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HISTORIC CULTURAL HERITAGE SURVEY

PROPOSED LONG REACH MILL SITE Big Bay and Williams Creek allotments

FINAL REPORT



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1.0 INTRODUCTION

This section summarises the origins and scope of this investigation in addition to the various sources accessed by the consultant in order to determine relevant historic site identities and locations.

1.1 Background

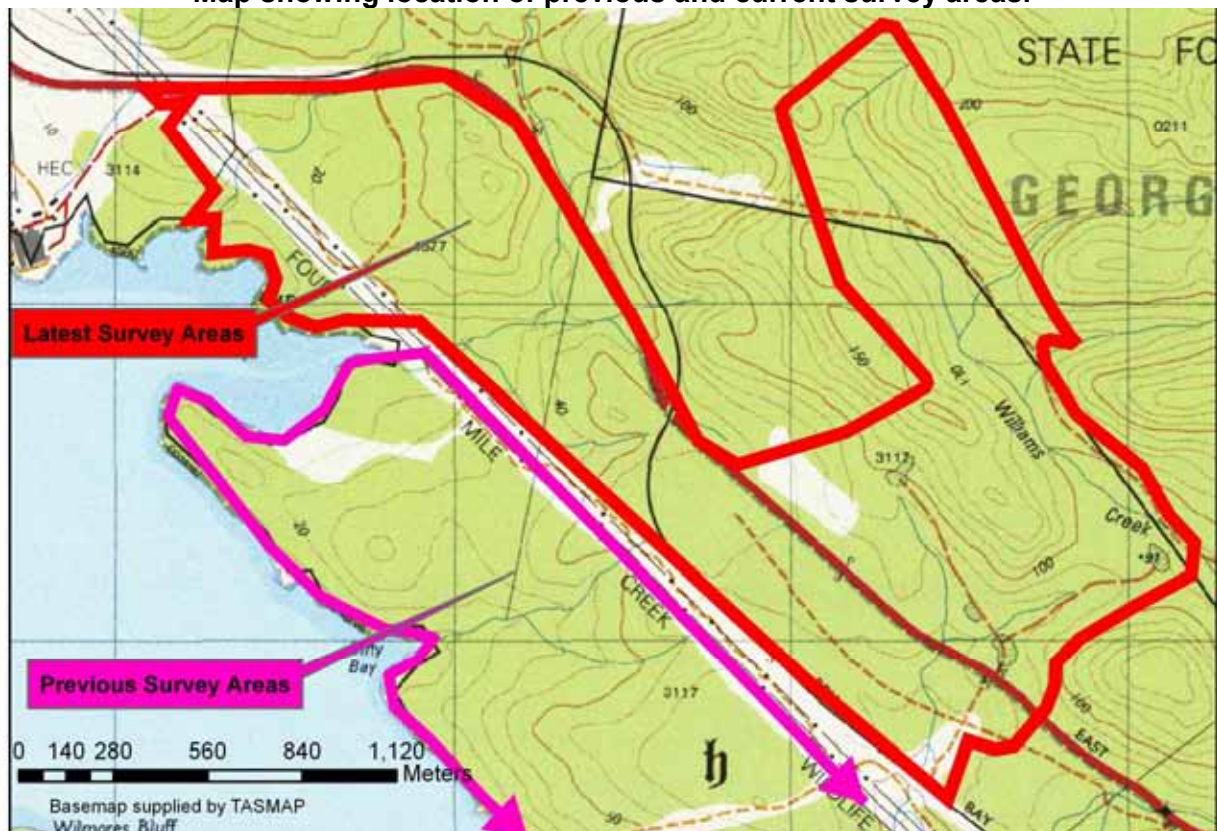
As a part of its commercial operations, Gunns Limited is investigating the possibility of constructing a new pulp mill facility in the East Tamar Region of Tasmania. The location of this facility is on private property northwest of its existing mill at Long Reach. In addition to the coastal mill site itself, three allotments have been proposed as the venue for ancillary infrastructure including a dam impoundment and quarry.

The first mill property has already been assessed in two stages and its contents reported previously (Kostoglou, January 2005). This current historic cultural heritage assessment has been subsequently commissioned in order to establish if any historic sites of significance occur on additional private allotments situated closer to the Bell Bay power station to the northwest and in the Williams Creek catchment to the east taken as a result of these additional requirements.

1.2 Location and extent of survey areas

The proposed development is situated on the east bank of the Tamar River in the East Tamar region of northern Tasmania between the Bell Bay power station in the north and Gunns Ltd's current Long Reach mill plant. The site is eight kilometres south east of Georgetown and is currently accessed by unsealed tracks adjoining the East Tamar Highway and the Bell Bay railway. More specifically, the property examined during this latest assessment was a crudely 'U' shaped section of land containing a two kilometre long section of William Creek to the east and 400 metres of river frontage at Big Bay to the northwest. This area is indicated on the map appearing below.

Map showing location of previous and current survey areas.



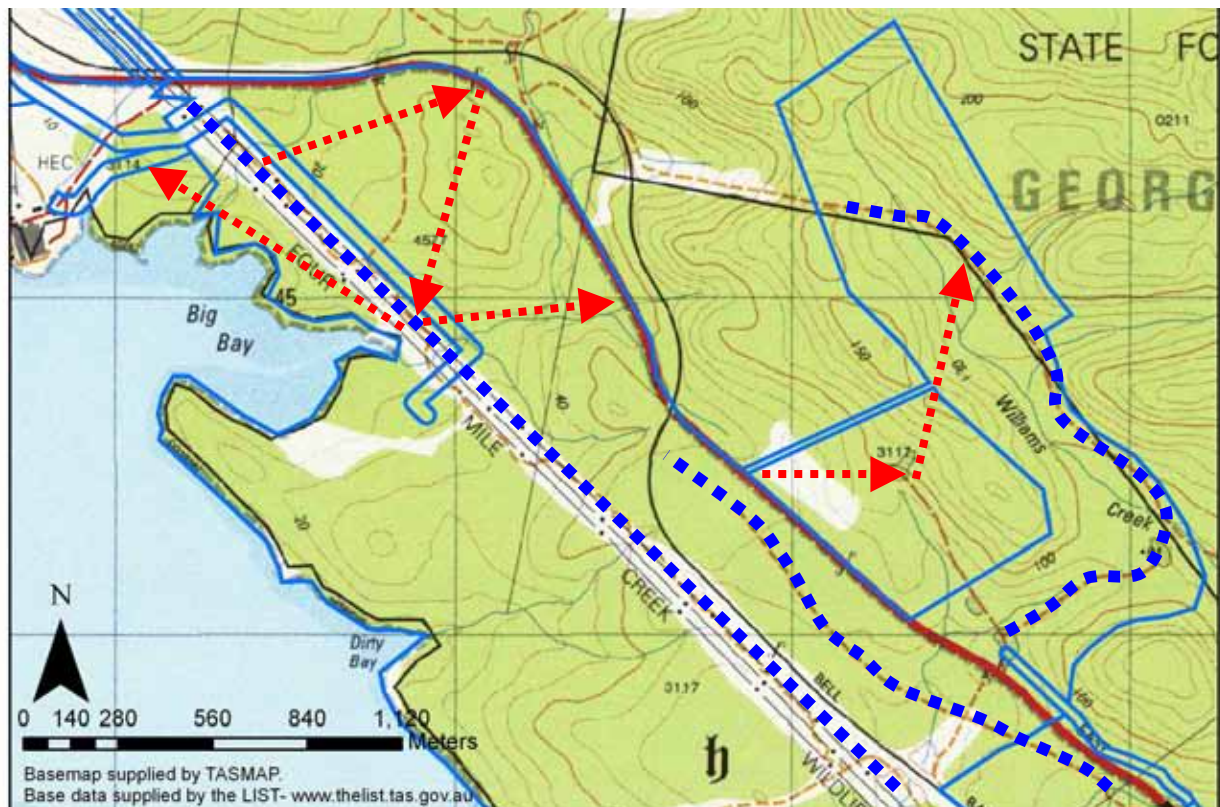
1.3 Objectives

The stated verbal objectives at the project briefing required the consultant to:

- Undertake field work upon the additional land in order to locate, record and assess all resident historic sites.
- Provide a report detailing the results of the field work in addition to management recommendations for any sites discovered within the additional areas.

1.4 Methodology

The consultant had previously undertaken a desktop review of all relevant land management agency data bases and related contemporary and historic maps in order to determine potential historic site types and locations. Fieldwork for the additional land sections could therefore be undertaken without further consultation with these sources. Field work was completed over a three day period during which the consultant traversed the allotments on foot by means of several coastal and cross country transects which bisected the bulk of the additional properties. All historic sites encountered were recorded photographically and descriptions annotated in a field note book. The location of each site was pin pointed using a hand held GPS (global positioning system) unit. This report was subsequently authored over a two day period.



Map showing length and orientation of additional survey transects undertaken for the purposes of this survey. Motorised transects are marked in broken blue while cross country transects appear as broken red arrows.

1.5 Summary of site based sources

The following table summarises the various agency data bases and other sources consulted for site based information prior to the commencement of field work.

Agency/Source	Data base/document	Historic sites identified
DTPHA	THPI register	None
DTPHA	State Heritage Register	None
DTPHA	Various Lands Titles	None
Mineral Resources Tasmania	MIRLOC	None
Mineral Resources Tasmania	Discontinued/archived County Charts	None
Australian Heritage Commission	Register of National Estate	None
Forest Practices Board	Archaeological Site register	None
State Archives Office	Various historic maps	None

1.6 Previously known sites within impact area

No historic sites were identified by any cited source prior to the commencement of field work.

2.0 SUMMARY OF RESULTS

This section seeks to summarise the total suite of sites located/recorded during this survey.

2.1 Sites located during survey

The following table summarises the identity and significance of all sites located/recorded during this survey.

Site name	Site No.	AMG grid reference	Historic theme	Significance rating	Recommendations
Big Bay Creek stone mound	01	E 0492237 N 5445214	Riverine occupation	Medium Significance	This site is situated on the Bell Bay power station property. However the site should still be flagged and protected from any impact.
Williams Creek fence posts	02		Pastoral	Minimal significance	None made

2.2 Statement of Cultural Significance

Of the sites and features recorded during this survey, one is considered sufficiently significant to warrant further management related consideration, this being Big Bay Creek stone mound which appears to form part of an ephemeral historic coastal settlement. This site type appears to be very poorly represented in either the statutory or data management registers examined by this consultant. Certainly for the Tamar River region, this type of riverine encampment would appear to have so far escaped investigation by archaeologists. As such their numbers, origins and ultimate significance remain to be adequately determined. Until such time, these sites and all related vestiges are considered unusual and significant remnants of 19th century Tamar River valley occupation and treated accordingly.

3.0 SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

The following site specific and generic recommendations are made in regard to the management of historic cultural heritage at the proposed development site.

3.1 Site specific recommendations

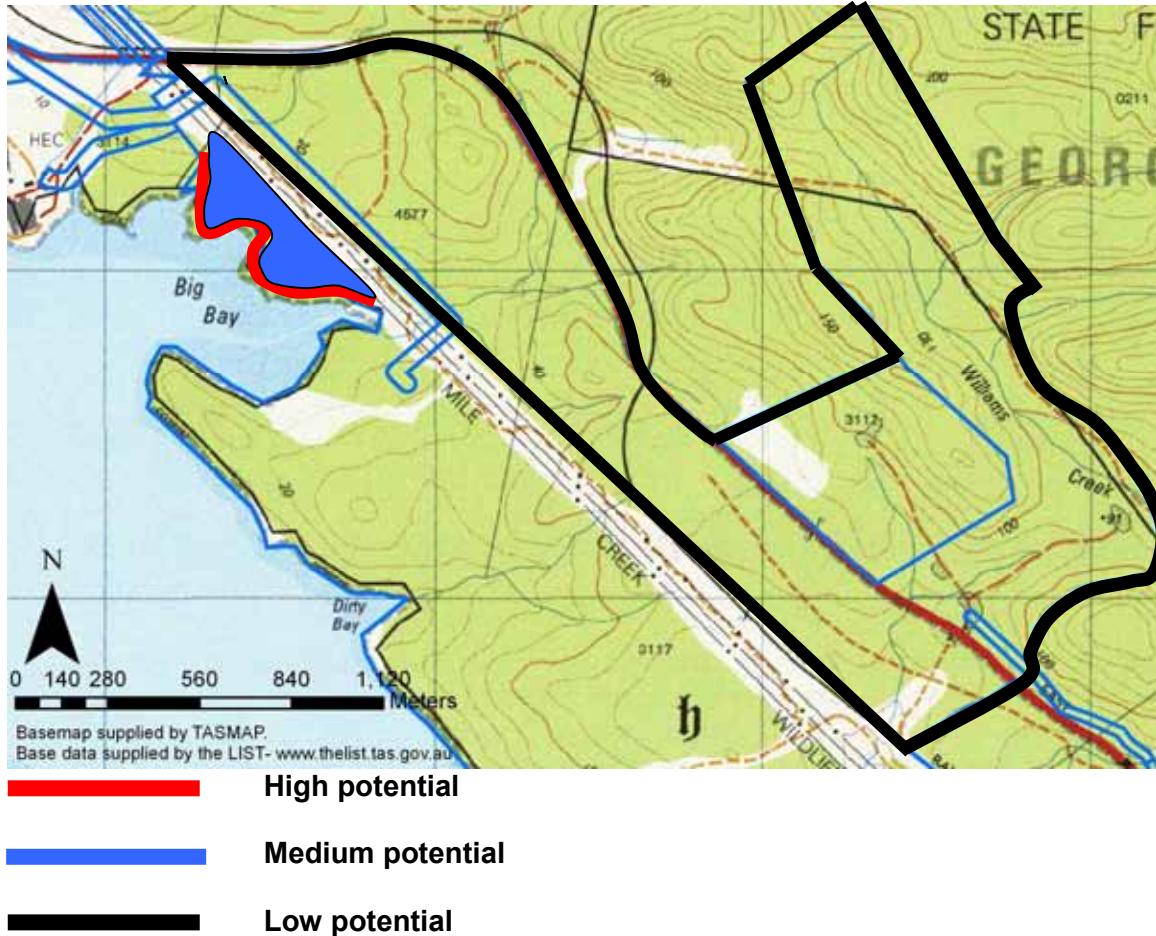
Given these significance thresholds, it is the opinion of this consultant that Big Bay Creek stone mound should be protected from any development related impact. Any forward site planning for structures or services should therefore be mindful of this constraint, especially in regard the gas pipeline which passes the site some 50-75 metres to the east.

3.2 General recommendations

The consultant surveyed all parts of the additional property deemed likely to contain sites, however this ground based assessment was not a total one. Although it is considered unlikely that any further sites will be discovered, this must be anticipated. It is therefore further recommended that the relevant statutory bodies be consulted immediately, in the event that any sites or features are found during on site preparation/development that are not described in this report. In order to better clarify the likelihood of any new sites being discovered, a predictive modelling summary appears in section 4.0 overleaf.

4.0 PREDICTIVE MODELLING

This section seeks to quantify the potential for further unknown historic sites to be situated within the study area.



4.1 High potential zoning

Coastal inlets appear to have been the most likely venues for settlement in this riverine environment. Maritime access was the most ready means of movement and the conveyance of goods until the post war completion of the East Tamar Highway, and settlement patterns would be expected to reflect this. Certainly, the results of previous fieldwork for the purposes of this development support this model, with all of the located sites/features being situated within the same environment which possessed the following attributes:

- An adjacent/nearby sheltered inlet
- Fresh potable water
- Readily available construction materials (stone and timber)

4.2 Medium potential zoning

Precipitous coastal settings were obviously a less desirable venue for settlement than flat foreshore environments unless extreme competition for space occurred. Therefore sites involving less arduous movement and passage of goods between buildings and the boat landing were preferentially selected. Previous field survey work at the study area would further support this model, as sites were much less frequent and less significant as the coastal terrain became progressively steeper.

4.3 Low potential zoning

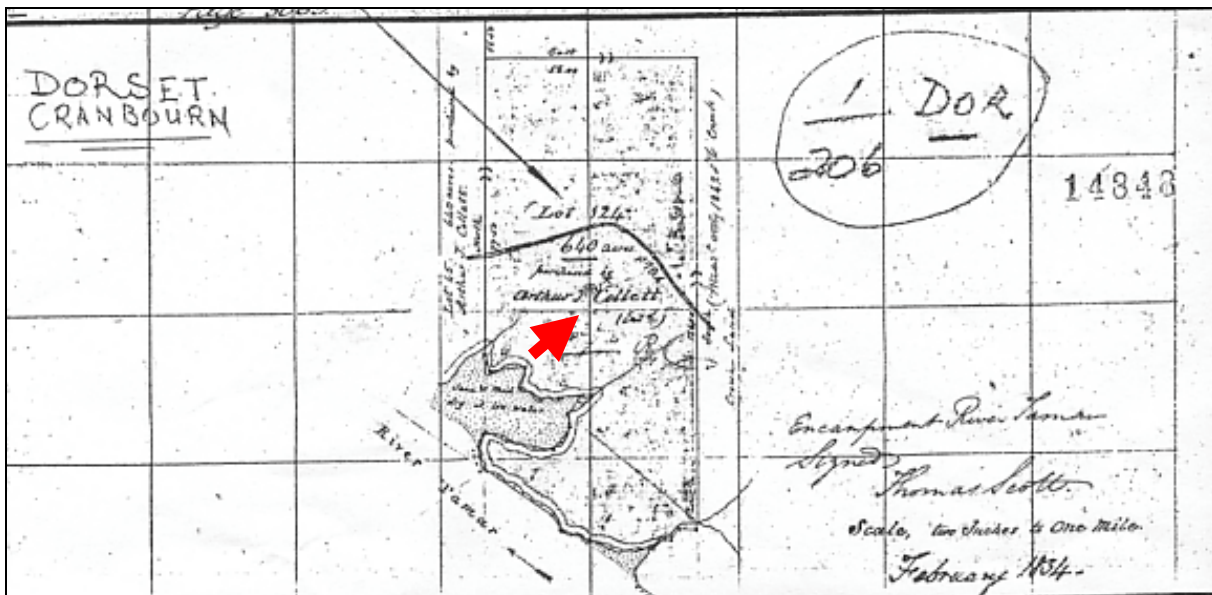
Inland areas at the subject site were sub divided for settlement. However this appears to have related to pastoral activities undertaken from one nearby property only. Therefore the likelihood that any sustained occupation or non pastoral activities would tend to be minimal. The Old George town coach road on the approximate alignment of the present highway is likewise well north of the subject property.

5.0 SUMMARY OF PRINCIPAL HISTORIC THEMES

This section summarises the principal historic themes and related activities known to have occurred in the vicinity of the survey area between initial Aboriginal/European contact and the present.

5.1 Exploration and settlement (1805-1820)

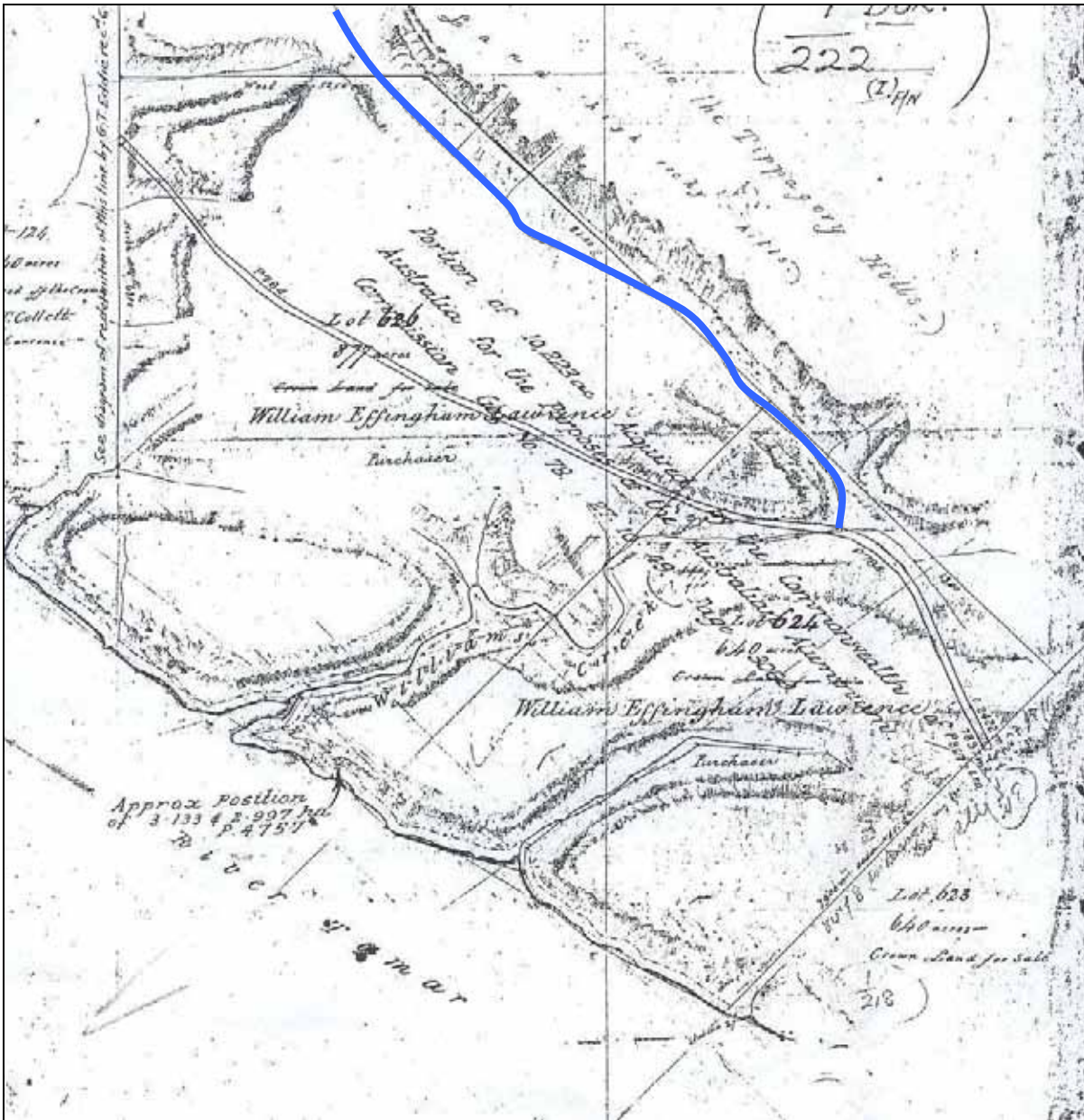
In late November 1798, the explorers Bass and Flinders navigated up the Tamar River as a part of their voyage designed to prove the separation of Van Diemen's Land from the Australian mainland. An incidental result of this diversion was the naming of 'Long Reach' and other nearby promontories such as 'Point Rapide' by the intrepid pair. The first European settlement occurred in 1805, when Colonel William Paterson established a cattle grazing station at Point Rapid(e) as part of the northern region's first European settlement at Yorktown after the cattle failed to thrive at that locality. In 1812, Governor Lachlan Macquarie established George Town as a proposed new northern capital for the colony. The first official land sub division and settlement outside of George Town did not occur until 1817. However, local historians believe that unofficial squatters camps had spread up river prior to that date and these presumably were the sole European occupational presence along the river until the early 1830s, when the riverside acreages were initially surveyed and sold off by the Crown.



Original Crown surveys dated 1834 showing initial selection of nearby lands surrounding Big Bay. The red arrow marks the subject allotment forming the major focus of this assessment.

5.2 Pastoralism (1830-1940)

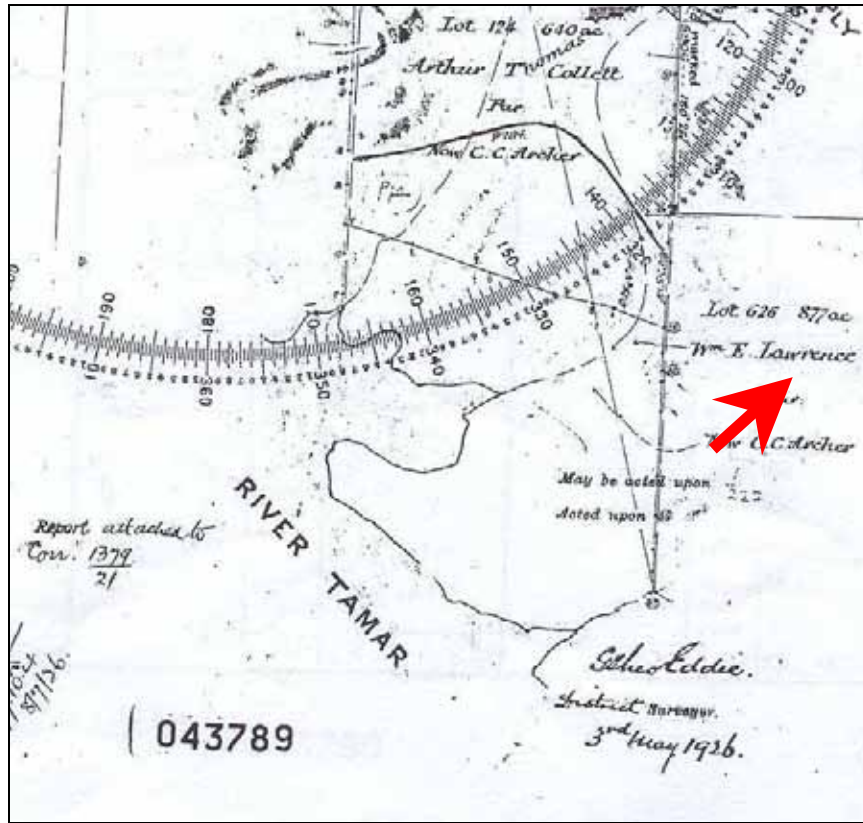
The earliest known land purchases in the Long Reach vicinity appear to have occurred further up river at Big Bay and Donovans Bay (the location of the Bell Bay thermal power station) in 1834. That year saw surveys carried out for the subdivision of the land there into 640 acre blocks selected by one Arthur F. Collett. In 1840, the land around Long Reach including the subject allotments were sub divided into similar 640 acre allotments and selected by William Effingham Lawrence who established a large homestead and pastoral property at Point Effingham which stretched from George Town south to East Arm. A notable if short term event in Long Reach occurred at this time was the naval frigate HMS Beagle whose crew beached the vessel there and careened her bottom before completing their global voyage of scientific discovery. By the early 1900's, coastal land between George Town and East Arm had become acquired by the Archer Family who built their homestead 'Lauriston' at the site of the present golf course.



1840 survey showing initial selection of allotments further inland including Williams Creek vicinity (bold blue line)

5.3 Industrial developments (1950-present)

The Archers retained the land until 1950 when the Bell Bay site was developed by the State as a premier industrial estate for aluminium production. In due course, the Comalco facility, Temco plant and Bell Bay power station were established. The Four Mile Creek Wildlife Sanctuary was proclaimed over remaining coastal land which included Long Reach and the adjacent subject allotment in 1958. In 1972, the Long Reach woodchip mill and the Bell Bay railway line were constructed and all of these facilities have operated to the present day.



Survey updated in 1926 showing allotment in the Williams creek vicinity comprising part of the subject property.

6.0 SIGNIFICANCE ASSESSMENT DESIGN

This section summarises the various assessment criteria used in the assessment of historic sites and the collective application of these to individual sites in order to determine their relative significance.

6.1 Significance assessment criteria

The values used in undertaking a significance assessment have been ratified in the Australia ICOMOS Charter for the conservation of Places and Cultural Significance or Burra Charter. The charter's definition of a place is a broad one, covering buildings, areas, sites and structures together with their affiliated contents and surroundings. In order to address such a broad range of sites, this protocol further defines the four sources of cultural significance as historic, scientific/technological, aesthetic and social value. Three of these are deemed to apply to sites in the study area.

- The historic value of a site or place is related to the story behind its establishment, evolution and abandonment. Factors in this 'history' which may affect its significance can include an association with a famous person, activity or event. A site's comparative age and the length and intensity of its use may also be considered significant.
- Social value is the importance placed on a site by the community at large. This may be motivated by spiritual, political or other sentiments which cannot be defined or articulated readily by any of the more traditional values.
- Scientific/technological value relates to the processes or artefacts of technology manifested by a site or feature. These may be unusual, novel or ambitious which serves to contrast them with similar sites and increase their significance accordingly.

6.2 Significance assessment design

There are various models available for the professional to establish an assessment system for a specific survey. Some models apply numerical or fractional values to significance, while others attribute brief single sentence statements. For the purpose of this survey, the following model has been used.

A site is considered to be of **High Significance** if it:

- * **reflects an important part of the history of Australia or Tasmania.**
- * **is unique or an outstanding example of its type.**
- * **is considered to be of importance to the wider Tasmanian community.**

A site is considered to be of **Medium Significance** if it:

- * **would increase our understanding of the history of a region.**
- * **is a very good example of its type.**
- * **is considered to be of importance to the local community.**

A site is considered to be of **Low Significance** if it:

- * **does not refer to any significant historical event.**
- * **is not well preserved.**

A site is considered to be of **Minimal Significance** if it:

- * **has no known historical association**
- * **is very poorly preserved.**

This model has been deemed the most applicable to this assessment because:

- It is readily understandable to all target audiences regardless of their familiarity with cultural heritage management practices.
- The suite of located sites are all thematically similar that do not require a holistic or expansive assessment model.
- Use of this model in several previous assessments has been specifically endorsed by the former Cultural Heritage Section of the former DPIWE.
- This model utilises a series of weightings that are unambiguous in regard to both their significance and requisite implications to the client.

6.3 Nomination of sites for statutory protective registers

Sites of exceptional significance at a regional, state or federal level may be protected by laws or other legislative protocols such as significant site registers. For example, the register of the National Estate is a federal protocol which highlights listed sites and hopefully prevents their damage until extensive review processes regarding the development have been undertaken. The Tasmanian Historic Cultural Heritage Act 1995 also allows for listing at the State level, whereby a site can be directly protected by legislation from any damage or development. No sites examined during this assessment are deemed to relevant to any of these statutory processes.

7.0 SITES/FEATURES LOCATED WITHIN PROPOSED IMPACT AREA

This section summarises the results of field work. A map appearing on page 14 shows the collective locations of all sites and features described in this section.

HISTORIC CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT. PROPOSED BELL BAY MILL SITE.		
Site/Feature name: Big Bay creek stone mound	Site number: 01	
Location: E 0492237 N 5445214	Land tenure: Coastal Reserve	Historic theme: Riverine occupation
Description of remains: This site consists of a stacked stone feature and adjacent brick scatter. The stacked stone feature consists of a conical pile of resident slabular granite sections erected on the inter tidal zone 10 metres west of a creek mouth which marks the eastern boundary of the Bell Bay power station property. Measuring 450mm in height and 1700mm in width, the feature does not appear to be associated with any other remains except an 8 x 3 metre beach side scatter of orange sandstock bricks immediately to the south west.		
Interpretation of site: Feature comprising part of mid to late 19 th century coastal settlement.		
Significance: Medium Significance		
Recommendations: Protection from all impacts required.		

Map showing location of feature in bold yellow.



Photos showing stacked stone pile and associated brick scatter.

HISTORIC CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT. PROPOSED BELL BAY MILL SITE.

Site/Feature name: Williams Creek fence posts	Site number: 02
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Location: E 0494669 N 5444021 E 0495112 N 5444151 E0495083 N5444126	Land tenure: Private property	Historic theme: Pastoralism
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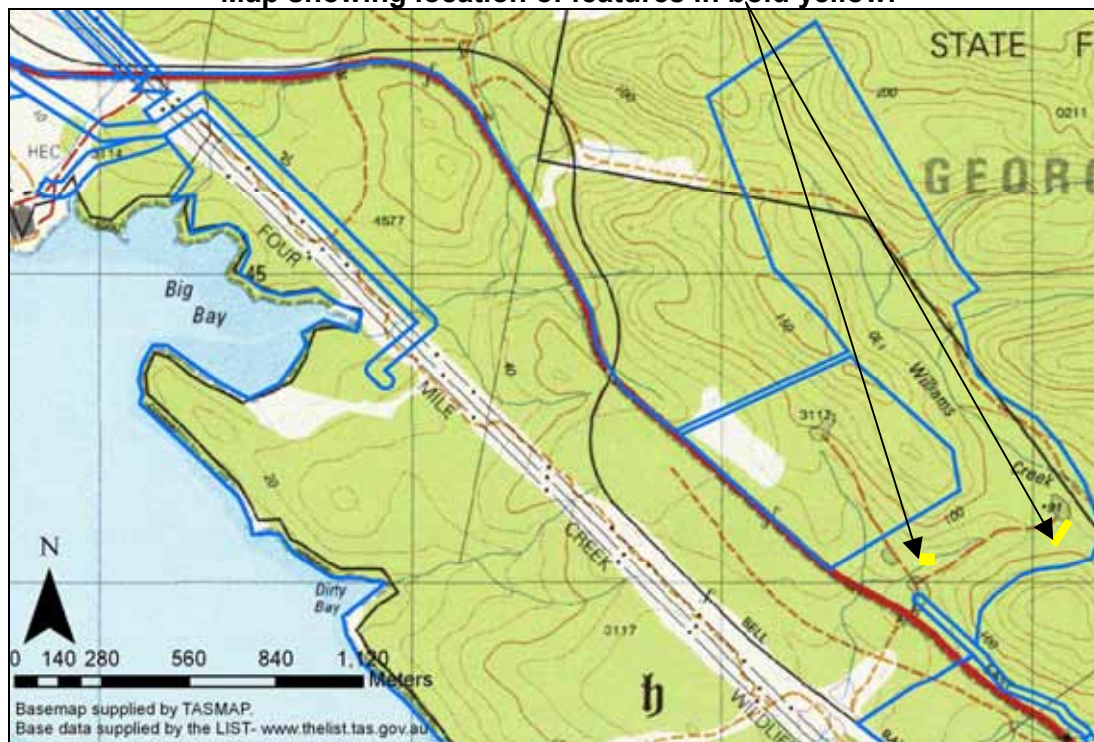
Description of remains: Three upright timber fence posts with remnant wiring attached were located in the Williams Creek vicinity on the north side of the East Tamar Highway. These hand split hardwood posts varied in height from 1000 to 1250mm in height and 200 mm in width. Each post bore a sequence of five U shaped tacks used to attach wire strands. One post retained vestiges of the wiring indicating that it was post war steel wire. Two of the posts are sequential and belong to the same fence.

Interpretation of site: Pastoral fence lines laid out since the Second World War.

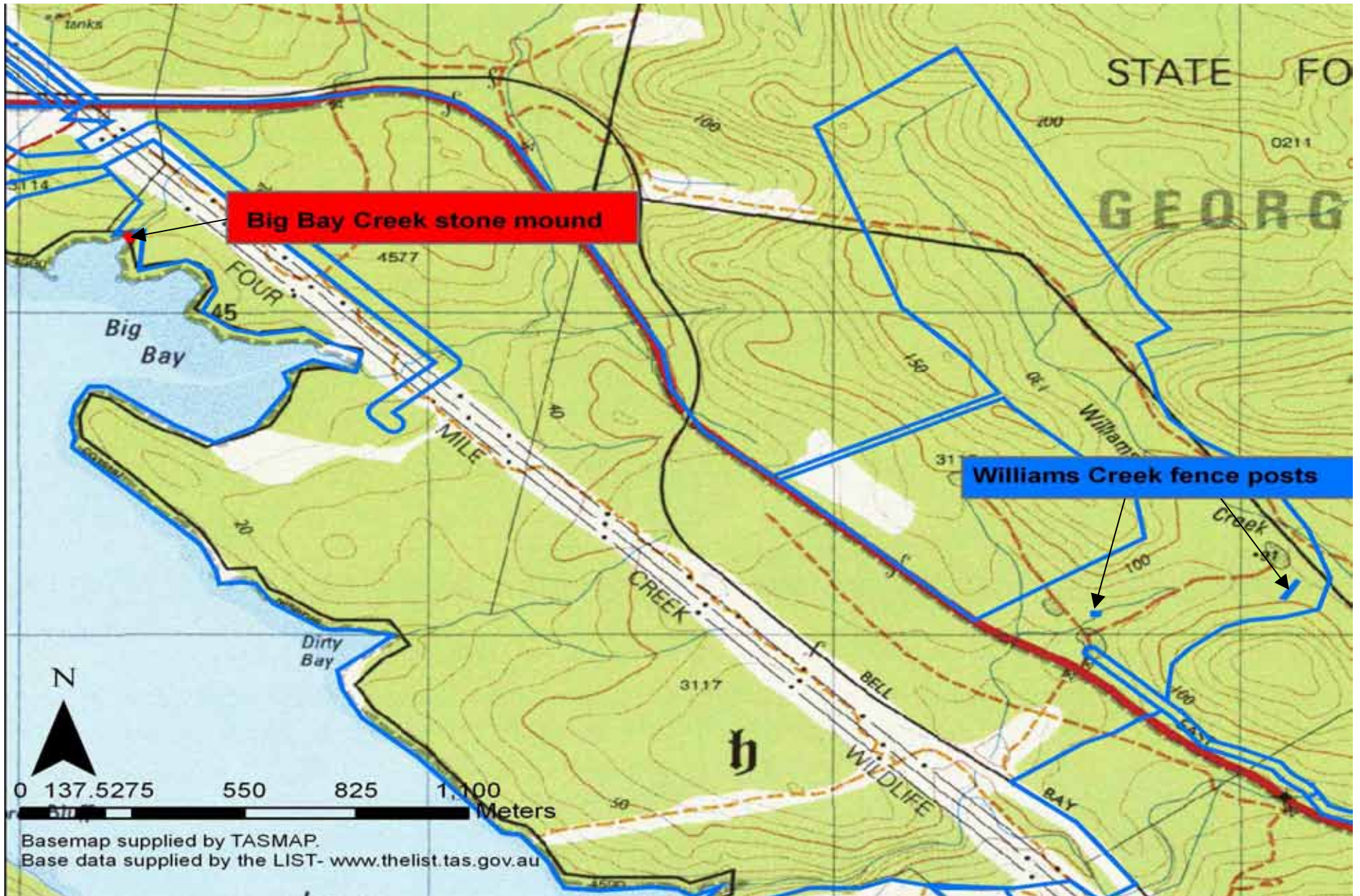
Significance: The significance of these features is only as markers of historic land boundaries. Their significance is otherwise deemed to be minimal.

Recommendations: None made.

Map showing location of features in bold yellow.



Photos showing various timber fence posts with modern steel wire strands.



8.0 REFERENCES

Branagan, J. G. 1992. The historic Tamar Valley: its people and places. Regal Publications. Launceston.

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Kostoglou, P. 2005. Historic cultural heritage survey. Proposed mill site. Big Bay and Long Reach allotments. Report to Gunns Ltd.