

**Re: 230488 – Middlebrook Solar Farm and BESS Post Approvals Modification 1 – Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment**

To Whom it May Concern,

A letter was sent to you in July 2025 notifying you of proposed modifications to the Middlebrook Solar Farm and BESS which is an approved State Significant Development (SSD) (SSD-10455). Planning approval for this project was issued on 11 November 2024 for the construction and operation of the solar farm and BESS which is located approximately 22.5km south of Tamworth, New South Wales (NSW).

It has since been brought to our attention that the mapping that we provided you with in the previous letter was incorrect. There have been no changes to the nature of the modifications which are listed below:

1. Minor increases to the consented Development Footprint:
  - a. Allow for the removal of a host landowner residence, and expand the solar array in this area (R2);
  - b. Expand temporary construction laydown areas, improving construction efficiency;
  - c. Expand the impact area for the New England Highway/Middlebrook Road upgrades, to improve constructability;
2. Change in security fencing design for substation, to meet TransGrid requirements;
3. Change to Goonoo Goonoo Bridge assessment approach to ensure that it is suitable for higher mass vehicles and OSOM vehicles requiring escort (this change is a condition rating inspection rather than a modification);
4. Increase of assumed substation infrastructure height (new and taller pole heights to accommodate cut in and connection to the substation);
5. Relocation of an existing private landholder access, within the consented Development Footprint, to improve access for the host landholder;
6. Change in BESS capacity from 2 hrs to 4 hrs storage; and
7. Change in transformer number at the onsite substation (from 2 to 3).
8. Inclusion of blast walls around the transformers

Although there have been some slight changes to the layout of the modifications represented in the mapping (Figure 1) the modifications remain within the area that was previously surveyed in 2020. The modifications listed above have not changed with the exception of the addition of Area 8 which will be located within the footprint of the substation. The size of the BESS area (6 on the map) has also increased and an additional area between the BESS and substation has been added to allow for further expansion. The modification area 1B has been reduced slightly to accommodate biodiversity values and area 1C has also been refined slightly to reduce impacts.

**Bega**

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The modifications do not impact any previously recorded sites including the one isolated artefact (AHIMS #29-2-0263) that was identified near the entrance of the solar farm. The previously recorded isolated artefact site was addressed in the previous letter and this site will remain unaffected by the changes (see Figure 2).

As stated in the letter sent in July 2025 all of the land within the modification areas was subject to assessment during the original Aboriginal Cultural Heritage survey that took place in 2020. Further the desktop assessment for the Modification 1 for this project that was described in the previous letter still stands. Figure 3 is also included in this letter as there has been a slight change to Area 1A to avoid biodiversity values, however this will have no impact on Aboriginal heritage sites. A new AHIMS search was undertaken prior to the previous desktop assessment that was detailed in the previous letter. There are no new registered Aboriginal sites in this area. There will not be any further impacts to AHIMS #29-2-0381 (Middlebrook SF AFT20). As indicated in the letter sent in July 2025 this site will be impacted by the relocation of the access track (Area 5). However, as also stated in the previous letter this site has been identified in the ACHA as being subject to partial impacts and the portion of the site that is located within the Development Footprint will be salvaged prior to any works commencing.

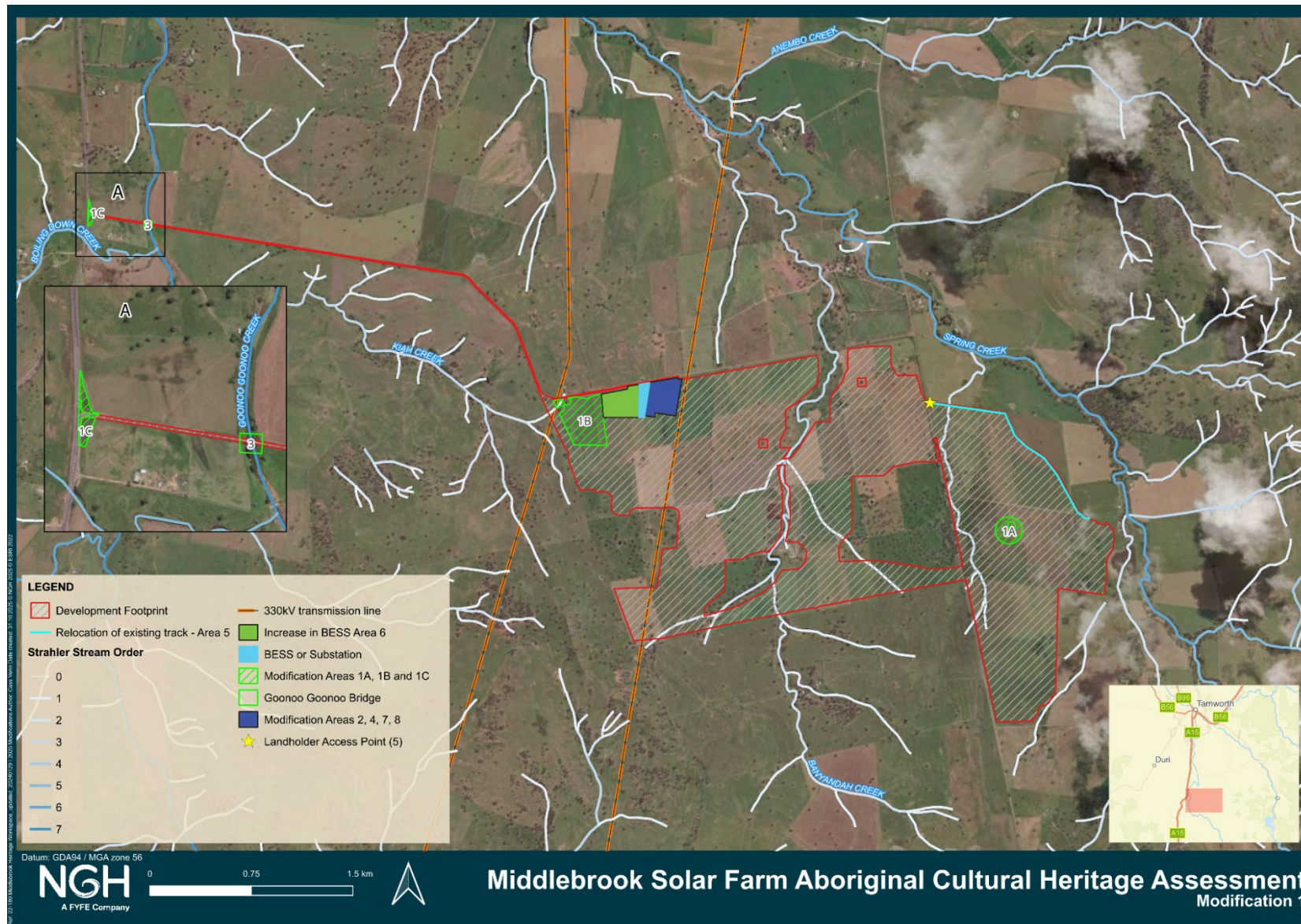


Figure 1. Proposed modifications under Modification 1.

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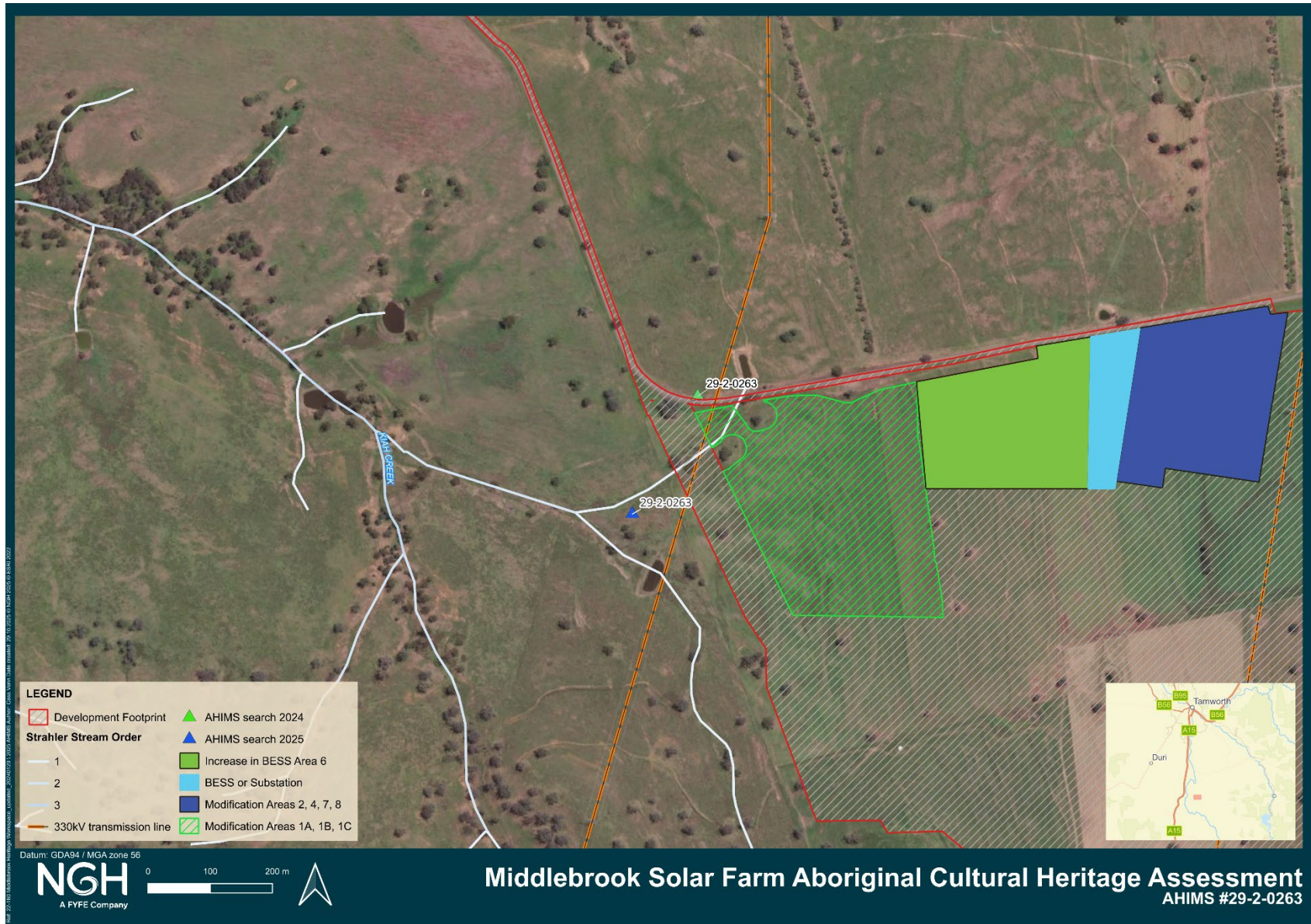


Figure 2. Location of AHIMS #29-2-0263 relative to the Development Footprint and proposed modifications.

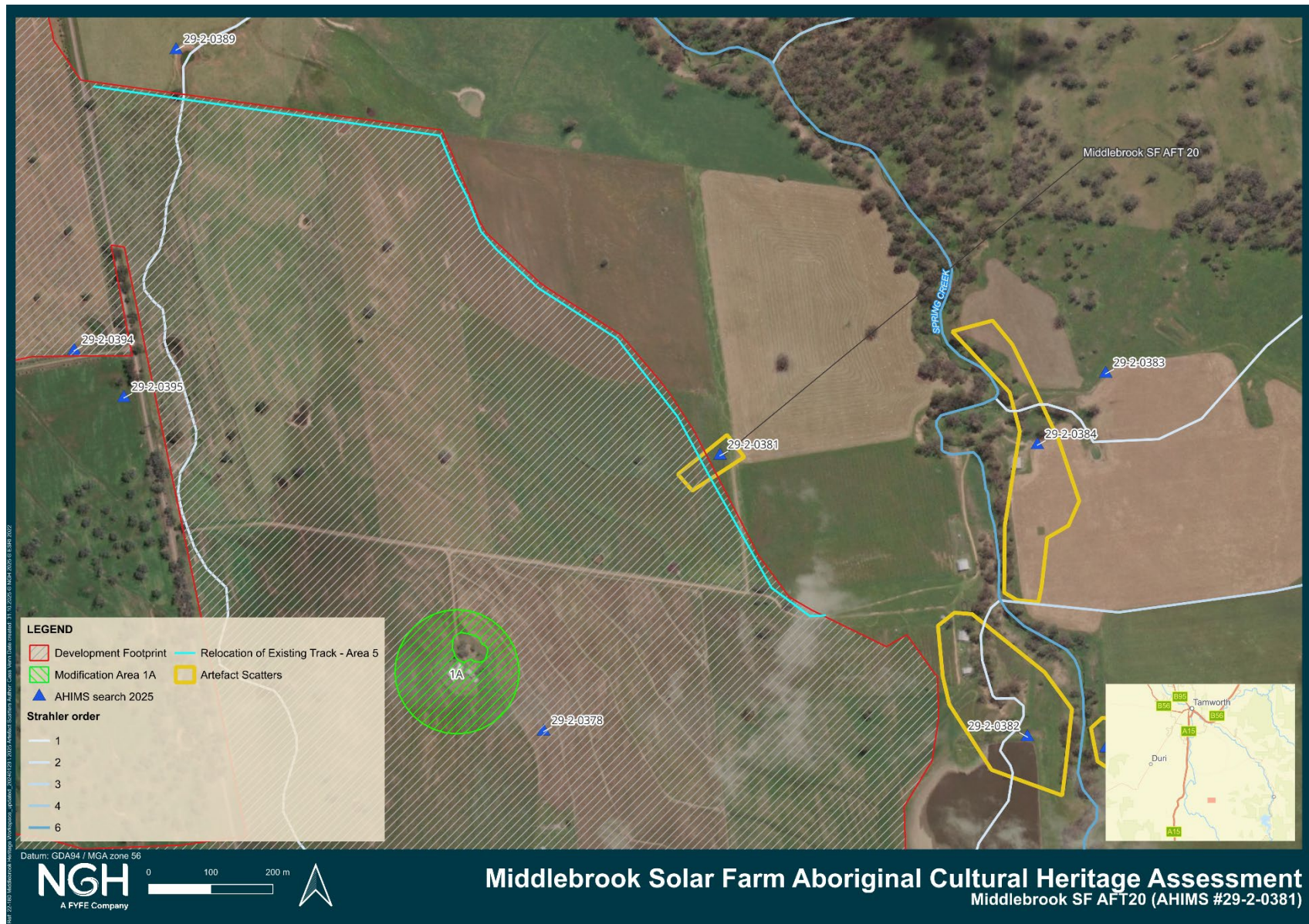


Figure 3. Location of Middlebrook SF AFT20 (AHIMS #29-2-0381) in relation to the relocated landowner access track.

If you have any comments regarding the updated mapping please contact me via phone or email before **5pm** on the **14<sup>th</sup> November 2025**. I would be pleased to discuss any aspect of this proposed modification with you further.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Cassandra Venn', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Cassandra Venn**

Senior Heritage Consultant

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