

**Hexham  
Wind Farm**

# **Chapter 19**

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Historical cultural  
heritage





## 19.1 Overview

This chapter describes the historical heritage values identified within and surrounding the project site and evaluates how the project's construction, operation and decommissioning activities could potentially impact them. It is based on the findings of the **Historic Heritage Impact Assessment** (provided in Appendix K) prepared by Tardis Archaeology Pty Ltd (Tardis).

The **Historic Heritage Impact Assessment** identified and assessed historic heritage and historic archaeology relevant to the project in accordance with the *Heritage Act 2017* and the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*. It comprised a desktop assessment and field assessment (including a ground surface survey).

A review of relevant Victorian and Commonwealth heritage registers and databases, as well as previous archaeological and heritage studies, was undertaken to identify known heritage places within the investigation area. Part of one heritage place was recorded within the project site – Stone Mileposts (Milepost B & C).

No evidence of unknown historic places within the infrastructure zone was recorded, and there are no known historic heritage places or archaeological sites likely to be impacted by the project.

Management measures have been recommended to avoid impacts to known registered historic places and to avoid or minimise impacts on unidentified historical archaeological sites that may be discovered during ground disturbing works. The risk of impacting unknown historic heritage has been assessed as negligible. No impacts to listed sites of historical heritage value are anticipated.

## 19.2 EES objective and key issues

The EES scoping requirements specify the evaluation objective and key issues, outlined in Table 19.1, relevant to cultural and historic heritage to be investigated and documented within the EES. The matters relevant to historic heritage have guided this assessment, while matters relevant to Aboriginal cultural heritage are addressed within Chapter 18 – **Aboriginal culture heritage** and Appendix J – **Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment**.

**Table 19.1** EES evaluation objective and key issues

Evaluation objective	
<b>Cultural heritage:</b> <i>Protect, avoid, or minimise where avoidance is not possible, adverse effects on historic heritage values, and tangible and intangible Aboriginal cultural heritage values, in partnership with Traditional Owners.</i>	
Key Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Destruction or disturbance of sites or places of Aboriginal cultural heritage.</li><li>• Potential for indirect impacts on sites or places of Aboriginal significance close to the project areas, both known and unknown.</li><li>• Potential impacts on intangible Aboriginal cultural heritage values associated with the project areas and surrounds.</li><li>• Potential for direct or indirect impacts to sites or places of historical heritage significance.</li></ul>

## 19.3 Legislation, policy and guidelines

Key legislation, policies and guidelines relevant to *Historic Heritage Impact Assessment* (Appendix K) are summarised in Table 19.2.

**Table 19.2** Relevant legislation and guidelines

Legislation / policy / guideline	Description	Relevance to project
<b>Commonwealth</b>		
<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>	<p>Nationally significant heritage places are primarily registered and protected under the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>.</p> <p>The Australian Heritage Database contains information about places listed under various heritage lists established by the EPBC Act. This includes places in the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• World Heritage List</li> <li>• National Heritage List</li> <li>• Commonwealth Heritage list</li> <li>• Register of the National Estate.</li> </ul>	Part of one heritage place listed in the Australian Heritage Database is within the investigation area (Milepost B & C of the place 'Stone Mileposts'). 'Merrang Homestead', also listed in the Australian Heritage Database, is located immediately east of the project site boundary.
<b>State</b>		
<i>Planning and Environment Act 1987</i>	<p>The <i>Planning and Environment Act 1987</i> establishes a framework for planning the use, development and protection of land in Victoria.</p> <p>Planning controls include historic places which may be listed on the local planning scheme Heritage Overlay.</p>	<p>The land within the project site is subject to the requirements of the Moyne Planning Scheme.</p> <p>Clauses of the Moyne Planning Scheme relevant to historic heritage for the project include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 02.03-5 Built environment and heritage: The Project must demonstrate how heritage places and landscapes will be appropriately protected.</li> <li>• 15.03 Heritage: The Project must demonstrate how places of heritage significance will be conserved. Relevant strategies include, '<i>Encourage appropriate development that respects places with identified heritage values.</i>'</li> <li>• 43.01 Heritage Overlay: This clause aims to conserve and enhance heritage places, and the elements that contribute to their significance. The requirements of this overlay apply to heritage places that intersect the project site.</li> <li>• 52.32 Wind Energy Facility: The Decision Guidelines state that "<i>...the responsible authority must consider, as appropriate:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>the impact of the facility on cultural heritage.</i>"</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Legislation / policy / guideline	Description	Relevance to project
<i>Heritage Act 2017</i>	<p>The <i>Heritage Act 2017</i> is the Victorian Government's key piece of historical heritage legislation. It is administered by Heritage Victoria and identifies and protects heritage places and objects that are of significance to the State of Victoria.</p> <p>There are two listings established under the <i>Heritage Act 2017</i>: Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) (Section 24) provides statutory protection for historical objects, places, sites, artefacts and shipwrecks of State level cultural significance in Victoria; and Victorian Heritage Inventory (VHI) (Section 118): contains all known historical archaeological sites, other than those determined to be of low archaeological value.</p> <p>A Permit is required from the Executive Director (Heritage Victoria) to impact a place on object the VHR, and Consent is required to impact a historic archaeological site on the VHI.</p> <p>The <i>Heritage Act 2017</i> also provides blanket protection to historical archaeological sites which are not yet known or included on the VHI or VHR.</p>	<p>There is one historic place in the VHR (H1700) within the project site.</p> <p>There are two historic places in the VHR (H1700, H2145) within 50 metres of future access routes.</p> <p>Part of one heritage place in the VHR (H1457) is located within 50 metres of future access roads.</p>

## 19.4 Investigation area

The investigation area for historic cultural heritage comprised of land within the project site and immediate surrounds (within a 200-metre buffer) including proposed access routes at site entry locations (refer to Figure 19.1).

Within the investigation area, an 'infrastructure zone' was defined for the purpose of the ground surface survey undertaken on foot.

## 19.5 Method

### 19.5.1 Desktop assessment

Desktop research was undertaken to identify known historical cultural heritage values within the investigation area and assess the potential for the project site to contain unregistered historical cultural heritage places and unlisted historical archaeological sites. The desktop assessment included a review of relevant heritage registers and databases, and previous archaeological and heritage studies including the Moyne Shire Heritage Study (Doyle and Context Pty Ltd, 2006). A review of the historical and archaeological history and environmental context of the project site was also undertaken.

The registers and databases used to inform this desktop assessment are:

- Victorian Heritage Register (VHR)
- Victorian Heritage Inventory (VHI)
- Australian Heritage Database
- National Trust of Victoria Register
- Moyne Shire Council Heritage Overlay.

A search of the Heritage Victoria report catalogue under the terms Caramut, Hexham, Mortlake and Moyne Shire found no previous historic heritage assessments have been conducted in the investigation area.

## 19.5.2 Field assessment

Field surveys were carried out to investigate the presence of historic heritage within the infrastructure zone of the project. There were two phases of fieldwork, consisting of:

- Phase 1 (19 May 2011): involved inspection (from a vehicle) of existing trafficable roads within the project site. Several roads were not able to be driven on due to recent heavy rains, and private land was not accessed. The aim of the visit was to assess the area for:
  - prior disturbance
  - archaeological potential for historic sites.
- Phase 2 (24 June to 18 July 2019): involved a ground surface survey on foot, walking linear transects. The ground survey was in accordance with The Archaeologist's Field Handbook: The essential guide for beginners and professionals in Australia (Burke et al., 2017) and the Guidelines for Conducting Historical Archaeological Surveys (Heritage Victoria, 2020)

## 19.6 Existing conditions

### 19.6.1 Historical heritage places identified during the desktop assessment

A search of the project site on the registers and databases found that part of one registered historic heritage place is within the project site, two places (and part of one place) are within 100 metres of the project site, and two places (and part of one place) are located within 50 metres of proposed access routes. These are summarised in Table 19.3 and the location shown in Figure 19.1.

**Table 19.3** Previously identified historical heritage sites within the investigation area

Register and place number	Place name	Place type	Inside project site
Australian Heritage Database: 101568 VHR: H1700 Heritage Overlay: HO37	Stone Mileposts (Milepost B)	Nineteenth-century basalt milepost significant for association with road transport system in Victoria.	Yes
	Stone Mileposts (Milepost C)		Yes
	Stone Mileposts (Milepost D to G)		No (within 50 metres of proposed access route)
Australian Heritage Database: 3793 VHR: H0322 Heritage Overlay: HO4	Merrang Homestead	Homestead of the pioneering Hood family	No (immediately to the east of the project site)
VHR: H1856 Heritage Overlay: HO35 National Trust of Victoria Register: B7057	Burchett Creek Bridge	Three-span timber-beam bridge built over remains of a bluestone ford.	No (immediately to the north of the project site)*
VHR: H1457 Heritage Overlay: HO34 National Trust of Victoria Register: B0788	Youl's Creek Bridge	Single-span Bluestone bridge.	No (within 50 metres of proposed access route)
VHR: H2145 Heritage Overlay: HO42	Former Temperance Hall	Temperance Hall, mechanics institute and reading room	No (within 50 metres of proposed access route)

\* [VicPlan mapping and the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Register and Information System database shows this place to be located within the project site. However, photographs in the place record show the bridge in the road reserve, outside the project site.

## 19.6.2 Historical heritage places identified during the field surveys

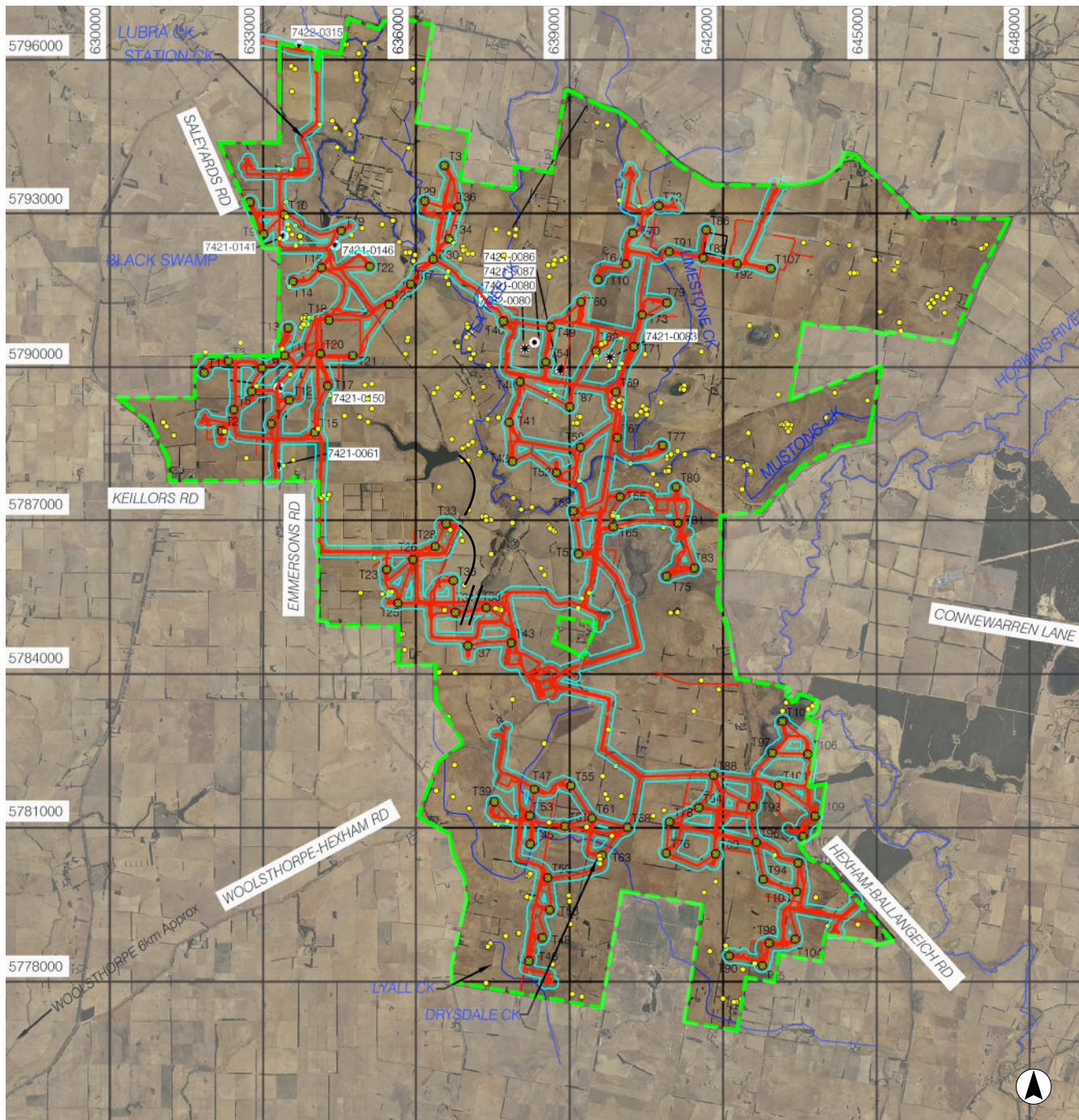
Five previously recorded historical heritage places were identified during the field surveys within the investigation area. These are:

- Stone Mileposts
- Burchett Creek Bridge
- Merrang Homestead
- Youl's Creek Bridge
- Former Temperance Hall.

Most of the project site has been modified by agricultural works such as ploughing, construction of farm tracks and fences, and land clearing. Ground surface visibility during the field surveys of the infrastructure zones varied from very poor in grassed / cropped areas to excellent in recently ploughed paddocks. No new historical archaeological artefacts or sites on the ground surface, or surface evidence of buried historic features were observed during the site surveys of the project site.

Despite the position of the project site within the western volcanic plains, no dry stone walls were observed during the site surveys. No prominent stony rises were observed within the project site.

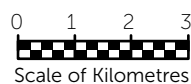




## Legend

- Activity Area Boundary  
16,103 hectares (approx)
- Area of Works (100m buffer)
- Infrastructure
- Turbine
- Meteorological (MET) Mast
- ✱ Earth Feature; Mound
- ✱ Earth Feature  
VAHR 7421 - xxxx
- Possible Mound

## Scale



Data: State of Victoria (DECCA/Land Use Victoria), Commonwealth of Australia, Wind Prospect, and specialist studies/reports. Data is indicative only; accuracy and completeness are not guaranteed.  
© State of Victoria and other data providers

**Figure 19.1** Registered historic heritage places within the investigation area



**Figure 19.2** Historic Stone Milepost B (Keillors Road and Warrnambool-Caramut Road)



**Figure 19.3** Historic Stone Milepost C (Keillors Road Reserve)



**Figure 19.4** Burchett Creek Bridge (Hamilton Highway, Caramut)



**Figure 19.5** Merrang Homestead (1830 Woolsthorpe-Hexham Road, Hexham)



**Figure 19.6** Youl's Creek Bridge (Caramut-Warrnambool Road, Woolsthorpe)



## 19.7 Impact assessment

### 19.7.1 Impact pathways

Historic heritage places, known and unknown, may be impacted by pre-construction and construction activities associated with the project, including from geotechnical investigations and earthworks. Heritage values could also be vulnerable to vibration impacts from construction activities necessary for the project.

While the project has been designed to avoid known heritage places, situations could arise where accidental damage is caused to unidentified heritage values.

### 19.7.2 Design mitigation

Avoidance by design has been the primary measure to limit impacts to historical heritage values.

As the project became aware of the locations of known locations containing historical heritage values, the design was reviewed to ensure the project did not impact these places. The locations were marked in design layers to ensure avoidance as the project design developed.

### 19.7.3 Environmental management measures

Where feasible, design measures have been included to avoid potential impacts on historical heritage values. Where impacts are unavoidable, management measures are proposed to reduce each impact as far as is practicable.

While the Historical Heritage Impact Assessment that underpins this chapter has sought to identify all potential heritage places and sites within the project site, it is possible that activities associated with the construction, operation or decommissioning of the project could impact heritage values that have not been identified.

Before starting work at each construction location, the sites would be surveyed for archaeological deposits, features, and artefacts. In the event that the potential for a historical archaeological site is discovered, a suitably qualified archaeologist would undertake a survey in line with the *Heritage Act 2017*. After the submission of a site card and the determination to add the site to the Heritage Inventory, consent approval will likely be required for any future impact to the site. Unexpected historical cultural heritage within the project site is most likely to consist of types already documented in the region, such as stone walls, shepherd huts, and other features linked to its agricultural history.

Proposed management measures to address residual impacts on historical heritage values in the construction and operation phases of the project are outlined in Table 19.4. These measures will be included in the Chapter 28 - ***Environmental Management Framework***.

**Table 19.4** Historical heritage management measures

Historical heritage impact	Project phase	Management measures	Number
Potential for the project to damage historical heritage places due to construction activities	Construction Operation Decommissioning	<b>Heritage Management Plan</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Prior to the commencement of construction, develop and implement a Heritage Management Plan that specifies measures to avoid impact to any known registered historic heritage places and to avoid or minimise impacts on any unidentified historic archaeological sites that may be discovered during ground disturbing works. This would be a sub-plan to the Construction Environmental Management Plan (EMM01), Operations Environmental Management Plan (EMM09) and Decommissioning Management Plan (EMM10).</li> <li>2. Management measures that will be outlined in the Heritage Management Plan to avoid accidental harm to known registered historic heritage places include, but are not limited to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. displaying all registered historic heritage places and management measures on the Construction Environmental Management Plan.</li> <li>b. implementing protection buffers or temporary fencing to prevent inadvertent harm to historic heritage places.</li> <li>c. routinely inspecting management measures implemented for known historical heritage places to ensure they remain fit for purpose.</li> </ol> </li> <li>3. Development of the Heritage Management Plan would be consistent with the requirements of the <i>Heritage Act 2017</i> and undertaken in consultation with Heritage Victoria.</li> </ol>	HH01
	Pre-construction Construction Operation Decommissioning	<b>Heritage Management Plan - Unexpected Finds Protocol</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Prior to the commencement of ground disturbing works and as part of the requirements of the Heritage Management Plan (HH01), develop and implement an Unexpected Finds Protocol that is incorporated into the Construction Environmental Management Plan (EMM01), Operations Environmental Management Plan (EMM09) and Decommissioning Management Plan (EMM10) to manage the discovery of previously unknown heritage items, if found.</li> <li>2. Site workers will be inducted as to the nature of unexpected finds and what action to take if any are found.</li> <li>3. If any unknown historic archaeological features or artefacts are encountered, works in the area will cease and a buffer zone will be established. A suitably qualified historical archaeologist will be contacted to provide an emergency assessment of the discovery to Heritage Victoria for direction on next steps.</li> </ol>	HH02

#### 19.7.4 Residual impacts

All identified heritage places within the investigation area are located outside the project site with exception of Stone Milepost B, located northeast of the intersection of Warrnambool – Caramut Road and Keillor Road, and Stone Milepost C, located in the project site in the Keillors Road Reserve. However, due to the location of the proposed infrastructure, the project is unlikely to impact this site, as well as the other known historic heritage places recorded in the investigation area.

If any future changes to the infrastructure layout occur, the project will need to consider the location of the listed historic heritage places and an additional fieldwork assessment will be conducted.

The desktop assessment and field assessment (including a ground surface survey), site visit and survey undertaken for the assessment did not find any documentary or surface evidence for any unknown historic archaeological sites within the investigation area. While there may be subsurface historic archaeological heritage in the project site, the lack of evidence suggests that the likelihood is low.

Following the development of the design to avoid historical heritage values where possible, the residual effects brought about by the construction and operation of the project are assessed as negligible.

## 19.8 Conclusions

Five sites of historical heritage value were identified within the investigation area, all of which are previously recorded historical heritage places that were identified during the field surveys undertaken as part of the assessment for the project. Of these sites, only part of one VHR place (Stone Mileposts, H1700) is located with the project site - Milepost B & C.

Avoidance by design has been the primary measure to limit impacts to historical heritage values. Management measures have been recommended to avoid impacts to known listed historic places and to avoid or minimise impacts on unidentified historical archaeological sites that may be discovered during ground disturbing works.

The project has avoided impacts on all identified historical heritage places, and it is considered that the construction and operation of the proposed project is consistent with maintaining the historical heritage value of the project site.

The risk of impacting unknown historic heritage has been assessed as negligible.