



PROJECT CHINA STONE

Non-Indigenous
Cultural Heritage Report

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Non-Indigenous Cultural Heritage Assessment for Project China Stone

7 November 2014

Prepared by Everick Heritage Consultants for Hansen Bailey on behalf of MacMines Austasia Pty Ltd

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1. INTRODUCTION

Everick Heritage Consultants Pty Ltd (Everick) was commissioned by Hansen Bailey on behalf of MacMines Austasia Pty Ltd (the proponent) to complete the non-Indigenous cultural heritage assessment as part of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Project China Stone (the project).

The project involves the construction and operation of a large-scale coal mine on a greenfield site in Central Queensland. The project site (the area that will ultimately form the mining leases for the project) is remote, being located approximately 270 km south of Townsville and 300 km west of Mackay at the northern end of the Galilee Basin (Figure 1). The closest townships are Charters Towers, approximately 285 km by road to the north, and Clermont, approximately 260 km by road to the south-east. The project site comprises approximately 20,000 ha of well vegetated land, with low-lying scrub in the south and east and a densely vegetated ridgeline, known as 'Darkies Range', running north to south through the western portion of the site.

The mine will produce up to approximately 55 million tonnes per annum (Mtpa) of Run of Mine (ROM) thermal coal. Coal will be mined using both open cut and underground mining methods. Open cut mining operations will involve multiple draglines and truck and shovel pre-stripping. Underground mining will involve up to three operating longwalls. Coal will be washed and processed on site and product coal will be transported from site by rail. It is anticipated that mine construction will commence in 2016 and the mine life will be in the order of 50 years.

The majority of the mine infrastructure will be located in the eastern portion of the project site (Figure 2). Infrastructure will include coal handling and preparation plants (CHPPs), stockpiles, conveyors, rail loop and train loading facilities, workshops, dams, tailings storage facility (TSF) and a power station. A workforce accommodation village and private airstrip will also be located in the eastern part of the project site.

The scope of this non-Indigenous cultural heritage assessment is restricted to assessing activities that are proposed to be undertaken within the project site and no off-lease activities are considered in this assessment.

1.1 Study Methods and Report Structure

The approach used for this study was to undertake two phases of work. The first was a desktop review involving:

- legislative review;
- a search of published literature and archival records for information on the heritage values of the project site and surrounds;
- searches of applicable heritage registers;



- a review of published reports relevant to the site and surrounds including previous EIS reports;
- review of historic aerial photography; and
- interviews with local landholders, property managers and relevant local heritage contacts.

The desktop review was used to identify the heritage themes of the region and to predict the locations and types of items of cultural heritage significance potentially located on the project site. The desktop review results were used to structure the site survey, the second component of the study. The site survey was designed to identify potentially significant heritage places or artefacts which would be subject to further research and a significance assessment. The site survey was conducted in November 2012 and a full description of the methods used in the site survey is provided in Section 4.2

1.2 Report Authorship

The site survey was undertaken by Everick archaeologists, Dr Richard Robins and Anne Dighton. The desktop study was undertaken by Anne Dighton. This report was written by Dr. Richard Robins, Tim Robins and Anne Dighton.

1.3 Glossary of Terms

Archaeological terms used in this report are defined below.

Site is defined as “any place where material evidence exists about the human past...it usually refers to a concentration of such evidence” (Thomas 1998:95).

Feature is defined as individual items, components or elements within a site.

Artefact is defined as “any moveable object that has been used, modified or manufactured by humans” (Thomas 1995:69).



2. LEGISLATIVE AND PLANNING CONTEXT

2.1 Terms of Reference

This report has been commissioned as part of the EIS for the project. As part of the EIS process, Terms of Reference (the TOR) have been released by the Office of the Coordinator General. The TOR describes criteria that must be met during an EIS study into non-Indigenous Cultural Heritage. Accordingly, this study was designed to address requirements contained within the TOR. The methods outlined in Section 1.1 have been followed in order to meet the historic heritage requirements of the TOR.

2.2 Environment Protection & Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cth)

In relation to Australian or National level non-Indigenous cultural heritage significance, the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) is the principal legislation. Actions that are likely to significantly impact on those matters are prohibited without approval from the Department of the Environment (DotE) under the EPBC Act. One of the objectives of the EPBC Act is to enhance the protection and management of important natural and cultural places. This is achieved by DotE providing a number of statutory controls for heritage places. Heritage places under the EPBC Act include both World Heritage Properties and National Heritage Places, and may include both historic and Indigenous cultural heritage items. Places of national heritage value and those owned or managed by the Australian Government are placed on the National Heritage List and the Commonwealth Heritage List respectively. Searches of such registers were conducted as part of this study.

2.3 Queensland Heritage Act 1992 (Qld)

The *Queensland Heritage Act 1992* (Qld) (QHA) is the principal piece of legislation controlling actions on places or artefacts of state historic heritage significance. The primary protection for such places and artefacts is provided through nomination and registration on the Queensland Heritage Register. Once places or artefacts are on the register, the Queensland Heritage Council (QHC) have a range of decision making powers over development applications that have the potential to impact those places or artefacts. The QHA provides a set of criteria for measuring the significance of a site or place for entry onto the Queensland Heritage Register. These criteria are listed in Section 5.1 of this report, providing the basis for the significance assessment. The Cultural Heritage Body of the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (EHP) is also given responsibilities over the management of cultural heritage in Queensland. The QHA requires EHP be notified, and due process followed, if either, or both, of the following situations occur:

- the site survey identifies potentially state significant archaeological places; or
- any person discovers a place that is an important source of information about an aspect of Queensland's history.



If such an artefact is discovered the following procedure applies:

- A person who discovers a thing the person knows or ought reasonably to know is an archaeological artefact that is an important source of information about an aspect of Queensland's history must give the chief executive a notice under this section.
- The notice must (a) be given to the chief executive as soon as practicable after the person discovers the thing; and (b) state where the thing was discovered; and (c) include a description or photographs of the thing.
- The chief executive may, by public notice, declare that an archaeological artefact that is in, or has been removed from, a Queensland heritage place is the property of the State if the chief executive is satisfied—
 - (a) the artefact is important to Queensland's cultural heritage; and (b) a declaration under this section is necessary to help conserve the cultural heritage significance of the artefact.

2.4 ICOMOS Burra Charter

The International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) is the peak body of professionals working in heritage conservation. ICOMOS has adopted the *Burra Charter* which describes acceptable standards for the assessment and management of items of cultural heritage significance in Australia. Although not a legal requirement, the *Burra Charter* has been adopted by the QHC as a guide to assessing and managing heritage places. The methods for assessing cultural heritage significance adopted in this study were derived from the *Burra Charter*.

The central principle of the *Burra Charter* is that assessment of the significance of any potential heritage places or artefacts must be made independent of any management decisions. Under the *Burra Charter*, *cultural significance* means aesthetic, historic, scientific, social or spiritual value for past, present or future generations. In assessing a place or artefact's significance, it requires not just an assessment of the artefact itself, but its setting, location and an understanding of how it may be linked to any related other place or artefact (Article 11). This should all be documented in a written statement on the item's significance. Once significance has been established, the *Burra Charter* process provides for acceptable standards on the conservation, preservation, maintenance, change, restoration, reconstruction and/or alteration of a place or artefact based on this significance. Importantly, those to whom the place or artefact is significant should be involved in any decision making process regarding its management.

2.5 Historical Themes

The Australian Heritage Commission has produced a set of Historical Themes relevant to Australia that provide an historical context within which the heritage values of a place can be examined (Australian Heritage Commission 2001). A number of themes are relevant to the project site; these include settlement, pastoral



development, mining infrastructure (including rail and roads) and the abandonment of farms. The themes are summarised in Table 1.

**Table 1: Australian Heritage Commission (2001) Historical themes relevant to the project site**

National Theme Groups	National and State Sub Themes	Local Themes /Application
3. Developing local, regional and national economies	3.3 Surveying the continent 3.3.4 Looking for land with agricultural potential 3.3.5 Laying out boundaries	Exploration and settlement Pastoral activities: Hyde Park Station Moray Downs Station Lot 3978 on Plan PH772
	3.4 Utilising natural resources 3.4.3 Mining	Utilising natural resources: Coal, copper and gold mining
	3.5 Developing primary production 3.5.1 Grazing stock	Remnants of grazing farms (e.g. homesteads, cattle yards & dips; fences & gates; equipment)
	3.8 Moving goods and people 3.8.6 Building and maintaining railways 3.8.7 Building and maintaining roads	Transport: coach and rail tracks, stock routes, roads, tracks
	3.11 Altering the environment 3.11.4 Clearing vegetation	Clearing of forests and scrub for grazing areas. Clearing heart-leaf poison bush and prickly pear from grazing areas
4. Building Settlements, Towns and Cities	4.1 Planning urban settlements 4.1.1 Selecting township sites	Establishing settlements: Charters Towers.
	4.3 Making settlements to serve rural Australia	Land tenure: Hyde Park Station, Dooyne, Moray Downs



3. DESKTOP STUDY: HISTORICAL CONTEXT

3.1 Regional History

This section is based on accounts in journals of early explorers and settlers in the region (e.g. Leichhardt 1847), historical Crown Lands documents retained at the Queensland State Archives (QSA), and various historical literature relevant to the area (e.g. Fox 1923).

3.1.1 Exploration and Settlement

In 1844-45 the first known Europeans passed through the region. German born explorer Ludwig Leichhardt and his party travelled in the vicinity of the Suttor River to the west of the Belyando River in March 1845 (Leichhardt 1847). During the same period, the explorer Sir Thomas Mitchell's expedition to open up a route from Sydney to the Indian Ocean spent some weeks travelling northwards along the course of the Belyando River, which is east of the project site (Fox 1923). Mitchell noted that at the point at which they joined the Belyando, the area was extremely dry and he remarked "he had never seen vegetation so checked by drought" (Fox 1923:141). However, he also noted that as they progressed northward the "country seemed to improve as we advanced, opening into plains skirted by scrubs of rosewood and dropping shrubs, whose verdure was most refreshing to the eye after just having passed through dry and withered brigalow". He also remarked on the presence of significant quantities of game and good pastures surrounding the reaches of the river (Fox 1923:141).

Leichhardt's favourable impressions of the region encouraged the Crown to open up land for new settlers. Until legislative changes in the 1860s, the acquisition of land during the 1850s in inland central Queensland has been described as a "free-for-all" (Murray 1996:15). During this period, land was acquired but often not used or developed. The legislative changes imposed a "use-it-or-lose-it" requirement that obligated settlers to both occupy and develop their properties (Murray 1996:16). The *Unoccupied Crown Lands Occupation Act 1860* (Crown Lands Act) repealed New South Wales legislation as it related to Queensland, and enabled a more orderly occupation of the Waste Lands of the Crown in the unsettled Districts. A run was described as 'a large area of land rented for a fixed period of time from the Crown for pastoral purposes' (QSA Brief Guide #5). In Queensland the Crown Lands Act underwent several changes over the following decades and by 1910, after each pastoral lease expired, the run was divided into two parts, one of which was resumed for closer settlement. The land tenure for these smaller blocks was referred to as a "selection" that was still to be used for agricultural or grazing purposes. Most types of selections were convertible to freehold tenure after a fixed number of years providing the selector fulfilled certain conditions, such as improvements.



3.1.2 Pastoralism

Following a pattern of settlement throughout Queensland, European settlers made their way into the region in the 1860s. The project site is situated on the margins of the more heavily-settled areas to the south and east. Given the difficulty with the climate and the unreliability of permanent water sources in the area in which the project site is situated, agriculture was never a significant feature of the area. Pastoralism has been, and continues to be, the major focus of development in the region, along with mining.

There are, however, several themes throughout the historical records on the project site which highlight the immense difficulties faced by the early pastoralists in the region. The first of these themes was the difficulty in obtaining sufficient quantities of permanent water. Significant sums of money were spent by the early selectors in sinking bores and wells and building dams in attempts to reach good water for their stock. This met with mixed success. A note in the Labona (now Moray Downs) Run File states that the lessees had reached good water at a depth of 220 feet (QSA Item ID 27609). By contrast, a notation in the Larne (now Hyde Park) Run File comments on the abandonment of several bores due to “poor supply and salt water” and the difficulty with obtaining good dam sites (QSA Item ID 306651). In reasonable seasons, selectors often relied on sand troughs in the creek beds as a way of obtaining water for their stock for a short period. Thomas Clark from Mirtna Station located to the north of the project site wrote in the early 1900s that “we are having a rough time of it, having made no sales...this year, all the surface water is dry including the dams on Mirtna which have never been dry before – we have spent over £2000 since Christmas in boring and well sinking...” (Neal 1984:68). Given the difficulties with ensuring adequate water for stock and the ensuing need for a light carrying capacity for stock, in addition to distance to rail facilities, recommendations were often made in the area during the 1920s that the usual resumptions of these holdings not be carried out as pastoral activity on the smaller blocks would not be sustainable (QSA Run Files).

A further, and perhaps greater, challenge for the early pastoralists was the infestation of parts of the project site with heart-leaf poison bush (*Gastrolobium grandiflorem*). This plant was one of a number of pests with which pastoralists had to contend, along with prickly pear (*Opuntia spp.*), Noogoora burr (*Xanthium pungens*) and ironwood (*Casuarina equisetifolia*), to name a few. The heart-leaf poison bush was toxic to livestock which were drawn to the bush as a food source during drought periods (Neal 1984). The toxin in heart-leaf poison bush (monofluoroacetic acid) is the basis of the poison known as 1080 (www.daff.qld.gov.au) – currently used as wild dog bait. This plant was a problem for all the landholders in the project site to varying degrees. A Land Officer notes in the Larne Run File (QSA Item ID 306651) that the reason why the Larne Holding (now Hyde Park) had not been selected in 1925 was due to the poison bush which had rendered the country of very little use. Likewise, early hand-drawn maps of Labona (now Moray Downs) show large areas fenced off in an attempt to control the bush (QSA Item ID 29407). That this solution was an expensive one is noted by a Lands Officer in the View Hill (now Hyde Park) Run File that “practically 70% of the area is infested to a smaller or greater



degree” and that the “cost (of fencing) would be out of all reason”. He further notes that clearing the bush, a strategy employed by many of the pastoralists in the area, could not profitably be done in this case (QSA Item ID 306646).

Cattle ticks also caused problems for early pastoralists, with the first record of their appearance in 1872. Quarantine periods were declared in 1894. Local landholders tried several methods of dealing with the tick, finally settling on arsenic as the most effective for dipping livestock. However this was expensive for the landholders with the annual cost of dipping livestock in 1926, on an average-sized property, estimated at £214 (Neal 1984). Another problem faced by early pastoralists was a condition in livestock known as “pegleg”. This condition resulted from low phosphorus content in addition to insufficient protein in the grazing feed, which caused a reduction in appetite in the animals. This was a particular problem for cows feeding young calves. Death usually resulted within days of contracting the disease. In 1939 the lessees of Moray Downs contacted the Department of Lands to request financial assistance with building a salt shed, which would provide a salt lick for their stock (QSA Item ID 27609). This was thought to be a cure for “pegleg” and was an expensive exercise.

3.1.3 The Mining Industry

When copper and particularly gold were found in the region in 1861, prospectors arrived in significant numbers. The discovery of gold at Clermont saw a short-lived rush with most miners leaving by 1864 (Killin 1984). After 1864, copper replaced gold as the main commodity mined in the Bowen Basin (O'Donnell 1989:24). In the subsequent decades the region experienced significant conflicts between European and Chinese miners (Molloy 2008:48). Since these initial mineral discoveries in the 1860s, mining and pastoralism have co-existed as the dominant economic sectors and this trend continues to the present day.

Early explorers also noted the presence of coal in the region. The first coal deposit was found at Blair Athol homestead in 1864 by accident, when a well borer digging for water struck coal just 20 m below the surface. Yet despite these discoveries, coal mining was not a significant activity in the 1800s (Molloy 2008:48). In 1978 Lang Hancock obtained a lease approximately 40 km to the northwest of Alpha and resource investigations commenced. At that time it was not economical to begin coalmining operations due to the lack of rail and port facilities that were required for such a venture. In more recent times the global demand for coal-fired power encouraged the development of infrastructure that will support coal mining and processing plants. The Galilee Basin has been found to contain considerable deposits of export thermal coal, with multiple mining projects in the process of establishing in this area (*ABC News* (30/06/2012; Department of Natural Resources and Mines (10/2013))



3.1.4 Establishing townships

The nearest settlement to the project site is Charters Towers (located over 285km by road to the north). In the 19th Century, Charters Towers was the second largest city in Queensland (Wegner 2009). It had its beginnings in 1871/1872 with the discovery of gold at what is now the intersection of Mosman Street, Rainbow Road and Black Jack Road. The find was named Charters Towers after W.S.E.M. Charters, the Gold Commissioner at the time and the “tower” shaped conical hills near where the gold discovery in the area was made. Such was its importance as a mining business and social centre in North Queensland, it became known as “The World” (Jane Lennon and Associates and Howard Pearce 1996). As mentioned earlier, a gold rush soon ensued with the goldfield reaching its peak of production in 1899. From its early beginnings as a rough settlement, it became a thriving city with a population of approximately 25,000. The city soon contained many significant public buildings in addition to the infrastructure necessary for a thriving city (Charters Towers Regional Council, 2012).

3.2 Project Site History

A review of the available literature has found a limited number of items of early European historical heritage places of potential interest within the project site. Physical evidence which might be encountered in the project site would likely be limited to pastoral activities and might include old structures such as sheds and yards, fences, camps and tracks. Three properties are impacted by the project site. These are Hyde Park (previously Larne and View Hill), Lot 3978 on Plan PH 772 leased by the Coovin Pastoral Company (previously Dooyne) and Moray Downs (previously incorporating Labona).

3.2.1 Hyde Park (previously known as View Hill and Larne)

Hyde Park covers the narrow north-south running rectangular portion of the project site (Figure 2). The earliest documented record available in the Queensland State Archives Run File for View Hill (which relates to the area now known as Hyde Park) was the lease of a Pastoral Holding over View Hill (now the southern portion of Hyde Park) in 1915 by Thomas Sullivan and William Olive. Sullivan and Olive then transferred their interest in the property to George Mackay Hooke and Benjamin Hooke in 1918. An assessment by the Lands Office Inspector in the View Hill Run File (QSA Item ID 306646) in 1925 noted that View Hill was located in the “belt of desert and poison country and the poison is a serious drawback to selection”. He further noted that the country was difficult to inspect as a result of bushfires having “swept practically the whole of the desert country”. In a reappraisal of the rent for View Hill in 1925, it was noted by the Department of Public Lands officer that the “principal surface water in Pigeonhole Creek consists of waterholes and shallow swamps”. It is further noted in this document that there were “two good holes in this creek at Sullivan’s top camp, apparently permanent” (QSA Item ID 306646). This document also records the existence of a water hole or “drophole” at the head of Darkies Creek (also known as North Creek) and which was located on View Hill (see Section 4.2 below for further information). A well named Harrison’s Well was also described as being located in Pigeonhole Creek



and was dug in 1915 to assist with water supply during the drought at that time. It had a depth of 17 feet although by 1925 it had silted up (QSA Item ID 306646).

In 1929, J.K. Mackay and B. Hooke were tenants-in-common of View Hill. This was followed by an application by Otilia McKenzie, wife of John F. McKenzie, for a Pastoral Lease over the property in 1935. As discussed earlier in this report, a reliable water supply for watering stock was problematic and in 1935 an assessment by the Department of Public Lands noted that there was no permanent water on the property. Mrs McKenzie surrendered her lease over View Hill 1936 citing “unforeseen difficulties” and the land became vacant. View Hill was then transferred to Mr Francis Edwin Dennis after he received the rights to the pastoral lease over the property in 1937. He subsequently transferred his interest to his brother, Robert William Dennis in 1938 (QSA Item ID 306646).

Larne formed the northern portion of what is now known as Hyde Park. As with View Hill, it is also noted in the Larne Run File (QSA Item ID 306651) in 1925 as being located in desert and heart-leaf poison bush country and that the poison bush is the principal reason “for the property not having been selected at this time” (QSA Item ID 306651). The earliest documented record available in the Queensland State Archives relevant to Larne is in 1916 when Henri George Gillis applied for, and received, a lease over the Pastoral Holding of Larne. In 1917 he transferred his interest in the lease to George Mackay Hooke and Benjamin Hooke who then surrendered the lease in 1921. In 1936 a Pastoral Lease was given to Loid Hans Jensen. At this time, there is a reference to Larne being rough, range country (QSA Item ID 306651) with a further reference in 1966 to Loid Hans Jensen of Hyde Park. More recent information was unable to be attained from the Queensland State Archives for this property.

Improvements to the properties noted in both the View Hill and Larne files mostly pertain to infrastructure relating to water (wells, bores and troughs), in addition to homesteads and stockyards. The homestead on Hyde Park Station is not situated within the project site.

3.2.2 Lot 3978 on Plan PH 772 (previously known as Dooyne)

This property covers the north-eastern corner of the southern portion of the project site (Figure 2). As no Run File for Dooyne Station exists at the Queensland State Archives, very little information was available on the history of this property. Any information that was available was accessed through other Run Files from the same area. The first mention of Dooyne is in relation to the name of a station on an atlas of Australia dating to 1886 (John Oxley Library). A map from the View Hill Run File (QSA Item ID 306646) dating to the late 1800s shows the Old Bowen Downs Road running through the property. Survey maps dating to 1919 refer to the selector as R.W. Dennis, who is also mentioned in 1937 in the Labona Run File (QSA Item No 27609) as being the lessee of Dooyne Holdings. A Queensland land tenure map dating to 1920 shows the boundary of what would become Dooyne Station. Several historic maps were examined in addition to maps in other Run Files for



the area, and with the exception of the Dooyne Homestead in the 1886 Atlas referred to earlier, there was no evidence for infrastructure on this property on any of the maps up to the 1940s.

3.2.3 Moray Downs (previously also included Labona)

The southern corner of the project site covers a small section of what is now Moray Downs but was previously known as Labona Station (Figure 2). An application was made in 1881 for a License to Occupy a New Run of Crown Lands in the Unsettled Districts in the name of Labona station. In 1908 mention is made in the Run File of Francis and Joseph North as lessees of Moray Downs and Labona Stations. In 1924 a Lands Office Inspector noted that about one half of the Labona Holding consisted “of open Box and Ironbark forest and one third is open to thick Gidya country and the balance is red soil tablelands and low stoney ridges lightly to thickly timbered with Lancewood. It is sparsely to well grassed”. 1930 saw the lease transferred to Arthur Muirhead who, in turn, transferred his interest in the property to Benjamin Hooke and Cecil Lackersteen in 1936. The later Moray Downs file did not contain any further relevant information.

Labona was no different to other stations surrounding it in that one of the major concerns of landholders throughout the early history of the area was the search for sufficient water for their livestock. Many of the improvements noted on Labona station were related to water infrastructure such as wells, bores and dams. Further improvements were a homestead and associated outbuildings, fences and stockyards of various types. A salt shed was also erected on Labona in 1939. It was hoped that the shed would eventually contain a salt lick considered at the time to be the only method of dealing with the disease called “pegleg” referred to earlier in this report (QSA Item ID 27609).

3.4 Previous Archaeological / Cultural Heritage Assessments

Investigations into archaeological or cultural heritage information for the Galilee Basin region have typically been generated as a part of studies undertaken for EIS assessments for the development of mines and associated infrastructure within the region.

There are no known studies that specifically address the cultural heritage of the project site in particular, however several studies undertaken as part of EIS assessments were identified that relate to the Galilee Basin.

The themes, places and artefacts discussed in these reports are similar to those reported on within the project site. These reports are briefly summarised below.

*Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Cultural Heritage Assessment – Carmichael Coal Mine and Rail Project.
Prepared for Adani Mining Pty Ltd.*

GHD (2012) undertook a desktop Indigenous and non-Indigenous cultural heritage assessment in support of the EIS for the Carmichael Coal Mine and Rail Project (CCM&RP), located south of the project site. A number of



cattle yards, watering troughs, dams and one homestead (Labona) were determined to be located within the CCM&RP site and its vicinity.

As the rail corridor associated with the CCM&RP crossed a number of former pastoral stations and mine leases, it was likely that associated sites (e.g. homestead complexes and related infrastructure) would be present and may require further assessment under the provisions of the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992* at a later date.

Desktop Non-Indigenous Cultural Heritage Report – (Phase One) Alpha Coal Project, Alpha to Bowen Rail Corridor. Prepared for Hancock Prospecting Pty Ltd.

Converge Heritage and Community (2010a) undertook a desktop review of the history of the area within the proposed Alpha Hancock Coal Project rail corridor from the mine to the port at Bowen. The rail corridor is approximately 100 km from the project site at its closest point. Three non-Indigenous places of cultural heritage significance were identified to be within the rail corridor study area. These included Strathmore Homestead listed on the Queensland Heritage Register; Old Bowen Downs Road listed on the Register of the National Estate and Queensland National Trust Register; and Suttor Creek Aboriginal Camp identified within the study area as a potential heritage site.

Converge Heritage and Community noted that a number of places were considered likely to exist within the study area that were not currently listed on a statutory or non-statutory heritage register. As the rail corridor crossed a number of former pastoral stations and mine leases, it was likely that associated sites (e.g. homestead complexes and related infrastructure) would be present and may require further assessment under the provisions of the QHA.

Non-Indigenous Cultural Heritage Survey Report – Alpha Coal Project. Prepared for Hancock Prospecting Pty Ltd.

Converge Heritage and Community (2010b) prepared the non-Indigenous cultural heritage assessment in support of the EIS for the Alpha Coal Project, which is located approximately 140 km south of the project site. Eleven non-Indigenous cultural heritage sites were identified across the study area. These sites included five sites assessed as having direct association with the late 19th Century coach route network as they included a travellers' inn site, a bottle dump, a gravesite, an old paddock fenceline and *in situ* cart ruts; a bush camp site assessed as likely to be a stop along the stock route network and frequented by stockmen; and the Wendouree and Hobartville homesteads, yards, dams, and a marsupial fence each providing evidence of early twentieth century pastoral related activity and improvements. Although the properties of Tressilian and Monklands were part of the study area these were not surveyed on foot, as landowners indicated during interviews that these areas were 'non-productive poison country and had no heritage remains'.



Non-Indigenous Cultural Heritage Report - Kevin's Corner Project. Prepared for Hancock Galilee Pty Ltd.

Converge Heritage and Community (2011) prepared the non-Indigenous cultural heritage assessment in support of the EIS for the Kevin's Corner Project, located approximately 125 km south of the project site. Eight non-Indigenous cultural heritage sites were identified across the study area through desktop assessment and field surveys. These sites included two sites having direct association with the late 19th and early 20th Century coach route networks as they included a hotel site and camps; two 20th Century outstation sites related to pastoral activity (sheep shearing and droving) as they included a drovers shack, bore and dam; and two sites relating to 20th Century pastoral activity and improvements.

Non-Indigenous Cultural Heritage Reports - China First (Galilee Coal) Project. Prepared for Waratah Coal Pty Ltd.

Thom Blake Historian (2010) prepared the non-Indigenous cultural heritage assessment in support of the EIS for the China First (Galilee Coal) Project, located approximately 160 km south of the project site. The Monkland homestead complex is a potential site of non-Indigenous cultural heritage. The site is an old pastoral property associated with the early 20th Century, comprising of two houses, sheds and shearing sheds.

Non-Indigenous Cultural Heritage Assessment – South Galilee Coal Project. Prepared for AMCI (Alpha) Pty Ltd.

This assessment was carried out by Everick Heritage Consultants in 2011 in support of the EIS for the South Galilee Coal Project, which is located immediately southwest of the township of Alpha, and approximately 200 km south of the project site. Nine places of non-Indigenous historic interest were located within, or close to, the study area. These sites included two bore sites, three outstation/yard complexes, a homestead site, an overshot dam and fencing.

3.5 Search of the Heritage Registers

A search was undertaken of the following heritage registers to identify any listing of historic cultural heritage within or in proximity to the project site:

1. World Heritage List;
2. Register of the National Estate;
3. National Heritage List;
4. Commonwealth Heritage List;
5. Queensland Heritage Register;
6. Charters Towers Regional Council (*Dalrymple Planning Scheme 2006* Table 4.1(a)) Heritage Overlay Code); and
7. *Belyando Shire Planning Scheme 2008* Schedule 2 Division 7, Places and Items of Heritage Interest.



No sites within close proximity to the project site are listed on the heritage registers.

3.6 Historic Aerial Photography

Aerial photographs from the 1950s to 1960s were reviewed in order to inform the site inspection. These photographs relate to a period prior to significant development from land clearing, mining and infrastructure which have subsequently altered the landscape. Information to be gained from historic aerial photography may include:

- past land use practises such as evidence of grazing or farming;
- potentially significant environmental features (creeks, waterholes, ridgelines etc.) that may have since been altered as a result of subsequent farming, grazing or mining practises; and
- the presence of any large scale post – European structures, such as roads, homesteads, dams and stockyards.

No sites of potential interest were able to be identified on the historic aerial photographs.



4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY

4.1 Background Review

Prior to the field survey, the following historic records relating to the project site were reviewed:

- Historic accounts, photographs and maps of the project site to identify potential historic structures that may be located during the survey.
- Aerial and satellite photographs to identify locations of disturbance such as roads, tracks, fences, excavations, yards, dams and buildings.
- Local historical information held by the Isaac Regional Council (2012).
- Information held at the Information Centre and the local library in Charters Towers and the Zara Clark Museum in Charters Towers.

4.2 Field Survey

A field survey was conducted by Everick Director Dr Richard Robins and qualified archaeologist Anne Dighton on 13 and 14 November 2012. The survey was undertaken primarily by vehicle, with surveying of some areas completed on foot. GPS points were recorded for all inspected features. Photographs and notes of particular features were taken.

The survey was undertaken in three parts, undertaken concurrently:

- Part 1 - Interviewing local residents and property owners about their historical knowledge of the area or of particular sites. Local residents and property owners who were interviewed included:
 - Mrs Lorraine Corbett, a lessee of Hyde Park Station.
 - Mr Bruce Cook, Mr Phil Cook and Mrs Marie Cook, property managers and owners of Dooyne Station.
 - Mr Dean Bowditch of Carmichael Station, Moray Downs. Mr Bowditch has lived on Carmichael Station for the last eight years and is familiar with the country within the project site.
- Part 2 - Orientation survey of the project site, partly as familiarisation and partly to identify the field investigation site.
- Part 3 – Targeted inspections of the field investigation site and areas that were identified during the desktop survey and through interviews with the local residents.

In addition, local residents Dean Bowditch and Lorraine Corbett confirmed that the practise of regular burning of the vegetation on the stations in question, as well as the significant flooding that occurs as a result of the project site location at the foot of Darkies Range, suggests that it is unlikely any predicted remains of heritage interest would still exist (i.e. timber fence posts, troughs and stock yards).



4.3 Results

Only one field investigation site of potential heritage significance was identified during the desktop study and through consultation with local residents as being present within the project site, and this site provided the basis for the targeted survey. The site was surveyed, and any historic evidence found was recorded, photographed and GPS readings taken. Details of this site are discussed below.

Site 1 – Drophole - Head Waters of Darkies (North) Creek

Position: 146° 7.382' E; 21° 43.631' S (GDA 94).

Description: Site 1 is situated on the southern part of Hyde Park Station on land previously known as View Hill Station. It is located in the north of the project site in the head waters of North Creek which was previously called Darkies Creek on a map from the View Hill Run File (QSA Item ID 306646). The drophole is situated at the head of a gorge approximately 85 m wide at its maximum width and is located at the termination of the gorge. It is formed from sandstone layers, with some siltstone distributed through the sandstone, and has a capping of ironstone. Hematite is distributed through much of the sandstone. The soft sandstone layers are significantly eroded. This has produced a large overhang with a waterhole approximately 25 m below (Plate 1). In 1925 it was noted that the waterhole was not able to be accessed by livestock, however the present landowner has now opened a track into the waterhole for his cattle.

Historical Background: This site was indicated on a map from the View Hill Run File (QSA Item ID 306646) dating to approximately late 1800 (see Figure 3). Additionally, in 1925 a reference was made in the same file to a “drophole” in the “head of Darkies Creek under the range” which was a “precipitous cavity in the gorge” where “in the early days the carriers hauled the water up with a rope and bucket”. Information confirming the location of this site was provided by Dean Bowditch and Lorraine Corbett. During interviews with local residents they revealed that there is a local belief that the drophole is associated with the cattle thief Harry Readford (also often spelt Redford). Harry Readford is believed to have been part of a composite character, Captain Starlight, immortalised in Rolf Boldrewood’s 1882 novel *Robbery Under Arms*. The event that made Readford infamous was his theft of approximately 1,000 head of cattle from Bowen Downs Station in 1870. Readford then drove the cattle overland to South Australia covering a distance of approximately 800 miles (Cowan 1985). He was eventually caught and charged with the crime in 1873. However at his trial in Roma he received a not guilty verdict by the jury, who it is said were so admiring of Readford’s feat that they chose to ignore the significant evidence against him (Sutton 2002). In relation to the project site, local opinion suggests that Starlight’s Hole may have been a hideout / campsite for Readford. However further research into this claim has not produced any evidence to connect Readford to the area in which the project site is located.



Feature 1 – Signatures: Carved into the sandstone walls of the waterhole are several signatures with associated dates. While many of these are recent carvings, four signatures have associated dates from the 1800s and early 1900s (Plate 2, Plate 3, Plate 4 and Plate 5). The relevant signatures are: W.B. KAY 1901; TN 1863; VJ 1884 and C. HANNIDON 1927. Information was provided by Dean Bowditch to the effect that there had previously been more signatures on the walls of the waterhole/overhang (some of which were of an earlier date than those still present at the site) however erosion and collapse of the outer layers of the wall have caused some signatures to be lost (Plate 5).



5. SIGNIFICANCE ASSESSMENT

5.1 General Principles of this Assessment

The assessment of non-Indigenous cultural heritage significance is made independent of any practical management considerations of the place or artefact. The significance assessment for the project site is guided by the *Burra Charter* and the criteria for entry onto the QHA list. The criteria used in this assessment are as follows:

- (a) the place is important in demonstrating the evolution or pattern of Queensland's (or local) history;
- (b) the place demonstrates rare, uncommon or endangered aspects of Queensland's (or local) cultural heritage;
- (c) the place has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Queensland's (or local) history;
- (d) the place is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class of cultural places;
- (e) the place is important because of its aesthetic significance;
- (f) the place is important in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period;
- (g) the place has a strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons; or
- (h) the place has a special association with the life or work of a particular person, group or organisation of importance in Queensland's (or local) history.

A place or item need only be significant in one of these criteria to be considered of heritage significance. In addition, a place may be entered in the Queensland heritage register as an archaeological place if the place:

- is not a state heritage place;
- has potential to contain an archaeological artefact that is an important source of information about Queensland's history.

All heritage places identified in the desktop research and field inspection have been assessed against the above heritage criteria for potential world, national, state and local heritage significance. Sites that have been assessed as falling well below the local threshold for being considered of local heritage significance are subject to no further discussion. Statements of heritage significance (Section 5.2) and Heritage Impact (Section 6) have been provided for all sites that have been assessed as being of potential or actual local heritage significance. It



should be noted that best practise heritage management strategies may still see conservation for items or places that do not reach the threshold for being of local heritage significance (Section 8).

5.2 Statement of Significance: Specific Finds

No places of national, state or local heritage significance were located within the project site. Having regard to the review of historic resources described above, this is to be expected, as most of the project site has seen little occupation since European settlement. As illustrated in Section 3.1, the area covered by the project site is located in what has always been a sparsely populated area. This was in addition to the challenges to the development of the pastoral industry as a result of the difficulties inherent in insufficient water and pest and disease issues.

The site of potential heritage interest that was identified in the desktop study or through consultation with local residents or property owners, was assessed as failing to meet the thresholds described in Section 5.1 as being of local heritage significance.

5.2.1 Site 1 – Drophole – Head Waters of Darkies (North) Creek

Site 1 is a stock waterhole location and potentially a former campsite. Upon inspection, no physical evidence relating to the use of the waterhole as a campsite could be located. It is likely that any other physical evidence located at the waterhole linking the waterhole to a campsite has been destroyed by successive fire and flood events in the immediate area. When assessed against the QHA criteria, this site was considered not to fulfil criteria (b) or (c). Numerous sets of engraved initials were observed in the sandstone overhang, however a search of archival documents, and consultation with landowners confirmed no evidence, documented, anecdotal or otherwise, of the significance or history of these names.

No historic evidence could be identified linking Harry Readford to this site, other than anecdotal evidence from local landholders. Rather, historic evidence suggests Readford did not occupy this site. The place therefore does not meet the threshold for criteria (h), being a special association with a particular person of importance to Queensland or local history.



6. IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Based on the literature review and site survey, no state or locally significant historical cultural heritage places or archaeological objects were found. There is some possibility that significant heritage items, which have not been identified as part of this assessment, may exist within the project site. Cautionary mitigation measures are outlined in Section 7 of this report that allow for the identification and protection of such items, if found.



7. MANAGEMENT MEASURES

It is recommended that the following management strategies be implemented for the project.

Strategy 1: Staff Briefing

The General Manager and all staff or contractors of the proponent who will be responsible for undertaking initial clearance and ground breaking activities will be informed of their obligations under Section 89 of the QH Act to report to the EHP any archaeological items that may constitute an important source of information about an aspect of Queensland's history. As a cautionary approach, the Find Strategy (Strategy 2) will be implemented if any potential heritage items are identified.

Strategy 2: Find Strategy

In the event that any staff or contractors of the proponent suspect that they have uncovered an archaeological object that may constitute an important source of information about an aspect of national or state history, the following measures will apply:

- (a) disturbance of any areas immediately surrounding the Find will cease immediately;
- (b) if it is considered that the Find is at risk of being inadvertently damaged by construction activities, a temporary fence will be erected around the Find;
- (c) the EHP will be notified;
- (d) a suitably qualified archaeologist will be engaged to inspect the Find and determine its significance; and
- (e) should the Find be of state significance, appropriate mitigation strategies will be developed in consultation with appropriate EHP officers.

Strategy 3: Archaeological Standards

In the event that archaeological monitoring or excavations are required as a result of implementing the Find Strategy (Strategy 2), the standards outlined in the EHP *Guidelines Archaeological Investigations* (EHP, 2013) will be applied (or any version of the EHP guidelines that may supersede this document).



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APPENDIX A: FIGURES



Figure 1: Location of the project site

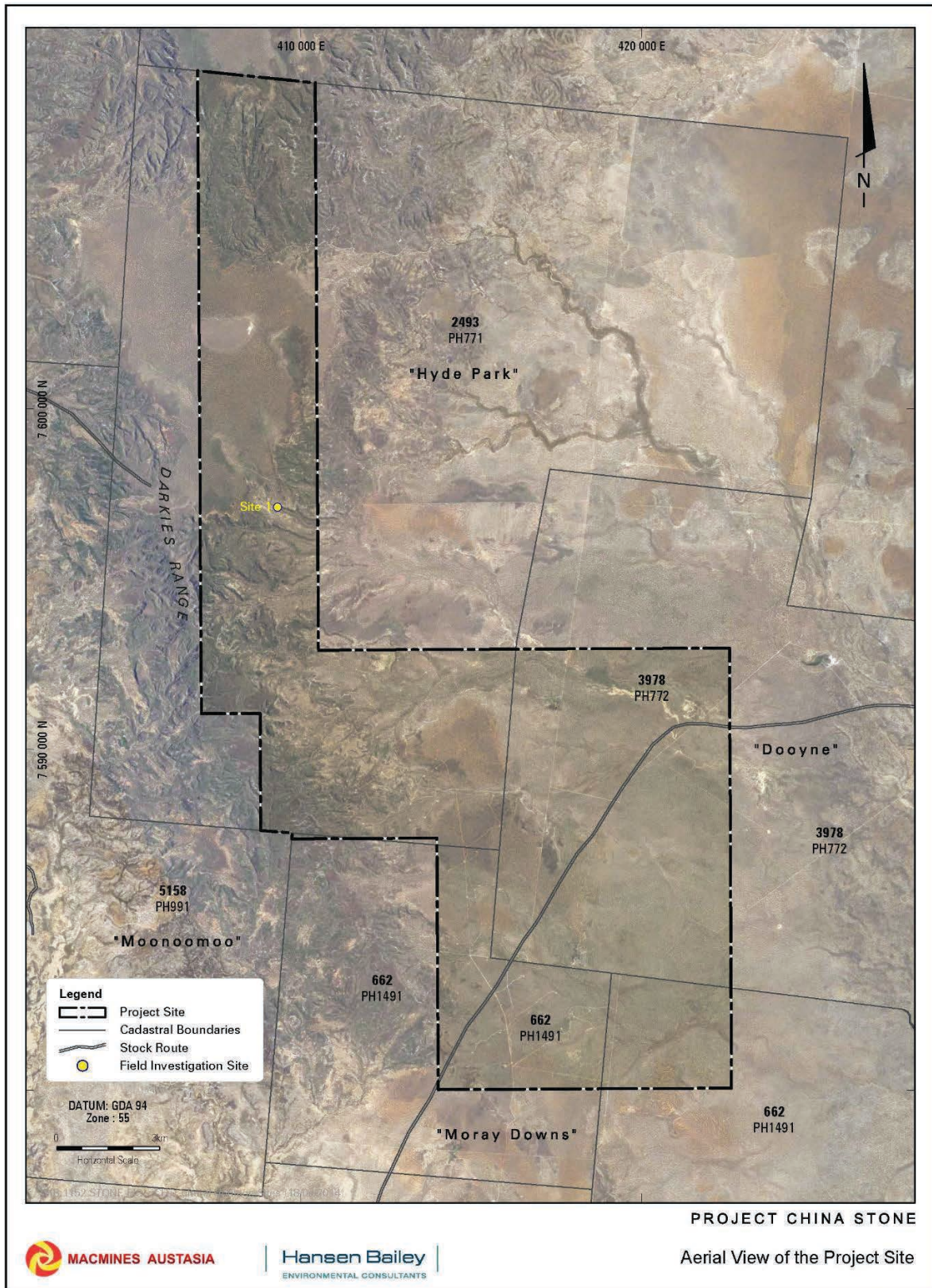


Figure 2: Aerial View of the Project Site

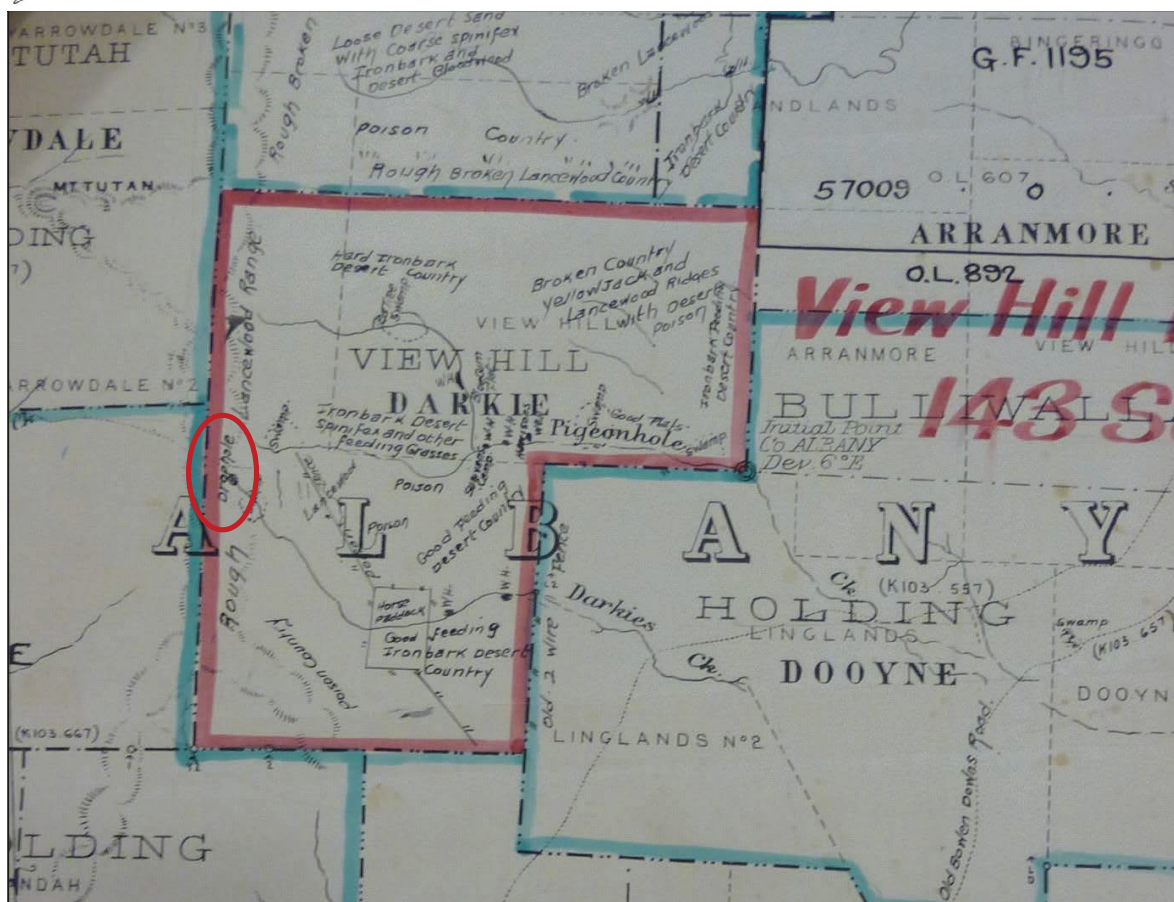


Figure 3: Map c. 1920s showing location (red circle) of the 1925 reference to the “drophole” at the head of Darkies (North) Creek (Site 1) on View Hill.



APPENDIX B: PLATES



Plate 1: The “drophole” at the head of Darkies (North) Creek.

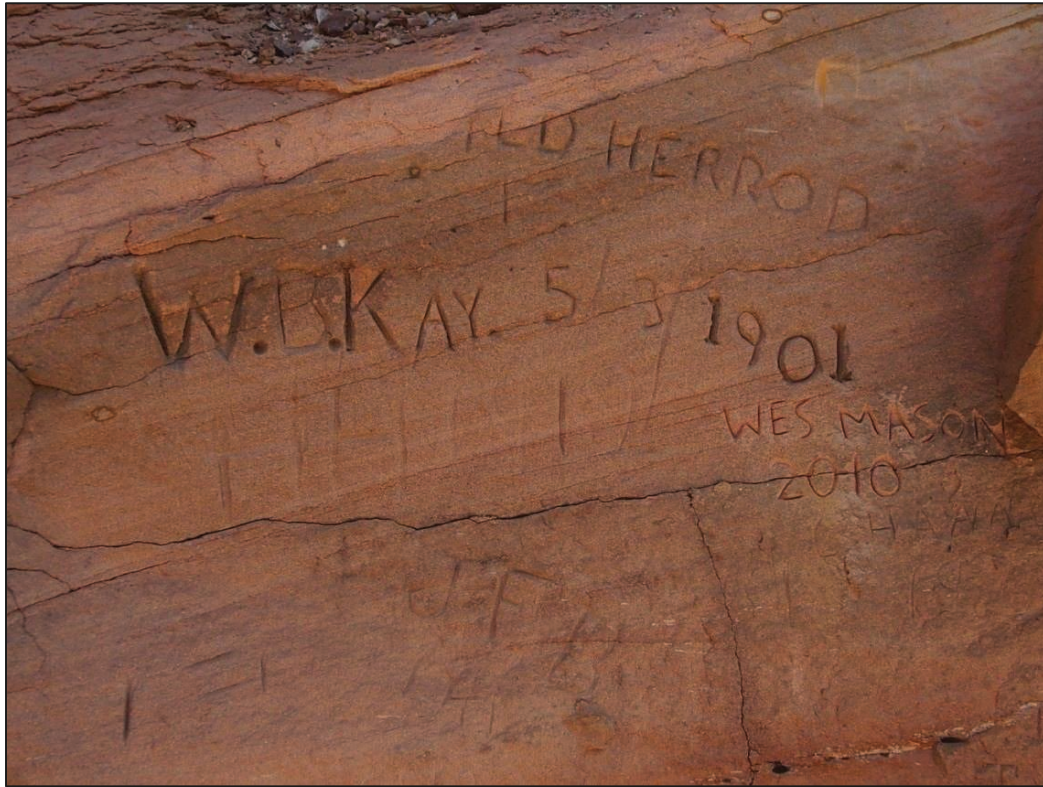


Plate 2: Signatures on sandstone wall of waterhole at the head of Darkies (North) Creek



Plate 3: Signatures on sandstone wall of waterhole at the head of Darkies (North) Creek

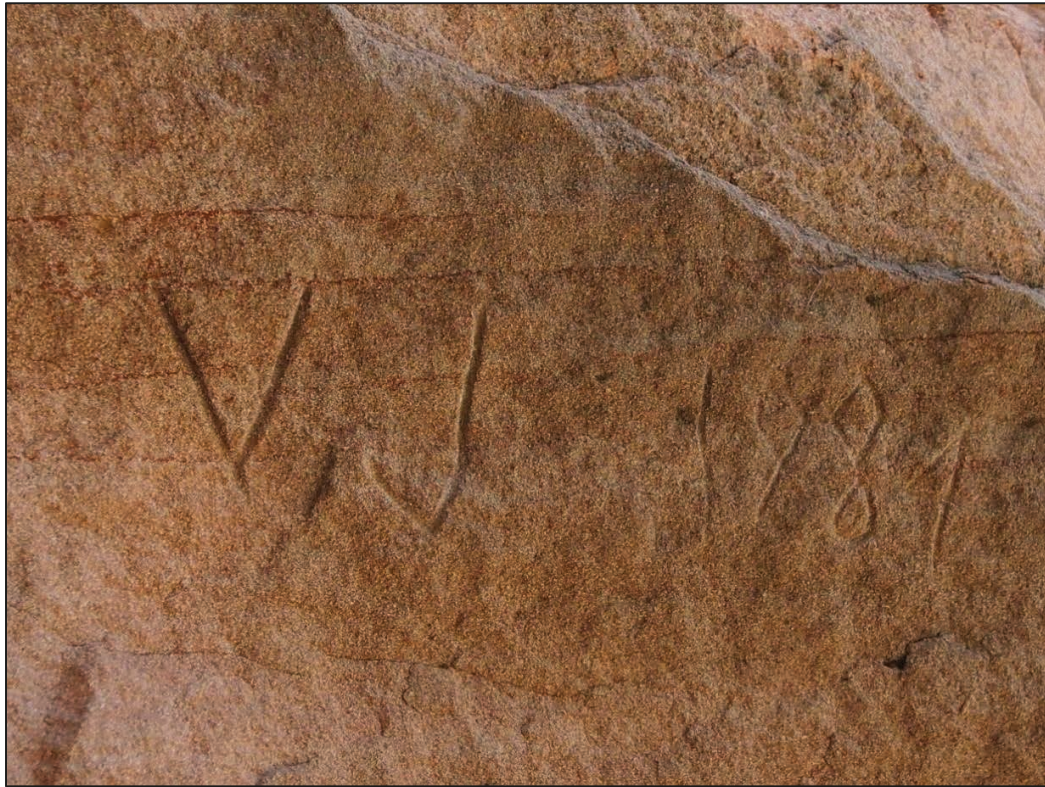


Plate 4: Signature on sandstone wall of waterhole at the head of Darkies (North) Creek

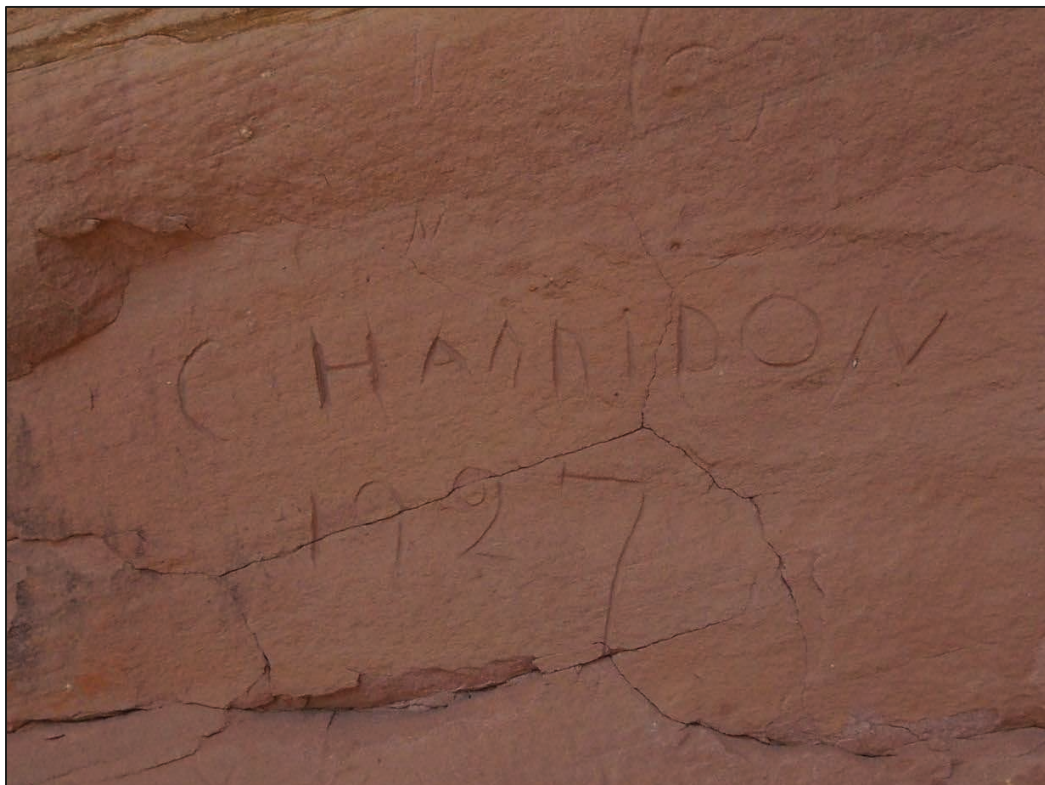


Plate 5: Signature in on sandstone wall of waterhole at the head of Darkies (North) Creek



Plate 6: Collapse of outer sandstone wall layers of waterhole at the head of Darkies (North) Creek



Plate 7: Example of the regular burning that takes place within the project site. Photo taken on Hyde Park Station prior to wet season.