



Winterbourne Wind Farm

Appendix D – Desktop Heritage Assessment

25 June 2020

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Winterbourne Wind Farm

Appendix D – Desktop Heritage Assessment



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Acronyms and Abbreviations

Name	Description
ACHAR	Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment
AHIMS	Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System
ALALC	Amaroo Local Aboriginal Land Council
CHMP	Cultural Heritage Management Plan
DECCW	Department of Environment Climate Change and Water
GDA	Geocentric Datum of Australia
LEP	Local Environmental Plan
LGA	Local Government Area
OEH	Office of Environment and Heritage
RNE	Register of the National Estate
WHL	World Heritage List

1. INTRODUCTION

WinterbourneWind Pty Ltd (WWPL) propose to construct and operate the Winterbourne Wind Farm Project (WWF, or the project), a renewable energy development located to the north and east of Walcha in the Northern Tablelands of New South Wales (NSW).

WWPL is seeking State Significant Development (SSD) Consent under Division 4.7 of Part 4 of the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act) for the project.

As a first step in the SSD Consent process, WWPL engaged Environmental Resources Management Australia (ERM) to prepare a Scoping Report in support of an application to the Secretary of the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) for Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs). The SEARs would guide the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the project as part of a broader development application.

WWPL also engaged ERM to conduct a Desktop Heritage Assessment to inform the Scoping Report for the project, as is documented herein.

1.1 Project Overview

The project is situated approximately 425 kilometres (by road) from Sydney and 180 kilometres north-west of Port Macquarie. It is located ~75 kilometres north-east of Tamworth and ~35 kilometres south-south-west of Armidale within both Walcha and Uralla Local Government Areas (LGAs).

The project boundary extends around an area of approximately 24,400 hectares and is at an elevation of approximately 1,100 to 1,300 metres (above sea level), comprised of hills and ridgelines rising out of the Walcha Plateau. The project locality and an indicative layout is identified in **Figure 1.1** and **Figure 1.2**.

WWF is proposed to consist of up to 126 wind turbine generator (turbine/s) locations with a combined maximum installed capacity of 700 megawatts (MW). A maximum tip height of 250 metres is proposed.

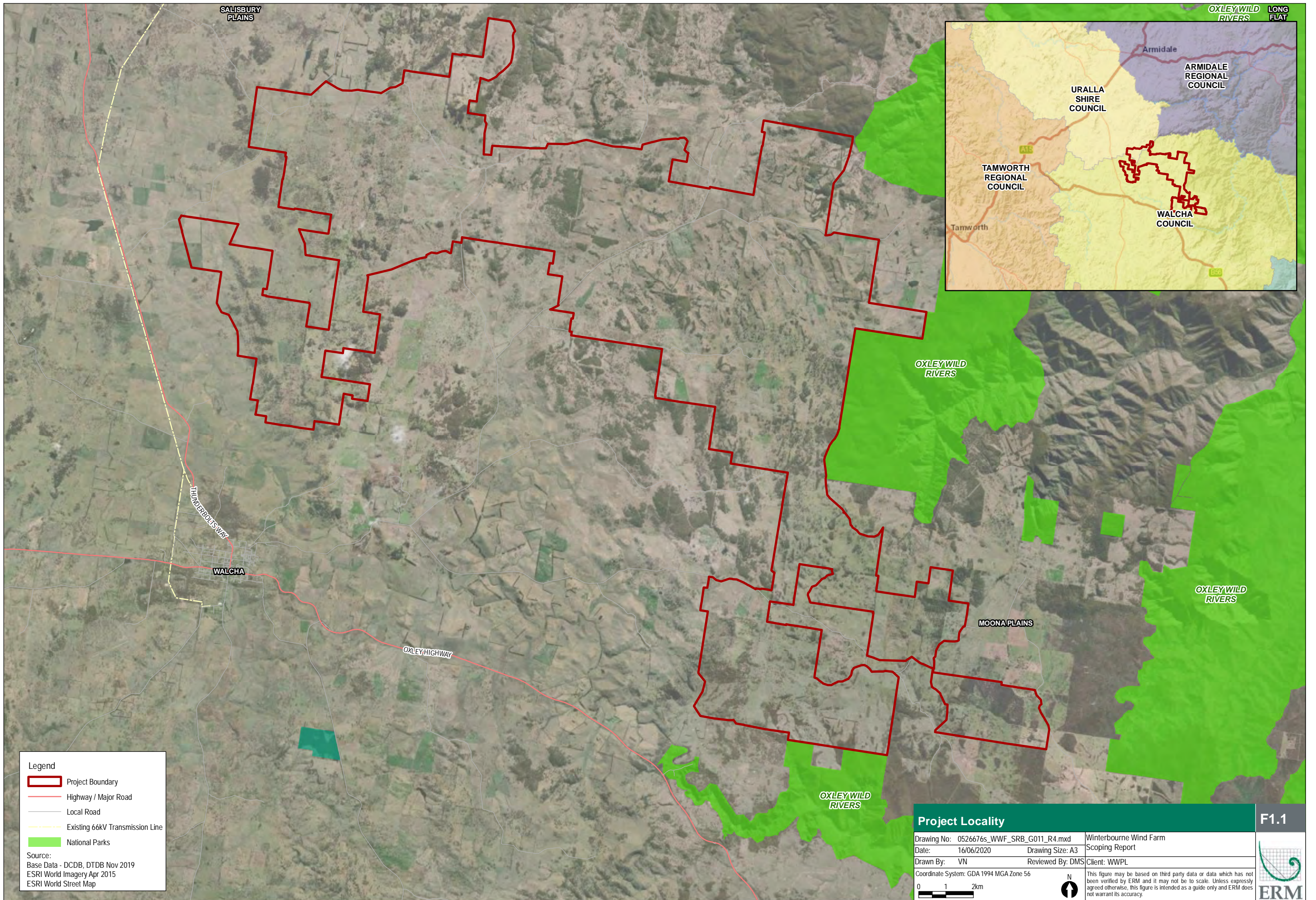
The project would also include an internal electrical reticulation network (both overhead and underground), three on-site substations, new and upgraded access roads, temporary construction facilities (including concrete batching plants), and operation and maintenance buildings. Large-scale battery storage is also proposed for the project to support stabilising the supply of electricity to the National Electricity Market (NEM).

The project is also proposed to include approximately 30 km of 330kV overhead transmission line running through the wind farm and to the northwest from the project site. This new transmission line would connect to the existing grid network operated by TransGrid at a new switchyard which would be constructed approximately 7 km south of Uralla, NSW. This switchyard location has also been proposed by WalchaEnergy as part of its Salisbury Solar Farm project, and has been referred to as the "Uralla Hub". The proposed transmission line route and switchyard location are identified in **Figure 1.2**.

1.2 Heritage Assessment Overview

The following section provides an overview of Aboriginal and Non-Indigenous heritage constraints identified within the project boundary. This information has been drawn from desktop assessment only, with no physical inspection of the relevant areas of the project boundary undertaken. All recommendations are therefore based on available literature, thematic studies and predictive modelling, indicating the likelihood of encountering heritage constraints within the project boundary.

The majority of background information presented in this report has been drawn from the *Walcha Council Community Based Heritage Study – Thematic Study*, prepared by Susan Blake (2008), unless otherwise noted.

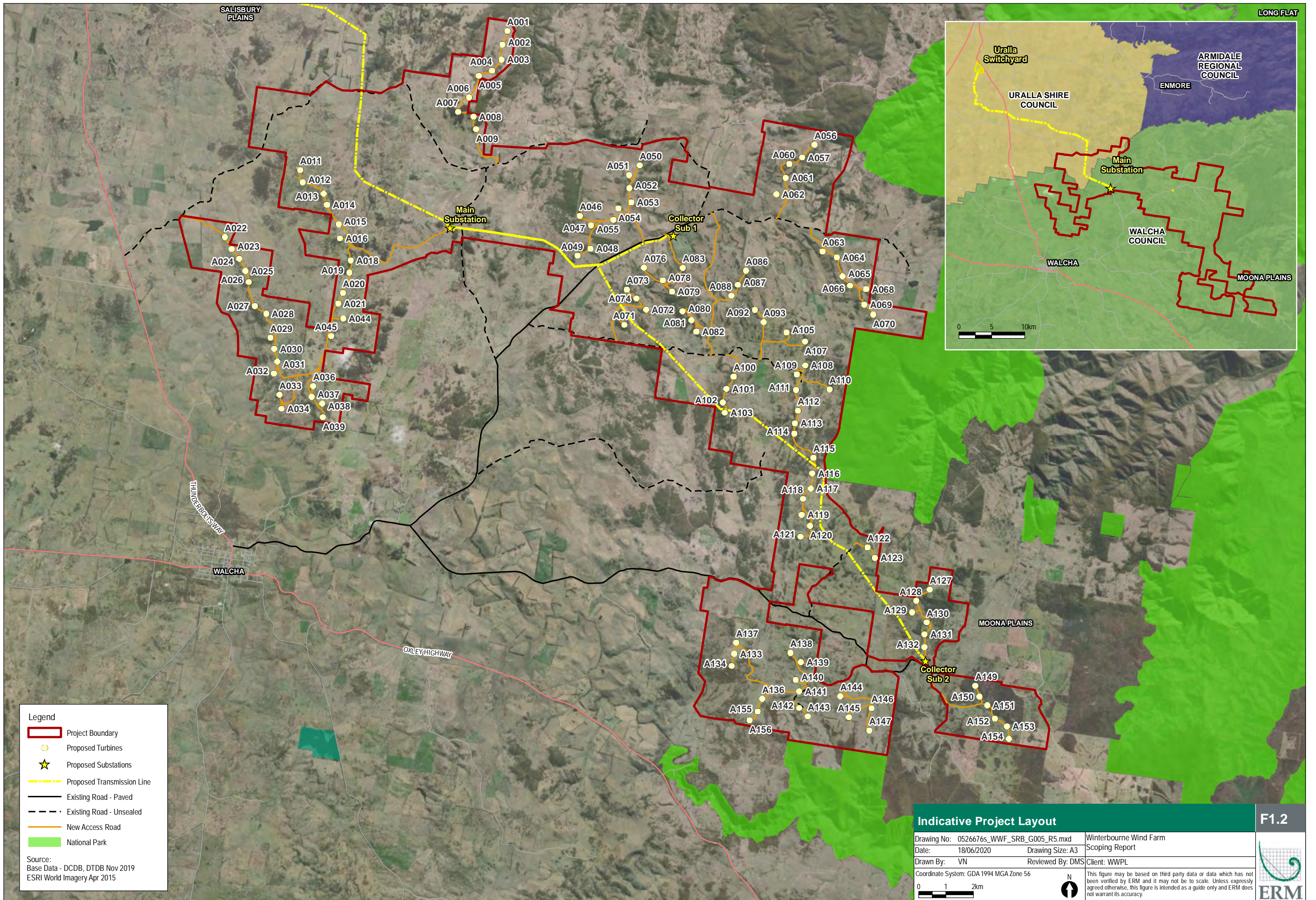


Legend

- Project Boundary
- Highway / Major Road
- Local Road
- Existing 66kV Transmission Line
- National Parks

Source:
 Base Data - DCDB, DTDB Nov 2019
 ESRI World Imagery Apr 2015
 ESRI World Street Map

Project Locality		F1.1
Drawing No: 0526676s_WWF_SRB_G011_R4.mxd	Winterbourne Wind Farm	
Date: 16/06/2020	Drawing Size: A3	Scoping Report
Drawn By: VN	Reviewed By: DMS	Client: WWPL
Coordinate System: GDA 1994 MGA Zone 56		
		This figure may be based on third party data or data which has not been verified by ERM and it may not be to scale. Unless expressly agreed otherwise, this figure is intended as a guide only and ERM does not warrant its accuracy.



Legend

- Project Boundary
- Proposed Turbines
- ★ Proposed Substations
- Proposed Transmission Line
- Existing Road - Paved
- Existing Road - Unsealed
- New Access Road
- National Park

Source:
Base Data - DCDB, DTDB Nov 2019
ESRI World Imagery Apr 2015

Indicative Project Layout		F1.2
Drawing No: 0526676s_WWF_SRB_G005_R5.mxd	Date: 18/06/2020	Winterbourne Wind Farm Scoping Report
Drawn By: VN	Reviewed By: DMS	Client: WWPL
Coordinate System: GDA 1994 MGA Zone 56		This figure may be based on third party data or data which has not been verified by ERM and it may not be to scale. Unless expressly agreed otherwise, this figure is intended as a guide only and ERM does not warrant its accuracy.
0 1 2km	N 	

2. ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE

2.1 Environmental Background

Environmental background is important in aiding our understanding of subsistence resources available to Aboriginal people in the past. Vegetation can provide resources for food and shelter, as well as supporting fauna communities exploited for food and skins. The following section provides an overview of the environmental context within the project boundary, as it relates to Aboriginal heritage.

The project boundary is situated within the New England Tablelands Bioregion. The bioregion is categorised by a stepped plateau of plains and hills, with elevations of 600 to 1500 m on Permian Sedimentary Rock, intrusive granites and extensive Tertiary basalts. Within the Walcha Plateau, the subregion in which the project is situated, the geology is characterised by:

“Faulted inliers of Devonian and Carboniferous sandstone, conglomerate, minor limestone, slate, schist, amphibolite and volcanics. Small stock of granodiorite and central peak and ridge top fingers of Tertiary basalt.” (NSW DPIE 2019)

Soils within the Walcha Plateau subregion generally consist of mellow and harsh texture contrast soils on sediments and granite, red and brown to black structured loams on basalt. Soils can be thin in places and are generally quite stony.

The Walcha Plateau subregion supports diverse vegetation, which varies with landform and elevation. Vegetation includes Snow Gum, Black Sallee, Mountain Gum, Silver-top Stringybark, and New England Blackbutt. Cool temperate rainforest elements are noted in moist, sheltered gullies. The subregion supports a number of fauna species suitable for subsistence, such as wallabies, possums, various species of river fish, and many native birds. The region is home to several threatened native fauna species, including the regent honeyeater.

The climate is generally temperate, characterised by warm summers with uniform rainfall during the summer. Winters in the New England Tablelands can be harsh, with frosts and cool conditions. It is therefore possible that people used the area seasonally when climatic conditions were more favourable (NSW DPIE 2019).

2.2 Archaeological Background

The project boundary is situated within the traditional lands of the Anaiwan, Amaroo, and Dunghutti Peoples, who have lived in the region for more than 6,000 years. Occupation and movement of Aboriginal people within the Walcha district prior to European settlement is not well understood by historical researchers, and archaeological and ethnographic research in the area is generally scarce. Climatic conditions and seasonal variation can provide clues. It is probable that gorge areas, such as Apsley Macleay Gorge, were occupied throughout the year, with some areas close to water and shelter utilised in a more concentrated manner, and other areas utilised for travel and trade (Hudson et al 2003).

Oral history suggests that contact between coastal and tableland groups was limited (Hudson et al). Archaeological and linguistic evidence suggest differences in regional distribution of stone-axe raw materials, rock art styles, language and kinship systems. The Dunghutti language is still spoken in the area, and is being revitalised by the Amaroo Local Aboriginal Land Council (ALALC), who are conducting language classes in Walcha and surrounds (ALALC 2019).

Cultural and ceremonial values are identified in the region, through connections with the Dreaming story of the Rainbow Serpent. The Rainbow Serpent is said to have created Apsley Falls, travelling underground from the base of the falls to an area 20 km upstream near Walcha.

It is noted that archaeological investigation of the Walcha LGA has been limited and relates largely to land within the National Parks. Recorded sites in the area include artefacts, scarred trees, axe grinding grooves, stone arrangements and burial sites. Some of these sites are well known, including a carved

tree, originally situated at ‘Rosevale’, which was donated to the Walcha Historical Association and now resides at the Amaroo Museum. This indicates an understanding in the community of the importance of these sites.

Historical records, such as the notes of Surveyor General John Oxley, indicate early encounters between Indigenous people and European settlers in the region were fraught. Land was cleared for timber and pastoral land, impacting Aboriginal people’s access and potentially affecting resource gathering, resulting in violent confrontations between Aboriginal and European people. Massacres and further conflicts are known to have occurred at Kunderang, Apsley Falls and Yarrowich.

In 1852, an Aboriginal reserve was mapped out by Surveyor JJ. Galloway, situated approximately 7 km northeast of Walcha on Moona Road (approximately 5 km south of the project boundary). The area is still used by the Aboriginal community and retains connections to its complex history. During the 1860s, Aboriginal people were employed as station hands or shepherds on several of the large pastoral properties surrounding Walcha. Aboriginal people continue to have a strong presence in the area, with the ALALC working to engage the community in the Indigenous heritage and culture of the region.

2.3 AHIMS Search Results

The Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) database provides information concerning previously recorded Aboriginal sites in NSW. AHIMS stores data regarding a sites location, site type, site features and a unique site identification number for all registered Aboriginal heritage sites in NSW. Mapping of an AHIMS database search results will identify any known sites that could be impacted by a proposed works as well as help to determine the overall pattern of Aboriginal sites in an area. AHIMS data can assist in preparation of predictive modelling.

An extensive search of the AHIMS database was conducted on 21 October 2019, using the following details provided in **Table 2.1**.

Table 2.1 AHIMS Database Search Details

Item	Detail
Client Service ID	458100
Datum	GDA Zone 56
Eastings	360307 to 403065
Northings	6557467 to 6594182
Buffer	1 km
Number Sites	35

A total of 35 sites were identified within the search area; of these, one occurs within the project boundary. The sites within the search area are varied in type, consisting of Artefact Scatters, Stone Quarries, Ceremonial Sites and Modified Trees. Many of the registered sites contain multiple site types in one location (e.g. Artefact and Grinding Groove).

The results of the full AHIMS search are summarised in **Table 2.2** and shown in **Figure 2.1**.

The site within the project boundary (AHIMS ID #24-4-0041) is recorded as an artefact site. AHIMS #24-4-0041 is situated within the northeast part of the project boundary, within an area which appears to consist of rolling hills, and is within 400m of a watercourse. The area appears to be on elevated plains, and there is evidence of former watercourses (dry creek beds) visible in aerial imagery.

Table 2.2 AHIMS Registered Site Types

Site Type	Total Number	Within Project Boundary
Aboriginal Ceremony and Dreaming	2	-
Artefact	22	1
Artefact, Grinding Groove	1	-
Burial, Aboriginal Ceremony and Dreaming	1	-
Ceremonial Ring (Stone or Earth), Stone Arrangement	1	-
Conflict	1	-
Grinding Groove	2	-
Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred)	1	-
Ochre Quarry	1	-
Stone Arrangement, Burial	1	-
Stone Quarry, Artefact	2	-

2.4 Predictive Model

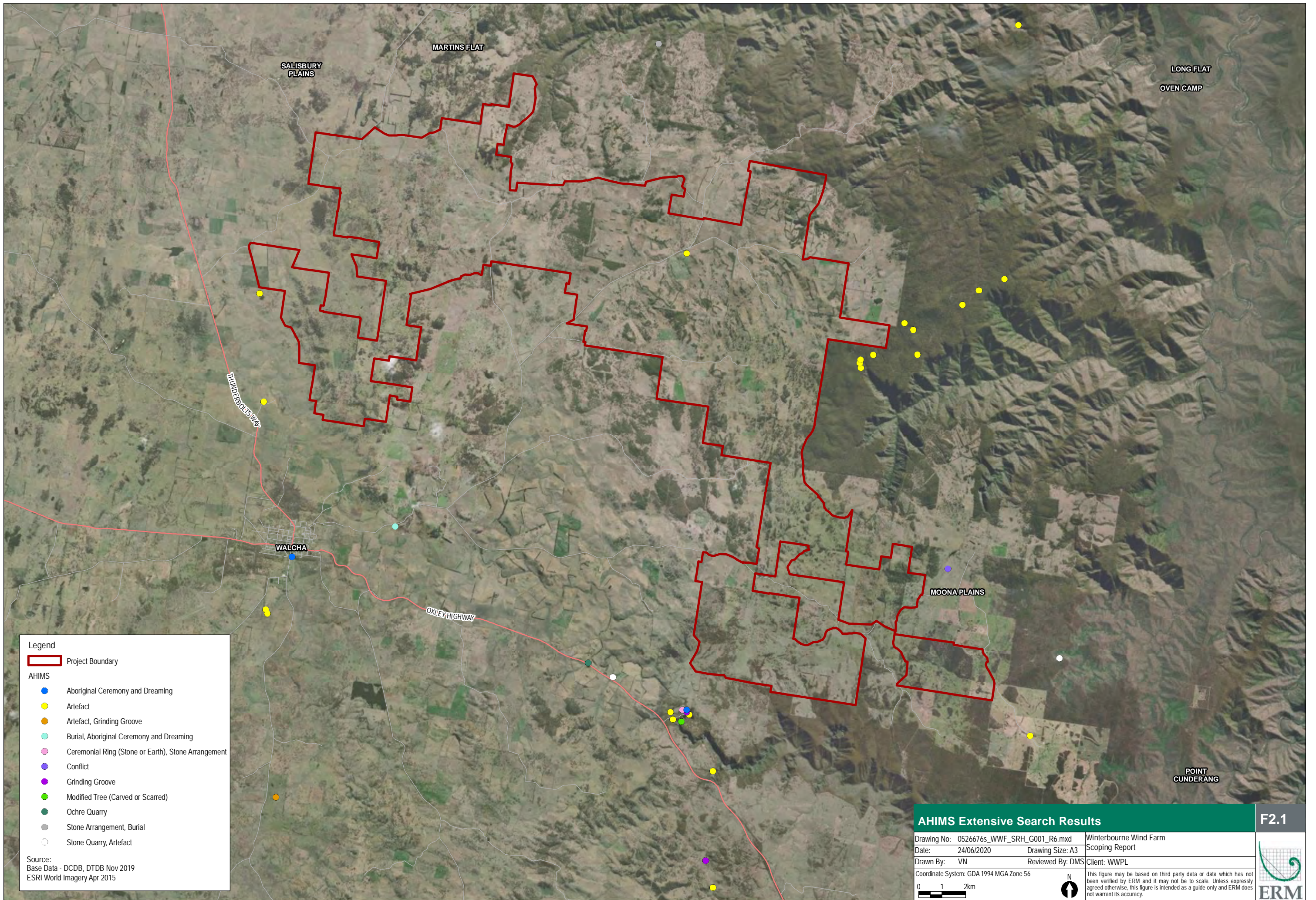
The knowledge gained from examining landforms, geology, archaeological patterning, and prior archaeological reports have enabled a set of parameters to be established to predict the potential location of Aboriginal sites within the project boundary. The background results suggest that:

- The most likely site type is Artefact Scatters.
- There is potential for Ochre Quarries, ceremonial sites and scarred trees to be present within the relevant areas of the project boundary.
- Stone artefacts are likely to be present across the area, although crests and elevated landscapes have higher potential to contain artefacts.
- Sites are more likely to be present in areas in close proximity to water sources such as river and creek systems, particularly in proximity to creek confluences.

2.5 Recommendations

Based on the results of the preliminary assessment, it is considered likely that relevant areas of the project boundary contain evidence of past Aboriginal land use. Predictive modelling prepared at this stage of the process can assist in determining sensitive landscapes; however, it is acknowledged that more detailed investigation and assessment will be required to inform the next phase of project planning and design. In consideration of these factors, the following recommendations are made:

- Comprehensive investigation, to include pedestrian field survey, consultation with Aboriginal stakeholders, sensitivity mapping, and archaeological test excavation (as required) should be undertaken during the development application stage.
- The investigations are to be undertaken in accordance with all NSW legislation and relevant guidelines including the *Guide to investigating, assessing and reporting on Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW* (OEH 2011), the *Code of Practice for the Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW* (DECCW 2010), and *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW, 2010).
- Results of the investigations are to be detailed in an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR), in accordance with the *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW* (DECCW, 2010)
- Upon completion of the ACHAR, a Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) should be prepared, to ensure appropriate management of any identified cultural heritage throughout the construction process.



Legend

- Project Boundary
- AHIMS**
- Aboriginal Ceremony and Dreaming
- Artefact
- Artefact, Grinding Groove
- Burial, Aboriginal Ceremony and Dreaming
- Ceremonial Ring (Stone or Earth), Stone Arrangement
- Conflict
- Grinding Groove
- Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred)
- Ochre Quarry
- Stone Arrangement, Burial
- Stone Quarry, Artefact

Source:
Base Data - DCDB, DTDB Nov 2019
ESRI World Imagery Apr 2015

AHIMS Extensive Search Results		F2.1
Drawing No: 0526676s_WWF_SRH_G001_R6.mxd	Winterbourne Wind Farm	
Date: 24/06/2020	Drawing Size: A3	Scoping Report
Drawn By: VN	Reviewed By: DMS	Client: WWPL
Coordinate System: GDA 1994 MGA Zone 56		<small>This figure may be based on third party data or data which has not been verified by ERM and it may not be to scale. Unless expressly agreed otherwise, this figure is intended as a guide only and ERM does not warrant its accuracy.</small>
0 1 2km 		

3. NON-INDIGENOUS HERITAGE

3.1 Historical Background

Walcha was the first of the New England settlements to be established, as it was on the route taken by John Oxley when exploring the northwest of NSW. Oxley reached the Walcha area on 8 September 1818. The area was identified as good pastoral land, suitable for sheep and cattle. Squatters began to move from the Liverpool Plains, beginning with Hamilton Collins Sempill 1832. Intensification of settlement continued throughout the 1830s, during which time regulation of squatting and establishment of pastoral runs was tightened.

Pastoralism has driven settlement and development in the Walcha region, and there is a rich history of rural endeavour within the area. The prominent properties, including Emu Creek, Europambela, Ohio Homestead and Tiara, were integral in the development of Walcha as a settlement. Farmers initially focused on wool production, although dairy production began in the 1850s, diversifying the produce of the region.

Walcha village was gazetted in 1852, and declared a town in 1878. David William Jamieson established the beginnings of the town centre around 1858 by erecting a flour mill, store and smithy. The first schools and churches were established in these years, and the population continued to grow through the 1870s with the discovery of gold in surrounding areas. By 1900, the town of Walcha had almost 2,000 residents, with another 1,600 in the surrounding district. The town continued to grow, supporting four blacksmiths, four hotels, two flour mills and a tannery, among other specialty stores.

The project area is situated approximately 15 km north-east of Walcha and encompasses pastoral land to the west of the Oxley Wild Rivers National Park. There are a larger number of historical squatting pastoral runs surrounding Walcha and in proximity to the project area, indicating the significant European history that is found in this region. Over time, the larger runs were broken up to create smaller farms, many of which remain in operation today.

The Oxley Wild Rivers National Park (Oxley Wild Rivers NP) features World Heritage Listed (WHL) Gondwana Rainforests, as well as a number of Aboriginal and European historical sites. The Oxley Wild Rivers NP was established in 1986, at the time of recognition of the WHL Gondwana Rainforests, and was added to the National Heritage List (NHL) in 2007. Historically, the area encompassed by the Oxley Wild Rivers NP has been utilised for cattle grazing, and gold and antimony mining.

3.2 Statutory Heritage Register Searches

3.2.1 Commonwealth Heritage List

The Commonwealth Heritage List includes natural, Indigenous and historical heritage places owned or controlled by the Australian Government. Items on the list have satisfied the minister as having one or more Commonwealth Heritage values.

There are no Commonwealth Heritage listed places within or in proximity to the proposed works.

3.2.2 National Heritage List

The Australian National Heritage List contains natural, historic, and Indigenous places deemed to be of outstanding heritage significance to Australia. Before a site is placed on the list a nominated place is assessed against nine criteria by the Australia Heritage Council.

There are no National Heritage listed places within or in proximity to the proposed works.

3.2.3 State Heritage Register

A search of the NSW State Heritage Register was conducted on 22 October 2019.

The search revealed that there are no State Heritage Listed items within the project boundary.

3.2.4 *Walcha Local Environmental Plan 2012*

A search of the Walcha Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 2012 was conducted on 22 October 2019. The search identified no locally heritage listed sites within the project boundary.

The search noted two locally listed heritage items within proximity of the project boundary, as detailed in **Table 3.1**.

3.2.5 *Uralla Local Environmental Plan 2012*

A search of the Uralla Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 2012 was conducted on 15 June 2020. The search identified no locally listed heritage sites within the project boundary.

The search noted one locally listed heritage items within ~1.5km of the proposed overhead transmission line, as detailed in **Table 3.1**.

3.2.6 *Section 170 Heritage Registers*

Section 170 of the *Heritage Act* requires all NSW state agencies to identify, conserve and manage the heritage assets owned, managed and occupied by that agency. In order to facilitate this, Section 170 heritage registers were established for all NSW government agencies. These registers are held and maintained by each state agency and updated as assets are acquired, altered, or decommissioned.

A search of the relevant Section 170 registers was undertaken on 24 October 2019.

No Section 170 heritage places are located within the project boundary.

3.3 *Non-Statutory Considerations*

3.3.1 *Register of the National Estate*

The Register of the National Estate (RNE) is a non-statutory archive of natural, historic and Indigenous places and incorporates over 13,000 places. Originally compiled between 1976 and 2003 by the Australian Heritage Commission, the register is now maintained by the Australian Heritage Council.

Following amendments to the *Australian Heritage Council Act 2003*, the RNE was frozen on 19 February 2007, which means that no new places can be added, or removed. Since February 2012 the RNE has been maintained as a non-statutory listing.

A search of the Australian Heritage Database was undertaken on 24 October 2019. This search identified no RNE listed places within the project boundary.

3.3.2 *National Trust Heritage Register*

The National Trust of Australia maintains a register of landscapes, townscapes, buildings, industrial sites, cemeteries and other heritage places which the Trust determines to have cultural significance. This register is non-statutory but provides an indication of places considered significant by the wider community.

A search of the National Trust Heritage Register conducted on 24 October 2019 indicated there are no National Trust listed properties within the project boundary.

3.4 *Heritage Summary*

Table 3.1 provides an overview of the statutory and non-statutory heritage listings identified within the project boundary. The location of the identified heritage sites is also show in **Figure 3.1**.

Table 3.1 Non-Indigenous Heritage Sites Summary

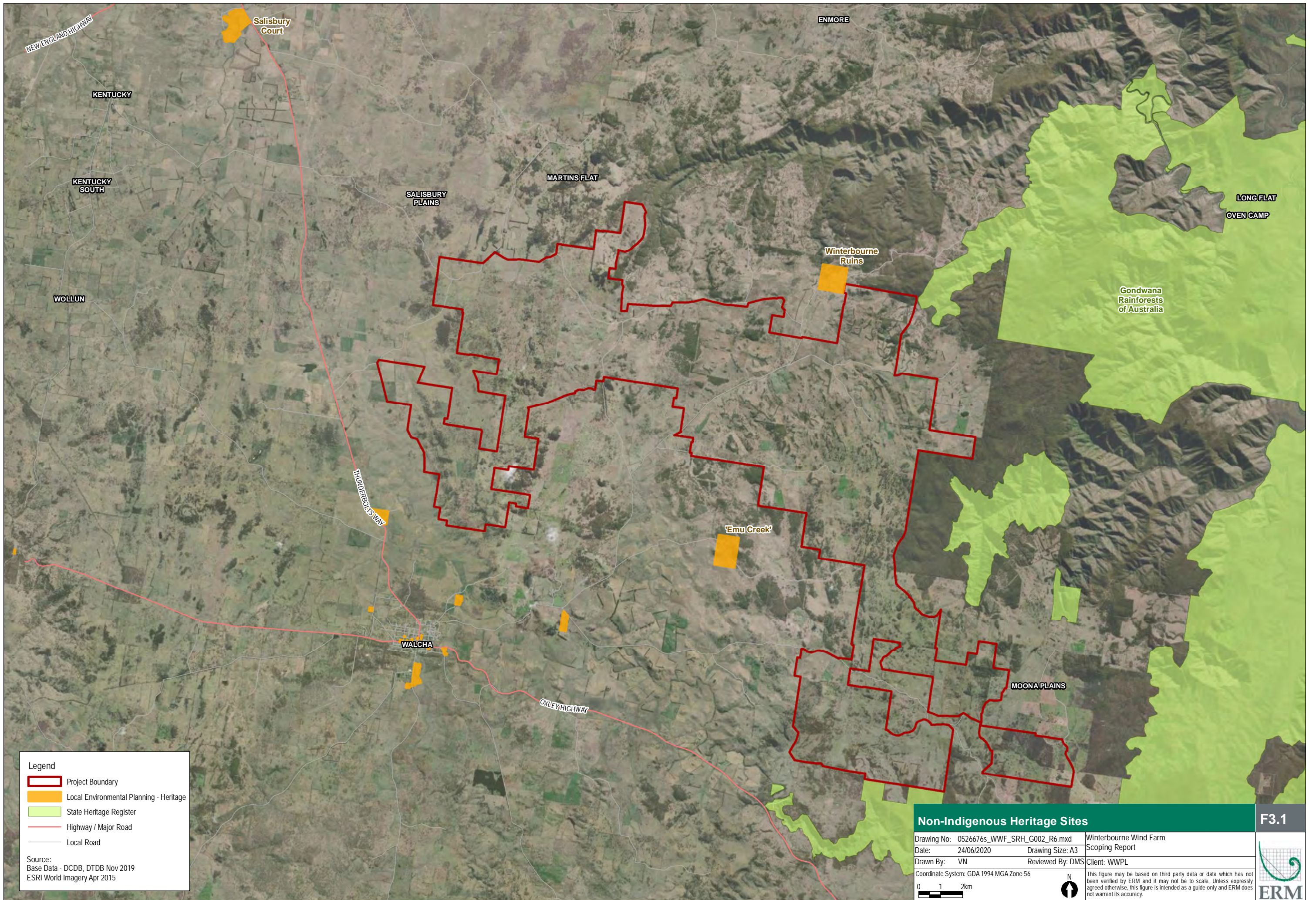
Site Name	Register	Item ID	Description	Distance to Project Boundary	Significance Level
Winterbourne Ruins	Walcha LEP	A001	Ruins of the Winterbourne homestead. Severely damaged and deteriorating.	Adjacent (north-west)	Local
'Emu Creek' Property	Walcha LEP	I005	Pastoral property including homestead, out-buildings and woolsheds	Adjacent (south)	Local
'Salisbury Court'	Uralla LEP	I14	Pastoral property including homestead and out-buildings.	~1.5 km from proposed overhead 330kV transmission line and ~1.7 km from proposed point of connection to the existing transmission network	Local

It is noted that heritage register searches provide a limited understanding of potential historical archaeological resources within the project boundary, rather providing information about standing structures of importance to the community.

3.5 Non-Indigenous Heritage Recommendations

Preliminary assessment has shown that there are no listed heritage items within the project boundary, although two local items are located in proximity to the project boundary. However, further assessment would be required to better establish the non-indigenous archaeological potential of the project area.

Based on this information, it is recommended that a non-Indigenous (Historical) heritage assessment be prepared as part of the EIS. The non-Indigenous heritage assessment report should consider built heritage and archaeology, as well as any intangible values held by the community or relevant stakeholders. Preparation of the non-Indigenous heritage report would involve detailed historical research, including analysis of historical aerial imagery, physical inspection of the relevant areas of the project boundary, and consultation with the Walcha and District Historical Society and any other relevant stakeholders.



Legend

- Project Boundary
- Local Environmental Planning - Heritage
- State Heritage Register
- Highway / Major Road
- Local Road

Source:
 Base Data - DCDB, DTDB Nov 2019
 ESRI World Imagery Apr 2015

Non-Indigenous Heritage Sites

F3.1

Drawing No: 0526676s_WWF_SRH_G002_R6.mxd	Winterbourne Wind Farm
Date: 24/06/2020	Scoping Report
Drawn By: VN	Reviewed By: DMS
Client: WWPL	
Coordinate System: GDA 1994 MGA Zone 56	
<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="margin-right: 10px;"> <p>0 1 2km</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>N</p> </div> </div>	
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Walcha Council 2019. Sharing our Heritage Strategic Heritage Action Plan (2019-2029). Accessed at <http://www.walcha.nsw.gov.au/f.ashx/Walcha-Strategic-Heritage-Action-Plan-Adopted-by-Council-June-2019.pdf> on 24 October 2019

Hudson, S., Duncan, L., Kim, M, McKenzie, P., Townsend, L, Hudson, C., 'An Archaeological Survey of Southern New England Landcare Area including Armidale, Bundarra, Guyra, Uralla, Walcha & Inverell Regions of the New England Tablelands ', Southern New England Landcare, 2003, p.21

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