

9.3.3 Orange Section

Survey in the Orange section was carried out over five days [15-19 February]. Two vehicles were used to facilitate movement during survey. One open site and two scarred trees were recorded in the Orange section of the field survey. These are described below.

Dora Creek CMT 1 [44-1-0101]

The site is a scarred tree. The tree is more than 300 m from the proposed alignment along Dora Creek. It was investigated because a wider footprint along larger creek crossings is examined as standard procedure. The scar is rated as probable. There is not the definitive combination of features, but it is a reasonable shape given regrowth; it is on an older tree; it is the correct height range and location on the tree. It is on the edge of a creek near places that would be likely residential sites.

Figure 44 Dora Creek CMT 1, setting [upper left], Ian Bell, Blair Fuller; close-up of scar [upper right]; detail of scar [lower centre].



Scenic Road CMT 1 [44-1-0102]

This is a probable scarred tree. The scar is clear and well formed, with even regrowth. It was not possible to observe axe marks, given the amount of regrowth. In the picture it appears close to the ground, but is 420 mm above ground. There is a natural scar beside the cultural one.

Figure 45 Scenic Road CMT 1, setting [upper left]; scar on trunk [upper right]; detail of scar [lower left]; natural scar [lower right].



Bourimbla open site [44-1-0103]

The site is a large open site defined by a concentration of stone artefacts. The site measures approximately 110 m x 65 m. with an estimated area of 6,000 m². The site is south of Bourimbla Creek and immediately south of the next [unnamed] creek south which also drains into Boree Creek just to the west. There is a small swamp directly east of the site, created by a small rocky outcrop. There is a smaller drainage line joining here [the creek runs north].

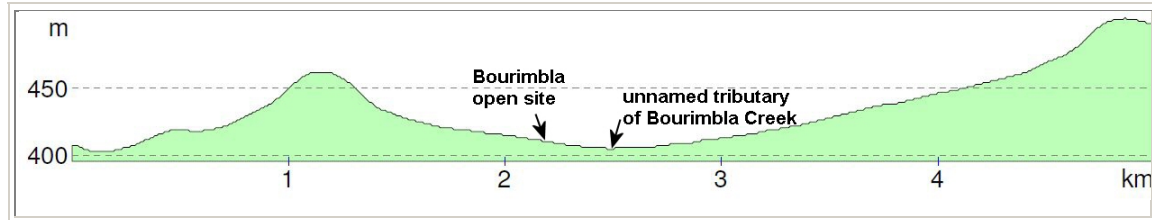
The paddock has been cleared and ploughed. The upper soil is shallow, with little likelihood of stratified deposit below. The land between site and creek has been completely disrupted by the Cudal – Canowindra Rd.

Items seen at the site include a broken hammer (anciently broken, not by the plough), cores, flakes and debitage. Several cores were bifacially flaked from 'producer' cores or larger flakes. One core was unifacially flaked from a larger flake. Three materials were seen, all of which are local in origin. Of the larger pieces, the grey/black siliceous volcanic was most common, followed by an unidentified coarse-grained volcanic. White quartz from river cobbles was the most common material of the smaller pieces [<3 cm]. The quartz was typically flaked using bipolar technique. A typical pattern was seen of broken hammer [being used as an anvil], polyhedral quartz cores with anvil/bashing damage at both ends, quartz flakes, and one instance of a small crescentic microlith. The latter would have been used as barb or part of composite knife.

Figure 46 Location of site [left] and aspect; broken hammer [lower].



Figure 47 East-West profile through site. The site is on the west side of a small tributary of Bourimbla Creek.



Representatives found this site particularly significant given the range of stone tool types and variety of materials. Amy Armstrong was very excited to see the stone tools in their landscape as she had not seen a site of this size previously. Chad Morgan was surprised at the lack of grinding implements but fascinated by the different items and the setting of the site. There was discussion about the merits of collecting a sample of items from the site but it was decided to wait and see whether the alignment would avoid the site.

9.3.4 Significance assessment in the Orange region

Orange LALC has set out its position with respect to the significance and conservation of cultural heritage in their region (Williams in Cadia Environmental Assessment, 2009):

It should be noted that all of the land is of cultural significance to the Aboriginal people of Australia. Although some areas hold more significance to others the land was formed as part of the “dreamtime” - the creation period. Non Aboriginal people need to recognise the importance of the Dreamtime and what it means to Aboriginal people.

It is important to point out that the Orange community and descendents of the Wiradjuri Nation believe that Aboriginal objects and sites are significant to them, and that descendents of this community may have been related to the people who inhabited this area before colonisation. We believe that, as caretakers and custodians of this country, the objects and sites are a valuable resource to this community. Educationally, tool making practices and techniques used are rarely seen by individuals. Scarred trees and how they were made and used as a natural resource is not a common practice today. Culturally it is important to Aboriginals that nothing is destroyed. These artefacts (objects) are a glimpse into our culture and heritage, and they dispel myths relating to the colonisation of Aboriginal Australia.

Little is known by the local Aboriginal community regarding any significance of the areas where the proposed gas pipeline operations are located, but open lines of communication and Aboriginal involvement in future development or operational procedures will ensure that the operations continue without threat to any area of significance.

All sites in the Orange LALC section of the proposed pipeline were valued and considered to be of significance to the representatives and the wider community, whom they represent.