



Appendix N: Historic Heritage Assessment Report



View west across the western portion of Lot 442 DP1124885.

HISTORIC HERITAGE ASSESSMENT REPORT

PENINSULA SOLAR FARM

FORBES LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

AUGUST 2022

Report prepared by
OzArk Environment & Heritage
for Accent Environmental Pty Ltd
on behalf of Edify Energy Pty Ltd

OzArk

**OzArk
Environment & Heritage**

145 Wingewarra St
(PO Box 2069)
Dubbo NSW 2830

Phone: (02) 6882 0118

Fax: (02) 6882 0630

enquiry@ozarkehm.com.au

www.ozarkehm.com.au

This page has intentionally been left blank.

DOCUMENT CONTROLS

Proponent	Edify Energy Pty Ltd	
Client	Accent Environmental Pty Ltd	
Document Description	Historic Heritage Assessment Report – Peninsula Solar Farm.	
File Location	OzArk Job No.	
S:\OzArk EHM Data\Clients\Accent Environmental\Peninsula Solar Power Station March 2021\Heritage\Historic Heritage Report	3026	
Document Status: V3.3 FINAL		Date: 25 August 2022
Author to Editor OzArk		V1.0 AC author 18/8/21 V1.1 SR contributes 5/9/21 V1.2 BC edit 16/9/21
Draft report for release to client		V2.0 OzArk to client 28/9/21
Final report		V3.0 OzArk to Client 5/10/21 V3.1 OzArk updates 17/12/21 V3.2 OzArk updates 1/2/22 V3.3 BC amends proposed works 25/8/22
Prepared for		Prepared by
Ian Finlay Principal Environment Consultant Accent Environmental Pty Ltd Level 1, 105 Dover Street, Cremorne, VIC 3121 ian.finlay@accentenvironmental.com.au		Stephanie Rusden Senior Archaeologist OzArk Environment & Heritage 145 Wingewarra Street (PO Box 2069) Dubbo NSW 2830 P: 02 6882 0118 stephanie@ozarkehm.com.au
<p style="text-align: center;">COPYRIGHT</p> <p style="text-align: center;">© OzArk Environment & Heritage 2022 and © Edify Energy Pty Ltd 2022</p> <p style="text-align: center;">All intellectual property and copyright reserved.</p> <p>Apart from any fair dealing for private study, research, criticism, or review, as permitted under the Copyright Act, 1968, no part of this report may be reproduced, transmitted, stored in a retrieval system, or adapted in any form or by any means (electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise) without written permission.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Enquiries should be addressed to OzArk Environment & Heritage.</p>		

ABBREVIATIONS AND GLOSSARY

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.
Heritage Act	<i>Heritage Act 1977</i> . 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 Heritage Act.
SEARs	Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements issued by the NSW Department of Planning and Environment.
SHR	State Heritage Register. A heritage list of places in NSW that are protected by NSW legislation such as the Heritage Act.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

OzArk Environment & Heritage (OzArk) has been engaged by Accent Environmental Pty Ltd, on behalf of Edify Energy Pty Ltd (Edify; the proponent) to complete a *Historic Heritage Assessment Report* (HHAR) for the proposed Peninsula Solar Farm (the project).

The project is in the locality of Payten's Bridge, near Forbes in central western NSW and is within the Forbes Shire Local Government Area.

The purpose of the assessment is to form part of an *Environmental Impact Statement* (EIS) being prepared by Accent Environmental Pty Ltd to accompany an application for development consent under Division 4.1 and 4.7 of Part 4 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* for the project.

This HHAR has been undertaken in accordance with the *Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements* (SEARs) and the Heritage Council's Historical Archaeology Code of Practice (Heritage Council 2006).

Desktop database searches completed prior to the survey showed that no listed historic heritage items are located within or near to the study area.

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 three days from Tuesday 20 July to Thursday 22 July 2021.

During the survey, one historic item, a cast iron seed drill (Peninsula-HS01), was recorded. No locations within the study area were assessed as likely to contain significant historic subsurface archaeological deposits.

Peninsula-HS01 has been assessed as having no heritage significance under the current Heritage NSW guidelines and the Burra Charter.

Recommendations concerning the historic values within study area are as follows.

1. Following development consent of the project, a Historic Heritage Management Plan (HHMP) will be developed and then used during the construction and ongoing use of the project. If items of historic heritage significance are uncovered during the project, then the unanticipated finds protocols in the HHMP will be enacted. An example unanticipated finds protocol is provided in **Section 6.3.1**.
2. Peninsula-HS01: if it is possible to conserve the item in the landscape this would be a desirable heritage outcome. The item can also be moved to a nearby location where it does not create a constraint for the project but remains associated with the landscape in which it was discarded. If it is not possible to conserve the item, however, it may be harmed as it represents a relatively common rural item without heritage significance.

3. It is assessed that ground disturbing works associated with the project will not harm significant historical archaeological deposits and no further archaeological investigation is required.
4. All land-disturbing activities must be confined within the assessed study area. Should project impacts change such that the area to be impacted is outside of the assessed study area, then additional assessment may be required.

CONTENTS

ABBREVIATIONS AND GLOSSARY.....	II
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.....	III
1 INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Description of the project	1
1.2 Proposed work.....	2
1.3 Study area	2
2 ASSESSMENT INTRODUCTION	5
2.1 Relevant legislation.....	5
2.1.1 Commonwealth legislation	5
2.1.2 State legislation	5
2.1.3 Local legislation	7
2.2 Purpose and objectives.....	7
2.2.1 Historic heritage assessment objectives	7
2.3 Date of historic heritage assessment	8
2.4 OzArk involvement.....	8
2.4.1 Field assessment.....	8
2.4.2 Reporting.....	8
3 HISTORIC HERITAGE ASSESSMENT: BACKGROUND	9
3.1 Brief history of Forbes and surrounds	9
3.2 Local context.....	12
3.2.1 Desktop database searches conducted	12
4 ENVIRONMENTAL CONTEXT.....	13
4.1 Environmental overview	13
5 RESULTS OF HISTORIC HERITAGE ASSESSMENT	15
5.1 Survey methodology	15
5.2 Historic heritage items	16
Peninsula-HS01	16
5.3 Assessment of historic heritage significance.....	17
5.3.1 Assessment of significance—general principles.....	17

5.3.2	Assessment of significance of historic items	18
5.4	Likely impacts to historic heritage from the project	19
6	MANAGEMENT AND MITIGATION.....	20
6.1	General principles for the management of historic items	20
6.2	Management and mitigation of recorded historic items	20
6.3	Unanticipated finds protocol.....	20
6.3.1	Unanticipated finds protocol example	20
7	RECOMMENDATIONS.....	22
	REFERENCES	23
	PLATES.....	25

FIGURES

Figure 1-1:	Map showing the regional location of the project.....	1
Figure 1-2:	Aerial showing the known project components.....	3
Figure 1-3:	Aerial showing the study area	4
Figure 3-1:	Detail of NSW pastoral holdings in 1886 (source SLNSW 2021).....	10
Figure 3-2:	1888–1914 parish map with study area overlay.	11
Figure 4-1:	Aerial imagery from 1965 overlaid with study area (source SS 2021).....	14
Figure 5-1:	Pedestrian coverage of the study area.....	15
Figure 5-2:	Location of Peninsula-HS01 in relation to the study area.	16
Figure 5-3:	Peninsula-HS01.....	17

TABLES

Table 3-1:	Historic heritage: desktop-database search results.	12
Table 5-1:	Recorded historic heritage items.	16
Table 5-2:	Assessment of heritage significance – Peninsula-HS01.....	18

PLATES

Plate 1:	View northeast across the drainage line in the north of the study area.....	25
Plate 2:	View south across a flat landform with gilgai in the north of the study area.	25
Plate 3:	View south across a cleared, cultivated paddock in the west of the study area (Lot 9 DP752938).....	26

Plate 4: View north of isolated paddock trees along the boundary of Lot 9 DP752938 and Lot 441 DP1124885.....26

Plate 5: View east across a gentle slope in the southeast of the study area showing isolated paddock trees.27

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

OzArk Environment & Heritage (OzArk) has been engaged by Accent Environmental Pty Ltd, on behalf of Edify Energy Pty Ltd (Edify; the proponent) to complete a *Historic Heritage Assessment Report* (HHAR) for the proposed Peninsula Solar Farm (the project).

The purpose of the assessment is to form part of an *Environmental Impact Statement* (EIS) being prepared by Accent Environmental Pty Ltd to accompany an application for development consent under Division 4.1 and 4.7 of Part 4 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act) for the project.

The project is in the locality of Payten's Bridge, near Forbes in central western NSW (**Figure 1-1**). The project is located within the Forbes Shire Local Government Area (LGA) on land zoned RU1 – Primary Production under the *Forbes Local Environmental Plan 2013* (LEP).

Figure 1-1: Map showing the regional location of the project.



1.2 PROPOSED WORK

The project would involve the construction of a ground mounted photovoltaic solar array which would have capacity to generate up to 80 Megawatt (MW) alternating current (AC) of renewable energy. The project would connect into an existing 132 kilovolt (kV) TransGrid transmission line that traverses the study area.

The project would consist of the following components (**Figure 1-2**):

- Single axis tracker photovoltaic solar panels mounted on steel frames over most of the site (maximum tilt 4.2 metres [m] in height)
- Battery energy storage systems with a rating of up to 80 MW/160 Megawatt-hour (MWh)
- Underground and overground electrical conduits and cabling to connect the arrays to the inverters and transformers
- Systems of inverter units and voltage step-up throughout the arrays
- On site substation, connecting to the existing 132kV TransGrid transmission line
- Site office and maintenance building, vehicle parking areas, internal access tracks and perimeter security fencing
- Site access tracks off Paytens Bridge Road
- Road crossing and easement electrical crossing through underground and/or overhead lines.

Figure 1-2 shows the location of the proposed access points and the two options being considered for the substation. The solar array and locations of the power stations has not yet been finalised but has the potential to impact the remaining land within the study area.

1.3 STUDY AREA

The study area is located approximately 27 kilometres (km) southeast of Forbes, NSW (**Figure 1-1**). The study area extends across three lots: Lot 9 DP752938, Lot 441 DP1124885 and Lot 442 DP1124885 and is dissected by Paytens Bridge Road (**Figure 1-3**).

The study area encompasses approximately 236 hectares (ha) of flat to gently undulating land which is largely cleared and utilised for agricultural purposes.

Figure 1-2: Aerial showing the known project components.

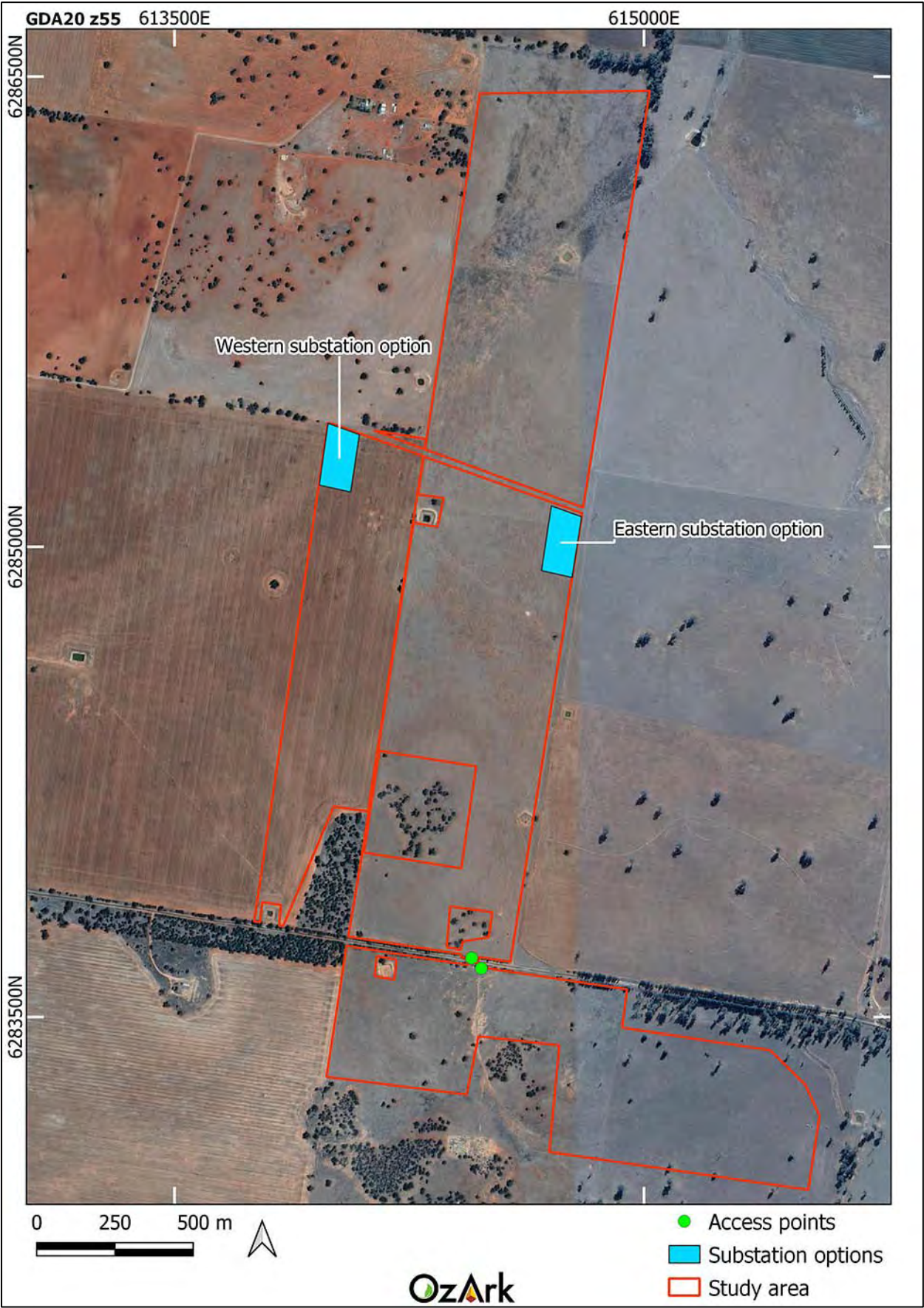
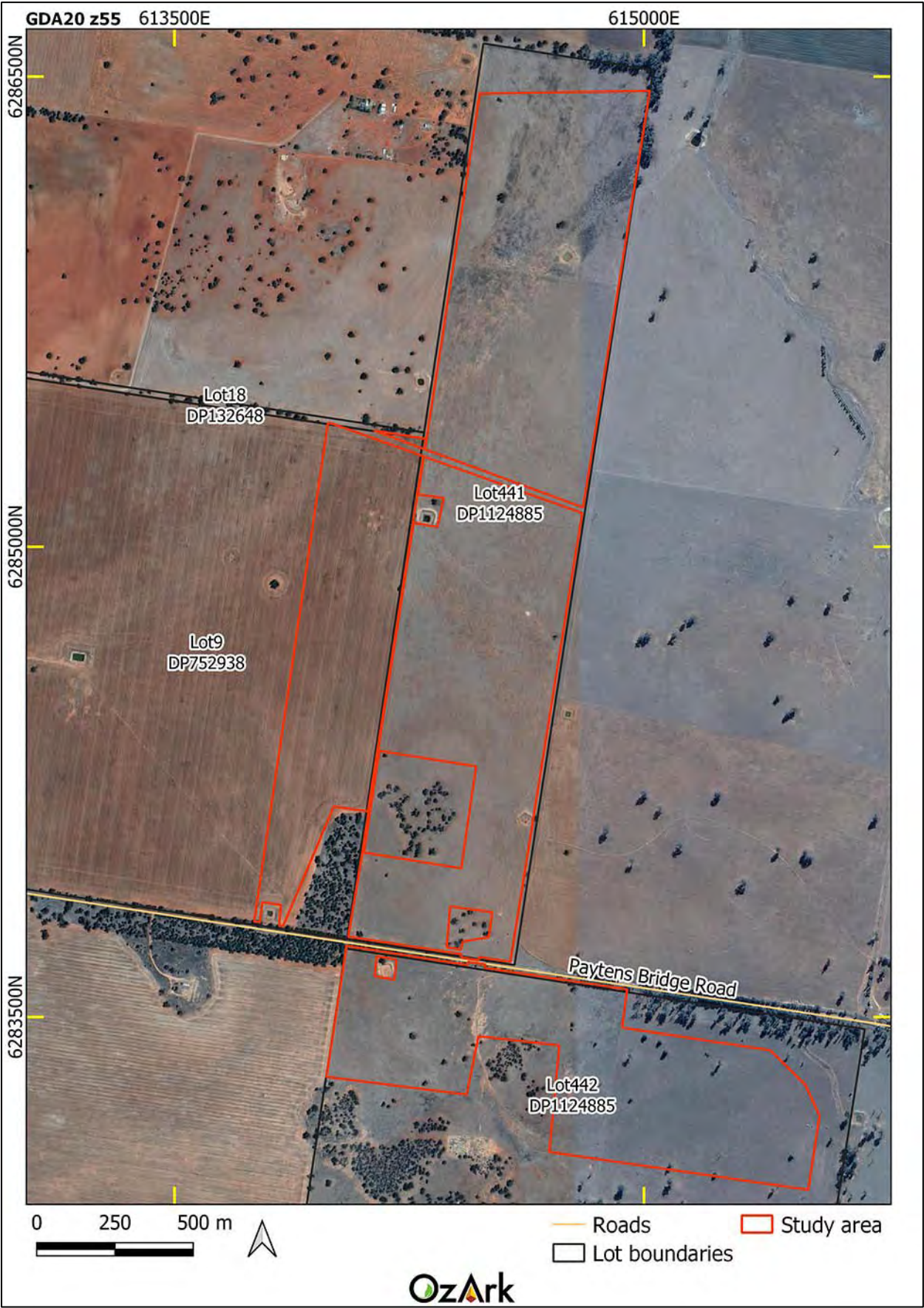


Figure 1-3: Aerial showing the study area.



2 ASSESSMENT INTRODUCTION

2.1 RELEVANT LEGISLATION

2.1.1 Commonwealth legislation

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act)

The EPBC Act, administered by the Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, 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 study area (**Table 3-1**), and as such, the heritage provisions of the EPBC Act and other Commonwealth Acts do not apply.

2.1.2 State legislation

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

This Act established requirements relating to land use and planning. The framework governing environmental and heritage assessment in NSW is contained within the following parts of the EP&A Act:

- Part 4: Local government development assessments, including heritage. May include schedules of heritage items
 - Division 4.7: Approvals process for state significant development.

Applicability to the project

As the project is a State Significant Development (SSD), Section 4.41 of the EP&A Act (formerly Section 89J) applies and provides a defence for any investigative or other activities that are required to be carried out for the purpose of complying with any environmental assessment requirements (i.e. Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements [SEARs]: see below).

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. Now the age determination has been dropped from the Act and 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 the study area (**Table 3-1**). Items of local heritage significance that are normally listed in Local Environmental Plans (LEPs) are also protected under the Heritage Act.

Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements

The SEARs for the project (SSD-14757962) were issued on 18 March 2021.

The SEARs recognise heritage as a key issue to be examined in the EIS and state (in part):

including an assessment of the likely Aboriginal and historic heritage (cultural and archaeological) impacts of the development and consultation with the local Aboriginal community in accordance with the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents.

Heritage NSW did not provide detailed input regarding historic heritage.

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

2.1.3 Local legislation

Local Environmental Plans

The study area is within areas administered by the Forbes 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 Forbes LEP within or near the study area (**Table 3-1**).

2.2 PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the current study is to identify and assess heritage constraints relevant to the proposed works.

2.2.1 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:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| <u>Objective one:</u> | To identify whether historical heritage items or areas are, or are likely to be, present within the study area |
| <u>Objective two:</u> | To assess the significance of any recorded historical heritage items or areas |
| <u>Objective three:</u> | Determine whether the proposal is likely to cause harm to recorded historical heritage items or areas |
| <u>Objective four:</u> | Provide management recommendations and options for mitigating impacts. |

2.3 DATE OF HISTORIC HERITAGE ASSESSMENT

The fieldwork component of this assessment was undertaken by OzArk over three days from Tuesday 20 July to Thursday 22 July 2021.

2.4 OZARK INVOLVEMENT

2.4.1 Field assessment

The fieldwork component of the heritage assessment was undertaken by:

- Fieldwork Director: Stephanie Rusden (OzArk Senior Archaeologist, BS University of Wollongong, BA University of New England)
- Archaeologist: Taylor Foster (OzArk Archaeologist, BA [Hons] Archaeology James Cook University).

2.4.2 Reporting

The reporting component of the heritage assessment was undertaken by:

- Report author: Stephanie Rusden
- Contributor: Alyce Cameron (OzArk Senior Archaeologist; BA [Hons] and PhD [Archaeology & palaeoanthropology] Australian National University)
- Reviewer: Ben Churcher (OzArk Principal Archaeologist; BA [Hons], Dip Ed).

3 HISTORIC HERITAGE ASSESSMENT: BACKGROUND

3.1 BRIEF HISTORY OF FORBES AND SURROUNDS

The study area and surrounds are traditionally home to the Wiradjuri people. British settlement of the area occurred soon after exploration of the Lachlan region by George Evans and John Oxley between 1815–1817 (Whitehead 2003). Pastoralists were present in the region from c.1820s with large pastoral runs being settled around the Lachlan River (NPWS 2003).

The township of Forbes was declared in 1861 during a gold rush, when the population of the district increased following discovery of gold in the area in 1861. Forbes was presumably named after Sir Francis Forbes, the first Chief Justice of NSW. The gold rush brought an influx of people, estimated to be around 30,000 into the region. This led to rapid development of the hotels, churches, and civic buildings. The study area is located inside part of the Lachlan Gold Field which was proclaimed 31 August 1865.

The gold rush in the region, and across NSW, also meant an increase in crime. The infamous bushranger Ben Hall and the Gardiner Gang operated in the areas surrounding Forbes. Ben Hall was tried for armed robbery in 1862 but was acquitted, and as a member of the Gardiner Gang, he successfully robbed a gold escort near Eugowra of 84.56 kilograms (kg) of gold and £3,700 in cash, one of the largest Australian gold robberies. Hall was eventually killed by gunfire during a fight approximately 25 km northwest of Forbes on 5 May 1865 (GTI 2021).

By the late 1860s the gold in the Lachlan region was secondary to pastoral and agricultural pursuits, which the area is still known for today.

The study area is in the former Nanima Pastoral Lease No 593 (**Figure 3-1** and **Figure 3-2**). This pastoral run was located on the southern side of the Lachlan River and covered an approximate 9,172 acres (3711.7 ha). The land holder in 1889 is recorded as Major West (Hanson 1889), though the pastoral run itself was in use from 1930s and possibly earlier (*Canowindra News*, 15 October 2014).

The Nanima pastoral property was acquired by Paul Wenz in the 1890s and used for irrigation and grazing. The property is well known for its historical homestead built by Wenz in 1898 adjacent to the southern bank of the Lachlan River (and located outside of the study area), which remains today following restoration work in 2011. Paul Wenz was born 18 August 1869 at Reims, France. He bought the property Nanima in April 1898 and married Harriet Adela Annette Dunne on 15 September 1898. Wenz became a successful grazier who was interested in innovative agricultural methods such as lucerne growing and irrigation. Wenz was also a well-known writer, mostly short stories written in French but set in Australia or the Pacific Islands which until 1910 were published under his pseudonym of Paul Warrego. Wenz died of pneumonia in August 1939 at Forbes hospital (Blackman 2021).

The 1888–1914 parish map shows that the former Nanima Holding No 593 had been divided into smaller lots (**Figure 3-2**). The study area covers lots that were owned by Thomas and Mary O'Brien and the Commercial Banking Company of Sydney.

Figure 3-1: Detail of NSW pastoral holdings in 1886 (source SLNSW 2021).

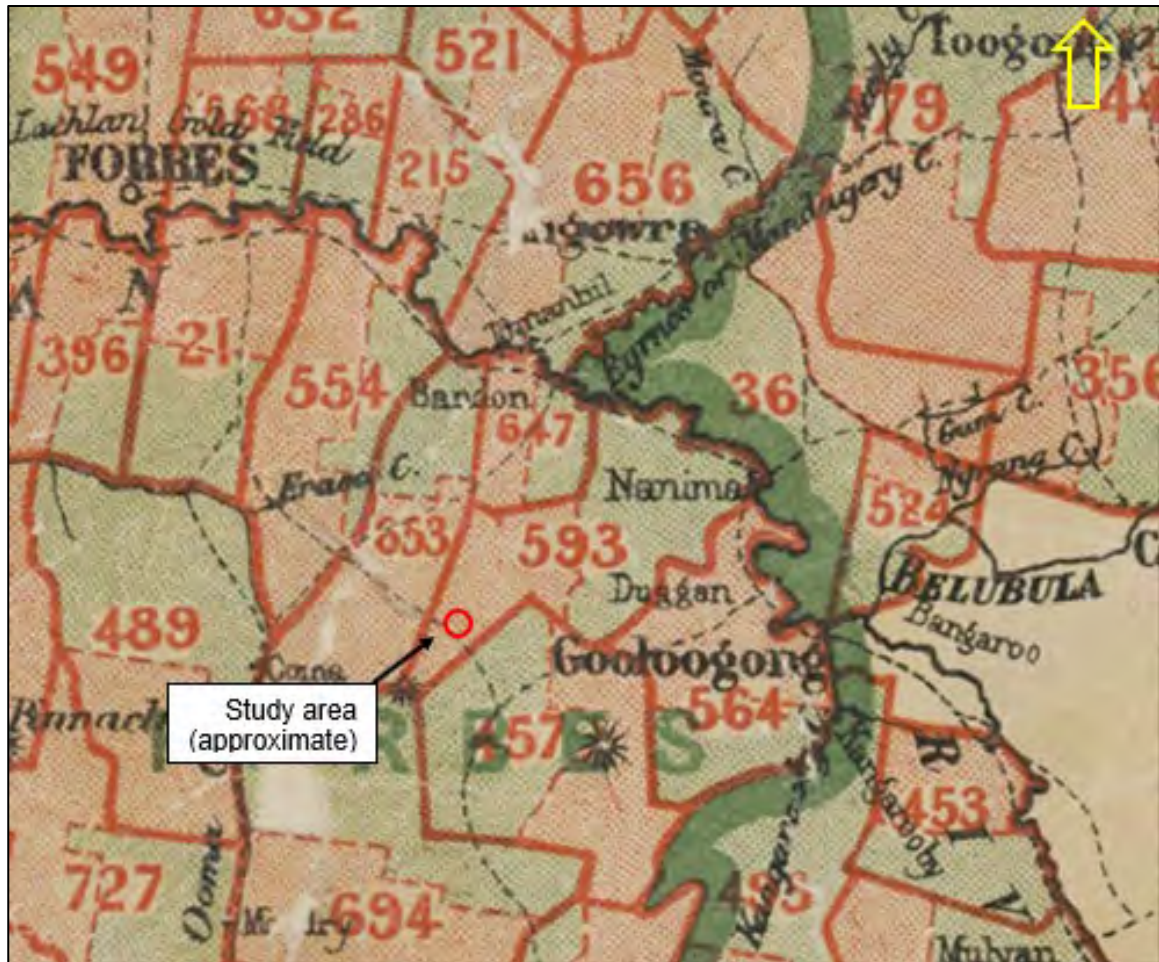
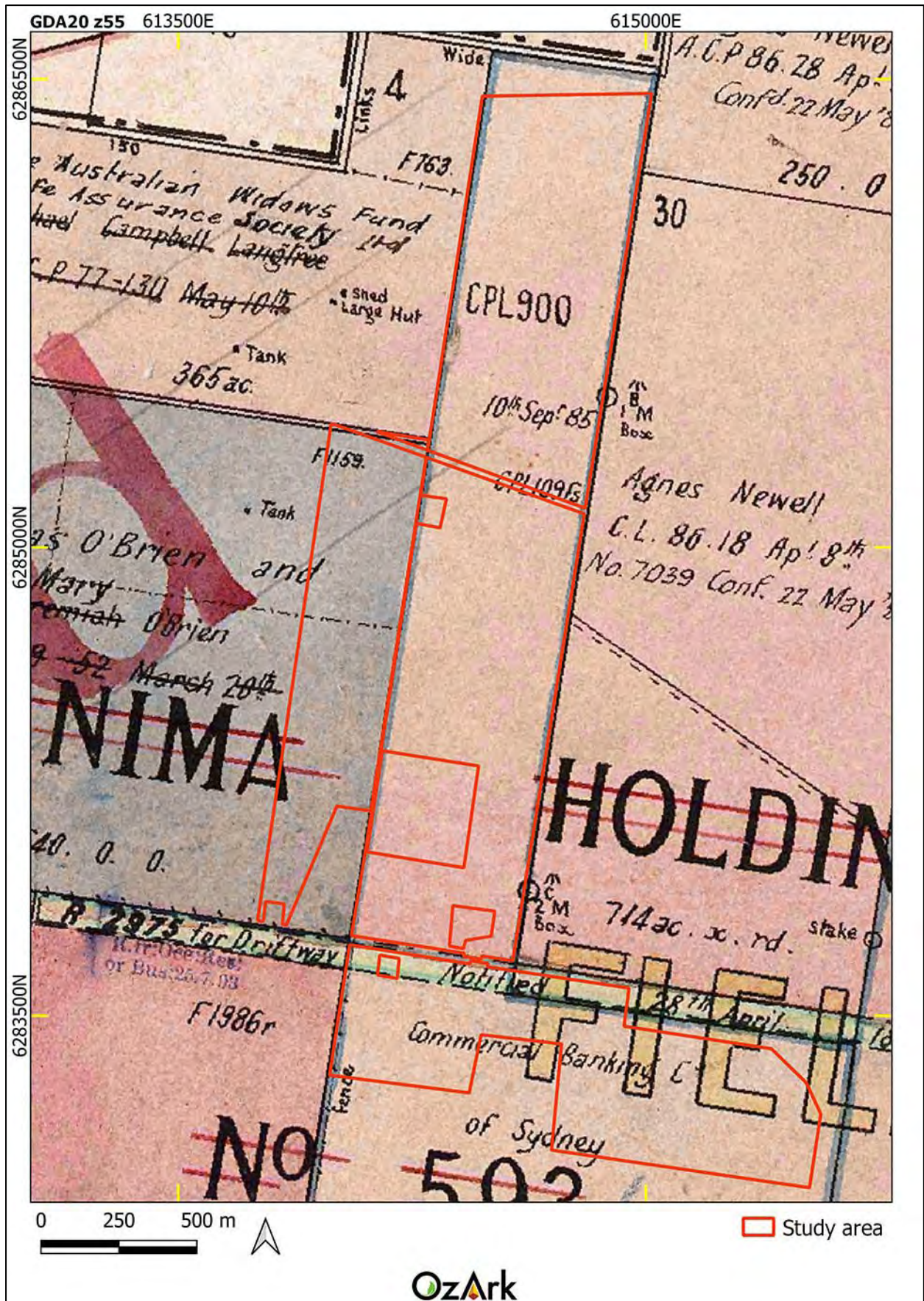


Figure 3-2: 1888–1914 parish map with study area overlay.



3.2 LOCAL CONTEXT

3.2.1 Desktop database searches conducted

A desktop search was conducted on the following databases to identify any potential previously recorded heritage within the study area. The results of this search are summarised in **Table 3-1**.

Table 3-1: Historic heritage: desktop-database search results.

Name of Database Searched	Date of Search	Type of Search	Comment
National and Commonwealth Heritage Listings	18 August 2021	NSW	No items are listed within 5 km of the study area.
SHR	18 August 2021	Forbes LGA	No items are listed within 5 km of the study area.
LEP	18 August 2021	Forbes Shire Council LEP 2013	No items are listed within 5 km of the study area.

A search of the Heritage Council of NSW administered heritage databases and the Forbes Shire Council LEP 2013 returned no records for historical heritage items within the designated search area.

The closest LEP listed items are the former Collits Inn/Coach and Horses Inn (I2) and Paytens Bridge (I3) located approximately 8.5 km northwest of the study area.

4 ENVIRONMENTAL CONTEXT

4.1 ENVIRONMENTAL OVERVIEW

The landforms of the study area are characterised by flat plains in the north and gently undulating hills in the south. The south of the study area is characterised by low rises where bedrock is covered by thin soil layers and metamorphic quartz veins (AGSO 2000). There is little change in elevation across the study area, which ranges from 280–300 m.

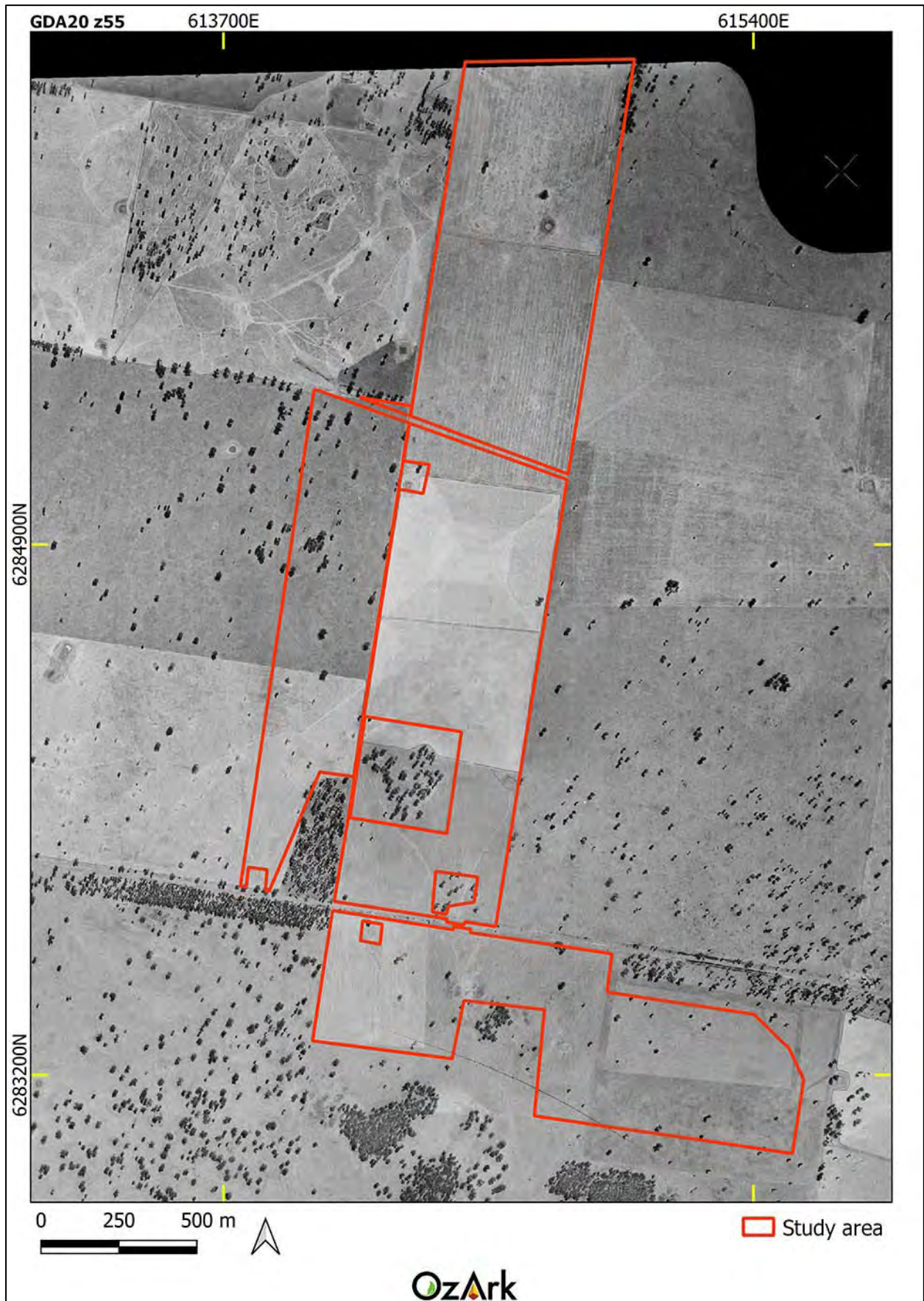
The study area is situated in the Lachlan water catchment area. The Lachlan River is the primary watercourse of this catchment area and begins in the Great Dividing Range near Gunning and flows approximately 1,400 km through western NSW to its junction with the Murrumbidgee River near Oxley. The study area is situated in the undulating landscape of the middle catchment (OoW 2011). The major watercourse in proximity to the study area is the Lachlan River, located approximately 8.5 km northeast. The closest defined watercourse to the study area is the ephemeral Mulyandry Creek located 800 m north of the study area. A minor tributary of Mulyandry Creek intersects through the northern half of the study area (**Plate 1**). Limited areas of gilgai are also present in the north of the study area (**Plate 2**).

The location of the study area contains western slopes grasslands, riverine plain grasslands, grassy woodlands, and non-native crops. Native vegetation is devoid in the western block (Lot 9 DP752938) of the study area (**Plate 3**), sparse in the northern block (Lot 441 DP1124885) (**Plate 4**) and is limited to scattered paddock trees and patches of remnant woodland in the southern parcel (Lot 442 DP1124885) (**Plate 5**).

The study area has been used for grazing since c.1830 when it was part of the Nanima Holding No. 593 (**Section 3.1**). Since then, parts of the study area have also been ploughed and cultivated. Aerial imagery from 1965 shows that most of the study area was under cultivation or had been cultivated at the time of the photograph (**Figure 4-1**). The imagery also shows there are no landscape features which may indicate foundations or earthworks for former buildings.

Though the study area is inside the proclaimed Lachlan Gold Fields, it is unlikely that any substantial mining activities occurred inside the study area (**Section 3.1**).

Figure 4-1: Aerial imagery from 1965 overlaid with study area (source SS 2021).



5 RESULTS OF HISTORIC HERITAGE ASSESSMENT

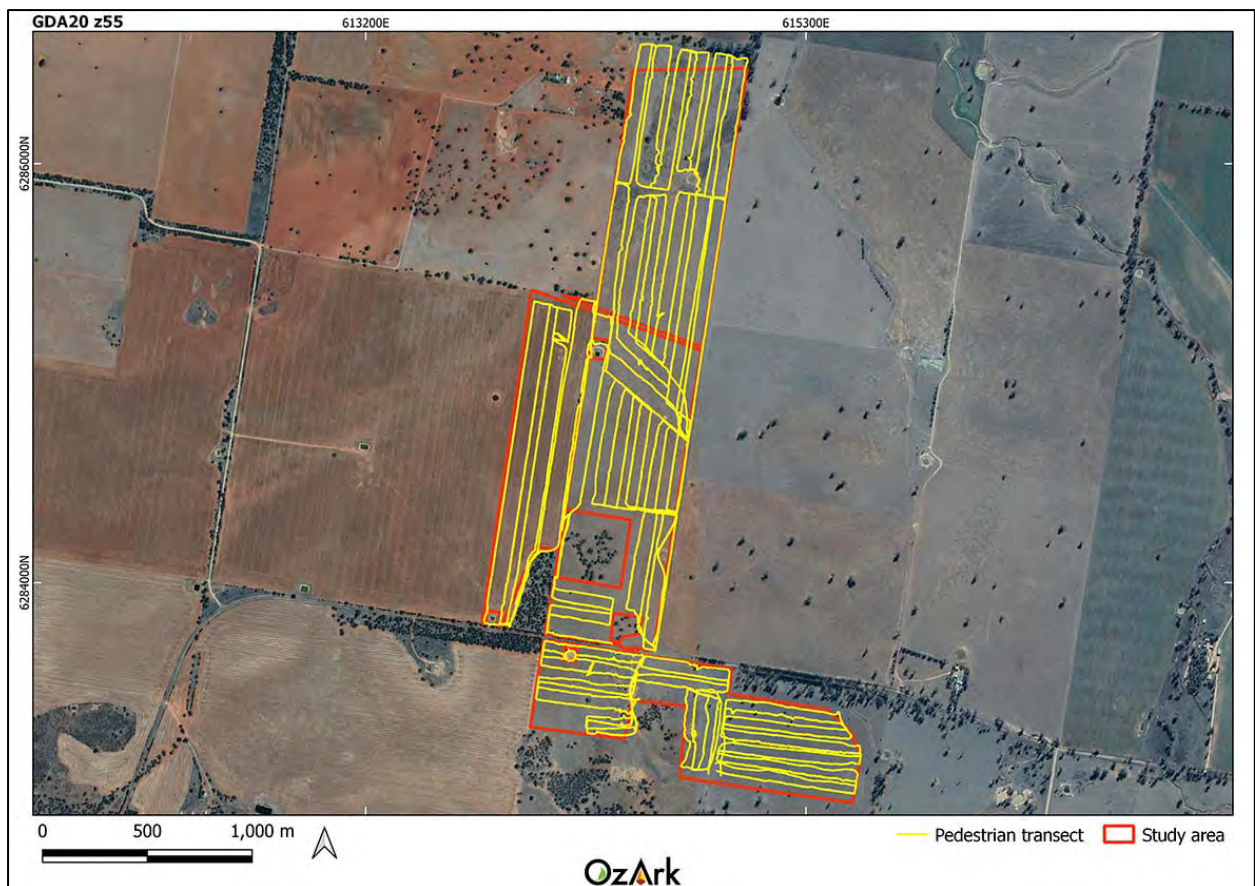
5.1 SURVEY METHODOLOGY

Standard archaeological field survey and recording methods were employed in this study (Burke & Smith 2004). The field survey was undertaken at the same time as the Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment survey (OzArk 2021).

Figure 5-1 shows the survey tracks of the OzArk archaeologists during the survey. Surveyors were spaced approximately 15 to 20 m apart during the survey.

Following the survey, the study area for the project was amended. As such, areas were surveyed which no longer form part of the study area.

Figure 5-1: Pedestrian coverage of the study area.



5.2 HISTORIC HERITAGE ITEMS

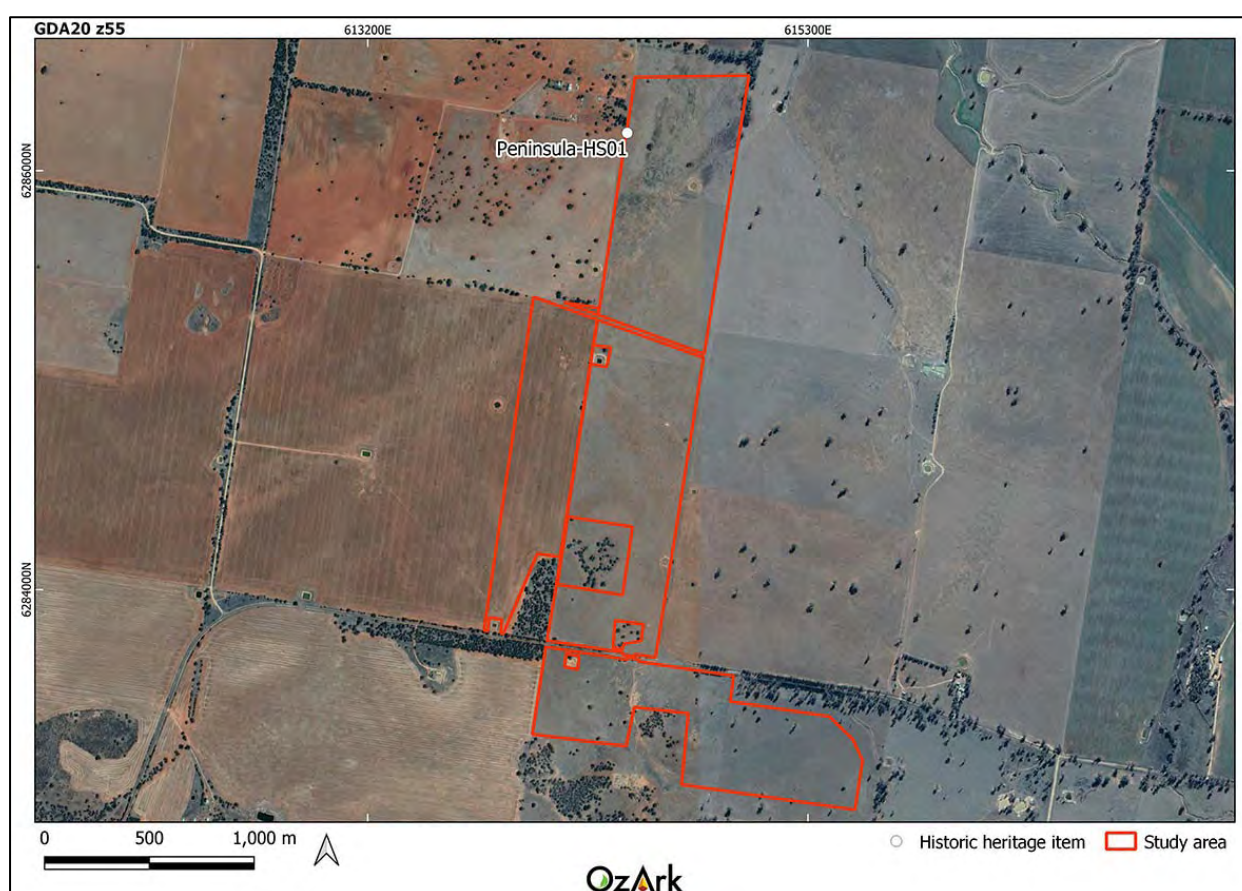
One historic heritage item was recorded during the survey (**Table 5-1** and **Figure 5-2**). Details on the item (Peninsula-HS01) are provided below.

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

Table 5-1: Recorded historic heritage items.

Item name	GDA20 Zone 55 coordinates	Type of heritage item
Peninsula-HS01	614437E 6286178N	Farming machinery – seed drill

Figure 5-2: Location of Peninsula-HS01 in relation to the study area.



Peninsula-HS01

Item type: Farming machinery – seed drill

GPS coordinates: GDA20 zone 55: 614437E 6286178N

Location of item: Peninsula-HS01 is located along the western boundary of Lot 441 DP1124885, approximately 2.4 km north of Paytens Bridge Road and 1.8 km northeast of Pineleigh Road.

Description of item: Peninsula-HS01 consists of a cast iron seed drill (**Figure 5-3**). The box section of the item reads "'SUN' Seed & Fertilizer Drill". It was manufactured by

H.V. McKay Pty. Ltd which had an agricultural machinery manufacturing plant in Sunshine, Victoria. The date of manufacture is estimated to be somewhere between 1921 and 1930 because of the manufacturers imprint. The Sunshine Harvester Works was reformed as H.V. McKay Pty. Ltd in 1921 and in 1930 it became H.V. McKay Massey Harris Pty. Ltd after a merger with the Canadian farm machinery manufacturer Massey Harris (Museum Victoria 2021).

Figure 5-3: Peninsula-HS01.



5.3 ASSESSMENT OF HISTORIC HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

5.3.1 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.

5.3.2 Assessment of significance of historic items

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

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

Criteria	Comments	Significance
a	The item is not an important item in the cultural history of the Forbes region.	Does not satisfy this criterion
b	The item cannot be tied to an individual or group of persons.	Does not satisfy this criterion
c	The item does not meet the threshold for aesthetic significance.	Does not satisfy this criterion

Criteria	Comments	Significance
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 is unlikely to yield further data.	Does not satisfy this criterion
f	The item displays horse drawn machinery used in the region from the early nineteenth century. Similar items in better condition are still exist throughout the country and in museums where the public can appreciate them.	Does not satisfy this criterion
g	The item comprises unremarkable examples of its type and demonstrates little new information about early farming practices in NSW.	Does not satisfy this criterion

Peninsula-HS01 has 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.

5.4 LIKELY IMPACTS TO HISTORIC HERITAGE FROM THE PROJECT

The recorded historic heritage item located within the study area, Peninsula-HS01, is on the boundary of Lot 441 DP1124885. Peninsula-HS01 has potential to be impacted by the project by the proposed solar array once it is finalised.

6 MANAGEMENT AND MITIGATION

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

Peninsula-HS01 has been assessed as having no heritage significance and is not protected by the Heritage Act. If the item is unable to be avoided by the project, it may be harmed as it represents a common rural feature without heritage significance. However, if it is possible to conserve the item in the landscape this would be a desirable heritage outcome. The item can also be moved to a nearby location where it does not create a constraint for the project but remains associated with the landscape in which it was discarded.

6.3 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 6.3.1** is an example of an unanticipated finds protocol that could be incorporated into the HHMP.

6.3.1 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 proposal and regarding:

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

No items of significant historic heritage value are located within the study area.

Recommendations concerning the historic values within study area are as follows.

1. Following development consent of the project, a HHMP will be developed and then used during the construction and ongoing use of the project. If items of historic heritage significance are uncovered during the project, then the unanticipated finds protocols in the HHMP will be enacted. An example of an unanticipated finds protocol is provided in **Section 6.3.1**.
2. Peninsula-HS01: if it is possible to conserve the item in the landscape this would be a desirable heritage outcome. The item can also be moved to a nearby location where it does not create a constraint for the project but remains associated with the landscape in which it was discarded. If it is not possible to conserve the item, however, it may be harmed as it represents a relatively common rural item without heritage significance.
3. It is assessed that ground disturbing works associated with the project will not harm significant historical archaeological deposits and no further archaeological investigation is required.
4. All land-disturbing activities must be confined within the assessed study area. Should project impacts change such that the area to be impacted is outside of the assessed study area, then additional assessment may be required.

REFERENCES

- AGSO 2000 Australian Geological Survey Organisation. 2000. *Explanatory Notes Forbes 1:250,000 Geological Sheet 2nd Edition*. AGSO Record 2000/20.
- Blackman 2021 Blackman, M. 2021. *Wenz, Paul (1869–1939)*. Australian Dictionary of Biography, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University. Accessed online 17 August 2021: <https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/wenz-paul-9048>
- Burke & Smith 2004 Burke, H. and Smith, C. 2004. *The Archaeologist's Field Handbook*, Blackwell, Oxford.
- GTI 2021 Gold Trails Inc. 2021. *Forbes Gold Trails*. Accessed online 18 August 2021: <https://www.goldtrails.com.au/article/forbes-2/>
- Hanson 1889 Hanson, W. 1889. *The pastoral possessions of New South Wales*. Gibb, Shallard & Co., Sydney.
- Heritage Council 2006 Heritage Office of the Department of Planning (now Heritage NSW). *Historical Archaeology Code of Practice*.
- Heritage Office 2001 *Assessing Heritage Significance*.
- Museum Victoria 2021 Museum Victoria 2021. *H.V. McKay Sunshine Collection*. Accessed online 3 September 2021: <https://collections.museumsvictoria.com.au/articles/2736>
- NPWS 2003 National Parkes and Wildlife Service (NSW). 2003. *The Bioregions of New South Wales: Their biodiversity, conservation and history, Chapter 10 The South Western Slopes Bioregion*.
- OoW 2011 NSW Office of Water. 2011. *Water resources and management overview: Lachlan catchment*. Department of Primary Industries.
- OzArk 2021 OzArk Environment & Heritage. 2021. *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report. Peninsular Solar Power Plant*. Report to Edify Australia Pty Ltd.
- SS 2021 NSW Spatial Services. 2021. *Historical Imagery Viewer*. NSW Government. Accessed online 11 August 2021: https://www.spatial.nsw.gov.au/products_and_services/aerial_and_historical_imagery
- SLNSW 2021 State Library of NSW. 2021. *Index Map of New South Wales showing pastoral holdings 1886*. Accessed online 17 August 2021: <https://digital.sl.nsw.gov.au/delivery/DeliveryManagerServlet?embedded=>

true&toolbar=false&dps_pid=IE3750740&_ga=2.254076104.1548352074
.1629171385-1041970822.1614152953

Whitehead 2003

Whitehead, J. 2003, *Tracking and Mapping the Explorers: Volume 1 The Lachlan River Oxley, Evans, and Cunningham*. Southern Cross University Printery: Lismore.

PLATES



Plate 1: View northeast across the drainage line in the north of the study area.



Plate 2: View south across a flat landform with gilgai in the north of the study area.



Plate 3: View south across a cleared, cultivated paddock in the west of the study area (Lot 9 DP752938).



Plate 4: View north of isolated paddock trees along the boundary of Lot 9 DP752938 and Lot 441 DP1124885.



Plate 5: View east across a gentle slope in the southeast of the study area showing isolated paddock trees.