



ACT Heritage Council

Entry to the ACT Heritage Register

Heritage Act 2004

20143. Aboriginal Places – along the Gungahlin Drive Extension & in Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve

Section 29, Block 7

Bruce

Section 76, Block 5

Kaleen

Block 1403 and Glenloch Interchange

District of BELCONNEN

Block 861 and Glenloch Interchange

District of CANBERRA CENTRAL

Block 240 (Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve)

District of PADDYS RIVER

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 along the Gungahlin Drive Extension and in Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve (22)
comprising:**

- **Aboriginal Places along the Gungahlin Drive Extension, Districts of Belconnen and Canberra Central (15)**
- **Aboriginal Places in Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve, District of Paddys River (7)**

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:

The Secretary
ACT Heritage Council
GPO Box 144, Canberra, ACT 2601

Telephone: (02) 6207 7378 Facsimile: (02) 6207 2200

**Notifiable Instrument: NI 2004-436
Effective: 19 November 2004**

IDENTIFICATION OF THE PLACES

The places comprise 22 Aboriginal sites located within:

- Gungahlin Drive Extension, Block 7 Section 29, Bruce, District of Belconnen (4)
- Gungahlin Drive Extension, Block 5 Section 76, Kaleen, District of Belconnen (1)
- Gungahlin Drive Extension, Block 1403, District of Belconnen (3)
- Gungahlin Drive Extension, Block 861, District of Canberra Central (3)
- Gungahlin Drive Extension, Glenloch Interchange, District of Belconnen (2)
- Gungahlin Drive Extension, Glenloch Interchange, District of Canberra Central (2)
- Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve, Block 240, District of Paddys River (7)

The Canberra 1:10 000 scale Adjusted Grid Co-ordinate (CMG) locations for the places are held within a database of ACT site locations. The CMG 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 individual stone artefacts have been recorded (n=8), as well as scatters of stone artefacts (n=13) and an Aboriginal scarred tree (n=1), with 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.

Aboriginal scarred trees demonstrate one of the many ways in which Aboriginal people exploited natural resources for their own use. Aboriginal scarred trees exhibit scarring caused by the removal of bark for a particular purpose. Documented uses to date include the use of bark in canoes, containers, shields, shelters, hunting decoys, the drying of animal skins, children's toys, ceremonial purposes, fishing lines, mixing palettes, fire torches, place or route markers and practising of bark removal techniques. European land clearing during past centuries has destroyed many Aboriginal scarred trees and natural attrition has resulted in the loss of many others. As a result of these processes, the remaining scarred trees have a greater significance due to their potential to contribute to research about Aboriginal wood/bark technology.

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 may constitute management recommendations only on lands other than Territory land.

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, investigate further and/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.

Aboriginal Scarred Trees

Aboriginal scarred trees of *high conservation value* exhibit scarring caused by the removal of bark for a particular purpose. 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 of this site type is record, retain and actively conserve.

Note: In the ACT any relevant development approval processes may vary in accordance with land status. In general principle the following applies:

- *Work carried out on Territory Land in Designated Areas is generally subject to approval by the National Capital Authority but Territory Planning requirements may also apply to development where the Territory is the approving Authority.*
- *Work carried out on National Land in Designated Areas is subject to the approval of the National Capital Authority.*
- *Work carried out on National Land outside Designated Areas must be in accordance with a Development Control Plan agreed by the National Capital Authority that reflects the requirements of the Territory Plan.*
- *Work carried out on Territory Land outside Designated Areas is subject to the Territory Plan and Territory Approval processes.*

Proponents of development should note that to undertake development without a relevant approval may be an offence.

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.
- 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** Development proponents 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** Development proponents 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** Development proponents 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* or *Aboriginal scarred trees* 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, in 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. 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.
- 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.
- 9a** If the Heritage Council advises collection or salvage from an artefact scatter then, following completion of salvage works as advised by the Heritage Council, only Specific Requirement No. 1 shall apply to the identified place.
- 9b** If the Heritage Council advises investigations of a PAD and no Aboriginal artefacts are discovered, following completion of the investigation as advised by the Heritage Council only Specific Requirement No. 1 shall apply to the identified place.
- 9c** If the Heritage Council advises investigations of a PAD and Aboriginal artefacts are discovered, following submission of a detailed report (including significance assessment) from the investigator and as advised by the Heritage Council, the Specific Requirements shall be amended to reflect the outcomes of the investigation.
- 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 endorsed by the Heritage Council after consultation with the relevant Aboriginal organisations.
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Schedule 2: List of Aboriginal heritage places

The precise location details as provided in the final column of Schedule 2 are based upon the visually apparent extent of a place inclusive of a small buffer area. There is always a possibility a site may extend further than indicated by its surface appearance.

GENERAL SITE DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS (refer to Schedule 1)
<p>Bruce Ridge Isolated Find (BRIF3)</p> <p>An isolated artefact located on the NE facing upper slopes of a broad spurline crest.</p> <p>Recorded – Navin Officer 2004b</p>	<p>Block 7 Section 29 Bruce</p>	<p>Artefact scatter of LCV:</p> <p>1 2 3 4a 5 6a 7 8 9a</p>
<p>Bruce Ridge Isolated Find (BRIF4)</p> <p>An isolated stone artefact located on west facing midslopes of a broad spurline, adjacent to and north of Belconnen Way.</p> <p>Recorded – Navin Officer 2004e</p>	<p>Block 7 Section 29 Bruce</p>	<p>Artefact scatter of LCV:</p> <p>1 2 3 4a 5 6a 7 8 9a</p>
<p>Bruce Ridge 4 (BR4)</p> <p>An open scatter of at least seven stone artefacts located on the crest of a low spurline which is situated between two shallow drainage gullies.</p> <p>Recorded – Navin Officer 2004a</p>	<p>Block 7 Section 29 Bruce</p>	<p>Artefact scatter of LCV:</p> <p>1 2 3 4a 5 6a 7 8 9a</p>

<p>Bruce Ridge 5 (BR5)</p> <p>A fallen, but still alive, smooth barked Eucalyptus tree with a scar of possible Aboriginal origin on the up facing side of its fallen trunk. The tree is situated on the eastern boundary of the GDE easement.</p> <p>Recorded – Navin Officer 2004e</p>	<p>Block 7 Section 29 Bruce</p>	<p>Aboriginal scarred tree of HCV:</p> <p>1 2 3 4c 5 6a 7 8 9a 10 11</p>
<p>Caswell Drive 2 (CD2)</p> <p>An open scatter of at least three stone artefacts located on a vehicle track in a power line easement along Caswell Drive.</p> <p>Recorded – Navin Officer 2004c</p>	<p>Block 1403 District of Belconnen</p>	<p>Artefact scatter of LCV:</p> <p>1 2 3 4a 5 6a 7 8 9a</p>
<p>Caswell Drive IF2 (CDIF2)</p> <p>An isolated stone artefact located on northeast facing upper slopes of a spurline, and now immediately adjacent to the southeastern corner of the current Caswell Drive intersection with Belconnen Way.</p> <p>Recorded – Navin Officer 2004e</p>	<p>Block 861 District of Canberra Central</p>	<p>Artefact scatter of LCV:</p> <p>1 2 3 4a 5 6a 7 8 9a</p>
<p>Caswell Drive IF3 (CDIF3)</p> <p>An isolated stone artefact located near the base of south facing slopes of a spurline, near the Bandjalong Crescent and Caswell Drive intersection.</p> <p>Recorded – Navin Officer 2004d</p>	<p>Block 861 District of Canberra Central</p>	<p>Artefact scatter of LCV:</p> <p>1 2 3 4a 5 6a 7 8 9a</p>

<p>Caswell Drive 3 (CD3)</p> <p>An open scatter of at least four stone artefacts located in a highly disturbed context on the edge of a road cutting.</p> <p>Recorded – Navin Officer 2004i</p>	<p>Block 1403 District of Belconnen</p>	<p>Artefact scatter of LCV:</p> <p>1 2 3 4a 5 6a 7 8 9a</p>
<p>Caswell Drive 4 (CD4)</p> <p>An open scatter of at least three stone artefacts located on the edge of a drainage line west of the Caswell Drive bridge.</p> <p>Recorded – Navin Officer 2004i</p>	<p>Block 1403 District of Belconnen</p>	<p>Artefact scatter of LCV:</p> <p>1 2 3 4a 5 6a 7 8 9a</p>
<p>BHDS3</p> <p>An open scatter of at least two stone artefacts located on the upper slope of a broad ridgeline crest adjacent to the Barton Highway.</p> <p>Recorded – Navin Officer 2004d</p>	<p>Block 5 Section 76 Kaleen</p>	<p>Artefact scatter of LCV:</p> <p>1 2 3 4a 5 6a 7 8 9a</p>
<p>Glenloch 10 (G10)</p> <p>A small scatter of at least two stone artefacts located on the south facing slopes of Black Mountain.</p> <p>Recorded – Navin Officer 2004d</p>	<p>Block 861 District of Canberra Central</p>	<p>Artefact scatter of LCV:</p> <p>1 2 3 4a 5 6a 7 8 9a</p>
<p>Glenloch 11 (G11)</p> <p>An open scatter of at least eleven stone artefacts located on the gently sloping crest of a minor spur/basal slopes of Black Mountain.</p> <p>Recorded – Navin Officer 2004f</p>	<p>Glenloch Interchange District of Canberra Central</p>	<p>Artefact scatter of LCV:</p> <p>1 2 3 4a 5 6a 7 8 9a</p>

<p>Glenloch 12 (G12)</p> <p>An isolated stone artefact located on a very gently sloping basal slopes about 10m from the steep bank of Black Mountain Creek.</p> <p>Recorded – Navin Officer 2004g</p>	<p>Glenloch Interchange District of Belconnen</p>	<p>Artefact scatter of LCV:</p> <p>1 2 3 4a 5 6a 7 8 9a</p>
<p>Glenloch 13 (G13)</p> <p>An open scatter of at least five stone artefacts located along the top of a road cutting on the eastern side of Rani Road.</p> <p>Recorded – Navin Officer 2004h</p>	<p>Glenloch Interchange District of Canberra Central</p>	<p>Artefact scatter of LCV:</p> <p>1 2 3 4a 5 6a 7 8 9a</p>
<p>Glenloch 14 (G14)</p> <p>An open scatter of at least three stone artefacts located on exposures ten metres from the edge of a sealed road.</p> <p>Recorded – Navin Officer 2004i</p>	<p>Glenloch Interchange District of Belconnen</p>	<p>Artefact scatter of LCV:</p> <p>1 2 3 4a 5 6a 7 8 9a</p>
<p>TNR 38</p> <p>An open scatter of at least four stone artefacts located on an access track into Nil Desperandum.</p> <p>Recorded – S. McKay 2004</p>	<p>Block 240 District of Paddys River</p>	<p>Artefact scatter of LCV:</p> <p>1 2 3 4a 5 6a 7 8 9a</p>
<p>TNR 39</p> <p>An open scatter of at least four stone artefacts located on an access track into Nil Desperandum.</p> <p>Recorded – S. McKay 2004</p>	<p>Block 240 District of Paddys River</p>	<p>Artefact scatter of LCV:</p> <p>1 2 3 4a 5 6a 7 8 9a</p>

<p>TNR 40</p> <p>An isolated stone artefact located on a small rise in an access track into Nil Desperandum.</p> <p>Recorded – S. McKay 2004</p>	<p>Block 240 District of Paddys River</p>	<p>Artefact scatter of LCV:</p> <p>1 2 3 4a 5 6a 7 8 9a</p>
<p>TNR 41</p> <p>An open scatter of at least six stone artefacts located on an access track into Nil Desperandum.</p> <p>Recorded – S. McKay 2004</p>	<p>Block 240 District of Paddys River</p>	<p>Artefact scatter of LCV:</p> <p>1 2 3 4a 5 6a 7 8 9a</p>
<p>TNR 42</p> <p>An open scatter of at least six stone artefacts located above a small drainage gully on the access track into Nil Desperandum.</p> <p>Recorded – S. McKay 2004</p>	<p>Block 240 District of Paddys River</p>	<p>Artefact scatter of LCV:</p> <p>1 2 3 4a 5 6a 7 8 9a</p>
<p>TNR 43</p> <p>An isolated stone artefact located below the crest of a hill, on a low lying spur on Micks track.</p> <p>Recorded – S. McKay 2004</p>	<p>Block 240 District of Paddys River</p>	<p>Artefact scatter of LCV:</p> <p>1 2 3 4a 5 6a 7 8 9a</p>
<p>TNR 44</p> <p>An isolated stone artefact located on Mick's track, below the crest of a small rise on a low laying spur. The spur is situated south of a gully which drains into the wetlands area.</p> <p>Recorded – S. McKay 2004</p>	<p>Block 240 District of Paddys River</p>	<p>Artefact scatter of LCV:</p> <p>1 2 3 4a 5 6a 7 8 9a</p>

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. DESCRIPTION OF PLACES

The places comprise 22 Aboriginal sites located in the Glenoch, Caswell Drive, Bruce Ridge and Barton Highway duplication areas of the Gungahlin Drive Extension and in Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve. The sites include scatters of stone artefacts (n=13), isolated artefacts (n=8) and an Aboriginal scarred tree.

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.

These places were recorded during recently conducted post tree clearance cultural heritage surveys in accordance with the GDE Tree Clearing and Associated Ground Disturbance Heritage Protocol and surveys of the fire trail behind the animal enclosures and on the track to Nil Desperandum in Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve prior to routine maintenance of the tracks.

Unregistered Aboriginal sites within the ACT 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 across the ACT, 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 Territory that is unsuitable for development.

4. CONSULTATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS

The three Aboriginal organisations defined as relevant regarding consultation on heritage matters according to the *Land (Planning and Environment) Act, 1991*, are strongly supportive of actions that increase awareness and protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage places.

Representatives of the three relevant Aboriginal organisations were invited to participate in the surveys and to provide comments on the significance of any Aboriginal heritage places discovered during the surveys. During the registration process the three relevant Aboriginal organisations have also had the opportunity to provide comments on the Aboriginal significance of these places and their management. The Interim Namadgi Board has also been consulted about the proposal in accordance with the Namadgi National Park Management Agreement.

Copies of the draft register entry have also been circulated to other stakeholders, including the land owners/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. The scarred tree demonstrates exploitation of natural resources 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 the areas in the Tidbinbilla Valley and the Glenloch, Black Mountain and Bruce Ridge areas of the Districts of Belconnen and Canberra Central 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. Some of the sites have potential to contain information that, via research, could provide information about past Aboriginal occupation of the locality and region.

6. REFERENCES

- Navin Officer Heritage Consultants. 2004a. Gungahlin Drive Extension – Tree Clearing & Associated Ground Disturbance Heritage Protocol Report of 28 June 2004 for chainage between 4880 and 5400. Unpublished report to ACT Roads.
- Navin Officer Heritage Consultants. 2004b. Gungahlin Drive Extension – Tree Clearing & Associated Ground Disturbance Heritage Protocol Report of 1 July 2004 for chainage between 5400 and 5670. Unpublished report to ACT Roads.
- Navin Officer Heritage Consultants. 2004c. Gungahlin Drive Extension – Tree Clearing & Associated Ground Disturbance Heritage Protocol Report of 28 July 2004 for chainage between 7360 and 7800. Unpublished report to ACT Roads.
- Navin Officer Heritage Consultants. 2004d. Gungahlin Drive Extension – Tree Clearing & Associated Ground Disturbance Heritage Protocol Report of 11 August 2004 for chainage between 1250 and 2000, and for chainage between 6600 and 8724. Unpublished report to ACT Roads.
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