



ACT Heritage Council

Entry to the ACT Heritage Register

Heritage Act 2004

20112. Old Orroral Homestead & Ploughlands

Block 9 (part)

District of RENDEZVOUS CREEK

This document has been prepared by the ACT Heritage Council.

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
ENTRY TO AN INTERIM HERITAGE PLACES REGISTER FOR:**

**OLD ORRORAL HOMESTEAD & PLOUGHLAND
Part Block 9, District of Rendezvous Creek**

For the purposes of s. 54 of the *Land (Planning and Environment) Act 1991*, this heritage assessment for the above place has been prepared by the ACT Heritage Council as the basis for its inclusion within an interim Heritage Places Register.

Notification effective: 23 February 2005

Background material about this place and additional copies of the entry are available from:

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OLD ORRORAL HOMESTEAD & PLOUGHLAND

LOCATION OF PLACE:

Namadgi National Park

Part Block 9, District of Rendezvous Creek.

Old Orroral Homestead and Ploughland is located off the Orroral Rd approximately 1.4 km south of the existing Orroral Homestead complex, adjacent to the Orroral River.

FEATURES INTRINSIC TO THE HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE OLD ORRORAL HOMESTEAD & PLOUGHLAND

The features intrinsic to the heritage significance of the Old Orroral Homestead and Ploughland and required for conservation comprise:

- Old Orroral homestead archaeological site;
- Ploughland;
- alignment of boulders marking a fence line;
- alignments of old fences;
- dairy site; and
- old Orroral track

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The old Orroral Homestead site and the group as a whole are relics of a distinctive way of life of the earliest European settlers of the mountain runs. They demonstrate a land use and pastoral function no longer practiced, and are among the oldest archaeological remains of backcountry pastoralism in the ACT. The elements of homestead, ploughland and dairy site demonstrate the self-reliance required in such isolated locations. The original old Orroral track demonstrates the lifeline back to civilisation.

The place is one of the key sites in the European settlement of the mountainous region west of the Murrumbidgee River, a phase of significance in NSW and particularly ACT history. It has strong associations with William Herbert, one of the earliest European settlers west of the Murrumbidgee River, and Charles and Archibold McKeahnie, prominent as settlers of the mountain runs and other parts of the ACT.

The ploughland created with animal-drawn ploughs and bearing the pattern of broad 'lands', were the result of a distinctive farming process and a way of life (using draught animals) that ceased with the adoption of motorised tractors. The ploughing of 'lands' reflects the survival of a tradition of Saxon and medieval British agricultural practice in nineteenth and early twentieth century Australia, that is of exceptional interest and is threatened as a type. The ploughland is one of the best preserved (and oldest) surviving in the ACT. It is notable because it has relatively clear ridges and furrows forming visible 'lands' over a substantial area of the paddock, and field demarcation by bank and fence.

The Homestead archaeological sites has the potential to address questions regarding the living conditions and adaptations necessary for the pioneering settlement of the Namadgi area. The potential exists (and is already being addressed by the location of a walking track and signage at the site), for the use of the place as a teaching site.

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CONSERVATION OF THE OLD ORRORAL HOMESTEAD & PLOUGHLAND

In accordance with s.54 of the *Land (Planning and Environment) Act, 1991*, the following specific requirements are identified as essential to conserving the place's heritage significance. The guiding conservation objective is:

The features of the Old Orroral Homestead and Ploughland that contribute to its heritage significance shall be managed to conserve the significance of the place.

CONSERVATION OBJECTIVE 1.

Provide adequate conservation management planning

Conservation Objective 1.1

Ensure that any actions impacting on the significance of the place are based on professional conservation planning.

Specific Requirements for Conservation Objective 1.1:

- (a) The conservation management plan (CMP) shall be developed for the Old Orroral Homestead and Ploughland, to guide its conservation and future use.
- (b) Any necessary works prior to the development of a CMP that have a potential to impact on significant fabric shall be guided by a professionally documented interim assessment and conservation policy relevant to that area or component (i.e. a Heritage Impact Statement -HIS).
- (c) No changes of use necessitating substantial changes to the place, or other substantial works affecting fabric, other than reversible stabilisation works, will be permitted before the preparation of a CMP, after which all works and uses should be in accordance with the CMP.
- (d) Maintenance will be as defined in the Australia ICOMOS Burra Charter, and will not involve change to significant fabric. Maintenance shall be continued regardless of the status of the CMP or HIS.
- (e) Following the preparation of a CMP or HIS, identified essential conservation works shall be implemented. The requirements determined within the CMP or works might alter or supersede other Specific Requirements in this citation.

CONSERVATION OBJECTIVE 2.

Conserve significant components of the homestead site and related landscape features

Conservation Objective 2.1

Conserve the homestead site and related landscape features and sites by protecting them from damaging activities or avoidable natural processes if they threaten significance.

Specific Requirements for Conservation Objective 2.1

- (a) Prevent vehicular traffic across any part of the place.
- (b) Monitor visitor impacts and make management changes to reduce them.
- (c) Continue to allow access to kangaroos to control grass growth.
- (d) Monitor, and if necessary take action to counter the spread of tussock grasses over the area.
- (e) The location and construction of any facilities, tracks or interpretative installations at the place should be planned and implemented with the professional archaeological advice and should not disturb or confuse the understanding of any of the significant features.

CONSERVATION OBJECTIVE 3.

Conserve significant components of the homestead site and related landscape features

Conservation Objective 3.1

Interpret the site for visitors.

Specific Requirements for Conservation Objective 3.1

- (a) Continue to provide interpretative material at the site, and as opportunity allows increase the information about the elements of the place.
- (b) Provide a viewing point with interpretative information overlooking the ploughland.

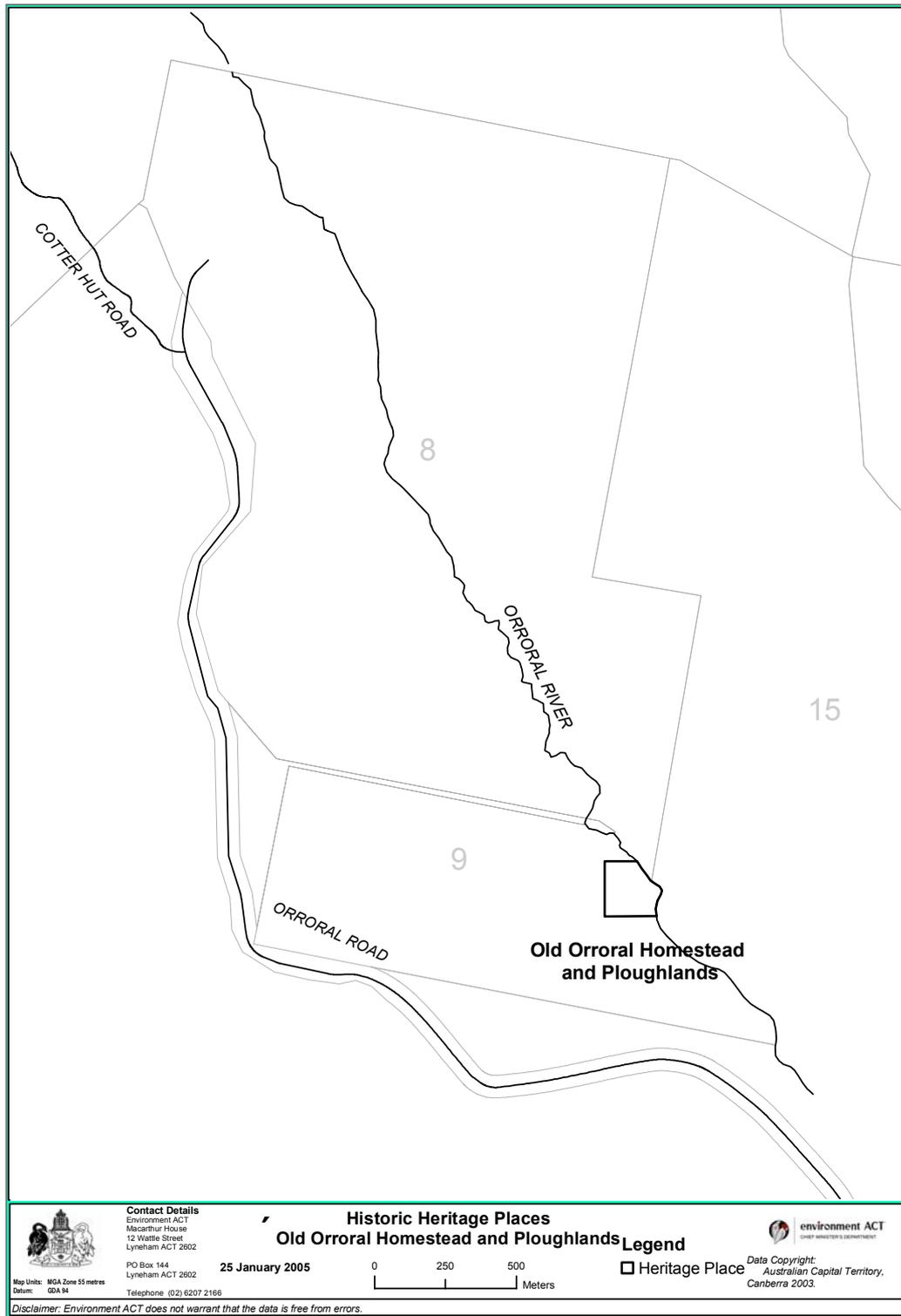


Figure 1
 Location Plan for Old Orroral Homestead & Ploughland

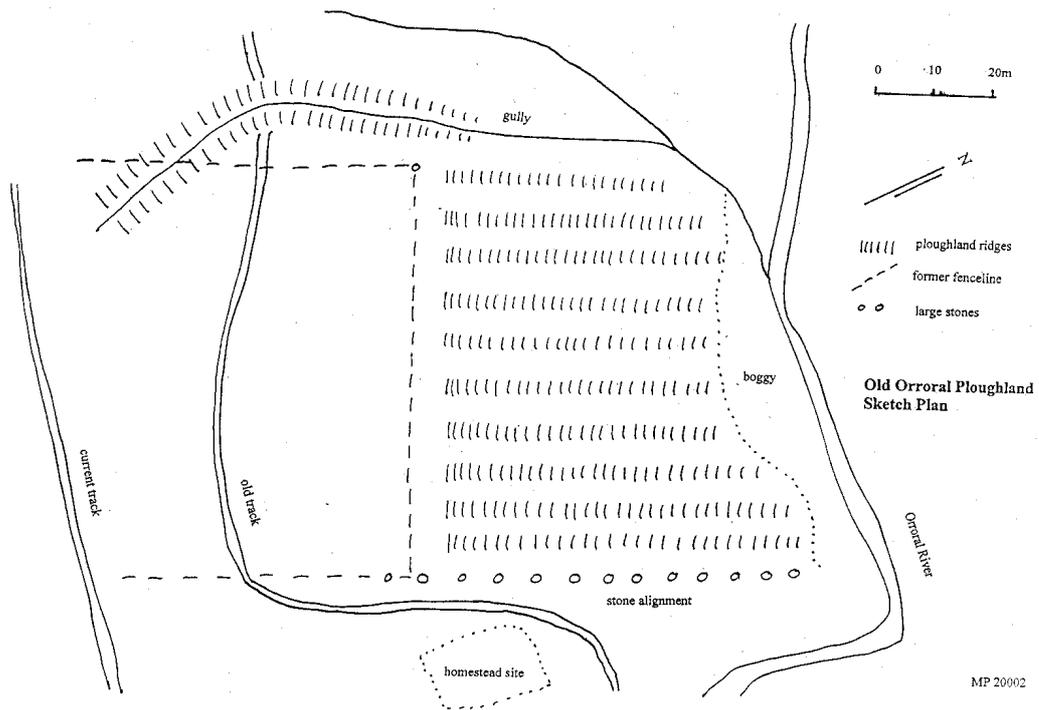


Figure 2
 Old Orroral Homestead & Ploughland sketch plan
 Michael Pearson, 2002.