

9.3 Results

The field assessment was carried out between 8 – 19 February and 1 – 10 March 2010. The Consultation Meeting at Orange LALC Office on 1 February had resulted in partial arrangement of which groups and individuals might participate over which sections of the proposed pipeline alignment. In keeping with the requirements of DECCW to maintain LALCs as stakeholders, the survey was provisionally divided into LALC regions and the following reporting is broken into those sections for the convenience of stakeholders.

Conditions for the survey were warm, with recent rains. Days were mostly sunny, providing good observation conditions.

Eighteen sites were recorded and site cards submitted to DECCW for registration on the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System [AHIMS] (table 9). Sites are shown on the map series in Appendix 2.

Table 9 AHIMS site registration numbers.

site name	AHIMS #
Power station CMT 1	36-4-0117
Power station CMT 2	36-4-0118
Cooyong old well CMT 1	36-4-0119
Cooyong old well CMT 2	36-4-0120
Watsons Creek Open Site1	36-4-0121
Sunnyside CMT 1	36-4-0122
Neurea Meadows Open Site	36-4-0123
Baker's Swamp Ridge 1	36-4-0124
Red Hill CMT 1	36-4-0125
Eurimbula CMT 1	36-4-0126
Dora Creek CMT 1	44-1-0101
Scenic Road CMT 1	44-1-0102
Bourimbla Open Site 1	44-1-0103
Back Mogong Road CMT 1	44-4-0363
Belabula Palaeochannel Open Site 1	44-4-0364
North Logan Rd CMT 1	44-4-0365
Garrallan CMT 1	44-4-0366
Bendick Murrell CMT 1	50-3-0022

The following section outlining the results of the field survey is divided into separate regions reflecting participating group and individual stakeholders. This will facilitate examination of the results and recommendations for each of the stakeholder groups and individuals. The results are summarised at the end of the section. This will allow for regional comparison and may assist significance assessments.

9.3.1 Wellington Section

Survey in the Wellington section was carried out over five days [8-12 February]. Site and survey data were compared and backed up by Colin Pardoe and Lee Thurlow on 13 February. Two vehicles were used to facilitate movement during survey. Three open sites and seven scarred trees were recorded in the Wellington section of the field survey. These are described below.

Watson's Creek open site [36-4-0121]

Watson's Creek open site is situated on the east side of Watson's Creek, approximately 1.5 km south of the Macquarie River. Watson's Creek forms a small floodplain beside a low hill. The site nestles against the hill on a small spur of sand. The site measures approximately 250 m x 75 m. The landform is separated into two distinct areas with a small saddle in between. The smaller northern part measures approximately 1,850 m², and the larger northern part 7,160 m². Total site area is approximately 9,000 m².

The site contains lithic items dominated by siliceous volcanic and quartz (table 10). A small quantity of basalt is also present. Most of the objects observed were debitage. The tops of the two areas were scalded, giving excellent visibility. Density was estimated at 38 pieces/ 100 m² [19 pieces in a 50 m² sample area].

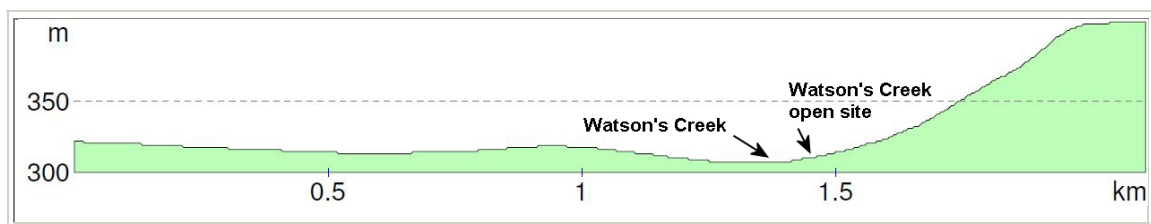
Table 10 percentage and average weight of stone artefacts at Watson's Creek.

Material	Average Weight	% Material
Basalt	6.6	16
Chert	1.8	5
Quartz	1.0	26
Sil-Vol	8.0	53
Total	5.6	n=19

Figure 29 Aspect of site [left] showing small stream. A small sampling area is laid out on the scalded surface [Wayne Carr, Neville Brown, Darren Martin, Lee Thurlow and Tim Hampton; L-R]. Flaked items were the most common type of object.



Figure 30 East-West profile through site. Watson's Creek site is on the east side of the creek, backed by a low hill with views to the west over the valley floor.



Neurea Meadows open site [36-4-0123]

Neurea Meadows open site is located on a small spur of fairly flat ground extending toward a minor unnamed local drainage. The low land to the east appears to be flood plain and was probably covered with trees. The site would have had elevation of a few meters and vantage in all directions across the larger Baker's Swamp Creek Valley to the west and a smaller valley to the east.

The site is defined by a concentration of lithic items on a severely eroded surface. There has been some recent construction with an electricity power line to the east. The site measures approximately 25 m x 10 m. The land has lost topsoil and been subject to plough and grazing. It is severely scalded. The site is unlikely to extend beyond the current bounds. The objects are lying on the 'B' horizon and there is no likelihood of objects or features being buried.

The stone items include dark grey silicified volcanic and white quartz. Both are locally available from less than 2 km distant. Artefacts included one polyhedral core, a flake tool and a snapped blade, all from a black siliceous volcanic that weathers to a green-grey. Two quartz flakes were seen.

Figure 31 Neurea Meadows aspect looking north. One of the larger lithic items seen on the site is made from a siliceous volcanic material that is common throughout the region [lower left]. An unnamed creek to the east of the site shows evidence of scouring and recent [pastoral era] incision. The line of gravel below the surface is probably part of the older surface, with more recent eroded overburden above.

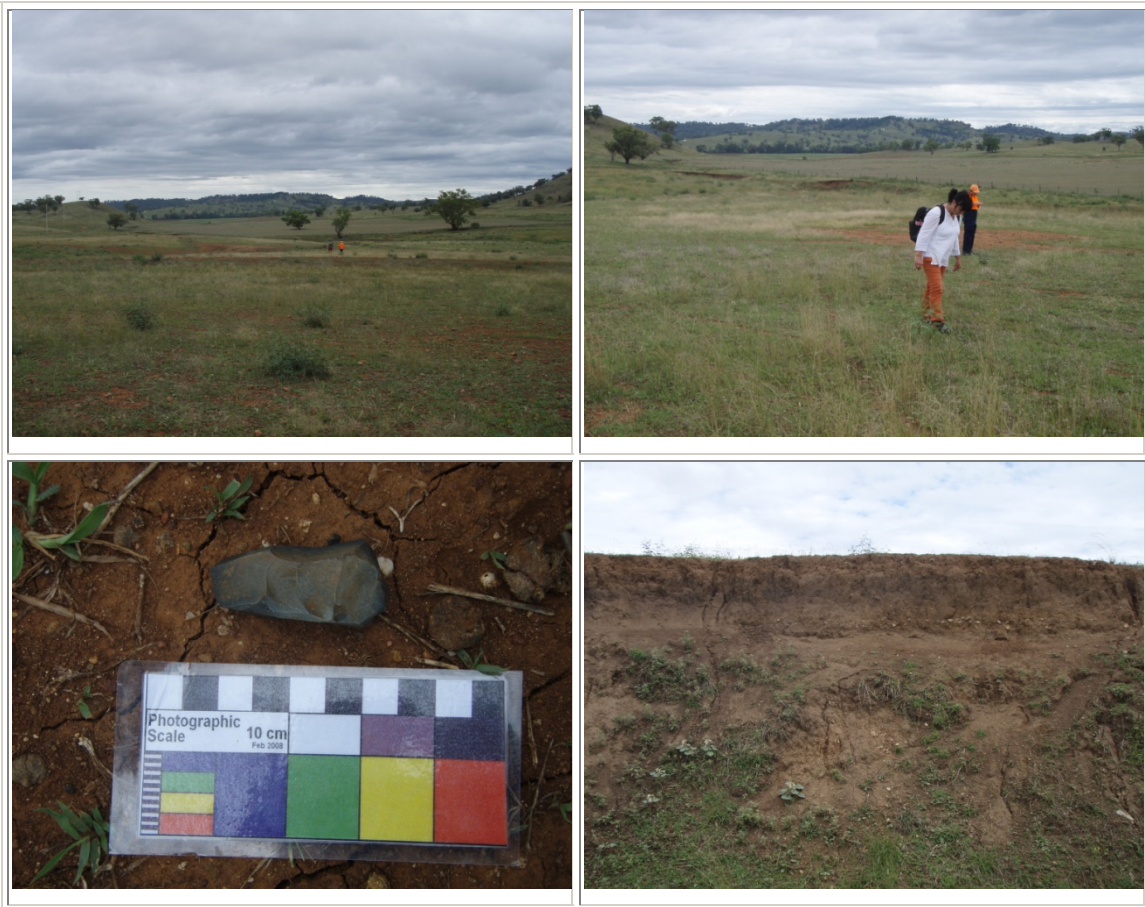
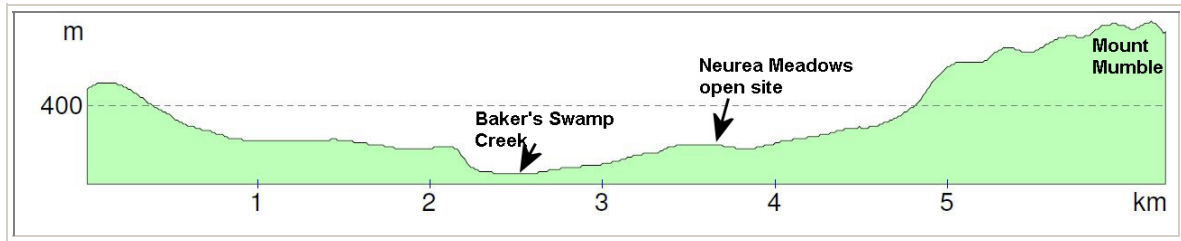


Figure 32 East-West profile through site. Neurea Meadows open site in profile.



The site was considered to be of high significance by participants, although its educational value was diminished by the scouring and relatively small number and variety of artefacts.

Baker's Swamp Ridge open site [36-4-0124]

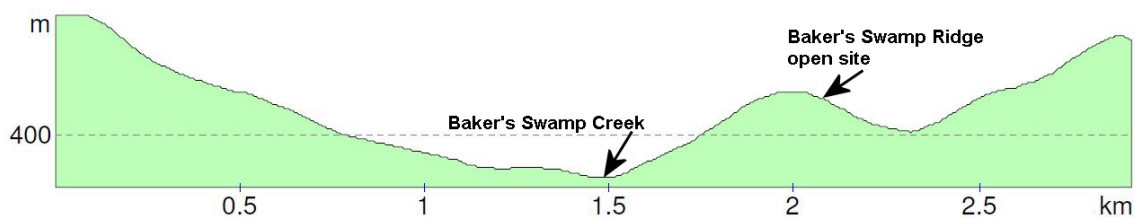
Baker's Swamp Ridge site is a concentration of stone artefacts located on a north-south trending ridge between two broad valleys. Baker's Swamp Creek runs approximately 500 m to the west, and a smaller unnamed creek approximately 300 m to the east (figure 33 and 34). The site provides excellent vantage to both valleys and further to the rising slopes on either side.

The site measures approximately 90 m x 60 m, abutting the crest of the ridge on the eastern side. The elevation and vantage appear to be the main determinants of the site location. People living here would be able to see smoke from other households and camps across the valley floors, a total width of 3 km, and up and down the valleys for several kilometres.

Figure 33 Baker's Swamp site is on a north-south trending ridge [upper], with views of valleys to the west [middle] and east [lower]. Melissa Gilpin inspects the ground for artefacts [upper right]. Jane Austin holds one of the hammers [middle right].



Figure 34 East-West profile through site. Baker's Swamp site is on a north-south trending ridge [upper], with views of valleys to the west [middle] and east [lower].



The artefacts consist of hammers and grinding pieces, along with flakes and debitage from black siliceous volcanic stone and white reef quartz (figure 35). Other materials are present in small quantities. The hammers indicate that stone tool manufacture was carried out here. There are some anvil marks on one of the hammers. These are the result of fine detail work, producing small retouched items such as spear barbs and components for knives.

The grinding pieces are smaller mortars, typically used for a variety of materials, of which the most common was hard seeds such as might be found on Acacias, but also including grinding ochre, bone and vegetables. Several of these objects have more than one purpose. Hammers, for instance, typically have one or two grinding facets as well as pits from being used as an anvil. Broken hammers and grinders are typical at sites where people live for extended periods.

Figure 35 Hammers and ground facets indicate that site activities included stone tool manufacture and grinding/pounding. There is some anvil pitting [upper and lower left] on the hammers indicating their use as anvils when carrying out fine work in manufacture.



The site was considered to be of exceptional value to participants. They were particularly interested in its educative value. Interpretation of the use and location of the site was considered to be of wider value to the community for education purposes. There was considerable discussion over collection, given that there were several objects showing 'elbow grease', or the effort of their forebears in their day-to-day existence. In the end, it was decided that the site would be best served by not collecting or salvaging, and maintaining it as it was.

Power Station CMT 1 [36-4-0117]

This site is not on the alignment and does not form part of this assessment. It was recorded at the end of the Wellington part of the survey, while participants were at the Power Station site. Members of GAC were showing where the power station footprint and larger block were situated. Following discovery of the tree, GAC requested that a site card be filled and lodged on their behalf. This has been done.

The two trees are within 55 m of each other, and the scars face a spot to the south and west.

Figure 36 Power Station CMT 1 [upper left]; scar [upper right]; detail of scar top [lower left]; detail of scar bottom [lower right].



Power Station CMT 2 [36-4-0118]

This site is not on the alignment and does not form part of this assessment. It was recorded at the end of the Wellington part of the survey, while participants were at the Power Station site. Members of GAC were showing where the power station footprint and larger block were situated. Following discovery of the tree, GAC requested that a site card be filled and lodged on their behalf. This has been done.

The two trees are within 55 m of each other, and the scars face a spot to the south and west.

Figure 37 Power Station CMT 2 [upper left]; scar 1 [upper right], Lee Thurlow recording; scar 2 [lower left], Wayne Carr recording; natural scar on tree [lower right], Lee Thurlow.

