

Coffs Harbour Bypass Pacific Highway Upgrade

Photographic Archival Recording – Marked tree stumps

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Introduction 1

1.1 Project background

Transport for NSW (TfNSW) are proposing to construct the Coffs Harbour Bypass project (the project), which would include a 12-kilometre bypass of Coffs Harbour from south of Englands Road to Korora Hill in the north and a two-kilometre upgrade of the existing highway between Korora Hill and Sapphire. The project would provide a four-lane divided highway that bypasses Coffs Harbour, passing through the North Boambee Valley. Roberts Hill and then traversing the foothills of the Coffs Harbour basin to the west and north to Korora Hill.

A non-Aboriginal heritage assessment¹ was prepared to support the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the project. This assessment identified six unlisted non-Aboriginal significant heritage items that would be impacted by the project. This assessment provided the following recommendation for the preparation of Photographic Archival Recording (PAR) for each heritage item to be impacted:²

Recommendation 2. Prepare an archival record prior to impact and at the completion of the project

Archival recording is recommended for the Coffs Harbour Banana Plantation, former Coffs Heights Post Office, the North Coast Railway, Old Coast Road Bridge No.1, Old Coast Road Bridge No.2 and the Marked Tree Stumps. The archival records should record the process of development and alterations to heritage values. A program of archival recording should be completed prior to impacts. All archival recording should be completed in accordance with the Heritage Branch guidelines How to Prepare Archival Records for Heritage Items and Photographic Recording of Heritage Items Using Film or Digital Capture.

Artefact Heritage (Artefact) have been engaged by TfNSW to prepare PAR reports for all non-Aboriginal heritage items which would be directly or visually impacted by the project, prior to impact. Additional PAR reports will be produced following the completion of the project. This report has been prepared to provide the PAR for the unlisted heritage item "Marked tree stumps", an item of local heritage significance.

On 2 November 2020, the project was approved under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979. This report meets the requirements of the Minister's Condition of Approval E30³:

¹ Biosis, July 2019. Coffs Harbour Bypass – Non-Aboriginal Heritage Assessment. Report to Roads and Maritime Services.

² *Ibid*, p. vii.

³ Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, 2 November 2020. Minister's Condition of Approval E30. SSI-7666. Infrastructure approval to Transport for NSW.

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A Non-Aboriginal Heritage Report documenting all archival recording and details of further historical research either undertaken or to be carried out. The Non-Aboriginal Heritage Report must be prepared by a suitably qualified heritage specialist in accordance with guidelines and standards issued by the NSW Heritage Council and Heritage NSW.

1.2 Location of the project

Four Marked tree stumps were identified within the project footprint. The Marked tree stumps are located in two separate locations within the Coffs Harbour Local Government Area (LGA). The first location off Buchanans Road (Lot 61 DP 1064525), and the second off Spagnolos Road (Lot 2 DP 800414), in the suburb of Coffs Harbour (Figure 1 - Figure 2), between 3-4 kilometres west of the Coffs Harbour city centre.

Table 1: Marked tree stump locations

Marked tree stump	Coordinates	Lot / DP
Marked tree stump 1	0508167 E 6648217 N	Lot 61 DP1064525
Marked tree stump 2	0508069 E 6648257 N	Lot 61 DP1064525
Marked tree stump 3	0507917 E 6650711 N	Lot 2 DP800414
Marked tree stump 4	0507979 E 6650802 N	Lot 2 DP800414

1.3 Methodology

This archival recording was prepared in accordance with the following guidelines:

- How to Prepare Archival Records of Heritage Items (NSW Heritage Office 1998)
- Photographic Recording of Heritage Items Using Film or Digital Capture (NSW Heritage Office 2006).
- These guidelines recommend that the following be included in the record:
- Three copies of the photographic report including catalogue sheets, photographic plan and supplementary maps
- Three sets of thumbnail image sheets (e.g. A4 page with six images by six images) showing images and reference numbers
- Thumbnail sheets processed with archivally stable inks on archivally acceptable photographic paper and cross referenced to catalogue sheets
- Three copies of CD or DVD containing electronic image files saved as TIFF files with associated metadata, and cross-referenced to catalogue sheets
- One full set of 10.5 cm by 14.8 cm (A6) prints processed with archivally stable inks on archivally acceptable photographic paper.

This report meets the above guidelines. The archival recording includes a historical background and a brief description and discussion of the significance of the Marked tree stumps.

Photographic recording of the Marked trees stumps was carried out on 10 December 2020 by Jessica Horton (Heritage Consultant, Artefact Heritage).

Each photograph was recorded on a photo log with the direction noted and a description provided (Table 3). The general locations and direction of the photographs were marked on an accompanying aerial map of the study area. Thumbnails of the final archival photographs are provided in Appendix A, and all digital photographs are provided on an accompanying CD in RAW, TIFF and JPEG formats. A select range of key photographs have been printed at A6 size and included in the record.

1.4 **Authorship**

This report was prepared by Jessica Horton and Adele Zubrzycka with management input and review provided by Duncan Jones (Principal, Artefact Heritage) and Sandra Wallace (Managing Director, Artefact Heritage).

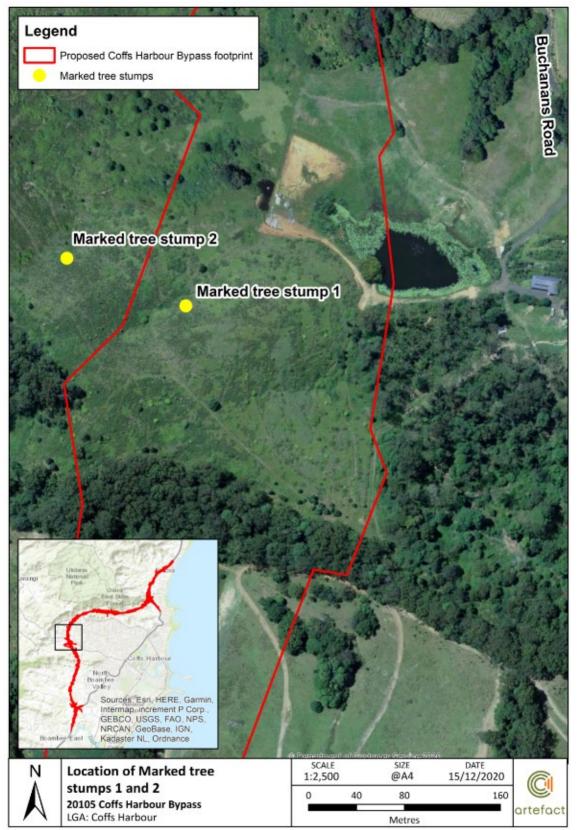


Figure 1. Location of Marked tree stumps 1 and 2

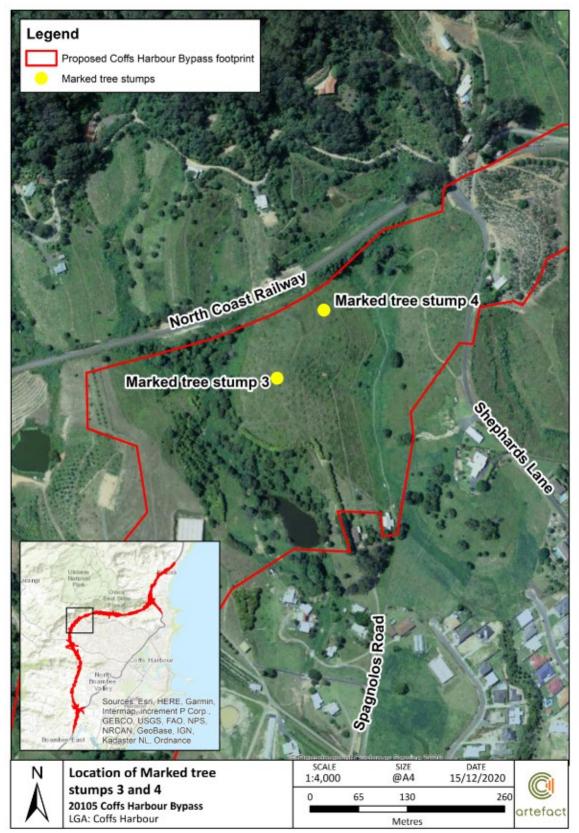


Figure 2. Location of Marked tree stumps 3 and 4

Historical background 2

The following background has been prepared to provide a historical overview of land use within and surrounding the Marked tree stumps. It aims to provide context for the significance of the tree stumps and the development of Coffs Harbour over time.

The historical background has drawn on the history prepared within the Coffs Harbour Bypass – Non-Aboriginal Heritage Assessment report prepared by Biosis in July 2019.

2.1 Non-Aboriginal history

2.1.1 **Development of Coffs Harbour**

In 1847, Captain John Korff sailed into the southern headland at Coffs Harbour aboard his ship the *Brothers* due to a strong southerly gale.⁴ His original destination had been the Bellingen River; however, the journey had become too dangerous to continue. Whilst seeking refuge, Korff noted the safety of the coastal configuration, water depth and suitability of the site as a harbour.⁵ Following Korff's recommendation, 960-acres of land was reserved by Government Gazette on 24 December 1861. The gazette was misspelled as 'Coffs Harbour'.⁶

Coffs Harbour had been visited sporadically by European settlers from the c1840s for timber getting purposes (see Figure 3). Cedar, pine, ash and beech were common, initially being sawn and floated out of Coffs Harbour over the surf and out on the tide to awaiting ships which winched the timber aboard. This method was both slow and dangerous, facilitating the construction of the Coffs Harbour Jetty in 1892. The establishment of the jetty, along with the North Coast Steam Navigation Company (1891), opened up the national and international markets and shipping trades, with a number of sawmill businesses established. Evidence of these timber getting activities remain within the area in the form of hand-sawn tree stumps with footholds (Marked tree stumps).⁷ This industry continued steadily into the twentieth century.

Due to the extensive land clearances by timber getters, dairy farming in Coffs Harbour gained popularity from 1895 onwards, however the industry saw a downturn by the turn of the twentieth century (Figure 4).8

Arguably Coffs Harbour's most recognisable industry, banana farming, was first introduced to the region by German settler Herman Rieck in 1881 (shown in Figure 5).⁹ The production of bananas was slow to begin with, however with an outbreak of 'bunchy top' disease devastating the banana plantations within the Richmond-Tweed region in the 1920s, Coffs Harbour became the major source of bananas on the north coast. By the 1930s, banana farming overtook dairy farming as the major agricultural

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Biosis, 2019. 'Coffs Harbour Bypass – Non-Aboriginal Heritage Assessment'. Report to Roads and Maritime Services. p. 25.

⁶ Ihid

⁷ Biosis, 2019. 'Coffs Harbour Bypass'. p. 26.

⁸ Biosis, 2019. 'Coffs Harbour Bypass'. p. 29.

⁹ Biosis, 2019. 'Coffs Harbour Bypass'. p. 32.

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industry within Coffs Harbour with 21,000 cases of bananas exported to Sydney via rail in 1935 alone. Banana farming has remained a central industry for the Coffs Harbour economy, shaping the landscape.

Roads were established throughout Coffs Harbour from the 1880s, linking the coastal town to Moonee Moonee, Grafton, and Bellinger. Throughout the twentieth century bridges were established across the numerous creek lines, including Pine Brush Creek.¹⁰ In 1903, a Parliamentary Standing Committee Enquiry was created to discuss the necessity of the North Coast Railway due to increasing populations along the east coast.¹¹ The railway was constructed in stages: Stage 1 (1915) connected Coffs Harbour to Repton, whilst Stage 2 (1922) connected Coffs Harbour to Glenreagh. The railway was opened in 1923, with the first 'through' train arriving from Sydney in December.¹²



Figure 3. Timber cutters standing with their axes against a fallen log, Coffs Harbour, c1915.13

¹⁰ Biosis, 2019. 'Coffs Harbour Bypass'. p. 33.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Author unknown, c1915. 'Two unidentified timber cutters standing with their axes against a fallen log, Coffs Harbour'. Coffs Harbour Regional Museum. Accessed 8 September 2020, https://coffsharbour.spydus.com/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/FULL/WPIC/BIBENQ/6847049/433111,8



Figure 4. Slab sided creamery, Coffs Harbour, c1900s.¹⁴



Figure 5. Herman and Fanny Rieck on their banana plantation, 1892.¹⁵

¹⁴ Author unknown, c1900s. 'Slab sided creamery, Coffs Harbour'. *Coffs Harbour Regional Museum*. Accessed online 8 September 2020, https://coffsharbour.spydus.com/cgibin/spydus.exe/FULL/WPIC/BIBENQ/6847315/423384.2

bin/spydus.exe/FULL/WPIC/BIBENQ/6847315/423384,2 ¹⁵ Author unknown, 1892. 'Herman and Fanny Reick on their banana plantation.' *Coffs Harbour Regional Museum.* Accessed online 8 September 2020, https://coffsharbour.spydus.com/cgibin/spydus.exe/FULL/WPIC/BIBENQ/6847544/439613,8

3 Physical description

3.1 Site context and setting

The Marked tree stumps are positioned at two separate locations within the project footprint, in the Coffs Harbour LGA. The first location (Tree Stumps 1 and 2), within Lot 61 DP 1064525, comprises privately owned partially cleared land off Buchanans Road. The second location (Tree Stumps 3 and 4), within Lot 2 DP 800414, similarly comprises privately owned partially cleared land off Spagnolos Road. Both tree stump locations are situated within dense vegetation, on steep hills (Figure 6 - Figure 13).

At present, Marked tree stumps 1 and 2 have northern, western, southern, and eastern views of uncleared privately owned land, with banana plantation to the north, although at present views are obscured by vegetation (Figure 6 - Figure 9). Whilst Marked tree Stumps 3 and 4 have western, northern, southern and eastern views of uncleared privately owned land, with banana plantation to the west and the North Coast Railway line to the north, although these views are obscured by vegetation. The proposed Coffs Harbour Bypass will have a direct physical impact on three tree stumps, with their complete removal as part of the proposed works, whilst Marked tree stump 2 will have a visual impact as part of the project.



Figure 6. Northern view of marked tree stump 1 within the landscape



Figure 7. Eastern shot from Marked tree stump 1 within project footprint showing existing views



Figure 8. Northern view of marked tree stump 2 within the landscape



Figure 9. Eastern shot from Marked tree stump 2 towards project footprint showing existing views



Figure 10. Northern view of Marked tree stump 3 within the landscape



Figure 11. Eastern shot from Marked tree stump 3 within project footprint showing existing views



Figure 12. Eastern view of Marked tree stump 4 within the landscape



Figure 13. Eastern shot from Marked tree stump 4 within prject footprint showing existing views

3.2 Marked tree stumps

The following physical description of the Marked tree stumps has been developed from the non-Aboriginal heritage assessment prepared for the project.¹⁶

Four Marked tree stumps have been located within the proposed Coffs Harbour Bypass route footprint. The tree stumps display evidence of footholds and hand sawing and are likely to date to the clearing of the landscape for cultivation (c1847c1880s).

Marked tree stump 1 (Figure 14), located within dense vegetation on the side of a steep hill, is approximately 2m tall and 1.5m wide. It features one hand sawn foothold which is 200x100x100mm. Marked tree stump 2 (Figure 15), similarly located within dense vegetation on the side of a steep hill, is approximately 3m tall and 1.5m wide, featuring four hand sawn footholds, 200x100x100mm in size.

Marked tree stump 3 (Figure 16 - Figure 17), which had become uprooted is located within dense vegetation at the top of a steep hill. It is approximately 2m long with a width of 700-1000mm and features one foothold at 200x100x100 in size. Lastly, Marked tree stump 4 (Figure 18), located within dense vegetation on the side of a

¹⁶ Biosis, July 2019. *Coffs Harbour Bypass – Non-Aboriginal Heritage Assessment*. Report to Roads and Maritime Services. p. 39.

steep hill, was approximately 4m tall and 2m wide, featuring one foothold at 200x100x100mm.



Figure 14. Northeastern view of Marked tree stump 1 showing hand sawn foothold



Figure 15. Northeastern view of Marked tree stump 2 showing four hand sawn footholds and hand sawing



Figure 16. Northern view of uprooted Marked tree stump 3



Figure 17. Northern view of uprooted Marked tree stump 3 showing hand sawn foothold



Figure 18. Northern view of Marked tree stump 4 showing hand sawn foothold

3.3 Heritage significance

3.3.1 Assessment of significance

The Marked tree stumps are not listed on any statutory or non-statutory heritage register. The Marked tree stumps were assessed as an unlisted item of local heritage significance in the non-Aboriginal heritage assessment for the project.¹⁷

The non-Aboriginal heritage assessment provided an assessment of heritage significance of the Marked tree stumps, which is provided in Table 2 below.¹⁸

Table 2: Significance assessment for the Marked tree stumps

Criterion	Description	Significance	
A – Historical significance	The Marked tree stumps display evidence of toe holds and hand sawing which indicates that the trees are likely to belong to the early settlement of the Coffs Harbour region which relied upon the felling of timber. As such, the Marked tree stumps are representative of the early settlement of the region.	Local	
B – Associative significance	The item does not meet the threshold under this criterion.	N/A	
C – Aesthetic or Technical significance	The Marked tree stumps are remnant of a former wooded landscape that was removed as part of the early settlement of the region. The markings are also indicative of the process of timber clearing and the techniques involved. As such, the Marked tree stumps add to the visual appreciation of this former landscape and the method of its clearance.	Local	
D – Social significance	The item does not meet the threshold under this criterion.	N/A	
E – Research potential	The item does not meet the threshold under this criterion.	N/A	
F – Rarity	Due to the level of land clearance that has occurred within the Coffs Harbour region, the Marked tree stumps are considered to be rare within the local area.	Local	
G – Representative ness	The Marked tree stumps are representative of timber clearance as part of the early settlement of the region.	Local	

¹⁷ Biosis, July 2019. *Coffs Harbour Bypass – Non-Aboriginal Heritage Assessment*. Report to Roads and Maritime Services. p. 70.

¹⁸ Biosis, July 2019. *Coffs Harbour Bypass – Non-Aboriginal Heritage Assessment.* Report to Roads and Maritime Services. p. 68-69.

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3.3.2 Statement of significance

The following statement of significance was prepared for the Marked tree stumps by Biosis in 2019.¹⁹

The Marked tree stumps are of local significance as they are a rare and representative example of the process of timber clearance. This activity was a major industry on the north coast and significantly contributed to the economy of the early settlement of Coffs Harbour. The Marked tree stumps are indicative of the former forested landscape that occupied the coastal hinterland.

¹⁹ Biosis, July 2019. *Coffs Harbour Bypass – Non-Aboriginal Heritage Assessment*. Report to Roads and Maritime Services. p. 70.

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4 Catalogue sheet

The following catalogue sheet (Table 3) includes descriptions of the content of each photograph taken during the site visit, along with the directions in which they were taken. The catalogue sheet should be cross-referenced by number on the accompanying aerial maps (Figure 19) and photograph contact sheets (Appendix A)

All digital photographs (JPEG and RAW) are provided on an accompanying CD.

4.1 Marked tree stumps

Table 3: Catalogue sheets of the photographic record of the Marked tree stumps.

1DSC_8765NView of Marked tree stump 1 within existing landscape showing evidence of footholds and hand sawing10/12/20202DSC_8773NEView of Marked tree stump 1 showing evidence of footholds and hand sawing with scale10/12/20203DSC_8779NEView of Marked tree stump 1 showing evidence of footholds and hand sawing with scale10/12/20204DSC_8781NEDetail shot of Marked tree stump 1 showing evidence of footholds and hand sawing with scale10/12/20205DSC_8782NEDetail shot of Marked tree stump 1 showing foothold10/12/20206DSC_8768EView from Marked tree stump 1 showing existing views within project footprint10/12/20207DSC_8813NView of Marked tree stump 2 within existing landscape showing evidence of footholds and hand sawing with scale10/12/20208DSC_8791NView of Marked tree stump 2 showing evidence of footholds and hand sawing with scale10/12/20209DSC_8798NEView of Marked tree stump 2 showing evidence of footholds and hand sawing with scale10/12/202010DSC_8806NDetail shot of Marked tree stump 2 showing foothold with scale10/12/202011DSC_8811NEView of Marked tree stump 2 showing foothold10/12/202012DSC_8847NView of Marked tree stump 3 within graind10/12/202013DSC_8839NView of Marked tree stump 3 with orborint10/12/202014DSC_883	Photo #	Frame #	View to	Description	Date
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13 - existing landscape 14 DSC_8839 N View of Marked tree stump 3 with 10/12/2020	12	DSC_8811	NE	showing existing views towards project	10/12/2020
	13	DSC_8847	Ν	•	10/12/2020
	14	DSC_8839	Ν	•	10/12/2020

Photo #	Frame #	View to	Description	Date
15	DSC_8841	Ν	View of Marked tree stump 3 with scale	10/12/2020
16	DSC_8843	Ν	Detail shot of Marked tree stump 3 showing foothold with scale	10/12/2020
17	DSC_8845	Ν	Detail shot of Marked tree stump 3 showing foothold with scale	10/12/2020
18	DSC_8850	E	View from Marked tree stump 3 showing existing views within project footprint	10/12/2020
19	DSC_8857	Е	View of Marked tree stump 4 within existing landscape	10/12/2020
20	DSC_8860	E	View of Marked tree stump 4 within existing landscape with scale	10/12/2020
21	DSC_8864	Ν	View of Marked tree stump 4 within existing landscape with scale	10/12/2020
22	DSC_8865	Ν	Detail shot of Marked tree stump 4 showing foothold with scale	10/12/2020
23	DSC_8867	Ν	Detail shot of Marked tree stump 4 showing foothold	10/12/2020
24	DSC_8875	E	View from Marked tree stump 4 showing existing views within project footprint	10/12/2020

5 Reference aerial

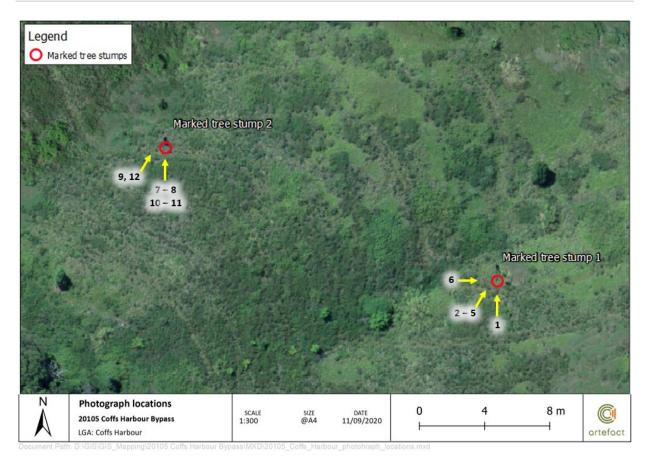


Figure 19. Marked tree stumps 1 and 2 photograph locations



Figure 20. Marked tree stumps 3 and 4 photograph locations

6 Material specifications

6.1 Camera

All photographs were taken using a Nikon D700 with a 28mm 1.8G lens.

6.2 Materials used

The following materials were used for the archival photographic record:

Table 4: Material specifications

Criterion	Significance		
Folder and slipcase	 Albox archival photo-safe album (acid free, adhesive free, metal free) 25mm binder and cover photo album (non-prints folder) 40mm binder and cover photo album (prints folder) 		
A4 sleeves	Albox A4 Pocket 90 micron		
CD	4GB CD-R		
CD sleeves	Albox ALBOX Double CD Pocket		
A4 – 6x4 sleeves	Albox 6x4 Photo Page (polypropylene)		
A6 prints	Fujicolor Crystal Archive Paper – Lustre finish		

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Appendix A: Photograph contact sheets 8

PHOTO 1 - DSC_8765



PHOTO 4 - DSC_8781





PHOTO 2 - DSC_8773

PHOTO 8 - DSC_8791

PHOTO 3 - DSC_8779



PHOTO 6 - DSC_8768



PHOTO 9 - DSC_8798



PHOTO 7 - DSC_8813





PHOTO 10 - DSC_8806



PHOTO 11 - DSC_8808



PHOTO 12 - DSC_8811



PHOTO 13 - DSC_8847



PHOTO 16 - DSC_8843



PHOTO 19 - DSC_8857

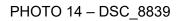




PHOTO 17 - DSC_8845



PHOTO 20 - DSC_8860

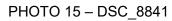




PHOTO 18 - DSC_8850



PHOTO 21 - DSC_8864



PHOTO 22 - DSC_8865





PHOTO 23 - DSC_8867





PHOTO 24 – DSC_8875

