



ACT Heritage Council

## Entry to the ACT Heritage Register

*Heritage Act 2004*

### **20028. Aboriginal Chert Quarries (C1/1, C1/2, C1/3)**

Block 627 (part)

**District of GUNGAHLIN**

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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.

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## 28. Aboriginal Chert Quarries (C1/1, C1/2 Ad C1/3), Gungahlin [V78]<sup>1</sup>

### Location

District of Gungahlin, Block 518 (part) as identified in Figure 28 and indicated on the Territory Plan Map by the Heritage Places Register Overlay H28.

### Features Intrinsic To The Heritage Significance Of The Place

The place comprises:

- a) three source areas with variations of quality of stone for flaking; and
- b) evidence of the reduction of chert cores, as well as well used hammerstones and flakes.

### Statement Of Significance

The Aboriginal surface chert quarry complex provides substantial, tangible and highly visible evidence of a particular mode of hardstone acquisition for Aboriginal stone tool making. It also shows evidence of an early stage in the subsequent stone reduction process used by past Aboriginal inhabitants of the area. Stone was a central resource in the economy, and the technological and day to day life of those people. Because of its capacity to survive long periods, its presence throughout the landscape, and evidence of its manipulation by Aboriginal people, the material assists in demonstrating Aboriginal occupation of the land.

The quarry complex is valued by the Nggunawal people as a place of frequent and repeated use by their ancestors. It is demonstrative of an important part of their lifestyle, which has special educational potential for their descendants.

With evidence of the procurement and working of stone across the site covering 2.75ha, this is the largest recorded surface hardstone quarry complex recorded in the Territory. It exhibits typical characteristics, including the quarrying of surface stone blocks, reduction of abundant chert cores into flakes and well-used hammerstones for striking flakes from cores.

The site complex contains visible indications suggesting the presence of much larger quantities of quarrying materials under the surface. The information potential cannot be properly appreciated without further research. The presence of three source areas in close proximity, with observed variations in the quality of stone for flaking, provides special research opportunities for sampling, comparison and the cross-checking of archaeological evidence.

Stone reduction sites are places of special interest because they help to give meaning to a widespread aspect of Aboriginal technology, which characterised tens of millennia of Australian cultural history. European use of part of the complex, perhaps within a few decades of the site's usage by the Aboriginal people, adds a further dimension to its representation of cultural historical processes.

### Specific Requirements

In accordance with s.54(1) of the *Land (Planning and Environment) Act 1991*, the following requirements are identified as essential to the conservation of the heritage significance of this place. These requirements are prepared to implement the following conservation policy for the place:

The existing chert quarries are to be conserved and appropriately maintained. The Aboriginal surface chert quarry complex is to be conserved and appropriately maintained *in situ*, except in so far as special provision is made for research and educational presentation.

The surface materials and subsurface deposits at each of the three site components are to be protected against disturbance, except through approved research.

- i) Vehicles having a gross vehicle weight exceeding 2 tonnes shall not enter the place without prior approval.
- ii) Mowing of grass on the place is not to be conducted without prior approval.
- iii) Burning-off is not to be conducted without prior approval.

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<sup>1</sup> [V78: Added to Heritage Places Register 12/12/1997 (Variation Number 78)]

- iv) The ground surface shall not to be disturbed or excavated without prior approval.
- v) No planting shall be permitted within the place without prior approval.

**Figure 28: Aboriginal Chert Quarries (C1/1, C1/2 and C1/3), Gungahlin**

