



ACT Heritage Council

Entry to the ACT Heritage Register

Heritage Act 2004

20135. Aboriginal Places – Southern and remote areas of Namadgi National Park

Part Block 18

District of COTTER RIVER

Part Block 39

District of MOUNT CLEAR

Part Block 1

District of RENDEZVOUS CREEK

This entry which was previously part of the old heritage places or the old heritage objects registers (as defined in the ***Heritage Act 2004***), as the case may be, is taken to be registered under the ***Heritage Act 2004***.

Conservation Requirements (including Specific Requirements), as defined under the ***Heritage Act 2004***, that are contained within this document are taken to be Heritage Guidelines applying to this place or object, as the case may be.

Information restricted under ***the old heritage places register or old heritage objects register*** is restricted under the ***Heritage Act 2004***.

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ACT Heritage Council

**AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
INTERIM HERITAGE PLACES REGISTER**

For the purposes of s. 68(2) of the *Land (Planning and Environment) Act* 1991, a listing for the following places has been prepared by the ACT Heritage Council, for the purpose of including:

Aboriginal Places in southern and remote areas of Namadgi National Park, ACT.

- **Aboriginal Places in Namadgi National Park (44)**

In an interim Heritage Places Register.

Copies of the listing are available for inspection at ACT Public Libraries and at all ACT Government Shopfronts. For further information please contact:

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**Notifiable Instrument: NI2004-303
Effective: 24 August 2004**

IDENTIFICATION OF THE PLACES

The places comprise 44 Aboriginal sites located within Southern and remote areas in Namadgi National Park, ACT:

- Aboriginal Places in the District of Cotter River (n=30)
- Aboriginal Places in the District of Rendezvous Creek (n=13)
- Aboriginal Places in the District of Mount Clear (n=1)

The Canberra 1:10 000 scale Adjusted Grid Co-ordinate (AGC) locations for the places are held within a database of ACT site locations. The AGC grid co-ordinates are restricted information under s.82 of the *Land (Planning and Environment) Act 1991*.

FEATURES INTRINSIC TO THE HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PLACES

The places comprise locations where Aboriginal stone artefacts have been recorded (n=35), shelters with potential archaeological deposit (n=3), ceremonial stone arrangements (n=6) and their individually specified site buffer zones (as described in Schedule 2).

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The ACT Aboriginal community considers all archaeological evidence of the past occupation of the ACT by Aboriginal people to be significant. Aboriginal places have the capacity to demonstrate and provide information about ways in which Aboriginal people lived in the past. These places are part of a regional body of evidence that has potential to reveal information about patterns of past Aboriginal land-use and settlement. Details of the site locations and descriptive information about them builds upon and complements the considerable body of archaeological research that exists for the Canberra region.

These places are all part of the physical evidence of a traditional way of life that is no longer practised within the ACT. The presence of artefact scatters in these localities demonstrates past occupation and use of these places by Aboriginal people. Stone was an extremely important element of Aboriginal culture, essential to their day-to-day living. Stone artefacts thus constitute an enduring record of Aboriginal technology and settlement patterns. The individual artefacts at the sites also have significance due to their potential to contribute to research about Aboriginal stone technology.

Areas of identified archaeological potential are considered to be significant cultural resources because of their potential to contain buried evidence of past Aboriginal occupation, likely to be intact and in better condition than other surface exposed sites.

CONSERVATION POLICY AND SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

The Heritage Council promotes a *general conservation policy* for all Aboriginal heritage sites. This policy states that Aboriginal sites are to be conserved appropriately in accordance with their individual heritage significance, taking into account their Aboriginal and archaeological heritage values. Aboriginal sites and their components form an integral part of the landscape. The spatial relationships between sites, as well as their geographic relationship to land, constitute significant information with potential to inform about past cultural practices. The maintenance of records about sites and their geographic location is essential for the conservation of this information. Areas that have potential to contain Aboriginal heritage sites, including areas in which archaeological survey has not yet been undertaken, are to be managed in a way that permits the identification, significance assessment and conservation, where appropriate, of the Aboriginal cultural heritage resource.

In addition to the general conservation policy, the Heritage Council has developed a series of *specific requirements* to provide direction for conservation of the heritage significance of Aboriginal heritage sites. The specific requirements have been prepared to implement conservation policies and objectives developed for the places.

The specific requirements for conservation of Aboriginal heritage places are set out in Schedule 1. This is preceded by general information about the different types of Aboriginal heritage places that can occur and their conservation objectives.

Artefact Scatters

Artefact scatters constitute identifiably dense occurrences of stone artefacts and represent geographic foci of Aboriginal occupation related to a range of activities. Scatters may form as a result of single intensive occupation events or build up over hundreds or thousands of years due to repeated use or occupation of an area. The current appearance and structure of an artefact scatter site will depend upon the impact of events, termed *formation processes*, that have affected the artefacts during and after their deposition. Formation processes include both natural and cultural factors such as soil erosion and deposition, other natural disturbances, reuse of places by Aboriginal people and later European land-use practices. The heritage values of artefact scatters are based upon their Aboriginal and archaeological significance.

All artefact scatters are considered to be significant by the Aboriginal community. Aboriginal people generally express the desire for all such sites to be left *in situ* wherever feasible. Their significance to Aboriginal people is primarily based on their provision of evidence of the occupation of land by their ancestors. Artefact scatters thus comprise a demonstrable link to place for contemporary Aboriginal people.

The archaeological significance of artefact scatters stems both from their physical representation of past cultural practices and for their potential to yield information through research that will increase our understanding of the past. The potential research value accorded to sites depends in turn on a range of factors including the individual quality and quantity of artefactual content, the condition and integrity of the site structure, whether the artefacts occur *in situ* within cultural deposit, and whether original relationships between artefacts are likely to be discernible and meaningful.

The significance of artefact scatters may be thus ranked from low to high according to their value to Aboriginal people, their archaeological value and their condition and integrity. **Their significance to Aboriginal people may not necessarily, however, relate to or accord with archaeological significance assessments.** The criteria for ranking artefact scatters into either low, medium or high categories of significance and their associated conservation objectives are detailed as follows:

- **Artefact scatters of Low Conservation Value**

Artefact scatters identified as having low conservation value are those sites with very few artefacts, with artefacts of a common type, with no associated cultural deposit and/or sites that have already been highly disturbed and where there is negligible potential for them to provide further information. Such sites may either be conserved *in situ* or be the subject of a program of archaeological investigation and salvage as recommended by the Heritage Council, after consultation with the relevant Aboriginal organisations.

Generally, the conservation objective for this site type is to record and retain where feasible, otherwise salvage.

- **Artefact scatters of Medium Conservation Value**

Artefact scatters identified as having medium conservation value include sites with high artefact numbers and/or density and/or with identified or potential associated deposit. They are also sites of common type and character. Sites of medium conservation value may either be conserved *in situ* or be the subject of a program of archaeological investigation and salvage. The investigation and salvage may include collection of artefacts, subsurface testing, excavation or other investigative techniques as recommended by the Heritage Council, after consultation with the relevant Aboriginal organisations.

Generally, the conservation objective for this site type is to record and retain, where feasible, or salvage.

- **Artefact scatters of High Conservation Value**

Artefact scatters identified as having high conservation value include sites with high artefact numbers and/or density, with rare, or representative artefacts, and/or with identified or potential associated deposit. They may also be sites of good preservation and condition where the original site structure and contents have survived. Sites of high conservation value are to be conserved *in situ* in an appropriate setting, where feasible. However site investigations for the purposes of improving their conservation or research may be permitted, provided that the relevant Aboriginal organisations have been consulted about any proposed works and agree to their occurrence.

The identification of appropriate conservation actions may require preparation of a Conservation and Management Plan. Actions that propose impact upon their identified heritage values will be considered on a case by case basis by the Heritage Council in consultation with the relevant Aboriginal organisations, and with reference to the applicable Conservation and Management Plan or Research Plan, if prepared.

Generally, the conservation objective for this site type is to record, retain and actively conserve.

Potential Archaeological Deposits

Areas of potential Aboriginal Heritage sensitivity or potential archaeological deposits (PADs) are generally areas defined in the course of professional field or predictive archaeological assessment. They include areas where sites or artefacts are identified as likely to occur, but where ground visibility precludes site or artefact detection or where field survey has not been undertaken. Knowledge of regional and/or local patterns of site occurrence and site formation processes is generally prerequisite for the identification of areas of archaeological potential. Further investigation of areas of archaeological potential may be required prior to or during development. Such further investigation may include sub-surface testing, monitoring or excavation. The significance of such areas will ultimately depend on the outcome of the further investigations.

Generally, the conservation objective of this site type is to investigate, assess, record and retain if deemed appropriate.

Rockshelters

These sites occur within naturally formed hollows or overhangs in cliffs, outcrops of boulders, providing sheltered environments that were sometimes used for habitation or other activities by Aboriginal people. Evidence of their use by people is often provided through the presence of art on the shelter walls and occupation debris such as stone artefacts, grinding material, charcoal, bone and other refuse on the shelter floor. In the ACT they often occur in granite outcrops in Namadgi National Park and Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve. These sites are highly significant and can often have tremendous research potential.

Sites of high conservation value are to be conserved *in situ* in an appropriate setting, where feasible. However site investigations for the purposes of improving their conservation or research may be permitted, provided that the relevant Aboriginal organisations have been consulted about any proposed works and agree to their occurrence.

The identification of appropriate conservation actions may require preparation of a Conservation and Management Plan. Actions that propose impact upon their identified heritage values will be considered on a case by case basis by the Heritage Council in consultation with the relevant Aboriginal organisations, and with reference to the applicable Conservation and Management Plan or Research Plan, if prepared.

Generally, the conservation objective for this site type is to record, retain and actively conserve.

Schedule 1: Specific Requirements for the Conservation of Aboriginal Heritage Places

- 1** Information regarding the description and specific location of the place shall be held in a database of ACT Aboriginal heritage sites. The land manager shall enter these sites onto the Namadgi Sites of Significance database. This database should be consulted for the location of any heritage place in the planning stages of any work program in the area.
- 2** Actions that would affect the conservation of the heritage significance of the place require the agreement of the Heritage Council in consultation with the relevant Aboriginal organisations.
- 3** Works that improve or benefit the conservation of the heritage significance of the place are permitted. Proponents of such works shall advise the Heritage Council and consult with the relevant Aboriginal organisations about the proposal. The agreement of the Heritage Council must be obtained prior to works being undertaken.
- 4a** The land manager shall be aware that the presence of an Aboriginal heritage site(s) within a development area may impose constraint upon the development. The nature of the constraint will vary according to the assessed significance of the site(s) and the potential heritage impact of the development. For *artefact scatters* assessed as being of *low conservation value* (LCV) the development constraint may range from nil constraint to a requirement to undertake further survey or investigation of a place, further recording of a place and/or collection of artefacts or other cultural materials.
- 4b** The land manager shall be aware that the presence of an Aboriginal heritage site(s) within a development area may impose constraint upon the development. The nature of the constraint will vary according to the assessed significance of the site(s) and the potential heritage impact of the development. For *artefact scatters* assessed as being of *medium conservation value* (MCV) the development constraint may range from nil constraint to a requirement to undertake further survey or investigation of all or part of the place, further recording of a place and/or collection of artefacts or other cultural materials, subsurface testing, monitoring during development or salvage excavation, or a requirement to conserve a representative part of the site whilst carrying out further works on the remainder.
- 4c** The land manager shall be aware that the presence of an Aboriginal heritage site(s) within a development area may impose constraint upon the development. The nature of the constraint will

vary according to the assessed significance of the site(s) and the potential heritage impact of the development. For *artefact scatters, Aboriginal stone arrangements or rockshelters* assessed as being of *high conservation value* (HCV) the development constraint may range from nil constraint to a requirement to undertake investigation of a place, prepare and/or implement a Conservation and Management Plan for the place, to an inability to undertake part or all of the development within the affected area(s).

- 4d** Areas of potential archaeological deposits shall be further investigated to assess their Aboriginal and archaeological significance prior to their development. Development proponents shall be aware that the presence of a PAD within a development area may impose constraint upon the development. For these areas the development constraint will occur in two stages. Initially the constraint may range from nil constraint to a requirement to undertake further investigative work such as additional field survey and/or subsurface testing. Any subsequent constraint will vary according to the assessed significance of any Aboriginal cultural heritage materials located within the area and the potential heritage impact of the development.
 - 5** The ACT Heritage Council shall advise the proponent of the degree of constraint, based upon the nature of the development and its potential heritage impact and the significance assessment of the site(s) and consultation with the relevant Aboriginal organisations.
 - 6a** Artefacts (including scarred trees) and/or any other identified significant fabric or components of the site shall not be removed, damaged, altered or disturbed without the prior agreement of the Heritage Council, and consultation with the relevant Aboriginal organisations.
 - 6b** Should further investigation determine that Aboriginal archaeological materials are present in a PAD then records about the place shall be updated, and the Heritage Council shall be consulted about the appropriate management of the place. In providing such advice the Heritage Council shall consult with the relevant Aboriginal organisations.
 - 7** Any further investigation of sites and/or collection of artefacts and/or salvage of site fabric or other cultural materials agreed to by the Heritage Council shall be undertaken by a qualified archaeologist in consultation with the relevant Aboriginal organisations, in accordance with a proposed methodology provided to and endorsed by the Heritage Council.
 - 8** Salvaged or collected materials shall be archived by the Heritage Unit, pending establishment of an appropriate storage facility.
 - 9** If the Heritage Council advises collection or salvage then, following completion of salvage works as advised by the Heritage Council only Specific Requirement No. 1 shall apply to the identified place.
 - 10** The place may not be promoted for public use, interpretation or visitation without approval from the Heritage Council in consultation with the relevant Aboriginal groups. Any proposed educational and presentational uses of the place shall be considered by the ACT Heritage Council and relevant Aboriginal organisations on the basis of whether sufficient information is provided about their impacts and potential impacts upon the place.
 - 11** Any proposed research that may potentially impact upon the heritage significance of the place shall be conducted in accordance with a research proposal which provides for consultation with the relevant Aboriginal organisations and which is endorsed by the Heritage Council.
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Schedule 2: List of Aboriginal heritage places

GENERAL SITE DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS (refer to Schedule 1)
<p>NNP RF 01</p> <p>An isolated stone artefact located on the rim of a high altitude wetland.</p> <p>Recorded – R. Paton 2003</p>	<p>Block 1 District of Rendezvous Creek</p>	<p>Artefact scatter of LCV:</p> <p>1 2 3 4a 5 6a 7 8 9</p>
<p>NNP RF 02</p> <p>An isolated stone artefact located on the slightly raised rim of a high altitude wetland.</p> <p>Recorded – R. Paton 2003</p>	<p>Block 1 District of Rendezvous Creek</p>	<p>Artefact scatter of LCV:</p> <p>1 2 3 4a 5 6a 7 8 9</p>
<p>NNP RF 03</p> <p>A scatter of at least five stone artefacts located on slightly raised ground around a high altitude wetland.</p> <p>Recorded – R. Paton 2003</p>	<p>Block 1 District of Rendezvous Creek</p>	<p>Artefact scatter of LCV:</p> <p>1 2 3 4a 5 6a 7 8 9</p>
<p>NNP RF 04</p> <p>A low density scatter of at least three stone artefacts located on slightly raised ground around a high altitude wetland.</p> <p>Recorded – R. Paton 2003</p>	<p>Block 1 District of Rendezvous Creek</p>	<p>Artefact scatter of LCV:</p> <p>1 2 3 4a 5 6a 7 8 9</p>

<p>NNP RF 05</p> <p>A low density scatter of at least four stone artefacts located on the slightly raised rim of a high altitude wetland.</p> <p>Recorded – R. Paton 2003</p>	<p>Block 1 District of Rendezvous Creek</p>	<p>Artefact scatter of LCV:</p> <p>1 2 3 4a 5 6a 7 8 9</p>
<p>NNP RF 06</p> <p>A low density scatter of at least two stone artefacts located on a slightly raised rim around a high altitude wetland.</p> <p>Recorded – R. Paton 2003</p>	<p>Block 1 District of Rendezvous Creek</p>	<p>Artefact scatter of LCV:</p> <p>1 2 3 4a 5 6a 7 8 9</p>
<p>NNP RF 07</p> <p>A low density scatter of at least two stone artefacts located on a slightly raised rim around a high altitude wetland.</p> <p>Recorded – R. Paton 2003</p>	<p>Block 1 District of Rendezvous Creek</p>	<p>Artefact scatter of LCV:</p> <p>1 2 3 4a 5 6a 7 8 9</p>
<p>NNP MtS 01</p> <p>A low density scatter of at least two stone artefacts located below a saddle in the western ridgeline.</p> <p>Recorded – P. Saunders 2003a</p>	<p>Block 18 District of Cotter River</p>	<p>Artefact scatter of LCV:</p> <p>1 2 3 4a 5 6a 7 8 9</p>
<p>NNP MtS 03</p> <p>An isolated stone artefact located on an old track/fire trail.</p> <p>Recorded – P. Saunders 2003a</p>	<p>Block 18 District of Cotter River</p>	<p>Artefact scatter of LCV:</p> <p>1 2 3 4a 5 6a 7 8 9</p>

<p>NNP MtS 04</p> <p>An isolated stone artefact located near the western edge of the upper basin of the Cotter source bog.</p> <p>Recorded – P. Saunders 2003a</p>	<p>Block 18 District of Cotter River</p>	<p>Artefact scatter of LCV:</p> <p>1 2 3 4a 5 6a 7 8 9</p>
<p>NNP MtS 05</p> <p>An isolated stone artefact located at the western edge of the upper Cotter source bog.</p> <p>Recorded – P. Saunders 2003a</p>	<p>Block 18 District of Cotter River</p>	<p>Artefact scatter of LCV:</p> <p>1 2 3 4a 5 6a 7 8 9</p>
<p>NNP SBM 02</p> <p>A substantial rockshelter with potential archaeological deposit located beneath an agglomeration of large adamellite tors.</p> <p>Recorded – T. Knight 2003</p>	<p>Block 39 District of Mount Clear</p>	<p>Rockshelter of HCV and PAD:</p> <p>1 2 3 4c 4d 5 6a 6b 7 8 9 10 11</p>
<p>NNP LCF 01</p> <p>A scatter of at least eight stone artefacts located on a slightly elevated area between two swamps.</p> <p>Recorded – P. Saunders 2003b</p>	<p>Block 18 District of Cotter River</p>	<p>Artefact scatter of LCV:</p> <p>1 2 3 4a 5 6a 7 8 9</p>

<p>NNP LCF 02</p> <p>A scatter of at least fifteen stone artefacts located amongst low boulders along the edge of a swamp.</p> <p>Recorded – P. Saunders 2003b</p>	<p>Block 18 District of Cotter River</p>	<p>Artefact scatter of MCV:</p> <p>1 2 3 4b 5 6a 7 8 9 10</p>
<p>NNP LCF 03</p> <p>A low density scatter of at least three stone artefacts located on a low footslope between two streams.</p> <p>Recorded – P. Saunders 2003b</p>	<p>Block 18 District of Cotter River</p>	<p>Artefact scatter of LCV:</p> <p>1 2 3 4a 5 6a 7 8 9</p>
<p>NNP LCF 04</p> <p>A scatter of at least five stone artefacts located on a low gradient footslope between two streams.</p> <p>Recorded – P. Saunders 2003b</p>	<p>Block 18 District of Cotter River</p>	<p>Artefact scatter of LCV:</p> <p>1 2 3 4a 5 6a 7 8 9</p>
<p>NNP LCF 05</p> <p>An isolated stone artefact located on a spit of land at the edge of a swamp.</p> <p>Recorded – P. Saunders 2003b</p>	<p>Block 18 District of Cotter River</p>	<p>Artefact scatter of LCV:</p> <p>1 2 3 4a 5 6a 7 8 9</p>

<p>NNP LCF 06</p> <p>A scatter of at least five stone artefacts located on a low gradient spur next to a swamp.</p> <p>Recorded – P. Saunders 2003b</p>	<p>Block 18 District of Cotter River</p>	<p>Artefact scatter of LCV:</p> <p>1 2 3 4a 5 6a 7 8 9</p>
<p>NNP LCF 07</p> <p>A low density scatter of at least two stone artefacts located on the mid slopes of a spur near a swamp.</p> <p>Recorded – P. Saunders 2003b</p>	<p>Block 18 District of Cotter River</p>	<p>Artefact scatter of LCV:</p> <p>1 2 3 4a 5 6a 7 8 9</p>
<p>NNP LCF 08</p> <p>A scatter of at least six stone artefacts located at the end of a low gradient basal slope and above a small stream.</p> <p>Recorded – P. Saunders 2003b</p>	<p>Block 18 District of Cotter River</p>	<p>Artefact scatter of LCV:</p> <p>1 2 3 4a 5 6a 7 8 9</p>
<p>NNP LCF 09</p> <p>A low density scatter of at least four stone artefacts located on a lower slope in a wetland margin.</p> <p>Recorded – P. Saunders 2003b</p>	<p>Block 18 District of Cotter River</p>	<p>Artefact scatter of LCV:</p> <p>1 2 3 4a 5 6a 7 8 9</p>

<p>NNP RS 01</p> <p>A medium density scatter of at least twenty stone artefacts located along a swamp margin.</p> <p>Recorded – C. Dearling 2003</p>	<p>Block 18 District of Cotter River</p>	<p>Artefact scatter of MCV:</p> <p>1 2 3 4b 5 6a 7 8 9 10</p>
<p>NNP RS 02</p> <p>A scatter of at least eleven stone artefacts located on an island formed by granite outcrops beside a swamp.</p> <p>Recorded – C. Dearling 2003</p>	<p>Block 18 District of Cotter River</p>	<p>Artefact scatter of LCV:</p> <p>1 2 3 4a 5 6a 7 8 9</p>
<p>NNP RS 03</p> <p>A medium density scatter of at least seventeen stone artefacts located on a terrace beside the swamp.</p> <p>Recorded – C. Dearling 2003</p>	<p>Block 18 District of Cotter River</p>	<p>Artefact scatter of MCV:</p> <p>1 2 3 4b 5 6a 7 8 9 10</p>
<p>NNP RS 04</p> <p>A scatter of at least twelve stone artefacts located in a very flat area which forms the outlet of the swamp.</p> <p>Recorded – C. Dearling 2003</p>	<p>Block 18 District of Cotter River</p>	<p>Artefact scatter of LCV:</p> <p>1 2 3 4a 5 6a 7 8 9</p>

<p>NNP RS 05</p> <p>A scatter of at least six stone artefacts located on the eastern side of an outlet gap to the swamp.</p> <p>Recorded – C. Dearling 2003</p>	<p>Block 18 District of Cotter River</p>	<p>Artefact scatter of LCV:</p> <p>1 2 3 4a 5 6a 7 8 9</p>
<p>NNP RS 06</p> <p>An isolated stone artefact located near a large rock outcrop on the basal slopes of Mt. Kelly.</p> <p>Recorded – C. Dearling 2003</p>	<p>Block 18 District of Cotter River</p>	<p>Artefact scatter of LCV:</p> <p>1 2 3 4a 5 6a 7 8 9</p>
<p>NNP RS 07</p> <p>A rockshelter with at least three stone artefacts and a potential archaeological deposit.</p> <p>Recorded – C. Dearling 2003</p>	<p>Block 18 District of Cotter River</p>	<p>Rockshelter of HCV and PAD:</p> <p>1 2 3 4c 4d 5 6a 6b 7 8 9 10 11</p>
<p>NNP MN 01</p> <p>A low density scatter of at least eight stone artefacts located on northeast facing slopes adjacent to a small tributary drainage line.</p> <p>Recorded – Navin Officer 2003</p>	<p>Block 1 District of Rendezvous Creek</p>	<p>Artefact scatter of MCV:</p> <p>1 2 3 4b 5 6a 7 8 9 10</p>

<p>NNP MN 02</p> <p>A low density scatter of at least three stone artefacts located on southeast facing slopes adjacent to a small and shallow tributary valley.</p> <p>Recorded – Navin Officer 2003</p>	<p>Block 1 District of Rendezvous Creek</p>	<p>Artefact scatter of LCV:</p> <p>1 2 3 4a 5 6a 7 8 9</p>
<p>NNP MN 03</p> <p>A low density scatter of at least three stone artefacts located at the end of a narrow linear depression on the upper slopes.</p> <p>Recorded – Navin Officer 2003</p>	<p>Block 1 District of Rendezvous Creek</p>	<p>Artefact scatter of LCV:</p> <p>1 2 3 4a 5 6a 7 8 9</p>
<p>NNP MN 04</p> <p>A rockshelter with at least one stone artefact and a potential archaeological deposit.</p> <p>Recorded – Navin Officer 2003</p>	<p>Block 1 District of Rendezvous Creek</p>	<p>Rockshelter with PAD of HCV:</p> <p>1 2 3 4c 4d 5 6a 6b 7 8 9 10 11</p>
<p>NNP MN 05</p> <p>An isolated stone artefact located on a low to moderately northwest facing slope, characterised by numerous low granodiorite boulders and benches.</p> <p>Recorded – Navin Officer 2003</p>	<p>Block 18 District of Cotter River</p>	<p>Artefact scatter of LCV:</p> <p>1 2 3 4a 5 6a 7 8 9</p>

<p>NNP MN 06</p> <p>An isolated stone artefact located in a shallow veneer of soil on a ground level, low gradient granodiorite rock platform.</p> <p>Recorded – Navin Officer 2003</p>	<p>Block 18 District of Cotter River</p>	<p>Artefact scatter of LCV:</p> <p>1 2 3 4a 5 6a 7 8 9</p>
<p>NNP MN 07</p> <p>A moderate density scatter of at least thirty to forty stone artefacts located at the end of an extensive spurline shoulder.</p> <p>Recorded – Navin Officer 2003</p>	<p>Block 18 District of Cotter River</p>	<p>Artefact scatter of MCV:</p> <p>1 2 3 4b 5 6a 7 8 9 10</p>
<p>NNP MN 08</p> <p>A low density scatter of at least two stone artefacts located on the forested margin of a grassed clearing on a major spurline shoulder.</p> <p>Recorded – Navin Officer 2003</p>	<p>Block 18 District of Cotter River</p>	<p>Artefact scatter of LCV:</p> <p>1 2 3 4a 5 6a 7 8 9</p>
<p>NNP MN 09</p> <p>An isolated stone artefact located on a level bench near the summit.</p> <p>Recorded – Navin Officer 2003</p>	<p>Block 18 District of Cotter River</p>	<p>Artefact scatter of LCV:</p> <p>1 2 3 4a 5 6a 7 8 9</p>

<p>NNP MN 10</p> <p>A low density scatter of at least three stone artefacts located on the downslope edge of a small rocky bench.</p> <p>Recorded – Navin Officer 2003</p>	<p>Block 1 District of Rendezvous Creek</p>	<p>Artefact scatter of LCV:</p> <p>1 2 3 4a 5 6a 7 8 9</p>
<p>NNP MNSA1</p> <p>An Aboriginal stone arrangement.</p> <p>Recorded – Navin Officer 2003</p>	<p>Block 18 District of Cotter River</p>	<p>Stone arrangement of HCV:</p> <p>1 2 3 4c 5 6a 7 8 9 10 11</p>
<p>NNP MNSA2</p> <p>An Aboriginal stone arrangement.</p> <p>Recorded – Navin Officer 2003</p>	<p>Block 18 District of Cotter River</p>	<p>Stone arrangement of HCV:</p> <p>1 2 3 4c 5 6a 7 8 9 10 11</p>
<p>NNP MNSA3</p> <p>An Aboriginal stone arrangement.</p> <p>Recorded – Navin Officer 2003</p>	<p>Block 18 District of Cotter River</p>	<p>Stone arrangement of HCV:</p> <p>1 2 3 4c 5 6a 7 8 9 10 11</p>

<p>NNP MNSA4</p> <p>An Aboriginal stone arrangement.</p> <p>Recorded – Navin Officer 2003</p>	<p>Block 18 District of Cotter River</p>	<p>Stone arrangement of HCV:</p> <p>1 2 3 4c 5 6a 7 8 9 10 11</p>
<p>NNP MNSA5</p> <p>An Aboriginal stone arrangement.</p> <p>Recorded – Navin Officer 2003</p>	<p>Block 18 District of Cotter River</p>	<p>Stone arrangement of HCV:</p> <p>1 2 3 4c 5 6a 7 8 9 10 11</p>
<p>NNP MNSA6</p> <p>An Aboriginal stone arrangement.</p> <p>Recorded – Navin Officer 2003</p>	<p>Block 1 District of Rendezvous Creek</p>	<p>Stone arrangement of HCV:</p> <p>1 2 3 4c 5 6a 7 8 9 10 11</p>

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. DESCRIPTION OF PLACES

The places comprise 44 Aboriginal sites located in southern and remote areas of Namadgi National Park, ACT. The sites are scatters of stone artefacts (n=25), isolated stone artefacts (n=10), rockshelters (n=3) and Aboriginal stone arrangements (n=6), some with associated potential archaeological deposits.

2. STATUS OF PLACES AT NOMINATION DATE:

The places are not previously recorded or entered into any ACT or Commonwealth Register.

3. BACKGROUND

A regional understanding of the variability, condition and conservation status of Aboriginal sites throughout the Territory is essential for the sound assessment of site significance and development of appropriate conservation strategies for Aboriginal heritage places and cultural landscapes. 'Site' is the common term for the locations where material remains relating to past Aboriginal occupation are in evidence, whereas the legislation refers to 'places'. These two terms are used interchangeably in this document.

Following the January 2003 ACT bushfires, these places were recorded during opportunistic cultural heritage surveys of southern and remote areas of Namadgi National Park. Access to these areas was provided by helicopter.

Unregistered Aboriginal sites are legally protected from disturbance, however the poor state of knowledge regarding their nature and location, and difficulties with their recognition and detection has undoubtedly already resulted in inadvertent disturbance to and destruction of a proportion of the record. The remaining sites, for the most part, are considered to be under potential threat due to future development pressure, with the exception of registered places and sites located in the small proportion of land in the district that is unsuitable for development.

The proposal to interim register areas with potential to contain Aboriginal archaeological materials has arisen in response to consultants reporting specifically identified areas of high potential. Also, the fact that some areas have a very high density of recorded sites, with boundaries defined by ground visibility, is a strong indication that inter-site areas may contain archaeological materials. The interim registration of potential areas is intended as an alert that heritage constraints may exist for an area and that some further investigation ought to precede development. Their status as interim registered places with appropriate specific requirements will also permit areas with identified potential, to be investigated without contravention of s.70 of the Act. (Investigation involving disturbance of an unregistered place would otherwise have to cease upon detection of an artefact.)

The recommendations made in this register entry, regarding conservation and management of the reported sites are based upon professional recommendations, as contained in the CRS reports and the consideration and comparison of the reported sites with others recorded within the district and to some extent within the wider Canberra region. Assessment of significance at a regional level is, as noted above, preliminary, since a regional overview of Aboriginal sites in the ACT is still in preparation.

4. CONSULTATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS

Aboriginal groups in the ACT are strongly supportive of actions that increase awareness and protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage places. The three Aboriginal organisations defined as relevant regarding consultation on heritage matters according to the *Land (Planning and Environment) Act, 1991* have been consulted regarding the significance and management of these sites. The Interim Namadgi Advisory Board has also been consulted about the proposal in accordance with the Namadgi National Park Management Agreement.

Representatives of the three relevant Aboriginal organisations were invited to participate in the helicopter surveys and to provide comments on the significance of any Aboriginal heritage places discovered during the surveys. All agreed that these sites are significant under Aboriginal tradition. During the registration process the Aboriginal organisations also have the opportunity to provide additional comments on the Aboriginal significance of these places and their management.

Copies of the draft register entry have also been circulated to other stakeholders, including the land managers of the affected areas and parties that originally reported the sites.

5. ANALYSIS AGAINST THE CRITERIA SPECIFIED IN SCHEDULE 2 OF THE LAND (PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT) ACT 1991:

Criterion (i): A place which demonstrates a high degree of technical and/or creative achievement, by showing qualities of innovation or departure or representing a new achievement of its time.

Not applicable

Criterion (ii): A place which exhibits outstanding design or aesthetic qualities valued by the community or a cultural group.

Not applicable

Criterion (iii): A place which demonstrates a distinctive way of life, taste, tradition, religion, land use, custom, process, design or function which is no longer practised, is in danger of being lost, or is of exceptional interest.

The sites are all the product of past Aboriginal land-use and demonstrate varied aspects of a traditional way of life no longer practised in the ACT. The artefact scatters present in these localities demonstrate occupation and use of land by Aboriginal people, in the past.

Criterion (iv): A place which is highly valued by the community or a cultural group for reasons of strong or special religious, spiritual cultural, educational or social associations.

The places are all of significance to the Aboriginal community due to their association with traditional Aboriginal culture and their ability to demonstrate the comprehensive occupation of the ACT by their ancestors.

Criterion (v): A place which is the only known or only comparatively intact example of its type.

Not applicable

Criterion (vi): A place which is a notable example of a class of natural or cultural places or landscapes and which demonstrates the principal characteristics of that class.

Not applicable

Criterion (vii): A place which has strong or special associations with a person, group, event, development or cultural phase which played a significant part in local or national history.

These places have been identified as significant by the ACT Aboriginal community. They provide physical evidence of the past occupation and use of higher elevation and remote areas in Namadgi National Park by Aboriginal people.

Criterion (viii): A place which represents the evolution of a natural landscape, including significant geological features, landforms, biota or natural processes.

Not applicable

Criterion (ix): A place which is a significant habitat or locality for the life cycle of native species; for rare, endangered or uncommon species; for species at the limits of their natural range; or for distinct occurrences of species.

Not applicable

Criterion (x): A place which exhibits unusual richness, diversity or significant transitions of flora, fauna or natural landscapes and their elements.

Not applicable

Criterion (xi): A place which demonstrates a likelihood of providing information which will contribute significantly to a wider understanding of natural or cultural history, by virtue of its use as a research site, teaching site, type locality or benchmark

These sites comprise part of a related body of evidence with potential to provide information about local and regional patterns of past Aboriginal land-use practices and settlement patterns. Most of these sites are in a relatively undisturbed context, some of which have potential to contain further evidence that through proper research and analysis could provide a more detailed understanding about past Aboriginal occupation of the locality and region. Some sites are in proximity to upland wetlands and have special potential to inform us about Aboriginal land use in relation to particular ecotones.

6. REFERENCES

Dearling, C. 2003. Preliminary Aboriginal Cultural heritage Survey: Rotten Swamp, Namadgi Nature Reserve, ACT. Unpublished report and site cards lodged with the Heritage Unit of Environment ACT.

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- Paton, R. 2003. Executive Summary: helicopter survey, Rock Flats Area, Namadgi National Park, ACT. Unpublished report and site recording forms lodged with the Heritage Unit, Environment ACT.
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