



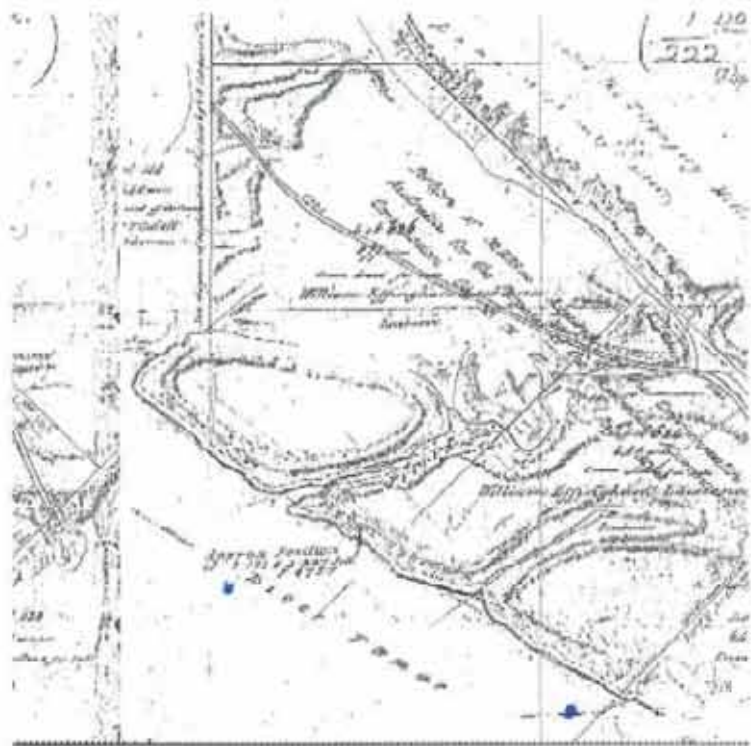
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# HISTORIC CULTURAL HERITAGE SURVEY PROPOSED MILL SITE LONG REACH VICINITY

## FINAL REPORT



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January, 2005.

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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

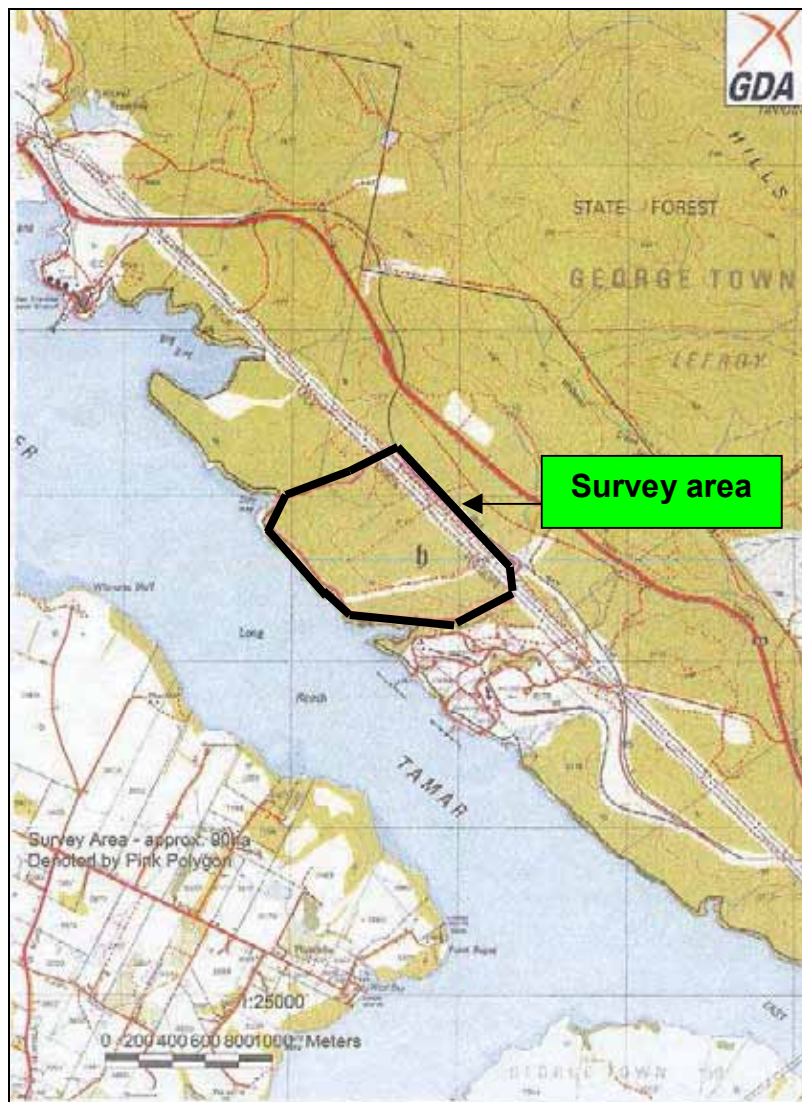
This section summarises the origins and scope of this investigation in addition to the various sources accessed by the consultant in order to determine relevant historic site identities and locations.

### **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 immediately northwest of its existing mill at Long Reach. This historic cultural heritage assessment has accordingly been commissioned in order to establish if any historic sites of any significance occur on the private allotment earmarked for the development. The following report details all work undertaken as a result of this obligation in addition to all findings and recommendations.

### **1.2 Location and extent of survey area**

The subject land allotment is situated on the east bank of the Tamar River in the East Tamar region of northern Tasmania. More specifically, the site is situated adjacent to the Long Reach woodchip mill and four kilometres south of the Bell Bay power station complex. 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.



Basemap supplied by TASMAR.

**Map showing location of survey area.**

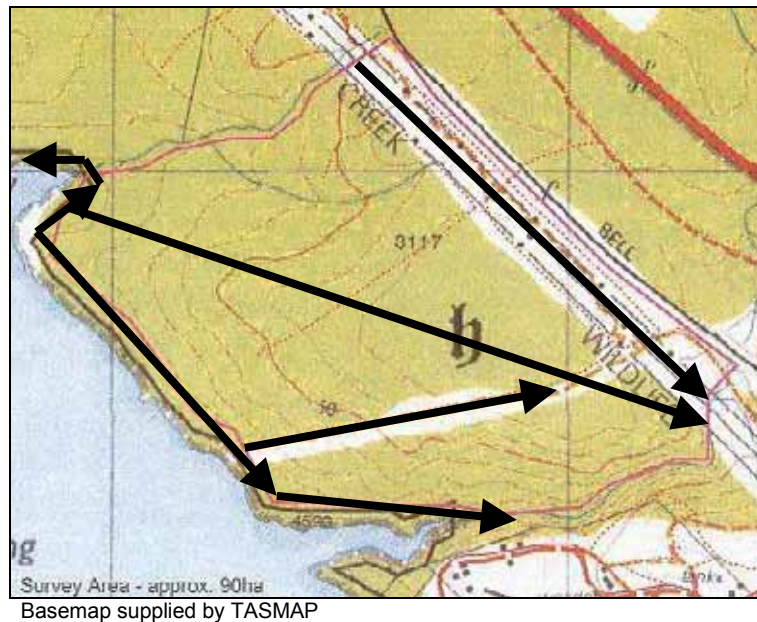
### 1.3 Objectives

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

- Undertake a desktop review of all relevant land management agency data bases in order to establish the location and nature of known historic sites in proximity to the subject allotment.
- Undertake field work upon the allotment in order to locate, record and assess all resident historic sites.
- Provide a report detailing the results of both the desktop assessment and field work in addition to management recommendations for any sites discovered within the proposed development area.

### 1.4 Methodology

The consultant undertook an initial 2.5 day desktop review of all relevant land management agency data bases (See section 1.5) and related contemporary and historic maps held by the Lands Titles Office (Lands Department) in order to determine potential historic site types and locations. Fieldwork was then undertaken over a two day period during which the consultant traversed the allotment's coastal boundaries and tracks before undertaking one transect which bisected the entire property. 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 written over a three day period.



**Map showing length and orientation of survey transects undertaken for the purposes of this survey.**

### 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.

<b>Agency/Source</b>	<b>Data base/document</b>	<b>Historic sites identified</b>
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. Their locations are marked on the 1:25,000 scale map appearing in section 7.0 of this report.

<b>Site name</b>	<b>Site No.</b>	<b>AMG grid reference</b>	<b>Historic theme</b>	<b>Significance rating</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
Long Reach hut site	01	E 0493445 N 5443224	Riverine occupation	Medium	Protect from all impacts
Williams Creek boat wreckage	02	E 0493692 N 5443214	Riverine occupation	Minimal	None made
Dirty Bay linear stones	03	E 0492856 N 5443958	Riverine occupation	Low	Protect from all impacts
Dirty Bay hut site	04	E 0492886 N 5444051	Riverine occupation	Medium	Protect from all impacts

### **2.2 Statement of Cultural Significance**

Of the four sites and features recorded during this survey, three are considered sufficiently significant to warrant further management related consideration. These are:

1. Long Reach hut site
2. Dirty Bay linear stones
3. Dirty Bay hut site

As ephemeral coastal settlements, these sites appear 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 are considered to be unusual and significant remnants 19<sup>th</sup> century use of the Tamar River valley and treated accordingly.

Likewise the three sites listed above continue to display a high degree of physical integrity, having lost little of their definition or contents since their abandonment over a century ago. This physical intactness further enhances their significance.

**In summary, these sites are considered to have considerable Local significance. Further research might feasibly find this threshold to have Regional implications also.**

## **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 the three sites listed above should be protected from all potential impacts relating to the proposed development. Any site planning for structures or services should therefore be mindful of this.

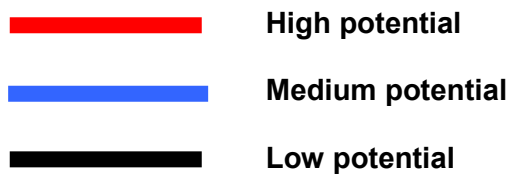
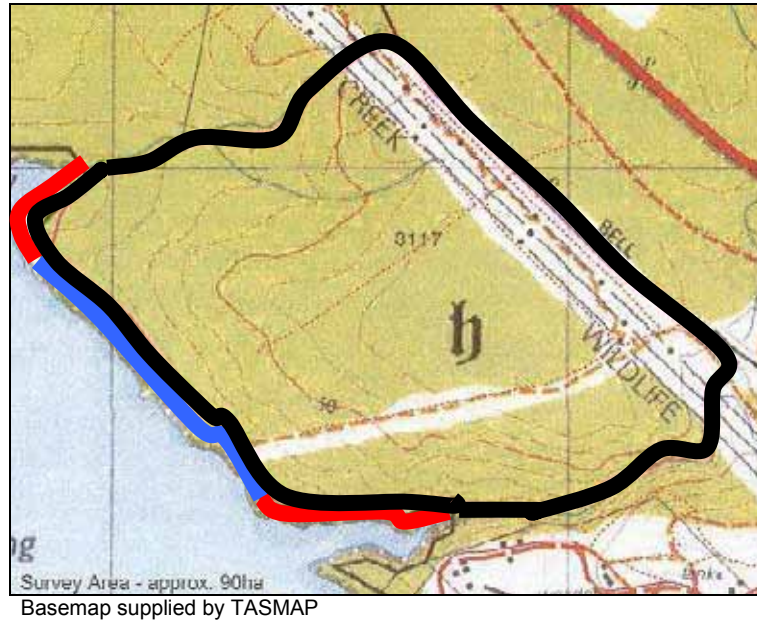
### **3.2 General recommendations**

The consultant surveyed all parts of the site deemed likely to contain sites, however this ground based assessment was not a total one. Therefore, although it is considered unlikely that any further sites will be discovered, this must be anticipated. It is 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. 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 subject allotment.



#### **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 fieldwork for the purposes of this survey support this model, with all four of the located sites being situated within the same environment which possessed the following attributes:

- A sheltered inlet
- Fresh potable water
- Construction materials (stone and timber)

#### **4.2 Medium potential zoning**

Exposed coastal settings were obviously a less desirable venue for settlement than sheltered inlets, unless extreme competition for space occurred as was the case with such maritime bonanzas as bay whaling. The lack of shelter from prevailing winds and more dangerous landings by watercraft generally precluded such venues until access by track or road made such localities less dangerous occupational prospects. Field survey work at the subject allotment failed to yield any sites in this environment.

#### **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 credible occupation or non pastoral activities occurred 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

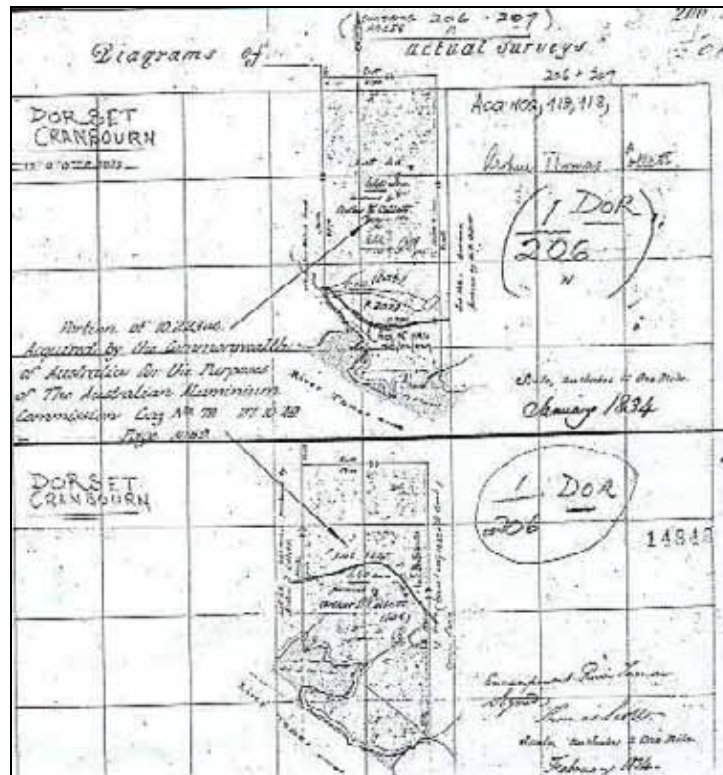
This section summarises the principal historic themes and related activities known to have occurred in the vicinity of the survey area between initial Aboriginal/European contact and the present.

### 5.1 Exploration and settlement (1805-1820)

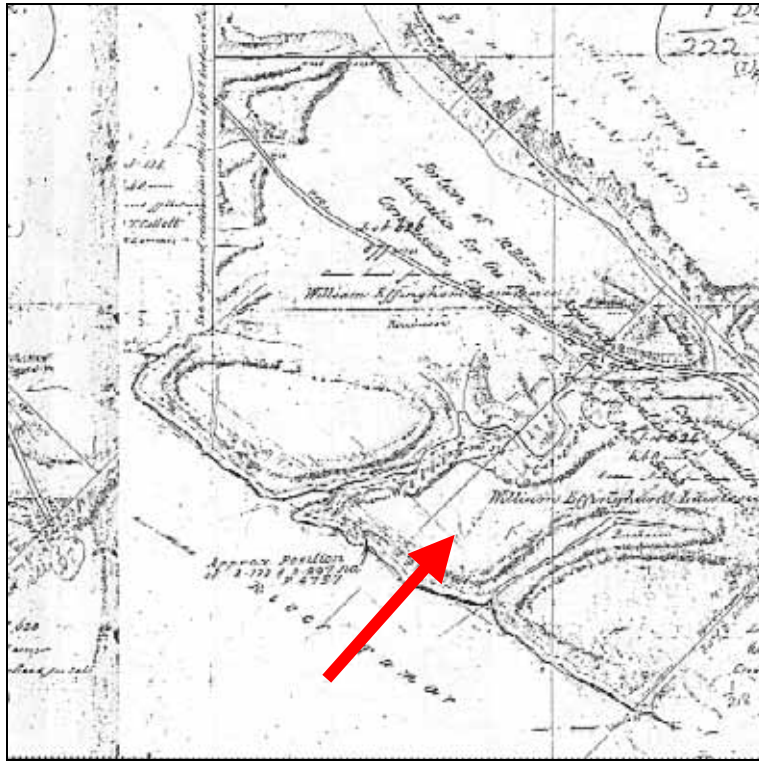
In late November 1798, the explorers Bass and Flinders navigated up the Tamar River as a part of their voyage designed to prove the separation of Van Diemen's Land from the Australian mainland. An incidental result of this diversion was the naming of 'Long Reach' and other nearby promontories such as '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 1830's, when the riverside acreages were initially surveyed and sold off by the Crown.

### 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 allotment was 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 1900s, 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.



Original Crown surveys dated 1834 showing initial selection of nearby lands surrounding Donovans Bay and Big Bay.



Earliest known Crown Survey of the relevant land dated April 7<sup>th</sup>, 1840. The bold red arrow indicates the subject allotment.

### 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.

## **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 be relevant to any of these statutory processes.


## 7.0 SITES/FEATURES LOCATED WITHIN PROPOSED IMPACT AREA

The following is a tabular summary of the four sites located during this survey.

HISTORIC CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT. PROPOSED BELL BAY MILL SITE.			
<b>Site/Feature name:</b> Long Reach hut site		<b>Site number:</b> 01	
<b>Location:</b> E 0493445 N 5443224		<b>Land tenure:</b> Coastal Reserve	<b>Historic theme:</b> Riverine occupation
<p><b>Description of remains:</b> This site consists of a linear waterside stone arrangement, artefact scatter, and nearby bonded stone house ruin. A simplified diagram appearing below shows the spatial disposition of these features.</p> <p>Stone arrangement (red) This feature consists of a 10 x 4 x 0.2 metre high linear stone arrangement oriented towards the water. Constituent stones are up to 250mm in diameter and have been stacked up to three courses high in order to create a nominal grade down to the waterline.</p> <p>Artefact scatter (yellow) This feature consists of an 8 x 4 metre wide surface scatter of discarded artefactual debris from the nearby house site. Constituent items included the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ (Ceramic) orange sandstock brick fragments, blue transfer ware plate and tea cup saucer fragments and white salt glazed stoneware jug fragments.</li> <li>■ (Glass) Case gin lip and upper waist fragments, clear glass condiment bottle base, dark green glass beer bottle base</li> <li>■ (Metal) assorted ferrous nails, crushed rolled lead sheeting, bronze tacks and a composite ferrous/bronze screw.</li> </ul> <p>House ruin (blue) This feature consists of three bonded stone chimney butts and external wall corners erected on rectangular dry-stone foundation. The chimneys have all been bonded with a crude lime mortar and the remains of sandstock bricks in the fireplace suggest they were once brick lined. The best preserved of these chimneys stands to a height of 1.2 metres.</p> <p>Recent camp fire (mauve) A circular stone arrangement with a crude timber tripod marks the location of a recent fire.</p>			
<p><b>Interpretation of site:</b> This is a small house and what appears to be an associated boat ramp and beaching facility. The relatively large number of bronze and white metal fasteners and sheeting fragments in the waterside artefact scatter imply sustained boat repairing activities. Access to and from the site would have almost certainly been exclusively via the river. The age of the artefacts would imply an occupation date of c1850-1880.</p>			
<p><b>Significance:</b> This site is deemed to be of Medium Significance.</p>			
<p><b>Recommendations:</b> This site should be protected from all impacts related to the development.</p>			

Three photos taken at the site showing the waterside stone arrangement, artefacts and hut chimney fabric.



HISTORIC CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT. PROPOSED BELL BAY MILL SITE.		
<b>Site/Feature name:</b> Williams Creek boat wreckage		<b>Site number:</b> 02
<b>Location:</b> E 0493692 N 5443214	<b>Land tenure:</b> Coastal Reserve	<b>Historic theme:</b> Maritime (wreckage)
<b>Description of remains:</b> This feature consists of an 8 x 1 metre wide section of timber planks fastened to parallel timber beams. This feature lies beside the high tide line of the resident creek.		
<b>Interpretation of site:</b> Timber planking section from a small late 19 <sup>th</sup> century vessel.		
<b>Significance:</b> This feature is deemed to have Minimal significance.		
<b>Recommendations:</b> None made		
Two views of the wreckage showing remnant planking fastened to timbers with cupric nails.		
		

HISTORIC CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT. PROPOSED BELL BAY MILL SITE.		
<b>Site/Feature name:</b> Dirty Bay linear stones		<b>Site number:</b> 03
<b>Location:</b> E 0492856 N 5443958	<b>Land tenure:</b> Coastal Reserve	<b>Historic theme:</b> Riverine occupation
<b>Description of remains:</b> This site consists of a pair of linear stone arrangements measuring 10 x 12 x 0.15 metres in height.		
<b>Interpretation of site:</b> These features most probably relate to a boat landing amenity. Curiously no trace could be found of a house site immediately inland which would justify this feature's construction.		
<b>Significance:</b> This site is provisionally deemed to be of Low Significance. However it is the consultant's belief that this feature forms part of a larger albeit undiscovered site and its future significance would become greater if this proved to be the case.		
<b>Recommendations:</b> Therefore, this site should be protected from all impacts related to the development.		

Views respectively of linear waterside stone work and timber survey marker.





**HISTORIC CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT. PROPOSED BELL BAY MILL SITE.**

<b>Site/Feature name:</b> Dirty Bay hut site		<b>Site number:</b> 04
<b>Location:</b> E 0492886 N 5444051	<b>Land tenure:</b> Coastal Reserve/Private property?	<b>Historic theme:</b> Riverine occupation

**Description of remains:** This site consists of a linear waterside stone arrangement, nearby dry-stone house footing and a recent corrugated iron shanty. A simplified diagram appearing below shows the spatial disposition of these features.

### Stone arrangement

This feature consists of a 15 x 5 x 0.15 metre high linear stone arrangement oriented towards the water. Constituent stones are up to 250mm in diameter.

### Stone lined path

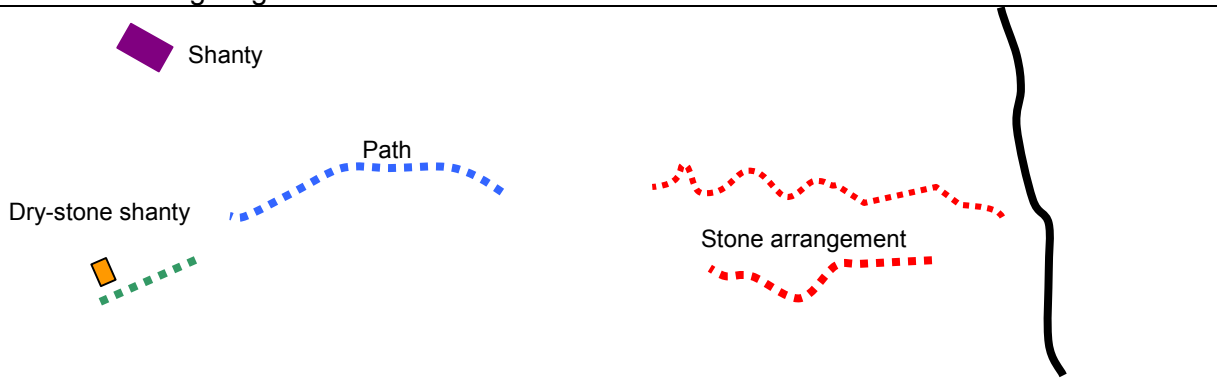
A single 35 metre long line of stones to 150mm diameter links the waterside stone arrangement to the hut site. This was presumably a path of sorts between the hut and the resident boat landing.

### Dry-stone house footing

The remains of a structure consisting of a linear wall footing and nearby rectangular foundation were noted 50 metres inland of the high tide mark. The 20 metre long footing terminates at a 1500x1200mm wide rectangular plinth, which was presumably once a chimney base that has since been demolished.

### Recent sheet metal shanty

The collapsed ruin of a timber framed corrugated iron clad shelter was noted 30 metres east of the house footing. The manner of construction and materials used would indicate that this was built for transient occupation within the last 10 years or so. As such this feature has no intrinsic heritage significance whatsoever.



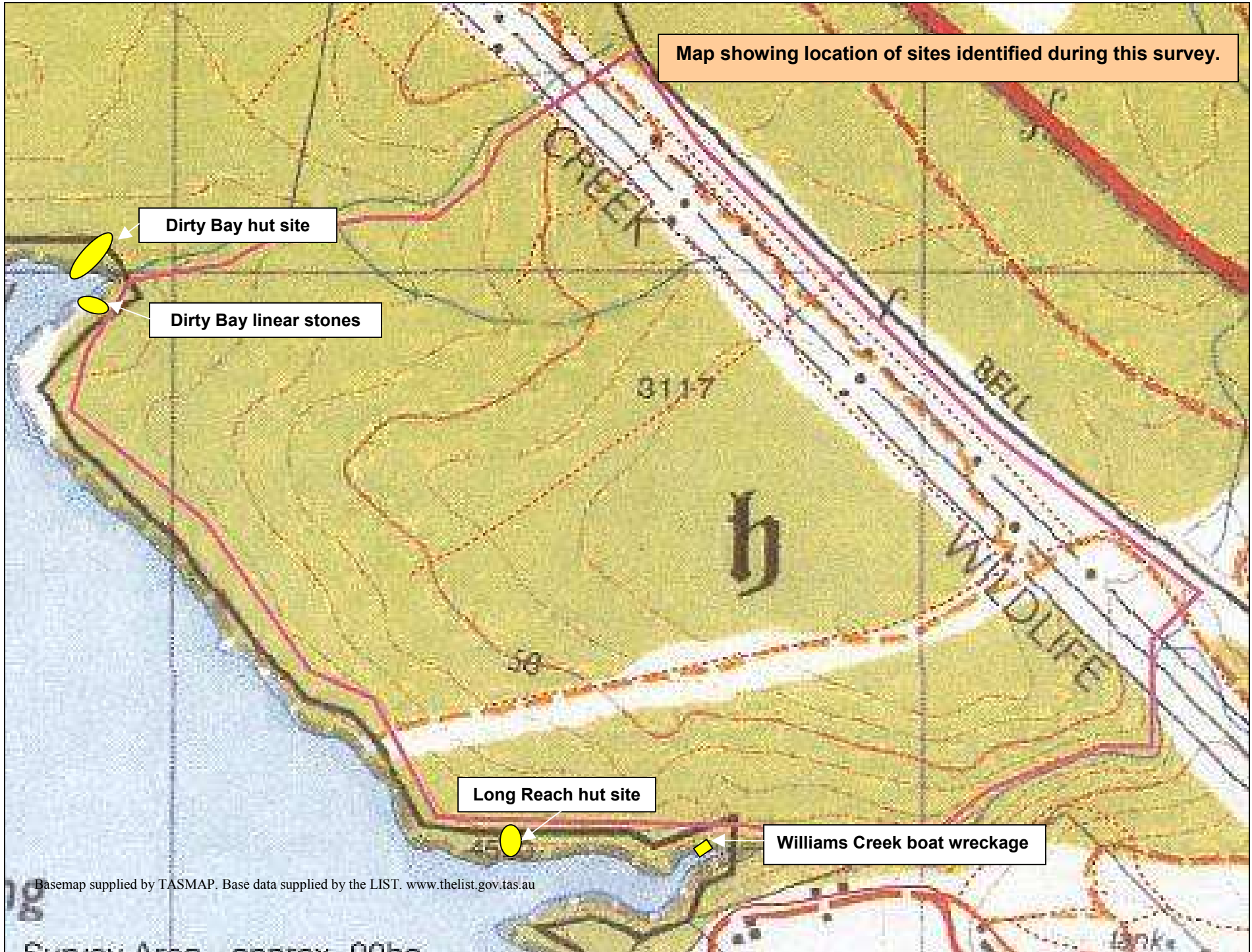
**Interpretation of site:** This is a small house and what appears to be an associated boat ramp and beaching facility. Access to and from the site would have almost certainly been exclusively via the river. This site's similarity in form and apparent function to Longreach Hut site (see site number 01) might imply a similar construction/occupation date of c1850-1880.

**Significance:** This site is deemed to be of Medium Significance.

**Recommendations:** This site should be protected from all impacts related to the development.

Views showing dry-stone footings relating to the house site and waterside stone arrangements respectively.





Map showing location of sites identified during this survey.

Dirty Bay hut site

Dirty Bay linear stones

Long Reach hut site

Williams Creek boat wreckage

Basemap supplied by TASMAR. Base data supplied by the LIST. www.thelist.gov.tas.au

## **8.0 REFERENCES**

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