

30 September 2025

Gabrielle Allan
Team Leader
Energy, Resources and Industry
Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure

Via: Major Project Portal

Dear Gabrielle

SSD-5594 Schedule 3 Condition 10(h)(vii)
Request for Alternative Compliance Approach - Heritage Management Plan

Springvale Mine (Springvale) is an underground coal mining operation located 15 kilometres to the northwest of the regional city of Lithgow in the Lithgow Local Government Area. Springvale is bordered by Angus Place to the north and Clarence Colliery to the south-east.

Schedule 3, Condition 10(h)(vii) of Development Consent SSD-5594 requires the preparation of a Heritage Management Plan by a suitably qualified and experienced person whose appointment has been endorsed by the Secretary. Nicola Hayes of Navin Heritage Consultants was endorsed by the Department to prepare the Heritage Management Plan. Subsequent to this endorsement, Navin Heritage Consultants were engaged by Springvale to undertake a due diligence field inspection in accordance with the relevant guidelines.

The due diligence field inspections confirmed that the AIHMS sites (#45-1-0204 and #45-1-0205), previously recorded in 1992 as being located within the EMMA 600 m buffer, are in fact situated outside the buffer. The nearest AIHMS site is now confirmed to be approximately 42 m beyond the buffer area. This discrepancy is attributable to improvements in GPS accuracy since the original recordings. For completeness, no new AIHMS sites were identified within the study area.

On this basis, Springvale seeks the Department's agreement that a standalone Heritage Management Plan is not required, given that the potential environmental consequences relating to heritage within the Extraction Plan area are considered low. To ensure appropriate consideration of heritage values, Springvale proposes to incorporate additional measures into the Land Management Plan, including:

- Acknowledgment of the absence of known heritage constraints within the EMMA, while maintaining compliance with relevant consent conditions; and
- Reference to the Unexpected Finds Protocols contained within the Western Region Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan and Western Region Historic Heritage Management Plan, which will be applied to manage any unrecorded Aboriginal or non-Aboriginal heritage items or sites encountered during works, in accordance with Heritage NSW consultation requirements and regulatory obligations.

Springvale seeks written confirmation from the Department that this approach will satisfactorily address the heritage requirements for Longwalls 501–503 within the Extraction Plan currently under preparation.

If you require any further information regarding this matter, please contact me on 0457 426 718 or email natalie.gardiner@centennialcoal.com.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "N Gardiner". The "N" is large and stylized, with the "Gardiner" written in a cursive script.

Natalie Gardiner
Environment and Community Superintendent

Appendix A:

Due Diligence Assessment



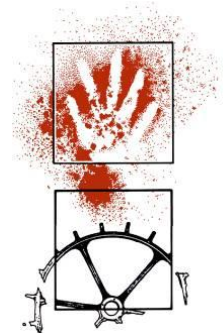
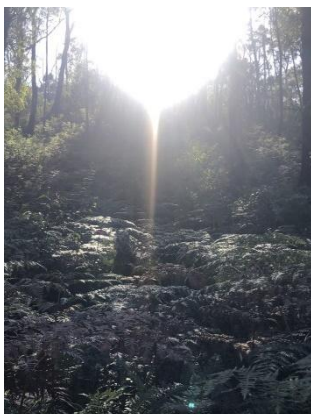
Springvale Longwalls 501-503 Extraction Plan Support

Aboriginal Due Diligence Assessment

Final



September 2025

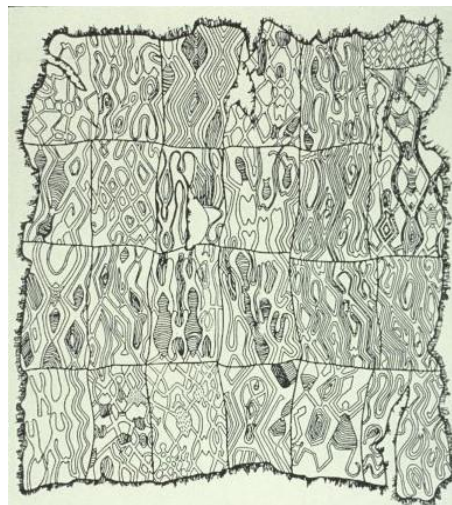


**Navin
Officer**

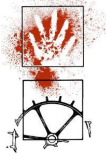
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NOHC acknowledges Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, their many diverse communities across our nation and their rich culture. We pay respect to their Elders past and present. We acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as Australia's first peoples and as the Traditional Owners and custodians of the land and water across the Australian landscape and seascape. We recognise and value the ongoing contribution of Aboriginal people to Australian life and how their contribution continues to enrich our society. In our daily work we recognise, cherish, celebrate and defend the evidence of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples rich and complex history and prehistory which extends back from the present day into a deep and distant past. We understand that this archaeological evidence has meaning to the descendants of those who created it. Through our research and conservation efforts we strive to unlock hidden meanings from these traces of the past and to make that knowledge available to current and future generations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.



Document control

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Author	Revision number	Internal review	Date issued
Lachlan Sharp and Ellaine Dickens	1.1	Nicola Hayes and Ben Sybert	2/04/2025
Ellaine Dickens and Lachlan Sharp	2.1	Following client review	15/09/2025
Lachlan Sharp and Ellaine Dickens	2.2	Client feedback implemented.	23/09/2025

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Cover Photos: NOHC, March 2025

Previous page: Aboriginal possum skin rug collected 1839-1840 from the Hunter River region, eastern NSW (Smithsonian Inst. Washington D.C. Cat. no. E5803)

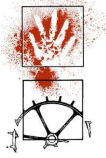


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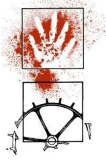
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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose

Navin Officer Heritage Consultants Pty Ltd (NOHC) has been commissioned by Centennial Coal (the proponent) to prepare an Aboriginal Due Diligence Assessment to assess the potential impacts to cultural heritage from proposed secondary extraction within the Longwalls 501-503 Extraction Plan Area for Springvale Mine (Springvale).

Springvale is an existing underground coal mine located in the Western Coalfield of New South Wales (NSW), approximately 120 km northwest of Sydney (refer to Figure 1-1). Underground coal mining commenced in 1995 following the granting of Development Consent (DA 11/92) on 27 July 1992 by the then Minister for Planning. On 21 September 2015, Development Consent SSD-5594 was approved by the then Planning Assessment Commission (under delegation from the Minister of Planning) allowing for continued underground mining operations at Springvale at existing production rates until 31 December 2028.

As part of SSD-5594, Extraction Plans are required for all secondary extraction (underground mining resulting in subsidence). A Cultural Heritage Assessment was originally prepared to support the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS); however, this assessment is now approximately ten years old. Given the time since the EIS, this Aboriginal Due Diligence Assessment is being carried out to account for any new or previously unrecorded heritage sites.

1.2 Study Area

The Study Area for the Aboriginal Due Diligence Assessment extends 600 m from the proposed extraction of Longwalls 501–503 (refer to Figure 1-2). This buffer zone ensures that potential impacts from subsidence and related surface changes are adequately considered.

1.3 Project Framework

Part 6 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NSW) (NPW Act) provides protection for Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW, including Aboriginal objects and declared Aboriginal places.

Under the Act, an **Aboriginal object** is defined as:

[...] any deposit, object or material evidence (not being a handicraft made for sale) relating to the Aboriginal habitation of the area that comprises New South Wales, being habitation before or concurrent with (or both) the occupation of that area by persons of non-Aboriginal extraction, and extraction and includes Aboriginal remains.

An **Aboriginal place** is any area of land in NSW declared by the Minister for the Environment to be of special significance with respect to Aboriginal culture.

It is an offence under s.86(4) of the NPW Act to harm (destroy, deface, or damage) or desecrate an Aboriginal object or place. The definition of harm includes removing an Aboriginal object from the land on which it is situated. Where harm cannot be avoided, an Aboriginal heritage impact permit (AHIP) issued by Heritage NSW under s.90 of the NPW Act will be required. An AHIP application must be accompanied by an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR), which details the results of an archaeological investigation, assesses the Aboriginal cultural heritage values associated with the area, and identifies any potential harm the proposed activity may cause (DECCW 2010a). Consultation with Aboriginal communities must also be undertaken in relation to the AHIP application in accordance with the consultation process set out in s.60 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2019*.

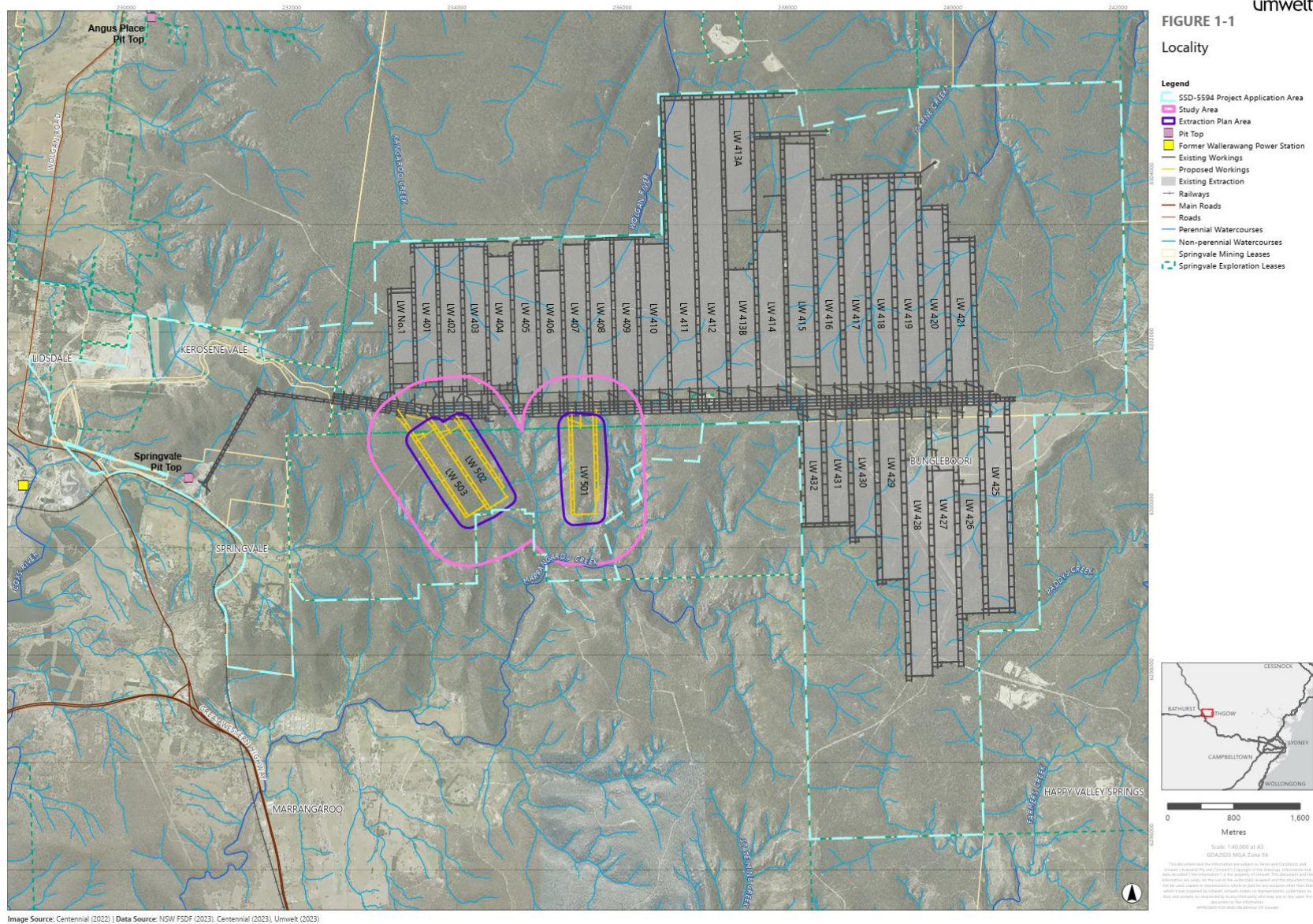


Figure 1-1 Locality

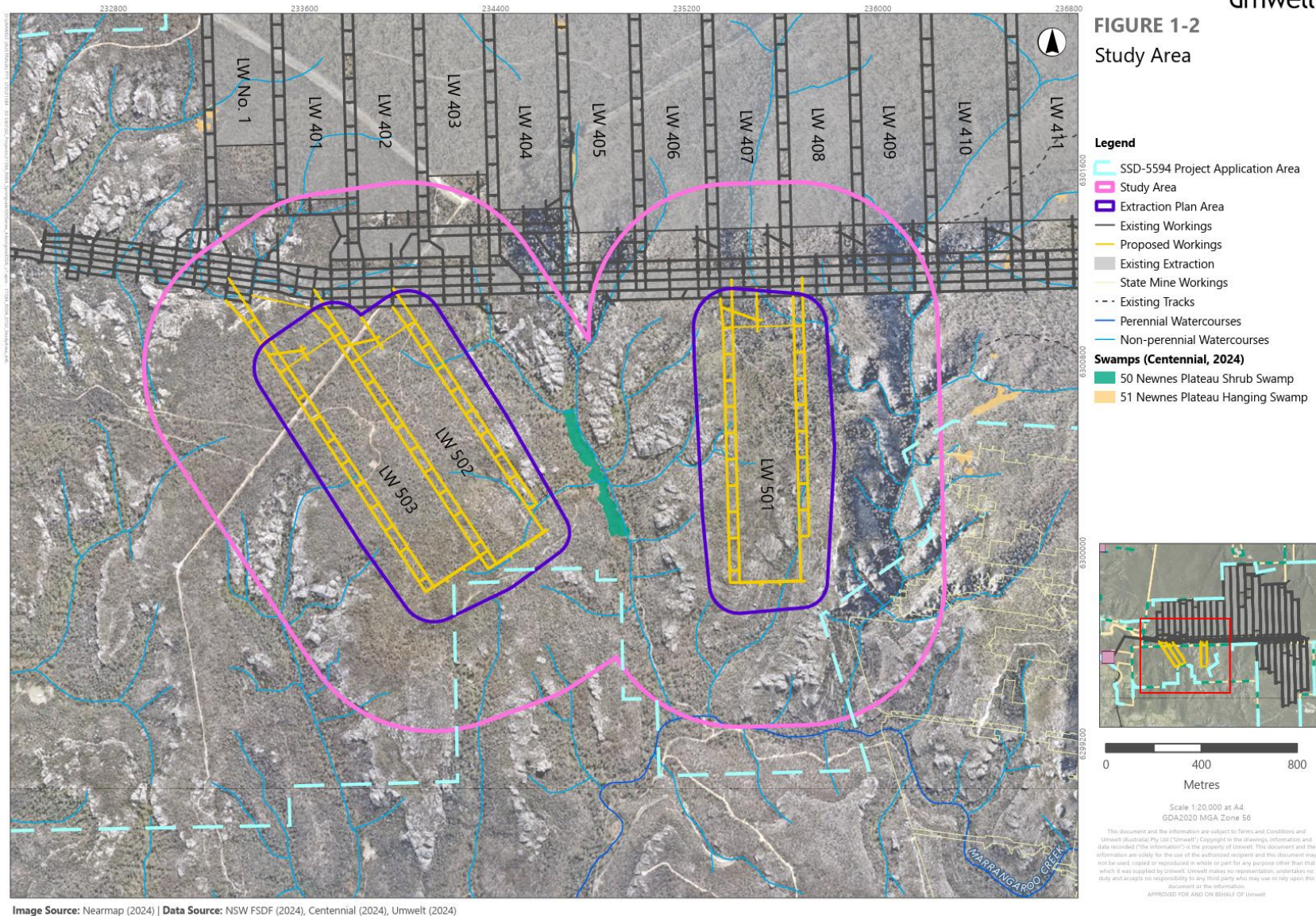


Figure 1-2 Study Area



1.3.1 Due Diligence Assessment Framework

The Due Diligence Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects in NSW (the Code of Practice) helps individuals and organisations to exercise due diligence when conducting activities that may harm Aboriginal objects, and sets out steps to take in order to identify whether or not Aboriginal objects are, or are likely to be, present in an area; determine whether or not a proposed activity is likely to harm Aboriginal objects (if present); and determine whether an AHIP application is required (DECCW 2010b) (Figure 1-3). The Code of Practice provides a series of questions to determine the applicability to the proposed project. The questions are addressed in Table 1-1 (below).

Table 1-1 Applicability of the Due Diligence Code of Practice for the proposed project

Question	Answer
Is the activity a declared project under Part 3A of the <i>NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i> ?	No
Is the activity an exempt activity listed in the NPW Act or other legislation?	No
Will the activity involve harm that is trivial or negligible?	No
Is the activity in an Aboriginal place or are you already aware of Aboriginal objects on the land?	No
Is the activity a low impact activity for which there is a defence in the NPW Regulation?	No
Do you want to use an industry specific code of practice?	No
Do you wish to follow your own procedure?	No

As none of the questions outlined in the table above apply to the project, a Due Diligence process using the code must be established following the process outlined in the Code of Practice. The Code consists of five steps:

- Step 1:** Determine if the activity will disturb the ground surface.
- Step 2a:** Search the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) database and use any other sources of information of which you are already aware.
- Step 2b:** Determine if the activity is in areas where landscape features indicate the presence of Aboriginal objects.
- The Code of Practice identifies that Aboriginal objects are often associated with particular landscape features as a result of past land use and traditional cultural activities (DECCW 2010), including areas:
- within 200 m of waters, or
 - located within a sand dune system, or
 - located on a ridge top, ridge line or headland, or
 - located within 200 m below or above a cliff face, or
 - within 20 m of or in a cave, rock shelter, or a cave mouth.
- Step 3:** Assess if harm to the object or disturbance of the landscape feature can be avoided.
- Step 4:** Undertake a desktop assessment and visual inspection.
- Step 5:** If it is determined that harm will occur to Aboriginal objects, then an AHIP application must be made, and further investigation and impact assessment will be required in the form of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment.



This assessment has been undertaken to satisfy the requirements of the Code of Practice. Compliance with the Code of Practice in determining an activity will not harm Aboriginal objects is a defence against prosecution if an Aboriginal object is later unintentionally harmed.

1.4 Contributors

This report was prepared by Lachlan Sharp and Ellaine Dickens. It was reviewed by Nicola Hayes and Ben Sybert. Field investigations were conducted by Ben Sybert (Senior Heritage Consultant), Ricardo Servin (Senior Heritage Consultant) and Lachlan Sharp (Heritage Consultant).

NOHC personnel were accompanied in field investigations by Matthew Sullivan (Bathurst Local Land Council), Bradley Bliss (Wellington Valley Wiradjuri Aboriginal Corporation (WVWAC)), Brion Booth (Warrabinga Native Title Claims Aboriginal Corporation), Yamadirra Newton (Mingaan Wiradjuri Aboriginal Corporation), Nathan Brown (Gundungurra Tribal Council Aboriginal Corporation) and Coral Williams (North East Wiradjuri Company Ltd). Bradley Bliss of WVWAC contributed DStretch images for Section 3 of this report.

1.5 Step 1: Will the activity disturb the ground surface?

Yes. The future extraction of Longwalls 501-503 at Springvale Mine using longwall mining methods has the potential to disturb the ground surface as a result of subsidence. Vertical subsidence occurs due to the removal of subsurface material causing the overlying ground surface to sink. This may impact Aboriginal sites located on the ground surface through the movement of subsurface sediments.

No measurable subsidence is expected beyond the Extraction Plan Area, identified sites are located beyond the 600 m Study Area buffer.

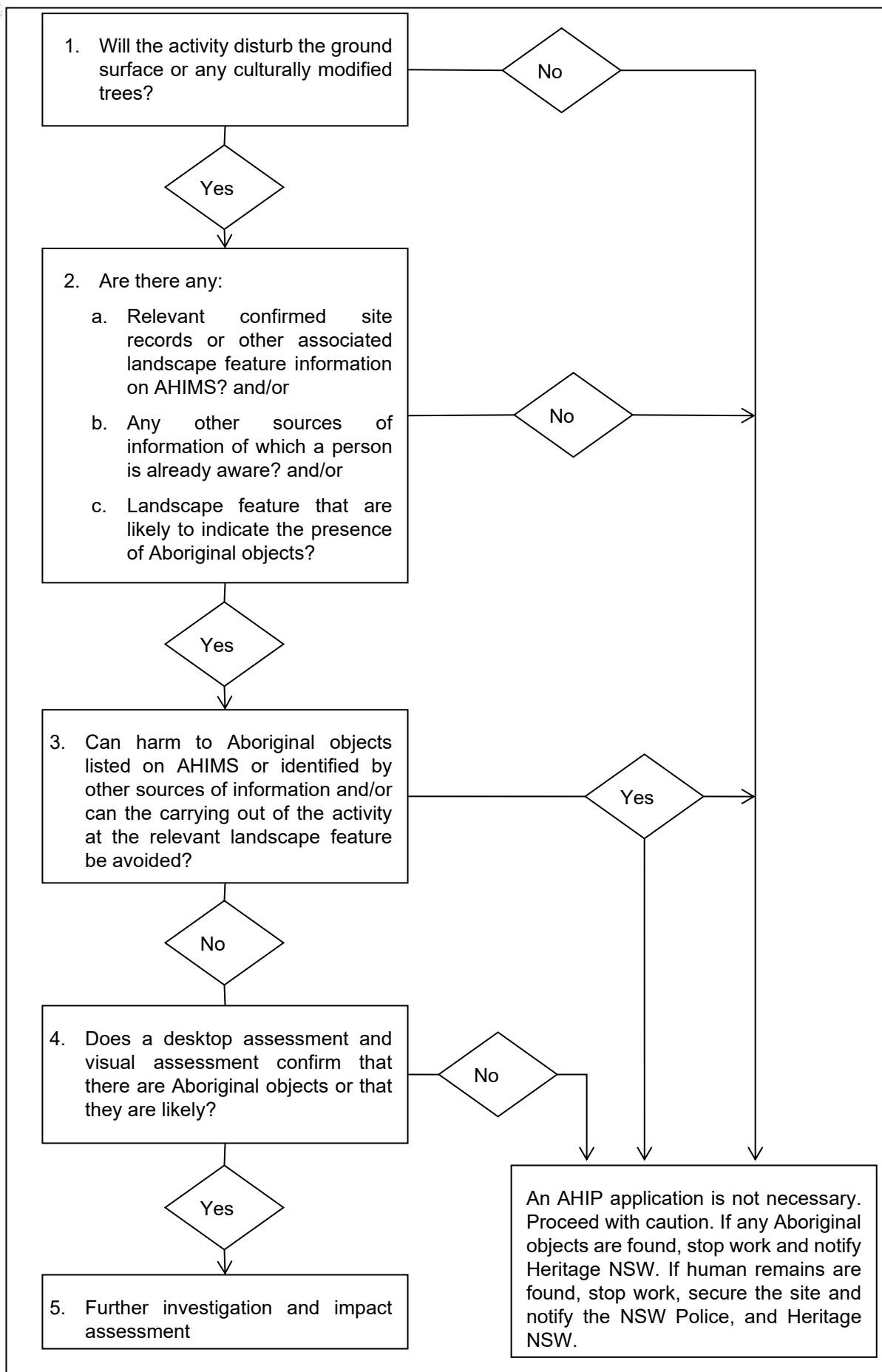


Figure 1-3 Generic due diligence process (DECCW 2010b)



2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT

2.1 Step 2A: Search the AHIMS database and use any other sources of information of which you are already aware

The AHIMS is a database that contains information about Aboriginal objects and places in NSW, including site records and cultural heritage assessment reports. If an Aboriginal object is found that is not already recorded on the AHIMS database, it is a requirement under s.89A of the NPW Act to notify Heritage NSW of the object's location.

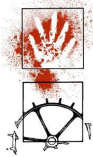
An extensive search of the AHIMS database was undertaken on 2 December 2024 (Client ID: 956232). The search identified a total of 45 sites within a 5 km buffer from the centroid of the proposed Study Area (Figure 2-1). There are five sites within 1 km of proposed secondary extraction (AHIMS #45-1-0204, #45-1-0205, #45-1-0091, #45-1-0087, and #45-1-0088). The five sites represent rock shelters with art (n = 2), and rock shelters with deposit (n = 3). The results of the search are summarised in Table 2-1.

Table 2-1 Summary of AHIMS search results

Site Feature(s)	Count	% of Total
Art (Pigment or Engraved) with artefact(s)	2	4.44%
Art (Pigment or Engraved)	5	11.11%
Open Artefact Occurrence	18	40%
Rock Shelter with Art (Pigment or Engraved)	2	4.44%
Rock Shelter with Deposit and Artefact(s)	12	26.66%
Grinding Groove	1	2.22%
Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred)	3	6.67%
Potential Archaeological Deposit (PAD)	1	2.22%
Stone Arrangement	1	2.22%
Grand Total	45	100.00%



Figure 2-1 AHIMS sites near the Study Area



The current Study Area comprises a 600 m buffer from the proposed extraction of Longwalls 501-503. The AHIMS search identified one known AHIMS site within the Study Area (AHIMS #45-1-0204) and one site within 100 m (AHIMS #45-1-0205). Both sites are rock shelters with Aboriginal art works and surface artefacts, originally identified by Rich and Gorman (1992). However, as outlined in Section 3.1.2, these sites were incorrectly mapped. Field verification has confirmed that neither site is located within the defined Study Area.

It should also be noted Site AHIMS #45-1-2557 (M-OS-1) was incorrectly recorded in AHIMS as an Aboriginal Ceremony and Dreaming site. The original report refers to this site as an open artefact scatter (CWAS, 2000). The site is located approximately 730 m south of the Study Area.

Several studies have been undertaken within and near the locality of the Study Area. These are summarised in Table 2-2.

Table 2-2 Studies undertaken in the vicinity of the Study Area

Author	Date	Study Area	Title
Brayshaw, H.	1983	<i>Marrangaroo. – approximately 2 km southwest</i>	<i>Archaeological Survey North Hermitage Colliery, Lithgow.</i>
This report documents the results of a survey for Aboriginal sites within the escarpments and highlands of the Newnes Plateau and flats of Marrangaroo creek. The report identified three rock shelters, 25 potential shelter sites and two open sites.			
<i>Haglund and Associates</i>	1983	<i>Lithgow – approximately 8 km southeast</i>	<i>A Survey for Prehistoric Sites on the Proposed Clarence Transfer for the Lithgow Water Supply, NSW</i>
This report documents the results of a survey for Aboriginal sites along the route of the Clarence Transfer for the Lithgow Water Supply. Two sites were identified, an isolated grey chert flake and a scatter of two flaked pieces of grey quartzite. It was assessed that these sites were of low significance, and it was recommended that precautions be taken to avoid further disturbance to the sites.			
<i>Gorecki, PP</i>	1983	<i>Newnes Plateau – approximately 1.4 km northwest</i>	<i>Archaeological survey: Kariwara Colliery Lease, Lithgow</i>
Gorecki undertook a survey of the Kariwara Colliery Lease for Longworth and McKenzie Limited. The Study Area was partly within the Springvale Mine site. Five archaeological sites and 19 PADs were identified during the survey. Three of these sites (all shelters with deposit) are located within 3 kms of the current Study Area. It was recommended to avoid impacts to all sites, however if impacts could not be avoided then test excavation was recommended.			
<i>Brayshaw, McDonald and Rich, E</i>	1988	<i>Marrangaroo - 2.4 km southwest</i>	<i>Proposed Prison at Marrangaroo Creek, Near Lithgow</i>
A survey was undertaken for a proposed Prison approximately 6 km north of Lithgow. During the survey eight sites were newly recorded and two sites from Brayshaw in 1983 were relocated. All sites were open artefact scatters of predominantly locally available quartz and quartzite. It was recommended where possible that all sites be avoided by the development, and that sites subject to direct impacts be collected prior to impacts occurring.			



Author	Date	Study Area	Title
McIntyre, S	1990	Newnes Plateau – approximately 1.5 kms northwest	Archaeological Survey of the Proposed Kariwara Longwall Coal Mine
This study was undertaken for Newcom Collieries who proposed to construct a new longwall coal mine. The project area for this study covered 3500 hectares of the Newnes Plateau area. Forty-two sites were recorded during the study including rock shelters and shelter complexes, scarred trees, and art sites. Two sites, identified as 21 Newnes State Forest and 22 Newnes State Forest within the 1990 report are located 2.7 kms from the current Study Area were recommended to be preserved, or subject to salvage excavation if their preservation could not be guaranteed.			
Rich, E and Gorman, AC	1992	Wallerawang – within the Study Area	Proposed Springvale Colliery and Conveyor, Wallerawang
Rich and Gorman undertook a field survey for the EIS for the proposed Springvale Colliery near Wallerawang. Twenty-six sites were recorded, including shelters with and without PAD, open artefact occurrences, grinding grooves, and a scarred tree. Two rock shelters with art (AHIMS #45-1-0204 and #45-1-0205) are located within 600 m of the Study Area within the bounds of the mine. These two rock shelters were recommended to be included in future monitoring programs to check their stability throughout the mine development and operation.			
Section 3.1.2.1 of this report details the updated site descriptions and locations of AHIMS #45-1-0204 and #45-1-0205 following the assessment in February of 2025.			
Rich, E	1993	Wallerawang – within the Study Area	Springvale Coal Project, Wallerawang NSW
The report was conducted to address the unauthorised impact on Aboriginal sites associated with the Springvale Coal Project. Two sites recorded by Rich and Gorman (1992) (AHIMS #45-1-210 and #45-1-212) were damaged and three open sites and a reported burial location were to be partially affected. Site #45-1-212, a shelter with PAD, is located 2.4 km from the current Study Area and was partially destroyed through a “breakdown in communication between the on-site construction team and Springvale Coal management”. AHIMS #45-1-210, an open artefact scatter was wholly destroyed “accidentally” through an error in mapping. The remainder of #45-1-212 was recommended to be incorporated into a Landscape Management Plan.			
Central West Archaeological and Heritage Services (CWAS)	2000	Lithgow – approximately 1 km south	An Aboriginal Archaeological Study of the Marangaroo Department of Defence Site, Lithgow NSW
CWAS undertook an Aboriginal Archaeological study of the Marangaroo Department of Defence Site, Lithgow. A total of 17 Aboriginal sites were identified during the survey including 12 rock shelters and five open artefact occurrences. Eleven of these sites are located in the vicinity of the current Study Area, with the closest site (M-OS-1, an open scatter of three artefacts) situated approximately 1.2 kms south. All rock shelters were located in association with sandstone rock formations. Several of the open artefact occurrences had been previously disturbed by roadworks and vehicle tracks. Sites recorded during the assessment were recommended to be avoided by the development.			
OzArk Environment and Heritage	2006	Newnes State Forest – approximately 600 m southeast	Two Proposed Dewatering Borehole Sites for Underground Mining Activities within the Newnes State Forest, Lithgow NSW



Author	Date	Study Area	Title
This report was undertaken as a result of a heritage assessment of a hectare (ha) of land within the Newnes State Forest. No Aboriginal sites were identified, and no constraints were posed to the proposed dewatering boreholes and associated easement and access tracks.			

<i>OzArk Environment and Heritage</i>	2007	<i>Cullen Bullen – approximately 7 kms northwest</i>	<i>Indigenous Heritage Assessment for Subsidence Management Plan Over Three Proposed Longwalls (29-31), Baal Bone Colliery</i>
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OzArk composed a Subsidence Management Plan (SMP) for proposed longwalls beneath Ben Bullen State Forest. A 250-ha area was surveyed and one isolated find and a rock shelter with no evidence for Aboriginal occupation was identified. The rock shelter was recommended to be subject to test excavation, should it be subject to impacts, to determine the presence of Aboriginal occupation.

<i>RPS</i>	2010	<i>Lidsdale – 5.6 km northwest</i>	<i>Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment, Angus Place Colliery, s75W modification</i>
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RPS surveyed an area within the Angus Place coal lease for the construction of a dewatering plant and a borehole and associated infrastructure. RPS identified a single rock shelter with PAD. The site was identified as not being affected by proposed works and was recommended to be monitored periodically.

<i>RPS</i>	2012a	<i>Springvale – within the Study Area</i>	<i>Springvale Mine Dewatering Bore 8</i>
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RPS prepared an ACHA for the construction of dewatering bore 8 at Springvale mine. No Aboriginal sites were identified, and no constraints were posed to the development.

<i>RPS</i>	2012b	<i>Lidsdale – 5.6 km northwest</i>	<i>Angus Place Ventilation Facility Project</i>
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RPS prepared a Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment for the Angus Place Ventilation Facility Project. This report took into consideration previous archaeological investigations, searches of heritage databases, background research into Aboriginal and European history and predictive modelling. No new Aboriginal objects or places were identified as part of this investigation.

2.1.1 Assessment of landscape features

A review of the landscape can assist in predicting the ways in which Aboriginal people have used the Study Area in the past. It establishes a context for the distribution of material traces of past Aboriginal occupation by identifying natural resources and landscape features that may have been focal points for activities and settlement. In addition, identification of site formation and post-depositional processes can assist in determining if Aboriginal objects are likely to be preserved below the ground surface, and if PADs are likely to be relatively intact or disturbed. The environmental context of the Study Area is summarised below.

Geology

The underlying geology within the Study Area consists of Narrabeen Group Sandstone, including the Banks Wall Sandstone and the Burra-Moko Head Sandstone formations, all part of the Triassic sedimentary and volcanic rocks group (Figure 2-2). The Banks Wall Sandstone formation consists of fine to coarse grained, cross bedded quartz sandstone with, many lenticular grey-green claystone bands (Vega 2021a). The Burra-Moko Head Sandstone formation consists of quartzose to quartz-lithic sandstone with common cross-bedding and minor green to grey claystone horizons (Vega 2021b).



Narrabeen Group Sandstones are underlain by the Illawarra Coal Measures, particularly in the Hassans Walls soil landscape. The Illawarra coal measures include quartz-lithic sandstone, mudstone (sporadically carbonaceous), claystone, coal, torbanite, rhyolitic tuff, some lenses of polymictic conglomerate. This rock grouping is immediately bordered by Permian sedimentary and mafic volcanic rocks, with Carboniferous granites and Quaternary alluvial deposits further west.

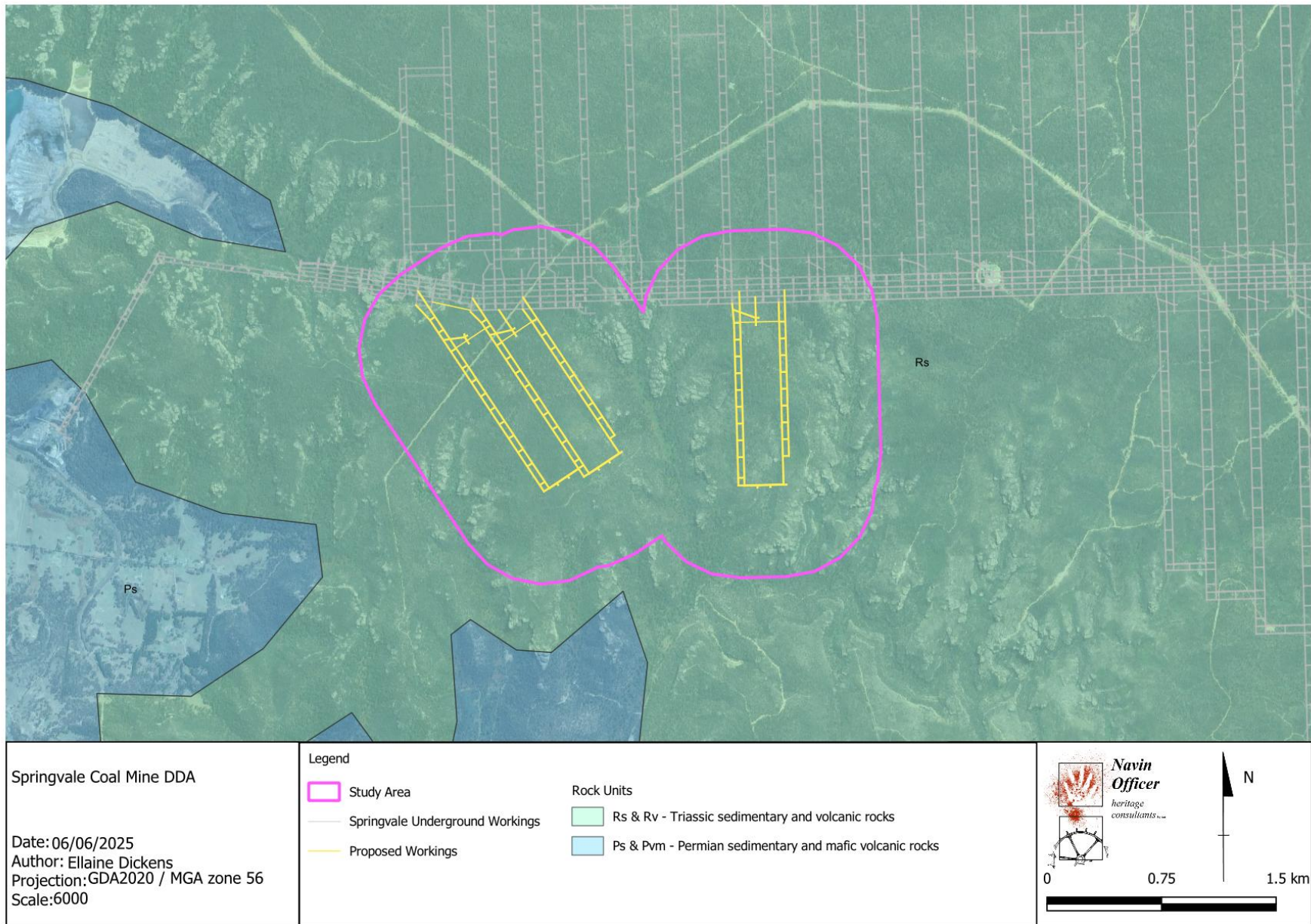


Figure 2-2 Geology units within the Study Area



Soils

There are six soil landscapes present within the Study Area: Hassans Walls, Medlow Bath, Mount Sinai, Newnes Plateau, Warragamba, and Wollangambe landscapes (DCCEEW 2024) (Figure 2-3).

Hassans Walls

Shallow (<30 cm) discontinuous Lithosols/Siliceous sands on small rocky ledges on cliffs; moderately deep stony Lithosols/Siliceous Sands on upper slopes and recently deposited talus; moderately deep Yellow Podzolic Soils and Brown Podzolic Soils on lower slopes; shallow (<70 cm) sands/lithosols along narrow steep deeply incised drainage lines and moderately deep (70-150 cm) sands/lithosols along narrow drainage flats.

Medlow Bath

Moderately deep (<100 cm) Earthy Sands and Yellow Earths on crests. Moderately deep (<100 cm) Yellow Earths and Earthy Sands on sideslopes. Shallow (<60 cm) Lithosols/Siliceous Sands associated with rock outcrop.

Mount Sinai

Very shallow (30 cm) stony sands, Lithosols on crests and sideslopes with rocky benches, shallow (<100 cm) Earthy Sands and occasional Yellow Earths on insides of benches and in deeply weathered joints lines in the Narrabeen Group sandstones. Shallow Earthy Sands in narrow incised valleys.

Newnes Plateau

Shallow (<50 cm) Sands/Lithosols on crests and associated with rock outcrop. Moderately deep Earthy Sands on gently inclined sideslopes and Leached Sands near drainage depressions. Moderately deep (>50 cm) Yellow Earths associated with shale/ironstone lenses. (deep (>200cm) Earthy Sands on deeply weathered friable sandstones.

Warragamba

Shallow to deep (50-150 cm) Lithosols on crests and ridges. Brown Earths, Red Podzolic Soils on upper slopes. Yellow Podzolic Soils on lower slopes.

Wollangambe

Shallow (<30 cm) Siliceous Sands/Lithosols, Earthy Sands and Yellow Earths on crests. Moderately deep (<100 cm) Earthy Sands, Yellow Earths and Red Earths on sideslopes. Moderately deep (<120 cm) Yellow Podzolic Soils and Gleyed Podzolic Soils developed over shale lenses. Shallow (<50 cm) Siliceous Sands/Lithosols on small rock ledges and low broken scarps.

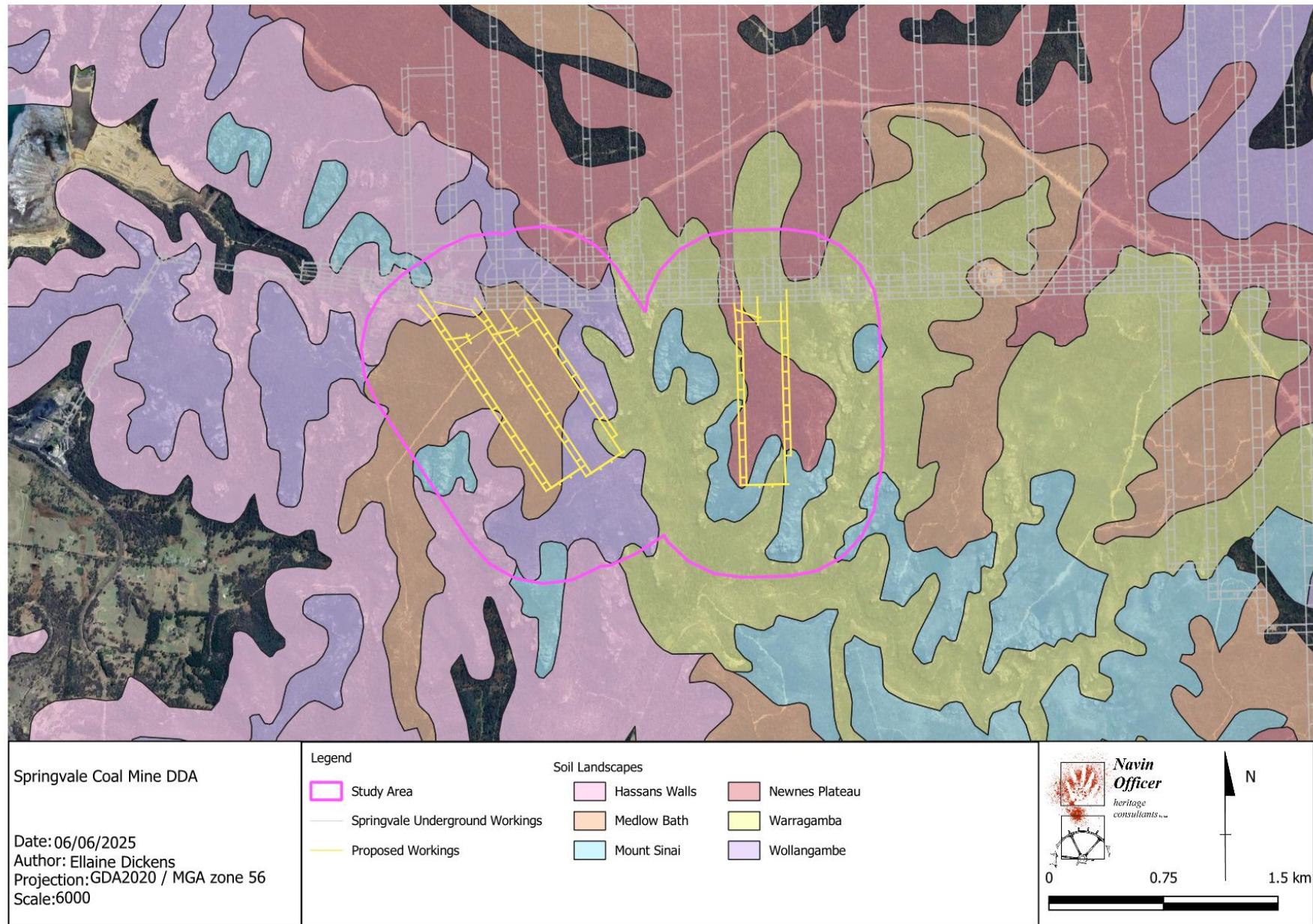


Figure 2-3 Soil landscapes within Study Area



Hydrology

Water sources are considered a key resource in the development of predictive modelling for Aboriginal archaeology. There are three unnamed second order streams in the vicinity of the Study Area that run north-south in the valleys surrounded by escarpments (Figure 2-4). The third order streams join a fourth order stream (Marrangaroo Creek) that runs east-west to the south of the Study Area. Marrangaroo Creek joins Coxs River that runs into Lake Wallace to the west of the Study Area.

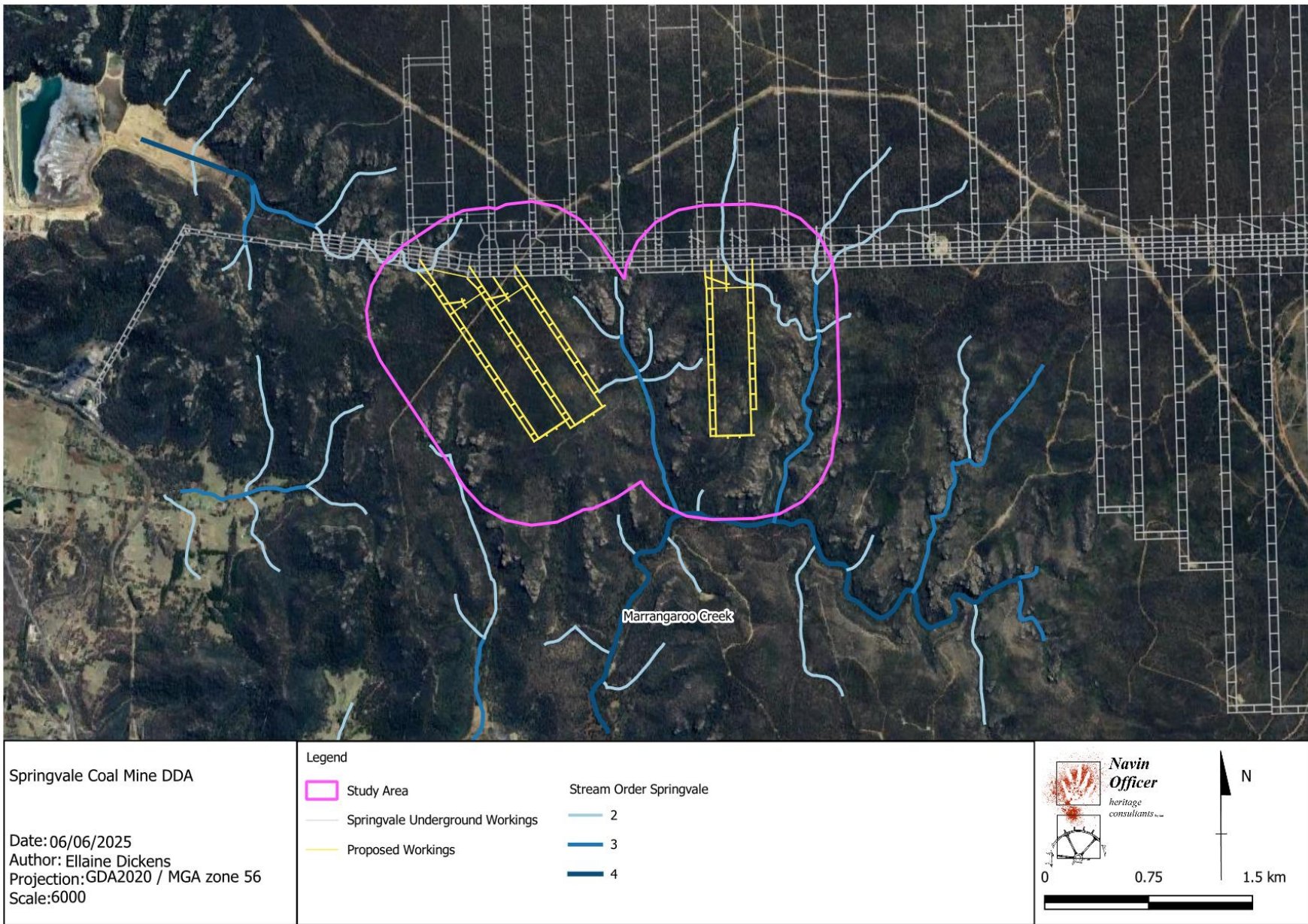


Figure 2-4 Hydrology within the Study Area



Past land-use and disturbance

The Study Area and its surrounds are situated within the former Newnes State Forest which as of 2022, forms part of the Gardens of Stone State Conservation Area. The area has been subject to historical forestry activities, including the construction of forestry trails. Separately, the area and its surrounds have also experienced disturbance from mining-related activities associated with historical mining infrastructure as well as modern mining infrastructure linked to the development of Springvale.

2.1.2 Predictive Model

Based upon the results of the above research, a series of predictive statements have been developed to indicate the type and character of Aboriginal cultural heritage sites that are likely to occur within the Study Area:

- Open artefact sites have been identified in the vicinity of the Study Area. Stone artefact occurrences can be located anywhere in the landscape; however, the identification of these sites greatly depends on ground surface visibility.
- Artefact scatters can occur along terraces and elevated areas within 100 m of a water source or within a wetland context.
- Rock shelters are typically identified in cliff faces and rock overhangs in areas of sandstone outcrop and pagodas. Rock shelters are unlikely to be located in plateau areas.

Figure 2-5 and Figure 2-6 depicts the landform features surrounding proposed Longwalls 501-503.

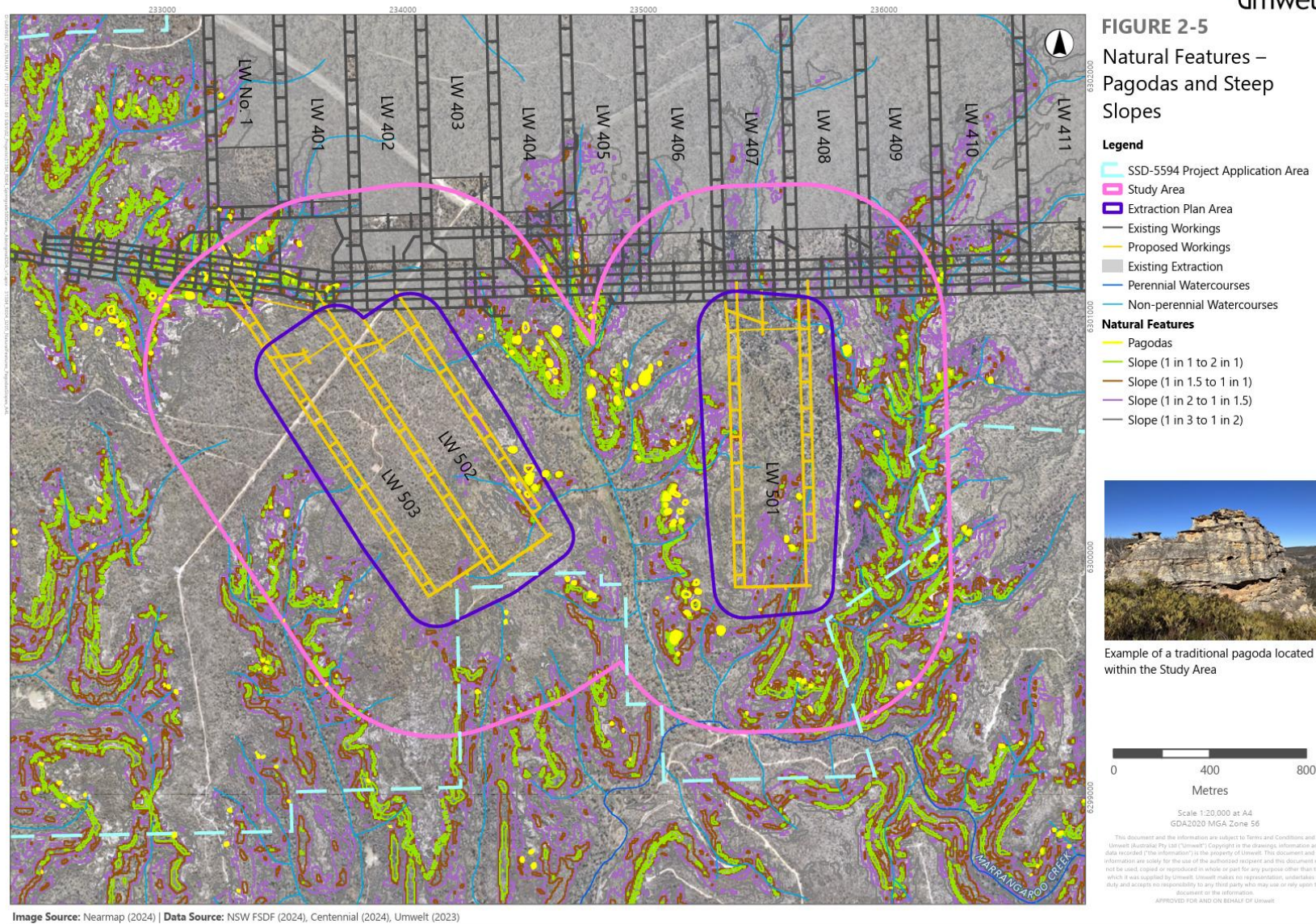


Figure 2-5 Natural Features – Pagodas and Steep Slopes

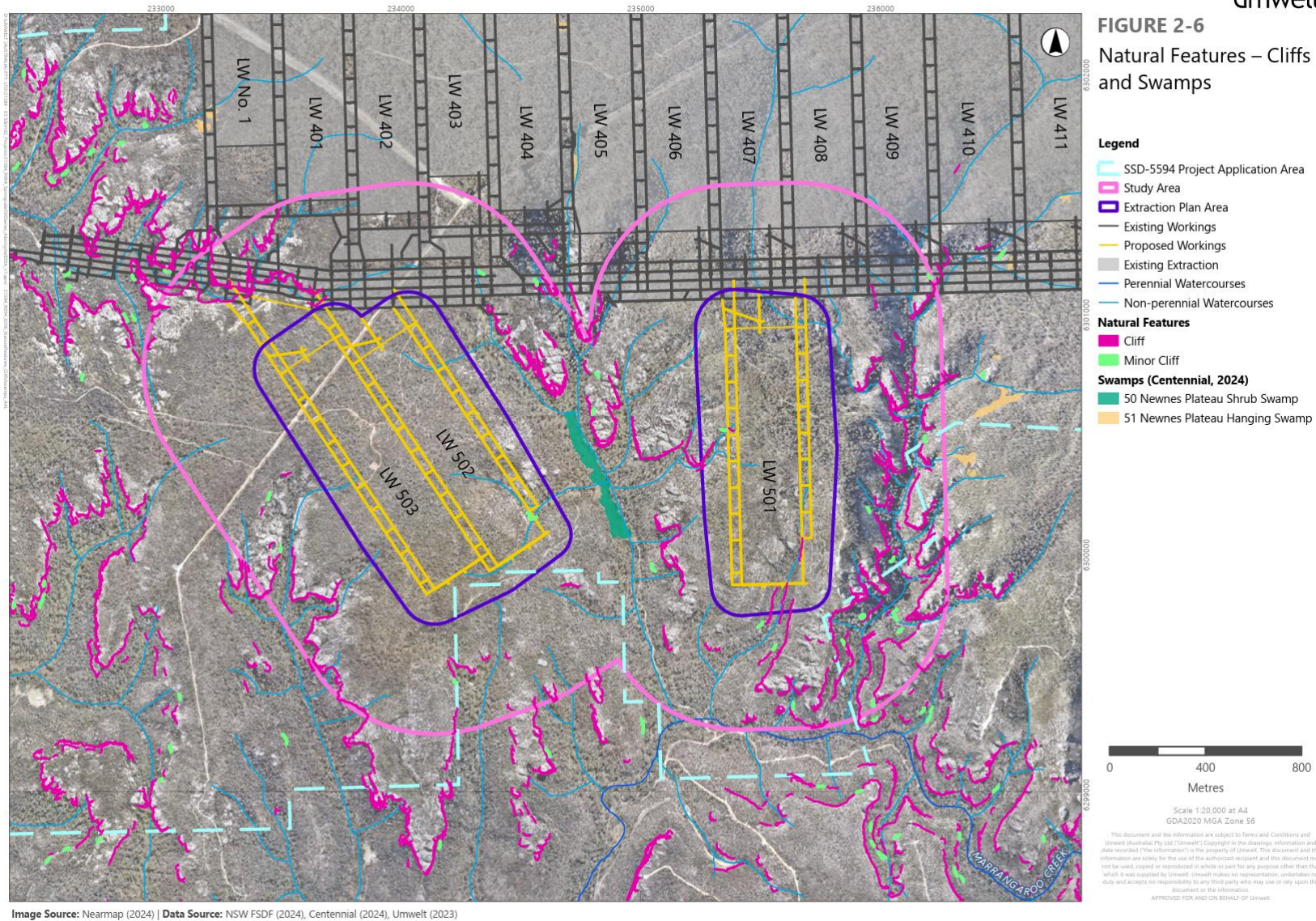


Figure 2-6 Natural Features – Cliffs and Swamps



2.2 Step 2B: Activities in Areas Where Landscape Features Indicate the Presence of Aboriginal Objects

It is essential to determine whether the Study Area contains landscape features that could indicate the likely existence of Aboriginal cultural material regardless of the results of the AHIMS database search.

Landscape consideration	Response
Is the Study Area within 200 metres of 'waters'?	Yes
Is the Study Area located within a sand dune system?	No
Is the Study Area located on a ridge top, ridge line or headland?	Yes
Is the Study Area located within 200 m below or above a cliff face?	Yes
Is the Study Area within 20 m of or in a cave, rock shelter or cave mouth?	No*
Is the Study Area on land that is not disturbed?	No

**AHIMS site #45-1-0204 (rock shelter) was initially identified to be located inside the Study Area however field surveys confirmed the site to be located outside the Study Area.*

2.3 Step 3: Can you avoid harm to the object or disturbance of the landscape feature?

There is one previously recorded Aboriginal site listed as being within the Study Area (AHIMS #45-1-0204). Field surveys found that this site was originally recorded incorrectly and is actually located 42 m outside of the Study Area.

The Study Area consists of landscape features that may indicate the presence of further Aboriginal sites and/or objects.



3 VISUAL ASSESSMENT

3.1 Step 4: Desktop assessment and visual inspection

3.1.1 Desktop Assessment

The desktop assessment highlighted one known AHIMS site within the Study Area (AHIMS #45-1-0204) and one site within 100 m (AHIMS #45-1-0205). Both sites are rock shelters with Aboriginal art works and surface artefacts, originally identified by Rich and Gorman (1992). In their report of the archaeological survey, Rich and Gorman (1992) designated these rock shelters as *Site 10 and Site 11* which later became AHIMS sites 45-1-0204 and 45-1-0205. However, as outlined in Section 3.1.2, these sites were incorrectly mapped. Field verification has confirmed that neither site is located within the defined Study Area.

3.1.1.1 Site 10 (AHIMS #45-1-0205)

Rich and Gorman (1992) state that *Site 10* is a small rock shelter measuring 15 m in length and up to 2.5 m in width on a 15 m high sloping sandstone cliff face. At the time of survey, there were two motifs on the bedrock surface (Rich and Gorman 1992). The first motif is described as a faint, red outline of a kangaroo with two red dots for eyes which measures 1.7 m in length, 1 m in height and is 1 m above the ground surface (Rich and Gorman 1992). Situated above the kangaroo motif they also noted a faint grey motif of indeterminate nature (Rich and Gorman 1992).

3.1.1.2 Site 11 (AHIMS #45-1-0204)

Rich and Gorman (1992) explain that *Site 11* is situated 100m downstream of *Site 10* and consists of a rock shelter with evidence of occupation. The rock shelter has a usable floor which measures 15m in length and 5m in width (Rich and Gorman 1992). From floor to ceiling the shelter's height is 4m (Rich and Gorman 1992). Rich and Gorman (1992) note that there is a strong potential for archaeological deposit with several artefacts observed in the dripline of the shelter. While no artefacts were found to be larger than 2cm, it was noted that they were comprised of indurated mudstone, quartz and chert and were from a variety of artefact types (Rich and Gorman 1992). The art present at *Site 11* was described as a red outline of an indeterminate motif with several red patches that could be faded artwork or ironstone inclusions within the cliff face (Rich and Gorman 1992). It is also surmised by Rich and Gorman (1992), that the site is significant in nature due to the presence of art, lithics, and location within landscape as it is 20 m from the creek valley, accessible from the valley floor and ridge tops.

3.1.2 Visual Inspection

NOHC personnel conducted several foot field surveys with two goals. The first survey conducted on the February 11th, 2025, aimed to inspect previously recorded AHIMS sites 45-1-0204 and 45-1-0205. The second set of foot surveys conducted on March 19th and 20th aimed to investigate watercourses and ridge lines within the eastern aspect of the Study Area for Aboriginal heritage as recommended by RAPs.

3.1.2.1 Inspection of AHIMS sites #45-1-0204 and #45-1-0205

NOHC personnel Ben Sybert (Senior Heritage Consultant/Archaeologist) and Lachlan Sharp (Heritage Consultant/Archaeologist) were accompanied by Natalie Gardiner (Centennial Coal), Stephanie Thompson (Centennial Coal) and Aboriginal representatives Matthew Sullivan (Bathurst Local Land Council), Bradley Bliss (WVWAC), Brion Booth (Warrabinga Native Title Claims Aboriginal Corporation), Yamadirra Newton (Mingaan Wiradjuri Aboriginal Corporation), Nathan Brown (Gundungurra Tribal Council Aboriginal Corporation) and Coral Williams (North East Wiradjuri Company Ltd).

During the survey it was found that the original GPS points from 1992 for AHIMS sites #45-1-0204 and #45-1-0205 were recorded incorrectly due to the progression of modern GPS technologies. As such NOHC has updated the points for each of the sites (Figure 3-1). The updated site locations now place AHIMS #45-1-0204 outside of the Study Area.

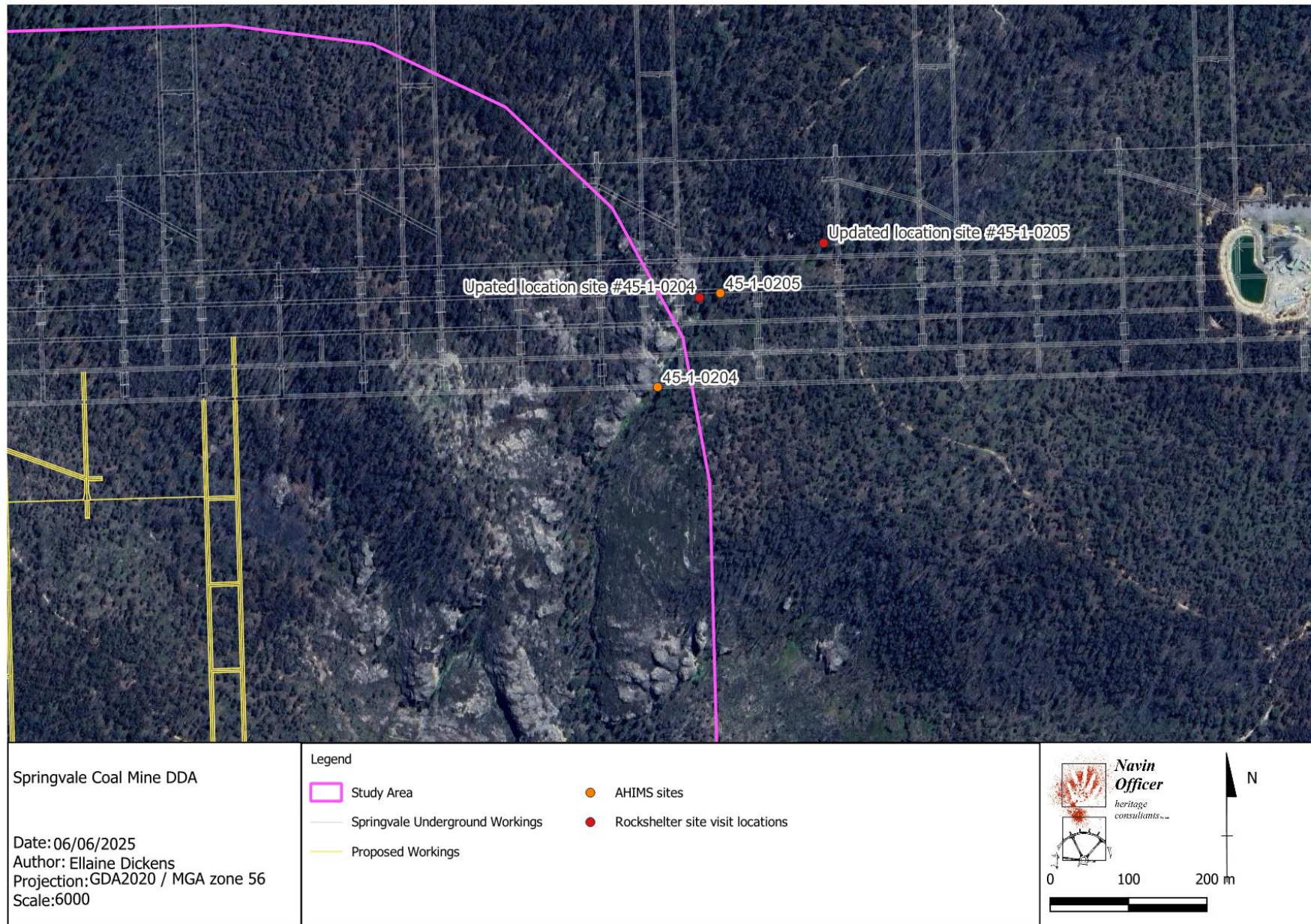


Figure 3-1 Updated AHIMS site locations



3.1.2.1.1 AHIMS Site #45-1-0204

Visual inspection of #45-1-0204 found that the site is situated on a stream bank within the Gardens Stone State Conservation Area. The original 1992 site recording placed this site within the Study Area, however following the survey it was found that the site is instead correctly located 42 m outside of the Study Area.

The surrounding vegetation was predominantly scrub, over grey sandy silts. Visibility within the site was strong at 80% and the exposure incidence was at 100%. The rock art motif within the site was still in good condition (Figure 3-2). Photos of the rock art panels were run through a rock art tool programme known as *DStretch* by RAP Brad Bliss and the subsequent images revealed several handprints stencils. These images highlighted in Figure 3-3. Figure 3-3 and Figure 3-4 demonstrate three handprint stencils which are likely to be from adults and children. These stencils are a new addition to what is known about AHIMS #45-1-0204 and were not observable for the 1992 recording of the site.

The presence of lithic artefacts (Figure 3-5) at the site was also confirmed with the below artefacts documented during the survey.

- Quartzite hammerstone measuring 55 x 40 mm.
- Broken quartzite hammerstone. measuring 47 x 24 mm.
- Red and grey IMT multidirectional core measuring 27 x 25 mm.
- Brown IMT complete flake measuring 17 x 15 mm.
- Brown IMT proximal flake measuring 27 x 14 mm.
- Grey/brown, IMT complete flake measuring 12 x 10 mm.
- Brown IMT proximal flake measuring 18 x 10 mm.
- Milky quartz proximal flake measuring 14 x 6 mm.



Figure 3-2 Rock art at AHIMS #45-1-0204

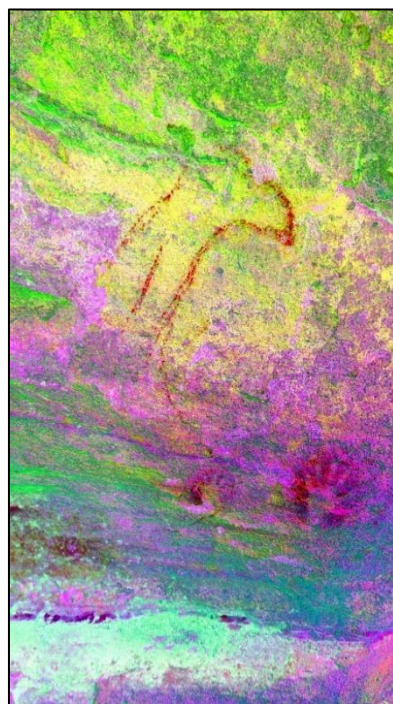


Figure 3-3 DStretch Image of rock art motif and hand stencils from B. Bliss

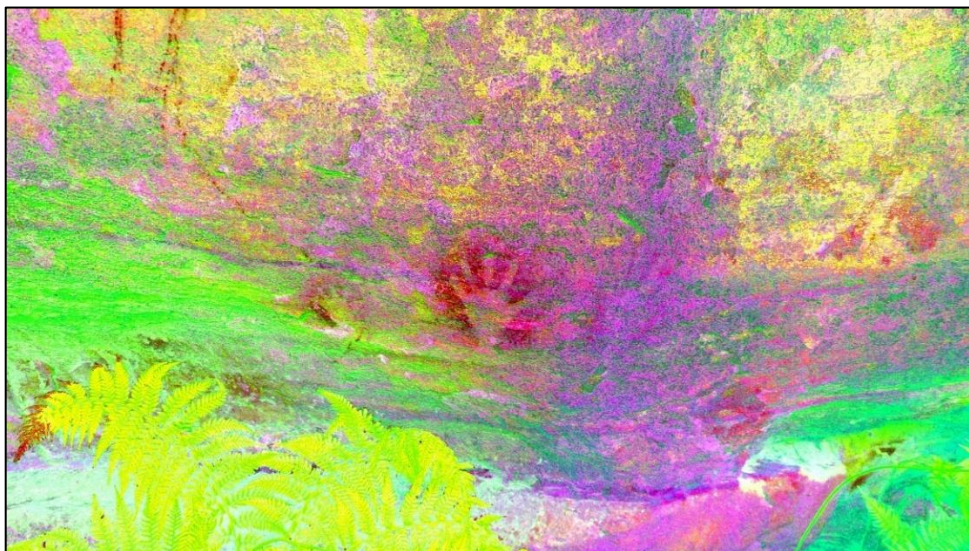


Figure 3-4 DStretch Image of three hand stencils from B. Bliss



Figure 3-5 Lithic Artefacts at AHIMS #45-1-0204

3.1.2.1.2 AHIMS Site #45-1-0205

Visual inspection of #45-1-0205 found that the site is situated on basal slope within the Gardens of Stone State Conservation Area. The original 1992 recording for this site placed it 72 m outside of the Study Area. During the survey it was found that this site is actually located 220 m east of the Study Area.

The surrounding vegetation was prominently scrub, over grey silty sand. Visibility within the site was strong at 80% and the exposure incidence was at 100%. Observations of the rock art at the site appear similar to those of Rich (1993), although some additional observations were made by RAPs and archaeologist at the site. Onsite discussions lead to the revision of the motif featured in Figure 3-6 and Figure 3-7 to that of a wallaby rather than a kangaroo. Moreover, the faint grey line above wallaby/kangaroo motif (see blue highlight in Figure 3-8) was discussed and it was found that it is likely to be a fault within the sandstone panel rather anthropomorphic in nature. Three lithic artefacts were found at the site during the February survey, and they are listed below (see Figure 3-9).



- Grey quartzite complete flake measuring 30 x 24 mm.
- Milky quartz complete flake measuring 25 x 10 mm.
- Brown IMT distal flake measuring 25 x 19 mm.



Figure 3-6 Faint wallaby motif at AHIMS #45-1-0205



Figure 3-7 Edited Image of Faint Wallaby motif at AHIMS #45-1-0205 to best highlight artwork



Figure 3-8 AHIMS site #45-1-0205 with sandstone fault highlighted in blue



Figure 3-9 Lithic Artefacts at AHIMS #45-1-0205



3.1.2.2 Watercourse and Ridgeline Survey

With permission from the RAPs, NOHC personnel Ricardo Servin (Senior Specialist/Heritage Consultant) and Lachlan Sharp (Heritage Consultant/Archaeologist) conducted foot surveys to access and survey watercourses and ridgelines within the Study Area. The surveys sought to identify areas or locations of Aboriginal heritage and archaeological potential. The surveys were undertaken within the highlighted aspects of Figure 3-12 Figure 3-12

The surveys conducted on March 19th investigated the ridgelines and water courses within the west of the Study Area. NOHC sought to gain access through the powerline easement but upon passing through, encountered steep terrain and dense overgrowth within an open conservation forest. As a result, access to the Study Area was severely restricted as demonstrated in Figure 3-10. At the furthest accessible point, it was documented that ground soils were sandy loams with an exposure incidence of 10% and a visibility was 20%.



Figure 3-10 Survey terrain on March 19th 2025



The surveys conducted on March 20th investigated the ridgelines and water courses within the eastern aspect of the Study Area. Using established tracks within the Study Area NOHC personnel sought to gain access to locations of interest as discussed with RAPs. Several short foot surveys sought to gain access to the watercourse mentioned above, however these were all ceased due to steep and abrupt terminating ridgelines as well as overgrowth forest floors. Figure 3-11 below demonstrates the steep terrains, shoulder and waist height undergrowth as well as the inclines of the ridgelines and watercourses. At the furthest points of access, it was recorded that ground exposure averaged 10% and visibility averaged 10% also. Soils at these points of furthest access were found to be loams or sandy loams within sand content increasing in proximity to stream channels.



Figure 3-11 Imagery of surveyed terrain on March 20th 2025

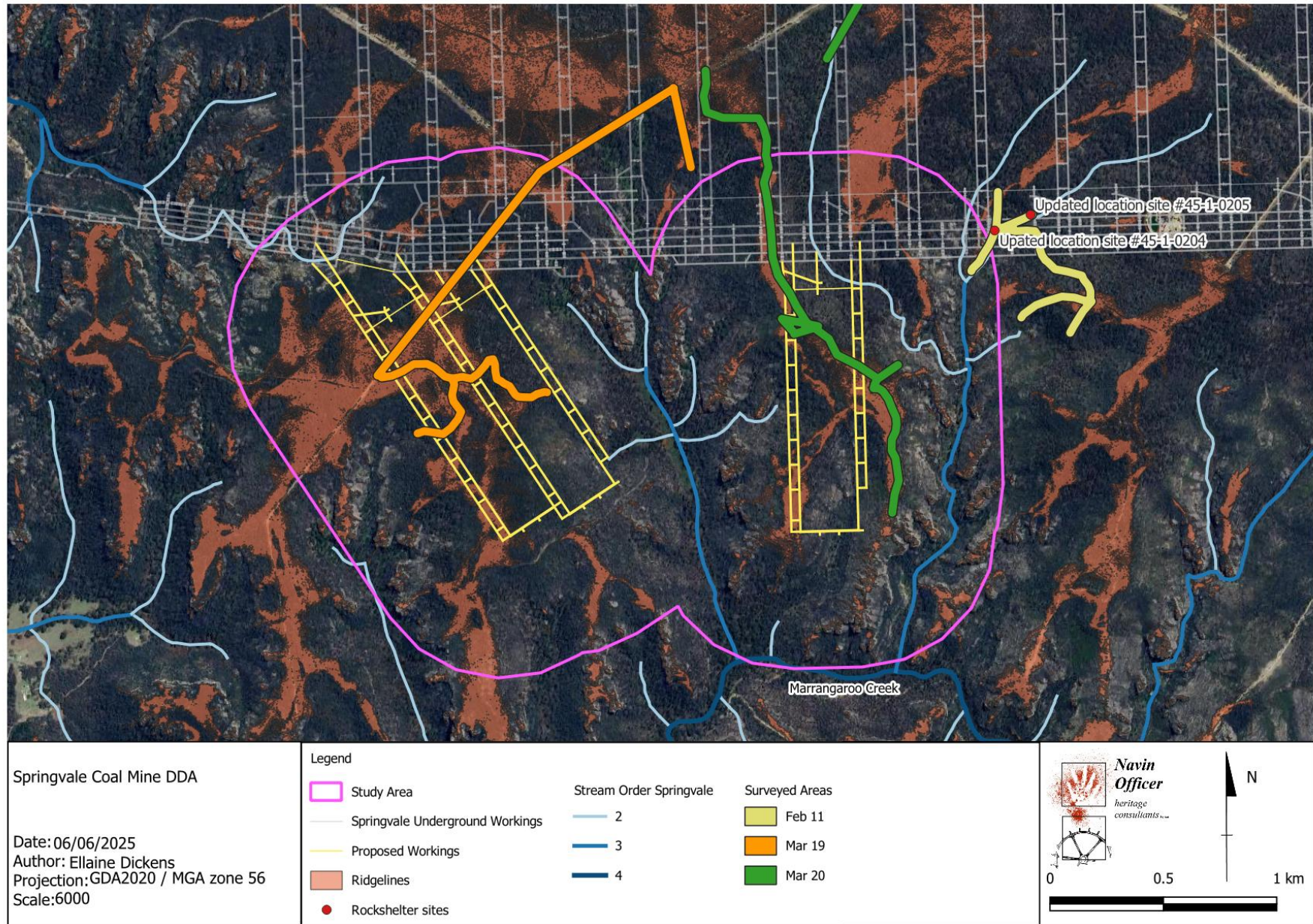


Figure 3-12 Map of surveyed terrain within Study Area



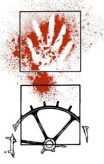
4 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 Step 5: Further investigations and impact assessment

Overall, an analysis of the archaeological context, landscape context, and the results of the survey suggest that there is weak potential for Aboriginal archaeological deposits within the Study Area outside of rock shelters due to unsuitable terrain and lack of subsurface deposit. Surveys concentrated on landforms and contexts most likely to contain cultural heritage sites, and no sites were identified. There remains a residual potential for additional rock shelter sites with Aboriginal art, surface artefacts, or archaeological deposits within unsurveyed areas of the Study Area.

The following recommendations are made in relation to the proposed works within the Study Area:

1. Submit updated site cards for AHIMS sites #45-1-0204 and #45-1-0205 to reflect their true locations, mark these locations on maps and make all relevant personnel aware of their presence and location.
2. Where previously unrecorded sites are identified, they should be incorporated into a monitoring program to assess the potential inadvertent mining-related effects and weathering. Management of these sites should be undertaken in consultation with relevant Aboriginal stakeholders.
3. All Aboriginal objects are protected under the NPW Act. It is an offence to knowingly disturb an Aboriginal site without a consent permit issued by the Heritage for NSW. Should any Aboriginal objects be encountered during works associated with this proposal, works must cease in the vicinity and the find should not be moved until assessed by a qualified archaeologist. If the find is determined to be an Aboriginal object the archaeologist will provide further recommendations. These may include notifying Heritage NSW and Aboriginal stakeholders.
4. If human remains are found during works, all activity in the vicinity of the find should cease. Ensure that the area of the find is adequately marked as a no-go area for further disturbance and immediately notify the NSW Police and the NSW Coroner's Office. If the finds are Aboriginal or probably Aboriginal in origin, Heritage NSW should also be notified. In such circumstances, the advice of a specialist physical anthropologist is highly recommended.



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Vega M 2021b, Burra-Moko Head Sandstone stratigraphic unit description. Published via MinView
([https://minview.geoscience.nsw.gov.au/#/\(report:strat-unit/Tnru\)](https://minview.geoscience.nsw.gov.au/#/(report:strat-unit/Tnru)))

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APPENDIX 1

AHIMS SEARCH RESULTS



AHIMS Web Services (AWS)

Extensive search - Site list report

Your Ref/PO Number : Springvale

Client Service ID : 956232

SiteID	SiteName	Datum	Zone	Easting	Northing	Context	Site Status **	SiteFeatures	SiteTypes	Reports
45-1-0117	MC 6;	AGD	56	231910	6296980	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -	Open Camp Site	
	Contact							Permits		
45-1-0116	MC 5;	AGD	56	232270	6297030	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -	Open Camp Site	1414
	Contact							Permits		
45-1-0204	S11;Newnes Plateau;	AGD	56	236120	6300900	Closed site	Valid	Art (Pigment or Engraved) : -	Shelter with Art	2300
	Contact							Permits		
45-1-2571	M-S-2	AGD	56	234270	6295050	Closed site	Valid	Artefact : -		97636
	Contact							Permits		
45-1-2890	Marrangaroo Tunnel	GDA	56	230523	6298175	Open site	Valid	Potential Archaeological Deposit (PAD) : -		
	Contact							Permits	4947	
45-1-2558	M-S-6	AGD	56	235260	6296390	Closed site	Valid	Artefact : -, Art (Pigment or Engraved) : -		97636
	Contact							Permits		
45-1-2578	Springvale 1	AGD	56	238760	6300377	Open site	Valid	Stone Arrangement : 2		
	Contact							Permits		
45-1-0113	MC 2;	AGD	56	232470	6297180	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -	Open Camp Site	1414
	Contact							Permits		
45-1-2888	Springvale_Newnes_AS_AFT	GDA	56	238156	6300640	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -		
	Contact							Permits		
45-1-0147	21 Newnes State Forest	AGD	56	231420	6302950	Closed site	Valid	Artefact : -	Shelter with Deposit	339,2016
	Contact							Permits		
45-1-0212	GS1;Springvale Colliery;	AGD	56	230700	6300020	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -	Open Camp Site	2300,2608
	Contact							Permits		
45-1-0002	Bungleboori	GDA	56	239444	6300635	Open site	Valid	Grinding Groove : -	Axe Grinding Groove	
	Contact							Permits		
45-1-0089	Marangaroo Ridge 4;	AGD	56	232490	6297420	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -	Open Camp Site	1414
	Contact							Permits		
45-1-0199	MC 1;NEWNES SF;	AGD	56	236200	6298400	Closed site	Valid	Artefact : -	Shelter with Deposit	
	Contact							Permits		
45-1-2796	RPS_Springvale_IF1	GDA	56	238877	6298948	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -		
	Contact							Permits		

Report generated by AHIMS Web Service on 02/12/2024 for Ricardo Servin for the following area at Search using shape-file 5km buffer with a buffer of 0 meters. Additional Info : Archaeological Assessment. Number of Aboriginal sites and Aboriginal objects found is 45

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AHIMS Web Services (AWS) Extensive search - Site list report

Your Ref/PO Number : Springvale

Client Service ID : 956232

SiteID	SiteName	Datum	Zone	Easting	Northing	Context	Site Status **	SiteFeatures	SiteTypes	Reports
45-1-0088	Marangaroo Ridge 3;	AGD	56	232850	6299460	Closed site	Valid	Artefact : -	Shelter with Deposit	
	Contact									
	Recorders									
45-1-0114	MC 3;	AGD	56	232650	6297780	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -	Open Camp Site	1414
	Contact									
	Recorders									
45-1-0159	35_PAD 14;Newnes State Forest;	AGD	56	231990	6301850	Closed site	Valid	Artefact : -	Shelter with Deposit	339,2016
	Contact									
	Recorders									
45-1-2559	M-S-5	AGD	56	235620	6297100	Open site	Valid	Art (Pigment or Engraved) : -		
	Contact									
	Recorders									
45-1-2567	M-S-9	AGD	56	235130	6296100	Closed site	Valid	Art (Pigment or Engraved) : -		97636
	Contact									
	Recorders									
45-1-2935	Clarence to Wallerawang Pipeline OS-01	GDA	56	232734	6295821	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -		
	Contact									
	Recorders									
45-1-2932	Lost City North Shelter 1 ART + AFT	GDA	56	237382	6298842	Closed site	Valid	Art (Pigment or Engraved) : -, Artefact : -		
	Contact									
	Recorders									
45-1-2569	M-S-12	AGD	56	235920	6298310	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -		97636
	Contact									
	Recorders									
45-1-0091	Marangaroo Ridge 1;	AGD	56	232800	6299950	Closed site	Valid	Artefact : -	Shelter with Deposit	679
	Contact									
	Recorders									
45-1-0112	MC 1;	AGD	56	231500	6297100	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -	Open Camp Site	1414
	Contact									
	Recorders									
45-1-0115	MC 4;	AGD	56	232680	6297500	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -	Open Camp Site	1414
	Contact									
	Recorders									
45-1-0008	Lindsdale;Kerosene Vale;	AGD	56	231640	6301900	Closed site	Valid	Artefact : -	Shelter with Deposit	
	Contact									
	Recorders									
45-1-2570	M-S-10	AGD	56	235820	6297010	Closed site	Valid	Artefact : -		97636
	Contact									
	Recorders									
45-1-2560	M-S-4	AGD	56	235170	6296810	Closed site	Valid	Art (Pigment or Engraved) : -		97636
	Contact									
	Recorders									
45-1-2918	Wallerawang Rezoning IF6	GDA	56	229847	6298796	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -		
	Contact									
	Recorders									

Report generated by AHIMS Web Service on 02/12/2024 for Ricardo Servin for the following area at Search using shape-file 5km buffer with a buffer of 0 meters. Additional Info :
Archaeological Assessment. Number of Aboriginal sites and Aboriginal objects found is 45

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AHIMS Web Services (AWS)

Extensive search - Site list report

Your Ref/PO Number : Springvale

Client Service ID : 956232

SiteID	SiteName	Datum	Zone	Easting	Northing	Context	Site Status **	SiteFeatures	SiteTypes	Reports
45-1-2815	Snow Gum Flora Reserve	GDA	56	237096	6299367	Open site	Valid	Art (Pigment or Engraved) : -		
	Contact	Recorders	Ms.Julie Favell							
45-1-2592	M-IF-1, Lithgow	AGD	56	235510	6297160	Open site	Valid	Artefact : 1		97636
	Contact T Russell	Recorders	Jim Kelton							
45-1-2759	RPS SV ST2	GDA	56	234965	6301890	Open site	Valid	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) : 1		
	Contact	Recorders	RPS AAP Consulting Pty Ltd - Echuca Victoria							
45-1-2557	M-OS-1	AGD	56	234520	6298440	Open site	Valid	Aboriginal Ceremony and Dreaming : -		97636,98115
	Contact	Recorders	Central West Archaeological and Heritage Services Pty Ltd							
45-1-0205	S10;Newnes Plateau;	AGD	56	236200	6301020	Closed site	Valid	Art (Pigment or Engraved) : -	Shelter with Art	2300
	Contact	Recorders	Mr.Neville Baker,Elizabeth Rich							
45-1-2600	SV3-ST1	AGD	56	237975	6303313	Open site	Valid	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) : 1		
	Contact Bathurst LALC	Recorders	Doctor.Jodie Benton,Mr.Phillip Cameron							
45-1-0148	22; Newnes State Forest	AGD	56	231250	6302820	Closed site	Valid	Artefact : -	Shelter with Deposit	339,2016
	Contact	Recorders	Denise Donlon,R Sim,Doctor.Susan (left ahms) McIntyre-Tamwoy							
45-1-2561	M-S-3	AGD	56	235170	6296810	Closed site	Valid	Artefact : -		1157
	Contact	Recorders	Central West Archaeological and Heritage Services Pty Ltd							
45-1-2566	M-OS-2	AGD	56	234350	6296870	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -		97636
	Contact	Recorders	Central West Archaeological and Heritage Services Pty Ltd							
45-1-0087	Marangaroo Ridge 2;	AGD	56	232810	6299890	Closed site	Valid	Artefact : -	Shelter with Deposit	
	Contact	Recorders	Helen Brayshaw							
45-1-0090	Marangaroo Ridge 5;	AGD	56	232580	6297420	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -	Open Camp Site	1414
	Contact	Recorders	ASRSYS							
45-1-2562	M-S-11	AGD	56	235320	6297760	Closed site	Valid	Art (Pigment or Engraved) : -		97636
	Contact	Recorders	Central West Archaeological and Heritage Services Pty Ltd							
45-1-2568	M-S-8	AGD	56	235160	6296100	Closed site	Valid	Artefact : -		97636
	Contact	Recorders	Central West Archaeological and Heritage Services Pty Ltd							
45-1-0250	MC7 (IF2);Marrangaroo Creek (IF2);	AGD	56	231980	6297200	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -	Isolated Find	
	Contact	Recorders	Elizabeth Rich							

Report generated by AHIMS Web Service on 02/12/2024 for Ricardo Servin for the following area at Search using shape-file 5km buffer with a buffer of 0 meters. Additional Info :
Archaeological Assessment. Number of Aboriginal sites and Aboriginal objects found is 45

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AHIMS Web Services (AWS)

Extensive search - Site list report

Your Ref/PO Number : Springvale

Client Service ID : 956232

<u>SiteID</u>	<u>SiteName</u>	<u>Datum</u>	<u>Zone</u>	<u>Easting</u>	<u>Northing</u>	<u>Context</u>	<u>Site Status **</u>	<u>SiteFeatures</u>	<u>SiteTypes</u>	<u>Reports</u>
45-1-2758	RPS SV ST1	GDA	56	235004	6302002	Open site	Valid	Modified Tree (Carved or Scarred) : 1		
<u>Contact</u>		<u>Recorders</u>		RPS AAP Consulting Pty Ltd - Echuca Victoria				<u>Permits</u>		

**** Site Status**

Valid - The site has been recorded and accepted onto the system as valid

Destroyed - The site has been completely impacted or harmed usually as consequence of permit activity but sometimes also after natural events. There is nothing left of the site on the ground but proponents should proceed with caution.

Partially Destroyed - The site has been only partially impacted or harmed usually as consequence of permit activity but sometimes also after natural events. There might be parts or sections of the original site still present on the ground

Not a site - The site has been originally entered and accepted onto AHIMS as a valid site but after further investigations it was decided it is NOT an aboriginal site. Impact of this type of site does not require permit but Heritage NSW should be notified

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