

10.9 Non-Indigenous Heritage

Non-Indigenous heritage issues associated with the Mandalong Southern Extension Project were assessed by RPS as a component of the *Heritage Impact Assessment* (2013). The Study Area adopted by RPS for this assessment comprised the Southern Extension Area and an additional area external to the Southern Extension Area covering the 26.5 degree of draw from the edge of proposed mine plan. The remainder of the Project Application Area (to the north of the Study Area) was not assessed given that it comprises existing approved workings and infrastructure and there are no additional activities or disturbance proposed.

RPS's assessment has been completed in accordance with the *NSW Heritage Manual* (NSW Heritage Office 2001 and 2004) and addresses the key issues raised within the DGRs (see **Section 1.7.2**). A copy of the *Heritage Impact Assessment* (RPS 2013b) is contained within **Appendix K**, with significant findings and recommendations summarised in the below sub-sections.

10.9.1 Existing Environment

Mandalong, part of the original 2,000 acre grant of John Simpson, was settled as a result of Simpsons Track. The Track followed the main valley intersecting Stockton Creek, which drained the hill country west of Cooranbong (Clouten 1967, cited in RPS 2013b). The earliest settlement in the Mandalong area is documented with the purchase of blocks between 1838 and 1840. From 1861 onward, farmers moved to the area, with the main industries being timber extraction, dairying, and horse and cattle raising (RPS 2013b). Mandalong's prosperity depended on the timber trade, as the availability and need for timber dwindled so did the village. By 1953 the school and church had permanently closed. With poor soil quality and a decline in the timber industry, Mandalong remained a quiet rural area for much of the twentieth century (RPS 2013b).

A search of the World Heritage List and National Heritage Database, which incorporates the National Heritage List, the Register of the National Estate and the Commonwealth Heritage List, found no references for the Mandalong area. A further search of the NSW Heritage Register, which lists items deemed to be of State significance, found no references for the Mandalong area.

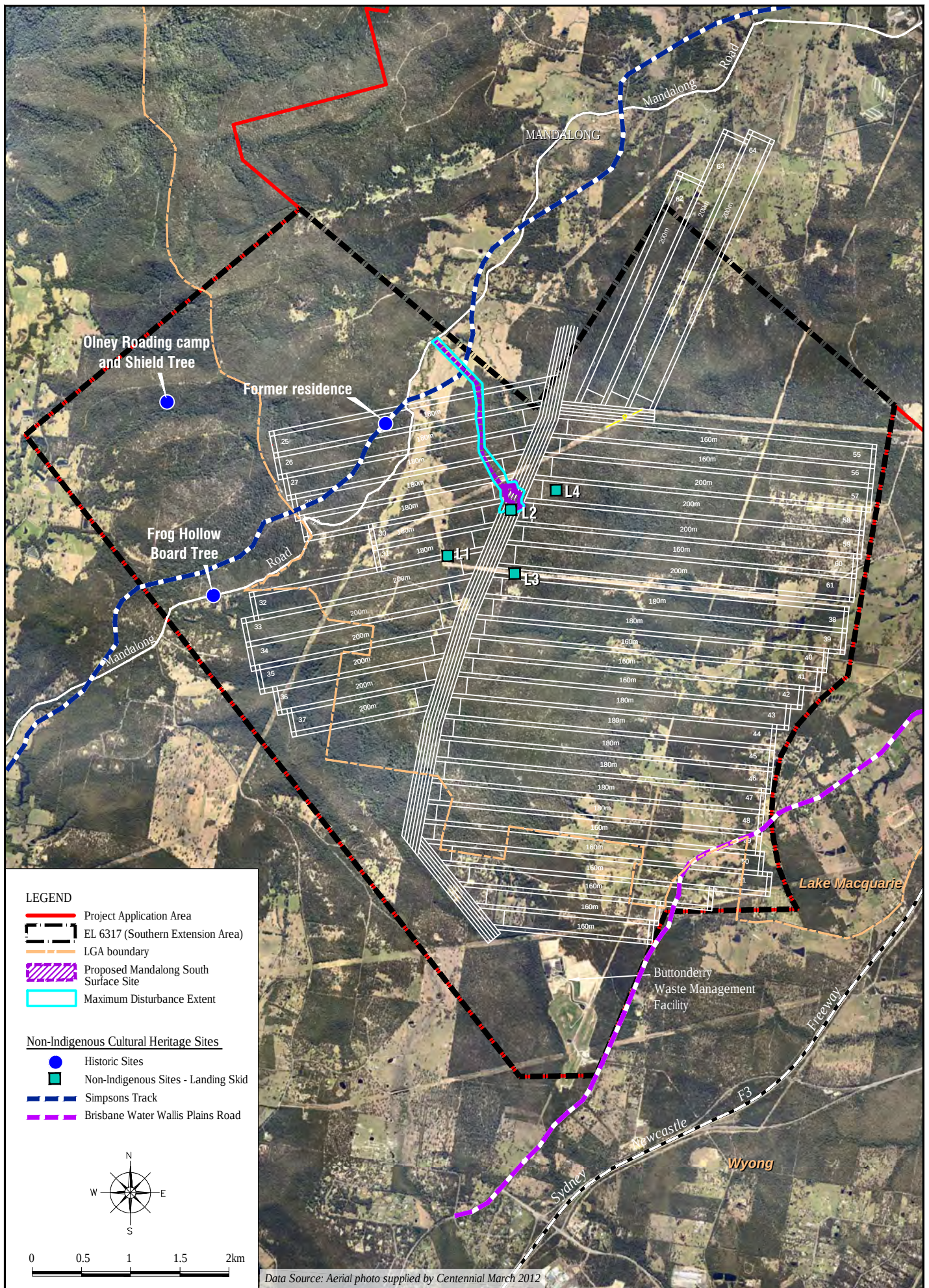
Items of significance at the local government level are listed in the Heritage Schedules of the relevant LEP. There are no items listed in the Southern Extension Area in the Lake Macquarie LEP 2004 or the Wyong Council LEP 1991. A more extensive search was conducted by RPS (2013b) using the *City of Lake Macquarie Heritage Study*, which was conducted in 1992-93 is an inventory of heritage sites in the Lake Macquarie LGA. There were no heritage items identified during this study in the Southern Extension Area.

While there are no registered heritage items within the Southern Extension Area, desktop research undertaken by RPS (2013b) indicated that potential heritage items may exist. These items being:

- Simpsons Track;
- Brisbane Water to Wallis Plains Road; and
- Remnants of previous forestry practices.

The possible location of Simpsons Track, the Brisbane Water to Wallis Plains Road and the forestry sites are shown on **Figure 46**.

Simpsons Track and the Brisbane Water to Wallis Plains Road were early thoroughfares on the NSW Central Coast and there is evidence they may have traversed part of the Southern Extension Area (RPS 2013b). Forestry was one of the earliest industries in the western Lake Macquarie area with remnants existing in the Southern Extension Area (RPS 2013). A summary of the items, as described by RPS (2013b), is provided below.



Simpsons Track

Considering that Simpsons Track was never a formed road in the Southern Extension Area, it is unlikely that any evidence of it remains. There is now no reliable indicator of the actual route of Simpsons Track, but given that its limited traffic was intended to be horse-drawn vehicle and walking stock, it is presumed that the route followed valley floors and gentle slopes where possible. This is consistent with the line of Mandalong Road which follows a logical line skirting along a low slope between the low lying creek valley and the steep escarpment. Given the evidence, including parish maps, it is considered that the currently formed and bitumen sealed Mandalong Road is along the alignment of Simpsons Track. This is supported by *The Convict Trail Project* (Convict Trail 2006, cited in RPS 2013b) in which it states “parts of the route of Simpsons Track have become today’s roads, with the original track lying under or beside them”. It is reasonable to believe that due to the construction of Mandalong Road along the likely alignment of Simpson Track, that material remains of Simpsons Track in the Southern Extension Area are unlikely.

Brisbane Waters to Wallis Plains Road

Other than the single road fragment remaining near Stockton Creek recorded by Nexus Archaeology in 2007, there is no other known archaeological material evidence to confirm the route of the Brisbane Waters to Wallis Plains Road in the Southern Extension Area. As with the route of Simpsons Track, further research using parish maps indicates that the line of the current Hue Hue Road is on a similar line to what was probably the Brisbane Waters to Wallis Plains Road. This road intersects the Southern Extension Area briefly in the south-east corner, however given the likely construction of Hue Hue Road along the likely alignment of the Brisbane Waters to Wallis Plains Road, it is unlikely that any remnants of the earlier road would exist.

Forestry Heritage

State Forests of NSW (now Forests NSW) commissioned a study of the Morisset Forestry District that included a portion of the Southern Extension Area. European settlement of the area occurred as a direct result of the need for coal, agricultural land and timber. Timber harvesting commenced in the area in the 1820s to 1830s and continued until the NPW Act 1974 came in to force, although stands were almost exhausted by the 1890s (DECCW 2010, cited in RPS 2013b). A number of timber mills were located near the Olney State Forest.

The Forests NSW inventory lists three sites in the Southern Extension Area:

- OSF20 Olney Roding Camp and Shield Tree – a former camp site that is now a grassy clearing. No physical evidence, though archaeological remains may exist. A shield tree used to identify a bench mark for road construction occurs on the northern side of the road.
- OSF27 Frog Hollow Board Tree – a 4 metre high blackbutt stump with two sets of board holes.
- OSF30 Former Residence and Gardens – a former private residence later used as a forestry camp, which is now known as Curtis’s Paddock. While the house has been removed, a corrugated iron shed and remains of a post and rail stockyard remains. Of the house, the timber stumps and a brick and stone fireplace remain together with plantings of mature exotic trees.

These sites are not listed on the NSW Heritage Database (either at a local or State level) and they are not listed on the Forests NSW register under section 170 of the *Heritage Act 1977*.

Field Survey

A non-Indigenous survey of the Southern Extension Area was conducted by RPS (2013b) on 20 March 2012. In addition to the three sites detailed above, four non-Indigenous sites, determined to be landing skids (log landings), were identified and evaluated during the survey. All of these items were related to the area’s recent logging history and each displayed chainsaw cut marks on the end grains where they had been cut.

Landings skids are neither rare nor in this case historically significant, with the practice of fashioning them still being undertaken in the timber industry today in order to aid the loading of logs on to trucks for transportation (RPS 2013b).

The locations of these landing skids are shown on **Figure 46**.



Plate 22 – Landing Skid 2

10.9.2 Significance Assessment

As summarised in **Table 38**, an assessment of the heritage significance of the four landing skids and the sites recorded by Forests NSW was undertaken by RPS (2013b) using the *NSW Heritage Manual* (NSW Heritage Office 2001). Simpsons Track and the Brisbane Water to Wallis Plains Road were not included in the significance assessment as there is no indication they still exist in the Southern Extension Area.

Table 38 - Significance Assessment for Non-Indigenous Heritage

NSW State Heritage Significance Criterion	Response	Landing Skid 1 - 4	OSF20 Olney Roading Camp and Shield Tree	OSF27 Frog Hollow Board Tree	OSF30 Former Residence and Gardens
(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)	Historic logging practices provide information on the history of primary industry development. There is no connection between the late 19 th century timber mills located near the Olney State Forest.	Displays no historic value as a record of a historic 19 th century logging activity in Olney State Forest. Criterion A is not met.	Displays no historic value as a record of a historic 19 th century logging activity in Olney State Forest. Criterion A is not met.	Although this site has some historical value these types of trees are better represented elsewhere in the area. Criterion A is not met.	The house is no longer extant and therefore displays no historic value of a residence or garden. Criterion A is not met.
(b): An item has 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)	There is no evidence to suggest that the site has particular associative value with individuals or groups of persons of cultural historic importance.	The items are not of an age to be related to Frederick Carson's Yarralong sawmill. Criterion B is not met.	The items are not related to any person or group of persons. Criterion B is not met.	The items are not related to any person or group of persons. Criterion B is not met.	The items do not appear to relate to any person or group of persons. Criterion B is not met.
(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)	The Log landings are crudely constructed and are not considered to fulfil this criterion. They are roughly fashioned and represent haphazard utilitarian construction based on surrounding and immediately available material.	The dilapidated condition of the Landing skids and their advanced stage of its deterioration have a bearing on whether this criterion is satisfied. In effect, the items have lost their technical value and could not be repaired meaningfully.	No aesthetic characteristic of high degree of creative achievement. Criterion C not met	There are no aesthetic, creative or technical achievements associated with this tree. This criterion is therefore not satisfied.	There is no evidence of aesthetic, creative or technical achievement associated with the former residence or garden. Criterion C is not met.
(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	There is no evidence to suggest that the site has community/social or spiritual value.	No community /social or spiritual value. Criterion D is not met.	No community /social or spiritual value. Criterion D is not met.	No community /social or spiritual value. Criterion D is not met	No community /social or spiritual value. Criterion D is not met.

NSW State Heritage Significance Criterion	Response	Landing Skid 1 - 4	<u>OSF20 Olney Roding Camp and Shield Tree</u>	<u>OSF27 Frog Hollow Board Tree</u>	<u>OSF30 Former Residence and Gardens</u>
(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)	There is no evidence to suggest that the site has particular 'scientific interest' such that the Landing skids remains could provide information that could not be found at a more intact site elsewhere or through documentary evidence.	Landing skids are still used in the timber industry and there are significant plans and details available about them. Criterion E is not met.	There is no longer any evidence of the Roding Camp remaining. Criterion E is not met.	The tree is a remnant with two board holes as the only evidence. This criterion is therefore not satisfied.	The former residence was destroyed and only a stockyard and remnant exotic trees remain. It is therefore unlikely that these remaining features would contribute to current knowledge of local or State cultural/natural history. This criterion is therefore not satisfied.
(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)	It is understood that Landing skids in the timber industry are common. As such, it is considered that intact mid – late 20 th century versions are unlikely to meet this rarity criterion.	The common occurrence and advanced stage of the Landing skids deterioration means that structural integrity has been compromised and therefore this criterion is not satisfied.	The roading camp and shield tree are not uncommon, rare or endangered locally or within NSW generally. This criterion is therefore not met.	These sort sorts of site types are evident in many places both locally and in New South Wales generally. This criterion is therefore not satisfied.	None of the remaining features are considered uncommon, rare or endangered. This criterion is therefore not satisfied.
(g): An item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW's (or the local area's) cultural or natural places; or cultural or natural environments	Landing skids to assist the transportation of logs is not considered to be a symbol of rural Australia. They are used globally where logging occurs such as the USA, Finland, Norway, Malaysia etc.	Landing skids are not limited to use in the Olney State Forest and therefore do not meet this criteria.	The advanced stage of the deterioration means that structural integrity has been compromised and therefore this criterion is not satisfied.	The tree is in poor condition having been damaged by fire and only board holes remain. This criterion is therefore not met.	The former residence and gardens are well represented and in better forms both locally and across the State. This criterion is therefore not satisfied.

The non-Indigenous heritage items recorded are consistent with the extraction and transport of timber practiced widely in the Olney State Forest and elsewhere across NSW. Given that the four landing skids exhibit chainsaw marks where the logs have been cut off, there is no possible connection between them and early nineteenth century logging in the Olney State Forest (RPS 2013b). The landing skids inspected are likely to date from the 1970s or later, and the research undertaken indicates that the landing skids are not rare, are not old and are not unique in any way (RPS 2013b).

RPS (2013b) concluded that none of the items possess heritage elements that meet local or State heritage significance.

10.9.3 Impact Assessment

RPS (2013b) concludes that the non-Indigenous cultural heritage sites recorded in the Southern Extension Area have no local or State significance and, therefore, do not requiring listing in any heritage database/register. Sites SF20 and OSF27 are outside the proposed mine plan and will not be undermined. OSF30 no longer exists and the landing skids are unlikely to be impacted by the predicted subsidence levels.

The disturbance footprint for the Mandalong South Surface Site, including the access road and power easement, comprises approximately 20 hectares. While RPS (2013b) did not identify any non-Indigenous heritage sites within this disturbance footprint, the Landing Skid 2 has the potential to be impacted during the construction, as a result of surface disturbance works associated with the construction of the site. RPS (2013b) advises that if it is not possible to avoid harming the skid it should be archivally recorded by a qualified historical archaeologist prior to impact.

10.9.4 Mitigation and Management

Given all non-Indigenous heritage items recorded within the Southern Extension Area are of low heritage significance, a specific management plan or monitoring program is not required. However, Centennial Mandalong will undertake the following:

Landing Skid 2

If it is not possible to avoid impact on Landing Skid 2, which is located in the vicinity of the proposed Mandalong South Surface Site, the skid will be archivally recorded by a qualified historical archaeologist prior to impact

Unidentified Sites

In the event that any additional non-Indigenous cultural heritage material is identified or uncovered during development works, any surface works in the area will cease and a heritage consultant contacted to assess the condition of the item. Centennial Mandalong will adopt the appropriate mitigation measures, as provided by the heritage consultant, before recommencement of work.

Site Induction

All relevant Centennial Mandalong employees and contractors working within the Southern Extension Area will be made aware of their statutory obligations for non-Indigenous heritage under the *NSW Heritage Act 1977* as part of the site induction process.