



Historic Heritage Assessment

Appendix C



ABx Deloraine Bauxite Mine Project,
Porters Bridge Road Exton

Historic Heritage Assessment Report

AUTHOR: Stuart Huys and Shay Hannah
27 Apsley St, South Hobart TAS 7004

CLIENT: Pitt and Sherry

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Executive Summary

Introduction

ABx Group, the proponent, is seeking to establish a Bauxite and Rare Earth Element mine in former forestry land 9km northeast of Deloraine, in the Northern Region of Tasmania. The Bauxite and rare earth element mine will be situated on an approximately 138.86ha area of private forestry plantation land.

The proposed Deloraine Bauxite and Rare Earth Element mine is located adjacent to Porters Bridge Road within the southern section of the study area. The northern section of the study area is adjacent to Porters Bridge Road and River Road in Exton in the Northern Region of Tasmania (see Figures 1-3). The site will be accessed via two existing access tracks into the site, an access track off River Road that leads into the site from the west and an unnamed access track off Porters Bridge Road that provides access to the southern and northern sections of the study area. This access track also connects to other existing access tracks within the study area.

CHMA Pty Ltd has been engaged by the proponent to undertake a historic heritage assessment for the proposed Deloraine Bauxite Mine Project (the study area), to identify any potential historic heritage constraints. This report presents the findings of the historic heritage assessment.

Results of the Search of the Heritage Registers

A search was carried out of a number of historic registers and databases in order to determine the extent of historic sites and features in the vicinity of each of the Deloraine Bauxite Mine Projects study area. Agency databases searched included:

- Australian National Heritage List (NHL)
- The Australian Heritage Database (AHD)
- Tasmanian Heritage Register (THR)
- The Register of the National Estate (RNE)

The search of the various historic heritage registers shows that there are no registered historic sites or places located within a 5km radius of the Deloraine Bauxite Mine Project site. However, no registered sites exist in the immediate vicinity of the Deloraine Bauxite Mine Project site. The detailed search results are presented in section 4.3 of this report.

Survey Results and Statement of Archaeological Potential

The field survey assessment of the Deloraine Bauxite Mine Project study area resulted in the identification of one historic feature, this being a loggers' hut. The loggers' hut is located 370m north of the southern boundary of the study area. The loggers' hut is located within the study area and is likely to be directly impacted by the proposed Deloraine Bauxite Mine Project works. The detailed recording and assessment of the loggers' hut are presented in Appendix 2.

Besides the one historic feature described above, no other historic sites or suspected features were identified during the field survey assessment. It is assessed that there is a low potential for undetected historic heritage sites present in the study area. If undetected features are present in the study area, they are likely to be representative of either small-

scale or large-scale selective logging activity. There is evidence to indicate that more intensive logging activity was carried out in the past within the Exton and Reedy Marsh areas and as such it is very unlikely that more substantive historic heritage features will be present in the study area.

The detailed survey results and discussions are presented in section 5 of this report.

Table i: Summary details for historic heritage sites recorded during the field survey assessment of the Deloraine Bauxite Mine Project

Site Name	Grid Reference (GDA94)	Site Description
Loggers Hut	E478432 N5409806	<p>The site is accessed via Porters Bridge Road and a graded access track and is located 370m north of the southern boundary of the study area. The loggers' hut is likely to be of local significance.</p> <p>The loggers' hut is likely to be directly impacted by the proposed Deloraine Bauxite Mine Project works.</p>

Management Recommendations

Heritage management options and recommendations provided in this report are made based on the following criteria.

- The legal and procedural requirements as specified in section 4 of this report.
- The results of the investigation as documented in this report.
- The results of the Historic heritage register search.

Recommendation 1 (Loggers Hut)

The loggers' hut is located 370m north of the southern boundary of the study area and is likely to be directly impacted by the proposed Deloraine Bauxite Mine Project works.

The loggers' hut is not listed on any of the heritage registers, it is likely to be of local heritage significance. The loggers' hut would not meet the threshold requirements for State or National significance. Likely to be of local significance.

Due to the poor condition of the site, it is recommended that the site be recorded and photographed, no further action is required.

Recommendation 2 (Historic Heritage)

The historic heritage registers search results show that there are no heritage places located within or in the immediate surrounds of the study area that are listed on any of the local, State or National heritage registers. The absence of any registered historic heritage sites within and in the immediate surrounds of the study area indicates that there is a low to very

low potential for historic heritage features to be present. If there are features present, they are likely to be associated with the early pastoral settlement and logging industry of Exton/Reedy Marsh. Based on the above it is advised that there are no known historic heritage constraints or requirements for the study area.

Recommendation 3 (Unanticipated Discovery Plan for Historic Heritage)

The procedures outlined in Practice Note No 2 issued by the Tasmanian Heritage Council, processes should be followed should any unexpected archaeological features and/or deposits be revealed during development works.

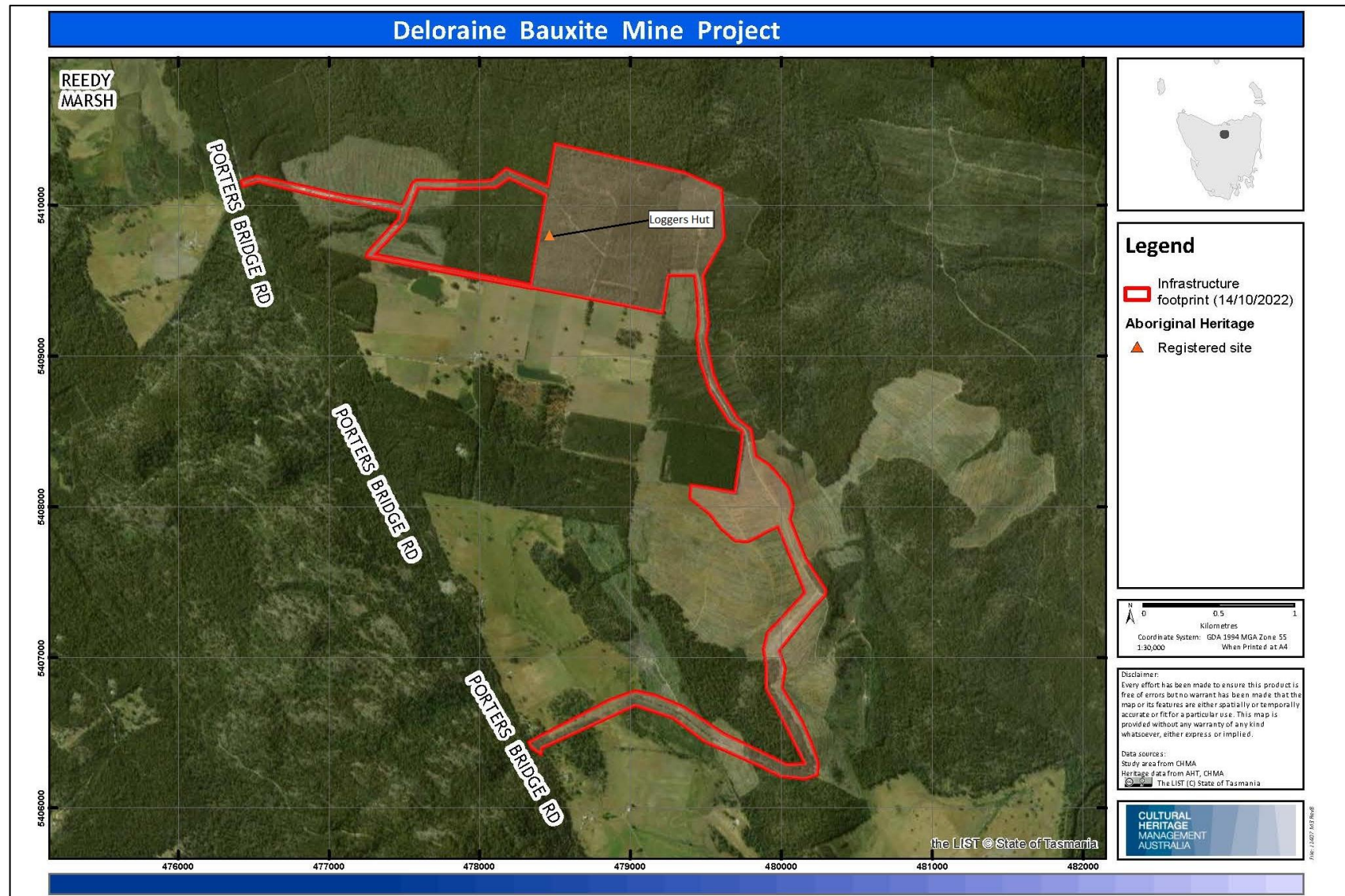


Figure i: Aerial image showing the location of the loggers' hut in relation to the Deloraine Bauxite Mine Project footprint.

1.0 Project Details

1.1 Project Outline

ABx Group, the proponent, is seeking to establish a Bauxite and Rare Earth Element mine in former forestry land 9km northeast of Deloraine, in the Northern Region of Tasmania. The Bauxite and rare earth element mine will be situated on an approximately 138.86ha area of private forestry plantation land.

The proposed Deloraine Bauxite and Rare Earth Element mine is located adjacent to Porters Bridge Road within the southern section of the study area. The northern section of the study area is adjacent to Porters Bridge Road and River Road in Exton in the Northern Region of Tasmania (see Figures 1-3). The site will be accessed via two existing access tracks into the site, an access track off River Road that leads into the site from the west and an unnamed access track off Porters Bridge Road that provides access to the southern and northern sections of the study area. This access track also connects to other existing access tracks within the study area.

CHMA Pty Ltd has been engaged by the proponent to undertake a historic heritage assessment for the proposed Deloraine Bauxite Mine Project (the study area), to identify any potential historic heritage constraints. This report presents the findings of the historic heritage assessment.

1.2 Aims of the Investigation

The principal aims of the present heritage assessment are as follows.

- Complete a Historic Heritage Assessment for the Deloraine Bauxite Mine Project site (the study area as shown in Figures 1-3). The assessment is to be compliant with both State and Commonwealth legislative regimes.
- To determine the extent of previously identified Historic heritage sites within and in the immediate vicinity of the study area.
- To locate and document historic heritage sites that may be present within the identified bounds of the study area.
- To assess the archaeological sensitivity values of the study area.
- To assess the scientific and cultural values of identified Historic heritage sites.
- To advise on the management of Historic heritage in line with best practice archaeological guidelines.
- Prepare a report which documents the findings of the Historic heritage assessment.

1.3 Project Methodology

A three-stage project methodology was implemented for this historic heritage assessment.

Stage 1 (Pre-Fieldwork Background Work)

Prior to fieldwork being undertaken, the following tasks were completed by CHMA.

The collation of relevant documentation for the project

As part of Stage 1, the following research was carried out and background information was collated for this project.

- A review of the relevant heritage registers and the collation of information pertaining to any registered heritage sites located within the general vicinity of the study area.

- Maps of the study areas.
- Relevant reports documenting the outcomes of previous heritage studies in the vicinity of the study area.
- Historical literature for the region.
- References to the land use history of the study area.
- GIS Information relating to landscape units present in the study area.
- Geotechnical information for the study area, including soil and geology data.

Stage 2 (Field Work)

Stage 2 entailed the fieldwork component of the assessment. The field survey was undertaken by Shay Hannah (CHMA archaeologist) and Vernon Graham (Senior Aboriginal Heritage Officer), over a period of 2 days (11-10-2022 – 12-10-2022).

The field team walked a total of 32km of survey transects across the proposed Deloraine Bauxite Mine Project footprint, with the average width of each transect being 5m on access tracks and 10m within the plantation sections. As part of the field survey program, additional transects were walked in areas where there was improved surface visibility. Section 3 provides further details as to the survey coverage achieved within the study area.

Stage 3

Stage three of the project involves the production of a Draft and Final Report that includes an analysis of the data obtained from the field survey, an assessment of archaeological sensitivity and management recommendations. The report has been prepared by Shay Hannah from CHMA.

1.4 Project Limitations

Most archaeological investigations are subject to limitations that may affect the reliability of the results. The main constraint to the present investigation was restricted surface visibility due primarily to vegetation cover. At the time of the field survey, surface visibility across the proposed bauxite mine footprint ranged between <10% and 80%, with the estimated average being 70%. Throughout the study area, there was a network of previously graded and ungraded vehicle tracks that provided transects of improved surface visibility. There were also numerous areas where plantation harvesting and clearing were present that provided locates of improved visibility. To offset constrained surface visibility, any areas of improved visibility were inspected in detail. The constraints in surface visibility limited the effectiveness of the survey assessment to some extent. The issue of surface visibility is further discussed in Section 3 of this report.

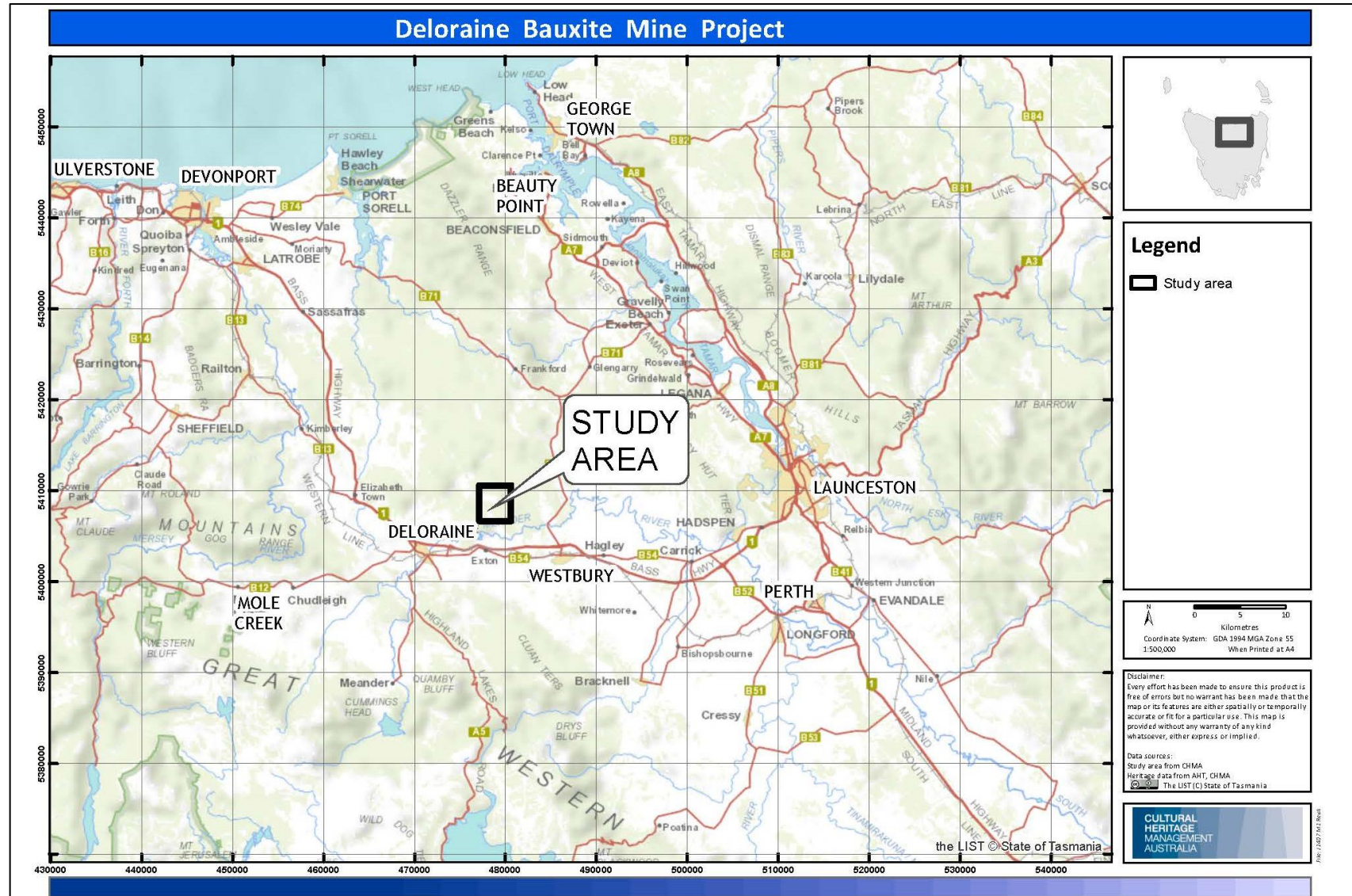


Figure 1: Topographic map showing the location of the study area at Exton/Reedy Marsh in the Northern Region of Tasmania.

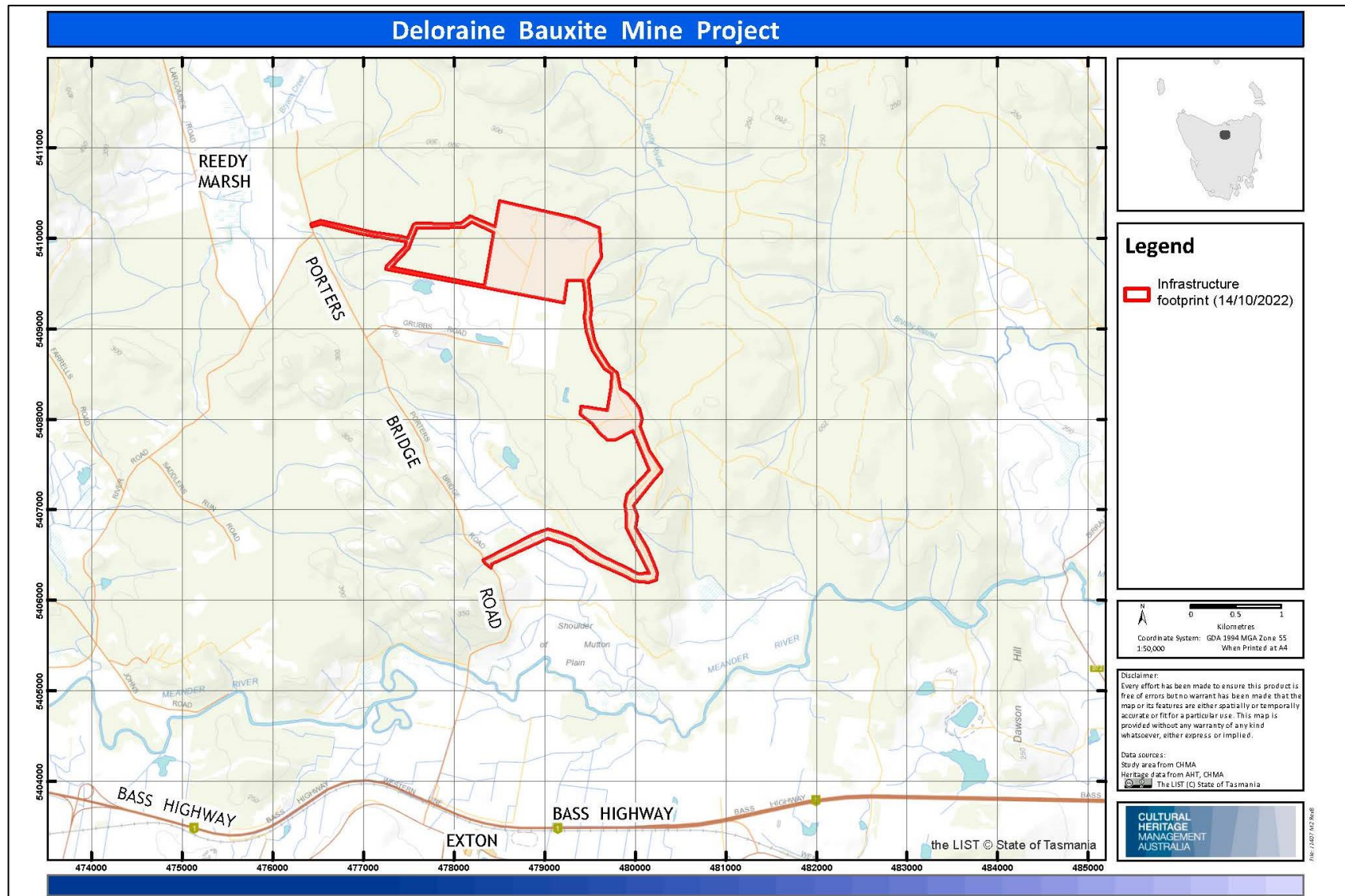


Figure 2: Topographic map showing the landscape setting of the study area.

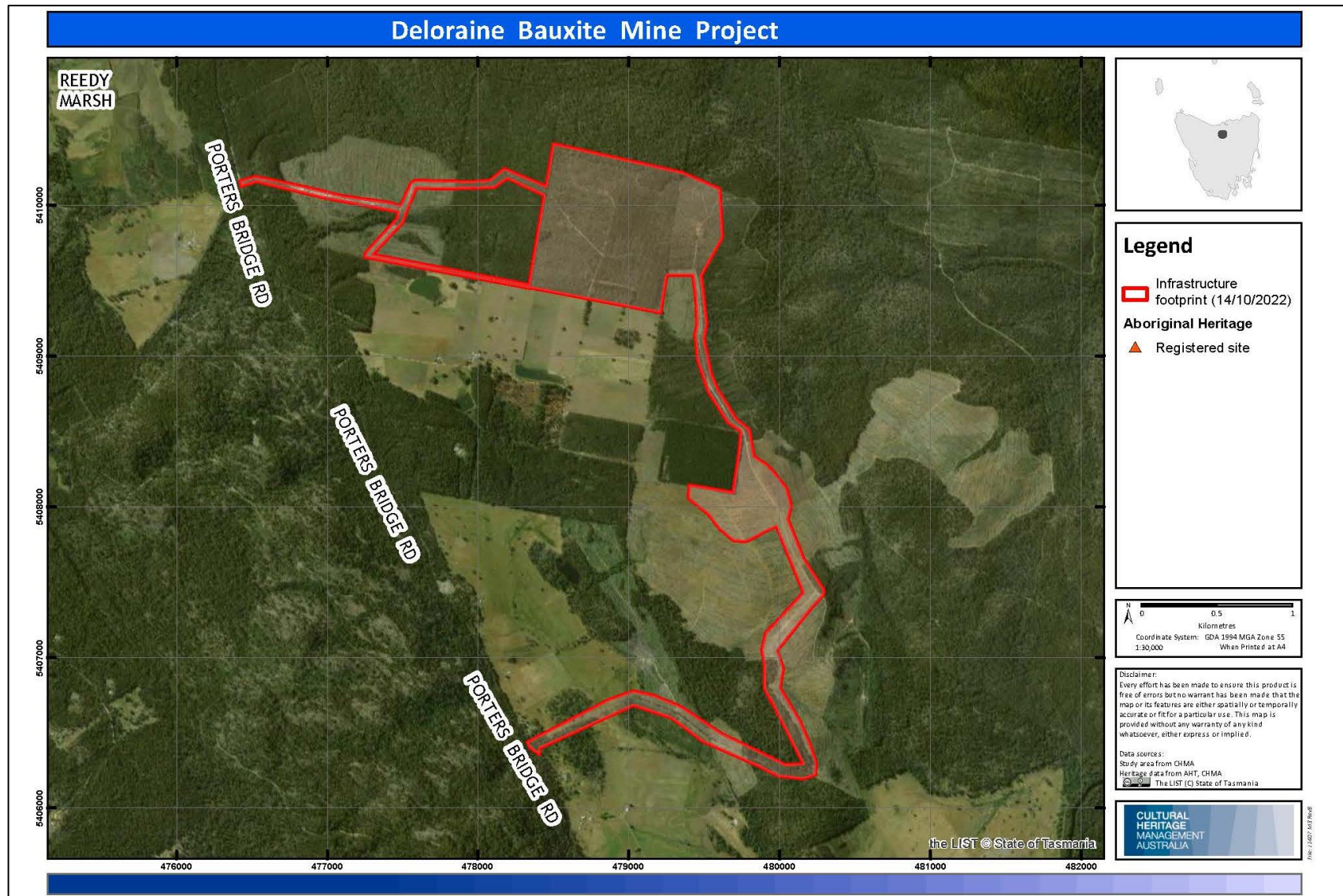


Figure 3: Aerial image showing the boundaries of the study area.

2.0 Environmental Setting of the Study Area

The proposed Deloraine Bauxite Mine Project area (the study area) covers approximately 138.86ha. The northern sections of the study area are situated 9.65km northeast of Deloraine on a rise of 300m above the surrounding plains, whilst the southern sections of the study area are situated 9.58km northeast of Deloraine, in the Northern Region of Tasmania. Both sections of the study area are on flat to moderately undulating terrain with gradients ranging between 5°–25° (see Plates 1 and 6).

The underlying geology of the study area is divided into two types. The northern sections of the study area primarily consist of Cenozoic cover sequences with ferricrete, silcrete, laterite and derived lag deposits present (see Plate 4). The remaining area of the study area including the southern section consists of Tasmanian Jurassic Dolerite with locally developed granophyre (see Plate 5). The soils within the entire study area consist of a light red-brown clay loam and are shallow to skeletal in depth (see Plate 1) (List 2022).

The access track connecting Porters Bridge Road to the southern sections of the study area is located 1.3km north of the Meander River, which is the largest major water course in this part of the Northern Region. This is a perennial river that runs from west to east direction. There is also an unnamed tributary associated with the Meander River that runs through part of the main southern access track. The northern sections of the study area are located approximately 400m to the southwest of an unnamed tributary running off Brushy Rivulet, 1.73km north of an unnamed tributary associated with the Meander River and approximately 750m southeast of an unnamed tributary running off Bryan's Creek, which runs east to west. These are the only named watercourses in the immediate vicinity of the study area. The access track that links the southern sections to Porters Bridge Road is located 1km north of Shoulder of Mutton Plain which is a floodplain. The northern sections overlook the surrounding floodplain.

The vegetation structure across the majority of both sections of the study area consists of former hardwood plantations of either Silvertop eucalypts (*Eucalyptus nitens*) or Tasmanian Blue Gum (*Eucalyptus globulus*) and softwood plantations of Radiata Pine (*Pinus radiata*) (Jordan 2011; List 2022). Also present within the study area is native regrowth including Bracken Fern (*Pteridium esculentum*), Sagg (*Lomandra longifolia*), Black Wattle saplings (*Acacia mearnsii*) (see Plates 1, 2 and 5). Within the westernmost section of the study area, the vegetation types present include a small standing of Swamp Paper Bark (*Melaleuca ericifolia*) (see Plates 2 and 3) surrounded by mature eucalypts with Cutty Grass (*Gahnia grandis*), Prickly Moses (*Acacia ulicifolia*) and Bracken Fern throughout (Kodala 2002; Wilson 1991).

The entire study area has been intensely disturbed by current and previous logging and clearing activity. A network of previously graded and ungraded vehicle tracks occur throughout the entire study area, particularly around the existing plantation rows and Forico graded access tracks (see Plates 2, 6 and 7). The graded access tracks are divided into two types, those with introduced gravels and those constructed using local gravel. Any historic sites that may be present within these more highly disturbed infrastructure areas will have been either destroyed or heavily impacted.

The study area has a cool, wet climate typical of northern Tasmania. Rainfall occurs throughout the year; with a mean annual rainfall of 589mm. Rainfall is highest in August and September (64mm – 71mm) and lower from January to February (28 – 31mm). The warmest months of the year are January and February when mean temperatures range from minimums of 10°C to maximums of about 23°C. Winter tends to be cold with mean annual temperatures in the coldest months of June and July ranging from 1.5°C mean minimum to maximum temperatures of about 11°C (BOM 2020).



Plate 1: View east showing the recently cleared and replanted plantation rows.



Plate 2: View southwest showing one of the existing graded access tracks and the mature regrowth in the study area.



Plate 3: View southwest showing tea tree and other species present within the westernmost section of the study area.



Plate 4: View southwest showing exposed bedrock present in the northern section of the study area.



Plate 5: View north showing a Dolerite outcrop in the southern section of the study area.



Plate 6: View northeast showing the Radiata Pine plantation on either side of a main graded access track.



Plate 7: View north showing a graded access track marking the border between plantation land and the Brushy Rivulet Reserve.

3.0 Survey Coverage of the Study Area

Survey Coverage and Surface Visibility

Survey coverage refers to the estimated portion of a study area that has been visually inspected during a field survey. Surface Visibility refers to the extent to which the actual soils of the ground surface are available for inspection. There are a number of factors that can affect surface visibility, including vegetation cover, surface water and the presence of introduced gravels or materials. Figure 4 provides a useful guide for estimating surface visibility.

The field survey was undertaken by Shay Hannah (CHMA archaeologist), Vernon Graham (Senior Aboriginal Heritage Officer) and Kieran Graham (Trainee Heritage Officer), over a period of 2 days (11-10-2022 – 12-10-2022). The field team walked a total of 32km of survey transects. In the plantation rows where clearing had been undertaken, the average width of each transect was 10m. Within the access tracks, the average width of each transect was 5m. Table 4 provides the total transects walked for each section and figure 8 shows the alignment of the survey transects walked by the field team.

The survey transects were predominantly focused on the plantation and access tracks within the Deloraine Bauxite Mine Project footprint. Surface visibility within the plantation ranged from between <10% and 80%, with the average being 80%, which is in the high range. Surface visibility within the graded access tracks corridors ranged between <10% and 50%, with the average being 25%. Improved surface visibility was found along the ungraded access tracks which ranged from 50% and 100%, with the average being 80%. Vegetation cover was the main impediment to visibility.

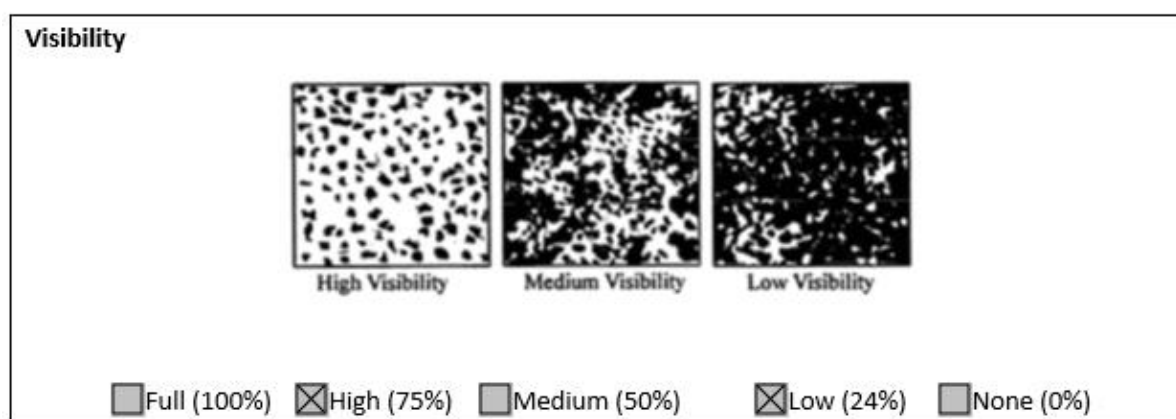


Figure 4: Guidelines for the estimation of surface visibility.

Effective Coverage

Variations in both survey coverage and surface visibility have a direct bearing on the ability of a field team to detect Aboriginal heritage sites, particularly site types such as isolated artefacts and artefact scatters (which are the site types most likely to occur in the study area). The combination of survey coverage and surface visibility is referred to as effective survey coverage. Table 3 presents the estimated effective survey coverage achieved during the course of the survey assessment. The effective coverage is estimated to have been around 200,965.75m². This level of effective coverage is assessed as being adequate for the purposes of determining the potential extent, nature and distribution of Aboriginal cultural heritage sites in the study area.

Table 1: Effective Survey Coverage achieved across the surveyed areas.

Area Surveyed	Survey Transects	Estimated Surface Visibility	Effective Survey Coverage
Plantation Rows	22130m x 10m= 221,300m ²	80%	177,040m ²
Graded Access Tracks	5819m x 5m= 29,095m ²	25%	7273.75m ²
Ungraded Access Tracks	4163m x 5m= 20,815m ²	80%	16,652m ²
Total	271,210m²		200,965.75m²



Plate 8: View north showing surface visibility at 80% within the plantation rows within the study area.



Plate 9: View northeast showing surface visibility at 25% on a graded access track within the study area.



Plate 10: View southwest showing surface visibility of 80% along an ungraded access track within the study area.



Plate 11: Show southwest showing an area of <10% surface visibility within the study area.

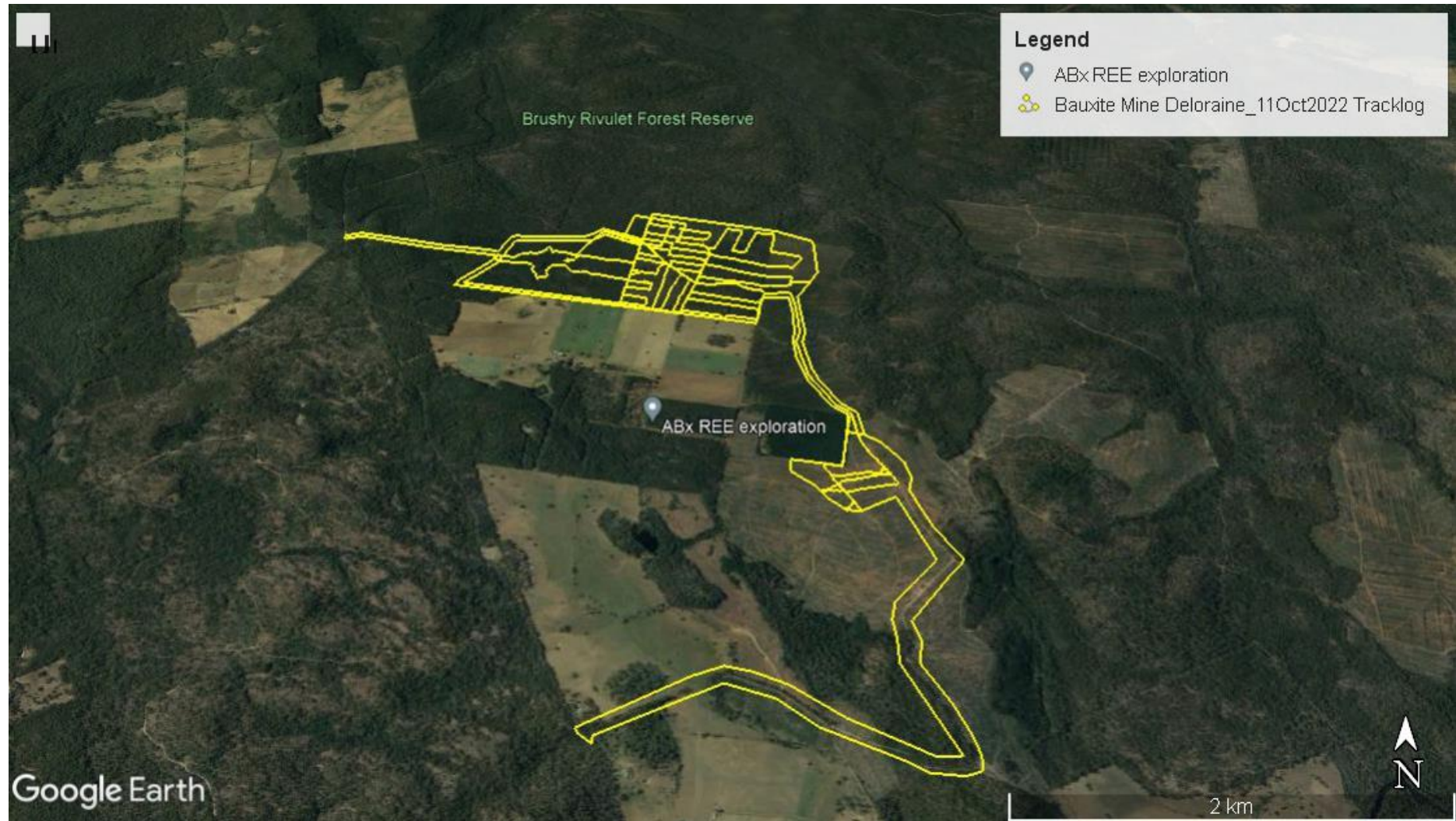


Figure 5: Aerial image showing survey transects walked by the field team across the study area.

4.0 Historic Heritage Background

4.1 Historic Context

The European settlement of the Meander Valley district, including Deloraine, Exton and Reedy Marsh was haphazard in manner. In the 1810s small farmers, and many emancipated convicts had begun settling in the Norfolk Plains district (the region around what is now Longford). Larger land grants being taken up by wealthier free men pushed the boundaries of European settlement westward towards Hadspen in 1818 and by the 1820s the township of Westbury marked the western boundary of settlement (Davies 2004:9). From the 1830s to the 1840s initial labour on farming estates and developing rural industries was provided by convicts. Convicts were also employed on public works in the region, including the construction of the first bridge in Deloraine, under the charge of Robert Notman (Davies 2004:12).

By the 1850s, settlement of the district saw by free settlers of primarily English, Scottish and Irish origin. In the town of Westbury, it was noted that Irish immigrants were the primary residents. Irish settlers also occupied the Deloraine area and its surround, settling on farming estates and at Reedy Marsh and Tongataboo (Weetah) (Davies 2004:14). Throughout the 1850s and the nineteenth century, more migrants would settle in the district and expansion into previously unoccupied land began with the several *Waste Lands Acts* (1850s–1870s). The *Waste Lands Acts* opened up more of the marginal lands for small-scale farming. In these acts, the small-scale farmers, or selectors, were forced into rougher country and cultivated the land by hand. Small selectors or ‘cocky’ farmers settled at Liffey, Cluan, Jackeys Marsh, Selbourne, Westwood, Christmas Hills and Reedy Marsh (Davies 2004:15–16). The *Waste Lands Acts* (1850s–1870s) began a minor land boom in Tasmania. In 1878 there were 16 holdings of 100 acres or less in the Meander district. By the 1890s the number had risen to 34 holdings of 100 acres or less in the Meander district (Davies 2004:16). Selections of more than 100 acres in the Meander Valley were located at Cheshunt estate, directly north of Deloraine (Davies 2004:16). In 1907, the Closer Settlement scheme saw the break-up of large estates that were believed to tied up by pastoralism to create smaller estates. The scheme was considered a failure (Davies 2004:18).

The increase in population in the district saw the development of commerce and retail within the Meander district. The establishment of post offices in 1865 in Deloraine, Exton and four other towns. By 1901 the postal service had been extended to 29 towns throughout the district (Davies 2004:28). Electronic telegraph services to the district came with the opening of the Launceston and Western Railway in 1871 and by 1901 there were electric telegraph connections in 15 towns and hamlets in the Meander district (Davies 2004:29).

Following World War I, the Soldier Settlement Scheme, which aimed to re-settle returned soldiers on the land, replaced the Closer Settlement Scheme in Tasmania (Davies 2004:18). Whitefoord Hills and Cheshunt estates were acquired and subdivided under the scheme in 1918. In 1923 Deloraine had an estimated 71 soldier settlement allotments, the fifth highest number of any Tasmanian municipality (Davies 2004:18). In 1920 an allotment at Exton was acquired for services homes, but it appears it was never developed and was resold in 1934. The soldier settlement scheme had disastrous consequences. The small sizes of the

allotments were usually unable to sustain a family and the settlers had little to no farming experience (Davies 2004:18). By 1928 only 800 of the 2000 soldiers originally settled under the scheme in Tasmania, were still on their allotted farms (Davies 2004:18).

Throughout these periods of settlement and agricultural growth in the Meander district, the mining and timber-based industries were also growing. The earliest known slate quarry in the area was recorded in 1829 and lime was being carted to Launceston from Beefeater Hill (4kms from Deloraine) by 1837. From the 1880s onwards, more intensive mining activity occurred in the remote plains and valleys of the district and surrounds. However none of these mines proved to be payable due to transport difficulties brought on by their remote locations (Davies 2004:21). Timber-based industries have been a vital element in the Meander district, including Reedy Marsh, since the mid-nineteenth century. Up until around 1900, the timber-based industries were localised, located in forest areas with small mills that provided essential building materials for homes, farms, bridges and railways and a means of providing a source of heat and power (Davies 2004:22; *Western Tiers* Thursday 24 February 1994:9). After 1900, the timber based industry in the district expanded and began to look outward as transport options improved, leading to the establishment of larger mills, although they continued to be locally operated. After World War II increased mechanisation led to larger centralised enterprises, bringing about the demise of small local mills. The timber-based industries within the Meander district have been under increased pressure since the 1970s (Davies 2004:22).

The twentieth century saw changes and development in the Meander district. The 1920s and 1930s saw a few itinerant hawkers from China and other Asian countries ply the Deloraine area and one Chinese merchant had a shop in the town. These hawkers were also a regular feature within small hamlets within the district, including Roelf Vos, a Dutch immigrant who sold products door to door, before successfully establishing a major supermarket chain (Davies 2004:41). The years after World War II saw an influx of migrants to the Meander district and greater Tasmania and today it is reflected in the diversity of within the region. Agriculture remains an important industry in the twenty-first century, but tourism has also become a significant industry.

4.2 Historic Heritage Assessments Previously Undertaken in the Vicinity of the Study Area

There have been several historic heritage assessments that have previously been undertaken in the general surrounds of the Deloraine Bauxite Mine Project site. These assessments have primarily been focused within the Deloraine township and the Meander Valley district areas and have ranged in scope from Desktop studies to detailed survey assessments. These assessments have resulted in the recording and documentation of a broad range of historic features associated with agriculture and community. Based on the review of the currently available literature, it appears that none of these recorded features are situated within the bounds of the Deloraine Bauxite Mine Project site. The reports reviewed as part of the literature review are presented below.

'To The Westward' Meander Valley Heritage Study Stage 1: Thematic History (prepared for Meander Valley Municipal Council, 2004 by Terry, I and K. Evans.)

Meander Valley Heritage Study Report (prepared for Meander Valley Municipal Council, 2006 by Paul Davies Pty Ltd Architects Heritage Consultants.)

4.3 Results of the Search of the Heritage Registers

A search was carried out of a number of historic registers and databases in order to determine the extent of historic sites and features in the vicinity of the study area. Agency databases searched included:

- Australian National Heritage List (NHL)
- The Australian Heritage Database (AHD)
- Tasmanian Heritage Register (THR)
- The Register of the National Estate (RNE)

The search of the various historic heritage registers shows that there are no registered historic sites or places located within a 5km radius of the Deloraine Bauxite Mine Project site.

5.0 Survey Results, Statement of Heritage Impacts and Statement of Archaeological Potential

The field survey assessment of the Deloraine Bauxite Mine Project study area resulted in the identification of one historic feature, this being a loggers' hut. The loggers' hut is located 370m north of the southern boundary of the study area (see Figure 6). As such, this site will most likely be directly physically impacted by the Deloraine Bauxite Mine Project. Table 2 provides the summary details for the Loggers Hut. The detailed description is provided in Appendix 2.

Besides the one historic feature described above, no other historic sites or suspected features were identified during the field survey assessment. As discussed in section 4.3, the heritage registers search results show that there are no registered heritage sites or features that are situated within the study area.

As noted in section 3 surface visibility across the proposed bauxite mine footprint ranged between <10% and 80%, with the estimated average being 70%. Throughout the study area, there was a network of previously graded and ungraded vehicle tracks that provided transects of improved surface visibility. There were also numerous areas where plantation harvesting and clearing were present that provided locates of improved visibility. To offset constrained surface visibility, any areas of improved visibility were inspected in detail. The constraints in surface visibility limited the effectiveness of the survey assessment to some extent and it can't be stated that with absolute certainty that there are no additional undetected heritage features present in the study area. If undetected features are present in the study area, they are likely to be representative of either small-scale or large-scale selective logging activity. There is evidence to indicate that more intensive logging activity was carried out in the past within the Exton and Reedy Marsh areas and as such it is very unlikely that more substantive historic heritage features will be present in the study area.

Table 2: Summary details for historic heritage sites recorded during the field survey assessment of the Deloraine Bauxite Mine Project

Site Name	Grid Reference (GDA94)	Site Description
Loggers Hut	E478432 N5409806	<p>The site is accessed via Porters Bridge Road and a graded access track and is located 370m north of the southern boundary of the study area. The loggers' hut is likely to be of local significance.</p> <p>The loggers' hut is likely to be directly impacted by the proposed Deloraine Bauxite Mine Project works.</p>

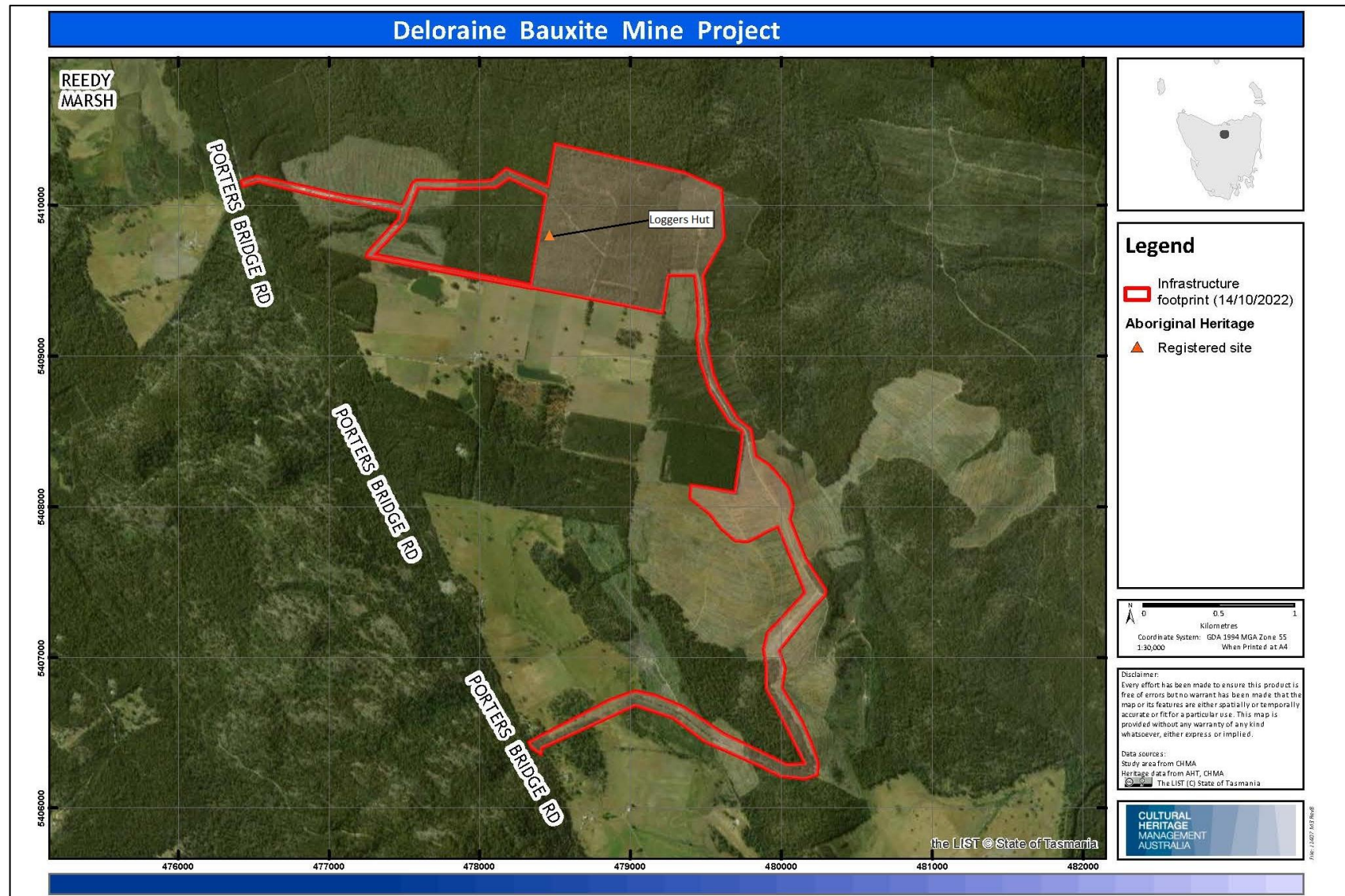


Figure 6: Aerial image showing the location of the loggers' hut in relation to the Deloraine Bauxite Mine Project footprint.

6.0 Statutory Controls and Legislative Requirements

The following provides a summary overview of the various legislative instruments and statutory requirements relating to historic heritage in Tasmania. The review is presented in order to provide the proponent with a basic understanding of the statutory frameworks and procedures relating to heritage in Tasmania.

6.1 National Conventions

Council of Australian Governments Agreement 1997

In 1997, COAG reached an agreement on Commonwealth, State and local government roles and responsibilities for heritage management. Local government, through the Australian Local Government Association, and the Tasmanian Government were both signatories to this Agreement. The Agreement resulted in the following outcomes:

- Acceptance of a tiered model of heritage management, with the definition of places as being of either, world, national, state or of local heritage significance;
- Nominations of Australian places for the World Heritage List and management of Australia's obligations under the World Heritage Convention would be carried out by the Commonwealth Government;
- A new National Heritage System on one was created in January 2004, comprising the Australian Heritage Council (AHC), National Heritage List (NHL) and Commonwealth Heritage List (CHL);
- The Commonwealth Government, through the Australian Heritage Council, would be responsible for listing, protecting and managing heritage places of national significance;
- State and Territory Governments would be responsible for listing, protecting and managing heritage places of state significance; and
- Local government would be responsible for listing, protecting and managing heritage places of local significance.

Environment Protection and Heritage Council of the Australian and State/Territory Governments 1998

In 1998, the National Heritage Convention proposed a set of common criteria to be used in order to better assess, understand and manage the heritage values of places.

The Environment Protection and Heritage Council of the Australian and State/Territory Governments adopted this as a national set of desirable common criteria (known as the HERCON criteria). The adoption of these criteria by Heritage Tasmania has not yet been formalised. These criteria are also based upon the Burra Charter values. The Common Criteria (HERCON Criteria) adopted in April 2008 are summarised below:

- a) *Importance to the course or pattern of our cultural or natural history.*
- b) *Possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of our cultural or natural history.*
- c) *Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of our cultural or natural history.*
- d) *Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural or natural places or environments.*
- e) *Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics*

- f) *Importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period.*
- g) *Strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons. This includes the significance of a place to Indigenous peoples as part of their continuing and developing cultural traditions.*
- h) *Special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in our history.*

These criteria have been endorsed by the Heritage Chairs and Officials of Australia and New Zealand (HCOANZ) in the Supporting Local Government Project document, "Protecting Local Heritage Places: A National Guide for Local Government and Communities" (March 2009).

Burra Charter 1999

Australia ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites) is the peak body of professionals working in heritage conservation in Australia. The Burra Charter was adopted by Australia ICOMOS in 1979 in Burra, South Australia based on other international conventions. Further revisions were adopted in 1981, 1988 and 1999 to ensure the Charter continues to reflect best practice in heritage and conservation management. The current version of the Australia ICOMOS Burra Charter 1999 is the only version that should be used.

The Burra Charter provides guidance for the conservation and management of places of cultural significance (cultural heritage places), and is based on the knowledge and experience of Australian ICOMOS members. The Charter sets a standard of practice for those who provide advice, make decisions about, or undertake works to places of cultural significance, including owners, managers and custodians.

The Charter recognises the need to involve people in the decision-making process, particularly those that have strong associations with a place. It also advocates a cautious approach to changing heritage places: do as much as necessary to care for the place and to make it useable, but otherwise change it as little as possible so that its cultural significance is retained.

6.2 Commonwealth Legislation

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

The Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) provides for the listing of natural, historic or indigenous places that are of outstanding national heritage value to the Australian nation as well as heritage places on Commonwealth lands and waters under Australian Government control.

Once a heritage place is listed under the EPBC Act, special requirements come into force to ensure that the values of the place will be protected and conserved for future generations.

The following heritage lists are established through the EPBC Act:

- *National Heritage List* - a list of places of natural, historic and indigenous places that are of outstanding national heritage value to the Australian nation
- *Commonwealth Heritage List* - a list of natural, historic and indigenous places of significance owned or controlled by the Australian Government.

- *List of Overseas Places of Historic Significance to Australia* – this list recognises symbolic sites of outstanding historic significance to Australia but not under Australian jurisdiction.

Australian Heritage Council Act 2003

The Australian Heritage Council is a body of heritage experts that replaced the Australian Heritage Commission as the Australian Government's independent expert advisory body on heritage matters when the new Commonwealth Heritage System was introduced in 2004 under amendments to the Environment Protection and Biodiversity and Conservation Act 1999.

The Council plays a key role in the assessment, advice and policy formulation and support of major heritage programs. Its main responsibilities are to assess and nominate places for the National Heritage List and the Commonwealth Heritage List, promote the identification, assessment, conservation and monitoring of heritage; and advise the Minister on various heritage matters.

Protection of Movable Cultural Heritage Act 1986

The PMCH Act regulates the export of cultural heritage objects from Australia. The purpose of the Act is to protect, for the benefit of the nation, objects which if exported would significantly diminish Australia's cultural heritage. Some Australian protected objects of Aboriginal, military heritage and historical significance cannot be granted a permit for export. Other Australian-protected objects may be exported provided a permit or certificate has been obtained.

6.3 State Legislation

Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993

This Act (LUPA) is the cornerstone of the State Resource Management and Planning System (RMPS). It establishes the legitimacy of local planning schemes and regulates land use planning and development across Tasmania. With regard to historic heritage, LUPAA requires that planning authorities will work to conserve those buildings, areas or other places which are of scientific, aesthetic, architectural or historical interest, or otherwise of special cultural value" [Schedule 1 Part 2(g)].

Resource Planning and Development Commission Act 1997

The Resource Planning and Development Commission (now referred to as the Tasmanian Planning Commission) is responsible for overseeing Tasmania's planning system, approving planning schemes and amendments to schemes and assessing Projects of State Significance. In terms of heritage management, the TPC will consider the establishment of heritage overlays, precincts or areas as part of the creation of planning schemes.

Resource Management and Planning Appeal Tribunal Act 1993

The Resource Management and Planning Appeal Tribunal determine planning appeals and enforce the Acts within the RMPS. The Tribunal plays an important role in the management of heritage places through its determinations on proposed development on, or near to, places of heritage significance.

Historic Cultural Heritage Act 1995

The *Historic Cultural Heritage Act 1995* (HCH Act) is the key piece of Tasmanian legislation for the identification, assessment and management of historic cultural heritage places. The stated purpose of the HCH Act is to promote the identification, assessment, protection and conservation of places having historic cultural heritage significance and to establish the Tasmanian Heritage Council". The HCH Act also includes the requirements to:

- establish and maintain the Tasmanian Heritage Register (THR);
- provide for a system for a system of approvals for work on places on the Register;
- provide for Heritage Agreements and assistance to property owners;
- provide for protection of shipwrecks;
- provide for control mechanisms and penalties for breaches of the Act.

Under the HCH Act, "conservation" in relation to a place is defined as

- the retention of the historic cultural heritage significance of the place; and
- any maintenance, preservation, restoration, reconstruction and adaption of the place.

The definition of "place" under the HCH Act includes:

- a site, precinct or parcel of land;
- any building or part of a building;
- any shipwreck;
- any item in or on, or historically or physically associated or connected with, a site precinct or parcel of land where the primary importance of the item derives in part from its association with that site, precinct or parcel of land; and
- any equipment, furniture, fittings, and articles in or on, or historically or physically associated or connected with any building or item.

The Act created the Tasmanian Heritage Council (THC), which came into existence in 1997 and operates within the State RMPS. The THC is a statutory body, separate from government, which is responsible for the administration of the HCH Act and the establishment of the Tasmanian Heritage Register (THR), which lists all places assessed as having heritage values of state significance. The THC also assesses works that may affect the heritage significance of places and provides advice to state and local government on heritage matters. The primary task of the THC is as a resource management and planning body, which is focused on heritage conservation issues. Any development on heritage-listed places requires the approval of the THC before works can commence.

Heritage Tasmania (HT), which is part of the Department of Primary Industry, Parks, Water and the Environment, also plays a key role in fulfilling statutory responsibilities under the HCH Act.

HT has three core roles:

- coordinating historic heritage strategy and activity for the State Government;
- supporting the Tasmanian Heritage Council to implement the HCH Act; and
- facilitating the development of the historic heritage register.

In 2013, *Historic Cultural Heritage Act 1995* was amended, with the primary goal of streamlining the approvals process and better align the Heritage Act with the Planning Act. Under the Amendment applicants need only lodge a single Development Application (DA)

(as opposed to both a Works Application and DA), which will be referred to the Heritage Council by the local planning authority. Heritage Council then has the opportunity to advise the planning authority whether or not it has an interest in the DA and may request further information under s57 of the LUPAA. If the Heritage Council does not have an interest in the DA, it reverts to the status it has under the Scheme or Planning Act. Where Heritage Council does have an interest in the DA, the Council decision must be incorporated into the final permit (or refusal) issued by the local planning authority.

Also included in the amendments is the incorporation of the HERCON significance criteria for assessing the significance of heritage sites. The Heritage Council may enter a place in the Heritage Register if it is satisfied that the place has historic cultural heritage significance by meeting threshold values for one or more of eight individual criteria. Aesthetic characteristics of a place now forms the eighth criterion against which heritage significance may be assessed.

Works to places included in the THR require approval, either through a Certificate of Exemption for works which will have no or negligible impact, or through a discretionary permit for those works which may impact on the significance of the place.

Discretionary permit applications are lodged with the relevant local planning authority. On receipt, the application is sent to the Heritage Council, which will firstly decide whether they have an interest in determining the application. If the Heritage Council has no interest in the matter, the local planning authority will determine the application.

If the Heritage Council has an interest in determining the application, a number of matters may be relevant to its decision. This includes the likely impact of the works on the significance of the place; any representations; and any regulations and works guidelines issued under the HCH Act. The Heritage Council may also consult with the planning authority when making a decision.

In making a decision, the Heritage Council will exercise one of three options: consent to the discretionary permit being granted; consent to the discretionary permit being granted subject to certain conditions; or advise the planning authority that the discretionary permit should be refused. The Heritage Council's decision is then forwarded to the planning authority, which will incorporate the decision into any planning permit

Works Guidelines for Historic Heritage Places

The Tasmanian Heritage Council and Heritage Tasmania have issued Works Guidelines for Historic Heritage Places. The guidelines provide a general reference for the types of works, which may be exempt, or those where a permit will be required. They also define appropriate outcomes for a range of different works and development scenarios. Although specifically designed for places included in the THR, the guidelines provide useful advice for the management of heritage places generally.

6.4 Local Planning Schemes

The *Tasmanian Planning Scheme* came into effect on 22 July 2020 and replaced the former Local Interim Planning Schemes.

The *Tasmanian Planning Scheme* provides a single planning scheme and a consistent set of rules and requirements in relation to the manner in which all land in Tasmania may be used, developed, protected and conserved. It consists of two parts:

1. **State Planning Provisions** contain the mandatory common rules that are to apply in all municipal areas. For consistency in permit and compliance requirements that must be met by a proposed use or development.
2. **Local Provision Schedule** for each municipal area setting out how the State Planning Provisions are to apply.

The planning scheme supports strategic land use planning for residential, business, agriculture, utilities, environmental and recreational zones. The scheme includes considerations such as natural hazards, local heritage values, natural assets, parking requirements and the protection of road, railway and electricity infrastructure.

Section C6 of the *Tasmanian Planning Scheme* deals specifically with the Local Heritage Code. The stated purpose of the code is to recognise and protect the local historic heritage significance of local places, precincts, landscapes and areas of archaeological potential and significant trees by regulating development that may impact on their values, features and characteristics. This code applies to:

(a) development on land within any of the following, as defined in this code:

- (i) a local heritage place;
- (ii) a local heritage precinct;
- (iii) a local historic landscape precinct; and
- (iv) for excavation only, a place or precinct of archaeological potential;

and

(b) the lopping, pruning, removal or destruction of a significant tree as defined in this code.

If a site is listed as a local heritage place and also within a local heritage precinct or local historic landscape precinct, it is only necessary to demonstrate compliance with the standards for the local heritage place unless demolition, buildings and works are proposed for an area of the site outside the identified specific extent of the local heritage place.

This code does not apply to a registered place entered on the Tasmanian Heritage Register.

7.0 Heritage Management Plan

Management Recommendations

Heritage management options and recommendations provided in this report are made based on the following criteria.

- The legal and procedural requirements as specified in section 4 of this report.
- The results of the investigation as documented in this report.
- The results of the Historic heritage register search.

Recommendation 1 (Loggers Hut)

The loggers' hut is located 370m north of the southern boundary of the study area and is likely to be directly impacted by the proposed Deloraine Bauxite Mine Project works.

The loggers' hut is not listed on any of the heritage registers, although it is likely to be of local heritage significance. The loggers' hut would not meet the threshold requirements for State or National significance.

Due to the poor condition of the site, in-situ conservation is not warranted. It is recommended that the site be recorded and photographed, no further action is required.

Recommendation 2 (Historic Heritage)

The historic heritage registers search results show that there are no heritage places located within or in the immediate surrounds of the study area that are listed on any of the local, State or National heritage registers. It is assessed that there is a low to very low potential for historic heritage features to be present. If there are features present, they are likely to be associated with the early pastoral settlement and logging industry of Exton/Reedy Marsh.

Recommendation 3 (Unanticipated Discovery Plan for Historic Heritage)

The procedures outlined in Practice Note No 2 issued by the Tasmanian Heritage Council, processes should be followed should any unexpected archaeological features and/or deposits be revealed during development works.

A summary of the Unanticipated Discovery Plan processes for historic heritage is presented in section 8.

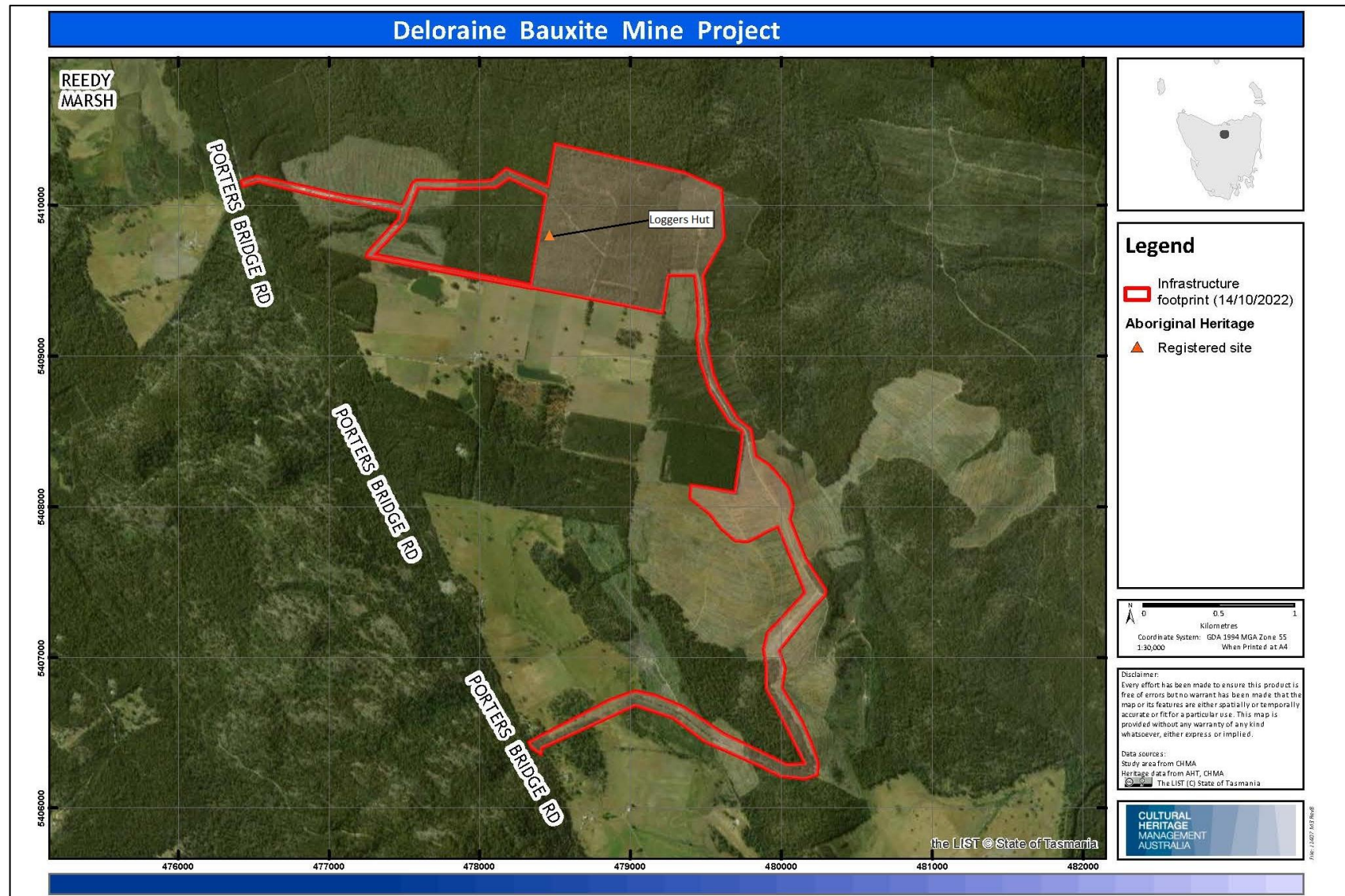


Figure 7: Aerial image showing the location of the loggers' hut in relation to the Deloraine Bauxite Mine Project footprint.

8.0 Unanticipated Discovery Plan

The following text describes the proposed method for dealing with unanticipated discoveries of heritage features or objects during the proposed Palmerston Battery Project development. The plan provides guidance to project personnel so that they may meet their obligations with respect to heritage legislation. Please Note: There are two different processes presented for the mitigation of these unanticipated discoveries. The first process applies to the discovery of all cultural heritage objects or features, with the exception of skeletal remains (burials). The second process applies exclusively to the discovery of skeletal remains (burials).

Discovery of Heritage Objects or Features

Step 1

If any person believes that they have discovered or uncovered a heritage object or feature, the individual should notify any machinery operators that are working in the general vicinity of the area that earth disturbance works should stop immediately.

Step 2

A buffer protection zone of 5m x 5m should be established around the suspected heritage find. No unauthorised entry or earth disturbance will be allowed within this 'archaeological zone' until such time as the suspected heritage find has been assessed, and appropriate mitigation measures have been carried out.

Step 3

A qualified heritage consultant should be engaged to assess the suspected heritage find. As a first step in the process, the heritage consultant should contact Heritage Tasmania, the Heritage Council and the Local Council and notify them of the find. The heritage consultant will ensure that Heritage Tasmania, the Heritage Council and the Local Council are consulted throughout the assessment process.

Step 4

If the heritage find is a movable object, then the find should be recorded, photographed and a decision should be made as to whether the object should be re-located to a designated Keeping Place. If the find is an unmovable heritage object or feature, then the find should be recorded and photographed and a HIA and HMP developed for the feature. This should be then submitted to Heritage Tasmania, the Heritage Council and the Local Council for review and advice.

Possible outcomes may necessitate:

- a. An amendment to the design of the development
- b. Carrying out of archaeological excavations prior to the re-commencement of works
- c. Archaeological monitoring and recording during works
- d. Preparation (and implementation) of a strategy to ensure communication of the new information to the community.
- e. A combination of the above.

Discovery of Skeletal Material

Step 1:

Call the Police immediately. Under no circumstances should the suspected skeletal material be touched or disturbed. The area should be managed as a crime scene. It is a criminal offence to interfere with a crime scene.

Step 2:

Any person who believes they have uncovered skeletal material should notify all employees or contractors working in the immediate area that all earth disturbance works cease immediately.

Step 3:

A temporary 'no-go' or buffer zone of at least 50m x 50m should be implemented to protect the suspected skeletal material, where practicable. No unauthorised entry or works will be allowed within this 'no-go' zone until the suspected skeletal remains have been assessed by the Police and/or Coroner.

Step 4:

If it is suspected that the skeletal material is Aboriginal, Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania should be notified.

Step 5:

Should the skeletal material be determined to be Aboriginal, the Coroner will contact the Aboriginal organisation approved by the Attorney-General, as per the *Coroners Act 1995*.

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- Western Tiers* Thursday 24 February 1994 pg.9.

Appendix 1

Gazetteer of Recorded Sites

***Summary details for historic heritage sites recorded during the field survey
assessment of the Deloraine Bauxite Mine Project.***

Site Name	Grid Reference (GDA94)	Site Description
Loggers Hut	E478432 N5409806	<p>The site is accessed via Porters Bridge Road and a graded access track and is located 370m north of the southern boundary of the study area. The loggers' hut is likely to be of local significance.</p> <p>The loggers' hut is likely to be directly impacted by the proposed Deloraine Bauxite Mine Project works.</p>

Appendix 2

Detailed Descriptions for Historic Heritage Sites

Site Name: Loggers hut

Grid Reference:

— E 478432 N 5409806

Site Description:

The loggers' hut is located 370m north of the southern boundary of the study area and is immediately surrounded by eucalypt forest and bracken fern. The hut consists of a corrugated iron roof, a corrugated iron chimney and fireplace, one surviving window and hardwood timber cladding, most likely sourced locally. The hut is approximately 4m x 5m and is in very poor condition

An exact date of construction was unable to be ascertained, however, a surviving contemporary example known as Hills Hut, built in 1960 by Bruce Hill, provides a date range of c.1940 to c.1960 for the loggers' hut (Mountain Huts Preservation Society Inc 2022).

The site is assessed as being of low-medium significance on a local level. The site would not meet the threshold for State significance.

The loggers' hut is likely to be directly impacted by the proposed Deloraine Bauxite Mine Project works.

There are no features associated with the loggers' hut that would warrant in-situ conservation. Record and photograph, after that no further action required has been deemed the most appropriate mitigation strategy for this site.



Plate 12: View northwest showing the loggers hut and associated features.