

9.4 Summary results

A total of 18 new sites were recorded during survey. The majority of these, 13, were scarred trees. Five were open sites, defined as Stone Artefact Concentrations [SAC], (table 11). The open sites varied in their location, although there were consistencies. Most were close to a source of more or less permanent water, but one was on a ridge top. The scarred trees are a remnant of the total that would have existed before clearing. Their location, therefore, largely reflects retention of trees on or near watercourses, or on sections of land that were too rough to warrant clearing.

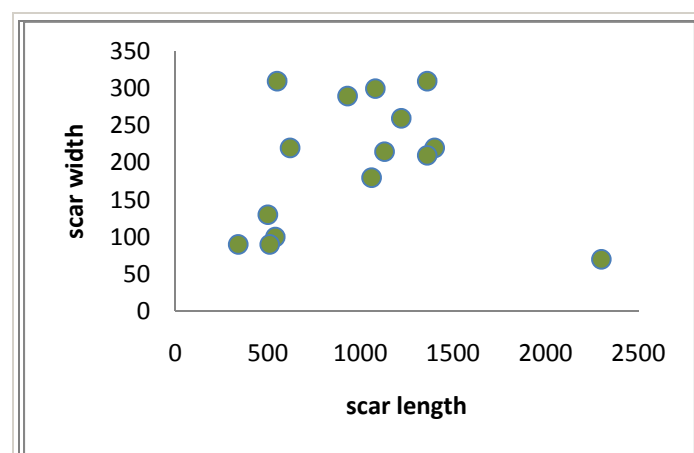
Table 11 Number of sites recorded for each section of the pipeline alignment.

Region	Km	CMT	SAC	Total # sites
GAC	57	7	3	10
Orange	66	2	1	3
Cowra	86	4	1	5
Young	10	0	0	0
Totals	219	13	5	18

9.4.1 Scarred trees

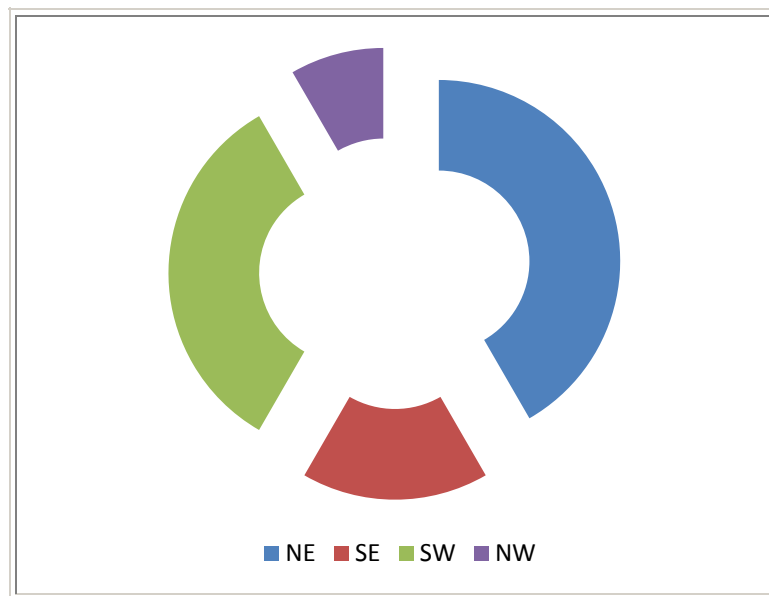
Scarred trees were the most commonly observed site type. They were found on several species, although Yellow Box was seen more often. Average scar size was measured including regrowth. The original bark sheet removed would have been bigger, but it is difficult to estimate the amount of regrowth. Standard practice is to provide measurements of the actual scar, rather than the estimated original. Scars averaged 993 mm long and 200 mm wide. Most scars are coolamon shaped. One scar was much longer than the others, although not quite long enough to be considered a canoe (figure 63).

Figure 63 The shape of scars was typically coolamon shaped, with the length about 5 times the width. One scar is much longer and relatively narrower than the others.



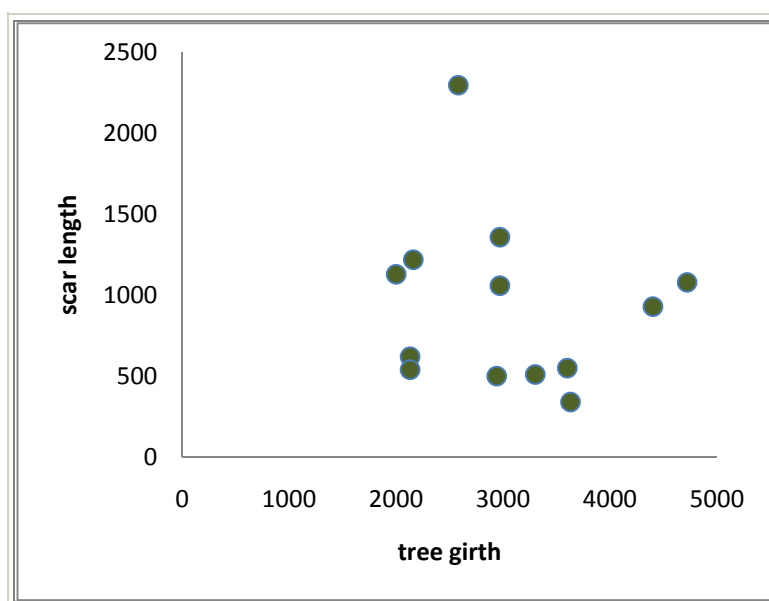
The orientation of scars is highly variable, although there appear to be preferred directions. These probably relate to features on the landscape [which are generally not knowable to the archaeologist], bend of the trunk, time of year and so on. Most scars in this survey were found to be facing toward the NE or SW (figure 64).

Figure 64 The orientation of scars is highly variable, although there appear to be preferred directions, roughly to the NE and SW.



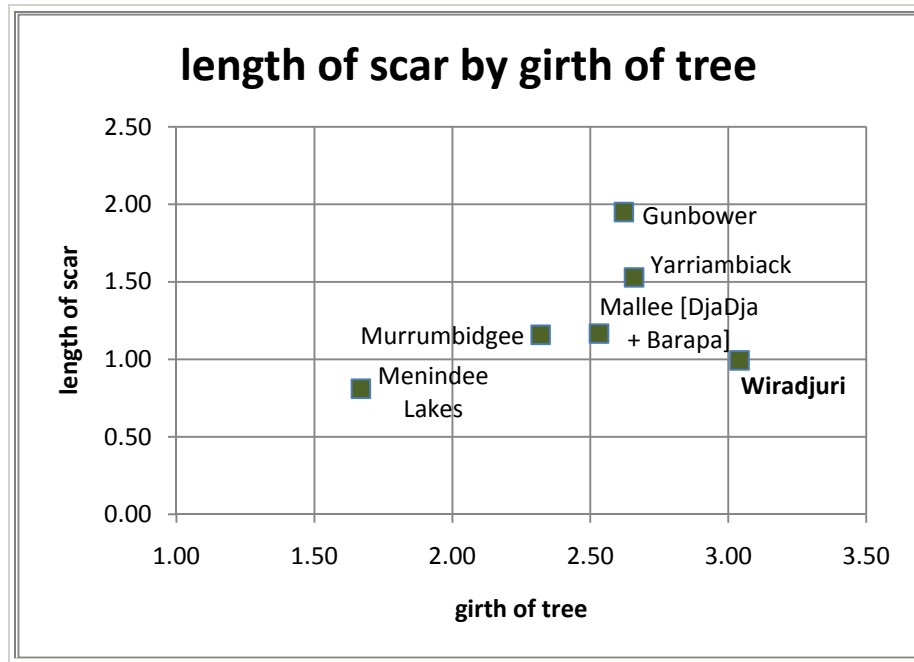
Average height of scars above ground is 700 mm. this is fairly close to what one would expect with an adult chopping with an axe against a tree trunk. Scars too close to the ground are unlikely to be of human manufacture. Average circumference (or girth) of the trees measured 3,040 mm. It is useful to measure circumference as it allows comparison between different sized trees.

Figure 65 The length of scar is not closely determined by the girth of the tree.



The size of scars varies by region (figure 66). Trees recorded during the present work [Wiradjuri on the graph] had the greatest girth (or circumference) of trees investigated in other regions. The scars, however, were among the shortest. In part this reflects the lack of canoe trees in the area.

Figure 66 The size of scars varies by region.



9.4.2 Open sites

It is generally difficult to characterise archaeological findings over a long, narrow line such as a pipeline alignment. The five open sites share a number of features:

- They are on slightly raised ground near a medium-sized water course;
- There is (or was) an area of swampy ground either just below the site [Watson's Creek, Baker's Swamp, Bourimbla, Belabula Palaeochannel] or within a few hundred meters [Neurea Meadows];
- The sites all contain a large amount of quartz and dark grey/black siliceous volcanic stone;
- Most of the stone is of local origin;
- There are a small number of grinding objects, which are typical of grinding hard seed rather than soft seed.

Given that the proposed alignment follows the ecological boundary between Dividing Range slopes and Riverine Plain, the sites are at roughly the same relative position with respect to their creeks. The land has flattened into broad valleys and the streams have slowed, producing pondages and swamps. It is clear from the lack of grass seed grinding dishes and the lack of earthen mounds that the main way of life was more like that of the slopes and less like that of the plains. The slopes are not characterised by the extensive mounds and grass seed grinding dishes that are common on the plains to the west.

9.4.3 Potential Archaeological Deposits

Potential Archaeological Deposits [PADs] are defined as:

any location where the potential for subsurface archaeological material is considered to be moderate or high, relative to the surrounding study area landscape. Archaeological potential is assessed using criteria developed from the results of previous surveys and excavations relevant to the region. The boundaries of PADs are generally defined by the extent of particular landforms known to have high correlations with archaeological material. A PAD may or may not be associated with surface artefacts. In the absence of artefacts, a location with potential will be recorded as a PAD. Where one or more surface artefacts occur on a sedimentary deposit, a PAD may also be identified where there is insufficient evidence to assess the nature and content of the underlying deposit. This is mostly due to poor ground surface visibility. (Navin Officer Heritage Consultants 2003)

In this study, PADs were determined on the basis of landforms with a high potential to contain sites or features, and with some corroborating evidence. In the case of rivers, where a site might be expected on the floodplain banks at suitable spots, stratigraphic profiles were examined for the presence of culturally modified soils.

No PADs were encountered during the survey. The major river crossings were at locations with good visibility and soil profiles at the banks. Directional drilling is to be used at the major river crossings.

9.5 Significance Assessment

Comments on significance were offered during the course of survey by participants. At each site, discussion of significance was part of the site recording process, ensuring that views at the time were canvassed. It was taken as given that the relationship to the land was considered paramount by most, if not all, representatives. Many representatives had not been in this particular stretch of country before and found great delight in walking over a varied landscape.

Certain places had an unquestionable effect on people, particularly when they were considering the material evidence of their forebears. Occasional markers such as trees, creek bends, and clusters of rocks elicited comment as we walked. Some of these have been recorded as being of significance to particular people.

The following sections set out a faithful rendering of significance attached to each of the recorded sites along the alignment.

9.5.1 Gallangabang AC [Wellington] Section

Neurea Meadows open site

The site was considered an important example of occupation, even though it was heavily eroded. No collection of objects was suggested.

Baker's Swamp Ridge open site

This was one of the most highly valued sites encountered in the Wellington GAC region, even though the site has been disturbed. Representatives were excited to see the variety of stone materials and how they might be interpreted. The aspect of the site was commented on, particularly its field of view and distance to water.

Collection of items was discussed, but this was tempered by a view that educational visits would be a priority. Interpretation of the site location and contents was considered to be a high educational priority for the community.

Watson's Creek open site

The site was seen to be a valuable addition to the material evidence of occupation in the area. The location was seen to be an important part of making a living along the creek. The variety of stone was commented on and queries about how much of the site might be intact were raised.

Power Station CMT 1 and 2

These scarred trees are not on or near the proposed alignment corridor. It was noted that trees with scars this close to one another might signify something. There was a view that if any works were to be carried out in the vicinity of these trees [which are beyond the scope of this project], it would be necessary to investigate the ground between and around the trees.

Cooyong Old Well CMT 1 and 2

These trees were the subject of some discussion concerning how many trees might have been in the area originally. There was discussion particularly about the size and function of scars.

Sunnyside CMT1

GAC placed high importance on this scarred tree. Conservation of the tree was seen to be the most important requirement.

Red Hill CMT1

GAC is interested in removing one of the scars for conservation and education purposes. The tree is dead and lying on the ground.

Eurimbula CMT 1

This tree was seen to be of great importance in part because of its location, and in part because there was discussion about the function of the bark. The shape was suggested to be a shield.

9.5.2 Orange Section

Dora Creek CMT 1

Dora Creek is one of those places considered to be evocative of some of the smaller streams where people would have lived. There were places further upstream, well beyond the limits of our survey, that had the appearance of being particularly suitable for residence.

Scenic Road CMT 1

The tree is valued by representatives of Orange LALC. They are keen to see the tree conserved.

Bourimbla 1 open site

Representatives of Orange LALC noted the significance of the site, with the many items found there. They recommended some form of collection. This was one of the sites most highly valued by representatives in this section. The location was considered to be very important, even though it is now in an open paddock beside the highway.

9.5.3 Cowra Section

Belabula Palaeochannel open site

This was one of the most talked about sites in this section. Even though there was considerable disturbance, representatives were of the opinion that this significant site should be protected and avoided. There was discussion about collecting items from the site, but at the end it was decided that the objects would be safe on the site. Some were placed near the fence to ensure their safety and to make it easier for re-location should representatives wish to use the site for education purposes.

North Logan CMT 1

The tree was highly valued by organisation representatives, who felt it should be left as is.

Garrallan CMT 1

The tree was highly valued by organisation representatives, who felt it should be left as is.

Bendick Murrell CMT 1

The relevant groups are to consider the long-term conservation requirements of this fallen trunk. One of the Cowra LALC members [EJ McGrath] suggested that collection would be a good idea, given that the trunk might rot. The education value of the tree was considered to be high. It was thought that in situ conservation would not be successful.

9.5.4 Young Section

No sites were recorded along the pipeline alignment within the boundary of Young LALC.