Valley of the Winds

APPENDIX O
HERITAGE IMPACT STATEMENT

RAMBOLL Bright ideas. Sustainable change.

View of Collier Creek-HS01.

HERITAGE IMPACT STATEMENT

VALLEY OF THE WINDS WIND FARM

COOLAH NSW

APRIL 2022

Report prepared by

OzArk Environment & Heritage

On behalf of

UPC-AC Renewables Australia Pty Ltd

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TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Term / Abbreviation	Definition
Ancillary infrastructure	Supporting infrastructure for: • construction (temporary) e.g. compounds, batching plants etc. • operational (permanent) e.g. operations and maintenance facilities, access tracks etc.
Associated dwellings / associated properties	Dwellings or properties on which the wind turbines, or the transmission line, are located.
Central-West Orana Transmission line	TransGrid's proposed East-West transmission line for the overall renewable energy zone located to the south of the Girragulang Road and Leadville clusters (the project's proposed dispatch to the NEM)
Code of Practice	*Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales* under Part 6 NPW Act. Issued by DECCW in 2010, the Code of Practice is a set of guidelines that govern archaeological practice in NSW.
Construction access tracks	Vehicle access tracks for construction and delivery of plant and equipment on private property.
DPE	NSW Department of Planning and Environment
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement. A required document for major projects documenting all potential impacts to the environment, including heritage, that may arise due to the development.
Electrical reticulation	Underground and overhead electrical services that connect the turbines and connect to the substations in each cluster
Girragulang Road Cluster	Cluster east of Black Stump Way and Girragulang Road, south of Coolah
Heritage Act	*Heritage Act 1977.* Provides for the protection and conservation of historical places and objects of cultural heritage significance and the registration of such places and objects.
Heritage Council	The Heritage Council makes decisions about the care and protection of heritage places and items that have been identified as being significant to the people of NSW.
Heritage NSW	Government department tasked with ensuring compliance with the NPW and Heritage Acts. Heritage NSW is advised by the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee (ACHAC) and is part of the Department of Premier and Cabinet.
HHMP	Historic Heritage Management Plan
Impact footprint	The area containing all the permanent and temporary project components associated with construction and operation – effectively the disturbance area for the project. Includes the transmission line connecting the wind farm to the Central-West Orana Transmission line and the access tracks to the wind farm clusters.
Leadville Cluster	Cluster north of Golden Highway and east of Leadville township
LEP	Local Environmental Plan
Mt Hope Cluster	Cluster west of Black Stump Way, southwest of Coolah
Non-associated dwellings / non-associated properties	Dwellings or properties that are potentially impacted by the proposed wind farm, but on which wind turbines or transmission line are not located i.e. indirectly affected by the proposed development.
NPW Act	*National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*. Primary legislation governing Aboriginal cultural heritage within NSW.
Operational access tracks	Vehicle access tracks for operations and maintenance on associated properties.
Overhead transmission line	The proposed overhead transmission lines (up to 330Kv) dispatching electricity from each cluster and connecting clusters (Mount Hope to Girragulang Road). Also potentially connecting the Leadville cluster to the Girragulang Road high voltage transmission line.
project	Refers holistically to the proposed Valley of the Winds Wind Farm, including the wind farm and the transmission line(s).
Proponent	UPC\AC Renewables Australia Pty Ltd (abbreviated to 'UPC\AC')
SEARs	*Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements* issued by the NSW Department of Planning and Environment.
SHR	State Heritage Register.
SSD	State Significant Development.

Term / Abbreviation	Definition
Transport routes	Public roads that are to be used for delivery of plant and equipment (e.g. rotor blades)
TxL or transmission line	The proposed high voltage (up to 500Kv) overhead transmission line(s) that will connect the wind farm to the Central-West Orana Transmission line
Wind farm site	The wind farm site boundary corresponds with the outer boundary of properties upon which the proposed Valley of the Winds wind farm is located. Includes the three clusters but excludes the transmission line connecting to the Central-West Orana REZ Transmission line.
Impact footprint	The area containing all the permanent and temporary project components associated with construction and operation – effectively the disturbance area for the project. Includes the transmission line connecting the wind farm to the Central-West Orana Transmission line and the access tracks to the wind farm clusters.
Survey boundary	A survey boundary has been developed within the wind farm site boundary for the specialist environmental assessments in this EIS that consider the impacts of vegetation and ground disturbance. The survey boundary provides a 200-metre corridor around access tracks and turbines. This corridor ensures the EIS adequately identifies potential disturbance impacts, but also provides flexibility for the proposed layout to be refined within the surveyed area during detailed design.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

UPC Renewables Australia Pty Ltd, operating as UPC\AC Renewables Australia (UPC\AC) (the Proponent), proposes to construct and operate the Valley of the Winds wind farm (the project).

The project would consist of approximately 148 wind turbines across three clusters (Mount Hope, Girragulang Road and Leadville) and supporting infrastructure, including a high voltage transmission line which would run approximately 13 kilometres from the Girragulang Road cluster to a connection point with the Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) transmission line proposed by TransGrid and the NSW Government.

The wind farm would be located close to the townships of Coolah and Leadville, with the transmission line running generally south to its connection with the Central-West Orana REZ transmission line. The project would be entirely within the Warrumbungle Local Government Area (LGA).

The Proponent seeks State Significant Development (SSD) development consent approval under Division 4.7 of Part 4 of the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act) for the project (SSD-10461).

OzArk Environment & Heritage (OzArk) has been engaged by the Proponent to provide specialist historic heritage assessment which will support the Environmental Impact Statement.

Desktop database searches completed prior to the survey showed that no listed historic heritage items are located within or near to the wind farm site or the survey boundary (both terms are defined later in this report).

The historic heritage assessment took place at the same time as the Aboriginal heritage assessment for the project (OzArk 2021). The survey was completed by OzArk over ten days from 17–21 May and 24–28 May 2021. An additional day of survey was completed on 19 April 2022.

During the survey, four historic heritage items were recorded within the survey boundary: Mt Hope-HS01, The Rock-HS01, The Rock-HS02 and Collier Creek-HS01. No areas that are likely to contain significant archaeological deposits of conservation value were identified within the survey boundary.

The four identified historic items have been assessed as having no significant historic values under the current Heritage NSW guidelines and the Burra Charter. While none of the recorded historic heritage items have significant heritage values, the Proponent has advised that all items will be avoided.

Recommendations concerning the historic values within survey boundary are as follows:

1. Mt Hope-HS01: The trigonometrical station located at GDA Zone 55 743486E 6472691N (**Figure 6-1**) should be temporarily fenced around the item extent during the construction of proposed works in the vicinity of the item.
2. The Rock-HS01: The trigonometrical station located at GDA Zone 55 751280E 6470066N (**Figure 6-2**) should be temporarily fenced during the construction of proposed works in the vicinity of the item.
3. The Rock-HS02: The structure located at GDA Zone 55 752038E 6469477N (**Figure 6-3**) should be temporarily fenced around the item extent during the construction of proposed works in the vicinity of the item.
4. Collier Creek-HS01: The rail bridge located at GDA Zone 55 754598E 6465971N (**Figure 6-4** should be temporarily fenced around the item extent during the construction of proposed works in the vicinity of the item.
5. The unsurveyed portion of the survey boundary shown in **Figure 5-2** should be assessed prior to construction works associated with the project taking place in these areas.
6. All land-disturbing activities must be confined within the assessed survey boundary. Should project impacts change such that the area to be impacted is outside of the assessed survey boundary, then additional assessment may be required.
7. Procedure for the unexpected discovery of historic items and/or human skeletal material during the construction and/or use of the project will be set out in an approved Historic Heritage Management Plan (HHMP) that will be developed following project approval. Normally, no construction work associated with the project can commence until the HHMP has been approved by the DPE. An example of an Unanticipated Finds Protocol for historic items and/or human skeletal materials is provided in **Section 6.4.1**.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 PROJECT OVERVIEW

UPC Renewables Australia Pty Ltd, operating as UPC\AC Renewables Australia (UPC\AC) (the Proponent), proposes to construct and operate the Valley of the Winds wind farm (the project).

The project would consist of approximately 148 wind turbines and supporting infrastructure, including a high voltage transmission line which would run approximately 13 kilometres (km) from the Girragulang Road cluster to a connection point with the Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) transmission line proposed by TransGrid and the NSW Government. The project would supply approximately 800 megawatts (MW) of electricity into the National Electricity Market (NEM).

The wind farm would be located close to the townships of Coolah and Leadville, with the overhead transmission line running generally south to its connection with the Central-West Orana REZ transmission line. The project would be entirely within the Warrumbungle Local Government Area (LGA).

The project would involve the construction, operation and decommissioning of three clusters of wind turbines, that would be connected electrically. These are:

- Mount Hope cluster – approximately 76 turbines
- Girragulang Road cluster – approximately 51 turbines
- Leadville cluster – approximately 21 turbines.

The project includes the following key components:

- Approximately 148 wind turbines with a maximum tip height of 250 metres (m) and a hardstand area at the base of each turbine
- Electrical infrastructure, including:
    - substations in each cluster and a step-up facility at the connection to the Central-West Orana REZ Transmission line
    - underground 33 kilovolt (kV) electrical reticulation connecting the turbines to the substations in each cluster
    - overhead transmission lines (up to 330 kV) dispatching electricity from each cluster
    - other electrical infrastructure as required including a potential battery energy storage system (BESS)
    - a high voltage transmission line (up to 500 kV) connecting the wind farm to the Central-West Orana transmission line
- Other permanent on-site ancillary infrastructure:

  - permanent operation and maintenance facilities
  - meteorological masts (up to thirteen)
- Access track network:
  - access and egress points to each cluster from public roads
  - operational access tracks and associated infrastructure within each cluster on private property
- Temporary construction ancillary facilities:
  - potential construction workforce accommodation on site
  - construction compounds
  - laydown areas
  - concrete batching plants
  - quarry sites for construction material (rock for access tracks and hardstands).

At the end of its practical life, the wind farm would be decommissioned, and the site returned to its pre-existing land use in consultation with the affected landholders.

1.2 SITE CONTEXT

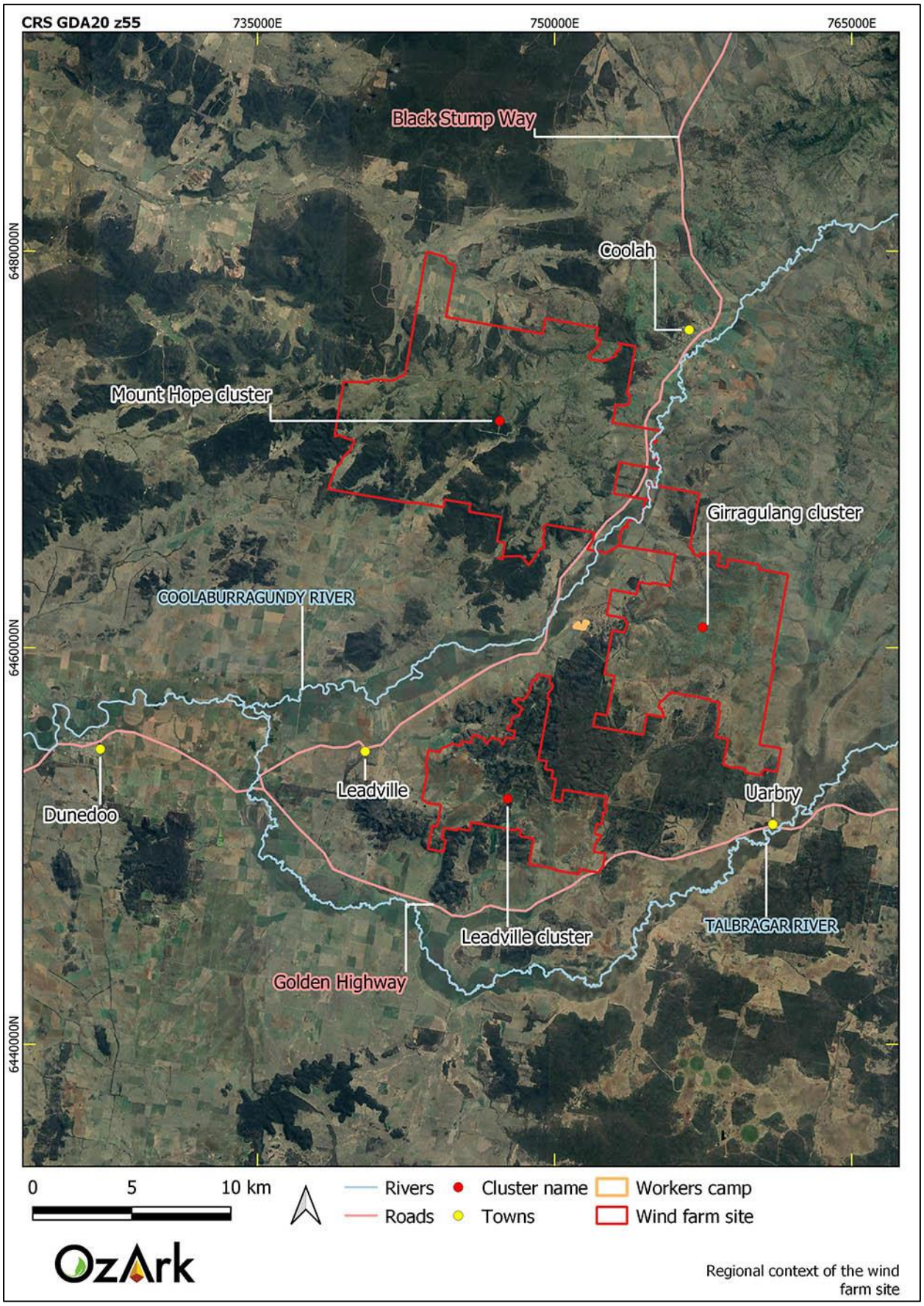
The wind farm site location is shown in (**Figure 1-1**). Land surrounding the wind farm site is characterised by rolling pastoral hills, open flat valleys and ridgelines with scattered vegetation. The hill slopes are generally gentle in gradient and predominantly cleared of vegetation, except for patches of denser remnant vegetation on steeper terrain, near rocky outcrops and between saddles.

The townships of Coolah and Leadville are the closest population centres to the proposed site. These townships are located on gently sloping to level land within valleys near creeks. Most built structures are of low to moderate scale. The main street of Coolah is the focus for local retail and community services in the local area.

Land uses within the locality include:

- Farming – predominantly grazing cattle and sheep, with small patches of cropping (cereal and fodder)
- Rural living – scattered rural dwellings and sheds present throughout the landscape, with a higher density of dwellings in the townships.

Figure 1-1: Regional context of the project Boundary.



1.3 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The capital value of the project would be more than $30 million. Accordingly, the project is a State Significant Development (SSD) under the *State Environmental Planning Policy (State and Regional Development) 2011* (SEPP SR&D) and Part 4 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act). Under Section 4.12(8) of the EP&A Act, a development application (DA) for SSD must be accompanied by an environmental impact statement (EIS) that is lodged with the NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) for Development Consent.

The project was also referred to the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment for potential impacts to matters of national environmental significance protected by the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). On 13 July 2020, a delegate of the Federal Minister for the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment determined that the project was a controlled action under section 75 of the EPBC Act and therefore requires assessment and approval under the EPBC Act. This assessment is to be undertaken under the *Amended Bilateral Agreement* between the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment and DPE.

This *Heritage Impact Statement* (HIS) has been prepared to inform the environmental impacts statement (EIS) and the DA for the project.

1.4 WIND FARM SITE

The wind farm site includes the three clusters, Mount Hope, Girragulang and Leadville, which encompasses approximately 25,890 hectares (ha) of land but excludes the overhead transmission line connecting to the Central-West Orana REZ transmission line.

The project components within these areas are shown on **Figure 1-2** to **Figure 1-5**.

Figure 1-2: project components at the Mount Hope cluster.

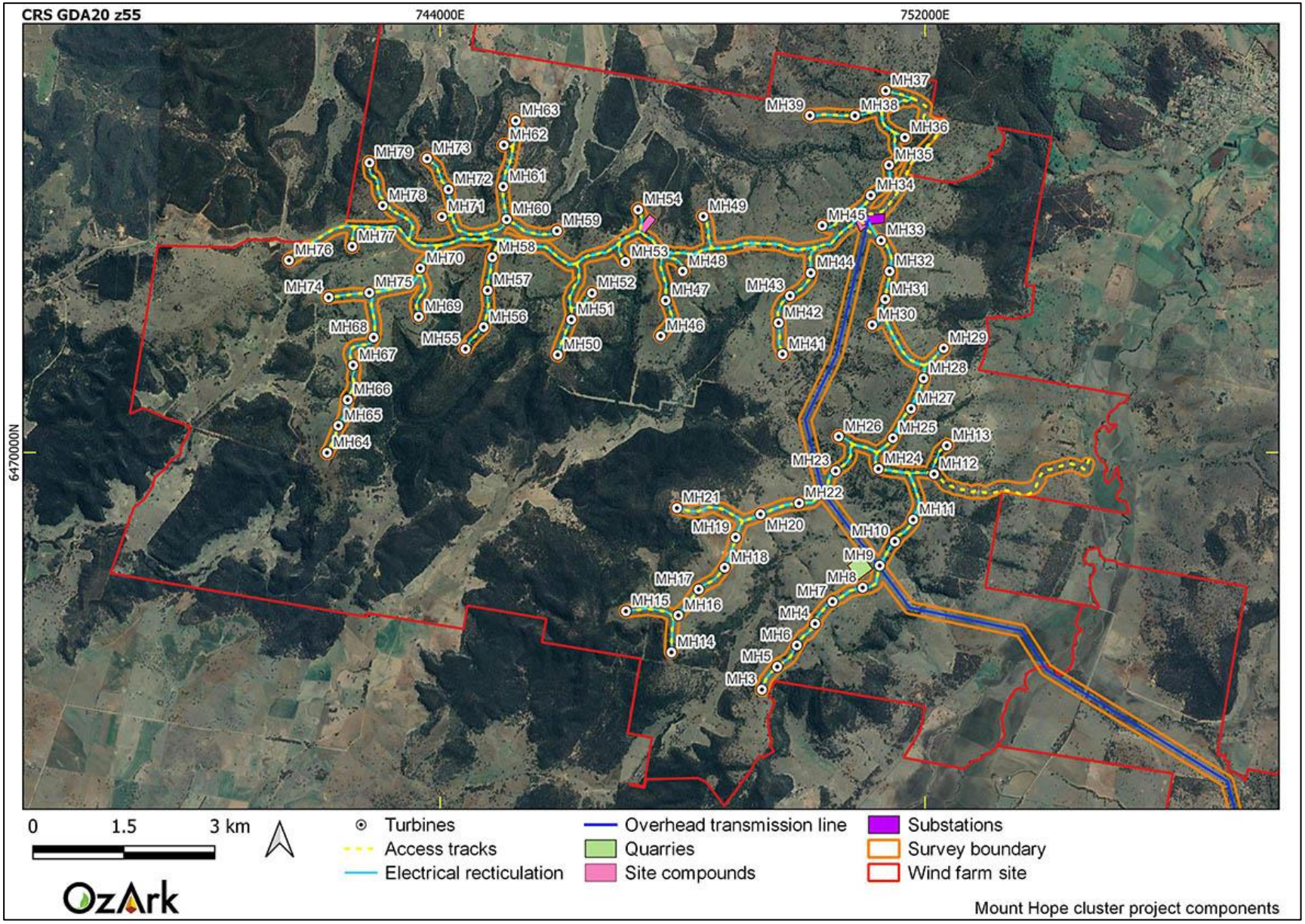


Figure 1-3: project components at the Girragulang Road cluster.

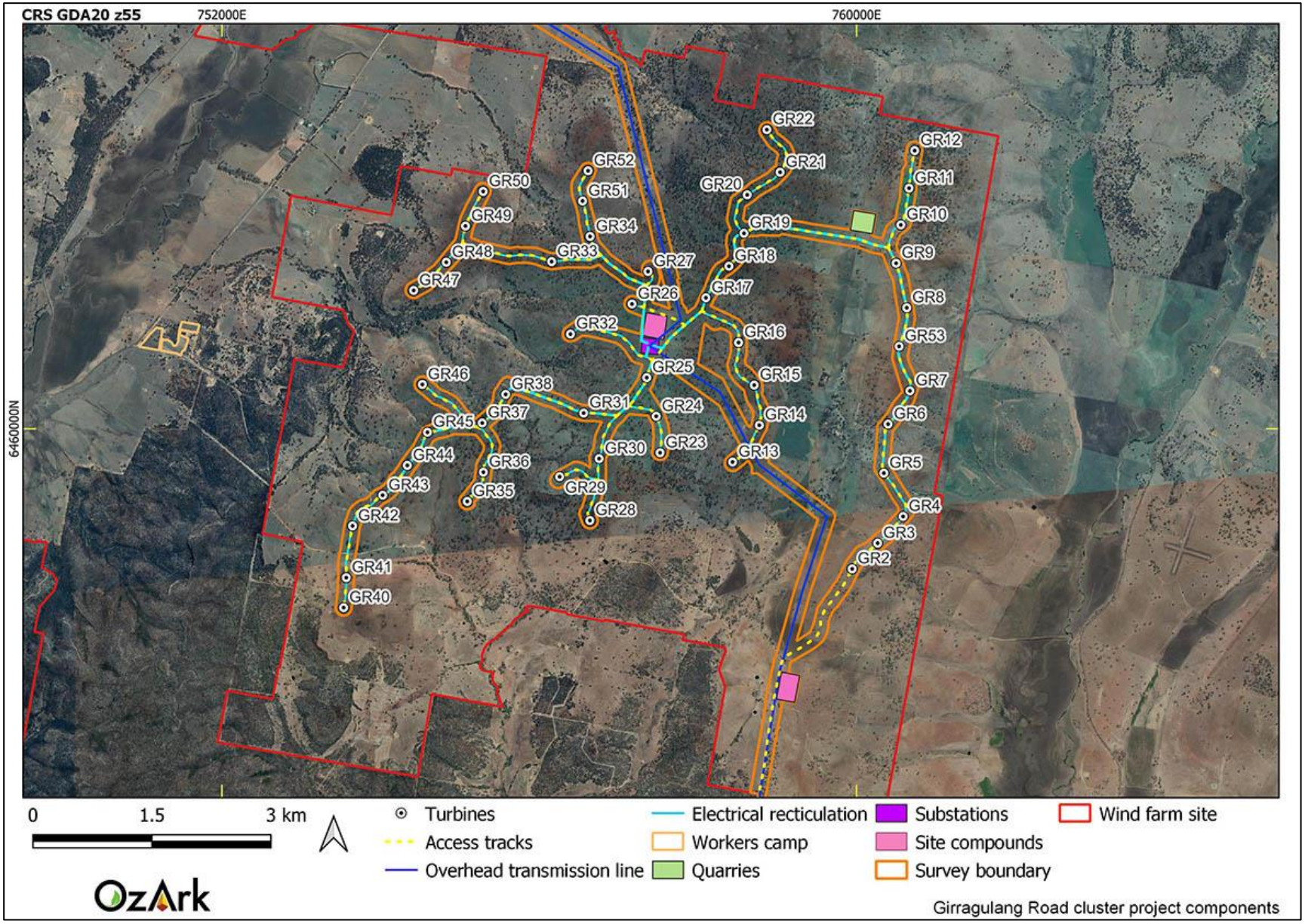
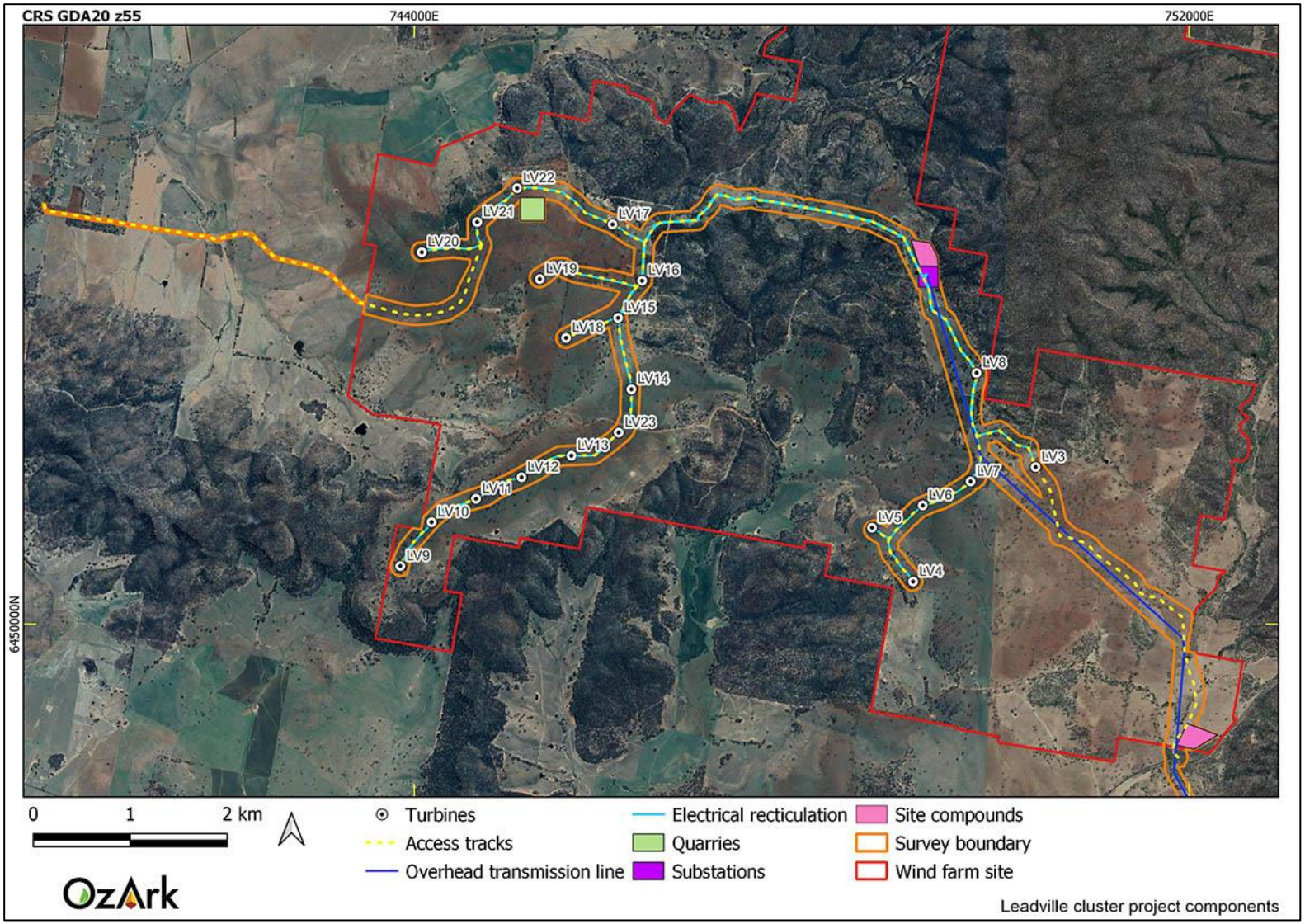
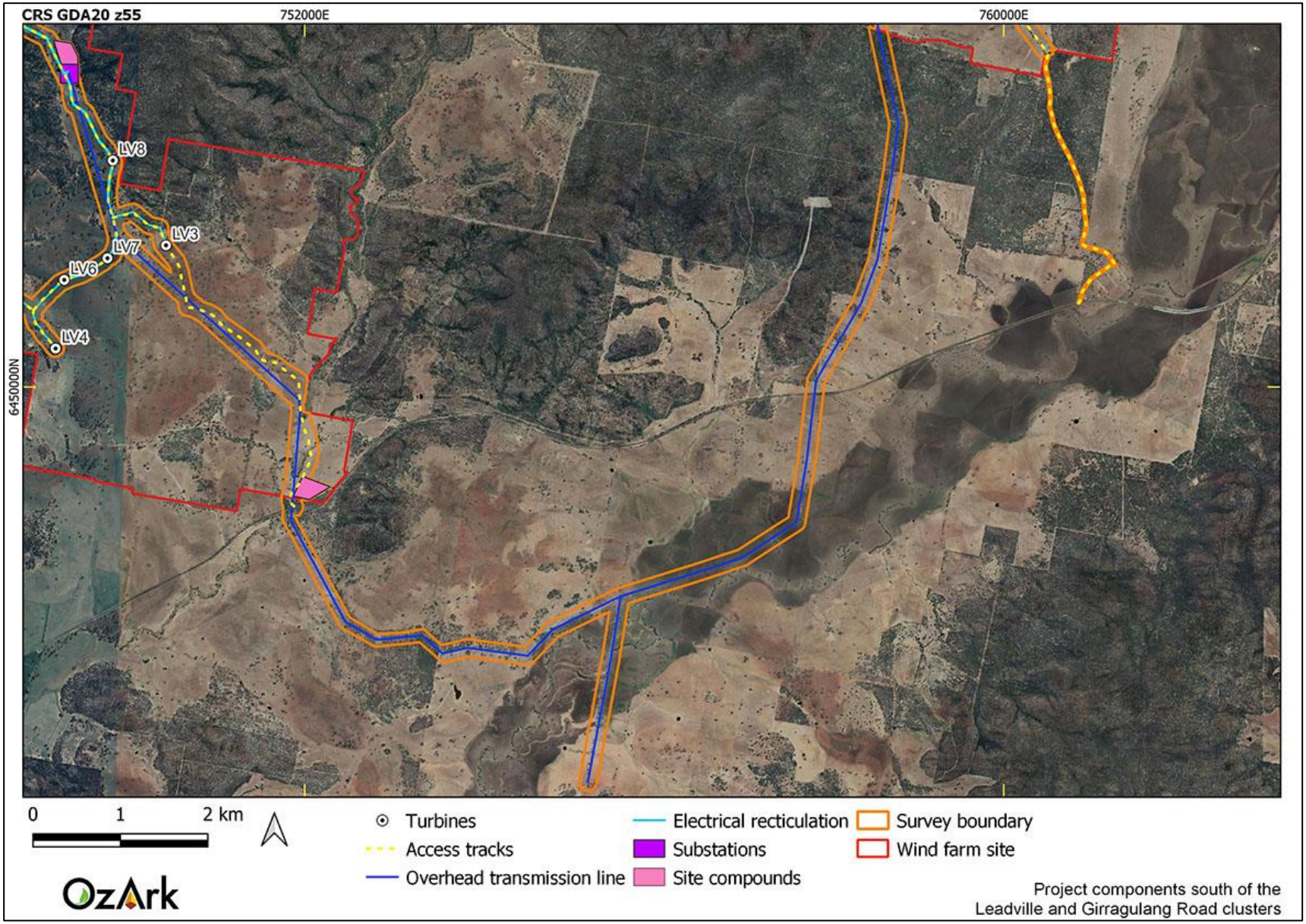


Figure 1-4: project components at the Leadville cluster[1].



[1] Note: the proposed access track shown extending from the western boundary of the wind farm site is no longer proposed to be utilised for the project.

Figure 1-5: project components south of the Girragulang Road and Leadville clusters.



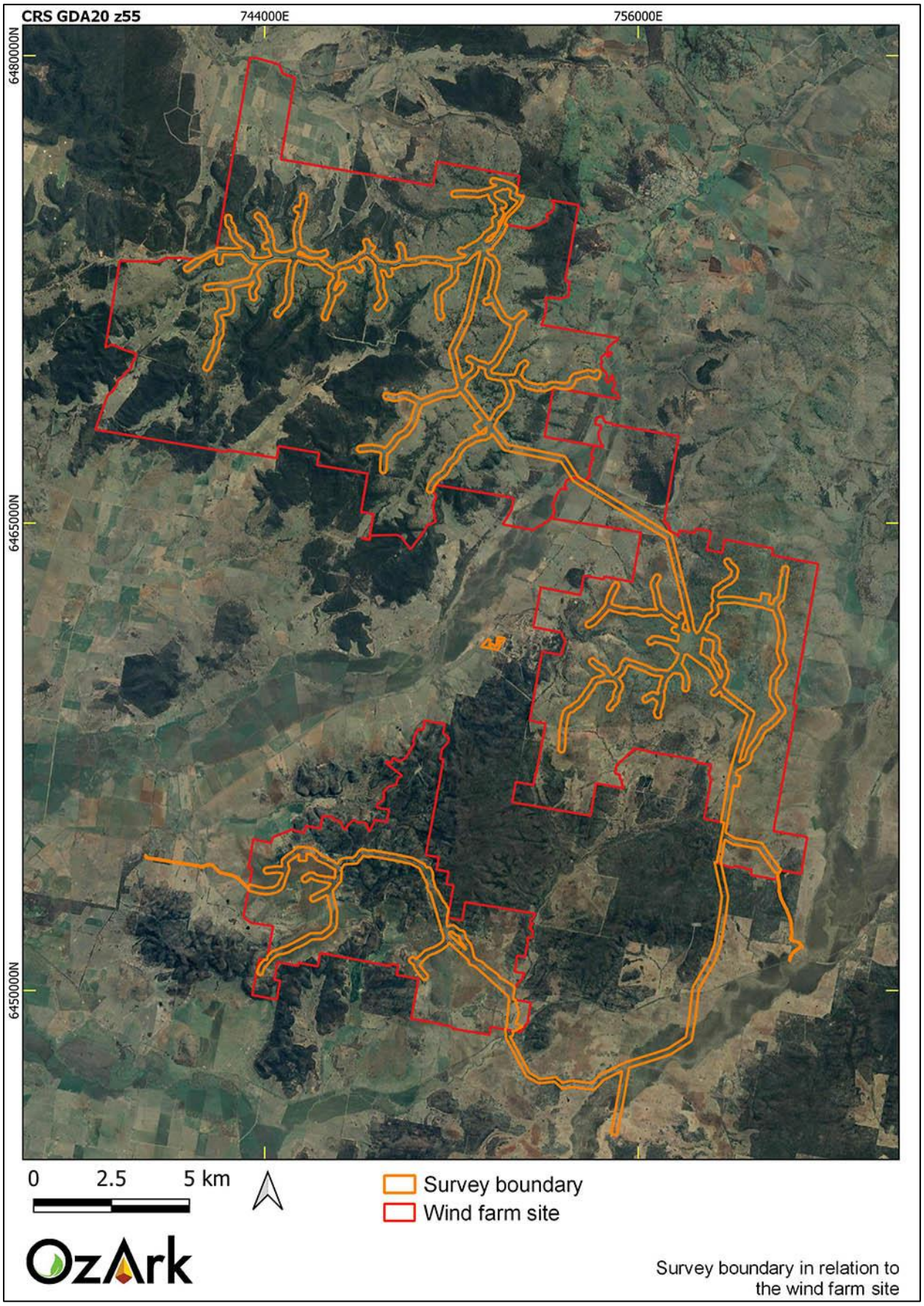
1.5 SURVEY BOUNDARY

As the construction and use of a wind farm does not impact all areas within the wind farm site, the Aboriginal heritage assessment instead concentrated on the survey boundary. The survey boundary describes the area where all project impacts would be located with a suitable buffer to allow some small movement of project components if required.

The survey boundary encompasses approximately 3,274 ha of land which includes only 12.5 per cent of the wind farm site (**Figure 1-6**).

Archaeological survey undertaken for this assessment is confined to the survey boundary and not to the larger wind farm site.

Figure 1-6: Aerial showing the survey boundary.



2 ASSESSMENT INTRODUCTION

2.1 RELEVANT LEGISLATION

Cultural heritage is managed by several state and national Acts. Baseline principles for the conservation of heritage places and relics can be found in the *Burra Charter* (Burra Charter 2013). The *Burra Charter* has become the standard of best practice in the conservation of heritage places in Australia, and heritage organisations and local government authorities have incorporated the inherent principles and logic into guidelines and other conservation planning documents. The *Burra Charter* generally advocates a cautious approach to changing places of heritage significance. This conservative notion embodies the basic premise behind legislation designed to protect our heritage, which operates primarily at a state level.

Several Acts of parliament provide for the protection of heritage at various levels of government.

2.1.1 Commonwealth legislation

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act)

The EPBC Act, administered by the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment, provides a framework to protect nationally significant flora, fauna, ecological communities, and heritage places. The EPBC Act establishes both a National Heritage List and Commonwealth Heritage List of protected places. These lists may include Aboriginal cultural sites or sites in which Aboriginal people have interests. The assessment and permitting processes of the EPBC Act are triggered when a proposed activity or development could potentially have an impact on one of the matters of national environment significance listed by the Act. Ministerial approval is required under the EPBC Act for proposals involving significant impacts to National/Commonwealth heritage places.

Applicability to the project

It is noted there are no Commonwealth or National heritage listed places within the wind farm site or the survey boundary, and as such, the heritage provisions of the EPBC Act and other Commonwealth Acts do not apply (refer to **Section 4.2.1.1**).

2.1.2 State legislation

Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act)

The EP&A Act and EP&A Regulation provide the framework for environmental planning and assessment in NSW.

The project is declared to be SSD by the provisions of the SEPP State and Regional Development. Development consent is required under Part 4 of the Act for any project that is

considered to be SSD by a SEPP. The project is therefore subject to assessment under Part 4of the EP&A Act.

Section 4.12(8) of the EP&A Act requires an SSD DA to be accompanied by an EIS prepared in accordance with the EP&A Regulation. Prior to preparation of an EIS, an applicant must make a written application to the SEARs which specify what must be addressed in an EIS for a project. The Proponent made a request for SEARs application accompanied by a Scoping Report as required by Clause 3 of Schedule 2 of the EP&A Regulation. The SEARs for the project were issued on 9 June 2020.

In relation to historic heritage, the SEARs state:

The EIS must:

- assess the impact to historic heritage items under the NSW Heritage Manual.

Further, Heritage NSW, Department of Premier and Cabinet as Delegate of the Heritage Council of NSW provided a response to DPEs referral inviting SEARs input noting "*The subject site is not listed on the State Heritage Register (SHR), nor is it in the immediate vicinity of any SHR items. Further, the site does not contain any known historical archaeological deposits. Therefore, no referral to the Heritage Council of NSW is required. The Department does not need to refer subsequent stages of this proposal to the Heritage Council of NSW.*"

Compliance with the SEARs has governed the survey and reporting of potential impacts to historic heritage associated with the project.

Section 4.41 of the EP&A Act also notes that an approval under Part 4, or an excavation permit under Section 139, of the *Heritage Act 1977* (Heritage Act) are not required. It is normally a condition of approval for SSD projects that historic heritage be managed under an Historic Heritage Management Plan (HHMP).

Heritage Act 1977 (Heritage Act)

The *Heritage Act 1977* (Heritage Act) is applicable to the current assessment. This Act established the Heritage Council of NSW. The Heritage Council's role is to advise the government on the protection of heritage assets, make listing recommendations to the Minister in relation to the State Heritage Register (SHR), and assess/approve/decline proposals involving modification to heritage items or places listed on the SHR. Most proposals involving modification are assessed under Section 60 of the Heritage Act.

Automatic protection is afforded to 'relics', defined as '*any deposit or material evidence relating to the settlement of the area that comprised New South Wales, not being Aboriginal settlement, and which holds state or local significance*' (note: formerly the Act protected any 'relic' that was more than 50 years old. In 2009 the age determination was dropped from the Act and now relics are protected according to their heritage significance assessment rather than purely on their age).

Excavation of land on which it is known or where there is reasonable cause to suspect that 'relics' will be exposed, moved, destroyed, discovered or damaged is prohibited unless ordered under an excavation permit.

Applicability to the project

There are no SHR listed items within, or near to, either the wind farm site or the survey boundary (refer to **Section 4.2.1.2**). Items of local heritage significance that are normally listed in Local Environmental Plans (LEPs) are also protected under the Heritage Act.

2.1.3 Local legislation

Local Environmental Plans

The project Boundary is within areas administered by the Warrumbungle Shire Council LEP 2013.

The LEP includes a schedule of heritage conservation areas and items that require either development consent or exemptions for projects that may impact conservation outcomes (Section 5.10). The objectives set out in Section 5.10 of the LEP states:

(a) to conserve the environmental heritage of an LGA,

(b) to conserve the heritage significance of heritage items and heritage conservation areas, including associated fabric, settings and views,

(c) to conserve archaeological sites,

(d) to conserve Aboriginal objects and Aboriginal places of heritage significance.

Section 5.10(3)(a) (i) and (ii) set out the circumstances when a Development Application is not required when there is an impact to heritage items. Exemptions to consent are related to works that are of a minor nature or works that will not adversely impact the heritage values of a place.

Applicability to the project

There are no items listed on the Warrumbungle LEP within, or near to, either the wind farm site or the survey boundary (refer to **Section 4.2.1.3**).

2.2 HISTORIC HERITAGE ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVES

The current assessment will apply the Heritage Council's *Historical Archaeology Code of Practice* (Heritage Council 2006) in the completion of a historical heritage assessment, including field investigations, to meet the following objectives:

Objective One: To identify whether historical heritage items or areas are, or are likely to be, present within the survey boundary

Objective Two: To assess the significance of any recorded historical heritage items or areas

Objective Three: Determine whether the project is likely to cause harm to recorded historical heritage items or areas

Objective Four: Provide management recommendations and options for mitigating impacts.

2.3 DATE OF HISTORIC HERITAGE ASSESSMENT

The historic heritage assessment took place at the same time as the Aboriginal heritage assessment for the project (OzArk 2021). The survey was completed by OzArk over ten days from 17–21 May and 24–28 May 2021. An additional day of survey was completed on 19 April 2022.

2.4 OZARK INVOLVEMENT

Week 1 of fieldwork consisted of two teams of two OzArk archaeologists in each team. Week 2 of fieldwork consisted of one team of two OzArk archaeologists.

The fieldwork component of the heritage assessment was undertaken by:

- Week 1
    - Fieldwork Director: Stephanie Rusden (OzArk Senior Archaeologist, BS University of Wollongong, BA University of New England)
    - Lead Archaeologist: Dr Jodie Benton (OzArk Director, BA [Hons] and PhD [Archaeology] University of Sydney)
    - Archaeologist: Brendan Fisher (OzArk project Archaeologist, BA Archaeology, The University of Sydney)
    - Heritage Officer: Harrison Rochford (OzArk Heritage Specialist, Masters Philosophy (Ancient History) and Bachelor of Liberal Studies [Hons], University of Sydney).
- Week 2
    - Fieldwork Director: Stephanie Rusden.
    - Archaeologist: Brendan Fisher.

2.4.1 Reporting

The reporting component of the heritage assessment was undertaken by:

- Report Author: Stephanie Rusden
- Contributor: Taylor Foster (OzArk project Archaeologist, BA [Hons] Archaeology James Cook University).
- Reviewer: Ben Churcher (OzArk Principal Archaeologist; BA [Hons], Dip Ed).

3 ENVIRONMENTAL CONTEXT

3.1 ENVIRONMENTAL OVERVIEW

The landforms of the wind farm site are characterised as open flat valleys, rolling pastoral hills, and ridgelines with scattered vegetation (**Figure 3-1** and **Figure 3-2**). The elevated hill slopes typically have a gentle to moderate gradient and are predominantly cleared of vegetation, except for remnant vegetation on steeper terrain (**Figure 3-1**). The topography of the wind farm site is variable with the ridgelines ranging between 626 m Australian Height Datum (AHD) and 757 m AHD.

The wind farm site is intersected by many watercourses, both named and unnamed with the Coolaburragundy River intersecting the central portion of the wind farm site. The second closest major waterway is the Talbragar River, located immediately south of the southern extent of the overhead transmission line. Many tributaries of both rivers intersect the wind farm site including many named creeks, such as, Moreton Bay, Cainbil, and Miangulliah Creeks.

Native vegetation across the wind farm site includes Blakely's red Gum, yellow box, apple box, red stringybark, rough-barked apple, white cypress pine, fuzzy box, mugga ironbark, black cypress pine, and white box. The location of these species across the wind farm site is dependent on soil types and elevation. The original vegetation of the survey boundary has been largely cleared for pastoral activities; although pockets of remnant vegetation have been retained in steeply sloping landforms where broadscale clearing has not been undertaken.

Most of the wind farm site has been modified by historical land use practices including vegetation clearing, manual and machine rock-picking, cropping, and livestock grazing. The properties that make up the wind farm site are primarily used for sheep and cattle grazing. Some paddocks are subject to cropping for pasture improvement and cropping is dominant along the lower slopes and floodplains of the Talbragar and Coolaburragundy Rivers.

3.1.1 Conclusion

Due to the sloping and elevated nature of the survey boundary, if historical sites are present, they are more likely to be vernacular items associated with agriculture/pastoralism. Larger settlements are likely to be associated with flatter, more well-watered landforms associated with the Talbragar and Coolaburragundy Rivers which are not well represented in the survey boundary.

Figure 3-1: Example of landforms present within the Mt Hope cluster.

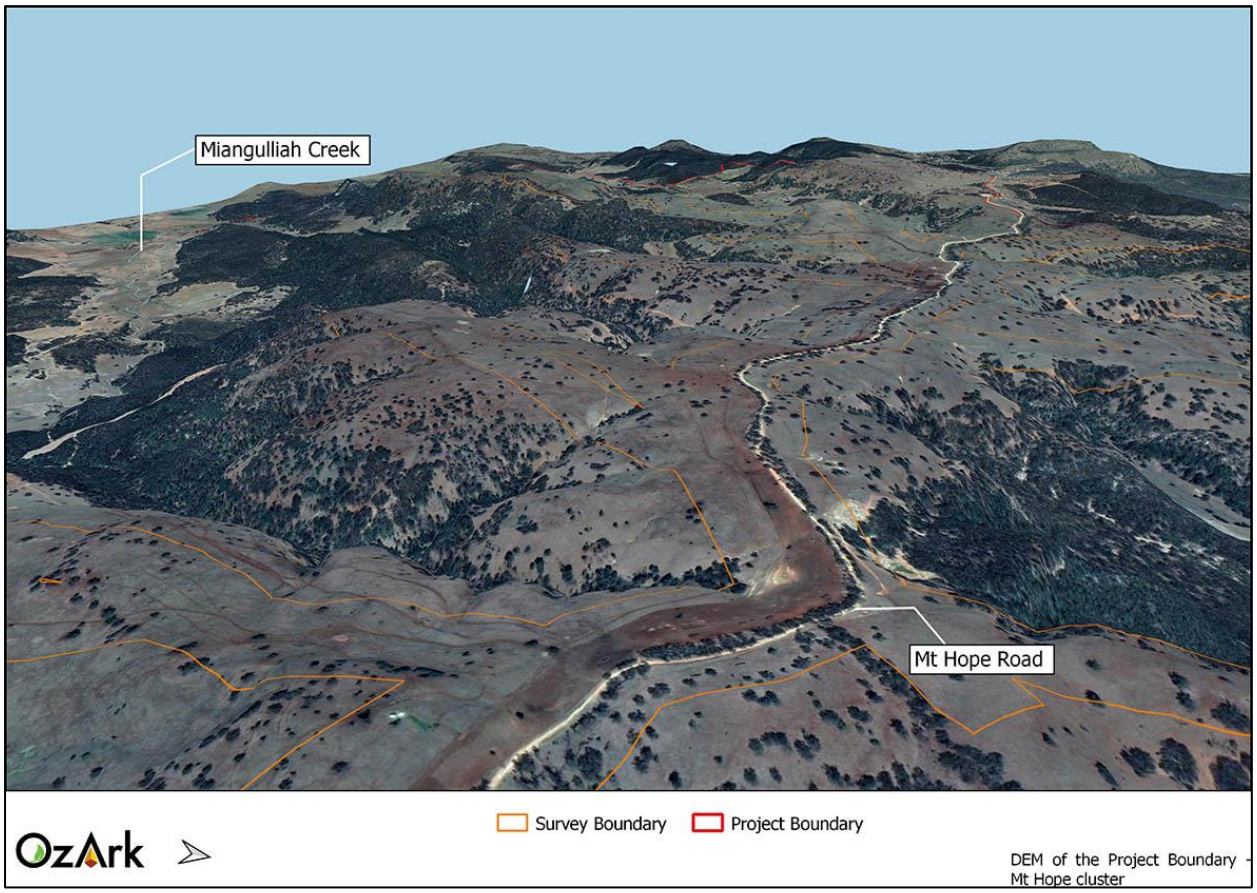


Figure 3-2: Views of the landforms across the survey boundary.

1. View of a rocky outcrop on a crest near Turbine MH6.

2. View across steep slopes and gullies between Turbine MH73 and MH67.

3. View of a steep slope at Turbine BS65.

4. View of gentle rolling hills along the overhead transmission line.

5. View of V-shaped gully and steep slopes adjacent to Deep Creek.

6. View across the floodplain landforms adjacent to the Talbragar River along the overhead transmission line.

4 HISTORIC HERITAGE ASSESSMENT: BACKGROUND

4.1 BRIEF HISTORY OF THE WARRUMBUNGLE REGION

The wind farm site is situated within the traditional lands of the Kamilaroi (also termed Gamilaraay) and the Wiradjuri people.

The Warrumbungle region was initially explored by John Oxley in 1817–1818 (MHC 2019). The project is located within this region while also being associated with the town of Coolah and the village of Leadville. A brief historical context for Coolah and Leadville is outlined below.

In 1826 Governor Darling declared a boundary 9 km north of Coolah where “land beyond this point was neither sold nor let, nor settlers allowed" (MHC 2019). Around this time the Black Stump Wine Saloon was established and named after the Black Stump Run and Black Stump Creek. Coolah is one of at least four towns which claim they are the reference point for the phrase “beyond the black stump”, an expression referring to the point beyond which the country is considered remote (Cameron and Job 1993). Coolah was colonially settled by pastoralists in the 1830s and was a base of the Crown Land Commission and the Border Police from 1839 to 1851. It is seen as likely that the earliest days of settlement in this region was largely unregulated and unlawful. Many settlers in the area were servants of landowners left in charge of property on behalf of the employer. Coolah’s first hotel, ‘The Squatter’s Home’, was constructed as early as 1848. In 1849 the Coolah Post Office was opened, and a railway branch was extended to the town from 1920 to 1975.

Leadville is a village located 32 km south of Coolah that was created by private subdivision. In the colonial period, Leadville was settled in 1877 by mine owners and was originally known as “Hobbins’ Dam’ after Martin Hobbins, one of the early settlers in the area (Cameron and Job 1993). The town was developed in 1891 to support the local mining industry (MHC 2019). Copper, lead, zinc, silver, and gold mineralisation were reported to have occurred at several localities in the LGA. In the first 14 months the mine yielded approximately 9.3 tons of silver and over 1500 tons of lead. Hundreds of men were employed and the population in the area reached upwards of 5000 (MHC 2019). Leadville’s early reputation was a lawless area. The town settlement was initially called Slabtown, however, Leadville was chosen during the petition for a post office. A post office, telegraph office, police station, general store, two churches, and a hall were erected in the town (Cameron and Job 1993). Declining returns led to the mine closing in 1893 and, despite a few further attempts at mining in the area, in 1966 the government stated that the mines had little to offer. Solider settlements developed from the 1920s onwards, and while Leadville’s colonial origin is firmly based in the mining industry that continued over sixty years, the town probably would have not survived through the first half of the twentieth century intact if it weren’t for the soldier settlements that evolved there.

4.2 LOCAL CONTEXT

4.2.1 Desktop database searches conducted

A desktop search was conducted on the following databases to identify any potential previously recorded heritage within the survey boundary. The results of this search are summarised in **Table 4-1**.

Table 4-1: Historic heritage: desktop-database search results.

Name of Database Searched	Date of Search	Type of Search	Comment
National and Commonwealth Heritage Listings	25/01/2021	NSW	No places listed on either the National or Commonwealth heritage lists are located within the survey boundary (refer to **Section 4.2.1.1**).
SHR	25/01/2021	Warrumbungle LGA	No items on the SHR are located within or near the survey boundary (refer to **Section 4.2.1.2**).
Section 170 Register	25/01/2021	Warrumbungle LGA	No items on the Section 170 Register are located within or near the survey boundary.
LEP	25/01/2021	Warrumbungle LEP of 2013	No items on the Warrumbungle LEP are located within or near the survey boundary (refer to Section **4.2.1.3**).

4.2.1.1 National Heritage List

The closest place on the National Heritage List to the survey boundary is Item 105696 (The Greater Blue Mountains Area - Additional Values) that is located over 16 km to the southeast (**Figure 4-1**). Item 105696 was included on the National Heritage List for its natural beauty, cultural associations, and geology/landforms values.

4.2.1.2 SHR

The closest items listed on the SHR are the Old Police Station & Courthouse at Coolah (Item 00048) and the Dunedoo Railway Station and yard group (Item 01134). These items are located 790 m and 27 km from the survey boundary, respectively (**Figure 4-1**).

Item 00048 was constructed between 1878–1880 and the building is one of the few examples remaining from the Victorian era of a small, combined Police and Court building. It was designed by the eminent Colonial Architect, James Barnet, and is one of the oldest public buildings in the town of Coolah.

Item 01134 represents a typical modest country station complex in good condition, and it exhibits a range of structures not often seen in a homogenous group. The item's structures are typical of those used throughout the state from early in the century to about 1920; all being built about the same time, and not significantly altered or extended.

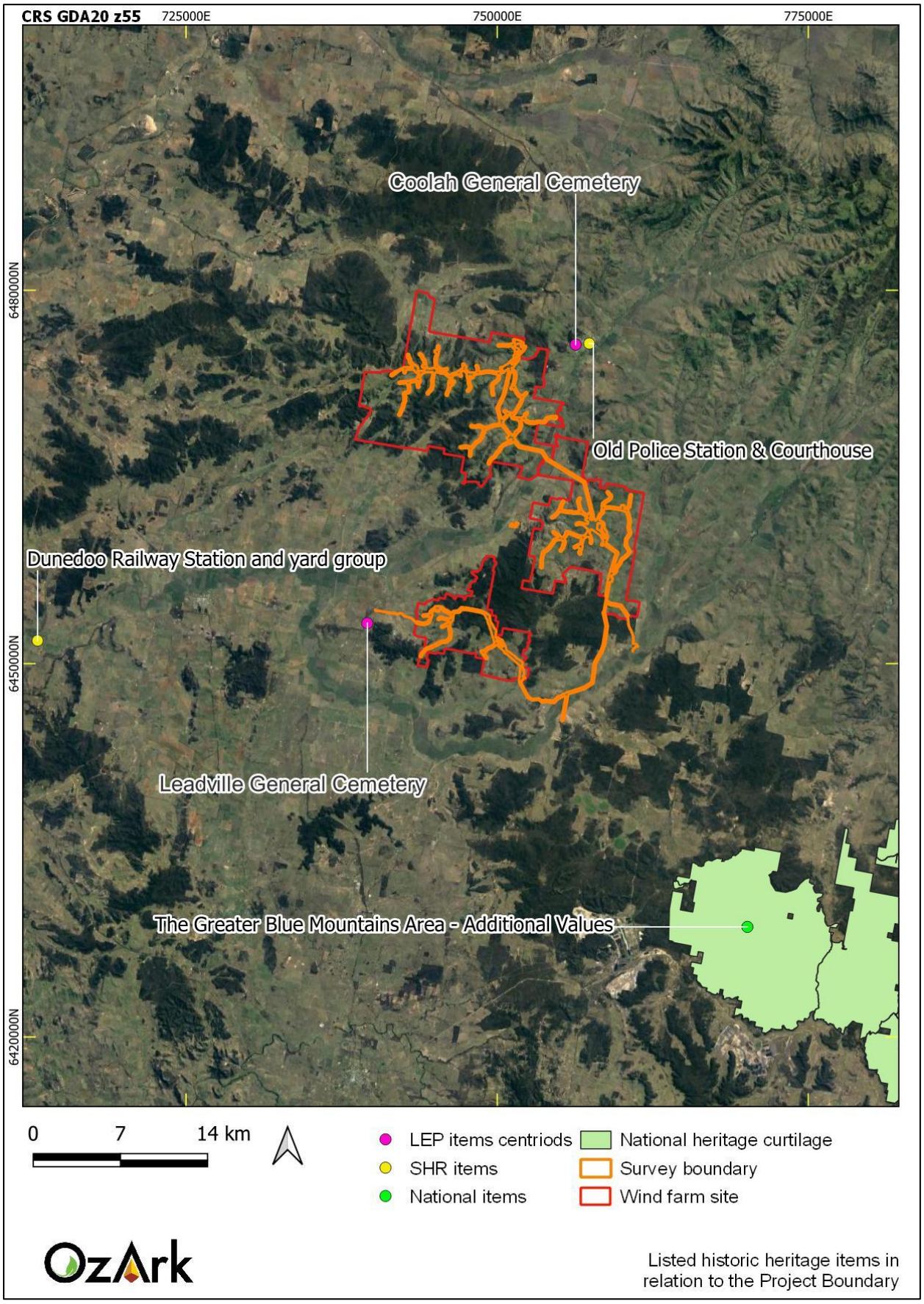
4.2.1.3 LEP

The closest places listed on the Warrumbungle LEP are the Coolah General Cemetery (Item I7) and the Leadville General Cemetery (Item I28). These items are located 150 m and 1.2 km from the survey boundary, respectively (**Figure 4-1**).

The Coolah General Cemetery has been in use since 1857 and has townscape significance, being a noteworthy element of Coolah itself. There are a range of monuments spanning more than a century of settlement and including well executed and substantial examples.

The Leadville General Cemetery was in use from 1880 and in its use of rough-hewn pickets, chicken-wire and particularly in the adaption of iron beds for grave surrounds, this cemetery is a rare example of the respected Australian 'battlers' traditional improvisation or 'making do'. In its sparseness and the seeming inconsequence of its monuments, it demonstrates the transience and poverty of many in the rural and mining settlement.

Figure 4-1: Statutory listings in relation to the survey boundary.



5 RESULTS OF HISTORIC HERITAGE ASSESSMENT

5.1 SURVEY AND FIELD METHODS

Standard archaeological field survey and recording methods were employed in this assessment (Burke & Smith 2004). The survey for historic heritage values occurred at the same time as the Aboriginal cultural heritage survey for the project (OzArk 2021).

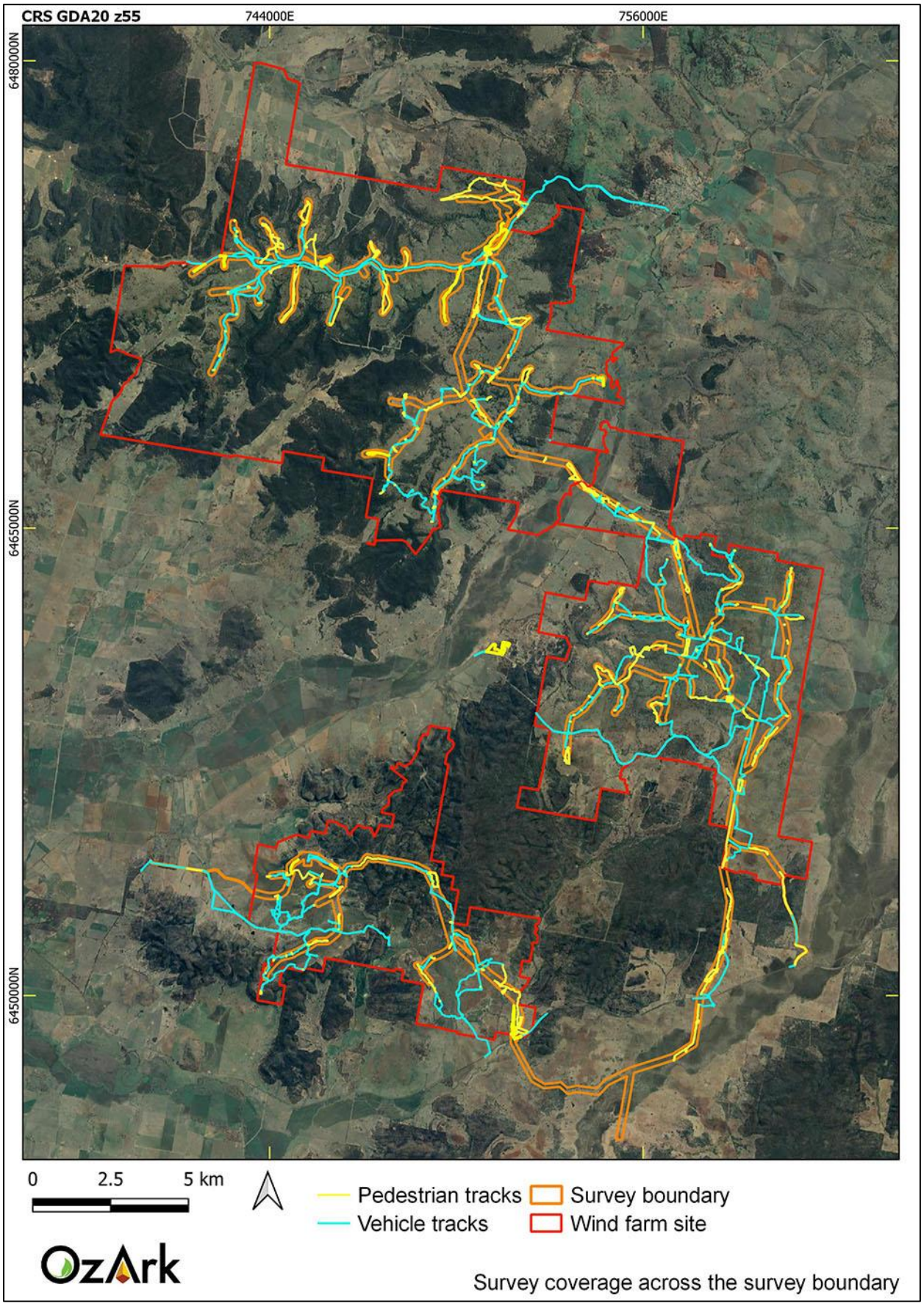
Survey consisted of assessing all turbine locations and sampling other project components such as access tracks, electrical reticulation, overhead transmission lines, ancillary infrastructure locations, and substation locations. **Figure 5-1** shows the areas assessed either by pedestrian transects or vehicle reconnaissance.

All turbine and ancillary facility locations were surveyed on foot. Where the access tracks or electrical reticulation and overhead transmission line are situated on high gradient slope landforms, the team walked to the impact areas from the closest access to undertake sample survey. Areas where the overhead transmission line or electrical reticulation alignments are near waterways were surveyed on foot.

As shown in **Figure 5-1**, large portions of the survey boundary were driven and the landform potential to contain archaeological sites was assessed. The portions driven often consisted of sloping landforms or areas deemed to have lower archaeological potential.

At the conclusion of the survey, it was considered that a large and representative sample of the landforms within the survey boundary had been appropriately surveyed and assessed.

Figure 5-1: Aerial showing the areas surveyed.



5.2 SURVEY CONSTRAINTS

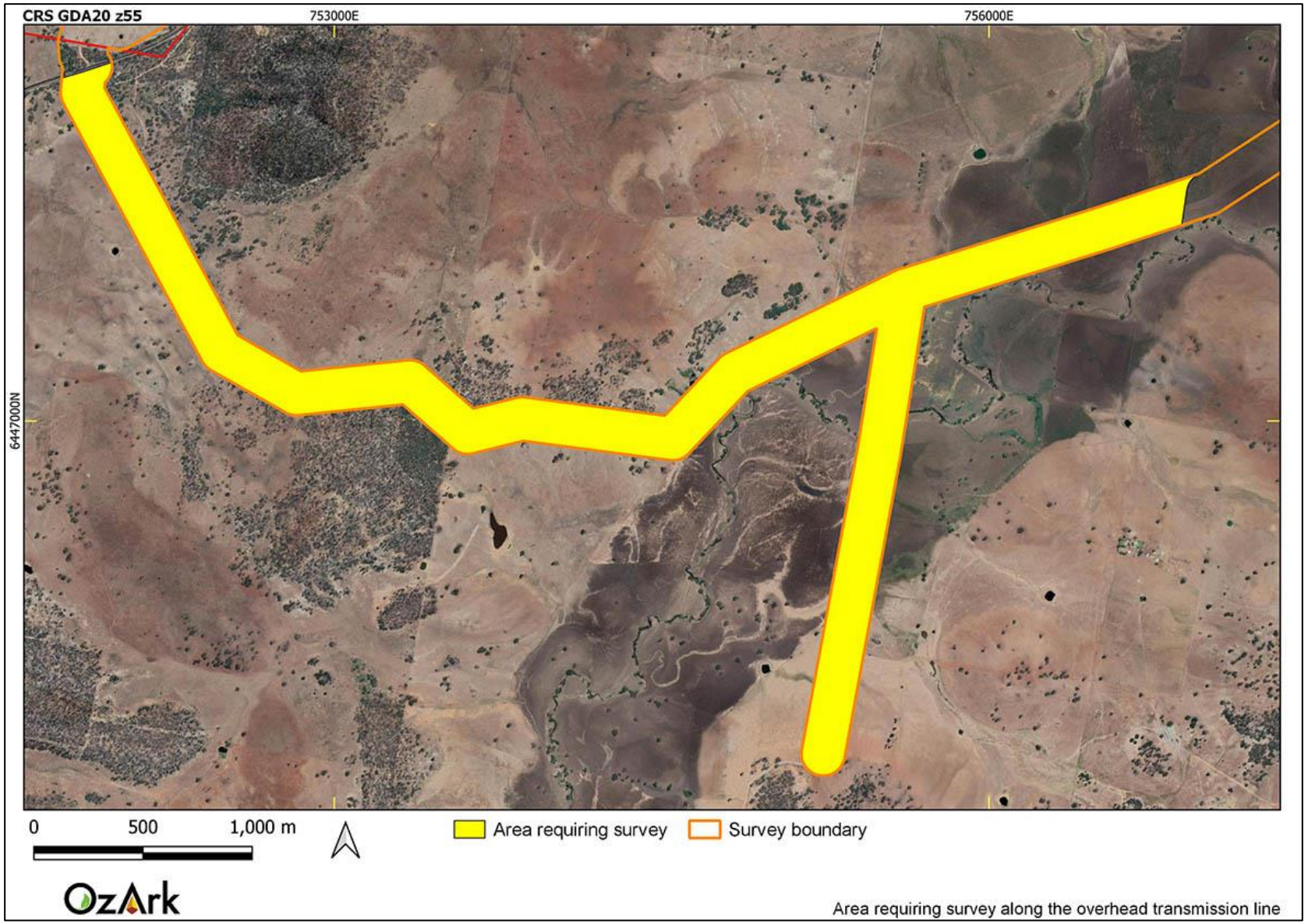
The main constraint during all three stages of the fieldwork was poor ground surface visibility (GSV), as this was an issue across most survey units. The dense ground cover could be explained by the large amount of rainfall that the region has experienced since early 2020.

Particular areas of the survey boundary contained certain topographies that were deemed either inaccessible or too dangerous to walk or drive. Aerial photography does not effectively convey the nature of the terrain and the difficulty manoeuvring through it to assess certain areas. Some portions of the survey boundary contain extremely dense weed and grass cover, meaning that access was not possible, and that visibility was zero per cent. Some areas where proposed access tracks, or electrical reticulation and overhead transmission line alignments are located, the sloping landforms were too steep to survey safely. Within these areas sample surveys were conducted within more accessible areas and the surveyors were able to extrapolate the data to areas that were too steep to assess.

Part of the survey boundary was unable to be surveyed due to landowners not granting access permission. The unsurveyed portion of the survey boundary includes part of the overhead transmission line (**Figure 5-2**). Further, the assessment of any transport route modifications associated with transporting project components from Newcastle Port along the Golden Highway to the wind farm site does not form part of this assessment as these locations have not yet been confirmed.

The area shown in **Figure 5-2** will be surveyed by archaeologists following development consent, prior to construction. Any transport route modifications will also need to be assessed prior to the construction of the project.

Figure 5-2: Aerial showing the unsurveyed portion of the survey boundary along the overhead transmission line.



5.3 HISTORIC HERITAGE ITEMS

Four historic heritage items were recorded during the survey (**Table 5-1** and **Figure 5-3**). Details on each item are provided below.

It was assessed that there are no areas within the survey boundary that are likely to contain significant archaeological deposits of conservation value.

Table 5-1: Recorded historic heritage items.

Item name	GDA Zone 55 coordinates	Type of heritage item	Figure
Mt Hope-HS01	743486E 6472691N	Trigonometrical station	**Figure 5-4**
The Rock-HS01	751280E 6470066N	Trigonometrical station	**Figure 5-5**
The Rock-HS02	752038E 6469477N	Unknown rural structure	**Figure 5-6**
Collier Creek-HS01	754598E 6465971N	Rail bridge	**Figure 5-7**

Figure 5-3: Location of recorded historic heritage items in relation to the wind farm site.

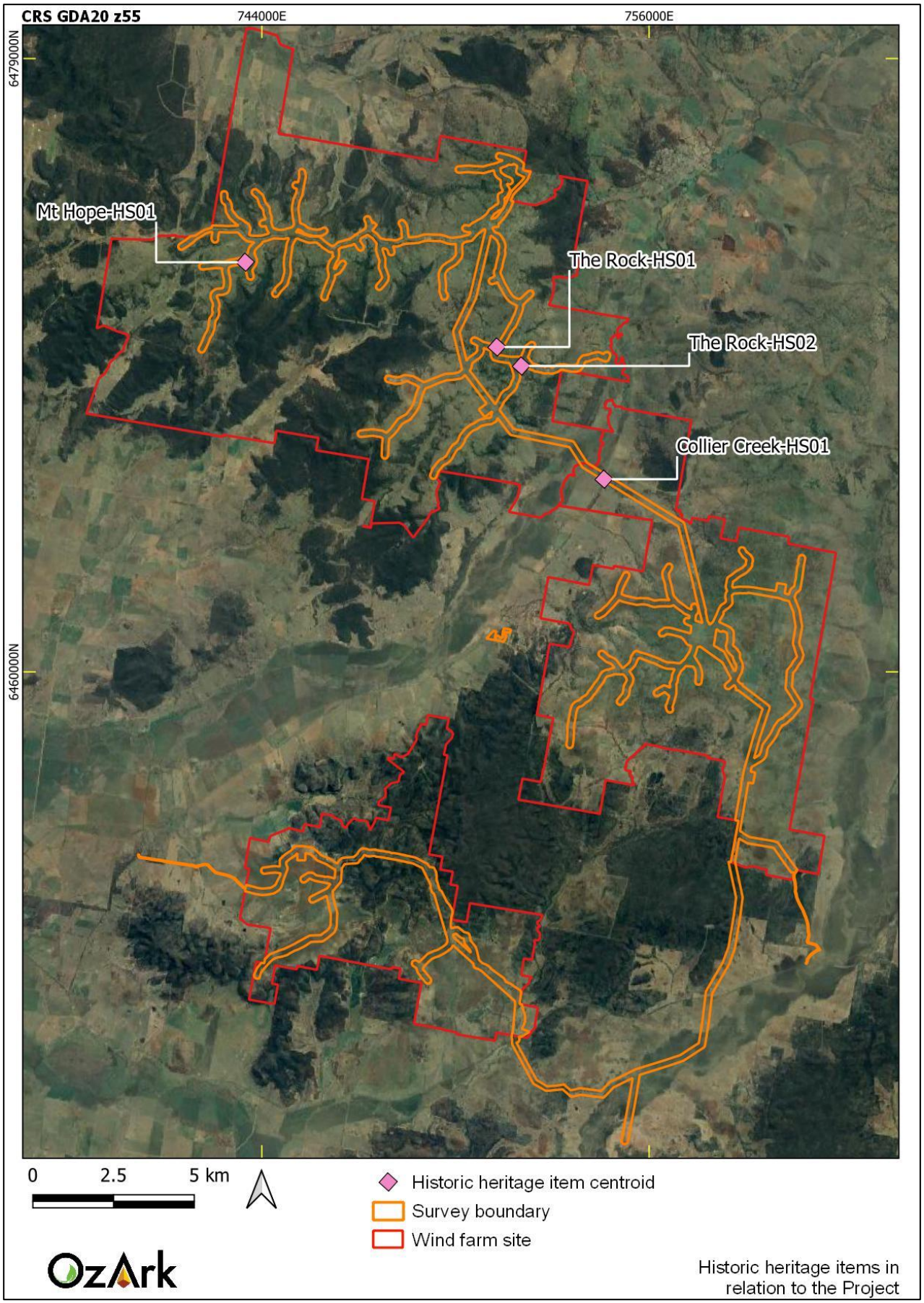


Figure 5-4: Detail of the location of Mt Hope-HS01.

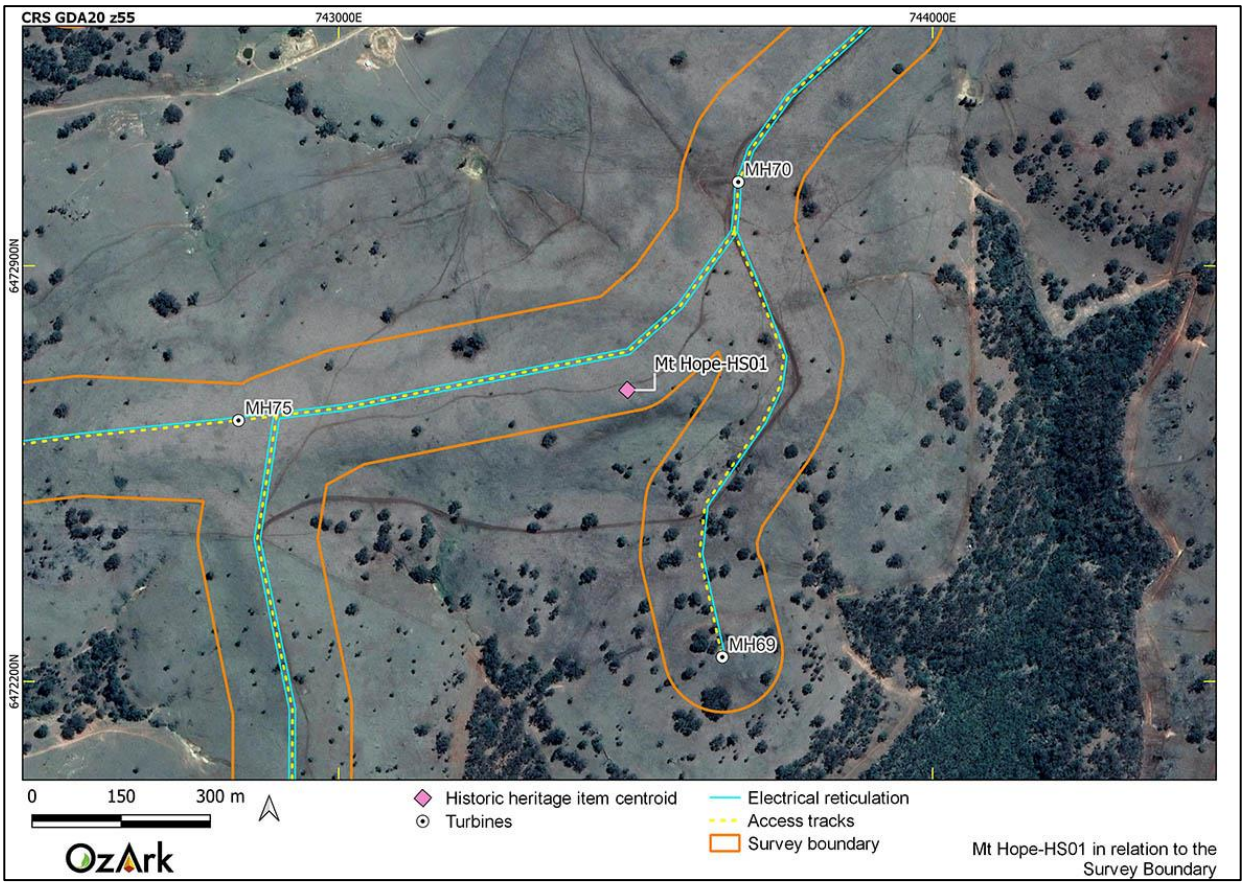


Figure 5-5: Detail of the location of The Rock-HS01.

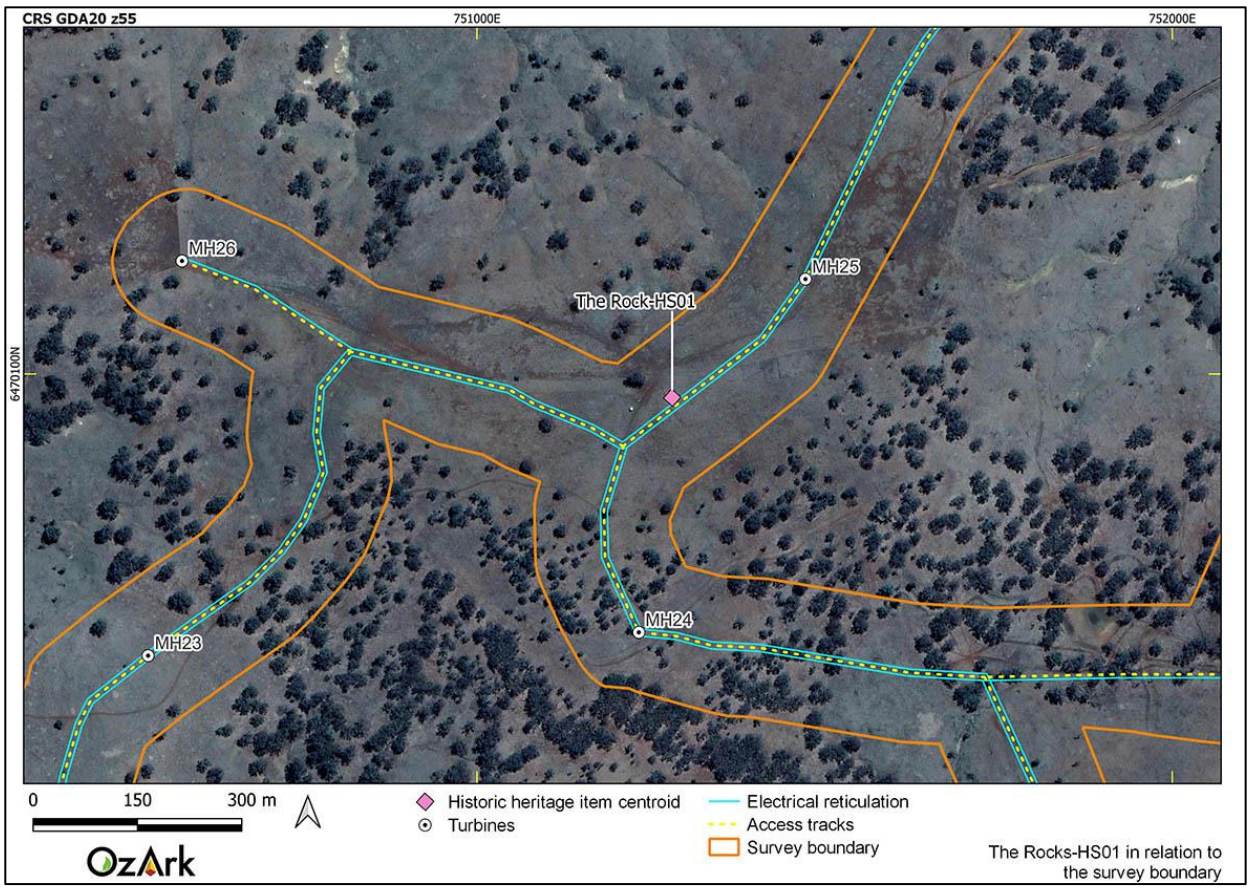


Figure 5-6: Detail of the location of The Rock-HS02.

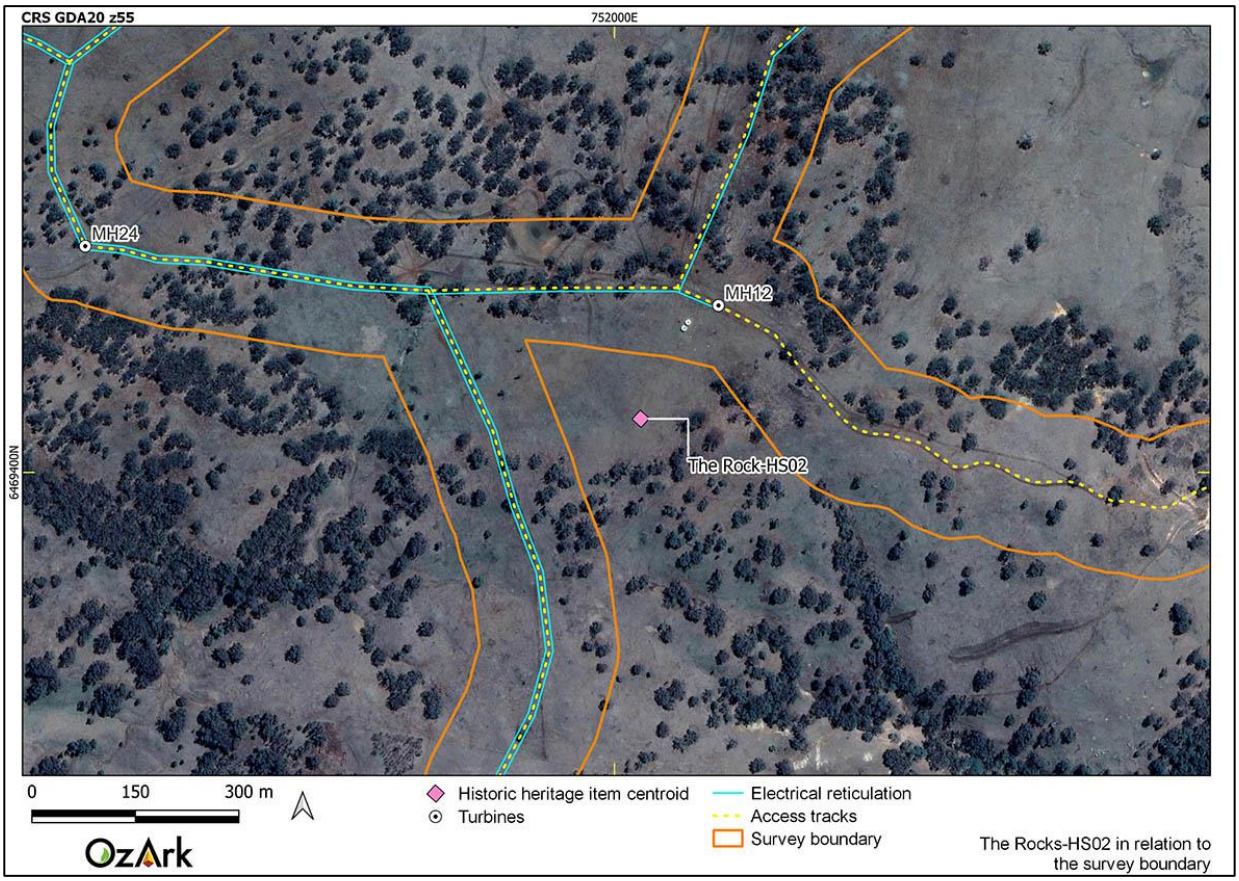
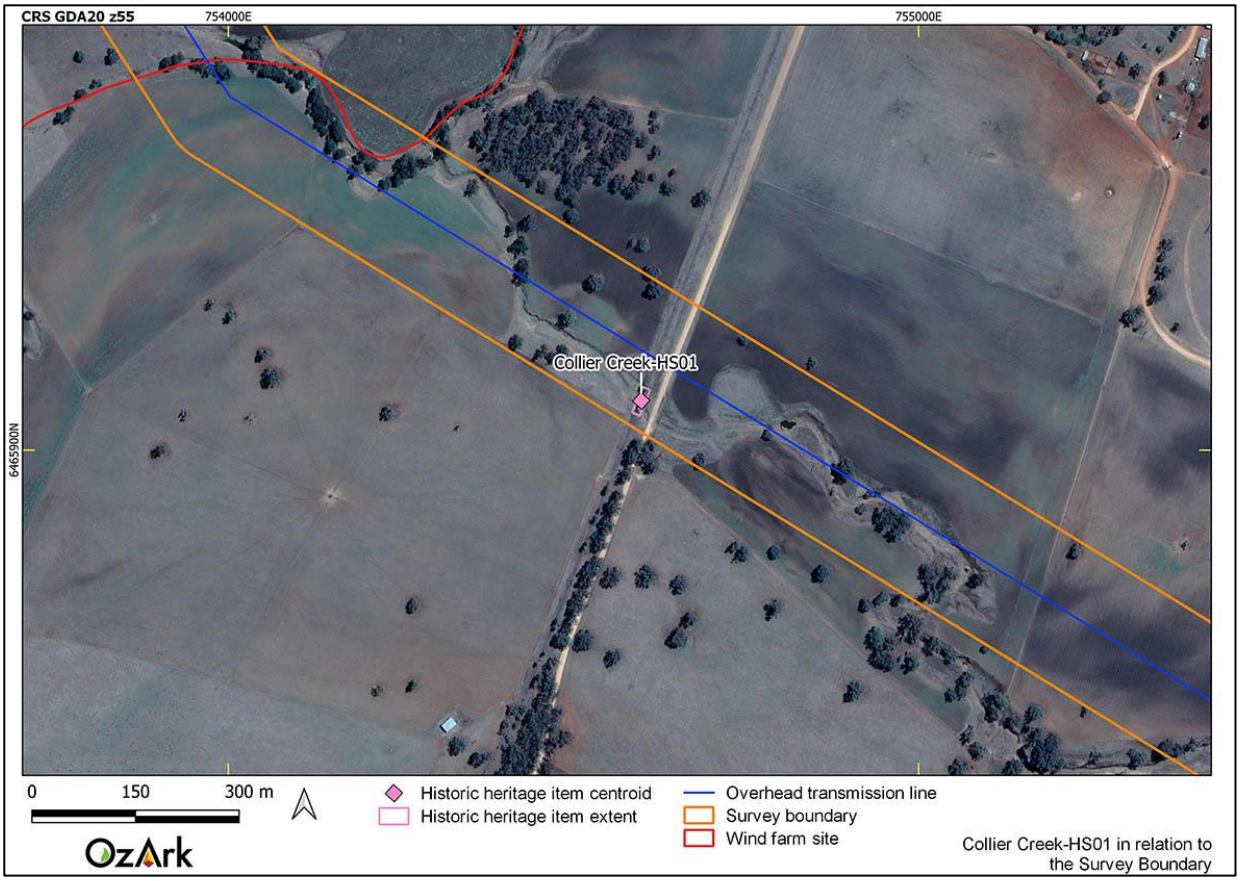


Figure 5-7: Detail of the location of Collier Creek-HS01.



Mt Hope-HS01

Item Type: Trigonometrical station

GPS Coordinates: GDA Zone 55 — 743486E 6472691N

Location of Item: Mt Hope-HS01 is in Lot 7001 DP1028400 on the Mt Hope property (**Figure 5-3** and **Figure 5-4**). The trigonometrical station is on the crest along a ridgeline and is approximately 762 m directly south of Mount Hope Road.

Description of Item: The trigonometrical station feature consists of a concrete pillar with a piece of piping mounted on top. The beacon on top of the trigonometrical station is no longer present. A circular stone arrangement surrounds the trigonometrical station (**Figure 5-8**; image 1). The circular stone arrangement is made up of roughly flat, irregular pieces of basalt. The trigonometrical station has an identifying pillar plate made from stainless steel which reads “Central Mapping Authority, Geodetic Station Mumbedah” (**Figure 5-8**; image 2) and it is survey mark #TS 5554.

Figure 5-8: Mt Hope-HS01.

<table>
<tr>
<td>  </td>
<td> 
</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. View north to Mt Hope-HS01 showing the trigonometrical station and surrounding stone circle.</td>
<td>2. View of the stainless-steel pillar plate – “Central Mapping Authority, Geodetic Station Mumbedah”.</td>
</tr>
</table>

The Rock-HS01

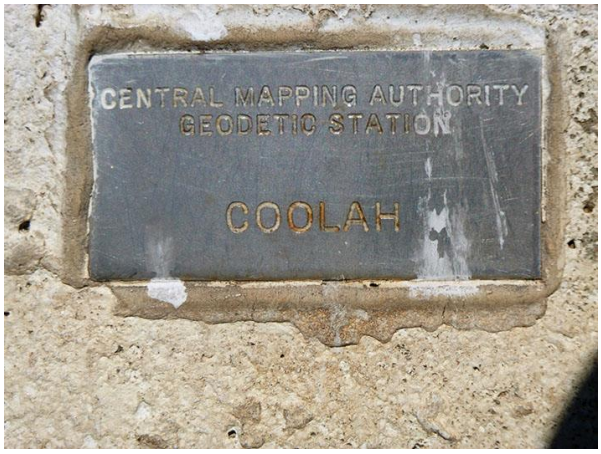
Item Type: Trigonometrical station

GPS Coordinates: GDA Zone 55 – 751280E 6470066N

Location of Item: The Rock-HS01 is in Lot 7006 DP1028362 on The Rock property (**Figure 5-3** and **Figure 5-5**). The trigonometrical station is on the crest along a ridgeline and is approximately 3.4 km directly west of Black Stump Way and 4 km directly south of Mount Hope Road.

Description of Item: The trigonometrical station feature consists of a concrete pillar (**Figure 5-9**; image 1). The beacon is no longer attached to the top of the pillar but is lying to the north of the pillar (**Figure 5-9**; image 2). A stone cairn is located to the southeast of the pillar and is covered in chicken wire (**Figure 5-9**; image 3). The stone cairn is made up of roughly flat, irregular pieces of basalt. The trigonometrical station has an identifying pillar plate made from stainless steel which reads “Central Mapping Authority, Geodetic Station Coolah” (**Figure 5-9**; image 4) and it is survey mark #TS 5559.

Figure 5-9: The Rock-HS01.

<table>
<tr><td>  </td><td>  </td></tr>
<tr><td>1. View north to The Rock-HS01 showing the concrete pillar and adjacent stone cairn.</td><td>2. View of the beacon in relation to the pillar and stone cairn.</td></tr>
<tr><td>  </td><td> 
</td></tr>
<tr><td>3. View of the chicken wire on top of the stone cairn.</td><td>4. View of the stainless-steel pillar plate – “Central Mapping Authority, Geodetic Station Coolah”.</td></tr>
</table>

The Rock-HS02

Item Type: Rural structure (?)

GPS Coordinates: GDA Zone 55 — 752038E 6469477N

Location of Item: The Rock-HS02 is in Lot 65 DP 754966 on the property of The Rock (**Figure 5-3** and **Figure 5-6**). The Rock-HS02 is located on the crest of a ridgeline, located approximately 410 m east of Bowenbong Creek, 1.5 km southwest of Paddys Knob, and 4.9 km west of Black Stump Way.

Description of Item: The structure consists of a convex corrugated iron roof with a supporting timber posts at each corner and timber beams supporting the roof (**Figure 5-10**; images 1 and 2). The floor/base of the structure consisted of carved or hollowed out timber beams (**Figure 5-10**; images 3 and 4). The structure measures 4 m x 2 m and is approximately 1 m high at one end and 80 centimetres (cm) at the other end. The timber beam at the higher end of the structure in no longer intact and shows that a chainsaw has been used for constructing the structure, therefore dating to post World War II (**Figure 5-10**; image 5). A maker's mark reading "REG'D BRAND MADE IN ENGLAND" is present on the underside of the corrugated iron roof (**Figure 5-10**; photo 6). The function of the structure is unknown, although it is possible that it has been used for feed storage. No other structures are present nearby.

Figure 5-10: The Rock-HS02.

1. View south to The Rock-HS02 showing the more elevated end with a fallen roof support beam.

2. View of the lower end of The Rock-HS02 with the beam intact.

	
3. View of the floor/base of The Rock-HS01 showing the carved out timber beams.	4. Detail of a carved out timber beam along the floor/base.
	
5. Detail of a timber support at the front of the structure where the cross beam has fallen.	6. Marker's mark "REG'D BRAND MADE IN ENGLAND" present on the underside of the corrugated iron roof.

Collier Creek-HS01

Item Type: Rail bridge

GPS Coordinates: GDA Zone 55 — 754598E 6465971N

Location of Item: Collier Creek-HS01 is located along a disused railway line where it crosses over Collier Creek within Lot 5503 DP1244975. The rail bridge is directly west of Girragulang Road, approximately 725 m south of the intersection of Girragulang Road and Collier Road, and 2 km directly east of Black Stump Way (**Figure 5-3** and **Figure 5-7**).

Description of Item: The bridge is a beam bridge design spanning approximately 30 m over Collier Creek (**Figure 5-11**; images 1 and 2). It is supported by six timber piers and timber abutments at either end (**Figure 5-11**; image 3). Rail beams are affixed to the timber sleepers, although the sleepers at either end of the bridge are no longer present (**Figure 5-11**; image 4).

Figure 5-11: Collier Creek-HS01.

	
1. View southwest towards Collier Creek-HS01 from Orana Road.	2. View southeast towards Collier Creek-HS01 from the creek channel.
	
3. View east showing the piers and abutments at the southern end of Collier Creek-HS01	4. View north along the railway tracks on the bridge.

5.4 ASSESSMENT OF HISTORIC HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

5.4.1 Assessment of significance—general principles

The current assessment will evaluate the heritage significance of the historic heritage items identified within the study area in accordance with the NSW Heritage Office's publication *Assessing Heritage Significance* (Heritage Office 2001). A historic heritage item must satisfy at minimum one of the following criteria to be assessed as having heritage significance:

Criterion (a): *An item is important in the course, or pattern, of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area)*

Criterion (b): *An item has a strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area)*

Criterion (c): *An item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW (or the local area)*

Criterion (d): *An item has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in NSW (or the local area) for social, cultural or spiritual reasons*

Criterion (e): *An item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area)*

Criterion (f): *An item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area)*

Criterion (g): *An item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW's cultural or natural places; or cultural or natural environments (or a class of the local area's cultural or natural places; or cultural or natural environments).*

Significance assessments are carried out on the basis that decisions about the future of heritage items must be informed by an understanding of these items' heritage values. The *Australia ICOMOS Burra Charter* (Burra Charter 2013) recognises four categories of heritage value: historic, aesthetic, scientific, and social significance.

Items are categorised as having local or state level, or no significance. The level of significance is assessed in accordance with the geographical extent of the item's value. An item of state significance is one that is important to the people of NSW whilst an item of local significance is one that is principally important to the people of a specific LGA.

5.4.2 Assessment of significance of historic items

The four items recorded during the survey are assessed below against the criteria establish by the NSW Heritage Council (**Section 5.4.1**).

Mt Hope-HS01

Table 5-2 assesses Mt Hope-HS01 against the assessment criteria established in the Heritage Office publication, *Assessing Heritage Significance* (Heritage Office 2001).

Table 5-2: Assessment of heritage significance – Mt Hope-HS01.

Criteria	Comments	Significance
a	The item has not influenced the pattern or course of NSW or local history.	Does not satisfy this criterion
b	There are no known associations of the item with a significant event, person, or group of persons.	Does not satisfy this criterion
c	The item is not aesthetically pleasing and does not contribute to the cultural landscape of the area.	Does not satisfy this criterion
d	There are no known associations of the item with an identifiable group or a community's sense of place.	Does not satisfy this criterion
e	The item has little potential for further scientific and/or archaeological information. It does not have the qualities of an important benchmark or reference site or type.	Does not satisfy this criterion
f	The item is not a rare site type for the region or NSW.	Does not satisfy this criterion
g	The item does not represent well the characteristics of the site type.	Does not satisfy this criterion

The Rock-HS01

Table 5-3 assesses The Rock-HS01 against the assessment criteria established in the Heritage Office publication, *Assessing Heritage Significance* (Heritage Office 2001).

Table 5-3: Assessment of heritage significance – The Rock-HS01.

Criteria	Comments	Significance
a	The item has not influenced the pattern or course of NSW or local history.	Does not satisfy this criterion
b	There are no known associations of the item with a significant event, person, or group of persons.	Does not satisfy this criterion
c	The item is not aesthetically pleasing and does not contribute to the cultural landscape of the area.	Does not satisfy this criterion
d	There are no known associations of the item with an identifiable group or a community's sense of place.	Does not satisfy this criterion
e	The item has little potential for further scientific and/or archaeological information. It does not have the qualities of an important benchmark or reference site or type.	Does not satisfy this criterion
f	The item is not a rare site type for the region or NSW.	Does not satisfy this criterion
g	The item does not represent well the characteristics of the item type.	Does not satisfy this criterion

The Rock-HS02

Table 5-4 assesses The Rock-HS02 against the assessment criteria established in the Heritage Office publication, *Assessing Heritage Significance* (Heritage Office 2001).

Table 5-4: Assessment of heritage significance – The Rock-HS02.

Criteria	Comments	Significance
a	The item has not influenced the pattern or course of NSW or local history.	Does not satisfy this criterion
b	The item has no known associations with an individual of importance to the locality or state.	Does not satisfy this criterion

Criteria	Comments	Significance
c	The item does not meet the threshold for aesthetic significance.	Does not satisfy this criterion
d	The item does not have any known strong/special associations for a group of people in the state or local area.	Does not satisfy this criterion
e	While the site demonstrates facets of life in the local rural area, it does not have broader research potential in relation to local or state history.	Does not satisfy this criterion
f	The item does not represent a class (rural structures), that are endangered or uncommon in the state or local area.	Does not satisfy this criterion
g	The item does not represent well the characteristics of the item type.	Does not satisfy this criterion

Collier Creek-HS01

Table 5-5 assesses Collier Creek-HS01 against the assessment criteria established in the Heritage Office publication, *Assessing Heritage Significance* (Heritage Office 2001).

Table 5-5: Assessment of heritage significance – Collier Creek-HS01.

Criteria	Comments	Significance
a	The item has some minor heritage value in demonstrating the development of the NSW rural expansion and transportation. However, the degree of significance does not satisfy this criterion.	Does not satisfy this criterion
b	The item is not associated with a known builder or engineer.	Does not satisfy this criterion
c	The item represents a degree of technical merit; however, this value is utilitarian and not unique.	Does not satisfy this criterion
d	The item does not have any known strong/special associations for a group of people in the state or local area.	Does not satisfy this criterion
e	The item has an extremely limited ability to add to our knowledge about rural transport networks.	Does not satisfy this criterion
f	The item does not represent a class (beam rail bridge), that are endangered or uncommon in the state or local area.	Does not satisfy this criterion
g	The item is not an exemplary example of this type of bridge.	Does not satisfy this criterion

Table 5-6 details the assessed significance of recorded historic heritage items in accordance with the NSW Heritage Office guidelines and the *Burra Charter*.

Table 5-6: Historic heritage: assessment of significance.

Item Name	Level of Significance
Mt Hope-HS01	Does not have significant heritage values
The Rock-HS01	Does not have significant heritage values
The Rock-HS02	Does not have significant heritage values
Collier Creek-HS01	Does not have significant heritage values

5.5 DISCUSSION

The four identified historic items have been assessed as having no historic heritage significance under the current Heritage NSW guidelines and the Burra Charter. It is noted that this result reflects the current thresholds and principles of the assessment criteria that rightly emphasise items with

collective, aesthetic, technological and/or natural significance. These values are not present at the items identified during the survey.

Although none of the identified items satisfy the criteria to be considered to have local heritage values, the loss of the items would be regretful, and it will be a recommendation of this report that the items are retained in the landscape.

The overall low level of heritage significance attached to the new recordings can be attributed to several factors:

- Prior community heritage studies: Previous historic heritage assessments completed for the LGA have captured most prominent, historically significant places in the region. The likelihood that previously unidentified and unrecorded, yet highly significant, places would be documented during the current study was thus low
- The nature of settlement in the district: As an agricultural/pastoral region, the study area exhibits very low housing densities. The likelihood that previously unknown structures would be documented away from the known and existing buildings is thus low
- The nature of agricultural and pastoral activities: Aside from modifications to the environment (most visibly, vegetation clearing), enclosure of land, and the establishment of farm infrastructure, farming leaves few traces in the form of artefacts dispersed throughout the area. Artefacts, when located, are more likely to consist of dropped/discarded equipment rather than extensive conurbations of artefacts. Such items are relatively unobtrusive, and their identification is subject to factors such as GSV.

5.6 LIKELY IMPACTS TO HISTORIC HERITAGE FROM THE PROJECT

Table 5-7 lists the historic heritage items associated with the project.

All recorded historic heritage items, except for The Rock-HS02, are located within the survey boundary. As such, they are liable to be impacted by the project, however, the Proponent has advised that all items will be avoided despite being assessed as having no heritage significance.

Figure 6-1 to **Figure 6-4** shows the recorded historic heritage items in relation to the proposed project components.

Table 5-7: Historic heritage items recorded during the survey: impact assessment.

Item Name	Will this item be impacted?
Mt Hope-HS01	No
The Rock-HS01	No
The Rock-HS02	No
Collier Creek-HS01	No

6 MANAGEMENT AND MITIGATION: HISTORIC HERITAGE

6.1 GENERAL PRINCIPLES FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF HISTORIC ITEMS

Appropriate management of heritage items is primarily determined based on their assessed significance as well as the likely impacts of the proposed development.

In terms of best practice and desired outcomes, avoiding impact to any historical item is a preferred outcome, however, where a historical item has been assessed as having no heritage value, impacts to these items does not require any legislated mitigation.

6.2 MANAGEMENT AND MITIGATION OF RECORDED HISTORIC ITEMS

Historic heritage items Mt Hope-HS01, The Rock-HS01, The Rock HS02 and Collier Creek-HS01 have all been assessed as having no heritage significance and they are not protected by the Heritage Act. Despite this, the Proponent has advised that all items will be avoided by the project (**Section 5.6**).

To ensure the items are not inadvertently impacted by the project, an exclusion zone should be erected around the extent of each item prior to works commencing in the vicinity of each item. The fencing should remain in place for the duration of construction in the vicinity of the items but there is no requirement to permanently fence the items. The extent of Mt Hope-HS01, The Rock-HS01, The Rock HS02 and Collier Creek-HS01 in relation to the project components are shown in **Figure 6-1** to **Figure 6-4**.

Figure 6-1: Mt Hope-HS01 extent in relation to project components.

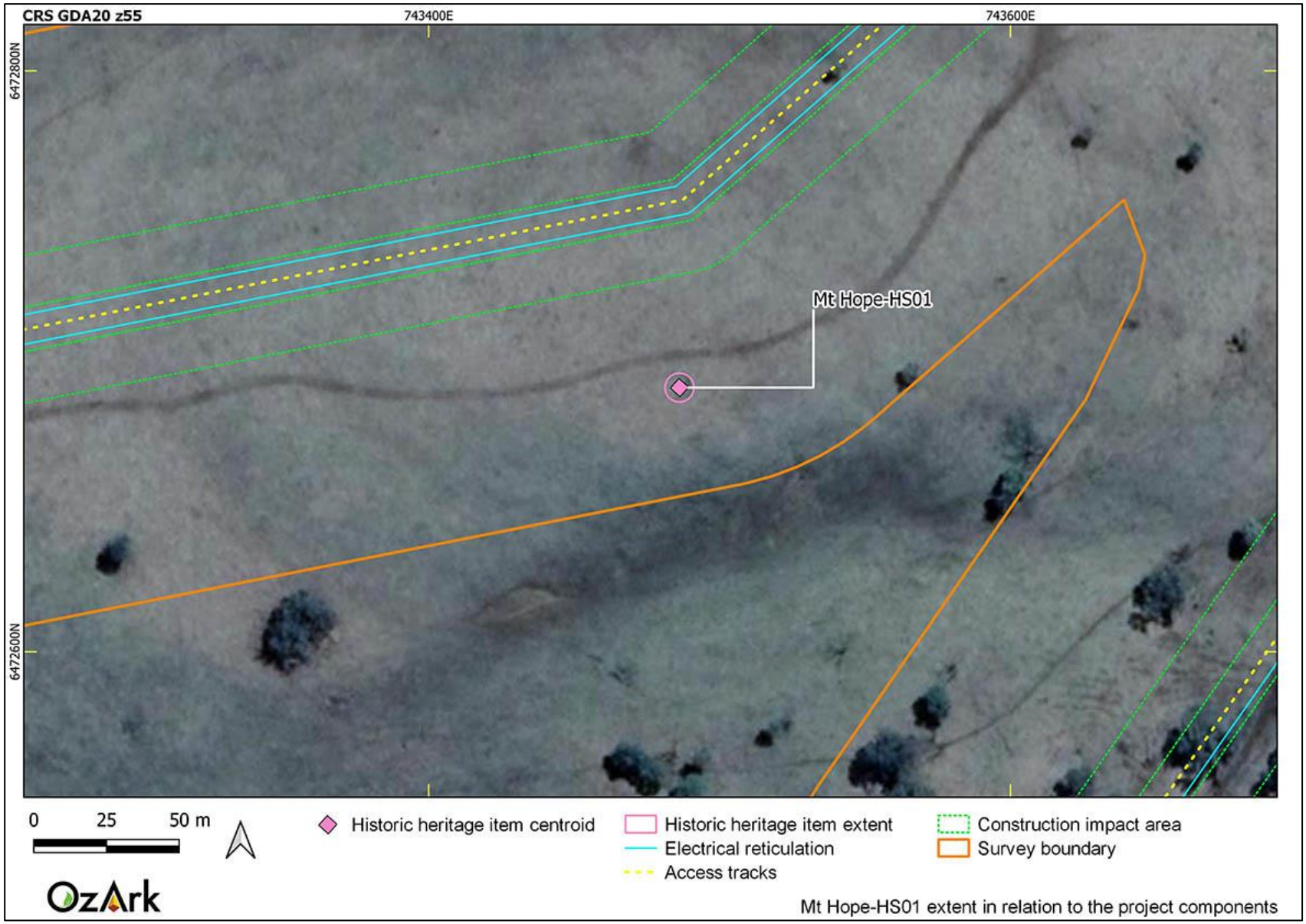


Figure 6-2: Rock-HS01 extent in relation to project components.

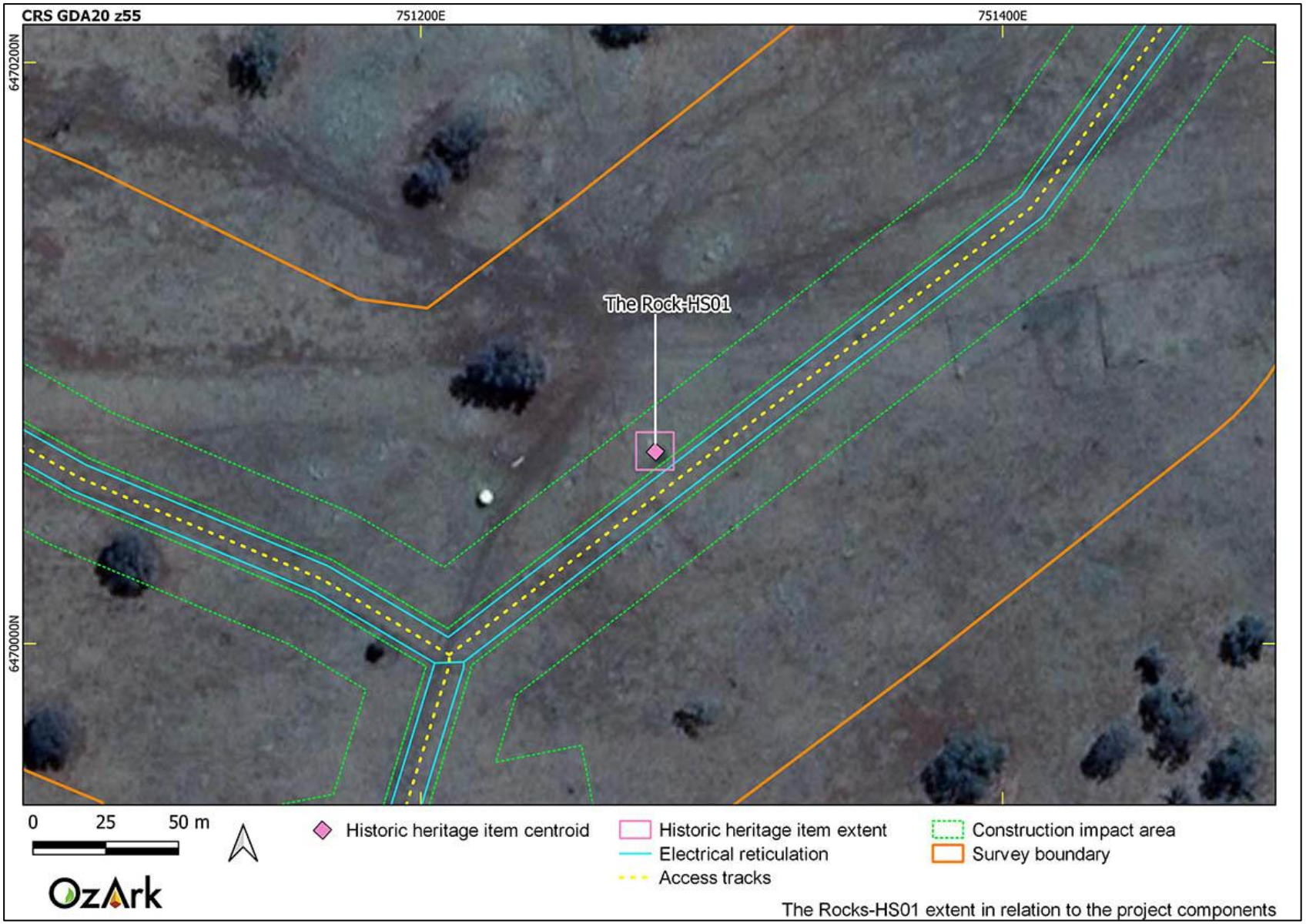


Figure 6-3: Rock-HS02 extent in relation to project components.

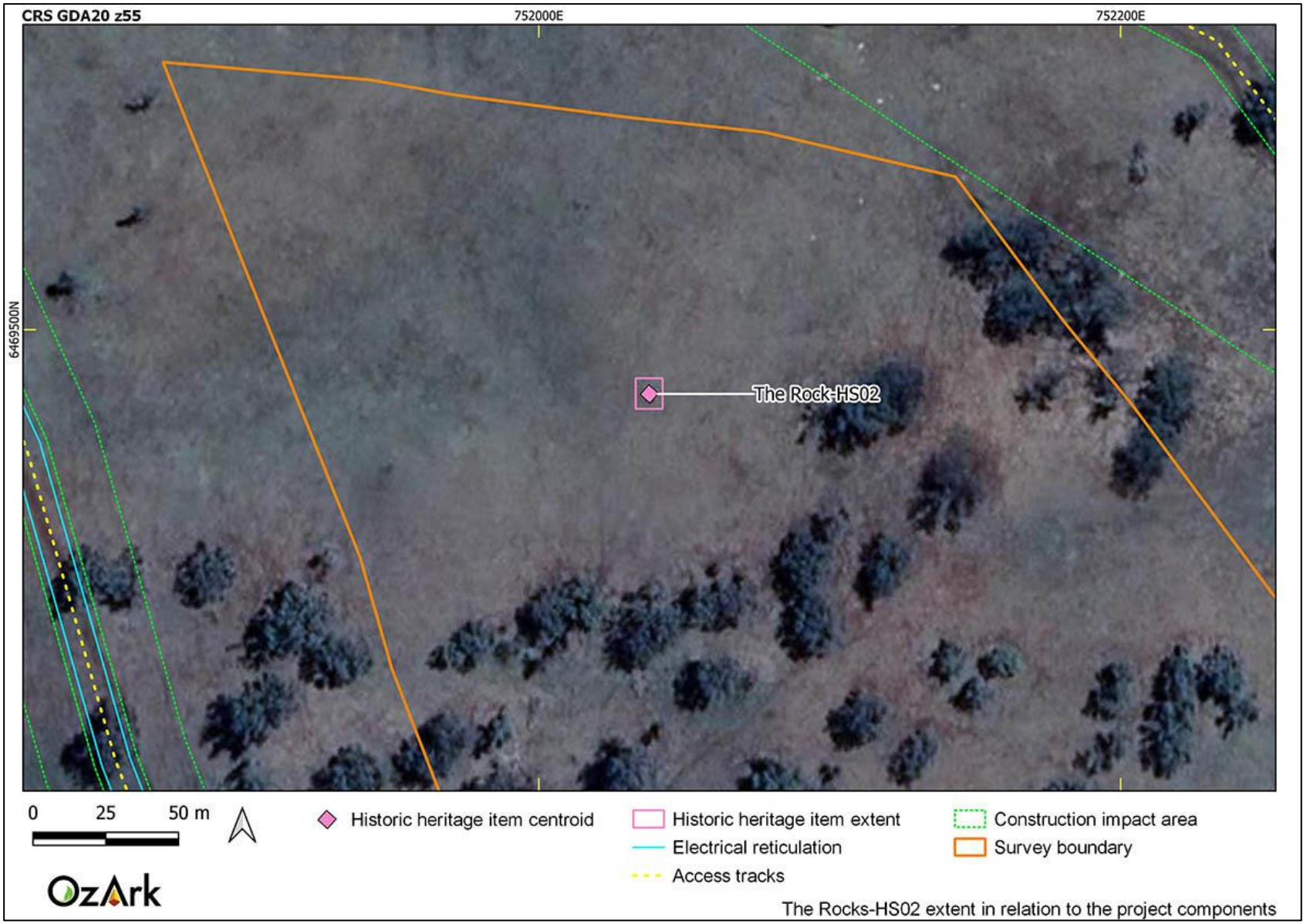


Figure 6-4: Collier Creek-HS01 extent in relation to project components.

6.3 REQUIREMENT FOR FURTHER ASSESSMENT

As discussed in **Section 5.2**, the overhead transmission line in the south of the survey boundary was not surveyed as access was not permitted at the time of the survey (**Figure 5-2**). Further, the assessment of any transport route modifications associated with transporting project components from Newcastle Port along the Golden Highway to the wind farm site have not been assessed as the impact locations are not yet known.

Aerial imagery shows that it is unlikely the unsurveyed portion of the survey boundary will contain significant heritage items, however, these areas should be assessed prior to any construction associated with the project taking place.

6.4 UNANTICIPATED FINDS PROTOCOL

Should consent for the project be gained, a HHMP will be developed in consultation with the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE). The HHMP will contain procedures should a new discovery of significant historic artefacts or items be made during construction or operation of the project.

The procedure in **Section 6.4.1** is an example of an unanticipated finds protocol that could be incorporated into the HHMP.

6.4.1 Unanticipated finds protocol example

A historic artefact is anything which is the result of past activity not related to the Aboriginal occupation of the area. This includes pottery, wood, glass, and metal objects, as well as the built remains of structures, sometimes heavily ruined.

Heritage significance of historic items is assessed by suitably qualified specialists who place the item or site in context and determine its role in aiding the community's understanding of the local area, or their wider role in being an exemplar of state or even national historic themes.

The following protocol should be followed if previously unrecorded or unanticipated historic objects are encountered:

1. All ground surface disturbance in the area of the finds should cease immediately, then:
    a) The discoverer of the find(s) will notify machinery operators in the immediate vicinity of the find(s) so that work can be halted
    b) The site supervisor will be informed of the find(s).
2. If finds are suspected to be human skeletal remains, then NSW Police must be contacted as a matter of priority.
3. If there is substantial doubt regarding the historic significance for the finds, then gain a qualified opinion from an archaeologist as soon as possible. This can circumvent

proceeding further along the protocol for items which turn out not to be significant. If a quick opinion cannot be gained, or the identification is that the item is likely to be significant, then proceed to the next step.

4. Notify Heritage NSW as soon as practical on (02) 9873 8500 providing any details of the historic find and its location.
5. If in the view of the heritage specialist or Heritage NSW that the finds appear not to be significant, work may recommence without further investigation. Keep a copy of all correspondence for future reference.
6. If in the view of the heritage specialist or Heritage NSW that the finds appear to be significant, facilitate the recording and assessment of the finds by a suitably qualified heritage specialist. Such a study should include the development of appropriate management strategies.
7. If the find(s) are determined to be significant historic items (i.e. of local or state significance), any re-commencement of ground surface disturbance may only resume following compliance with any legal requirements and gaining written approval from Heritage NSW.

7 RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations are made based on the impacts associated with the project and with regard to:

- Legal requirements under the terms of the Heritage Act
- Guidelines presented in the *Burra Charter*
- The findings of the current assessment
- The interests of the local community.

Recommendations concerning the historic values within survey boundary are as follows:

1. Mt Hope-HS01: The trigonometrical station located at GDA Zone 55 743486E 6472691N (**Figure 6-1**) should be temporarily fenced around the item extent during the construction of proposed works in the vicinity of the item.
2. The Rock-HS01: The trigonometrical station located at GDA Zone 55 751280E 6470066N (**Figure 6-2**) should be temporarily fenced during the construction of proposed works in the vicinity of the item.
3. The Rock-HS02: The structure located at GDA Zone 55 752038E 6469477N (**Figure 6-3**) should be temporarily fenced around the item extent during the construction of proposed works in the vicinity of the item.
4. Collier Creek-HS01: The rail bridge located at GDA Zone 55 754598E 6465971N (**Figure 6-4** should be temporarily fenced around the item extent during the construction of proposed works in the vicinity of the item.
5. The unsurveyed portion shown on **Figure 5-2** should be assessed prior to construction works associated with the project taking place in these areas.
6. All land-disturbing activities must be confined within the assessed survey boundary. Should project impacts change such that the area to be impacted is outside of the assessed survey boundary, then additional assessment may be required.
7. Procedure for the unexpected discovery of historic items and/or human skeletal material during the construction and/or use of the project will be set out in an approved Historic Heritage Management Plan (HHMP) that will be developed following project approval. Normally, no construction work associated with the project can commence until the HHMP has been approved by the DPE. An example of an Unanticipated Finds Protocol for historic items and/or human skeletal materials is provided in **Section 6.4.1**.

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