soil and vegetation now but can be seen where this cover has eroded on the south-western corner.

In order to determine the condition of AHIMS site #45-5-0556, the south-west corner of the property was inspected where a short stretch of concrete road extends from what is almost a small concrete viewing area bounded on the western side by a safety barrier. The concrete road extends to a locked gate on the dam wall. The Conservation zone is a riparian management area comprising a dam to catch surface run off. The dam wall (between Dam and Creek) appears to coincide with the location of AHIMS site #45-5-0556. The original recording states that the site is adjacent to a dam, the area is currently swampy and covered in vegetation. This is the same as the AHMS 2012 report which stated that the location of the site was in a swampy waterlogged area surrounded by dense vegetation (pp47). The site area has therefore not been impacted since its visitation in 2012 and since the surrounding development has occurred.



Figure 4.1 Project area looking back to the entrance from the south-west corner, note erosion rill through the fill



Figure 4.2 Looking west along the northern boundary



Figure 4.3 View across location of recorded AHIMS site #45-5-0556



5 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Conclusions

As demonstrated above the current project area has been heavily disturbed by past and recent land uses and approved development. The current proposal is wholly within the area already impacted. The previously recorded site #45-5-0556 is within a reserved conservation area/riparian corridor and will not be impacted by the current project. A visual inspection of the project area found that the area is highly disturbed and that the location of the recorded AHIMS site is within the riparian corridor as recommended in 2012.

There is therefore no impact to Aboriginal objects from the current proposal and no further Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment is required.

5.2 Recommendations

The recommendations from ERM 2021 stand and include that in the event that items of heritage value are identified during construction works that an unexpected finds protocol be implemented on site. This protocol would include the following key elements:

- In the unlikely event that heritage items, archaeological objects, or Aboriginal objects are located within the Site, works should cease immediately;
- The location of the finds should be cordoned off and a suitably qualified heritage consultant should be contacted; and
- Works will only recommence once the area has been cleared by further assessment.



6 REFERENCES

Archaeological and Heritage Management Solutions (AHMS) 2012 Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment: Hanson Asphalt and Concrete Facility, Eastern Creek, NSW. For Hanson Construction Materials Pty Ltd

Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (DECCW) 2010 Due Diligence Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales.

ERM 2021 Eastern Creek Resource Recovery Facility: Due Diligence Heritage Assessment. Report for Hanson Construction Materials Pty Ltd

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