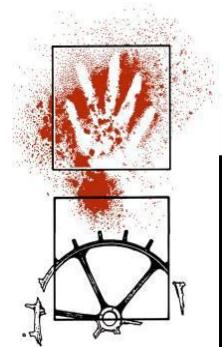




HumeLink

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report Addendum

January 2026



***Navin
Officer***

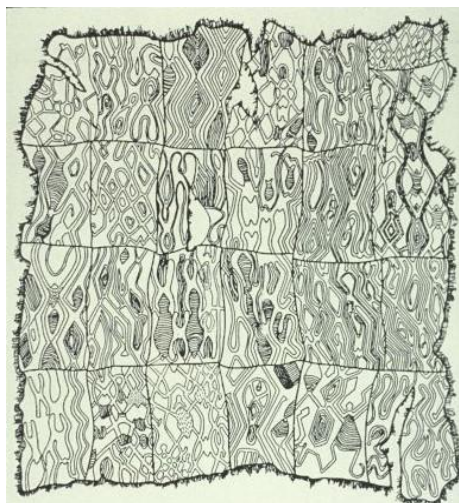
*heritage
consultants*

acn: 092 901 605

*Number 4
Kingston Warehouse
71 Leichhardt St.
Kingston ACT 2604*

www.nohc.com.au





NOHC acknowledges Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, their many diverse communities across our nation and their rich culture. We pay respect to their Elders past and present. We acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as Australia's first peoples and as the Traditional Owners and custodians of the land and water across the Australian landscape and seascape. We recognise and value the ongoing contribution of Aboriginal people to Australian life and how their contribution continues to enrich our society. In our daily work we recognise, cherish, celebrate and defend the evidence of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples rich and complex history and prehistory which extends back from the present day into a deep and distant past. We understand that this archaeological evidence has meaning to the descendants of those who created it. Through our research and conservation efforts we strive to unlock hidden meanings from these traces of the past and to make that knowledge available to current and future generations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

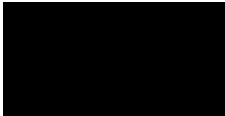
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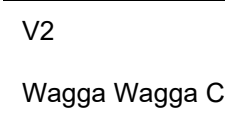
Project no.: 240003

Project client: UGL

Project proponent Transgrid

Document description: ACHAR Addendum

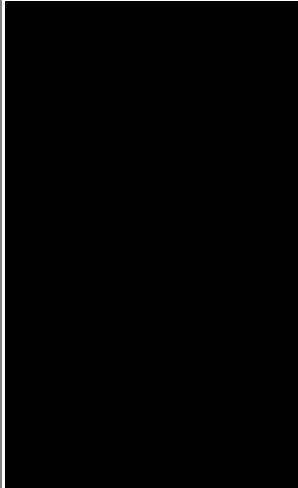

Project Manager: 

Internal review: 

Document status: V2

Local Government Area: Wagga Wagga City, Snowy Valleys

Document revision status

Author	Revision number	Internal review	Date issued
	V1.1		13/11/2025
	V1.2	Following client review	14/11/2025
	V1.3	Following RAP review period	15/12/2025
	V2	Following consultation with Heritage NSW	14/01/2026
	V3	Updated for DPHI Comments	21/01/2026

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Cover photographs: Landscapes along  NOHC field photographs 2025

Previous page: Image credit: Aboriginal possum skin rug collected 1839-1840 from the Hunter River region, eastern NSW (Smithsonian Inst. Washington D.C. Cat. no. E5803).

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GLOSSARY, ABBREVIATIONS, AND DEFINITIONS

Aboriginal heritage impact permit (AHIP)	An AHIP is the statutory instrument issued by DPE under section 90 of the NPW Act to manage harm or potential harm to Aboriginal objects and places (OEH, 2017:1).
Aboriginal object	Defined in the NPW Act as “any deposit, object or material evidence (not being a handicraft made for sale) relating to the Aboriginal habitation of the area that comprises NSW, being habitation before or concurrent with (or both) the occupation of that area by persons of non-Aboriginal extraction and includes Aboriginal remains”.
Aboriginal place	An area of land that is or was of special significance with respect to Aboriginal culture and is declared to be an Aboriginal place under section 84 of the NPW Act.
Aboriginal resource and gathering	An Aboriginal site feature related to everyday activities such as food gathering, hunting, or collection and manufacture of materials and goods for use or trade (OEH, 2012:8).
Aboriginal site	An Aboriginal object or Aboriginal place associated with past or contemporary Aboriginal occupation of NSW.
ACHAR	Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report
AHIMS	Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System – a database of known Aboriginal site records in NSW and a repository of Aboriginal heritage survey, assessment and investigation reports.
AHMP	Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan
Amended project (the)	The CSSI project “HumeLink”, which is the subject of the Amendment Report and inclusive of the proposed amendments and project refinements to the project as described in the EIS. The project involves the construction and operation of high voltage transmission lines and associated infrastructure between Wagga Wagga, Bannaby and Maragle.
Amended project footprint (the)	The area that has been assumed for the purpose of the Amendment Report to be directly affected by the construction and operation of the project. It includes the indicative location of project infrastructure, the area that would be directly disturbed during construction and any easement required during operation.
Amendment	A change in what the proponent is seeking approval for following the public exhibition of the EIS. It requires changes to the project description in the EIS and amendments to the associated infrastructure application.
Angular fragment / debitage	A piece of stone debris produced during stone tool making, exhibiting evidence of knapping but lacking key diagnostic traits (eg platform, termination, bulb of percussion)
Archaeological site	A place or location with material traces or evidence of Aboriginal land use. The boundaries of an archaeological site may be defined by the spatial extent of visible Aboriginal objects, or direct evidence of their location; obvious physical boundaries

	where present; or identification by the Aboriginal community based on cultural information (DECCW, 2010a:14).
Art (rock art)	Images made by Aboriginal people on rock surfaces in the past. Rock art can be found in shelters, caves, overhangs, rock platforms, and across rock formations. Techniques include painting, drawing, scratching, carving engraving, pitting, conjoining, abrading and the use of a range of binding agents and the use of natural pigments obtained from clays, charcoal and plants (DECCW, 2010a:30; OEH, 2012:8).
Artefact	Objects such as stone tools, and associated flaked material, spears, manuports, grindstones, discarded stone flakes, wooden implements, modified glass or shell demonstrating evidence of use of the area by Aboriginal people (OEH, 2012:8). Stone artefacts are the most common type of Aboriginal object and may be the only remains left at the locations where Aboriginal people lived in the past (DECCW, 2010a:28).
Artefact scatter	A formerly used site type consisting of two or more stone artefacts situated in proximity to each other. The use of the term 'scatter' was intended to be descriptive and did not infer the original human behaviour which formed the site. Now referred to as an 'artefact' site feature (see Artefact).
ATSIHP Act	<i>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984</i> (Commonwealth)
Background discard/scatter	<p>There is no single concept for background discard or 'scatter', and therefore no formal definition. Commonly agreed is that background discard of artefacts occurs in the absence of 'focused' activity involving the production and/or discard of stone artefacts in a particular location. An example of unfocused activity is occasional loss and /or discard of isolated artefacts during travel along a route or pathway. Examples of 'focused' activities are camping, knapping and heat-treating stone, cooking in a hearth, and processing food with stone tools.</p> <p>Definitions of background scatter comprising only qualitative criteria do not specify the numbers (quantity) or density (artefacts/m²) of artefacts required to differentiate activity areas from background discard.</p>
Burials	A traditional or contemporary (post-contact) burial of an Aboriginal person, which may occur outside designated cemeteries and may not be marked (OEH, 2012:8). Aboriginal ancestral remains are most frequently found in middens, sand dunes, lunettes, bordering dunes and other sandy or soft sedimentary soils (DECCW, 2010a:34).
Core	A nodule or block of siliceous rock from which sharp-edged flakes of stone are struck (generally with a hammerstone).
Cortex	The weathered outer layer of rock, differing in chemical and optical properties to the unweathered interior.
CSSI	Critical State Significant Infrastructure
DCCEEW	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water

DEC	Department of Environment and Conservation (former NSW department)
DECCW	Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (former NSW department)
DEM	Digital Elevation Model
Distal flake	The termination end of a partial (broken) flake.
DPE	NSW Department of Planning and Environment
DPHI	Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EIS Project (the)	The CSSI project “HumeLink”, which is the subject of this Environmental Impact Statement. The project involves the construction and operation of high voltage transmission lines and associated infrastructure between Wagga Wagga, Bannaby and Maragle.
EIS project footprint (the)	The area that was assumed for the purpose of this EIS to be directly affected by the construction and operation of the project. It includes the indicative location of project infrastructure, the area that would be directly disturbed during construction and any easement required during operation.
EP&A Act	<i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i>
EPBC Act	<i>Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (Commonwealth)
ESC	Effective survey coverage
ESD	Ecologically sustainable development
FGS	Fine grained silicious
Flake	A sliver of stone struck from a core exhibiting characteristic traits of force fracture.
Grinding grooves	Grooves in a rock surface resulting from manufacture of stone tools such as ground edge hatchets and spears, may also include rounded depressions resulting from grinding of seeds and grains (OEH, 2012:9).
GPS	Global positioning system
ha	Hectare
IMT	Indurated mudstone tuff
Isolated find	A formerly used site type defined as a single stone artefact, not located within a rock shelter, which occurs without any associated evidence of Aboriginal occupation. Isolated finds may represent single discard events, be constituent components of background scatter, or be indicative of a larger obscured, remnant or disturbed site. Now referred to as an ‘artefact’ site feature (see Artefact).

Knapping	The process of fracturing flakes of stone from a core
kV	Kilovolt
LALC	Local Aboriginal Land Councils
LEP	Local Environmental Plan
LGA	Local Government Area
Lithic assemblage	A collection of whole and fragmentary stone artefacts and manuports obtained from an Aboriginal site, either by collecting items scattered on the present ground surface (see Artefact scatter) or recovered during controlled archaeological excavation.
Medial Flake	Flakes defined by the absence of the proximal and distal margins with an identifiable ventral surface.
Minister, the	Commonwealth Minister for the Environment and Water
mm	millimetres
MNES	Matters of national environmental significance
Modified tree	Trees which show the marks of modification as a result of cutting of bark from the trunk for use in the production of shields, canoes, boomerangs, burial shrouds, for medicinal purposes, foot holds etc, or alternately intentional carving of the heartwood of the tree to form a permanent marker to indicate ceremonial use/significance of a nearby area. These carvings may also act as territorial or burial markers (OEH, 2012:9).
NEM	National Electricity Market
NHL	National Heritage List
NOHC	Navin Officer Heritage Consultants
NP	National Parks
NPW Act	<i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i>
NPWS	National Parks and Wildlife Service
NR	Nature Reserves
NSW	New South Wales
NVMP	Noise and Vibration Management Plan
OEH	NSW Office of Environment and Heritage, now Heritage NSW
OHEW	Overhead earth wire
Open camp site	A formerly used site type defined as a stone artefact scatter, not located within a rock shelter, containing two or more artefacts. The term 'open camp site' was based on ethnographic modelling suggesting that most artefact occurrences resulted from activities at camp sites. However, in order to separate the site description from the interpretation, both open camp sites

and isolated finds are now referred to as 'artefact' sites (see Artefact).

OPGW	Optical Fibre Ground Wire
Potential archaeological deposit (PAD)	An area where Aboriginal objects may occur below the ground surface (OEH, 2012:9).
Proponent	The entity seeking approval for the CSSI application, which for the HumeLink project is NSW Electricity Networks Operations Pty Ltd (referred to as Transgrid).
Proximal flake	The platform end of a partial (broken) flake.
RAPs	Registered Aboriginal Parties
Refinement	An aspect of the project that is more specific than what has been described in the EIS and fits within the limits set by the project description and does not change what is being sought for approval for or require an amendment to the infrastructure application for the project.
Retouch	Alteration of the cutting edges of a flake or tool to refine sharpness, shape, angle or strength.
Revised ACHAR	This report
SEARs	Planning Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements
Shell	An accumulation or deposit of shellfish from beach, estuarine, lacustrine or riverine species resulting from Aboriginal gathering and consumption. Usually found in deposits previously referred to as shell middens. Must be found in association with other objects like stone tools, fish bones, charcoal, fireplaces/hearths, and burials. Will vary greatly in size and components (OEH, 2012:10).
SSD	State Significant Development
SSI	State Significant Infrastructure
Study area	The Aboriginal heritage study area is the same area as the amended project footprint. See amended project footprint
Survey area	The survey area is within the amended project footprint where access approval had been secured and surveyed. It excludes that part of the amended project footprint that was not accessible for survey.
Survey unit	The survey unit is a section of the survey area defined by landform or property access.
Termination	End of a flake opposite the platform denoting the place the force applied by the hammerstone exited the core.
Tertiary flake	Flake lacking dorsal or platform cortex indicating a high degree of prior reduction of the core from which it was knapped.
Tools	Artefacts that have been made or used for some specific tasks.
Transmission line easement	A legal right attached to a parcel of land that enables the non-exclusive use of the land by a third party other than the owner.

	<p>For transmission lines, an easement defines the corridor area where the lines are located and that allows access, construction and maintenance work to take place. The easements for the 500 kV transmission lines would typically be 70 metres wide. However, a few select locations would require wider easements up to 130 metres wide for specific engineering or property reasons. The easement grants a right of access and for construction, maintenance and operation of the transmission line and other operational assets.</p>
Transmission line route	The location of the transmission line structures along the middle of the transmission line easement.
Transmission line structures	Proposed free standing structures to support the transmission lines.
Transgrid	<p>The project is proposed to be undertaken by NSW Electricity Networks Operations Pty Ltd (referred to as Transgrid). Transgrid is the operator and manager of the main high voltage transmission network in NSW and the ACT, and is the Authorised Network Operator for the purpose of an electricity transmission or distribution network under the provisions of the Electricity Network Assets (Authorised Transactions) Act 2015.</p>
Unanticipated Aboriginal objects	<p>An Aboriginal site/object in an area not identified as having high or moderate archaeological sensitivity consisting of more than:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an isolated find or • a single scarred tree or • a sparse scatter of more than 15 artefacts over 1 square metre on the surface, or • buried stratified archaeological deposits or • a surface site costing of a stone arrangement or • a carved tree.
Un-modified tree of cultural value	Several un-modified trees were identified by RAPs as being of cultural importance to them. These trees are not 'objects' as defined by the NPW Act.
Visual assessment	<p>This term has been used to describe inspection of a particular part of the amended project footprint from afar e.g. outside a property fence line. This method was used to verify the likelihood of archaeological potential within areas that were inaccessible due to property access being denied.</p>



1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Transgrid proposes to increase the energy network capacity in southern New South Wales (NSW) through the development of around 365 kilometres (km) of new 500 kilovolt (kV) high-voltage transmission lines and associated infrastructure between Wagga Wagga, Bannaby and Maragle. This project is collectively referred to as HumeLink. The project would be located across six Local Government Areas (LGAs) including Wagga Wagga City, Snowy Valleys, Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional, Upper Lachlan Shire, Yass Valley and Goulburn Mulwaree. HumeLink is a priority project for the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) and the Commonwealth and NSW governments and has been declared as Critical State Significant Infrastructure (CSSI). The project would deliver a cheaper, more reliable and more sustainable grid by increasing the amount of renewable energy that can be delivered across the national electricity grid, helping to transition Australia to a low carbon future.

An EIS was prepared in accordance with the requirements of Division 5.2 of the NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act). The EIS was placed on public exhibition by the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) (formerly the NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPE)) for a period of 42 days, between 30 August 2023 and 10 October 2023.

Transgrid has proposed amendments and refinements to the project as described in the EIS. The amendments provide functional improvements to the design and construction methodology of the project. The proposed amendments take into account submissions received during the public exhibition of the EIS and ongoing design and construction methodology development following the selection of the construction contractors. Project refinements have also been made as part of the ongoing design and construction methodology development since the EIS was exhibited. These amendments and refinements have been described and considered in relevant impact assessments.

The project has been divided into two project sections, HumeLink West and HumeLink East. This addendum relates to HumeLink West. Navin Officer Heritage Consultants (NOHC) have been engaged by the HumeLink West Joint Venture to complete the post approval heritage works for the HumeLink West project.

1.2 The ACHAR

NOHC completed an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) as part of the HumeLink EIS in 2024.

The field investigation at the time involved all areas where property access was secured. Where property access was denied, these areas were proposed to be surveyed at a later date. Approximately 80.5% of the amended project footprint was subject survey at this time (Figure 1-1).

As a result of the ACHAR 195 Aboriginal cultural heritage locations were identified; these include 12 PADs, one modified tree/PAD, five modified trees, one cultural site, nine cultural trees, six modified trees of non-Aboriginal origin, one charcoal occurrence and 11 test locations. The remaining 149 sites are stone artefact occurrences including artefact scatters, isolated finds and subsurface artefact scatters. There are nine cultural trees and six modified trees of non-Aboriginal origin that are not 'objects' as defined by the NPW Act.

The assessment completed for the ACHAR identified that the majority (118) of sites (excluding PADs) within the amended project footprint have low scientific significance, with a lower number (35) having moderate (local) scientific significance and four sites having high (local) scientific significance. Of the PADs, three are assessed as having low significance, two as moderate, six as moderate to high and one as high, the modified tree/PAD is assessed as having moderate significance. Eight sites are indicated as destroyed on AHIMS so therefore have no significance. Five PADs have not been subject to test excavation as it was determined that direct impacts are unlikely to occur.



Of the 195 Aboriginal cultural heritage sites, the majority are within the transmission line portion of the amended project footprint (including one indicated as partially destroyed by AHIMS), including eight in the areas of controlled blasting. Forty-six sites are on access tracks or intersection upgrades (seven are indicated as destroyed by AHIMS and four are indicated as partially destroyed). 10 are near the future Maragle 500 kV substation compound (two are indicated as partially destroyed by AHIMS), seven are within the Crookwell accommodation facility and compound access road (these are all indicated as destroyed by AHIMS), five are within the Crookwell accommodation facility and compound, five are in or near the existing Bannaby 500 kV substation compound, two are in the Tarcutta accommodation facility and compound, one is in the Gadara Road compound and one is within the Ardrossan Headquarters Road compound. In total, eight sites are indicated as destroyed by AHIMS and four sites are indicated as partially destroyed. The identified cultural site is within the transmission line portion of the amended project footprint.

1.3 This Addendum

The purpose of this document is to fulfill requirement Condition of Approval (MCoA) B31 from the EIS:

Unsurveyed Areas

B31. Prior to carrying out any development within the unsurveyed areas of the development identified in the EIS, untested areas of moderate and high sensitivity, or any potential archaeological deposits (PADs) identified for impact during detailed design, the Proponent must provide an Addendum Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (Addendum ACHAR), prepared in consultation with the Aboriginal stakeholders and Heritage NSW, to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary. The report must:

- a) Include details of consultation with Aboriginal stakeholders;*
- b) Describe the additional Aboriginal heritage surveys that were undertaken, including test excavations of PADs;*
- c) Describe any potential additional impacts to heritage items;*
- d) Identify further mitigation measures, including avoidance or salvage;*
- e) Include detailed justification where the final transmission line alignment is not able to avoid impacts to heritage items; and*
- f) Provide an updated and consolidated list of sites that would be protected and remain in-situ throughout construction and sites that would be salvaged and relocated to suitable alternative locations.*

This Addendum report is associated specifically with towers in properties [REDACTED], and properties [REDACTED] (Figure 1-2). Table 1-1 address how each MCoA has been addressed.

Table 1-1: Compliance Table

MCoA		
B31	Prior to carrying out any development within the unsurveyed areas of the development area identified in the EIS, untested areas of moderate and high sensitivity, or any potential archaeological deposits (PADs) identified for impact during detailed design, the Proponent must provide an Addendum Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (Addendum ACHAR), prepared in consultation with the Aboriginal stakeholders and Heritage NSW, to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary. The report must:	This Report
a)	include details of consultation with the Aboriginal stakeholders;	Section 3 Section 3.1
b)	describe the additional Aboriginal heritage surveys that were undertaken, including test excavations of PADs;	Section 4 Section 5



MCoA		
c)	describe any potential additional impacts to heritage items;	Section 6
d)	identify further mitigation measures, including avoidance or salvage;	Section 7
e)	include detailed justification where the final transmission line alignment is not able to avoid impacts to heritage items; and	Table 6-1
f)	provide an updated and consolidated list of sites that would be protected and remain in-situ throughout construction and sites that would be salvaged and relocated to suitable alternative locations.	appendix 3

This addendum was provided to Heritage NSW on 15 December 2025 with a response received on 12 January 2026 (see Appendix 2) no comments to be addressed were received and only a comment regarding future reporting is noted and will be complied with.

1.4 Methodology

This report has been developed in accordance with the following NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) guidelines:

- *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW* (Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water [DECCW] 2010a)
- *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010b)
- *Guide to investigating, assessing and reporting on Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW* (Office of Environment and Heritage [OEH] 2011).

1.5 Contributors

This report was prepared by [REDACTED] (Senior Archaeologist). It was reviewed by [REDACTED] (Associate Director/Senior Heritage Specialist).

1.5.1 Restricted information

Information in this report relating to the exact location of Aboriginal sites should not be published or promoted in the public domain.

No information provided by Aboriginal stakeholders in this report has been specifically identified as requiring access restrictions due to its cultural sensitivity.

1.5.2 Confidentiality

No information in this report has been classified as confidential.

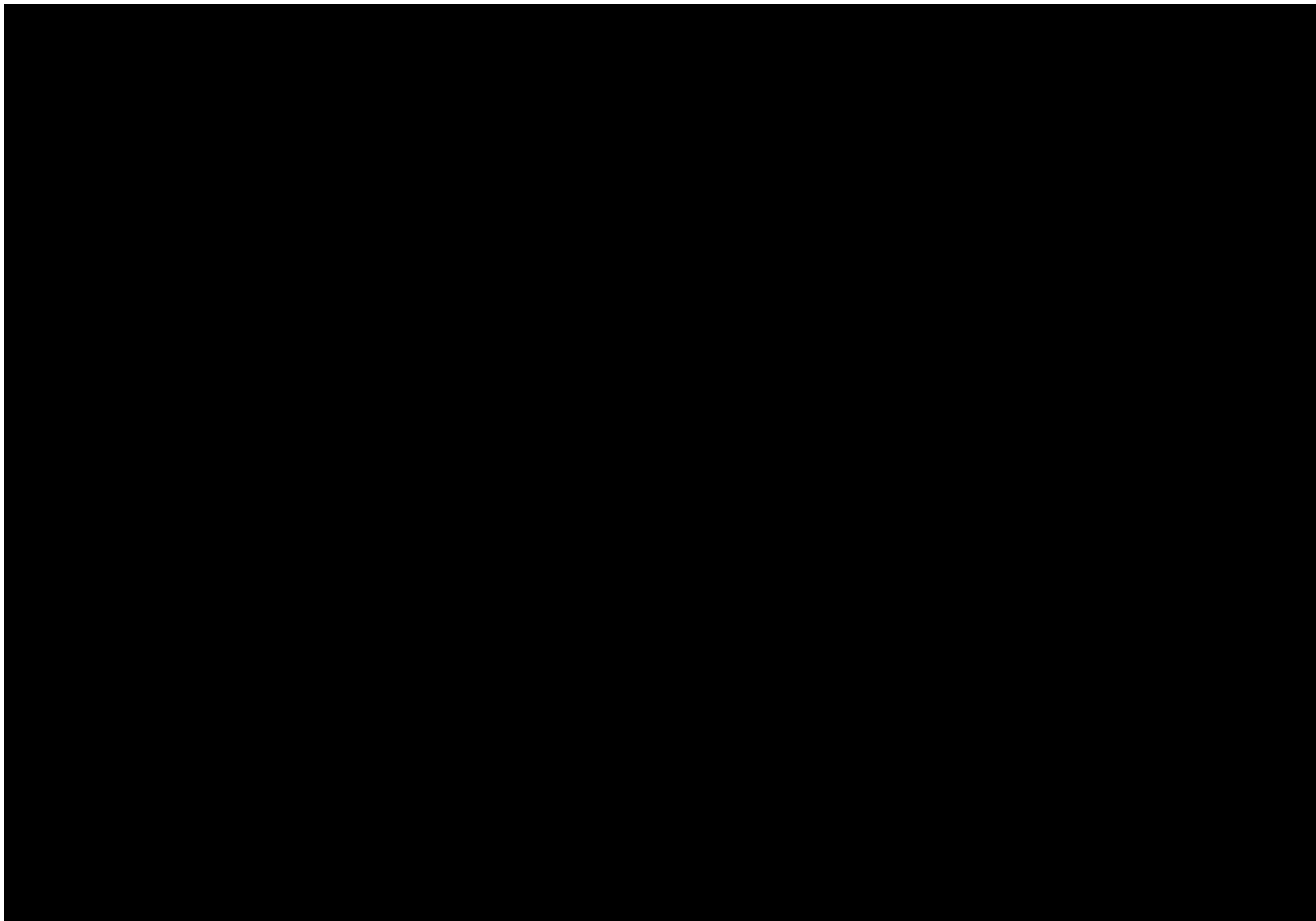
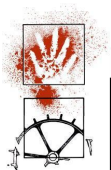


Figure 1-1 ACHAR Survey Progress

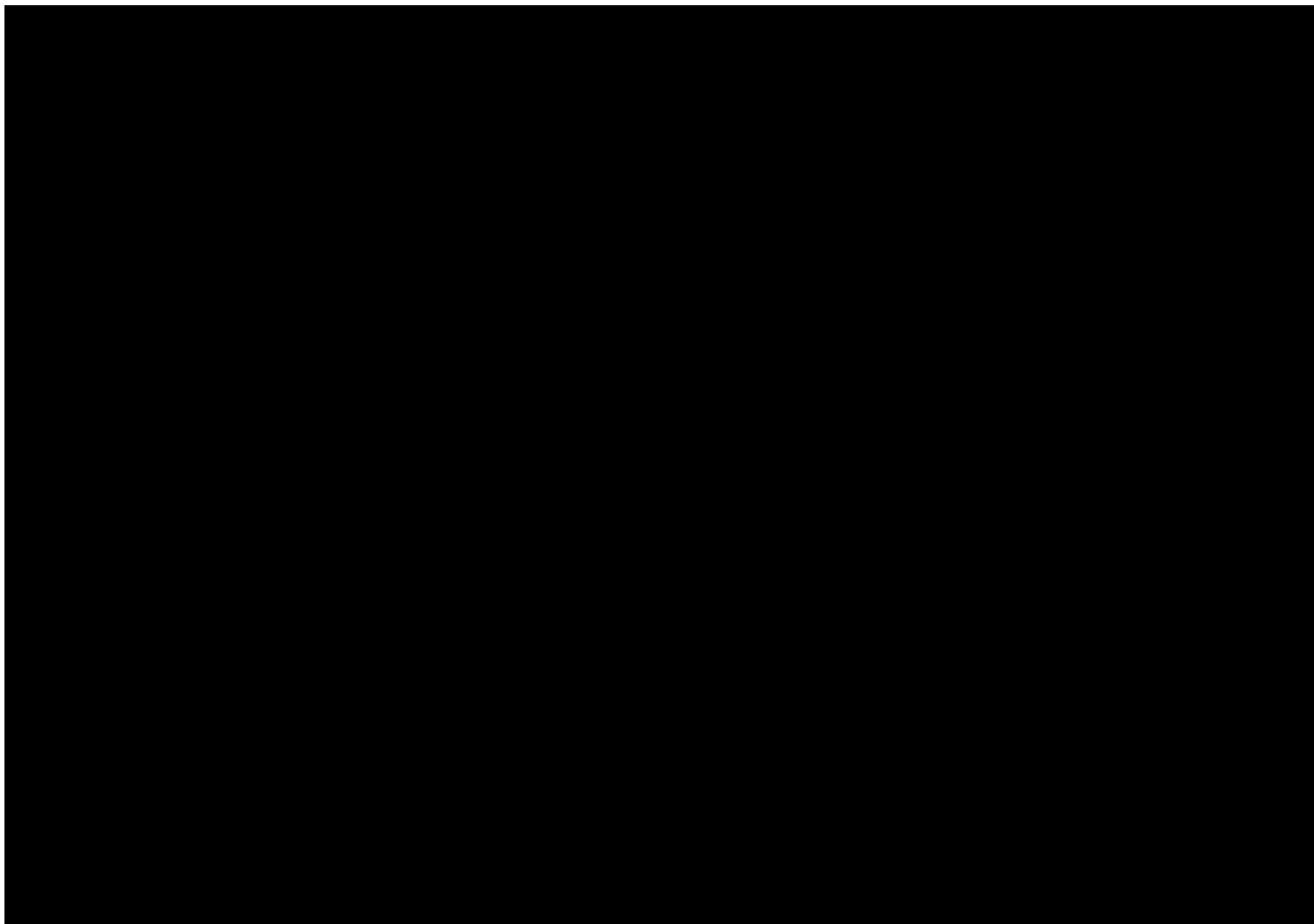
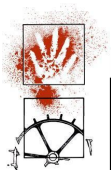
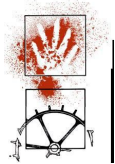


Figure 1-2 Properties assessed within the addendum ACHAR



2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Field methods

This section outlines the results of the field investigation of the subject area undertaken as part of the ACHAR addendum. The archaeological survey and data collection were carried out in accordance with the requirements of the *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in NSW* (DECCW 2010).

The purpose of the field investigation is to:

- Survey areas that are to be subject to direct impacts;
- Verify the nature, location, and extent of any known Aboriginal sites within the subject area;
- Identify and record any new Aboriginal sites or landforms with archaeological potential observed; and
- Document the conditions encountered (survey units, landforms, general soil information, ground surface exposures, and vegetation) to assess the effectiveness of the survey.

The field investigation can also be used to enable registered Aboriginal stakeholders to visit the proposed project site and to discuss the management of Aboriginal sites and cultural heritage values across the subject area.

2.2 Recording Parameters

The archaeological survey aimed at identifying material evidence of Aboriginal occupation as revealed by surface artefacts and areas of archaeological potential unassociated with surface artefacts. Potential recordings fall into two broad categories: sites and potential archaeological deposits.

2.2.1 Aboriginal Sites and PADs

A site is defined as any material evidence of past Aboriginal activity that remains within a context or place which can be reliably related to that activity.

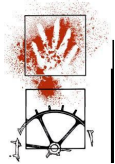
Most Aboriginal sites are identified by the presence of three main categories of artefacts: stone or shell artefacts situated on or in a sedimentary matrix, marks located on or in rock surfaces, and scars on trees.

Frequently encountered site types within southeastern Australia include stone artefact occurrences - including isolated finds and open artefact scatters, coastal and freshwater middens, rock shelter sites - including occupation deposit and/or rock art, grinding groove sites and scarred trees. For the purposes of this section, only the methodologies used in basic site identification are outlined, together with those for the recording types encountered by this investigation.

Stone Artefact Occurrences

Stone artefact occurrences are the most commonly recorded site type in Australia. They may consist of single artefacts - described as isolated finds; or as a distribution of more than one artefact – often described as an artefact scatter or 'open camp site' when recording surface artefacts, or as a subsurface artefact distribution when dealing with an archaeological deposit.

Where artefact incidence is very low, either in terms of areal distribution (artefacts per square metre) or density (artefacts per cubic metre), then the differentiation of the recording from background artefacts counts or *background scatter* may be an issue.



Isolated finds

An isolated find is a single stone artefact, not located within a rock shelter, and which occurs without any associated evidence of Aboriginal occupation within a radius of 60 metres. Isolated finds may be indicative of:

- Random loss or deliberate discard of a single artefact;
- The remnant of a now dispersed and disturbed artefact scatter; and
- An otherwise obscured or sub-surface artefact scatter.

Except in the case of the latter, isolated finds may be considered to be constituent components of the *background scatter* present within any particular landform.

The distance used to define an isolated artefact varies according to the survey objectives, the incidence of ground surface exposure, the extent of ground surface disturbance, and estimates of *background scatter* or *background discard* densities. In the absence of baseline information relating to background scatter densities, the defining distance for an isolated find must be based on methodological and visibility considerations. Given the varied incidence of ground surface exposure and deposit disturbance within the study area, and the lack of background baseline data, the specification of 60 metres is considered to be an effective parameter for surface survey methodologies. This distance provides a balance between detecting fine scale patterns of Aboriginal occupation and avoiding environmental biases caused by ground disturbance or high ground surface exposure rates. The 60 metre parameter has provided an effective separation of low density artefact occurrences in similar southeast Australian topographies outside of semi-arid landscapes.

Background scatter

Background scatter is a term used generally by archaeologists to refer to artefacts which cannot be usefully related to a place or focus of past activity (except for the net accumulation of single artefact losses).

There is no single concept for background discard or 'scatter', and therefore no agreed definition. The definitions in current use are based on the postulated nature of prehistoric activity, and often they are phrased in general terms and do not include quantitative criteria. Commonly agreed is that background discard occurs in the absence of 'focused' activity involving the production or discard of stone artefacts in a particular location. An example of unfocused activity is occasional isolated discard of artefacts during travel along a route or pathway. Examples of 'focused activity' are camping, knapping and heat-treating stone, cooking in a hearth, and processing food with stone tools. In practical terms, over a period of thousands of years an accumulation of 'unfocused' discard may result in an archaeological concentration that may be identified as a 'site'. Definitions of background discard comprising only qualitative criteria do not specify the numbers (numerical flux) or 'density' of artefacts required to discriminate site areas from background discard.

Artefact scatters

Artefacts situated within an open context are classed as an open artefact scatter (or 'open camp site') when two or more occur no more than 60 metres away from any other constituent artefact. The 60 metre specification relates back to the definition of an isolated find (*Refer above*). The use of the term *scatter* is intended only to be descriptive of the current archaeological evidence and does not infer the original human behaviour which formed the site. The term *open camp site* has been used extensively in the past to describe open artefact scatters. This was based on ethnographic modelling suggesting that most artefact occurrences resulted from activities at camp sites. However, in order to separate the description from the interpretation of field evidence, the terms *artefact scatter*, *artefact distribution* or *artefact occurrence* are now more extensively used. The latter two options can also be used to categorise artefacts occurring in sub-surface contexts.



Potential Archaeological Deposits

A potential archaeological deposit, or PAD, is defined as any location where the potential for subsurface archaeological material is considered to be moderate or high, relative to the surrounding study area landscape. The potential for subsurface material to be present is assessed using criteria developed from the results of previous surveys and excavations relevant to the region. Where necessary, PADs can be given an indicative rating of their 'archaeological potential' based on a combined assessment of their potential to contain artefacts, and the potential archaeological value of the deposit. Table 3.1 illustrates the matrix on which this assessment is based. Locations with low potential for artefacts fall below the threshold of classification. In such cases the potential incidence of artefactual material is considered to be the same as, or close to that for background scatter. Where there is moderate potential for artefacts, the predicted archaeological potential parallels the potential significance of the deposit. For deposits with high potential for artefacts, the assessed archaeological potential is weighted positively.

The boundaries of PADs are generally defined by the extent of particular micro-landforms known to have high correlations with archaeological material. A PAD may or may not be associated with surface artefacts. In the absence of artefacts, a location with potential will be recorded as a PAD. Where one or more surface artefacts occur on a sedimentary deposit, a PAD may also be identified where there is insufficient evidence to assess the nature and content of the underlying deposit. This situation is due mostly to poor ground surface visibility.

Table 2-1 Matrix showing the basis for assessing the archaeological potential Matrix showing the basis for assessing the archaeological potential (shown in bolded black text) of a potential archaeological deposit.

		Potential to contain Aboriginal objects		
		<i>Low</i>	<i>Moderate</i>	<i>High</i>
Potential archaeological significance	<i>Low</i>	---	low	moderate
	<i>Moderate</i>	---	moderate	high
	<i>High</i>	---	high	high

2.3 Surface Collection

In accordance with the approved heritage management plan, the following will be enacted during collection of surface sites.

- Re-visit the location of the previously recorded surface artefact occurrence.
- Salvage personnel will collect the artefact.
- A sketch map will be drafted for the collected site, showing:
 - Local features, including vehicle tracks and north direction;
 - A graphic approximation of artefact densities;
 - The spatial extent of the surface distribution; and
 - The location of any separate collection areas.
- GPS positions will be logged for the collection area.



- One or more digital photographs will be taken and logged, showing the general context of the artefact.
- The collected artefact will be appropriately bagged and labelled.
- The collected artefact will be temporarily held by the consultants and described by a lithic specialist:
 - Basic technological traits will be recorded; and
 - The artefact will be photographed using a digital camera.

Any surface artefacts will be recorded and moved off the track or collected, depending on the wishes of the RAPs. If artefacts are moved the artefact locations will be recorded as sites and then entered on the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) database. The recording will include a record of their original location. Artefacts may be grouped into sites and the location provided to AHIMS accordingly.

See Section 2.4.2 for the procedure for care and management of recovered artefacts.

2.4 Test Excavation

Within a PAD to be impacted by access tracks and tower work areas, a line (transect) of pits will be placed within the proposed impact areas. Pits will be placed 10 m apart.

Following an on-site review, the test pit locations may be varied slightly in order to avoid hazards and obstructions including the following:

- large stone cobbles or tors;
- outcropping bedrock;
- highly disturbed or eroded ground including rabbit burrows, ants nests, buried infrastructure such as pipes or cables; and/or
- substantial vegetation.

If substantial or significant deposits are identified during the test excavation program this will indicate the need for a review of project impacts or for a future mitigation program which might include salvage.

Excavation procedures and protocols may be modified at the discretion of the Excavation Director in consultation with the RAPs and client as the conditions in the field and nature of the excavations develop.

2.4.1 Hand Excavation

The test excavation program would be carried out in accordance with the Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales (Part 6 National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974) (DECCW 2010) requirement 16a. All pits would be excavated by hand using 0.5 x 0.5 m units. An indicative testing methodology would consist of the following:

1. Mark out and record pit location(s).

The size of an individual test pit will be 0.5 x 0.5 m.

2. Excavate pit.



Pits will be excavated by shovel and trowel using standard by-hand archaeological methodologies including vertical and horizontal recording of spit levels and sedimentary, cultural and stratigraphic features.

The first excavation unit at each site will be excavated and documented in 5-centimetre (cm) spits. Depending upon the results of the first excavation unit, subsequent spit intervals will be at 10 cm, except in circumstances where the excavation of cultural features or stratigraphic units necessitates a smaller interval.

Excavation will cease when the natural B horizon or to the base of Aboriginal object bearing units or until deposits are sterile.

3. Archaeological investigation will not go beyond 150 cm in depth or beyond a depth considered unsafe based on field conditions.
4. For each pit photographic and scale-drawn records of the stratigraphy/soil profile will be completed.
5. Where cultural features are identified, such as heat treatment pits or hearths, knapping floors are identified then three-dimensional co-ordinates may be taken and detailed plans will be drawn and samples of dateable material will be collected.
6. Other samples may be obtained for the potential analysis of paleoenvironmental indicators such as pollen, phytoliths and microfauna.
7. All excavated material will be sieved through at least a 5 mm mesh, with use of a top larger mesh (10 x 10 mm) where appropriate. All identified or suspected cultural material recovered from sieving will be retained, bagged and labelled.

Bioarchaeological material that may be encountered during testing and salvage includes faunal remains, shell, macrobotanicals, and charcoal. Collection of this material provides information on subsistence, past environments, and are a source for dating materials. Recovery of these materials can occur in three situations: 1) associated with hearths, 2) from middens, 3) low density or isolated materials collected from sieves. Collecting material from these contexts during sub-surface investigations varies:

- **Hearth materials.** Materials would be collected and recorded in situ where possible. This includes charred organics, bone, and shell. A series of charcoal samples would be collected from appropriate stratigraphic contexts for possible further analysis. Bone and shell found during sieving would be bagged separately to lithics, and if wet, allowed to dry prior to storage to prevent bacterial and fungal growth.
- **Midden materials.** A bulk sample of Midden materials would be collected (i.e., all sediment and organics), and not sieved during excavation. Sieving and analysis would take place under controllable conditions in the NOHC laboratory. This provides a valuable analysis of midden materials as biological materials, and small bone and shell tools (e.g., bone points), are frequently not identified during onsite excavations. Remainder of the Midden samples would be sieved in the field and bagged separately to the lithic assemblage.
- **Isolated materials.** Isolated shell and bone from archaeological deposits would be recorded and recovered in situ where possible, however biological materials are likely to be found during sieving. Only faunal bone and shell would be recovered from sieves and bagged separately to lithics. If wet, all organic materials are to be allowed to dry prior to storage to prevent bacterial and fungal growth.

2.4.2 Care and Management of Recovered Artefacts

After examination and measurement, all recovered artefacts will be stored individually in standard resealable plastic bags or bagged in appropriate and identifiable units. The bags will be labelled using



a permanent black pen with the item's unique identification number (where generated and appropriate), and/or details of its provenance within the excavation (as appropriate). The material will be temporarily stored at the Wagga Discovery Hub.

Following completion of the analysis of the recovered artefacts; the long-term management of the artefacts will be discussed with the RAPs as outlined in Requirement 26 of the Code of Practice. One option for the long-term management is that Aboriginal objects be repositioned back into the landscape ('returned to country'). All locations of repositioned artefacts would be recorded on appropriate Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) recording forms and lodged with the AHIMS.

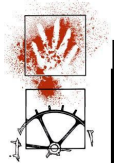
3 ABORIGINAL CONSULTATION

The former New South Wales Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (NSW DECCW) produced a document titled *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010* (NSW DECCW 2010a) that sets out the requirements for "consulting with those Aboriginal people who can provide information about the significance of Aboriginal cultural heritage as part of the heritage assessment process that informs any AHIP application" (NSW DECCW 2010a:1) and Addendum ACHA. Consultation for the Project has been managed by Transgrid, and UGL where relevant, with assistance from NOHC.

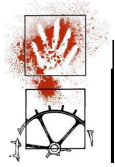
3.1 Comments on the Draft Report

This report was provided to the RAPs for comment and review on the 14th of November 2025. Following a 28-day review period no comments were received on the draft Addendum ACHAR.

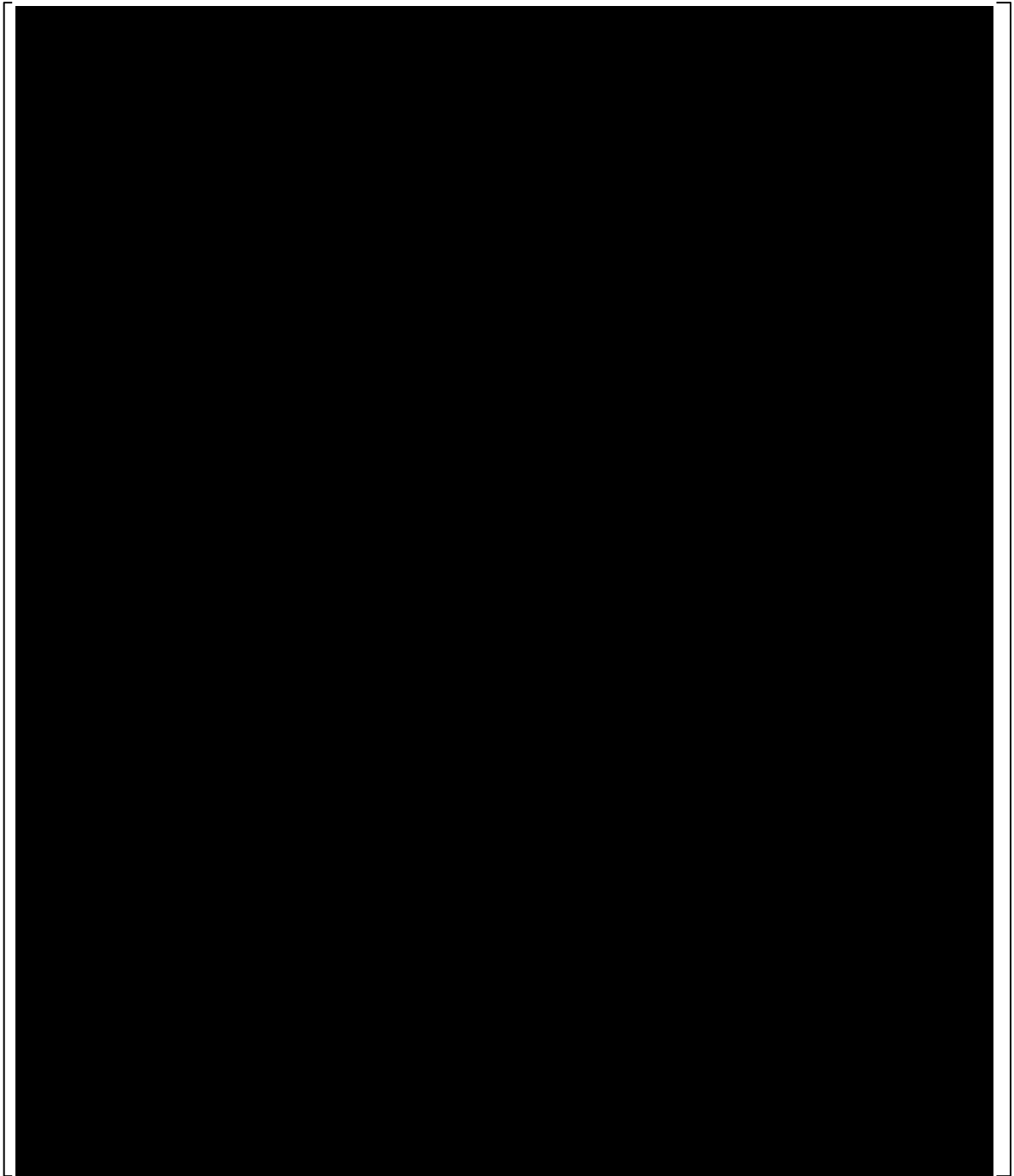
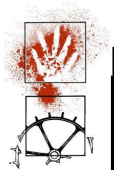
RAP Name	Date report sent	Method Report sent	Comment
	14/11/2025	Email	NA
	14/11/2025	Email	NA
	14/11/2025	Email	NA
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	14/11/2025	Email	NA





4

The following properties within [REDACTED] were subject to heritage survey: [REDACTED] (Figure 4-15, Figure 4-16). See Appendix 1 for archaeological sensitivity mapping of the assessed areas.

The field survey was undertaken on the 17th-18th and the 25th to 27th of March and the 1st to 3rd April 2025 by archaeologists [REDACTED] Representatives from Brunle Tumut Local Aboriginal Land Council (BTLALC) representative [REDACTED] also participated. Sites [REDACTED] were recorded at this time.

Sites in areas of impact were collected on the 28th of May 2025 by archaeologists [REDACTED] Representatives [REDACTED] from BTLALC also participated. During this time sites [REDACTED] were collected, and additional sites [REDACTED] were recorded and collected.

4.1 [REDACTED]

4.1.1 Newly Recorded Sites

The following sites were recorded:

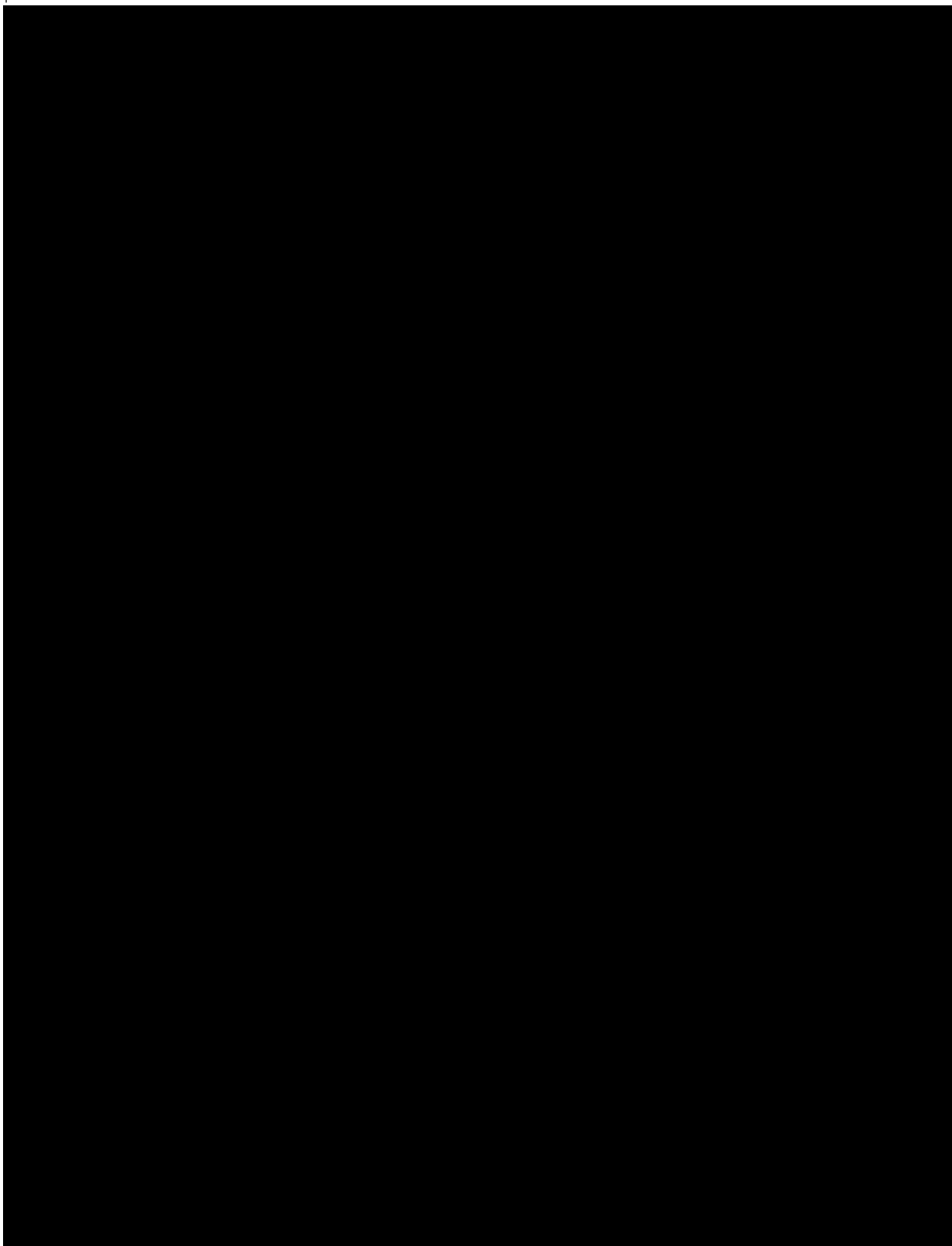
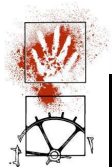
[REDACTED] (Artefact Scatter)

The site consists of an artefact scatter containing two artefacts located on an existing vehicle track to [REDACTED]

- Grey green chert flaked piece 17 x 9 x 2 mm
- Longitudinally split green chert flake 17 x 19 x 6 mm (Figure 4-1)

The site is a scatter across a 5 x 4 metre area, located on an upper slope within a broader steep hills context (Figure 4-2). The site was located approximately [REDACTED] and soils presented as orange-brown gravelly silt. The exposure incidence was 100 per cent with 90 per cent visibility within exposures. The surrounding vegetation is cleared for forestry purposes.

During the clearance survey the artefacts could not be relocated. Due to extensive recent rainfall, it is likely that the artefacts have been washed downslope and out of areas of impact (Figure 4-3).



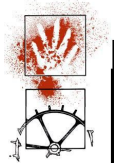
[REDACTED]

(Isolated Find)

[REDACTED]

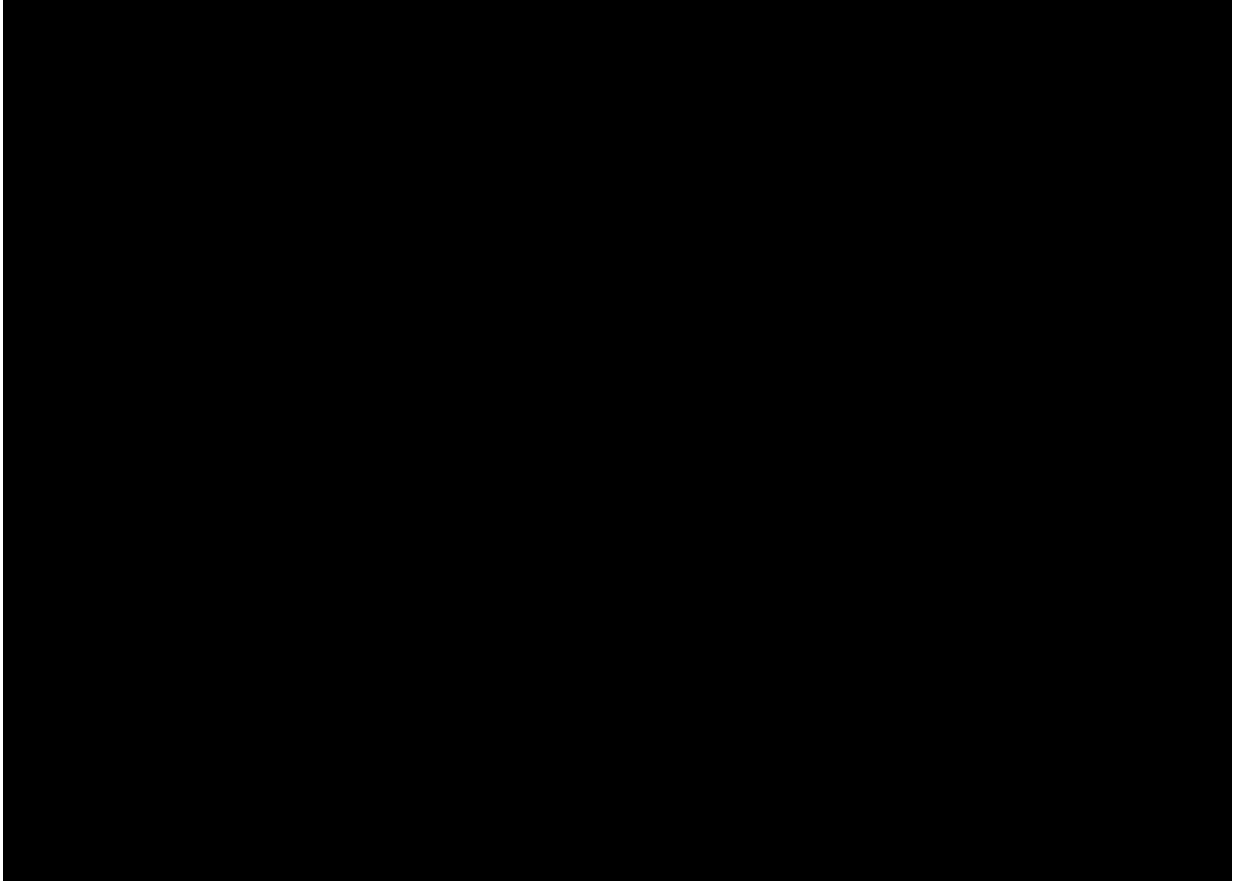
The site consists of an isolated find located in a heavily disturbed forestry area near to [REDACTED]

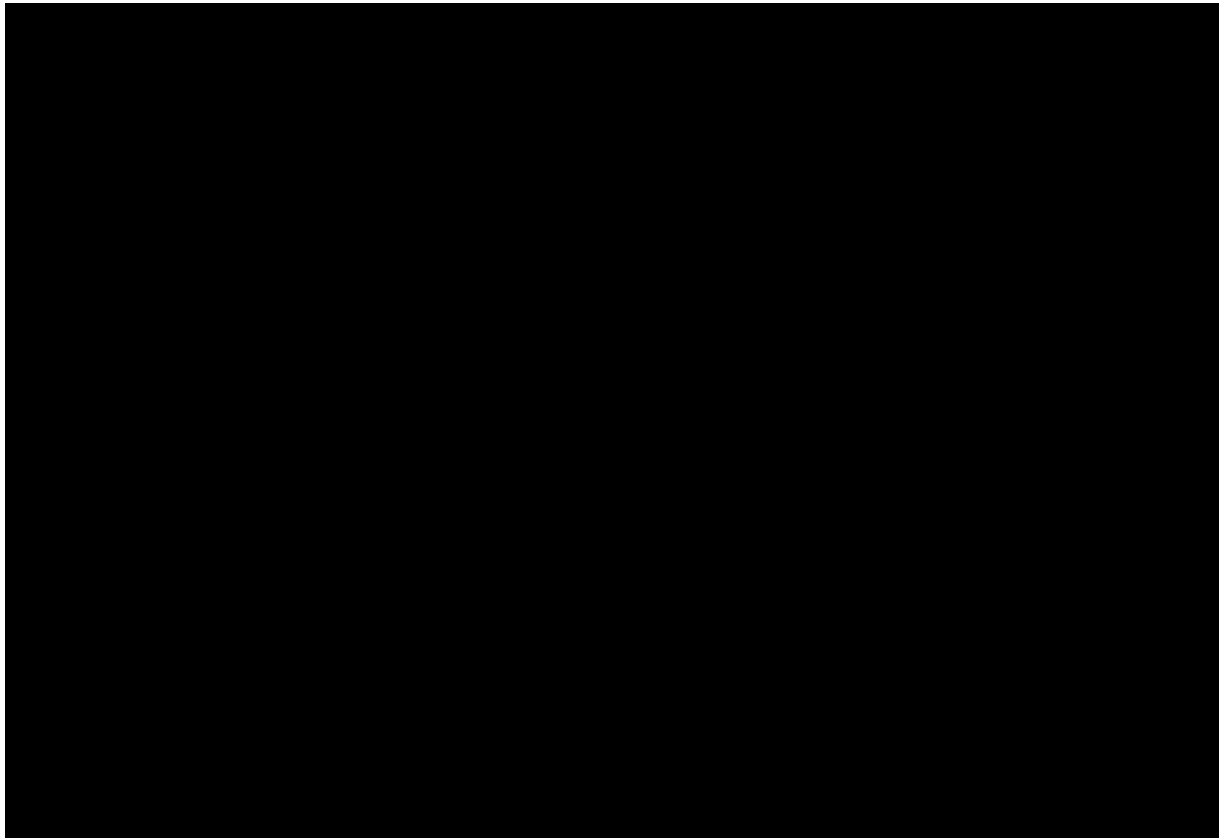
- Isolated tuff proximal flake 16 x 11 x 4 mm (Figure 4-4)



The site is an isolated find in a 1 x 1 metre area, located on a moderately inclined upper slope within a broader rolling hills context (Figure 4-5). The site was located approximately [REDACTED] and soils presented as pale brown silt. The exposure incidence was 10 per cent with 10 per cent visibility within exposures. The surrounding vegetation is open forest used for forestry purposes.

This artefact could not be relocated during the clearance survey (Figure 4-7); however the following artefact was collected:





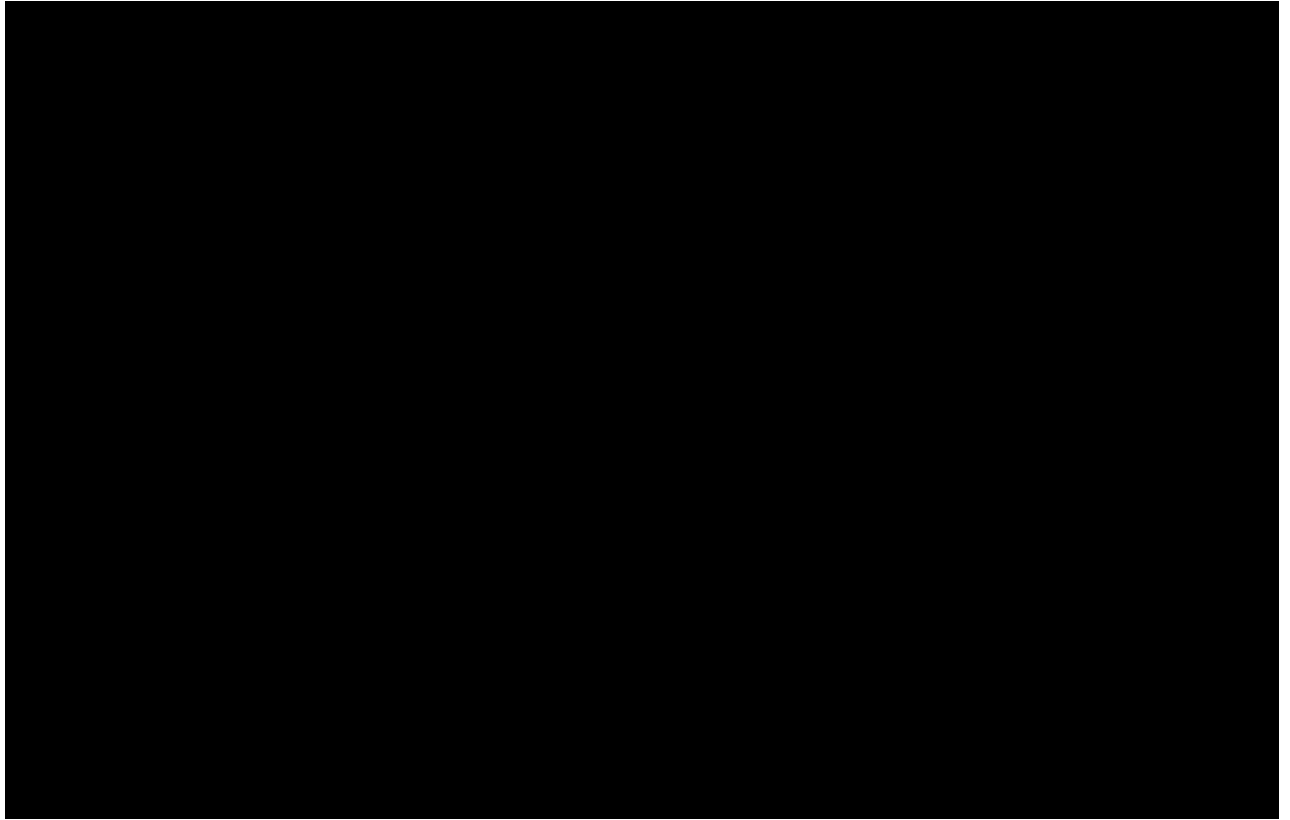
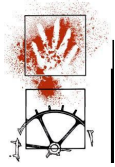
(Artefact Scatter)

The site consists of a scatter of six artefacts in a 10 x 3 m area located in an existing red clay vehicle track near [REDACTED]

The following artefacts were collected (Figure 4-4):

- White quartz complete flake 24.02 x 18.80 x 4.94 mm
- Grey chert retouched flake 27.54 x 12.78 x 9.26 mm
- Grey chert complete bipolar flake 22.95 x 14.50 x 3.95 mm
- White quartz complete flake 36.24 x 24.68 x 14.26 mm
- White quartz complete bipolar flake 14.61 x 12.89 x 3.65 mm

White quartz complete flake 17.58 x 11.39 x 4.65 mm The site is located mid-slope within a broader steep hills context (Figure 4-9). The site was located approximately [REDACTED] and soils presented as red clay. The exposure incidence was 90 per cent with 70 per cent visibility within exposures. The surrounding vegetation is open forest and is used for forestry purposes.



(Artefact Scatter)

The site consists of an artefact scatter containing five artefacts located on an existing vehicle track to [REDACTED]

The following artefacts were collected (Figure 4-10, Figure 4-12):

- White quartz complete flake 24.94 x 13.99 x 8.66 mm
- Grey IMT complete flake 28.24 x 11.75 x 7.93 mm
- Grey chert medial flake 29.35 x 24.05 x 3.45 mm
- Reddish brown basalt broken hammerstone 90.08 x 57.20 x 45.09 mm
- Brown granite broken hammerstone 101.87 x 48.70 x 29.54 mm

The site is a scatter across a 60 x 4 metre area, located mid-slope within a broader steep hills context (Figure 4-11). The site was located approximately 126 meters from an unnamed tributary of [REDACTED] and soils presented as pale gravelly silty clay. The exposure incidence was 100% with 80% visibility within exposures. The surrounding vegetation is cleared for forestry purposes.



[Redacted]

(Isolated Find)

[Redacted]

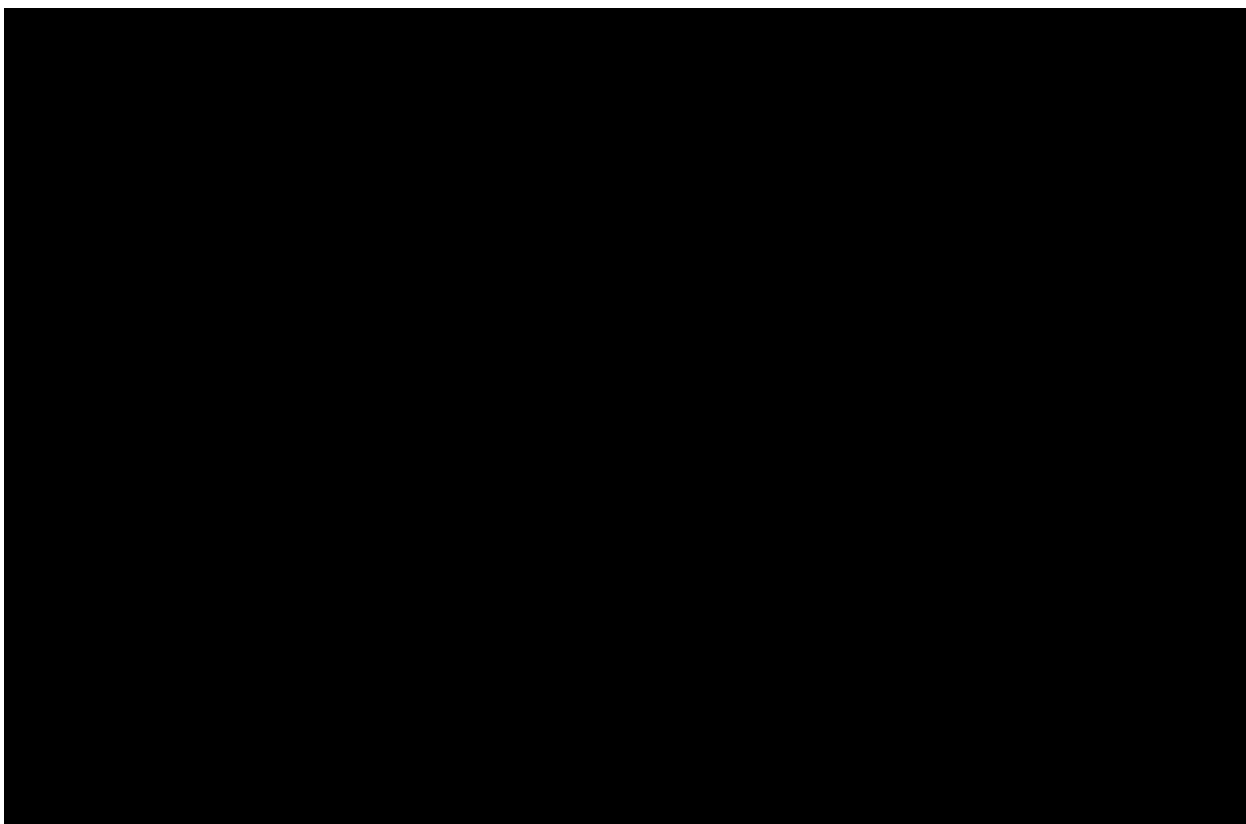
The site consists of an isolated find located on an existing vehicle track to [Redacted]

The following artefact was collected (Figure 4-13):



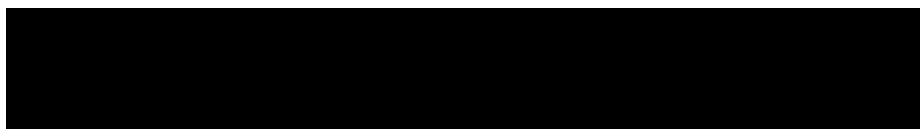
- Grey IMT proximal flake 28.74 x 25.33 x 8.29 mm

The site is located in a 1 x 1 metre area, on an upper slope within a broader steep hills context (Figure 4-14). The site was located approximately 70 meters from [REDACTED] and soils presented as pale orange-brown silty clay. The exposure incidence was 100% with 80% visibility within exposures. The surrounding vegetation is cleared for forestry purposes.



4.2 [REDACTED]

Towers subject to survey:

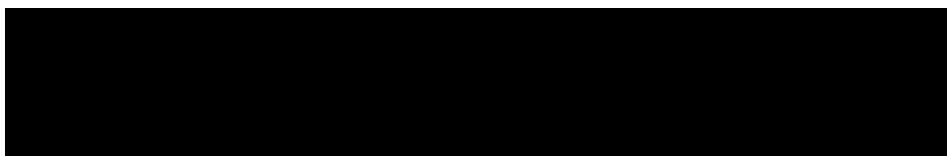


Tower [REDACTED] within [REDACTED] was surveyed during the initial ACHAR.

No Aboriginal sites or areas of archaeological potential were identified during the field surveys.

4.3 [REDACTED]

Towers subject to survey:



No Aboriginal sites or areas of archaeological potential were identified during the field surveys.

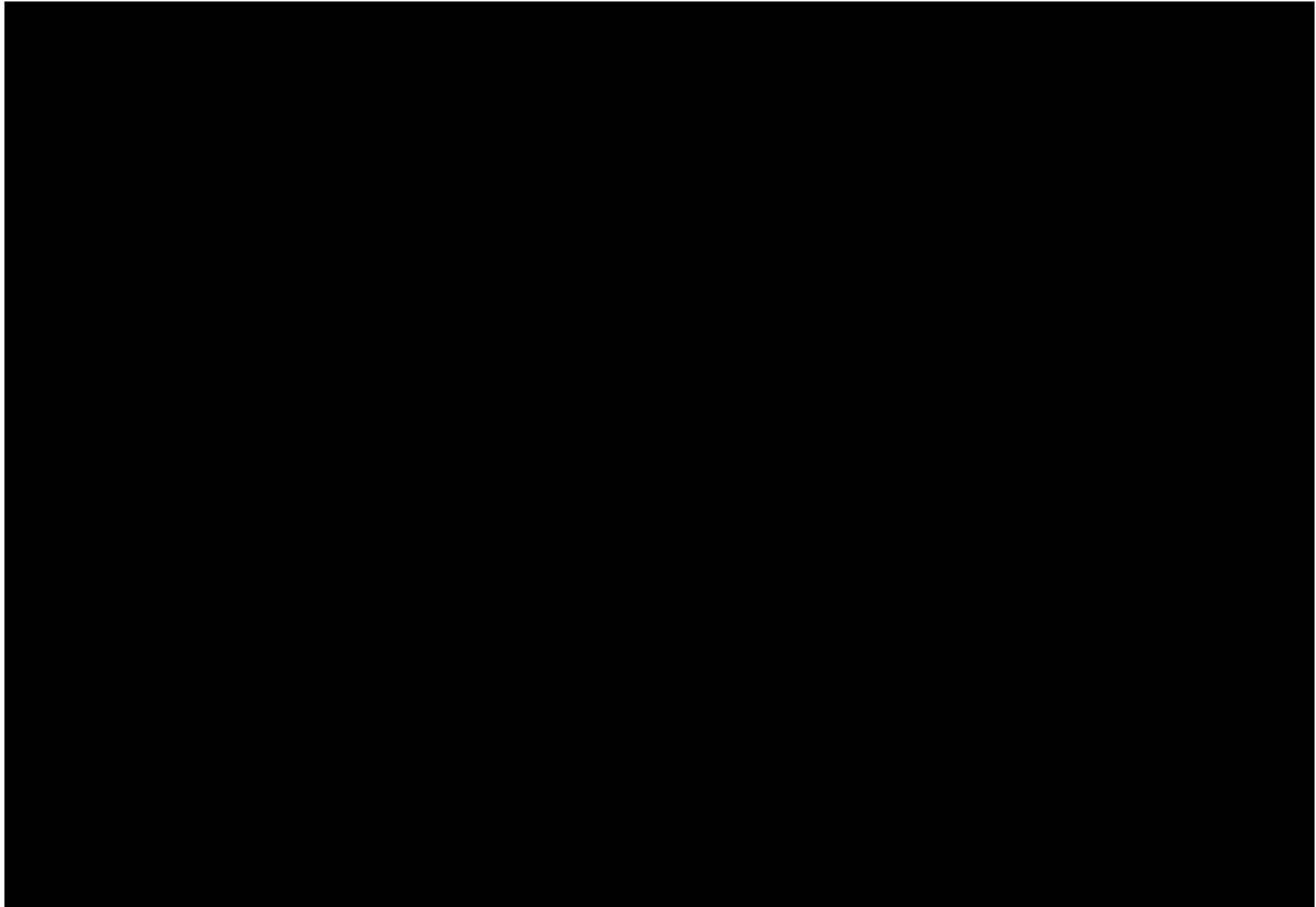
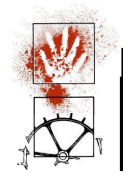


Figure 4-15 Site and tower locations along the assessed area of [REDACTED]

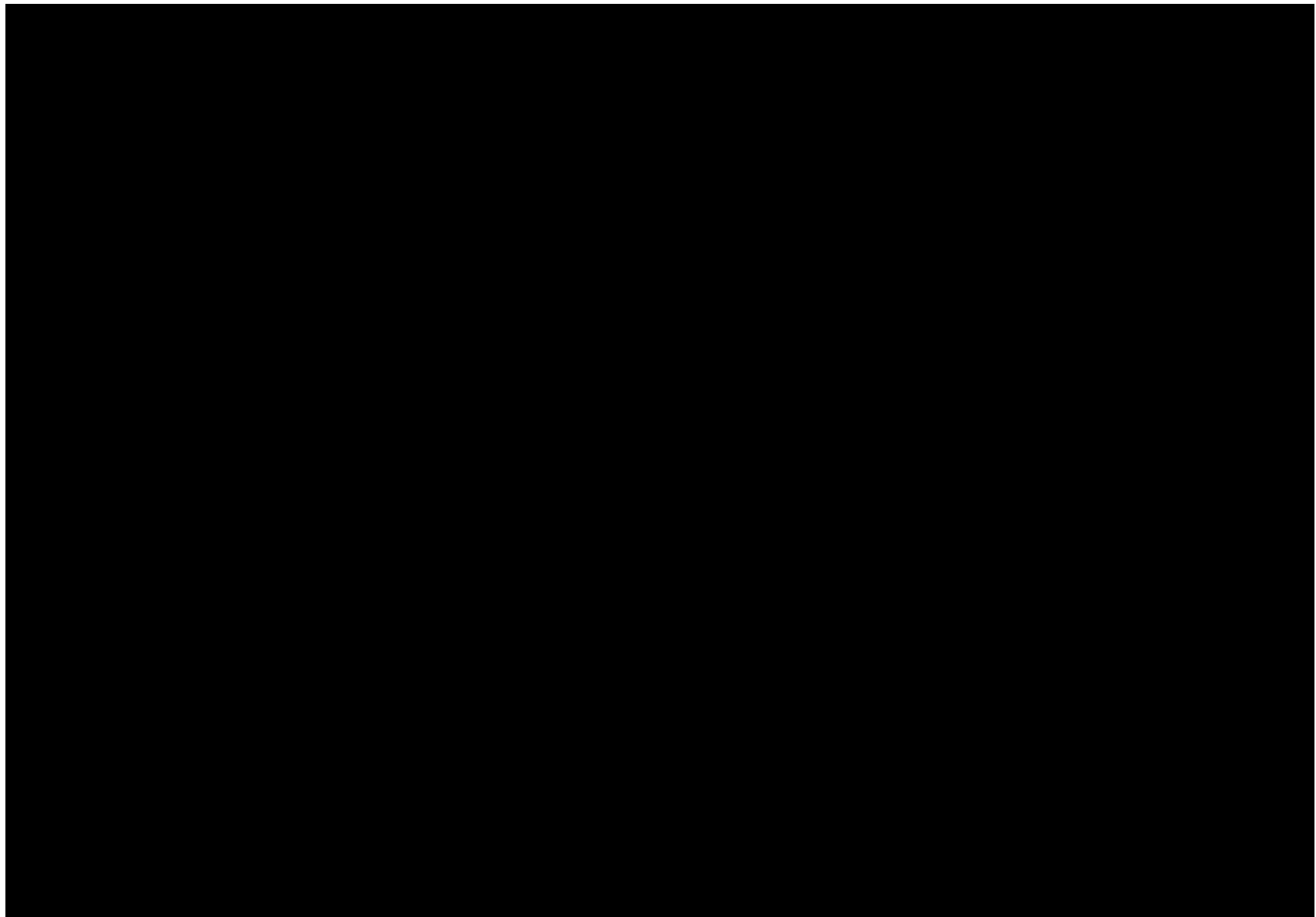
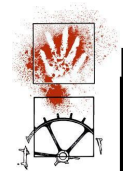


Figure 4-16 Sites and tower locations along the assessed area of [REDACTED] continued



5

The following properties within [REDACTED] were assessed and/or subject to survey: [REDACTED] (Figure 5-10, Figure 5-11, Figure 5-12). See Appendix 1 for archaeological sensitivity mapping of the assessed areas.

The field survey was conducted on the 8-9th of July 2025 by archaeologists [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] Representatives [REDACTED] from BTLALC also participated. [REDACTED] were recorded and collected at this time as they were located in areas of direct impact.

[REDACTED] was surveyed on 30 September 2025 by archaeologists [REDACTED] and representatives from BTLALC [REDACTED]

5.1

No impacts were proposed within this property, and as such it was not subject to survey.

5.2

Towers subject to survey:

[REDACTED]

No Aboriginal sites or areas of archaeological potential were identified during the field surveys.

5.3

Towers subject to survey:

[REDACTED]

Towers 25 and 26 were attempted to be surveyed, however they were covered by dense vegetation and will be required to be surveyed post-vegetation clearance.

Towers 7-24 within [REDACTED] were surveyed during the initial ACHAR.

5.3.1 Newly Recorded Sites

The following sites were recorded during the field surveys:

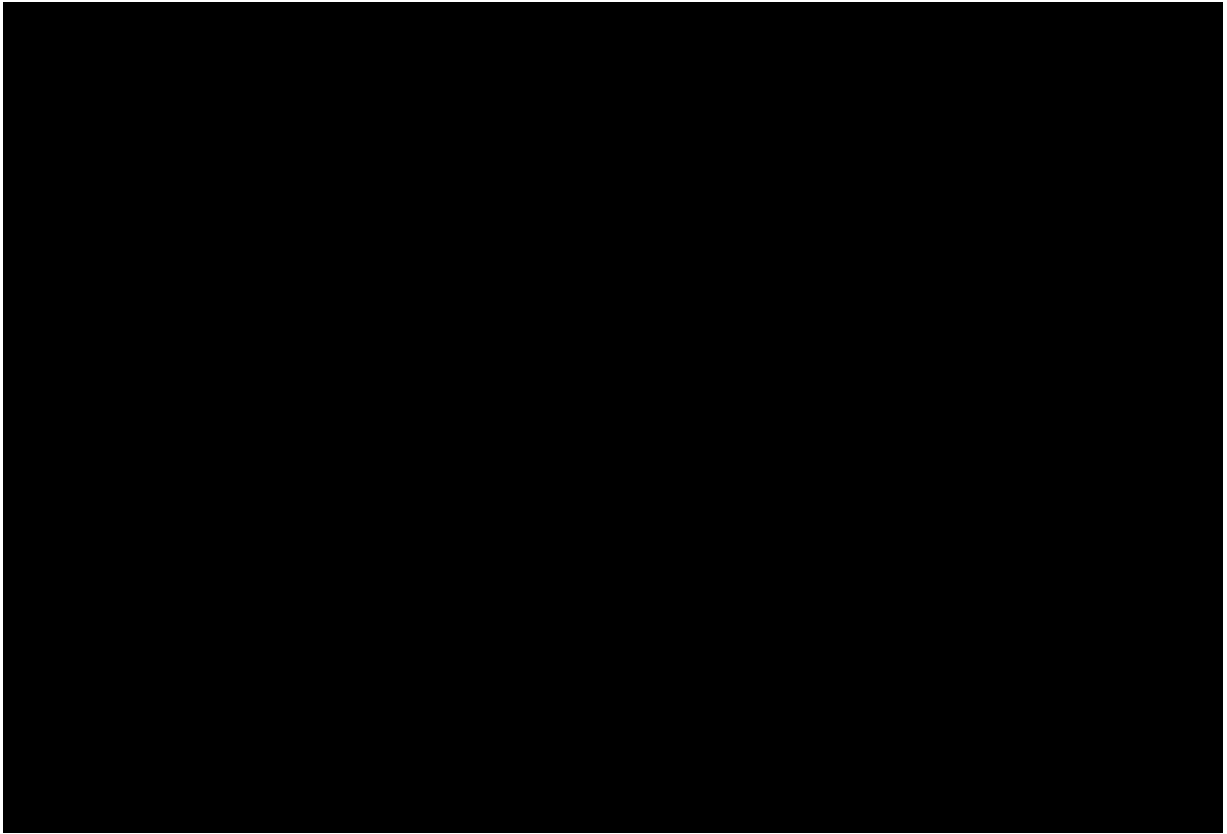
[REDACTED] (Isolated Find)

[REDACTED]

The site was recorded in July 2025 and consists of an isolated quartz artefact in a 1 x 1 metre area on an existing vehicle track (Figure 5-2). The site is located on an existing vehicle track to [REDACTED]


The following artefact was collected:

- White quartz complete flake 14.93 x 14.69 x 5.73 mm (Figure 5-1)



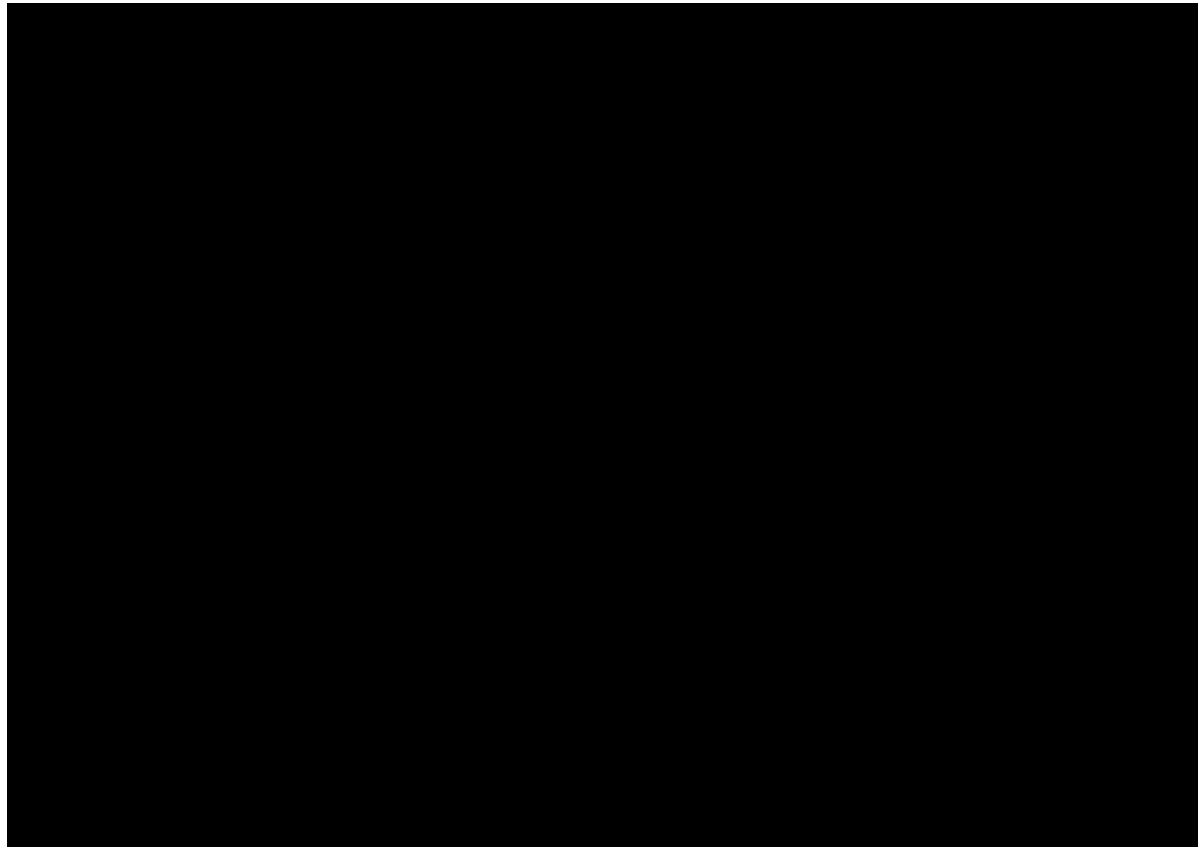
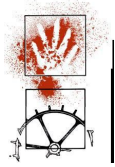
(Artefact Scatter)



This site was recorded in July 2025 and consists of an artefact scatter of three artefacts in a 10 x 10 metre area (Figure 5-4). The site is located on an existing vehicle track to 

The following artefacts were collected:

- Brown granite hammerstone 66.82 x 41.47 x 27.84 mm
- Grey mudstone complete flake 26.31 x 18.60 x 8.35 mm
- Grey quartz complete flake 17.71 x 16.85 x 5.91 mm (Figure 5-3)



5.3.1.1 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was identified during surveys in July 2025 and was subject to test excavation on 17 September 2025 by NOHC archaeologists [REDACTED] with the assistance of RAP representatives from BTLALC [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] is located approximately 19 kms northwest of [REDACTED]. The PAD is 1,476 m² and is overlapped by the [REDACTED] pad to be used by the HumeLink West project.

[REDACTED] is in an area identified by the subsurface sensitivity model as having high archaeological sensitivity. The PAD is approximately 50 x 35 m in size and is in a level area on a hillcrest. Part of the PAD has been disturbed by the existing access track, however there is a likelihood for in-situ deposits to be present in areas of the PAD that surround the track.

An associated artefact scatter was identified on the surface of the [REDACTED] leading to the conclusion that subsurface archaeological deposits are likely. [REDACTED] had been previously salvaged in July 2025.

[REDACTED] (isolated quartz flake) and [REDACTED] (isolated mudstone flake) are located [REDACTED]

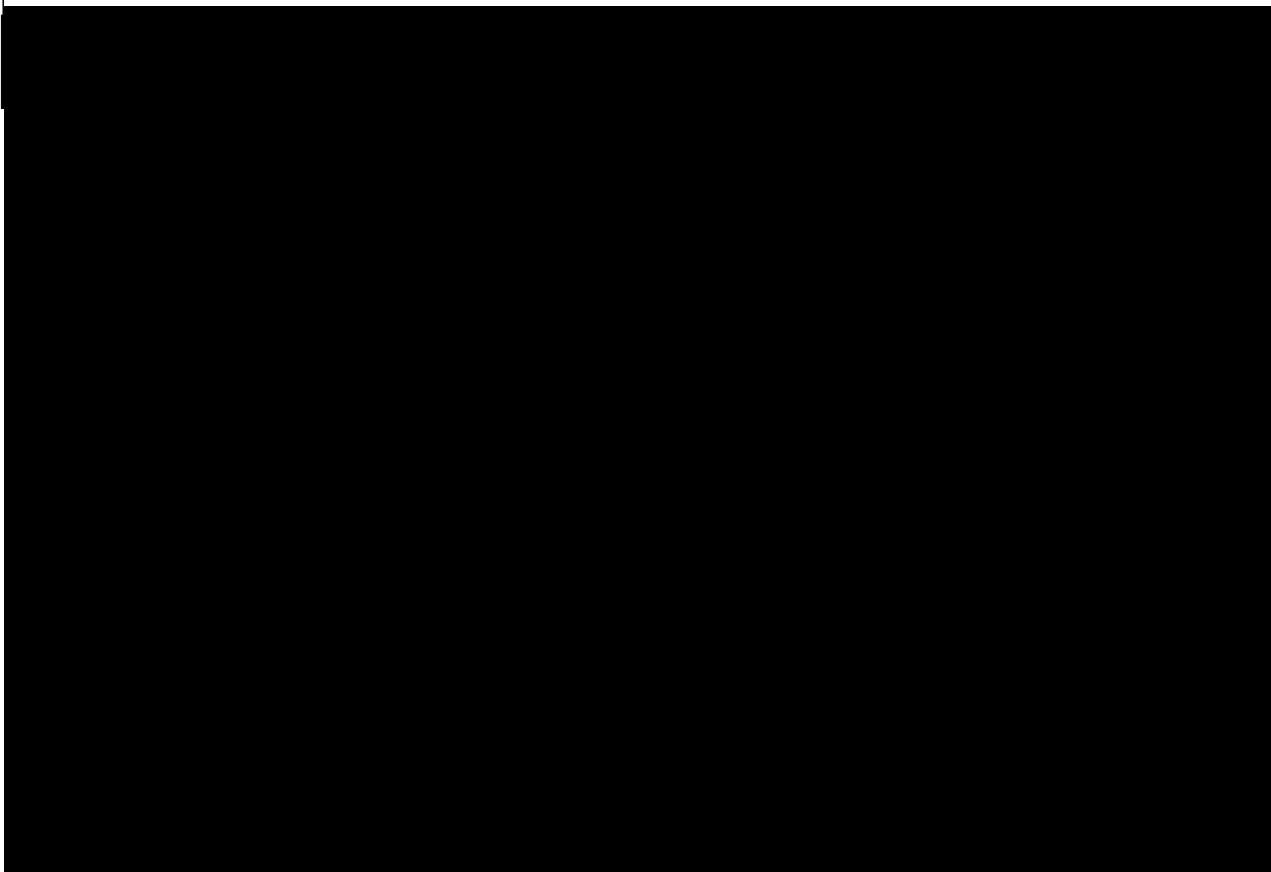


Figure 5-5 [REDACTED] location

Testing within [REDACTED] consisted of six 50 x 50 cm test pits where the tower pad overlapped [REDACTED]. Test Pit 1, as the first excavation unit, was excavated in 5 cm spits. All other test pits were excavated in 10 cm spits. Excavation ceased once natural clay was reached, between 10-30 cm depth (Figure 5-8).

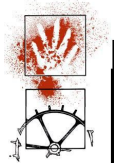
5.3.1.1.1 Sediments, Disturbance, and Features

The PAD exists around a preexisting gravel vehicle track surrounded by black berry bushes within a forestry area. The PAD therefore has been subject to forestry impacts including the construction and maintenance of vehicle tracks, and vegetation clearance and planting by Forestry Corporation of NSW (FcNSW).

The soil profile at [REDACTED] consists of thin grass and blackberries over silty loam with fine gravels and grass root bioturbation. This transitions to gravelly silt before shifting to gravelly clay at the base of the pits. Evidence for burning was noted in the base of Tower Pit 5. Saprolite and granite bedrock were noted at the base of Tower Pit 6. Tower Pits 1 and 2 were located slightly down slope of the vehicle track and as such these pits were deeper as they were less stratigraphically disturbed.

Table 5-1 [REDACTED] Soil Horizons Summary

Soil Horizon	Description
A1 Horizon	Depth:0-100 millimetres Munsell: 7.5YR 2/3, 7.5YR 3/3, 7.5YR 2.5/1 Description: Silty loam with fine gravels and grass root bioturbation.
A2 Horizon	Depth: 50-200 millimetres



Soil Horizon	Description
	Munsell: 7.5YR 4/3 Description: Silty clay with fine angular gravels.
B-Horizon	Depth:>100 millimetres Munsell: 7.5YR 3/4, 5YR 3/6, 7.5YR 4/6 Description: Gravelly clay.

No Aboriginal artefacts or features were identified at [REDACTED] during the subsurface testing program. This site is therefore not a PAD.

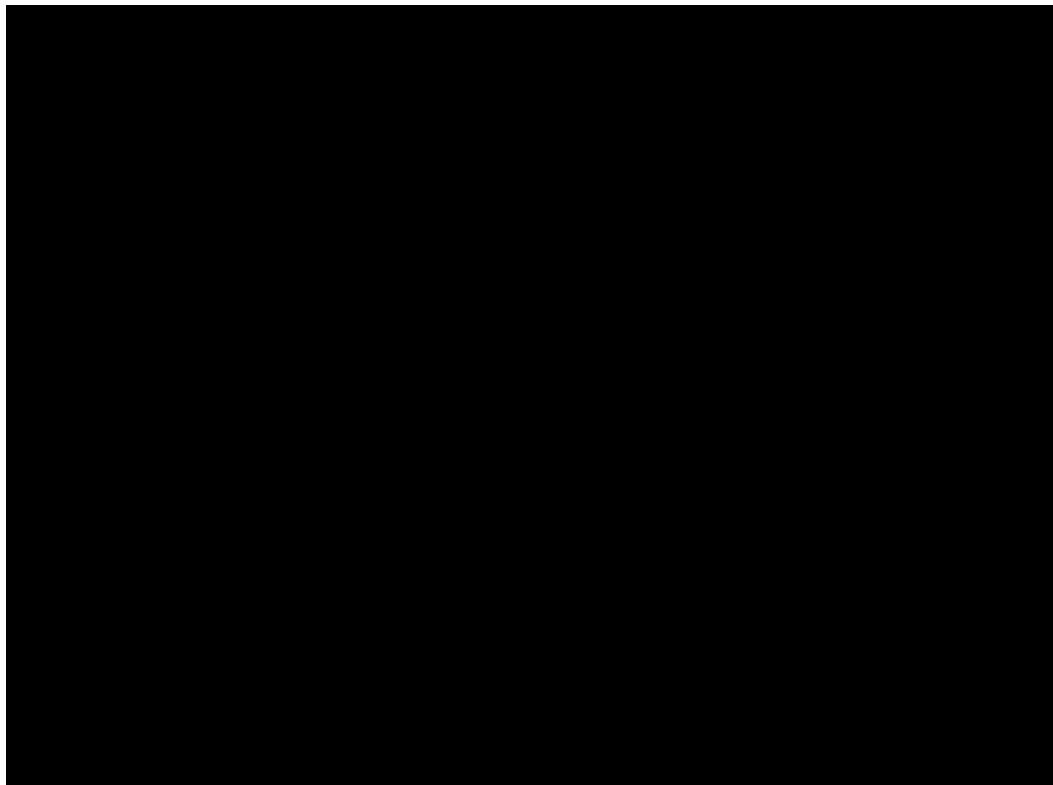
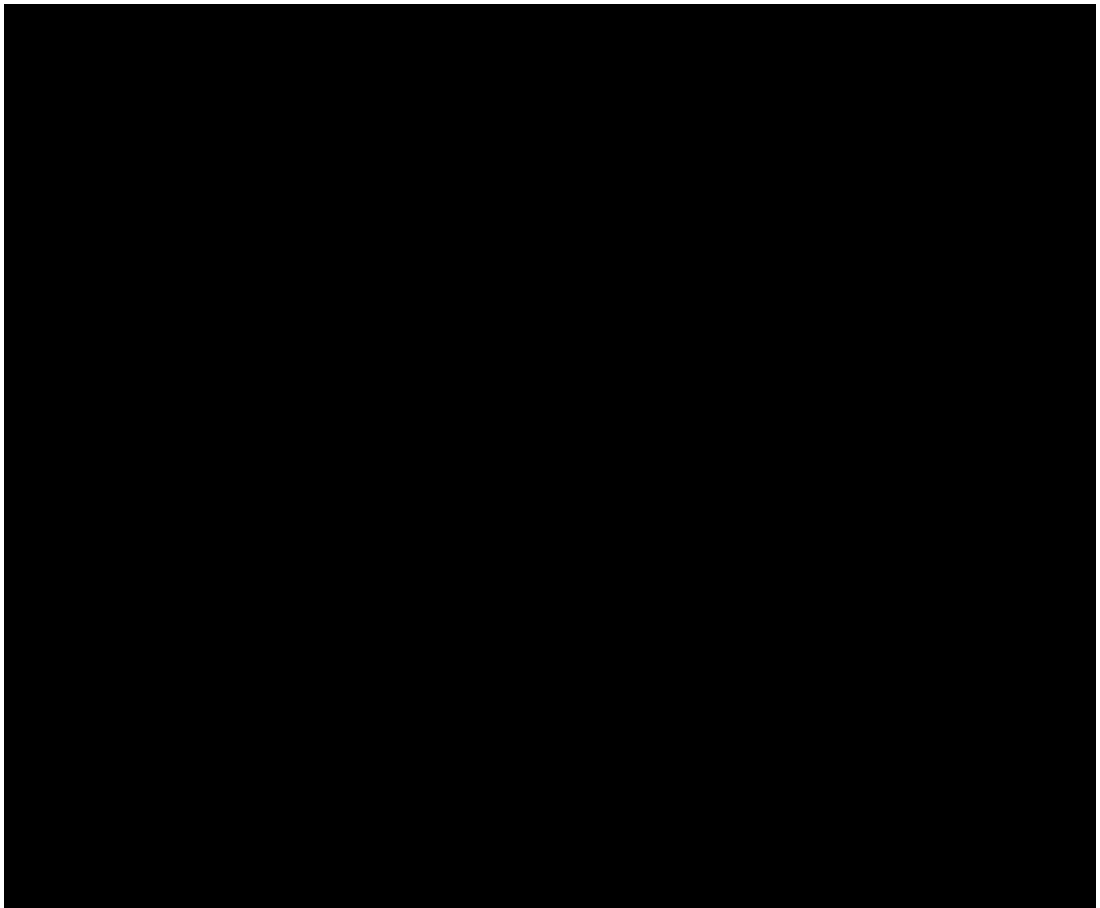
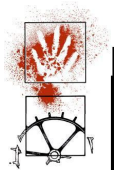


Figure 5-6 [REDACTED] landscape and vegetation from Pit 6 looking east



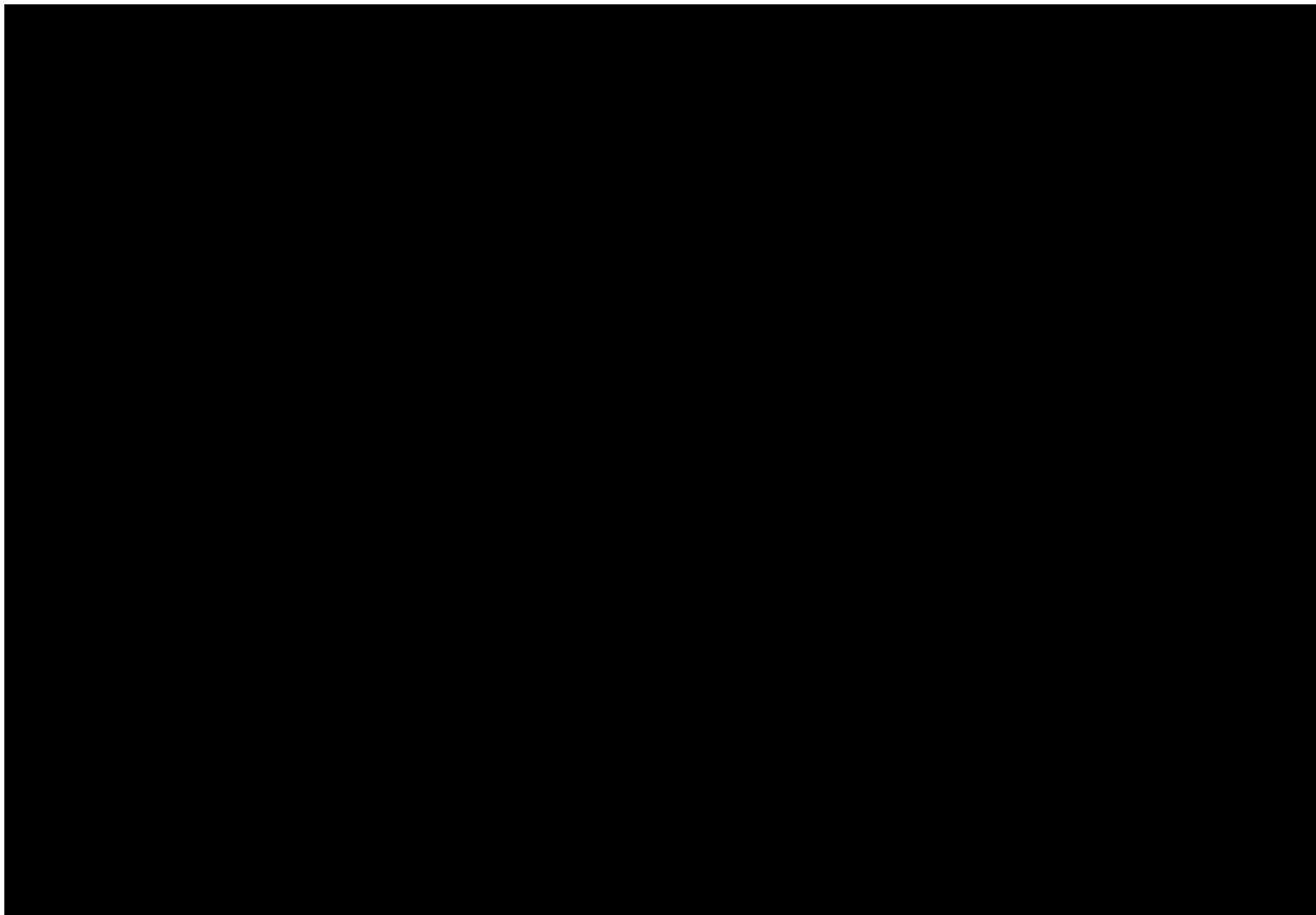
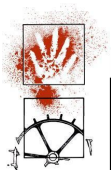
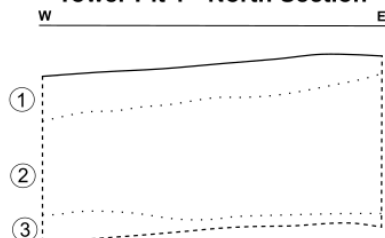


Figure 5-8 [REDACTED] Test Pits by Depth

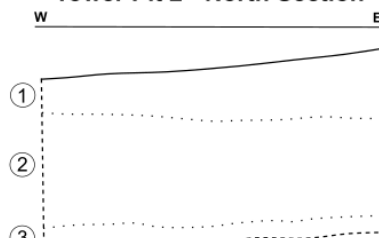


Tower Pit 1 - North Section



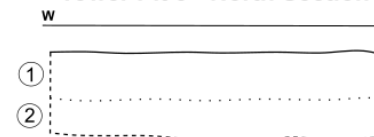
- ① 7.5YR 2.5/1 loam with evident burning.
- ② 7.5YR 4/3 gravelly silty clay, with fine angular gravels.
- ③ 7.5YR 3/4 gravelly clay.

Tower Pit 2 - North Section



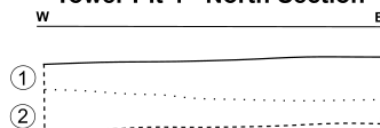
- ① 7.5YR 2/3 loam with evident burning and fine gravels. Many grass rootlets.
- ② 7.5YR 4/3 gravelly silty clay, with fine gravels.
- ③ 7.5YR 4/6 gravelly clay with fine gravels.

Tower Pit 3 - North Section



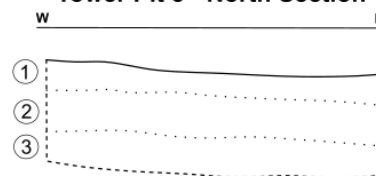
- ① 7.5YR 5/4 gravelly silty clay.
- ② 7.5YR 4/6 gravelly clay.

Tower Pit 4 - North Section



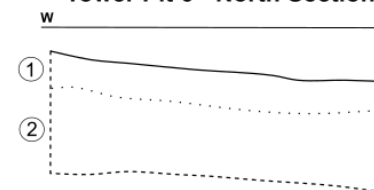
- ① 7.5YR 3/3 gravelly silty clay with fine gravels.
- ② 5YR 3/6 gravelly clay with fine gravels.

Tower Pit 5 - North Section



- ① 7.5YR 3/3 gravelly silty loam with fine gravels and many grass rootlets.
- ② 7.5YR 4/3 gravelly silt with fine gravels.
- ③ Colour varies from 7.5YR 2.5/1 to 5YR 3/6 gravelly clay with very evident burning.

Tower Pit 6 - North Section



- ① 7.5YR 3/3 gravelly loam with grass rootlets.
- ② 7.5YR 3/3 silt with degrading gravels. Increase in gravel with depth to saprolite and granite bedrock base.

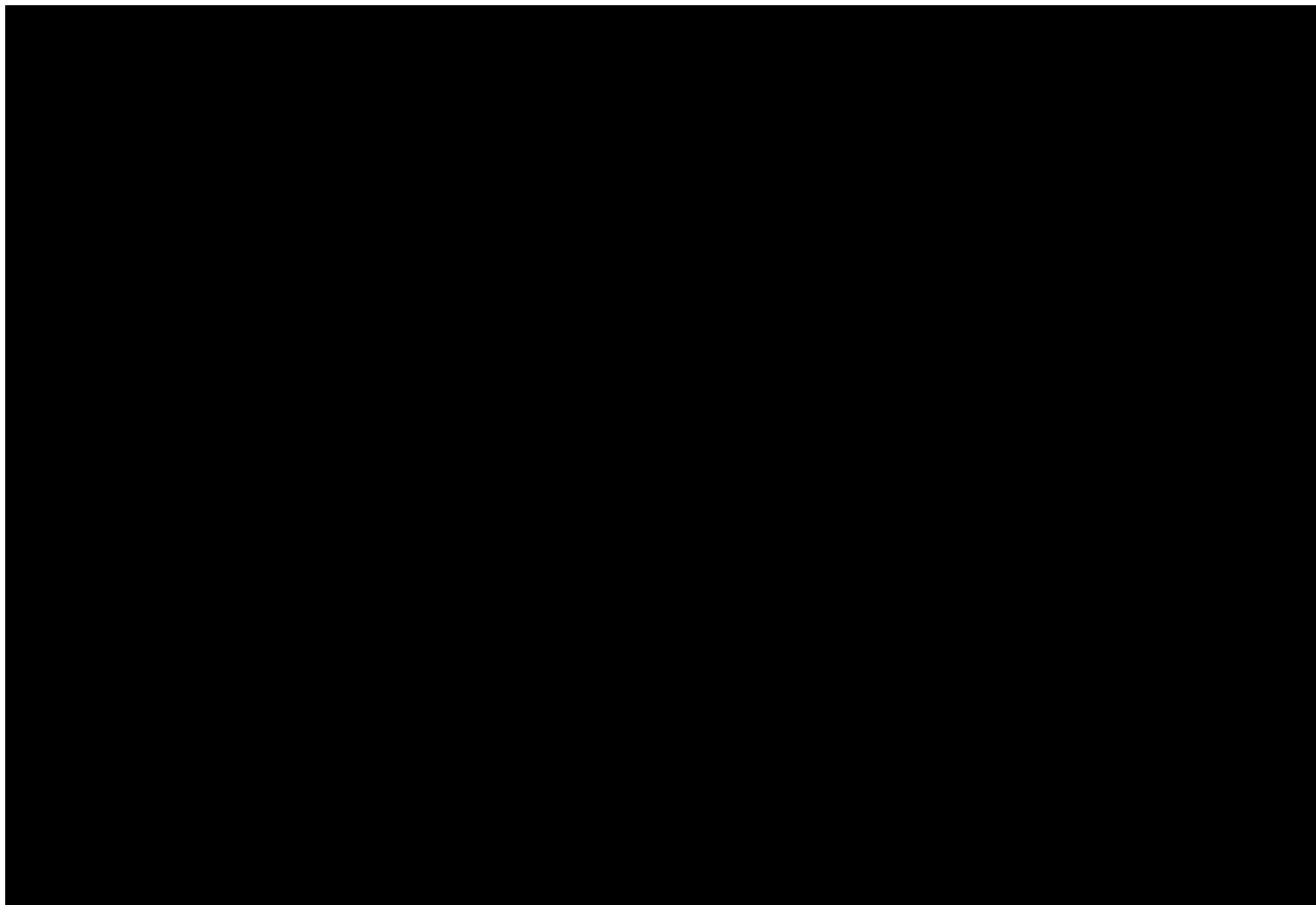
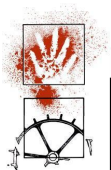


Figure 5-10 Site and tower locations along the assessed area of [REDACTED] within [REDACTED]

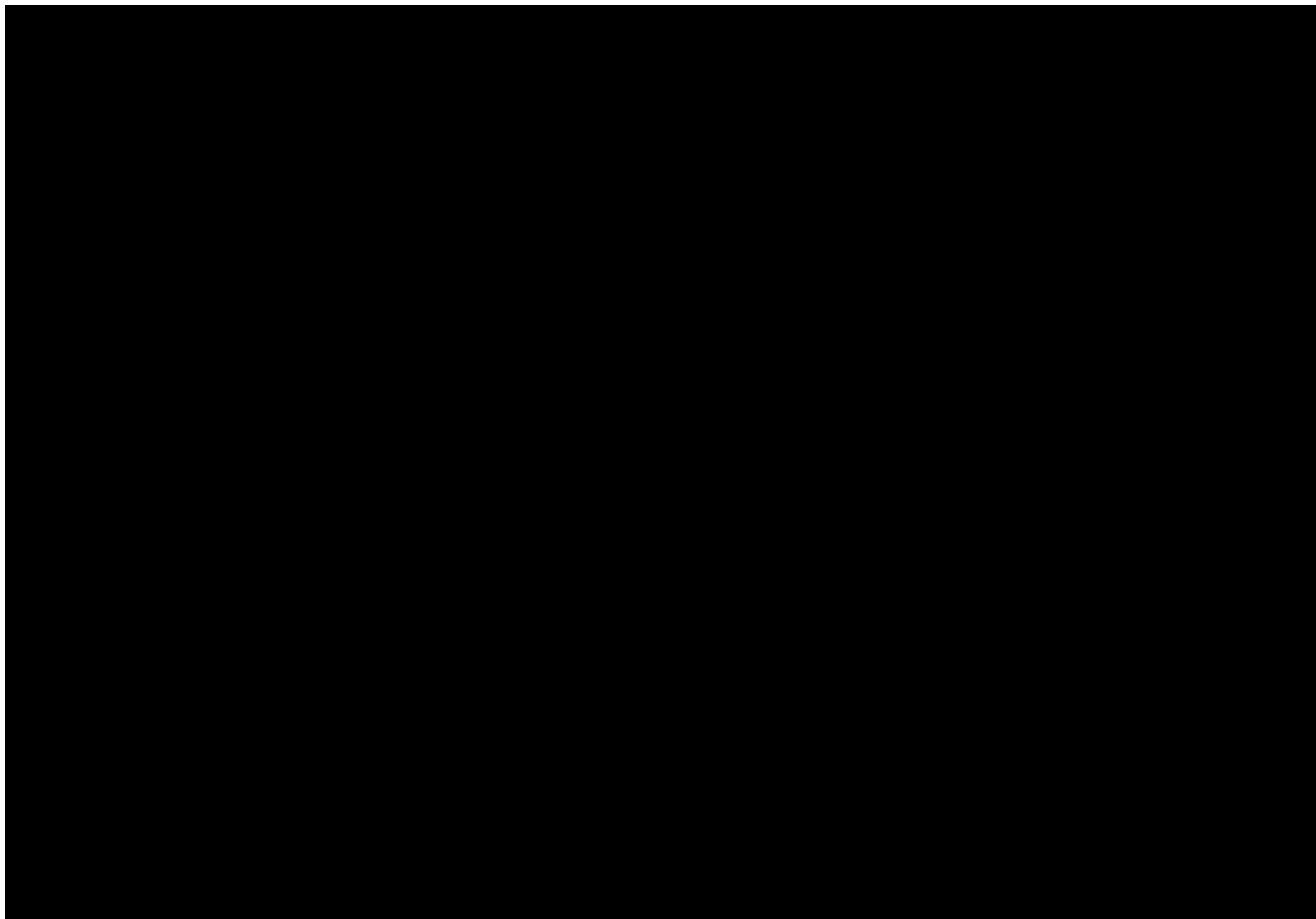
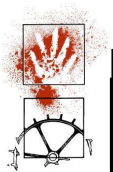


Figure 5-11 Site and tower locations along the assessed area of [REDACTED]

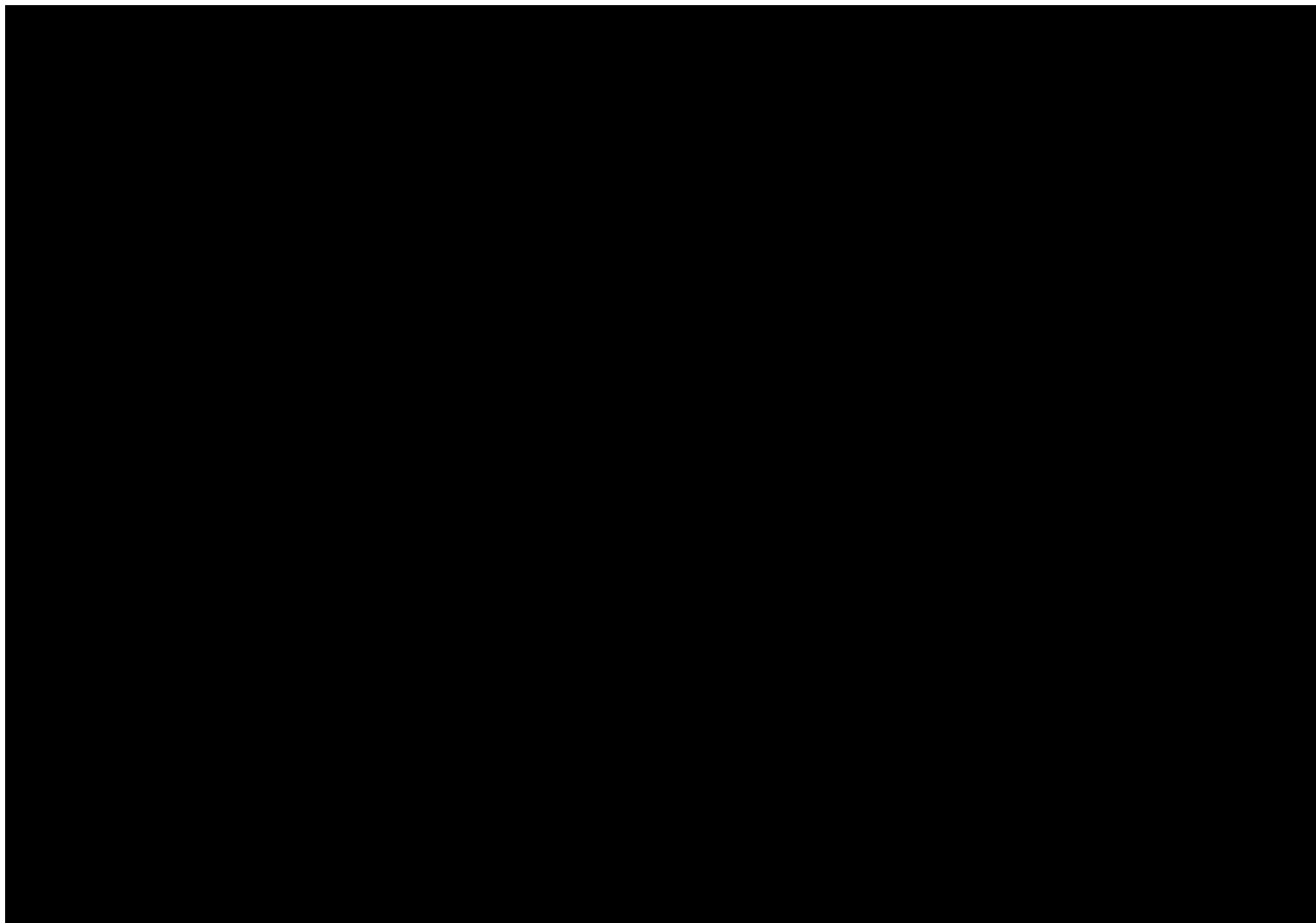
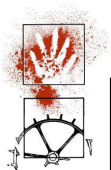


Figure 5-12 Site and tower locations along the assessed area of [REDACTED] within [REDACTED]



6 SIGNIFICANCE AND IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The seven surface sites [REDACTED] comprise site types (artefact scatters and isolated finds) that are common throughout the [REDACTED] and are evidence of Aboriginal occupation within the area. However, due to the lack of rare or defining characteristics these sites provide little further archaeological information and are regarded as having low scientific significance. As [REDACTED] did not contain subsurface archaeological material, the PAD is therefore not a site.

All Aboriginal archaeological objects and sites have cultural value for present-day Aboriginal people, as they were created by prehistoric, ancestral Aboriginal people and provide tangible evidence of past occupation of the landscape. All Aboriginal sites within the study area are regarded by the RAPs as having cultural significance as locations that have direct evidence of the past Aboriginal occupation of the area.

It should be noted that some objects and places might have cultural value that was not communicated to NOHC. This could be the case for objects or places that are associated with information that is culturally restricted.

Within the project footprint, impacts are confined to tower locations and tracks. Sites located outside of these direct impact areas may be conserved *in situ*. Where direct impacts are proposed to sites, mitigation measures aim to further manage impacts by undertaking salvage and recording prior to these impacts occurring. [REDACTED] were in areas of direct impact on existing access tracks and as such were collected to prevent future impacts occurring.

Table 6-1 Heritage Item Impact Justification

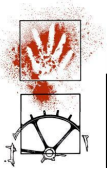
Heritage Item	In-Situ (Yes / No)	Justification for salvage (Impact)
[REDACTED]	No	Heritage item on existing track (direct impact), that has been identified for requiring upgrade. Building a new track has a greater environmental impact due to additional vegetation clearing and earth works required due to steep slope.
	No	Heritage item on existing track (direct impact), that has been identified for requiring upgrade. Building a new track has a greater environmental impact due to additional vegetation clearing and earth works required due to steep slope.
	No	Heritage item on existing track (direct impact), that has been identified for requiring upgrade. Building a new track has a greater environmental impact due to additional vegetation clearing and earth works required due to steep slope.
	No	Heritage item on existing track (direct impact), that has been identified for requiring upgrade. Building a new track has a greater environmental impact due to additional vegetation clearing and earth works required due to steep slope.
	No	Heritage item on existing track (direct impact), that has been identified for requiring upgrade. Building a new track has a greater environmental impact due to additional vegetation clearing and earth works required due to steep slope.
	No	Heritage item on existing track (direct impact), that has been identified for requiring upgrade. Building a new track has a greater environmental impact due to additional vegetation clearing and earth works required due to steep slope.
	No	Heritage item on existing track (direct impact), that has been identified for requiring upgrade. Building a new track has a greater environmental impact due to additional vegetation clearing and earth works required due to steep slope.



7 RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations are made:

1. [REDACTED] have been salvaged.
2. [REDACTED] has been subject to test excavation. No further salvage works are required at this PAD.
3. Works are cleared to proceed in all areas that have been subject to survey.
4. The remaining areas of the project footprint that have not yet been subject to heritage assessment must be surveyed prior to impacts commencing.



8 REFERENCES

Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (DECCW), 2010a. Code of practice for archaeological investigation of Aboriginal objects in New South Wales. DECCW, Sydney South.

DECCW, 2010b. Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010. DECCW, Sydney.

Navin Officer Heritage Consultants (NOHC), 2024. HumeLink Technical Report 02 Revised Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report. Report to Transgrid.

Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH), 2011. Guide to investigating, assessing and reporting on Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW. OEH, Sydney South.

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APPENDIX 1

SENSITIVITY MAPPING FOR ASSESSED AREAS

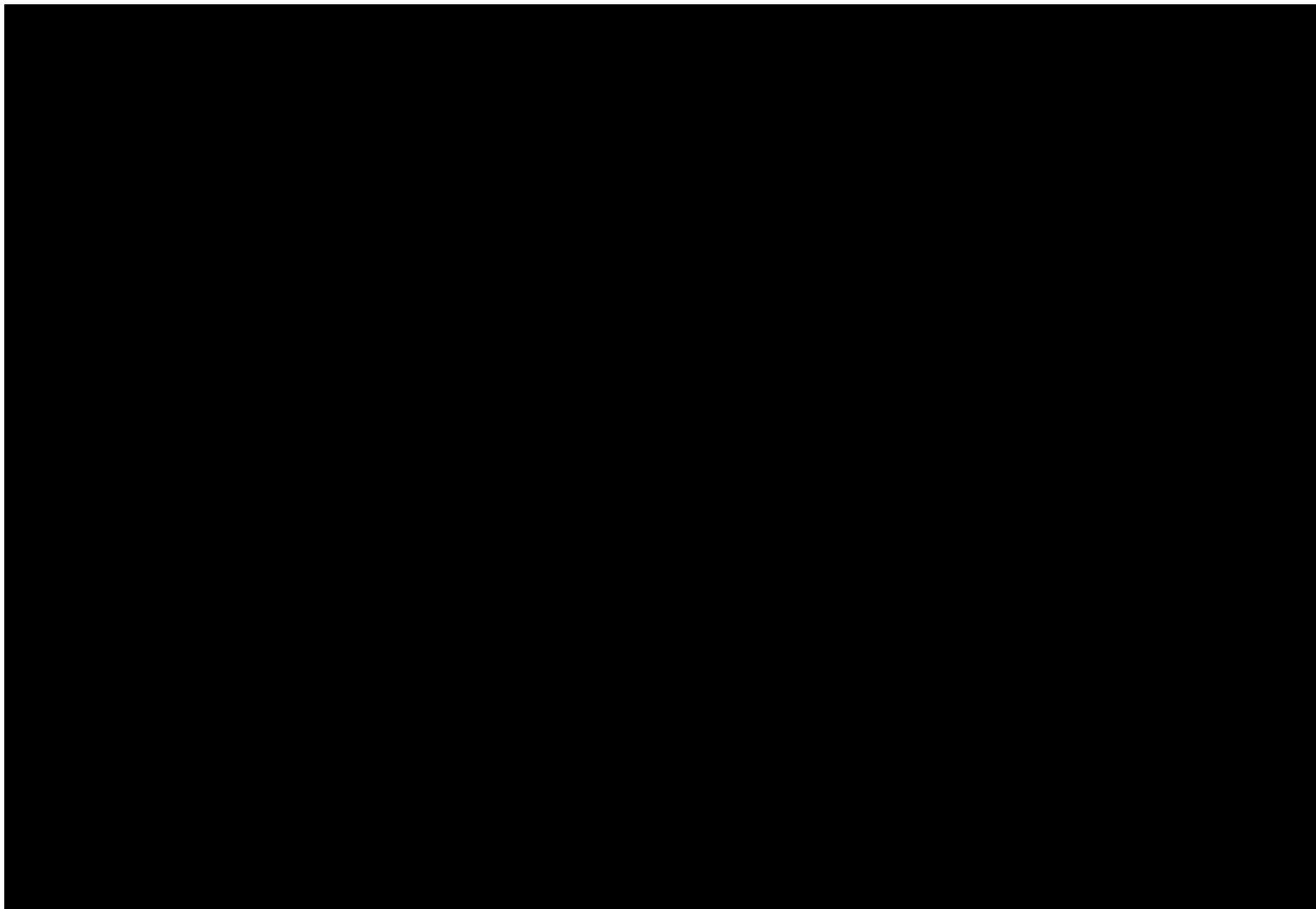
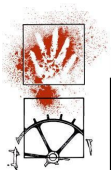
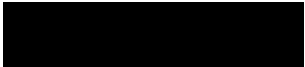


Figure 0-1 Subsurface archaeological sensitivity



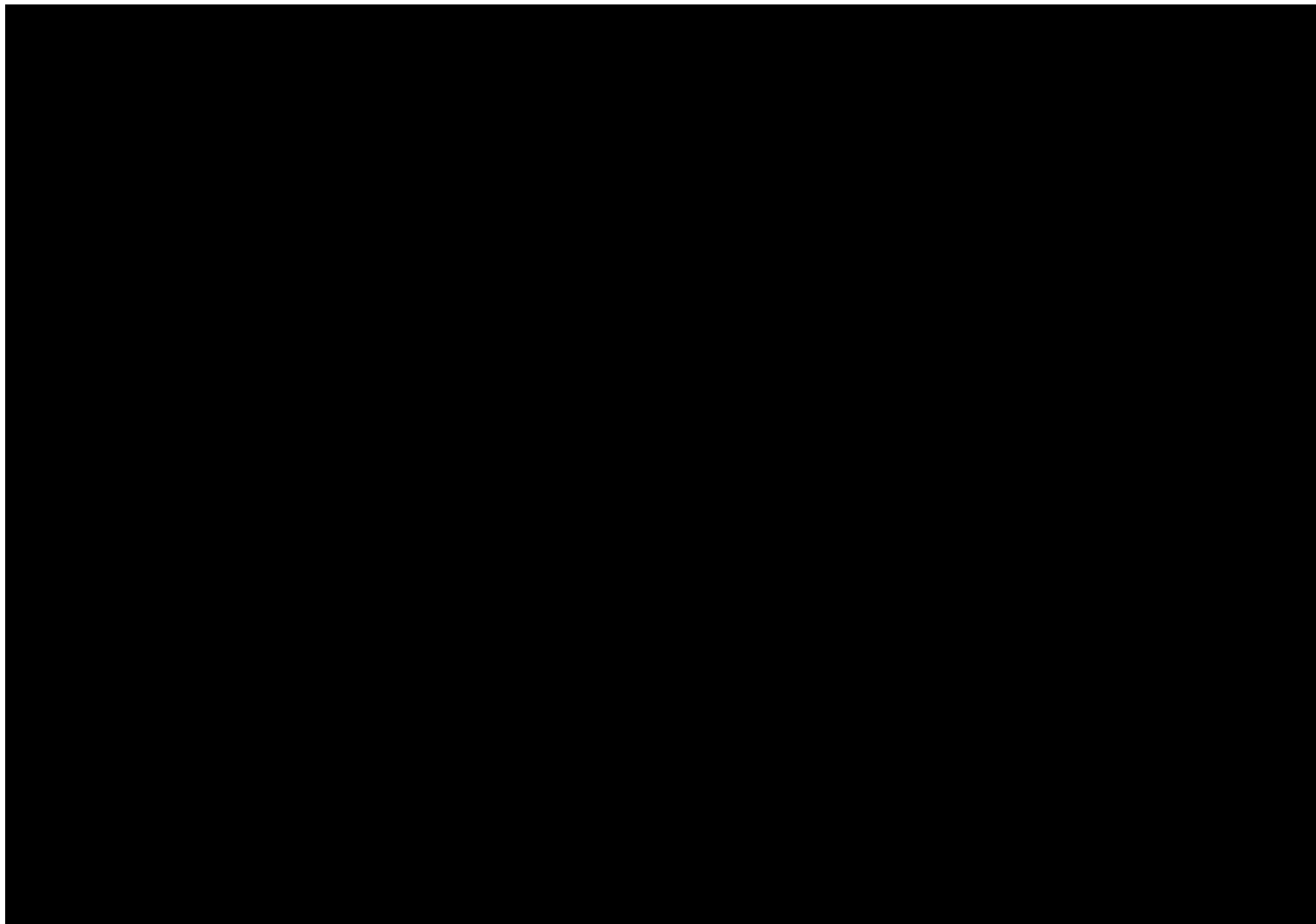
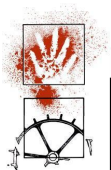


Figure 0-2 Subsurface archaeological sensitivity



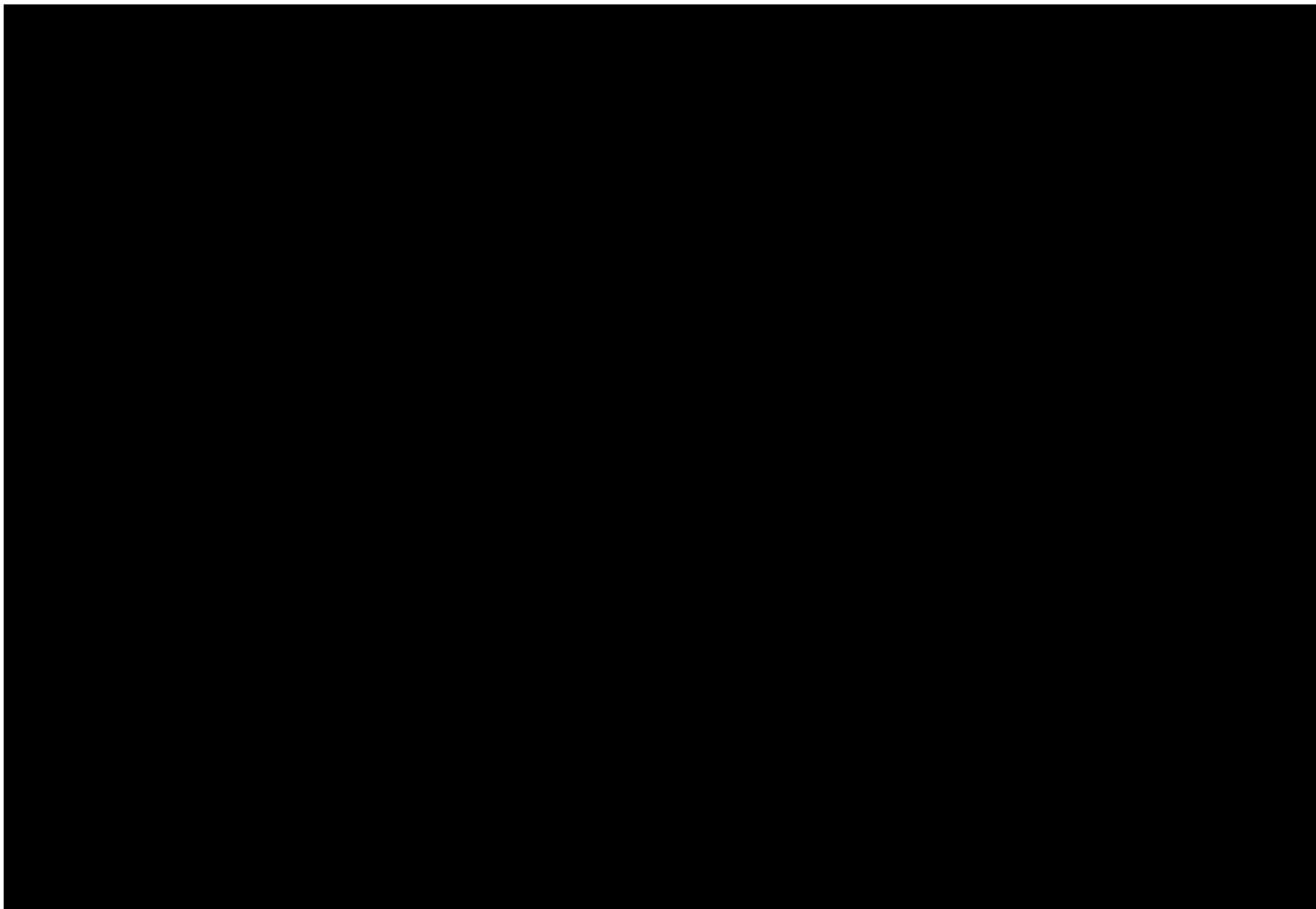
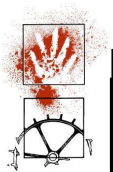


Figure 0-3 Subsurface archaeological sensitivity [REDACTED]

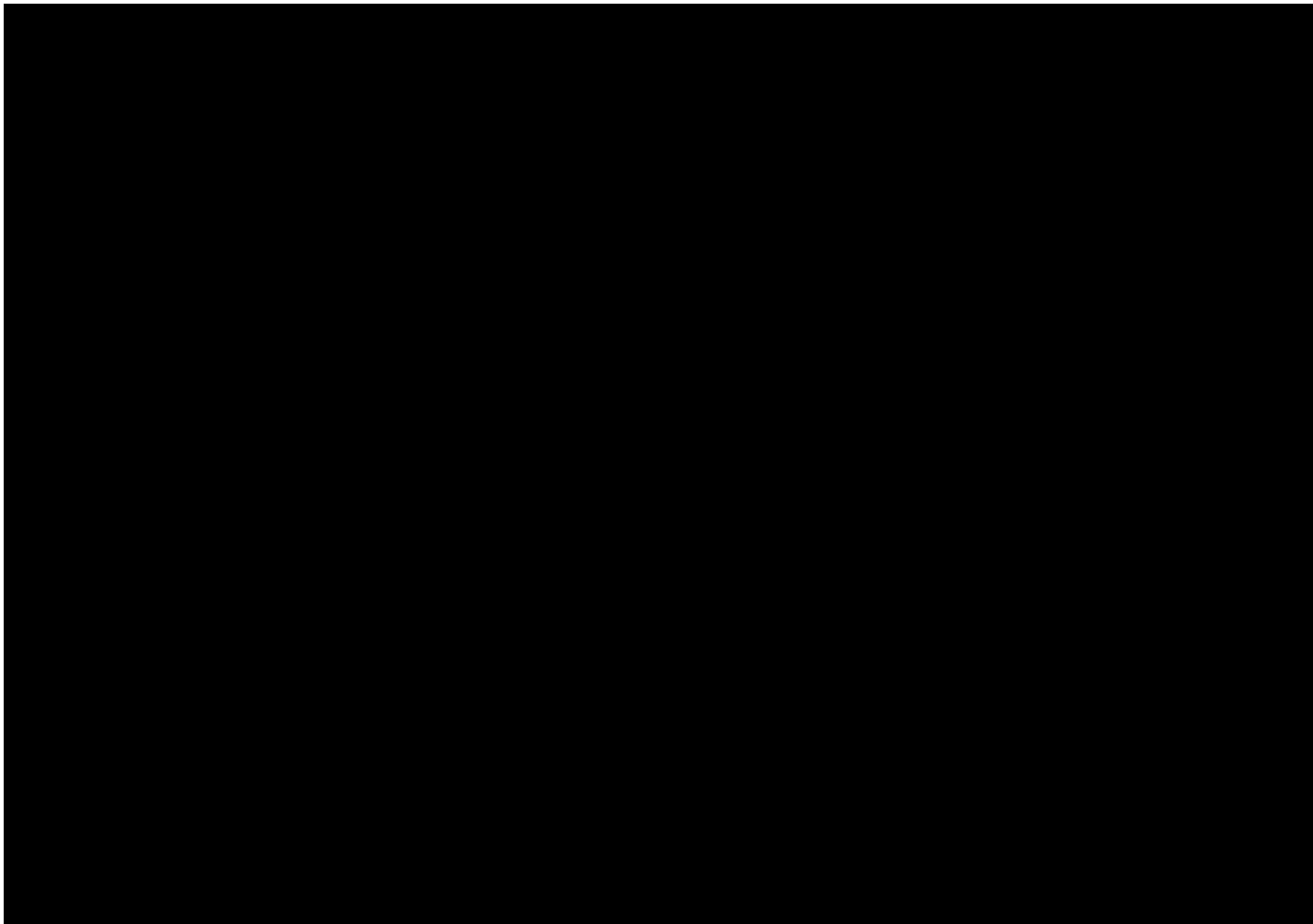
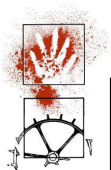


Figure 0-4 Subsurface archaeological sensitivity



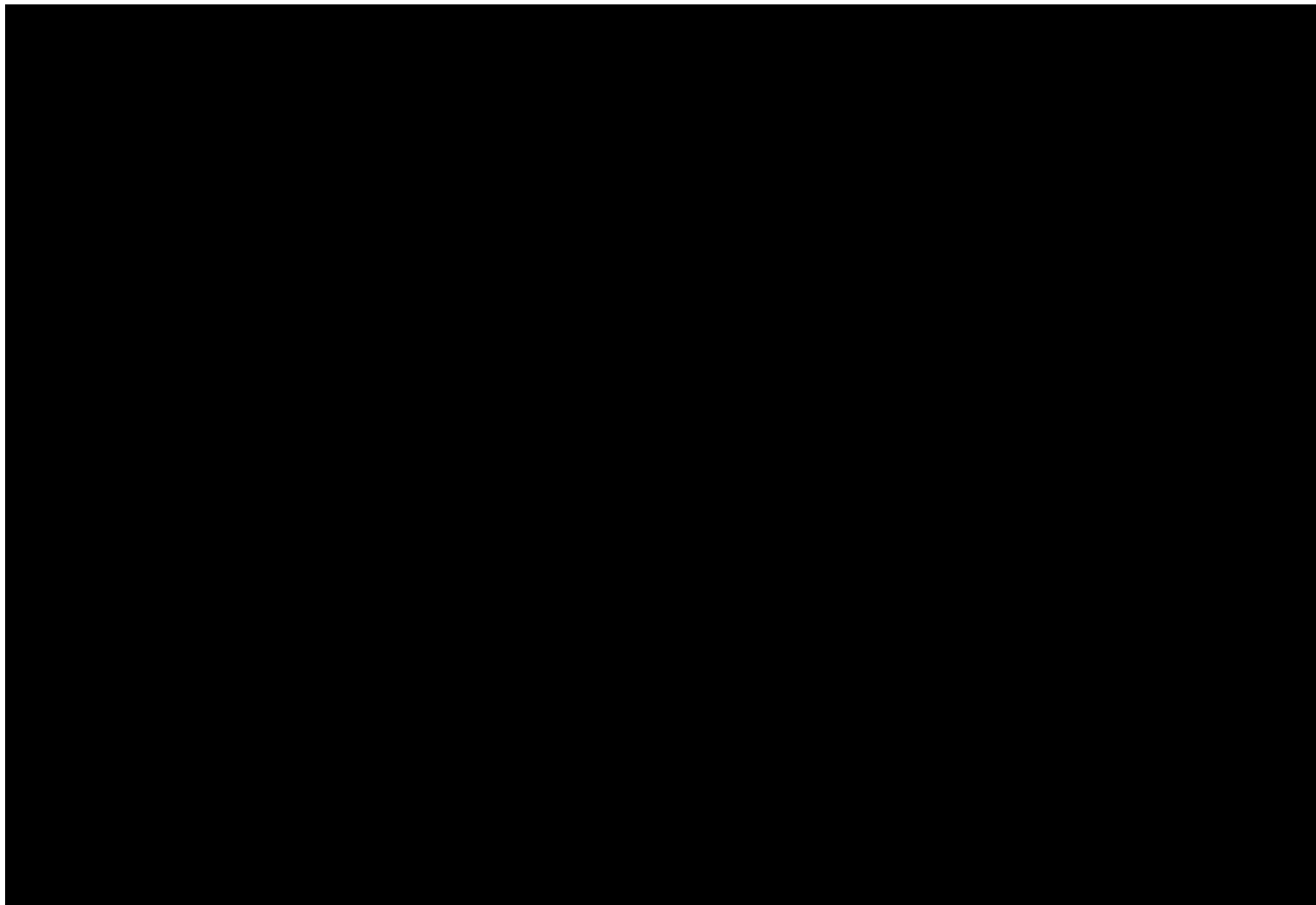
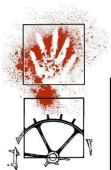


Figure 0-5 Subsurface archaeological sensitivity



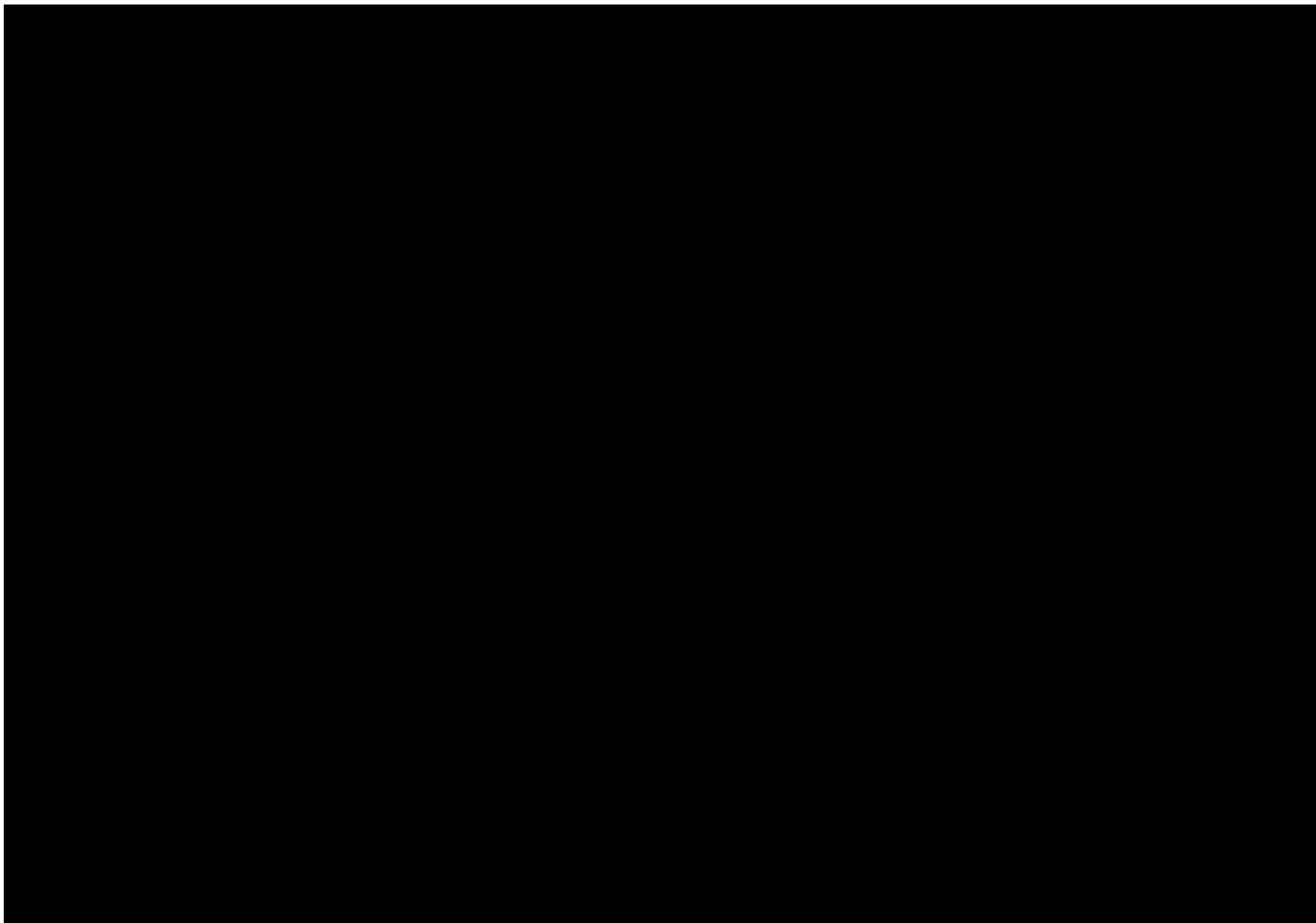
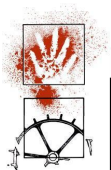


Figure 0-6 Subsurface archaeological sensitivity



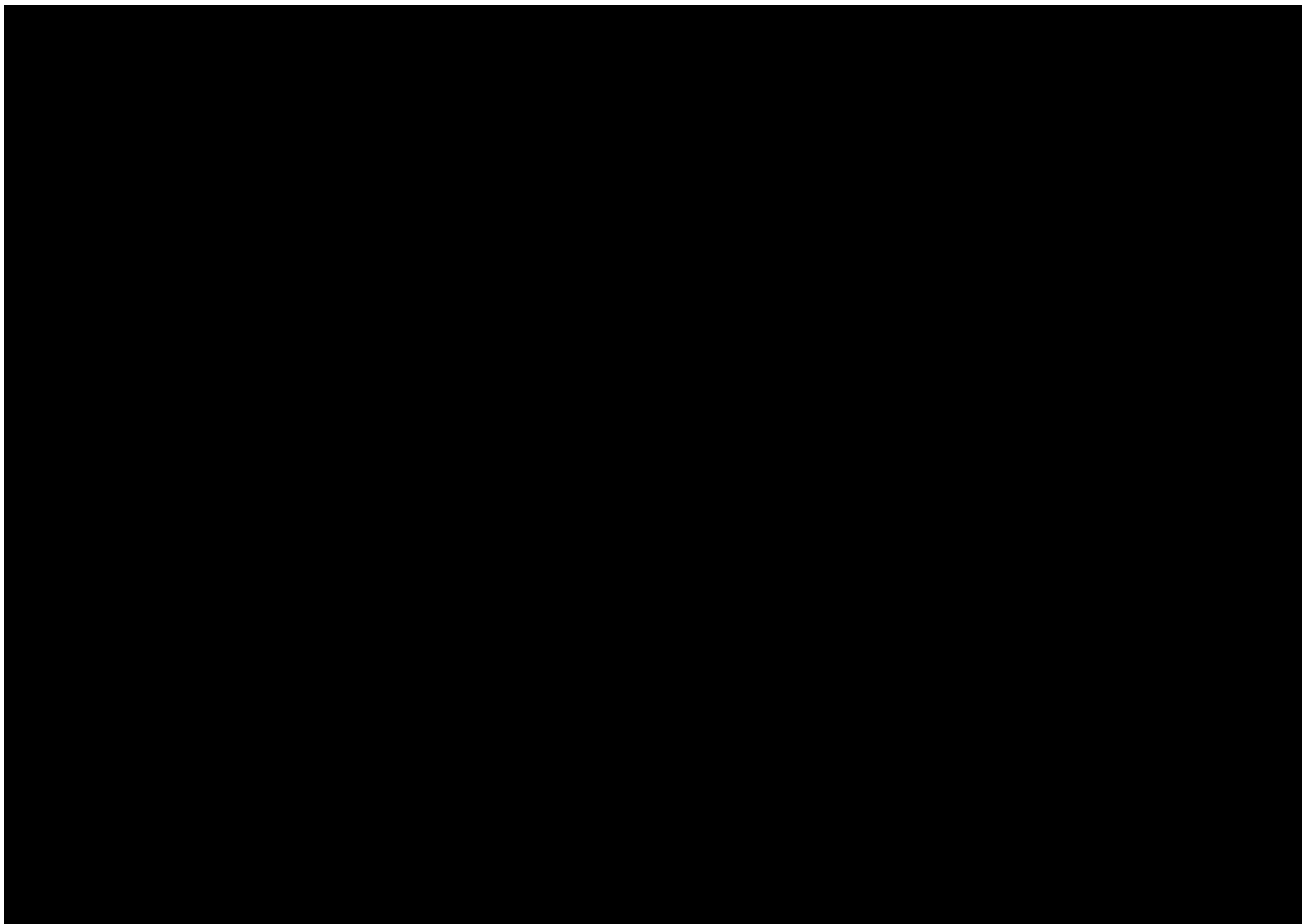
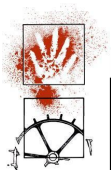


Figure 0-7 Subsurface archaeological sensitivity [REDACTED]

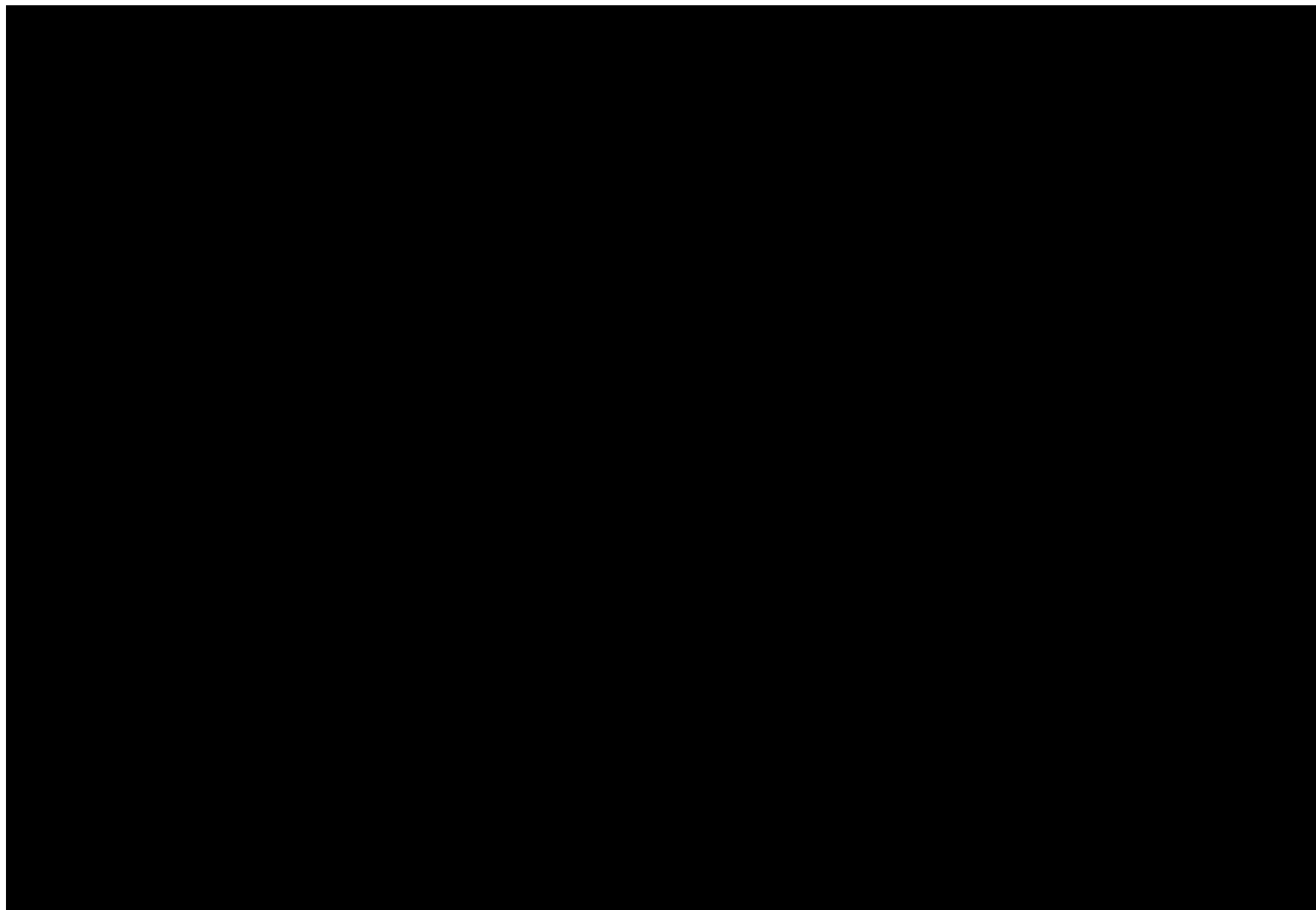
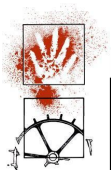


Figure 0-8 Subsurface archaeological sensitivity





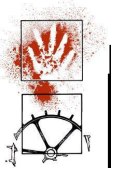
APPENDIX 2

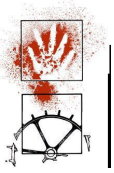
ADVICE LETTER FROM HERTIAGE NSW

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]





APPENDIX 3

SALVAGED AND UNSALAGED SITES

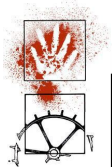


A3.1 Items Salvaged

Table 0-1 lists Aboriginal sites that have been salvaged within HumeLink West:

Table 0-1 [REDACTED] salvaged sites

Site Report Name	AHIMS #	Site Type	Property holding	Is salvage required?	Has site been salvaged?	Salvaged date
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	AS (n=7)	[REDACTED]	Yes	Yes	Aug-25
		AS (n=4)		Yes	Yes	Dec-25
		IF		Yes	Yes	Jan-26
		Artefact		Yes	Yes	Nov-25
		Artefact		Yes	Yes	Sep-25
		Artefact		Yes	Yes	Sep-25
		Artefact		Yes	Yes	Sep-25
		Artefact		Yes	Yes	Nov-25
		PAD		Yes	Yes	Sep-25
		PAD		Yes	Yes	Sep-25
		Artefact		Yes	Yes	Sep-25
		Artefact		Yes	Yes	Sep-25
		AS (n=10)		Yes	Yes	Dec-25
		AS (n=3)		Yes	Yes	N/A
		IF		Yes	Yes	Dec-25
		AS (n=20)		Yes	Yes	Sep-25
		AS (n=3)		Yes	Yes	Jul-25
		AS (n=8)		Yes	Yes	Sep-25
		AS (n=3)		Yes	Yes	Jun-25
		AS (n=5)		Yes	Yes	Jun-25
		AS (n=2)		Yes	Yes	Jun-25
		AS (n=4)		Yes	Yes	Jan-25
		AS (n=2)		Yes	Yes	Jan-25
		IF		Yes	Yes	Dec-25
		IF		Yes	Yes	Jul-25
		IF		Yes	Yes	Sep-25
		IF		Yes	Yes	Sep-25
		IF		Yes	Yes	May-25
		IF		Yes	Yes	May-25
		IF		Yes	Yes	May-25
		IF		Yes	Yes	Sep-25
		IF		Yes	Yes	Jul-25
		AS (n=2)		Yes	Yes	Jul-25
		AS (n=2)		Yes	Yes	Sep-25
		IF		Yes	Yes	May-25
		IF		Yes	Yes	Dec-25
		IF		Yes	Yes	May-25
		IF		Yes	Yes	Jul-25



Site Report Name	AHIMS #	Site Type	Property holding	Is salvage required?	Has site been salvaged?	Salvaged date
		AS (n=2)		Yes	Yes	
		IF		Yes	Yes	
		AS (n=10)		Yes	Yes	
		IF		Yes	Yes	
		IF		Yes	Yes	
		IF		Yes	Yes	
		AS (n=5)		Yes	Yes	
		IF		Yes	Yes	
		IF		Yes	Yes	
		IF		Yes	Yes	
		AS (n=2)		Yes	Yes	
		IF		Yes	Yes	
		IF		Yes	Yes	
		AS (n=3)		Yes	Yes	
		IF		Yes	Yes	
		AS (n=4)		Yes	Yes	
		IF		Yes	Yes	
		IF		Yes	Yes	
		AS (n=2)		Yes	Yes	
		IF		Yes	Yes	
		IF		Yes	Yes	
		IF		Yes	Yes	
		IF		Yes	Yes	

A3.2 Items yet to be salvaged

There are no recorded sites *in situ* in areas of impacts to be salvaged.

Site Report Name	AHIMS #	Site Type	Property holding	Is salvage required?	Has site been salvaged?
		Modified tree		Yes	No
		IF		Yes	No
		IF		Yes	No
		AS (40+)		Yes if works go ahead	No

A3.3 Locations where works cannot take place

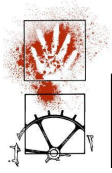


Table 0-2 lists sites that are *in situ* and outside of areas of direct impacts that must be avoided by the project.



Table 0-2 Sites *in situ*

Site Name	AHIMS #	Site Type	Property
		Artefact	
		Artefact	
		PAD	
		Artefact	
		Burial and modified tree	
		AS (n=3)	
		IF	
		IF	
		IF	
		Modified tree	
		Modified tree	
		IF	
		IF	
		AS (n = 15)	
		AS (n = 2)	
		IF	
		IF	
		AS (n=6)	
		AS (n=2)	
		IF	