

Final Report

# Melton East PSP, Melton East, Victoria: Post Contact Heritage Assessment

Client

Victorian Planning Authority

14 September 2022



Ecology and Heritage Partners Pty Ltd

Author

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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We thank the following organisations for their contribution to the project:

- Victorian Planning Authority for project and site information.
- Heritage Victoria.
- City of Melton for project and site information.

**Cover Photo:** View of HO205 (The Selection Wall) facing south

(Photo by Ecology and Heritage Partners Pty Ltd)

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## ABBREVIATIONS

Acronym	Description
Act, the	<i>Heritage Act 2017</i>
AV	Aboriginal Victoria
CHL	Commonwealth Heritage List
CHMP	Cultural Heritage Management Plan
CMA	Catchment Management Authority
DAWE	Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (Commonwealth)
DELWP	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (Victoria)
EES	Environment Effects Statement
EPBC Act	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>
EVC	Ecological Vegetation Class
HA	Heritage Advisor
HHA	Historical Heritage Assessment
HO	Heritage Overlay
HV	Heritage Victoria
MCC	Melton City Council
NES	National Environmental Significance
NHL	National Heritage List
NTR	National Trust Register (Victoria)
PCHA	Post-Contact Heritage Assessment
PMST	Protected Matters Search Tool
PSA	Planning Scheme Amendment
PSP	Precinct Structure Plan
RNE	Register of the National Estate
SLV	State Library of Victoria
VHI	Victorian Heritage Inventory
VHR	Victorian Heritage Register
VWHI	Victorian War Heritage Inventory
VPA	Victorian Planning Authority
WHL	World Heritage List



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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## Introduction

Ecology and Heritage Partners Pty Ltd was commissioned by the Victorian Planning Authority to prepare a Post-Contact (Historical) Heritage Assessment (PCHA) for the proposed Melton East Precinct Structure Plan in Melton East, Victoria (Melton City Council) (Map 1).

### The Activity

The Victorian Planning Authority is planning for the Melton East Precinct Structure Plan (PSP). The PSP is located in the western growth corridor of Melbourne and will be predominately residential land use with localised community facilities and commercial opportunities.

### The Study Area

The study area is located in Melton East, Victoria. It is approximately 1,005 ha in size and is bounded by the Western Highway to the south, Leakes Road and private property to the east, and Kororoit Creek and Melton Highway to the north; Melton Highway also forms a portion of the western boundary of the PSP with the remainder being bound by private property (Map 2).

## Methods

The assessments undertaken as part of this Post-Contact (Historical) Heritage Assessment (PCHA) were a background review and a field survey. The background review consisted of reviews of relevant heritage registers and databases, previous archaeological publications and unpublished reports, and a review of the environmental context of the study area, culminating in a predictive statement regarding the likelihood of historical heritage occurring in the study area.

The field survey consisted of a ground surface survey of the study area by qualified archaeologists to discover any historical cultural heritage visible on the ground surface and to identify any areas of historical cultural heritage likelihood (areas that are considered likely to contain subsurface historical archaeological deposits).

Subsurface testing did not form part of the scope of works for this assessment.

## Results

### Desktop Assessment

The desktop assessment indicated that there have been 24 historical heritage Places previously recorded within a 2 km radius of the study area (Map 5). Six historical Places were located in the study area. The desktop assessment concluded that domestic sites, dry stone walls, tree plantings, farming sites, pastoral sites, and road and rail infrastructure sites were the types of historical heritage sites most likely to occur within the study area.

### Field Survey

The field survey was undertaken on 12 May 2022 by Dr Meredith Filihia and Genevieve Polic (Archaeologists/Heritage Advisors). An additional site inspection was undertaken by Dr Meredith Filihia on 09 June 2022.

## Historical Heritage

The field survey recorded seven historical heritage sites (Map 6), six of which are previously recorded Places with statutory protection:

Register & Place Number	Place Name	Place Type	Within Study Area?
VHI D7822-0302	Dry Stone Wall	Farming and Grazing	Yes
VHI H7822-2301 HO135	Beattys Road Bluestone Cottage and Cistern Former Fulham Park	Residential Buildings (Private)	Yes
HO54	Bridge Over Kororoit Creek	Transport - Road	On the boundary
HO119	House	Residential Buildings (Private)	Yes
HO205	Selection Wall	Farming and Grazing	Yes

One new historical heritage Place was recorded, a Nissen Hut at 1232-1290 Beattys Road, Grangefield. Although it is not in its original location, the hut is a rare surviving example of this type of building and is recommended for inclusion in the Heritage Overlay of the Melton Planning Scheme.

## Summary of Management Recommendations

This section provides a summary of the recommendations made in relation to the historical heritage values of the study area.

### Recommendation 1: Application of Heritage Overlay to Nissen Hut, 1232-1290 Beattys Road

The Nissen Hut located at 1232-1290 Beattys Road is recommended for inclusion in the Heritage Overlay of the Melton Planning Scheme. The recommended curtilage polygon includes the extent of the Nissen hut building and an additional 10 m around the building (Map 7).

### Recommendation 2: Consent Application Required for VHI H7822-2301 (Beattys Road Bluestone Cottage and Cistern)

If future developments will result in impacts to this Place, then an appropriate Consent must be obtained from Heritage Victoria. Heritage Victoria may stipulate as a condition of any Consent that further archaeological investigation, including excavation and monitoring, may be required.

If impacts to the Place are intended, then it is recommended that discussion with Heritage Victoria takes Place as early as possible in the planning process.

### Recommendation 3: Due care to be taken at potential archaeological sites

Three locations were identified as having potential historical archaeological values, but have not been recommended for inclusion in the Victorian Heritage Inventory (Map 6). These sites are:

- The property at 28-100 Water Reserve Road, Grangefields. The 1916 and 1938 topographic maps show a building at this location. At the time of the field inspection, no access was granted to the property. A detailed survey is required to confirm archaeological potential of the site and suitability for inclusion in the Victorian Heritage Inventory (Map 6b);
- Water Reserve, Ford and Windmill, 107-121 Water Reserve Road, Grangefields. Although the weatherboard structure at this Place is included in the Heritage Overlay on the Melton Planning Scheme, there is potential for archaeological subsurface deposits or artefact scatters to be present in the property, in which case it may be suitable to include in the Victorian Heritage Inventory (Map 6c); and
- The location of a structure mapped on 1916 and 1938 topographic maps at 942-968 Leakes Road, Grangefields. The structure has been recently demolished; however, the subject land may contain remnant footings, foundations, features and artefact scatters associated with the occupation of the property (Map 6d).

It is further recommended that detailed historical heritage archaeological assessments and the preparation of site cards for submission to Heritage Victoria be undertaken for these Places.

#### **Recommendation 4: Dry Stone Walls in the PSP area**

There is one dry stone wall included in the Heritage Overlay of the Melton Planning Scheme within the study area, HO205 (The Selection Wall).

Under cl.22.14, the Melton Planning Scheme currently requires that a planning permit be issued where impacts to any dry stone walls, constructed prior to 1940, are proposed. This requirement does not apply to:

- Dry stone structures other than walls and fences;
- The demolition or removal of a section of a dry stone wall to install a gate; or
- The reconstruction of damaged or collapsing walls which are undertaken to the same specifications and using the same materials as the existing walls.

Where possible, the dry stone walling in the study area should be retained and incorporated into development plans, in line with Council policy. If this is not possible:

- Priority should be given to retention of walls with higher significance, as they are considered to demonstrate examples of better structural integrity, are in better condition, and/or are examples of all-stone walls that are relatively poorly represented in the study area.
- Notwithstanding the above, any proposed impacts to walls within a Heritage Overlay will require a permit from Melton City Council regardless of their assessed significance level.
- For walls that require removal, a permit from Melton City Council will be required in accordance with cl.22.14. It is recommended that detailed recording of walls intended for removal is conducted by an appropriately qualified heritage advisor/archaeologist.

For dry stone walling that is to be retained, it is important that the visual relationship between related sections try to be maintained to recall the historic paddock or property boundary that it defines.

Any repairs to dry stone walling should be consistent with their original construction style – i.e. high quality walls should not be replaced with piled stones, nor should walls which were constructed with unrefined technique be ‘improved’. For preference, any repairs or reconstructions of dry stone walls should be completed by a professional dry stone waller. Where the posts of composite walls need to be repaired or replaced, these should be constructed in a manner sympathetic to the original wall, usually split hardwood timber to a height of around 1.1 m.

There is one dry stone wall included in the Victorian Heritage Inventory prior to this assessment, D7822-0302); however, as per Heritage Victoria policy it is no longer considered to be an archaeological site and has been ‘delisted’. As a consequence, the wall no longer has protection under the *Heritage Act 2017* and, if impacts to the walls are intended, a Consent to Damage from Heritage Victoria is not required. However, if impacts are intended then it is recommended that a courtesy letter be sent to Heritage Victoria describing the impacts for their records.

The Melton Dry Stone Wall study identified one DSW within the PSP area as being worthy of further assessment, designated as Wall N232. This wall currently has no statutory protection.

It is recommended that a Dry Stone Wall Management Plan be prepared for the PSP to manage any impacts that may result to all dry stone walls during the development of the PSP including any that are not presently recorded.

#### **Recommendation 5: Contingency**

There are no other known historical heritage issues within the PSP. If any historical heritage issues are encountered during the course of works within the PSP, then works should cease within 20 m of the area of concern and a qualified Heritage Advisor (or Heritage Victoria) should be contacted to investigate

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# 1 INTRODUCTION

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## 1.1 Background and Scope of Works

Ecology and Heritage Partners Pty Ltd was commissioned by the Victorian Planning Authority (VPA) to prepare a Post-Contact (Historical) Heritage Assessment (PCHA) for the proposed Melton East Precinct Structure Plan in Melton East, Victoria (Melton City Council) (Map 1).

The project brief agreed upon by Ecology and Heritage Partners Pty Ltd and the VPA is as follows:

- Review the relevant heritage databases (e.g., Local Government Heritage Overlays, the Victorian Heritage Register and Inventory at Heritage Victoria (HV), the National Trust Register and Commonwealth heritage databases);
- Review relevant available literature (e.g., previous archaeological reports and Local Government heritage studies);
- Provide a brief review of land use for the study area;
- Conduct a site inspection by a qualified Heritage Advisor to identify any historical heritage Places within the study area;
- Identify and provide a series of maps showing any historical archaeological heritage or areas likely to contain historical heritage;
- Provide information in relation to any implications of Commonwealth and State environmental legislation and Government policy associated with the proposed development;
- Discuss any opportunities and constraints associated with the study area;
- Liaise with the key stakeholders (local government and HV);
- Production of a PCHA report.

## 1.2 Name of Heritage Advisors

This report was prepared by Meredith Filihia (Senior Heritage Advisor/Archaeologist), Genevieve Polic, Maria Daikos and Darcy Moroney (Archaeologists/Heritage Advisors). The quality assurance review was undertaken by Annie Ayres (Associate Heritage Advisor/Archaeologist). The field work was undertaken by Meredith Filihia (Senior Heritage Advisor/Archaeologist) and Genevieve Polic (Archaeologist/Heritage Advisor). Mapping was provided by Monique Elsley (GIS Coordinator) and Petra Sorensen (GIS Officer).

## 1.3 Location of Study Area

The study area is located in Melton East, Victoria. It is approximately 1,005 ha in size and is bounded by the Western Highway to the south, Leakes Road and private property to the east, and Kororoit Creek and Melton

Highway to the north; Melton Highway also forms a portion of the western boundary of the PSP with the remainder being bound by private property (Map 2).

The cadastral details of the study area are as set out in Table 1.

**Table 1:** Cadastral details of the Melton East PSP study area

PARCEL_SPI	PARCEL_SPI	PARCEL_SPI	PARCEL_SPI	PARCEL_SPI
1\PS516977	RES1\PS648107	6\PS317226	5\LP131415	1\PS446475
2\PS516065	RES2\PS648107	1\LP216717	5\LP137020	2\PS446475
1\PS516065	R1\PS648107	3\LP200559	3\LP137020	3\PS446475
1\PS520699	R2\PS648107	2\LP216717	1\LP127283	10\LP218298
2\PS520699	4\LP217378	2\LP200559	2\LP127283	2E~8A\PP2927
1\PS518411	3\LP217378	3\LP216717	1\TP613184	2F~8A\PP2927
2\PS518411	2\LP217378	1\PS317226	2\LP122822	
2001\PP2927	1\LP217378	6\LP218298	1\LP122822	
1\PS523007	18\LP218298	7\LP218298	1\TP542527	
2\PS523007	17\LP218298	1\LP200559	2\LP141752	
1\TP139677	16\LP218298	4\LP200559	1\LP141752	
1\PS537638	15\LP218298	5\LP200559	3\LP122822	
2\PS537638	9\LP218298	6\LP200559	1\TP562688	
2010\PP2927	8\LP218298	RES1\LP216717	4A~7\PP2927	
2011\PP2927	4\PS304449	1\TP213863	3~7\PP2927	
12\LP218298	5\PS304449	4B~7\PP2927	2026\PP2927	
7\PS317226	2\PS317226	6B~7\PP2927	1\TP242245	
1\PS648107	3\PS317226	1\TP118945	1A~13\PP2927	
2\PS648107	4\PS317226	4\LP137020	4\LP127284	
3\PS648107	5\PS317226	4\LP131415	2\LP98912	

## 1.4 Proposed Activity

The Victorian Planning Authority is planning for the Melton East Precinct Structure Plan (PSP). The PSP is located in the western growth corridor of Melbourne and will be predominantly residential land use with localised community facilities and commercial opportunities.

## 1.5 Name of Client

This report has been commissioned by the Victorian Planning Authority.

## **1.6 Report Review and Distribution**

Copies of this PCHA will be lodged with the following organisations:

- Victorian Planning Authority;
- City of Melton;
- Heritage Victoria.

## **1.7 Heritage Legislation**

An overview of the Victorian *Heritage Act 2017*, the Victorian *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, the Victorian *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*, and the Commonwealth *Native Title Act 1993* is included in Appendix 1. This legislation is subordinate to the Victorian *Coroners Act 2008* in relation to the discovery of human remains.

## 2 BACKGROUND REVIEW

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The background review includes research into information relating to historical cultural heritage in or associated with the study area.

### 2.1 Environmental Context

Environmental factors influence how land may have been used in the past. This section reviews the environmental context of the study area to gain an understanding of environmental factors relevant to historical cultural heritage.

#### 2.1.1 Geographic Region

The geographic region defined for this PCHA is a 2 km buffer around the study area.

This geographic region reflects the specific history and resource availability in the Kororoit Creek catchment and exhibits environmental characteristics that likely influenced post-contact occupation of the area. The geographic region addresses the specific environmental context of resources available in the study area.

More generally, the region (and the activity area itself) forms a part of the Victorian Volcanic Plains Bioregion (DELWP 2021a).

#### 2.1.2 Geology, Geomorphology and Soils

The lava of the Western Volcanic Plains represents the youngest phase of volcanic activity in Victoria, which was active from 4.6 million years before the present (BP) to within (geologically) recent times (Late Pleistocene—Early Holocene). According to Birch (2003: 362–363) and Hills (1975: 261–264), these flows peaked in activity some two million years BP (Birch 2003: 362–363; Hills 1975: 261–264). Although the flows have been grouped into ‘Older’ and ‘Newer’ Volcanics groups, there was not two separate volcanic events. Rather, “volcanism has continued intermittently over 190 million years and the Newer and Older Volcanics represent volumetric peaks at around 42–57 million years ago and 0–5 million years ago” (Birch 2003: 361; Price et al. 1988: 439–451). The Volcanic Plains are part of the Newer Volcanics, comprising of extrusive tholeiitic through to alkaline basalts, with minor scoria and ash, and valley-filling basalts (Duncan 1982: 13). The basalts of the Newer Volcanics can be up to 120 m thick where lava has filled valleys, though most are less than 70 m thick (typically from 2 m to 10 m thick on the plains such as the activity area) and cover 15,000 km<sup>2</sup>. The Newer Volcanics includes around 200 scoria cones, over 50 lava tubes, 40 maars and 200 lava volcanoes—Mt Elephant (at Derrinallum, Western Victoria) being the highest at 240 m (elevation = 393 m) above the plains with a 90 m deep crater.

Specifically, the geology of the activity area is made up of Newer Volcanic Group – basalt flows (Neo) (Map 3). This formation is mostly comprised of basalt, minor scoria and ash, and was formed between the Pleistocene (Quaternary) and Miocene (Neogene) ages. This formation makes up the majority of the geographic region, with the exception of an area in the centre of the activity area, being comprised of swamp and lake deposits

(Qm1), and a section in the east nearest to Kororoit Creek (Map 6) being comprised of alluvium (Qa1), formed within the Holocene and comprised of alluvium, gravel, sand and silt.

The geomorphology of the region is comprised of GMU 6.1.3: Plains with poorly developed drainage and shallow regolith (Wingeel) (Map 4). The plains developed on the older Newer Volcanic lavas and were formed within the Late Pliocene (1.6 - 5 million years ago) and Pleistocene (1.6 million to 11,000 years ago). This geomorphic unit is generally characterised by a thin layer of weathered material between the soil and hard rock. Poor drainage is typical in these regions, in addition to corestone “floaters” regularly seen at the surface. Typical soil types are sodic and non-sodic texture contrast that generally reach moderately deep, in addition to gradational soils that are typically shallow to moderately deep (Agriculture Victoria 2022).

These geological and geomorphological characteristics played an important role in the post-contact settlement of the region. The rich volcanic soils provided fertile, relatively flat plains vegetated with vast grassy expanses. The rocks and boulders ejected through volcanic activity provided a readily available resource for the construction of houses, outbuildings and dry stone walls.

### **2.1.3 Landforms and Hydrology**

Landforms that have developed on the underlying basaltic geology within the northern parts of the geographic region include flat plains which are comprised of alluvial fans and gently undulating plains formed on volcanic and sedimentary lithologies.

The study area is directly adjacent to Kororoit Creek. The landform surrounding Kororoit Creek varies, with the Creek valley being wider and shallower closer to Port Phillip Bay and becoming more steeply incised further upstream (Friends of Kororoit Creek 2016).

The landform of the activity area is broadly defined as a Volcanic Plain.

The Volcanic Plains are described as plains mainly on basalt lavas with many volcanic landforms and lakes; partly on weak sedimentary rock. They are made up of subdued topography which have been filled and covered by a relatively thin (<50 m thick) ‘blanket’ of lava flow (Birch 2003:367). A geological map of 1862 indicates that there are deposits of alluvium within the PSP study area (Figure 1).

There are no significant rises or elevations within the study area or geographic region generally; Mt Kororoit is located approximately 2 km north of the geographic region.





**Figure 1:** Detail of a geological map showing deposits of alluvium within the Melton East PSP study area (shown in green) (Source: SLV)

#### 2.1.4 Climate

The Melton region is characterised by a temperate climate, with hot dry summers and cool wet winters. According to data for Laverton, the closest Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) climate recording station, the highest mean maximum temperature of 25.6 degrees Celsius occurs in January, and the highest mean minimum temperature of 14.2 degrees Celsius occur in February.

This climate was favourable for the occupation of the area as it supported the grassland vegetation which could be grazed by livestock and provided reasonably reliable supplies of water in creeks such as Kororoit Creek (which forms a large portion of the PSP boundary) and the Toolam Toolern Creek to the west, towards the settlement of Melton.

## 2.2 Historical Context

The section reviews the historical context of the study area and includes an examination of historical sources, previously recorded historical archaeological site types and locations in the geographic region of the study area, previous Council heritage studies and previous archaeological studies undertaken in the area. Together, these sources of information can be used to formulate a predictive site statement concerning what types of sites are most likely to occur in the study area, and where these are most likely to occur.

A Framework of historical themes has been prepared by the Heritage Council of Victoria in conjunction with the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council (2009). This Framework aims to ensure that objects, places and events can be understood within the context of a broader theme, rather than as singular items of interest. The

Framework is used by heritage professionals when developing histories of particular areas, for example, to form part of heritage studies and reviews.

Moloney et al. (2007, see below) developed a highly-detailed thematic history for the municipality for Stage 1 and Stage 2 of the Melton Heritage Study.

The themes which are particularly relevant to the history of the Melton East PSP are:

- **Theme 2: Peopling Victoria's Places and Landscapes**
  - Arriving in a new land;
  - Migrating and making a home; and
  - Promoting settlement.
- **Theme 3: Connecting Victorians by Transport and Communication**
  - Linking Victorians by road; and
  - Establishing and maintaining communications.
- **Theme 4: Transforming and Managing Land and Natural Resources**
  - Grazing and raising livestock; and
  - Farming.
- **Theme 6: Building Towns, Cities and the Garden State**
  - Shaping the suburbs
- **Theme 7: Governing Victorians**
  - Defending Victoria and Australia; and
  - Protecting Victoria's heritage.

### 2.2.1 Regional History

The Melton Shire was settled following Hume and Hovell's appraisal of the farming land in 1824. Their report of the land's potential for grazing generated particular interest from people in Van Diemen's Land where opportunities for pastoral expansion were running out. John Batman's 1835 tour of the area launched a fleet of small craft onto Bass Strait. Harbours at Melbourne, Williamstown and Geelong were founded as the squatters rushed to claim their share of the open volcanic plains to the west and north of Port Phillip Bay (Shillinglaw 1972: 27).

Pastoralism is the oldest and most important industry of the Melton Shire. The plains between the Maribyrnong and Werribee Rivers became the foundation of a rush for sheep-runs. Squatters established rough 'stations' and 'outstations' in the region, mostly along watercourses. The most important pioneering sheep-run in Melton was John Aitken's Mt Aitken Station, situated on Kororoit Creek in the far north of the Shire of Melton (Cannon & McFarlane 1984: 422-426). Some of Victoria's earliest and most notable runs were established in the Melton area; including the Exford Homestead, Green Hills Station, and the Mt Aitken Station. Ruins of these three pastoral estates still survive. Archaeological evidence for early pastoralism in Melton may

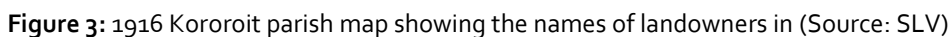
also survive at other stations, such as the squatting runs of Watton, Pinkerton, Clarke, Robertson or Pyke. In addition to homestead ruins, the outbuildings and associated features (such as stone dams and drainage works) can also be found on the landscape. A total of over 165 km of drystone walls can be seen in the Melton Shire (Finn 1976: 920).

During the 1850s, most of the Melton Shire land was sold by the Crown. As a result, the Port Phillip district was soon dominated by three landowners: the Clarkes, the Chirnsides and Staughton. Staughton acquired two new estates within the Shire of Melton-Eynesbury and Brooklyn/Nerowie (Peel 1974: 56, 133, 129-131). Figure 2 shows the extent of the lands in and around the study area which were owned by Rupert Havelock Clarke in 1899; all land coloured either purple or red was owned by him. Later Parish maps show the gradual transfer of land to other landowners in smaller parcels (Figure 3).



**Figure 2:** Image taken from Title issued in 1899 showing the extent of the land that was owned by Rupert Turner Havelock Clarke (Source: Landata 2022)





The township of Melton was founded in 1852, when the village lots were first successfully sold. The Melton road district was created on 16 September 1862; on 24 March 1871 it became a Shire (Victorian Places 2022). Within ten years the township had a post office, school, church, hotel and general stores, and supported a pastoral and agricultural district of approximately 1,000 people working as agriculturalists and pastoralists in the area. Over the next century, the Shire was enlarged with the addition of land and population from areas such as Rockbank (from Braybrook Shire) and from Keilor Shire; further additions were added in the late 20<sup>th</sup>

century with parts of Diggers Rest (Buller Shire) and parts of Werribee (from Exford Shire) (Victorian Places 2022).

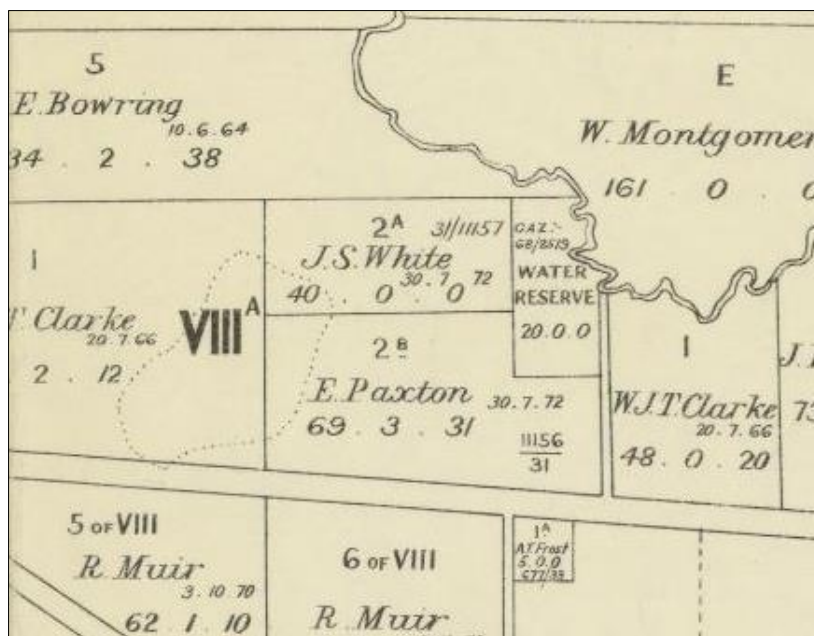
The farming era in Melton began with the subdivision and sale of Crown Land during the agricultural boom of the 1850s (Peel 1974: 19-20). Small farming declined during the early 1860s, however, due to drought, crop and stock diseases and changing market conditions. The arrival of the Melton South railway station in 1884 changed the local economy, as the development of the timber cutting industry was established (Moloney 2006: 38). Around the turn of the century, developments in farming science and technology saw a major farming revival in Victoria (including Melton), especially in dairying.

The establishment of the Closer Settlement Board saw the emergence of small mixed farming-grazing properties across the region. In the early years of the 20th century, lands that were once part of the vast pastoral estates were progressively sold. Under the *Closer Settlement Act 1904*, land was acquired by the government and subdivided into small farm allotments; this included Staughton's Exford estate in Melton; however, much of the land within in the PSP was owned by the Clarke family and was sold off privately by Rupert Turner Havelock Clarke in 1902 (see Table 2 and Table 3 below). The vast sheep-runs that dominated the region for more than half a century were considered by many in the region to have obstructed progress and, in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century gave way to small dairy and hay farms (Moloney 2006: 37-38). From 1891 to 1911, the population of the Melton Shire increased by 60% as a direct result of the availability of smaller allotments for farming. The *Australian Blue Book* stated that in 1946, two chaff mills were operating in Melton South (cited in Victorian Places 2022).

Melton played an important role in connecting Australia to the rest of the world particularly during World War 2. The region is home to a number of signalling stations, including one to the south of the geographic region on Greigs Road, which is registered in the Victorian Heritage Register as VHR H2278 (Australian Beam Wireless Receiving Station) and the Former Army Radio Station at Diggers Rest, which is included in the Victorian War Heritage Inventory. Neither of these Places are within the geographic region or study area.

From early times of colonial settlement of the region, portions of the study area had been set aside for the purpose of a Water Reserve (Figure 4); a second water reserve was also set aside further to the east (beyond the extent of the PSP).





**Figure 4:** Detail from a parish map on 1916 showing a water reserve set aside adjacent to Kororoit Creek within the PSP study area (Source: SLV)

The arrival of reticulated water from the Djerriwarrh Dam in 1963 was probably the single critical factor which determined Melton's rapid growth in the following years. With an adequate water supply, developers were quick to see the possibilities of an alternative western location for residential development. The decade from 1975 to 1984 saw several major projects completed, and this decade saw the most rapid growth in Melton's history. During this time Melton had the highest annual growth rate of any municipality in Victoria, averaging 7.7% increase per annum (Melton Shire Council 2002). Despite this, the region has retained its rural atmosphere.

Melton, together with the Melton East PSP, is located within the extent of metropolitan Melbourne's Urban Growth Boundary and the West Growth Corridor Plan. Urban development has been proceeding at a relatively rapid pace around Melton to the west, and city status was granted to Melton in September 2012. Aerial photographs of the region show the increasing extent of residential and commercial subdivisions in the area; however, the Melton East PSP has remained relatively undeveloped to date (Figures 5 to 7).



**Figure 5:** Aerial photograph of a portion of the Melton East PSP region in 1961 (Source: Landata 2022)



**Figure 6:** Aerial photograph of the western extent of the Melton East PSP region in 1990 (Source: Landata 2022)



**Figure 7:** Aerial photograph of the Melton East PSP region in 2022 (Source: Nearmap 2022)

### 2.2.3 Land Use History

An examination of the Titles of land has not been undertaken for the entire Melton East PSP; however, title searches have been undertaken for select locations which have been identified as having historical heritage and archaeological values. In particular, land ownership for the properties which contain the Beattys Road Bluestone Cottage and Cistern, which is included in the Victorian Heritage Inventory as VHI H7822-2301, and the house at 27-100 Water Reserve Road, included on the Heritage Overlay of the Melton Planning Scheme have been examined. The results have been set out in Table 1 and Table 2 respectively.

**Table 2:** Summary of Historical Land Ownership for 1267 Beattys Road, location of VHI H7822-2301 (Source: Certificate of Title, Landata 2022)

Owner/s		Year Title Transferred	Volume	Folio	Comment
Rupert Turner Havelock Clarke		02.05.1899, corrected to 10.05.1899	2731	546115	Baronet of Rupertswood near Sunbury. See Figure for Title map
Transferred from R. T.	Albert Frank	17.11.1902	2907	581290	Transfer of 79 acres, 2 roods, 2 perches

Owner/s		Year Title Transferred	Volume	Folio	Comment
H. Clarke to:	John Francis Sheahan	02.12.1902	2907	581291	149 acres, 0 roods, 8 perches
	John Peter Arandt	30.12.1902	2915	582983	149 acres, 2 roods, 12 perches
	John William Casey	13.02.1903	2918	58419	269 acres, 3 roods, 6 perches
	Thomas Missen	13.02.1903	2918	583420	241 acres, 2 roods, 0 perches
	John Richmond Smith	12.07.1909	3361	627011	"The balance"
John Cockbill		1903	2919	583747	Bone dust manufacturer resident in Little Bourke Street. Acquired from Rupert Turner Havelock Clarke, part of the Rockbank pastoral run, which Clarke subdivided and sold for £5 per acre (Melton Express 1924).
William Cockbill and John Cockbill the younger		03.02.1919	2919	583747	Sons of John Cockbill, both bone dust manufacturers, resident in Kensington Road, West Melbourne.
William Cockbill – sole proprietor		25.09.1944	2919	583747	Died 08.03.1965
David Hedley Thomas and William Frederick Rowe		03.05.1966	2919	583747	Probate of Cockbill's will
William Frederick Rowe and Ben Ami Frenkel		26.10.1976	9185	773	Chartered Accountant of Lower Templestowe and Solicitor of Melbourne
Ben Ami Frenkel and Phillip Samuel Benjamin		09.11.1977	9185	773	Cancelled 13.10.1981 and Lots 1 to 5 issued to Vol 9436 Fol. 964 to Vol 9436 Fol. 968
Ben Ami Frenkel and Phillip Samuel Benjamin		13.10.1981	9436	965	Solicitor of William Street and Chartered Accountant of Melbourne
Charlotte Stubbe		04.11.1983	9436	965	Grazier of Armadale
Charles Calleja and Carmen Calleja		04.11.1983	9436	965	Leading Hand and Married Woman of Sunshine North
Carmen Calleja		18.09.2003	9436	965	Of Beattys Road, Rockbank
Matthew Sean Leatch and Sally-Anne Attard		18.08.2003	9436	965	1267 Beattys Road, Rockbank



**Table 3:** Summary of Historical Land Ownership for HO119 (Source: Certificate of Title, Landata 2022)

Owner/s	Year Title Transferred	Volume	Folio	Comment
William John Clarke	16.06.1877	958	191487	Of Rupertswood Sunbury, County of Bourke Esquire. Property comprised of 109 acres, three roods and 31 perches or thereabouts
Rupert Turner Havelock Clarke and Janet Marion Clarke	22.11.1897	958	191487	Baronet MLC of Rupertswood, Sunbury, Lady Clarke of "Cliveden", East Melbourne, named as Executor and Executrix of William John Clarke's will; Clarke died on 15.05.1897 and probate was granted 22.11.1897. Note added to title on 28 February 1903
Alexander Johnson	26.05.1903	958	191487	Werribee Farmer
Alexander Johnson	21.06.1913	958	191487	Mortgage discharged
Thomas William O'Neill	04.04.1914	3782	756379	99 acres, 1 rood, 4 perches
Denis Casey	04.04.1914	3782	380	Transferred from Alexander Johnson. Rockbank Farmer, married to Catherine Direen of Learmonth, widowed 1946 (Melton Express 04 May 1946).
Stella Annie Cockbill	18.10.1946	9176	325	Married woman of Moonee Ponds (Lot 1)
Probate	29.05.1950	9176	325	Stella Annie Cockbill died 06.09.1949
Meredith Anne Bambery	27.09.1960	9176	325	Resident in Rockbank
George Ernest Bambery and Meredith Anne Bambery		9176	325	
George Ernest Bambery	01.10.2015	9176	325	Resident in Melton
Eleonora Falotico Longo	15.06.2018	9176	325	Resident in Morwell
Leon Edward Kerr	12.10.2020	9176	325	Resident in Melton

The results of the titles searches confirm that the land within the study area has followed a general pattern of settlement which is widely observed across the state; namely: occupation of large pastoral runs by squatters and selectors, followed by the breaking up of the runs for sale to small scale owners or tenants. These occupiers then set about trying to make a living off their land. During the twentieth century, changes occurred in the region as result of improvements to transport and other infrastructure such as water supply. The increasing population of the state encouraged the more widespread uptake of home ownership, resulting in increased residential and commercial development in areas such as Melton, bringing them closer to the urban centre of Melbourne.

#### 2.2.4 Database Searches

A review of the various relevant databases was conducted and, as a result, a total of five registered historical sites were identified within the study area. The database review is discussed below in relation to the study area and surrounding region.

#### **2.2.4.1 Victorian Heritage Register**

The Victorian Heritage Register (VHR), established by the Victorian *Heritage Act 2017*, provides the highest level of statutory protection for historical Places in Victoria. Only the State's most significant historical Places are registered on the VHR.

A search of the VHR was conducted for a 2 km radius area centred on the study area. The search identified a total of one registered historical heritage Place in the search area (Map 5):

- H1933 (Rockbank Inn)

This heritage Place is not located within the study area.

#### **2.2.4.2 Victorian Heritage Inventory**

The Victorian Heritage Inventory (VHI), established by the Victorian *Heritage Act 2017*, provides statutory protection for all historical archaeological sites, areas or artefacts, and private collections of artefacts, in Victoria. Places included in the VHI are not of State significance but are usually of regional or local archaeological significance.

A search of the VHI was conducted for a 2 km radius area centred on the study area. The search identified a total of six historical heritage sites in the search area included on the VHI (Map 5). These sites include:

- H7822-2301 (Beattys Road Bluestone Cottage and Cistern);
- H7822-2360 (Rockbank Station and Ward's Chaffmill Site);
- H7822-2281 (Melton Valley Golf Course);
- H7822-0258 (Rockbank Timber Bridge and Cobble Stone Road);
- H7822-0300 (Former Gidney Farm); and
- H7822-0717 (Cistern Near Rockbank Railway Station).

Place VHI H7822-2301 (Beattys Road Bluestone Cottage and Cistern) is located within the study area.

In addition to the six Places listed above, six Places have been previously included in the VHI but have since been removed. These Places are identified with a 'D' prefix. VHI sites are delisted when it has been determined that the site no longer has archaeological potential. It should be noted that a delisted site may still be listed on the local government Planning Scheme Heritage Overlay if it is deemed to have local heritage significance.

Six delisted VHI Places were located within the search area:

- D7822-0257 (Rockbank Inn); and
- D7822-0298 (Missen Dam); and
- D7822-0299 (Radio Mast Sites); and
- D7822-0301 (Rockbank Railway Station);
- D7822-0302 (Dry Stone Wall); and
- D7822-0876 (Rockbank Service Centre Dry Stone Wall)

Place D7822-0302 (Dry Stone Wall) is located within the study area.

#### **2.2.4.3 Victorian War Heritage Inventory**

The Victorian War Heritage Inventory (VWHI) was established in 2011 as a means to catalogue Victoria's war history such as war memorials, avenues of honour, memorial buildings, former defence sites and Places of commemoration. Places listed on the VWHI do not currently have discrete statutory protection, however many are concurrently listed on the VHR, VHI, or local planning schemes.

A search of the VWHI was conducted for the Melton local government area. The search identified six historical heritage Places in the search area. These Places include:

- Toolern Vale War Memorial;
- Melton War Memorial;
- Melton Vietnam War Memorial;
- Rockbank Communications Base;
- Former Army Radio Station Diggers Rest; and
- Staughton Memorial

None of these Places are located within the study area.

#### **2.2.4.4 Local Council**

The study area is located within the Melton City Council and is governed by the Melton Planning Scheme. Planning schemes set out policies and provisions for the use, development and protection of land.

The Heritage Overlay (HO) of the Melton Planning Scheme was examined for a 2 km radius area centred on the study area (DELWP 2022). The search identified a total of 38 registered historical heritage Places in the search area (Map 5).

Four of the 38 Places identified are located within the study area:

- HO54 (Bridge Over Kororoit Creek)
- HO119 (House); and
- HO135 (Former Fulham Park); and
- HO205 (Selection Wall).

#### **2.2.4.5 National Trust Register**

The National Trust of Australia (Victoria) is an independent, not-for-profit organisation that classifies several heritage Places. Listing on the National Trust Register (NTR) does not impose any statutory protection, however often National Trust listings are supported by the local council Planning Scheme.

A search of the NTR was conducted for the Melton local government area. The search identified a total of 22 registered historical heritage Places in the search area (Map 5).

None of these sites are located within the study area.

#### 2.2.4.6 Commonwealth and International Heritage Lists

The Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE) maintains the National Heritage List (NHL), a register of exceptional natural, Aboriginal and historical heritage Places which contribute to Australia's national identity. The DAWE also maintains the Commonwealth Heritage List (CHL), a register of natural, Aboriginal or historical heritage Places located on Commonwealth land which have Commonwealth heritage values.

A Place can be listed on one or both lists, and placement on either list gives the Place statutory protection under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

The World Heritage List (WHL) lists cultural and natural heritage Places which are considered by the World Heritage Council to have outstanding universal value.

DAWE also maintains the Register of the National Estate (RNE) which is a list of natural, Indigenous and historic heritage Places throughout Australia. Following amendments to the *Australian Heritage Council Act 2003*, the RNE was frozen on 19 February 2007, and no new Places have been added or removed since then. The RNE ceased as a statutory register in February 2012, although items listed on the RNE may continue to be considered during approvals processes. Many items on the RNE have been listed on the NHL or CHL. They may also be registered on State or local heritage registers. In these cases, those items are protected under the relevant Commonwealth or State heritage legislation. However, items that are only listed on the RNE no longer have statutory heritage protection.

Listings on the NHL, CHL, WHL and RNE are accessed via the Protected Matters Search Tool (PMST) and Australian Heritage Database (AHD), managed by DAWE.

A search of the AHD (DAWE) was conducted for a 2 km radius area centred on the study area. The search did not identify any historical heritage Places in the search area (Map 5).

#### 2.2.4.7 Summary

A summary of the relevant historical heritage sites within the study area appears in Table 4. Heritage citations for Places within the study area are included at Appendix 1.

**Table 4:** Summary of Previously Identified Historical Heritage Sites within the Study Area

Register & Place Number	Place Name	Place Type	Within Study Area?
VHI D7822-0302	Dry Stone Wall	Farming and Grazing	Yes
VHI H7822-2301 HO135	Beattys Road Bluestone Cottage and Cistern Former Fulham Park	Residential Buildings (Private)	Yes
HO54	Bridge Over Kororoit Creek	Transport - Road	Yes
HO119	House	Residential Buildings (Private)	Yes
HO205	Selection Wall	Farming and Grazing	Yes



### 2.2.5 Previous Historical and Archaeological Investigations

Regional and localised archaeological and heritage investigations have established the general character of historical archaeological sites located within the same geographic region as the study area and, heritage studies have been conducted for the City of Melton. These studies often define the historical character of the Local Government Area or for a specific township, predominantly for built heritage but also for archaeological heritage. This information, together with the information gathered in Section 2.2.4 can be used to form the basis for a site prediction statement (Section 2.2.6).

#### Melton Heritage Assessments Project 2018

The Heritage Assessments Project was prepared by RBA Architects and Conservation Consultants for the purpose of Planning Scheme Amendment (PSA) C198melt. The study resulted in the identification of 13 new historical heritage Places for further investigation in the Melton Historical Heritage Study; ten Places were listed as being 'Conservation Desirable'.

#### Melton Heritage Study

The key report relating to post-contact heritage Places in the City of Melton is the Melton Heritage Study, which was commissioned by the then Shire of Melton in 2001 and 2003 (**Moloney et al. 2007**) and exhibited as a Planning Scheme Amendment (PSA) C71 in 2007. The PSA was gazetted in 2010. The Heritage Study was undertaken in two stages and assessed a total of 191 potential Places considered for inclusion on the Heritage Overlay of the Shire. The Places were assessed using the principles of the Australia ICOMOS Burra Charter and HERCON criteria. After a process of community consultation, public exhibition and a Planning Panel assessment the study resulted in the identification of:

- 109 Places which were added to the Heritage Overlay;
- 8 Places which were registered in the Victorian Heritage Register;
- 56 Places which were considered 'Conservation Desirable';
- 22 Places which were considered worth of heritage protection in a future study; and
- 61 Potential historical and archaeological Places.

Of the Places identified in this study two are within the present study area:

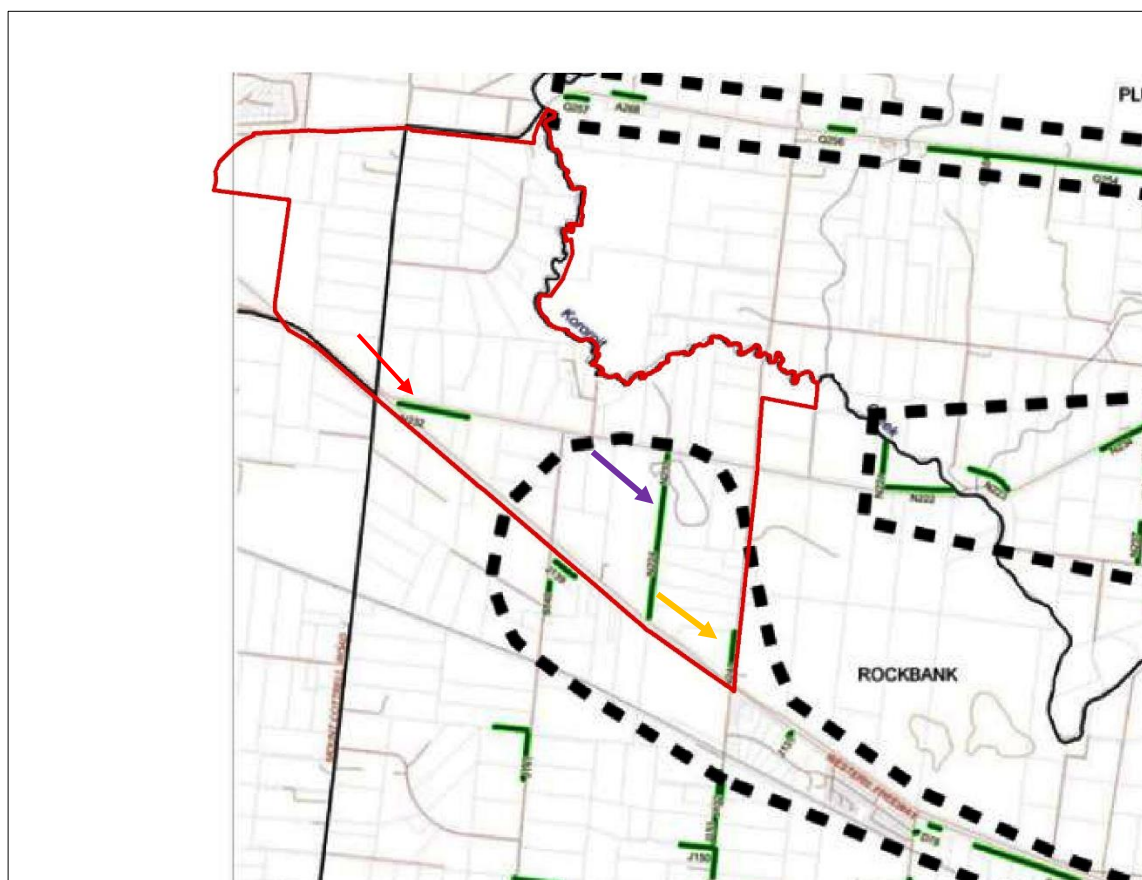
- HO54 (Bridge Over Kororoit Creek);
- HO119 (House, 107-121 Water Reserve Road);

A second PSA, C198melt, has recently resulted in the addition of a further nine Places to the Heritage Overlay, one of which is located within the present study area:

- HO135 (Former Fulham Park). This Place is also included in the Victorian Heritage Inventory as VHI H7822-2301 (Beattys Road Bluestone Cottage and Cistern) for its potential to contain archaeological deposits (see below).

Heritage Citations for these Places are included at Appendix 1.

**Melton Dry Stone Wall Study (Planning Collaborative 2011).** This study was a dedicated review of the dry stone walls within the municipality. Of relevance to the Melton PSP, the report referenced The Selection Wall, which was included in the study but did not form part of any of the Dry Stone Wall Precincts that were described within the report. The Selection Wall is indicated by the purple arrow in Figure 8, while the red arrow indicates the location of a wall within the western extent of the PSP that does not yet have any statutory heritage protection. The yellow arrow shows the location of VHI D7822-0302 (Dry Stone Wall), which is included in the Victorian Heritage Inventory, but which is not considered to retain any archaeological potential and has no statutory protection.



**Figure 8:** Diagram showing locations in the Melton East PSP requiring further assessment of dry stone walls for inclusion in statutory heritage registers (Source: Planning Collaborative 2011).

**Harbour et al. (2011)** undertook an Aboriginal and Historical Heritage Assessment (AHHA) for the proposed extension of Taylors Road between Caroline Springs and Melton. The desktop assessment found that there was a total of 47 previously recorded Places within 2 km of the study area; none of which were located within the study area. During the assessment, one previously unrecorded historical archaeological site was identified and subsequently listed in the Victorian Heritage Inventory: VHI H7822-2301 (Beattys Road Bluestone Cottage and Cistern). The Place is shown in Figure 9.



**Figure 9:** View of VHI H7822-2301 at the time it was recorded (Harbour et al. 2011)

This Place is described as being a late-19<sup>th</sup> century bluestone cottage located approximately 50 m south of Beattys Road; it is constructed of bluestone and brick, with a partially-collapsed bluestone and brick chimney on the western side and a brick chimney on the eastern elevation; this appears to be a later addition. In addition, a small brick cistern was identified. The interior of the cottage was unable to be inspected, and a sheet of iron or similar has been placed over the top of the cottage to make it weatherproof.

A second historical heritage Place, a dry stone wall identified as N224 (The Selection Wall) was identified and a site card submitted to HV; however, it was not considered to meet the threshold for inclusion on the VHR or VHI. The wall has since been included in the Heritage Overlay of the Melton Planning Scheme and is listed as HO205 (The Selection Wall).

Appendix 1 contains the heritage citations for both of these Places.

**Gardner (2010)** undertook the Outer Western Metro Reassessment Project for Melton and Wyndham. The aim of this study was to assess Places that were included in the VHR and VHI. A total of 78 Places were identified for reassessment, of which 60 (76%) could be assessed while issues such as access and relocation of the Places prevented all Places from being subjected to review. Within the City of Melton, 44 Places remained listed on the VHI and 35 were removed. An additional 31 potential Places were also assessed, with a priority list of all sites being developed and then visited.

One of the key findings of this report is that:

*A large number of sites on the VHI were found to be located within areas identified for urban growth. In most cases, development pressure triggered archaeological sites to be recorded in the first instance. Consent to Damage had not been received for over 70% of sites located within the study area. This result highlights the need for improved relationships between Heritage Victoria and developers and local government authorities (Gardner 2010: 43)*

**Vines et al. (2004)** undertook a cultural heritage assessment of the Melton East-Plumpton development corridor; their study area covered the easternmost portion of the Melton East PSP study area, east of Leakes

Road. This report included a summary of titles and land purchases, and also gave an overview of the settlers in the area. Of relevance to this report is the reference to Isaac Gidney, whose property was described as:

*. . . one of the larger holdings in the Rockbank area in the late nineteenth century located off Ballarat Road. However, no evidence of the original homestead is visible. Much of this property is now the Defence Department' Royal Australian Signals radio communication station.*

*Isaac and Henry Gidney had several small blocks in Rockbank, north of Ballarat Road. These comprised most of Sections VI and Lots 5 and 6 Section VII, as well as a scatter of other blocks near Kororoit Creek, which were probably used for watering stock. they also leased land from other farmers. The total extent of the freehold property was about 1000 acres. This land was selected under the closer Settlement Act which allowed for the selection of Crown Land and payment over time, so the brothers were not actually granted title until 1873-4 (Vines et al. 2004:31).*

One registered historical Place within the Melton East PSP is clearly associated with the Gidney family, a dry stone wall which runs north from the Western Freeway to Beattys Road. This wall is included in the Heritage Overlay of the Melton Planning Scheme as HO205 (The Selection Wall). The citation and statements of significance for the wall are included in Appendix 1. The wall is described as:

*. . . an early and rare vestige of the opening up of the Rockbank commons for Selection in 1867. It is one of the longest walls in the Shire. It is the only example of the significant heritage of dry stone walls of the Shire of Melton that is visible to city-bound traffic on one of Victoria's major highways . . . The wall comprises the most substantial surviving evidence of Isaac Gidney's Spring Farm, and his trade of horses and chaff for the India army, an enterprise engaged in by some large farmers in the Melton - Werribee districts. The wall is also associated with Digby Tarleton, a local farmer and Newmarket stock dealer (Victorian Heritage Database 2022).*

## 2.2.6 Historical Archaeological Site Prediction Statement

The following site prediction statement has been formulated from the review of previous assessments. The statement presented is based on a site type approach. The review of the previously recorded historical archaeological sites and previous archaeological investigations indicates that the most likely<sup>1</sup> site types in the study area are domestic sites, dry stone walls, tree plantings, farming sites, pastoral sites, and road and rail infrastructure sites.

- **Domestic Sites** are likely to occur in the study area. Historical mapping shows that there are a number of structures in the study area that date to at least 1916 and evidence of these Places may remain. In addition, there are the remains of a bluestone cottage. Evidence of domestic occupation may include structural remains or ruins of homesteads and/or outbuildings, domestic rubbish dumps or bottle dumps, wells or underground storage tanks.
- **Dry Stone Walls** are likely to occur in the study area. There are a number of dry stone walls listed on the Heritage Overlay of the Melton Planning Scheme within the study area, and it is possible that there

<sup>1</sup> **Likely** is an assessment of site types with a 50% or more likelihood of occurring; **Unlikely** is an assessment of site types with 50% or less chance of occurring).

may be other, unrecorded dry stone walls in the PSP. Dry stone walls may line internal property divisions or external property boundaries.

- **Tree Plantings** are likely to occur in the study area. Historical tree plantings may be evidenced by large, introduced trees planted along original driveways, paddock boundaries or close to homestead sites. Aerial photographs of the study area indicate that there are some linear plantings, such as windbreaks.
- **Farming Sites** are likely to occur in the study area because of the long post-contact use of the study area for agricultural purposes. Evidence of farming may include fence lines, dams, water channels, plantings or terracing. Dry stone walls are a distinctive feature of the geographic region and at least one dry stone wall listed on the Heritage Overlay of Melton Planning Scheme is located in the study area.

### 2.2.7 Background Review – Summary of the Results and Conclusions

A review of relevant heritage databases and historical and archaeological reports has been undertaken for the Melton East PSP study area. The review found that the study area was first surveyed in by Darke and Wedge, with two major roads being marked out – a road between Melton and Bacchus Marsh (later the Western Highway) and a road from Melton to Melbourne (the Melton Highway).

Favourable reports of the area's viability for farming and grazing soon attracted squatters and pastoralists to the region. Much of the land in the study area was taken up the Clarke family and was used for grazing stock until the push for smaller pastoral holdings came with the Closer Settlement Acts. The introduction of this legislation saw the subdivision of pastoral runs into smaller allotments which were taken up by people. With the smaller allotments came a diversification of industry, including the production of grains such as hay and chaff.

Developments in transport such as the arrival of the railway at Melton South and the development of the Western Highway facilitated the move in population away from the urban centre of Melbourne to satellite towns such as Melton; however, within the PSP the growth of residential and commercial ventures has been slower and there has been little change to the landscape over time.

Within the study area, there are five historical heritage Places which are included on statutory heritage instruments: two are included in the Victorian Heritage Inventory (VHI H7822-2301 and VHI D7822-0302) and three are included in the Heritage Overlay of the Melton Planning Scheme (HO119, HO135 and HO205).

VHI H7822-2301/HO135 and HO119 are residential buildings, and two are dry stone walls (VHI D7822-0302, HO205). All of these Places are closely tied to the pastoral and agricultural use of the land in the study area. HO54, the bridge over Kororoit Creek, is representative of the development of transport routes in the region and would have played a significant role in the movement of people and stock through the western region of Melbourne.

The desktop review found that domestic sites, dry stone walls, tree plantings, farming sites, pastoral sites, and road and rail infrastructure sites are the most likely Place types to be encountered during the field assessment.

## 3 FIELD ASSESSMENT AND RESULTS

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A survey of the study area was conducted to confirm the results of the desktop assessment and to identify areas of archaeological likelihood and, for Aboriginal cultural heritage, areas of significant ground disturbance.

The site inspection was targeted and utilised both pedestrian and vehicular survey of the study area.

### 3.1 Aims and Objectives

The aim of the survey was to:

- To identify and record any surface indications of historical heritage sites and areas of historical archaeological likelihood in areas that will be impacted by the proposed development;
- To verify the results of the background review and site predictive statement; and
- To assess the cultural heritage significance of any historical sites identified in the survey.

### 3.2 Methodology of the Survey

The study area was inspected on 12 May 2022 by Meredith Filihia (Senior Heritage Advisor/Archaeologist) and Genevieve Polic (Archaeologist/Heritage Advisor). An additional inspection was undertaken by Meredith Filihia on 08 June 2022.

The survey took the form of a targeted pedestrian and vehicle-based survey in areas that background research identified as having potential historical heritage values (Map 5).

The survey used the following equipment and materials: 4WD vehicle, ranging pole, photographic equipment, Differential Global Positioning System (DGPS), maps, and notebooks.

The protocols used to define a site depended on the nature of the site. For individual Places, the extent of historical fabric was recorded using DGPS and a buffer of 5 m was established as the site's curtilage. For built heritage structures, the curtilage was identified as either the title boundary (where this contributes to the heritage values of the Place) or a defined area around the structure that was deemed likely to have archaeological potential. For dry stone walls, the site extent consisted of either the extent of an individual wall plus a 5 m buffer either side of the wall or, for wall complexes, the entire area of the complex plus a 5 m buffer around the extent of the historical fabric.

Once locations of potential historical fabric or heritage potential were identified in the background research, a list of properties for access was provided to the VPA, who then contacted each landowner as relevant. Follow up telephone calls to landowners was made prior to and during the survey to confirm access approvals and requirements. It should be noted that some land parcels were not surveyed. A list of all land parcels in the PSP area is provided in Appendix 3, with details on which properties were access or, if not, the reason why.



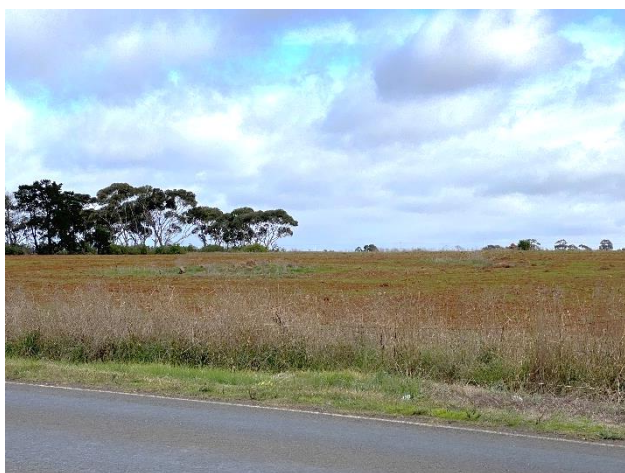
### 3.3 Visibility, Exposure and Coverage

### 3.4 Limitations of the Survey

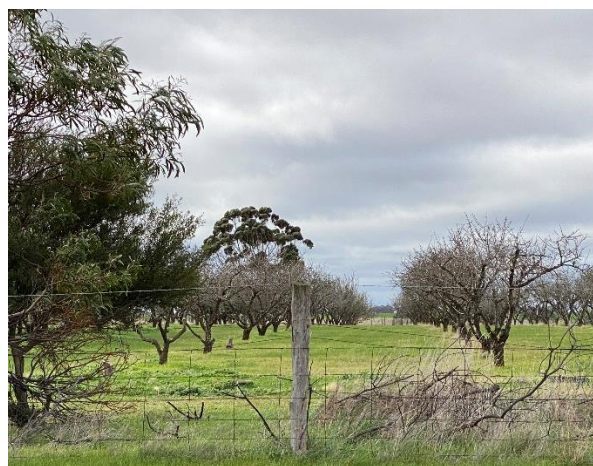
A full pedestrian survey of the study area was not conducted for this project. Not all landowners have granted access to their properties; in this case, visual inspection was undertaken from publicly accessible road reserves. Recent surveys and assessments have been conducted including those undertaken for PSA C198melt; the results of these surveys have been incorporated into this report.

### 3.5 Results of the Survey

The survey found that the pastoral history of the study area is still strongly in evidence (Plates 1 -4), despite the rapid pace of urbanisation of Melton to the west and surrounding areas such as Bonnie Brook to the north.



**Plate 1:** Study area facing south-west showing ploughed fields on Leakes Road (M. Filihia June 2022)



**Plate 2:** Study area facing east showing an orchard of fruit trees on the east side of Judd Court (M. Filihia June 2022)



**Plate 3:** Study area facing north-east showing farming land and windbreak east of Paynes Road (M. Filihia June 2022)



**Plate 4:** Study area facing south-west showing low stock ramp and remnant dry stone wall, Beattys Road (M. Filihia June 2022)



The PSP is made up of rural properties, comprised of allotments varying in size. Orchards of fruit trees and planted rows of Prickly Pear were observed during the survey. Along Mount Cottrell Road and Judd Road, homestead-style homes typical of those constructed in the 1980s-1990s were observed – many of these are damaged with materials such as the steel rooves being removed (Plate 5 and Plate 6).



**Plate 5:** Study area facing west showing homestead-style home on Mount Cottrell Road (M. Filihia June 2022)



**Plate 6:** Study area facing west showing home with steel roofing removed, Mount Cottrell Road (M. Filihia June 2022)

## Roads

The roads within the study area vary in size and carrying capacity, ranging from the major carriageway of the Western Highway on the southern extent of the PSP (Plate 7) to the narrow, gravelled surfaces of, Judd Court, Mount Cottrell Road and Paynes Road (Plate 8). Paynes Road passes through a wetland and is formed of packed dirt and gravel to pass above the height of the water; flood level markers were observed at the side of the road. Beattys Road and Leakes Road have asphalted surfaces but have only one lane in each direction.



**Plate 7:** Study area facing south towards the Western Highway (M. Filihia June 2022)



**Plate 8:** Study area facing south the gravelled surface of Paynes Road (M. Filihia June 2022)



### 3.5.1 Historical Heritage Places Identified During the Survey

A total of seven historical heritage Places were identified during the survey (Map 6):

#### 3.5.1.1 Places with No Current Statutory Heritage Listing

***Beattys Road House and Nissen Hut, 1232-1290 Beattys Road, Grangefields.***

This Place comprises a weatherboard house and relocated Nissen Hut. There is also a 3 m round, concrete-covered cistern or well which may contain archaeological deposits. The house appears on the 1916 topographical map and is most likely to have been constructed during the first decades of the twentieth century following the break up of Clarke's Rockbank Estate. Table 5 sets out the owners of the property.

**Table 5: Summary of ownership 1232-1290 Beattys Road (House and Nissen Hut) (Source: Landata 2022)**

Owner/s		Year Title Transferred	Volume	Folio	Comment
William John Clarke		16.06.1877	958	191487	Of Rupertswood Sunbury, County of Bourke Esquire. Property comprised of 109 acres, three roods and 31 perches or thereabouts
Rupert Turner Havelock Clarke and Janet Marion Clarke		22.11.1897	958	191487	Baronet MLC of Rupertswood, Sunbury, Lady Clarke of "Cliveden", East Melbourne, named as Executor and Executrix of William John Clarke's will; Clarke died on 15.05.1897 and probate was granted 22.11.1897. Note added to title on 28 February 1903
	Albert Frank	17.11.1902	2731	546108	Transfer of 79 acres, 2 roods, 2 perches
	John Francis Sheahan	02.12.1902	2731	546108	149 acres, 0 roods, 8 perches
	John Peter Arandt	30.12.1902	2731	546108	149 acres, 2 roods, 12 perches
	John William Casey	13.02.1903	2731	546108	269 acres, 3 roods, 6 perches
	Thomas Missen	13.02.1903	2731	546108	241 acres, 2 roods, 0 perches
	John Richmond Smith	12.07.1909	2731	546108	'The balance'
John Peter Arandt		13.12.1902	2915	582983	148 acres, 2 roods, 12 perches CA1, Section 8
Rupert Turner Havelock Clarke		28.01.1903	2731	546115	Mortgaged
Henry Missen		04.10.1907	2731	546115	Farmer of Rockbank, from John Peter Arandt
Ellen Louisa Aitken		04.10.1907	2731	546115	From Henry Missen

Owner/s	Year Title Transferred	Volume	Folio	Comment
Elizabeth Emily Missen and Frederick William Henry Missen	12.03.1943	2731	546115	Of Armstrong Street, Ballarat, widow of Henry Missen
Frederick William Henry Missen	08.11.1967	2731	546115	Surviving Proprietor
Neville Murray Hughes and Nevenka Marree Hughes	01.04.1985	9612	311	Derived from Vol.2915 Fol.983
Allan Donald Rodda	09.02.1999	9923	712	Lot 4 created 22.12.1989 instrument LP217378E
Amazon Property Group	16.05.2007	9923	712	1232 Beattys Road, Rockbank
Yingde Investments Pty Ltd	27.07.2020	9923	712	

The weatherboard house has three sets of double-hung sash windows across its southern elevation (facing Beattys Road) and a wide verandah which is likely a later addition (Plate 9, Plate 10). It has had the addition of rough fencing added around the verandah to keep stock from entering that area.

The Nissen Hut previously has been used as a shearing shed but is now being used for storage (Plate 11 to Plate 14). The hut is approximately 13 m in length and has no windows; however, there are four double doors made of timber, one on each end and a central door on each side of the hut. A timber stock ramp has been added on the south side of the hut. Electricity has been connected to the building.



**Plate 9:** Study area facing north showing weatherboard house (M. Filihia 12 May 2022)



**Plate 10:** Study area facing north-west showing weatherboard house (M. Filihia 12 May 2022)





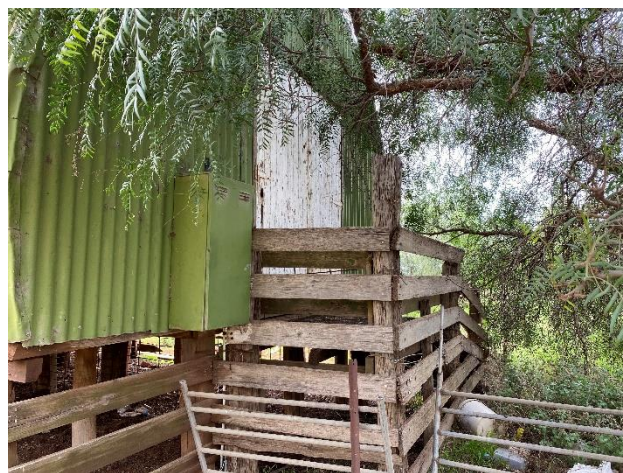
**Plate 11:** Study area facing south-west showing Nissen Hut at 1232-1290 Beattys Road (G. Polic 12 May 2022)



**Plate 12:** Study area facing east showing Nissen Hut at 1232-1290 Beattys Road (G. Polic 12 May 2022)



**Plate 13:** Study area facing south-east showing Nissen Hut at 1232-1290 Beattys Road (M. Filihia 12 May 2022)



**Plate 14:** Study area facing west showing ramp at entrance of Nissen Hut (M. Filihia 12 May 2022)

It is likely that the hut is one of a number of this type of building which were brought into the area in the 1950s following World War 2. The *Melton Express* reported in January 1954 that the government was having a disposal sale of Nissen huts in Werribee and that 'bargain-seekers from Melton' had been buying them. The Express also reported that the Legion of Ex-Servicemen intended to convert one into a club room in Melton South (*Melton Express* 30 January 1954: 5).

In March of the same year, the *Bacchus Marsh Express* had a story with the headline, 'Nissen Huts Worrying Melton Council'. The story reported that the Melton Shire Council was concerned that eight huts had recently been brought into the municipality but to date only one permit for the huts had been applied for. The story continued that while it was understood that these were sturdy and useful farm buildings, they were considered to be an eyesore and a number of complaints had been received when the huts made their way into residential areas in Melton and Melton South (*Bacchus Marsh Express*, 06 March 1954).

The Nissen huts made their way into local vernacular. In 1947, a decision had been made to erect a single war memorial building to house municipal offices and a public hall. That decision was recalled but in 1954, while

the question was still being debated in a council meeting, Councillor Masson was heard to interject, 'Get a Nissen hut' (*Bacchus Marsh Express*, 03 April 1954).

This hut is most likely one of those purchased from Werribee and would have been brought to the property during its ownership by the Missen family. It is visible in aerial photographs of the property dating to 1968.

In Schedule 3, Appendix B of the Melton Heritage Study the weatherboard house was noted as not meeting the relevant Assessment Criteria and Significance Thresholds to warrant inclusion as a heritage overlay in the Melton Planning Scheme at the time of that assessment; however, it was noted that with 'inevitable losses of existing heritage Places and with developments in understanding heritage and changing criteria' it may be considered worthy of consideration for inclusion on the Melton Heritage Overlay by a future heritage studies.

It is not recommended at this stage to apply a heritage overlay to the weatherboard dwelling; however, the relocated Nissen Hut should have a heritage overlay placed on it. Despite the fact that it is not in its original location, the large number of relocated buildings within Melton has been noted and their heritage values upheld as *prima facie* historically justifiable heritage Places (Melton Heritage Study)

### ***Dry Stone Wall N232, Beattys Road, Grangefields***

This Place comprises the lower course of a dry stone wall, located in the southern road reserve of Beattys Road from its western extent for a distance of approximately 630 m. There is a break in the wall for a driveway entrance into a property to the south; the recorded sections total approximately 550 m. The wall is shown in mapping for the Melton Dry Stone Wall Study and is numbered N232 (Figure 8, above).

Plates 15 to 18 show images of the wall. For the most part, only the lower course of the wall is present. Evidence of the construction methods used for the wall is present (for example, as shown in Plate 15 below).





**Plate 15:** Study area showing a small section of the wall on the south side of Beattys Road (M. Filihia 12 May 2022)



**Plate 16:** Study area facing east showing the wall on the south side of Beattys Road (M. Filihia 12 May 2022)



**Plate 17:** Study area facing south west showing the wall on the south side of Beattys Road (M. Filihia 12 May 2022)



**Plate 18:** Study area facing south west showing the wall on the south side of Beattys Road (M. Filihia 12 May 2022)

### ***House, 28-100 Water Reserve Road***

The house is listed as a Place of Interest on Melton City Council's Conservation Desirable List.

The house likely dates to the Closer Settlement era, and is shown on a topographic map dating to 1916 (Figure 11); it is a double-fronted brick house with hipped roof and no verandas visible from the roadside. There are two brick chimneys, neither of which are located on the exterior of the house according to both aerial imagery of the property and observation from the roadside. The house has undergone alterations; for example, the front windows appear to be aluminium-framed rather than being made of timber.



**Figure 10:** 1916 topographic map showing the location of the house on the east side of Water Reserve Road (Source: SLV)



**Plate 19:** Study area facing south west showing the wall on the south side of Beattys Road (M. Filihia 12 May 2022)

No access to this property has been granted, and it was surveyed only from the publicly accessible roadway. It is likely that there are archaeological deposits associated with this house, and consideration should be given to a full historical heritage assessment with a view to including the Place in the Victorian Heritage Inventory.

### 3.5.1.2 Places With Statutory Heritage Registrations

#### VHI H7822-2301 (Beattys Road Bluestone Cottage and Cistern)/HO135 (Former Fulham Park)

Harbour et al. (2011: 41) described the cottage as follows:

*The site consists of the exterior walls of a c. late-19<sup>th</sup> century bluestone, single-fronted symmetrical cottage, measuring approximately 10 x 10 m. The building has a bluestone chimney on the eastern wall and a smaller brick chimney on the western wall. A galvanised iron or steel flat roof appears to have been added in recent times to make the building weather-tight. The building is in poor condition.*

*Associated with the cottage is a concrete-lined brick Cistern, approximately 3 m diameter, located immediately adjacent the south west corner of the cottage. About 30 m west of the cottage are a pair entry gate wings constructed from bluestone and brick, which are part of the entry for the main occupied house. About 30 m east of the cottage is a rusting iron farm implement. It is unclear whether either the gate wings or the farm implements are contemporary with the bluestone cottage or of a more recent timeframe.*

A detailed inspection was not made of this Place. It was viewed from the roadside and does not appear to have altered from the time of its recording (Harbour et al. 2011) or more recent inspections (e.g., Melton Heritage Places Review 2018).

The Place is included in the Victorian Heritage Inventory and Consents will be required from Heritage Victoria if there will be impacts to the extent of the registered Place.

#### VHI D7822-0302 Dry Stone Wall



This Place has been delisted from the Victorian Heritage Inventory and has no statutory protection; however, there is an expectation that Heritage Victoria is informed in writing if a delisted heritage Place will be impacted by works. The site card for the dry stone wall notes that the wall was one of several associated with the Gidney farm (See Section 2.2.5 above).

The wall's recorded location (Map 3) suggests that it has been impacted by the construction of the interchange of the Western Highway and Leakes Road; however, aerial images show that a section of the wall is present along the western side of a truncated section of Leakes Road (Plate 20).



**Plate 20:** Satellite image of VHI D7822-0302 (Dry Stone Wall) at the side of the old route of Leakes Road (Source: Nearmap 2022)

#### ***HO54 (Bridge Over Kororoit Creek)***

In July 1866, the *Bacchus Marsh Express* contained the paragraph shown in Figure 11 below:

The Engineer submitted plans of a bridge over the Kororoit Creek, and after a long and unnecessary discussion regarding the site, it was agreed to let the matter stand over till next meeting, the Clerk being instructed to wait on the Commissioner of Roads and Bridges to ascertain if it was necessary to complete the works of the Kororoit Creek bridge before the 31st December, to secure the £300 appropriated by the Government.

**Figure 11:** Excerpt from the *Bacchus Marsh Express*, 28 July 1866 (Source: Trove 2022)

The bridge appears to have been completed by August 1867, with the same publication listing the correspondence tabled at a meeting of the Melton Roads Board, which included a voucher for the value of £260 11 s. 'due on the bridge lately erected over the Kororoit Creek, near Mount Misery [Mount Kororoit]' for signature (*Bacchus Marsh Express* 17 August 1867).

The history of the bridge in the citation in the Melton Heritage Review states that the bridge was affected by the severe floods of 1870, with large stones being carried distances 'of three or four hundred yards' (Moloney et al., 2006); in the repairs that were subsequently undertaken, masonry abutments with shaped stone corbels were added in order to support girders which spanned approximately 6 m. Alterations were subsequently made to the road alignment on the western side of the bridge, and in 1959 the height of the parapets was lowered to facilitate the crossing of modern farm machinery over the bridge. (Moloney et al. 2006).

No detailed survey was undertaken of this Place due to access issues. An inspection was attempted; however, only limited vision of the bridge was available (Plates 18 and 19).



**Plate 21:** View of HO54 (Bridge Over Kororoit Creek) as shown in the Melton Heritage Review (Source: Shire of Melton Heritage Study)



**Plate 22:** Study area facing south showing the eastern girder span and bluestone cobbling of HO54 (M. Filihia May 2022)

### ***HO119 House, 107-121 Water Reserve Road, Rockbank***

This Place is included in Melton Planning Scheme for its historical significance as being a moderately intact example of an Edwardian styled house with interwar styled windows (Moloney et al. 2007). It is considered to be a good representation of a weatherboard house constructed in the first few years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The



house is shown in the 1916 topographic map of the region (Figure 12). This Place was observed from the roadside.



**Figure 12:** 1916 topographic map showing the house at 107-121 Water Reserve Road (Source: SLV)



**Plate 23:** Study area facing north-east showing HO119 (House, 107-121 Water Reserve Road) (photograph by G. Polic June 2022)

A new or updated Conservation Management Plan should be prepared for the Edwardian dwelling.

#### ***HO205 (Selection Wall)***

This Place is included in the Heritage Overlay of the Melton Planning Scheme as being historically significant as 'an early and rare vestige of the opening up of Rockbank Commons for Selection in 1867' (Holdsworth et al 2007). The wall is located between the Western Highway and Beattys Road and associated with Isaac Gidney's Spring Farm. At 1.4 km in length, it is one of the longest walls in the City of Melton and is visible to travellers to Melbourne from the Western Highway. The wall is a composite wall, formed of volcanic fieldstone rocks and boulders with timber fence posts and wires along its length.

The wall was inspected from its northern extent, from the road reserve of Beattys Road.



**Plate 24:** Study area facing south-east showing HO205 (Selection Wall) at its northern end (M. Filihia 09 June 2022)



**Plate 25:** Study area facing south showing HO205 (Selection Wall) at its northern end at Beattys Road (M. Filihia 09 June 2022)



**Plate 26:** Study area facing south-west showing HO205 (Selection Wall) at its northern end (M. Filihia 09 June 2022)



**Plate 27:** Study area facing south showing HO205 (Selection Wall) passing through low-lying areas and covered in Tangled Lignum (left side of photo) (M. Filihia 09 June 2022)

### 3.5.2 Areas of Historical Archaeological Potential Identified During the Survey

A total of three areas of historical archaeological potential were identified during the survey (Map 6):

- **942-968 Leakes Road, Grangefields.** The 1916 topographic maps shows that there was a house at this location; this is confirmed by aerial imagery which shows a house and a linear planting of trees. At the time of the field inspection, no structures were present at this location. Communication with current landholders/managers confirmed that there were a number of structures which have since been demolished;
- **28-100 Water Reserve Road, Rockbank.** The 1916 topographic maps shows that the house at this location and it is likely to date to the Closer Settlement phase of the study area. At the time of the

field inspection, no access was granted to the property. A detailed survey is required to confirm archaeological potential; and

- **Water Reserve, Ford and Windmill.** Although this Place has been noted as being worthy of consideration for heritage protection, it is unlikely that the Place will meet the threshold for inclusion on the Victorian Heritage Inventory for its potential to contain archaeological deposits. A full historical heritage assessment followed by submission of a site card is recommended.

### 3.5.3 Survey – Summary of Results and Conclusions

The site inspection revisited historical heritage Places included in the Victorian Heritage Inventory and the Heritage Overlay of the Melton Planning Scheme. Places which are shown as having buildings marked on the 1916 Sunbury topographic map were also inspected for any indications that historical archaeological Places may be present at those locations. Not all of these buildings were able to be located during the site inspection.

One new historical heritage Place considered worthy of inclusion in a statutory heritage instrument was identified: a Nissen hut moved from its original position and now located in 1232-1290 Beattys Road, Grangefields. This is the last known Nissen hut in the City of Melton, and is representative of the use of these huts in the post-war era as farming sheds.

## 4 CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

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### 4.1 Assessing Cultural Heritage Significance

#### 4.1.1 Assessment of Significance

Scientific significance of a heritage Place (particularly archaeological sites) is also assessed in Victoria using a commonly accepted formula developed by Bowdler (1981) and Sullivan and Bowdler (1984). These are relative estimates of significance based on the current knowledge available about sites or places in a region. The assessment criteria used to assess the scientific significance of historical places in Victoria are presented in Appendix 2. The same three main categories apply to historical places: *site contents* (cultural material, organic remains and site structure), *site condition* (degree of disturbance of a site), and '*representativeness*' (the regional distribution of a particular site type).

Each Place is given a score or rating on the basis of these criteria – the overall scientific significance is determined by the cumulative score. The results of each Place are in Tables 6, 8, 10, 12, 14 and 16.

#### 4.1.2 Historical Cultural Significance

Heritage Victoria administers the *Heritage Act 2017*, and has provided formal criteria for assessing cultural heritage significance. Applying these criteria will determine if a heritage Place should be considered for addition to the Victorian Heritage Register or other statutory lists.

On the basis of these criteria, heritage places are generally given a significance ranking of State, Local or none. Historical archaeological sites, as with other heritage places, can be considered for addition to the Victorian Heritage Register if they have State significance.

However, all historical archaeological sites are included on the Victorian Heritage Inventory and are given statutory protection, irrespective of their level of significance. Sites that are considered to be of local historical interest but are not considered to be of specific archaeological significance are allocated 'D'-list numbers (e.g. D7822-0099). 'D'-listed sites are not protected by legislation.

The historical places identified within the study area have been assessed using the Heritage Victoria criteria (outlined in Appendix 2). The significance assessments are summarised in Tables 7, 9, 11, 13, 15 and 17.

#### 4.1.3 Statements of Significance

A Statement of Significance describes what is important about a Place and is an evaluation of its cultural heritage significance. The Statement of Significance was prepared in accordance with the ICOMOS Burra Charter and the Heritage Council of Victoria's Criteria for Assessing Cultural Heritage Significance as required by the HV Technical Guides *Guidelines for Conducting Historical Archaeological Surveys* and *Guidelines for Investigating Historical Archaeological Sites*.

The cultural heritage significance was assessed against the following six categories:

- Aesthetic significance;



- Archaeological significance;
- Architectural significance
- Historical significance;
- Scientific significance; and
- Social or spiritual significance.

A full description on the methodology used for the significance assessment is provided in Appendix 2.

## 4.2 Cultural Heritage Significance of VHI H7822-2301 (Beattys Road Bluestone Cottage and Cistern)/HO135 (Former Fulham Park)

The following is an assessment of the cultural heritage significance of VHI H7822-2301 (Beattys Road Bluestone Cottage and Cistern)/HO135 (Former Fulham Park).

### 4.2.1 Assessment of Significance

The scientific significance of the site is shown below (Table 6).

**Table 6:** Assessment of the Scientific Significance of H7822-2301 (Beattys Road Bluestone Cottage and Cistern)/HO135 (Former Fulham Park)

Place Contents	Place Condition
Site contents	4
Site condition	1
Representativeness	2
<b>Overall scientific significance (score)</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Overall scientific significance (rating)</b>	<b>Moderate</b>

Note: a description of each criterion is provided in Appendix 2.

### 4.2.2 Cultural Heritage Significance

VHI H7822-2301 (Beattys Road Bluestone Cottage and Cistern)/HO135 (Former Fulham Park) is significant to the City of Melton, and an assessment of the cultural heritage significance of the study area is provided below (Table 7).

**Table 7:** Assessment of the Cultural Heritage Significance of VHI H7822-2301 (Beattys Road Bluestone Cottage and Cistern)/HO135 (Former Fulham Park)

HV Criterion	Assessment	Significance (State/local)
A	The remains of the cottage are significant as a relic of early settlement in the Melton area and was likely constructed during the selection era when the land formed part of the Rockbank estate. The property was later owned by the Cockbill family who operated a pig and poultry stud. The large iron vessels may be associated with this phase of the of the site's occupation.  In addition, the cottage represents the remains of a building that survived the 1965 Toolern Vale fires which damaged a number of buildings in the area	Local
E	The cottage has the potential to contain archaeological remains associated with the Selection-era occupation of the cottage	Local
H	The cottage is a representative example of a Selection-era dwelling, of which few survive in the Melton area. The remains of the basalt building are typical of small farm cottages constructed in the area in that era and displays typical characteristics such as modest size, a symmetrical doorway and the use of undressed basalt.	Local

Note: a description of each criterion is provided in Appendix 2.

### 4.2.3 Statement of Significance

#### What is Significant?

The remnants of the Victorian stone cottage at the former Fulham Park and the nearby rivetted vessels are significant.

The site contains the archaeological remains of a basalt farm cottage constructed c.1860s. The Place also contains a round cistern and some rivetted iron vessels of uncertain use.

The cottage has a symmetrical form and retains a chimney on each side.

The site has the potential to provide information about occupation of the Melton area during the Selection era as well as during later pastoral and agricultural phases of the region.

#### How is it Significant?

The site is of local historical and archaeological and representative significance to the City of Melton.

#### Why is it Significant?

The site is significant to the City of Melton for the following reasons:

VHI H7822-2301 (Beattys Road Bluestone Cottage and Cistern)/HO135 (Former Fulham Park) is of historical significance because the remains of the cottage are a relic of early settlement in the Melton area and the cottage was likely constructed during the Selection era when the land formed part of the Rockbank estate. The property was later owned by the Cockbill family who operated a pig and poultry stud and knackery. The riveted vessels located to the south-east of the cottage are likely some of the only fabric that remains from the industrial activities of the Cockbill family (VHD 2022).

In addition, the cottage represents the remains of a building that survived the 1965 Toolern Vale fires, which damaged a number of buildings in the area.

VHI H7822-2301 (Beattys Road Bluestone Cottage and Cistern)/HO135 (Former Fulham Park) is of representative significance as it is representative of a Selection era dwelling, of which few survive in the Melton area. Although now ruinous, the remains of the basalt building are typical of small farm cottages in that era (VHD 2022).

Although not included in the Statement of Significance prepared by RBA Architects and Conservation Consultants on the Victorian Heritage Database, VHI H7822-2301 Beattys Road Bluestone Cottage and Cistern is of archaeological significance because it retains potential to contain archaeological deposits associated with the cottage, which could provide information about the Selection era and later pastoral and agricultural use of the land. The extent of the archaeological site has been determined to be within a 10 m radius of the structure; the round cistern, located at the south-west corner of the cottage, is captured within this Place extent.



### 4.3 Nissen Hut, 1232-1290 Beattys Road, Grangefields

The following is an assessment of the cultural heritage significance of Nissen Hut, 1232-1290 Beattys Road, Grangefields.

#### 4.3.1 Assessment of Significance

The scientific significance of the site is shown below (Table 8).

**Table 8:** Assessment of the Scientific Significance of Nissen Hut, 1232-1290 Beattys Road, Grangefields)

Place Contents	Place Condition
Site contents	2
Site condition	1
Representativeness	2
<b>Overall scientific significance (score)</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Overall scientific significance (rating)</b>	<b>Moderate</b>

Note: a description of each criterion is provided in Appendix 2.

#### 4.3.2 Cultural Heritage Significance

The Nissen Hut is significant to City of Melton, and an assessment of the cultural heritage significance of the study area is provided below (Table 9).

**Table 9:** Assessment of the Scientific Significance of Nissen Hut, 1232-1290 Beattys Road, Grangefields)

HV Criterion	Assessment	Significance (State/local)
A	The Nissen hut was likely relocated to its present location following World War 2 when a number of such buildings were disposed of by the government in the mid-1950s. The hut was in its present location by 1968.  Although the hut is not in its original location, it is representative of the pastoral and military history of Melton. There are a number of military installations such as signalling stations throughout the wider City of Melton. Nissen huts were widely used to house military personnel.	Local
G	The hut is the last known hut in the Melton area. Although at least 6-8 huts are known to have been purchased and brought into the area in the mid-1950s, the others have been demolished.	Local
H	The Nissen hut is one of a number that were brought into the Melton area and repurposed for use as farm buildings. This Nissen hut has been used as a shearing shed, and is thus representative of the agricultural and pastoral history of the Melton area.	Local

Note: a description of each criterion is provided in Appendix 2.

#### 4.3.3 Statement of Significance

What is Significant?

The Nissen hut at 1232-1290 Beattys Road, Grangefields is significant.

The hut is one of a number relocated to the area following the end of World War 2 when the government disposed of a number of such buildings. The hut was likely located to the property when the land was in the ownership of the Missen family

**How is it Significant?**

The site is of historical significance to the City of Melton.

**Why is it Significant?**

The site is significant to the City of Melton for the following reasons:

The Nissen Hut is of historical significance because of its association with the 20<sup>th</sup> century pastoral history of Melton through its use as a shearing shed. Repurposing of these buildings as farm buildings following the end of World War 2 was common. The hut was relocated to the property while the land was in the ownership of the Missen family, a prominent family who occupied large farms in the Melton and neighbouring Tarneit neighbourhoods.

The Nissen hut is of representative significance to the City of Melton being a rare surviving example of such a hut being used as a farm building. Although seven or eight huts were brought into the City in the mid-1950s, this is the last of them to survive.

## 4.4 Cultural Heritage Significance of VHI D7822-0302 (Dry Stone Wall)

The following is an assessment of the cultural heritage significance of VHI D7822-0302 (Dry Stone Wall).

### 4.4.1 Assessment of Significance

The scientific significance of the site is shown below (Table 10).

**Table 10:** Assessment of the Scientific Significance of VHI D7822-0302 (Dry Stone Wall)

Place Contents	Place Condition
Site contents	1
Site condition	1
Representativeness	1
<b>Overall scientific significance (score)</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Overall scientific significance (rating)</b>	<b>Low</b>

Note: a description of each criterion is provided in Appendix 2.

### 4.4.2 Historical Cultural Significance

VHI D7822-0302 (Dry Stone Wall) is significant to City of Melton, and an assessment of the cultural heritage significance of the study area is provided below (Table 11).

**Table 11:** Assessment of the Cultural Heritage Significance of VHI D7822-0302 (Dry Stone Wall)

HV Criterion	Assessment	Significance (State/local)
A	Dry Stone walls are associated with the pastoral history of the Melton region and are ubiquitous in the Melton landscape. This wall was one of several that marked out the paddocks of Isaac Gidney's landholdings.	Local

Note: a description of each criterion is provided in Appendix 2.

### 4.4.3 Statement of Significance

#### What is Significant?

VHI D7822-0302 (Dry Stone Wall) in Melton has been delisted from the Victorian Heritage Inventory as it has little to no potential to contain archaeological deposits.

Although part of the wall appears to have been impacted by the construction of a road interchange between Leakes Road and the Western Highway, there are sections that remain intact on the western side of Leakes Road in the now-truncated section.

#### How is it Significant?

The site is of historical significance to the City of Melton.

#### Why is it Significant?

The site is significant to the City of Melton for the following reasons:

VHI D7822-0302 (Dry Stone Wall) is of historical significance because of the wall's association with the Selection era of the Melton region. The wall is associated with the landholdings of Isaac Gidney, a farmer who took up land in the 1870s during the breaking up of Clarke's Rockbank estate. was also responsible for the construction of the Selection Wall. The site card submitted to HV described the wall as being in fair condition and as a 'Remnant of once extensive dry stone walls which defined Gidney's farm paddocks (VHD 2022).

## 4.5 Cultural Heritage Significance of HO54 (Bridge Over Kororoit Creek)

The following is an assessment of the cultural heritage significance of HO54 (Bridge Over Kororoit Creek)

### 4.5.1 Assessment of Significance

The scientific significance of the site is shown below (Table 12).

**Table 12:** Assessment of the Scientific Significance of HO54 (Bridge Over Kororoit Creek)

Place Contents	Place Condition
Site contents	2
Site condition	3
Representativeness	1
<b>Overall scientific significance (score)</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Overall scientific significance (rating)</b>	<b>Moderate</b>

Note: a description of each criterion is provided in Appendix 2.

### 4.5.2 Historical Cultural Significance

HO54 (Bridge Over Kororoit Creek) is significant to Melton City Council, and an assessment of the cultural heritage significance of the study area is provided below (Table 13).

**Table 13:** Assessment of the Cultural Heritage Significance of HO54 (Bridge Over Kororoit Creek)

HV Criterion	Assessment	Significance (State/local)
A	The bridge is of historical significance being one of few stone bridges in the Melton area and for being associated with Victoria's early road network.	Local
C	The bridge is of architectural significance for its round arch and is unusual for having both an arch and a girder span. The bridge also has shaped bluestone corbels and a bluestone paved floor.	Local

Note: a description of each criterion is provided in Appendix 2.

### 4.5.3 Statement of Significance

#### What is Significant?

The stone bridge over Kororoit Creek on the Melton Highway is significant.

#### How is it Significant?

The site is of local historical and architectural significance to the City of Melton.

#### Why is it Significant?

The site is significant to the City of Melton for the following reasons:



HO54 (Bridge Over Kororoit Creek) is of historical significance as it was built in 1866-1867 and is one of few 19<sup>th</sup> century stone road bridges in the former Shire (now City) of Melton. The bridge is of historical significance, being located on the main road between Melbourne and Ballarat; this together with Beattys Road, was one of the main routes to the Ballarat goldfields. The Melton Highway was also a main road further west to Portland until the railway was built in 1889 (VHD 2022).

HO54 (Bridge Over Kororoit Creek) is of scientific significance as it is atypical of many stone bridges in Victoria, having both an arch and girder spans. The bridge has a round or Roman arch, with a girder span being added in 1870 following a significant flooding event. In the 1950s and 1960s, the parapets and original timber superstructure were replaced with concrete; masonry parts of the bridge may also have been widened (VHD 2022; Melton Heritage Study 2007).

## 4.6 Cultural Heritage Significance of HO119 (House, 107-127 Water Reserve Road)

The following is an assessment of the cultural heritage significance of HO119 (House, 107-127 Water Reserve Road).

### 4.6.1 Assessment of Significance

The scientific significance of the site is shown below (Table 14).

**Table 14:** Assessment of the Scientific Significance of HO119 (House, 107-127 Water Reserve Road)

Place Contents	Place Condition
Site contents	2
Site condition	3
Representativeness	1
<b>Overall scientific significance (score)</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Overall scientific significance (rating)</b>	<b>Moderate</b>

Note: a description of each criterion is provided in Appendix 2.

### 4.6.2 Cultural Heritage Significance

HO119 (House, 107-127 Water Reserve Road) is significant to the City of Melton, and an assessment of the cultural heritage significance of the study area is provided below (Table 13).

**Table 15:** Assessment of the Cultural Heritage Significance of HO119 (House, 107-127 Water Reserve Road)

HV Criterion	Assessment	Significance (State/local)
A	The house is of historical significance being a rare Edwardian era dwelling. The house is associated with a water reserve on Kororoit Creek, which was set aside from the time of the earliest settlement of the Melton Region.	Local
H	.	Local

Note: a description of each criterion is provided in Appendix 2.

### 4.6.3 Statement of Significance

#### What is Significant?

The house at 107-127 Water Reserve Road is significant to the City of Melton.

#### How is it Significant?

The site is of local historical and archaeological and representative significance to the City of Melton.

#### Why is it Significant?

The site is significant to the City of Melton for the following reasons:

The house is of architectural significance because, although altered and extended, the house retains its original design qualities of an Edwardian style. Style features include the horizontal weatherboard cladding, single-storey height, galvanised steel roof cladding on the hipped roof and side gable and multiple corbels on the chimneys. The house displays interwar style features in the timber-framed double hung sash windows. In addition to the Edwardian house, there is a Victorian cottage which is representative of the type of cottage constructed during the breaking up of the Rockbank estate (VHD 2022).

The house is of historical significance as a surviving example of a rural weatherboard house within the City of Melton associated with the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century during which, increasing numbers of people took up small farms following the breaking up of Clarke's Rockbank estate (VHD 2022). The house is also associated with the history of dairy farming and water reserves in the Melton area.

## 4.7 Cultural Heritage Significance of HO205 (The Selection Wall)

The following is an assessment of the cultural heritage significance of HO205 (The Selection Wall).

### 4.7.1 Assessment of Significance

The scientific significance of the site is shown below (Table 16).

**Table 16:** Assessment of the Scientific Significance of VHI D7822-0302 (Dry Stone Wall)

Place Contents	Place Condition
Site contents	1
Site condition	2
Representativeness	2
<b>Overall scientific significance (score)</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Overall scientific significance (rating)</b>	<b>Moderate</b>

Note: a description of each criterion is provided in Appendix 2.

### 4.7.2 Historical Cultural Significance

HO205 (The Selection Wall) is significant to City of Melton, and an assessment of the cultural heritage significance of the study area is provided below (Table 17).

**Table 17:** Assessment of the Cultural Heritage Significance of VHI D7822-0302 (Dry Stone Wall)

HV Criterion	Assessment	Significance (State/local)
A	Dry Stone walls are associated with the pastoral history of the Melton region and are ubiquitous in the Melton landscape. This wall was one of several that marked out the paddocks of Isaac Gidney's landholdings.	Local
B		Local
C		Local
D		Local

Note: a description of each criterion is provided in Appendix 2.

### 4.7.3 Statement of Significance

#### What is Significant?

HO205 (The Selection Wall) in Melton is significant

#### How is it Significant?

The site is of historical and aesthetic and scientific and social significance to the City of Melton.

#### Why is it Significant?

The site is significant to the City of Melton for the following reasons:

H205 (The Selection Wall) is of historical significance as being representative of early farming practices in Melbourne's western plains. It is an early example of dry stone walling in the region and is one of the most substantial and intact walls in the region and is one of the few surviving structures of any sort dating to the 1860s to 1870s. The wall comprised the most substantial surviving evidence of Isaac Gidney's Spring Farm and his trade of horses and chaff for the India army, a business undertaken by several farmers in the west of Melbourne (VHD 2022).

The wall is of aesthetic significance to the City of Melton. It is one of the longest walls in the area, measuring 1.4 km in length, and one of few walls with a height of over 1300 mm. It is constructed in a style which is typical of the Melton region and is visually prominent, being visible from the Western Highway on the approach to Melbourne. The wall's visibility in the landscape is enhanced by its setting amongst the flat, grassed plains (VHD 2022).

The wall is of scientific significance to the City of Melton. It demonstrates the volcanic nature of the landscape and the utilisation of the resulting basalt stone. The wall has potential to provide information regarding techniques of dry stone wall construction and, concomitantly, information regarding settlement patterns, ways of life in the region and the effects of the Settlement Acts (Moloney et al 2007).

The dry stone wall is socially significant to the City of Melton. It provides information regarding settlement patterns, 19<sup>th</sup> century farm management and ways of life in the western plains of Melbourne (Moloney et al 2007).



## 5 INTERPRETATION AND DISCUSSION

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The Melton East PSP reflects the historical themes in the development of the wider City of Melton. Much of the PSP was part of the Rockbank estate of the Clarke family, until Rupert Turner Havelock Clarke sold off lots from the estate, creating smaller landholdings which were taken up by farmers looking to take advantage of the grasslands on the fertile volcanic soils of western Victoria. In addition to rich soils, the volcanic plain also provided an abundance of basalt rocks and fieldstones which were used to great effect to construct dry stone walls to fence in stock and demarcate property boundaries. The pastoral history of the PSP is also reflected in the creation of water reserves, and the naming of Water Reserve Road preserves these features in the landscape.

Taken together, the post-contact heritage Places within the PSP represent continuous phases of the settlement of the Melton region, with dry stone walls and a basalt cottage dating to the Selection era, timber and brick cottages occupied by landholders or tenant farmers following the breaking up of the Rockbank estate and the post-war era represented by a Nissen hut being repurposed and used as a farm building. Throughout the PSP, there are houses constructed in the post-war era as settlement in the region increased with improved transport and services.

The roads within the PSP were important in the development of the western regions of Melbourne and further out towards Bacchus Marsh, Ballarat and as far west as Portland. In the south of the PSP, Beattys Road follows its original route, although it has been resurfaced and no traces of earlier surfaces or infrastructure are visible. However, given the significance of Beattys Road as a former gold route track between Melton and the Ballarat goldfields, consideration should be given to retaining the existing alignment of that portion of Beattys Road that falls within the Melton East PSP; this approach would then be consistent with the recommendations made for the portion of Beattys Road located in the neighbouring Plumpton PSP to the east (Harbour et al. 2011). The road is a reminder of the early transport routes established during the era of squatting and the gold rushes. In the north of the PSP, the stone bridge over Kororoit Creek is representative of the infrastructure that was implemented in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century to facilitate the settlement of the area. The bridge itself has undergone changes in response to events such as flooding but also in response to the changing nature of the settlement of the region, being widened to accommodate modern farm machinery.

## 6 MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

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This section provides a summary of the recommendations made in relation to the historical heritage values of the study area.

### **Recommendation 1: Application of Heritage Overlay to Nissen Hut, 1232-1290 Beattys Road**

The Nissen Hut located at 1232-1290 Beattys Road is recommended for inclusion in the Heritage Overlay of the Melton Planning Scheme. The recommended curtilage polygon includes the extent of the Nissen hut building and an additional 10 m around the building (Map 7).

### **Recommendation 2: Consent Application Required for VH H7822-2301 (Beattys Road Bluestone Cottage and Cistern)**

If future developments will result in impacts to this Place, then an appropriate Consent must be obtained from Heritage Victoria. Heritage Victoria may stipulate as a condition of any Consent that further archaeological investigation, including excavation and monitoring, may be required.

If impacts to the Place are intended, then it is recommended that discussion with Heritage Victoria takes place as early as possible in the planning process.

### **Recommendation 3: Due care to be taken at potential archaeological sites**

Three locations were identified as having potential historical archaeological values, but have not been recommended for inclusion in the Victorian Heritage Inventory (Map 6). These sites are:

- The property at 28-100 Water Reserve Road, Grangefields. The 1916 and 1938 topographic maps show a building at this location. At the time of the field inspection, no access was granted to the property. A detailed survey is required to confirm archaeological potential of the site and suitability for inclusion in the Victorian Heritage Inventory (Map 6b);
- Water Reserve, Ford and Windmill, 107-121 Water Reserve Road, Grangefields. Although the weatherboard structure at this Place is included in the Heritage Overlay on the Melton Planning Scheme, there is potential for archaeological subsurface deposits or artefact scatters to be present in the property, in which case it may be suitable to include in the Victorian Heritage Inventory (Map 6c); and
- The location of a structure mapped on 1916 and 1938 topographic maps at 942-968 Leakes Road, Grangefields. The structure has been recently demolished; however, the subject land may contain remnant footings, foundations, features and artefact scatters associated with the occupation of the property (Map 6d).

It is further recommended that detailed historical heritage archaeological assessments and the preparation of site cards for submission to Heritage Victoria be undertaken for these Places.

### **Recommendation 4: Dry Stone Walls in the PSP area**

There is one dry stone wall included in the Heritage Overlay of the Melton Planning Scheme within the study area, HO205 (The Selection Wall).

Under cl.22.14, the Melton Planning Scheme currently requires that a planning permit be issued where impacts to any dry stone walls, constructed prior to 1940, are proposed. This requirement does not apply to:

- Dry stone structures other than walls and fences;
- The demolition or removal of a section of a dry stone wall to install a gate; or
- The reconstruction of damaged or collapsing walls which are undertaken to the same specifications and using the same materials as the existing walls.

Where possible, the dry stone walling in the study area should be retained and incorporated into development plans, in line with Council policy. If this is not possible:

- Priority should be given to retention of walls with higher significance, as they are considered to demonstrate examples of better structural integrity, are in better condition, and/or are examples of all-stone walls that are relatively poorly represented in the study area.
- Notwithstanding the above, any proposed impacts to walls within a Heritage Overlay will require a permit from Melton City Council regardless of their assessed significance level.
- For walls that require removal, a permit from Melton City Council will be required in accordance with cl.22.14. It is recommended that detailed recording of walls intended for removal is conducted by an appropriately qualified heritage advisor/archaeologist.

For dry stone walling that is to be retained, it is important that the visual relationship between related sections try to be maintained to recall the historic paddock or property boundary that it defines.

Any repairs to dry stone walling should be consistent with their original construction style – i.e. high quality walls should not be replaced with piled stones, nor should walls which were constructed with unrefined technique be ‘improved’. For preference, any repairs or reconstructions of dry stone walls should be completed by a professional dry stone waller. Where the posts of composite walls need to be repaired or replaced, these should be constructed in a manner sympathetic to the original wall, usually split hardwood timber to a height of around 1.1 m.

There is one dry stone wall included in the Victorian Heritage Inventory prior to this assessment, D7822-0302); however, as per Heritage Victoria policy it is no longer considered to be an archaeological site and has been ‘delisted’. As a consequence, the wall no longer has protection under the *Heritage Act 2017* and, if impacts to the walls are intended, a Consent to Damage from Heritage Victoria is not required. However, if impacts are intended then it is recommended that a courtesy letter be sent to Heritage Victoria describing the impacts for their records.

The Melton Dry Stone Wall study identified one DSW within the PSP area as being worthy of further assessment, designated as Wall N232. This wall currently has no statutory protection.

It is recommended that a Dry Stone Wall Management Plan be prepared for the PSP to manage any impacts that may result to all dry stone walls during the development of the PSP including any that are not presently recorded.

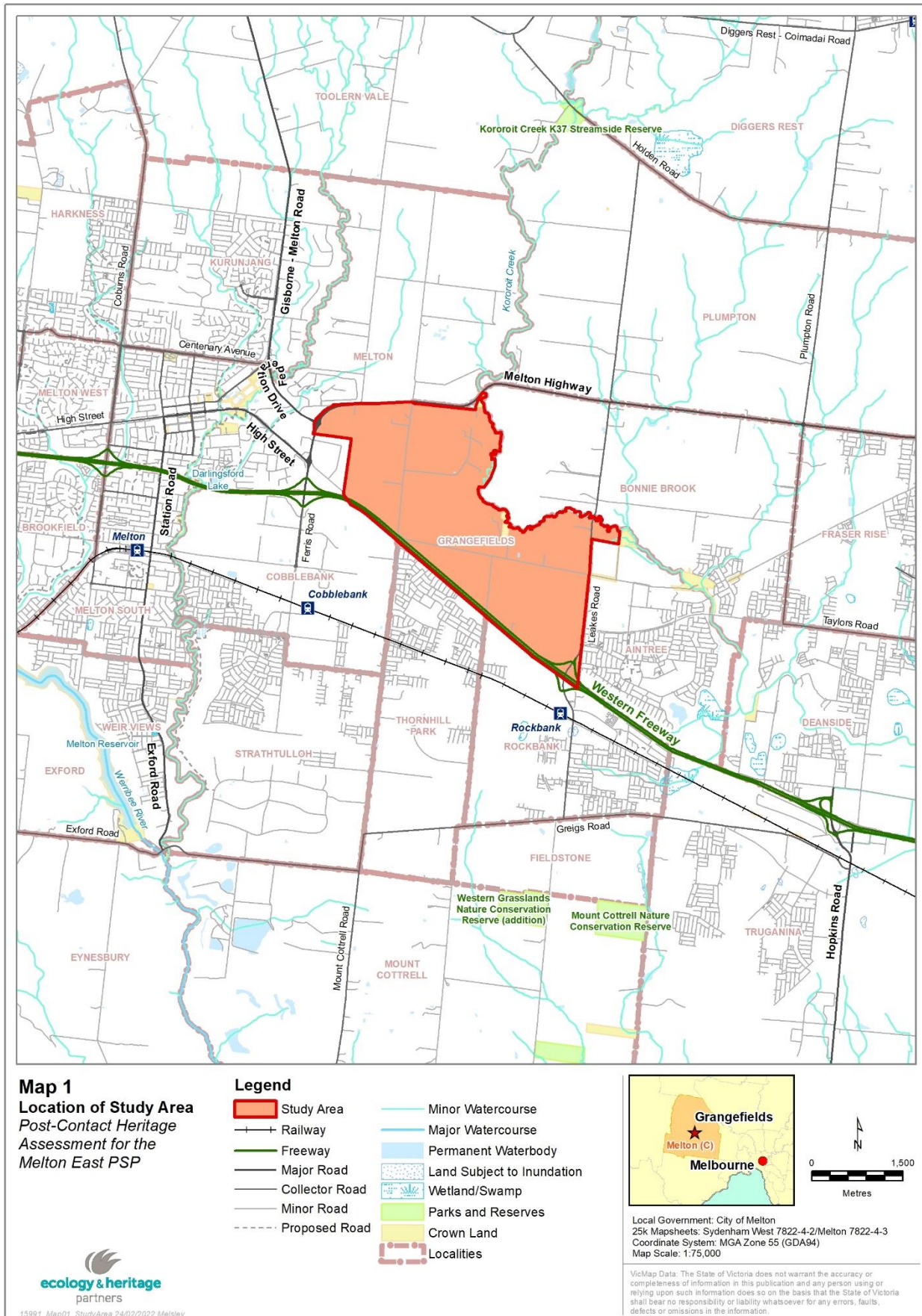
## **Recommendation 5: Contingency**

There are no other known historical heritage issues within the PSP. If any historical heritage issues are encountered during the course of construction, then works should cease within 20 m of the area of concern and a qualified Heritage Advisor (or Heritage Victoria) should be contacted to investigate.

## MAPS

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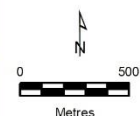




**Map 2**  
**Extent of Study Area**  
**and Historical Places in**  
**the Study Area**  
*Post-Contact Heritage*  
*Assessment for the*  
*Melton East PSP*

**Legend**

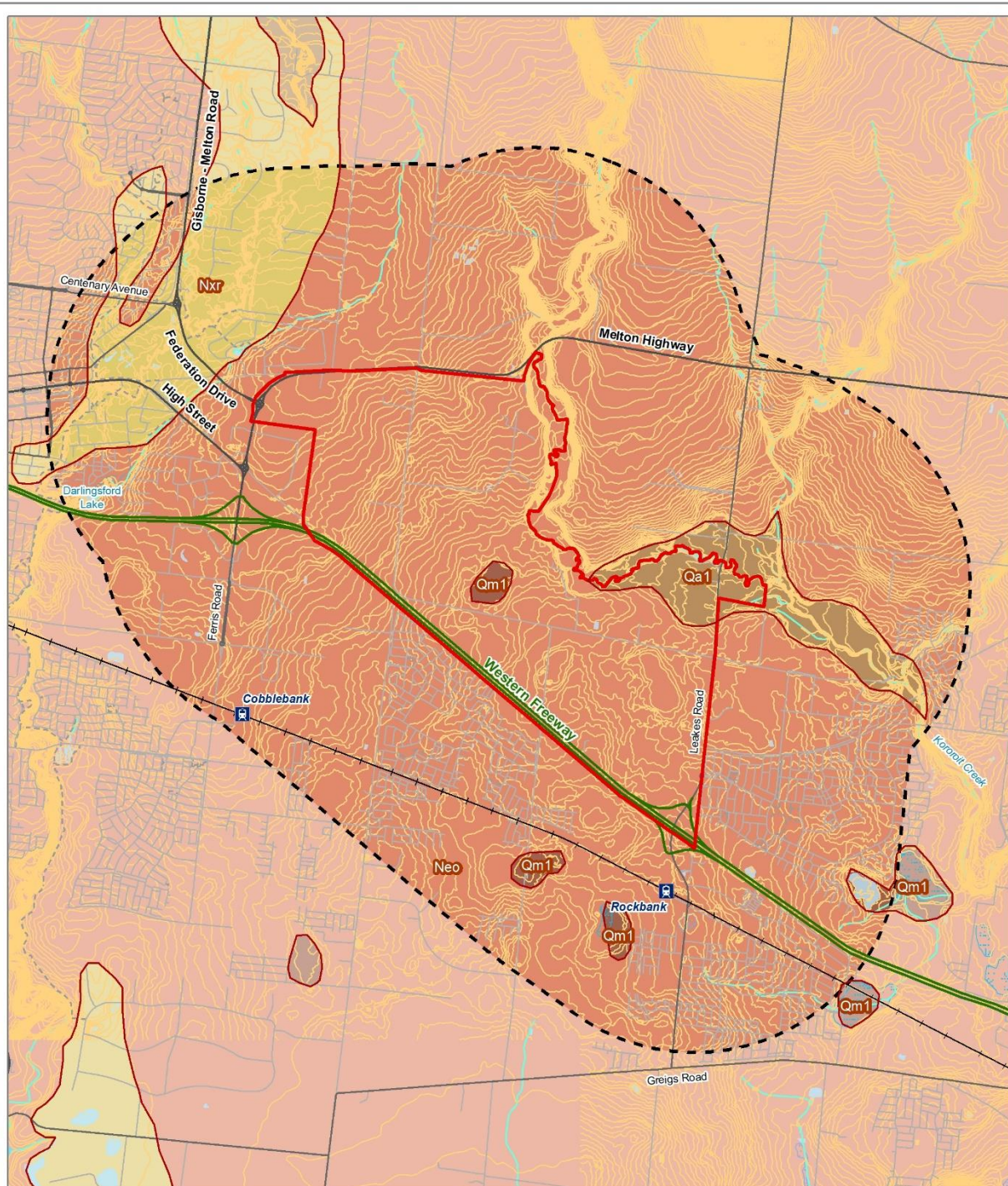
- Study Area
- Property boundaries



Local Government: City of Melton  
25k Mapsheets: Sydenham West 7822-4-2/Melton 7822-4-3  
Coordinate System: MGA Zone 55 (GDA94)  
Map Scale: 1:28,000

VicMap Data: The State of Victoria does not warrant the accuracy or completeness of information in this publication and any person using or relying upon such information does so on the basis that the State of Victoria shall bear no responsibility or liability whatsoever for any errors, faults, defects or omissions in the information.





**Map 3**  
**Geology**  
Post-Contact Heritage  
Assessment for the  
Melton East PSP

**Legend**

- Study Area
- Search Area (2km buffer)
- Contour (1-5 and 10m)
- Minor Watercourse
- Major Watercourse
- Permanent Waterbody
- Land Subject to Inundation
- Wetland/Swamp

**Geology**

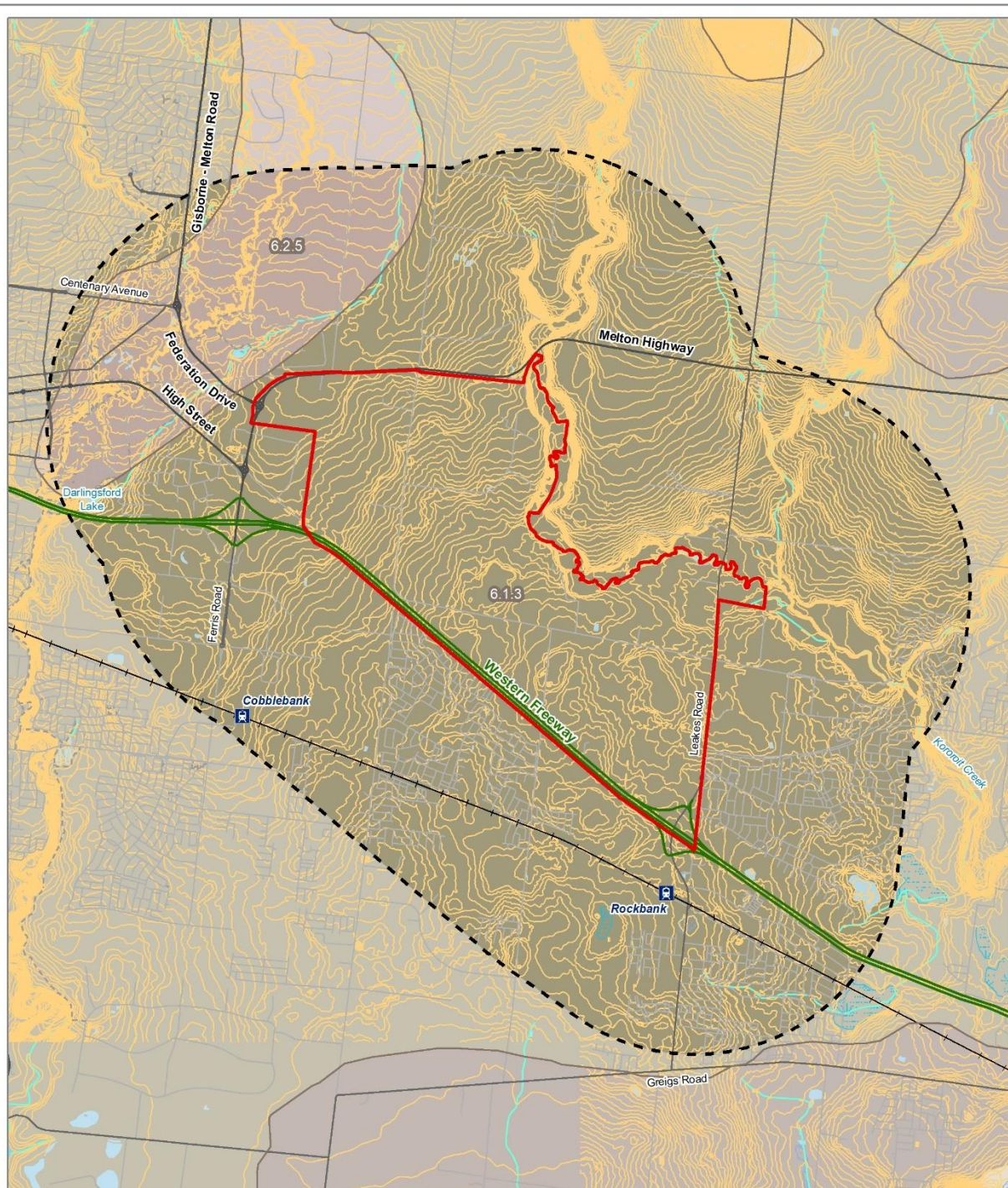
- Alluvium (Qa1)
- Darley Gravel (Nx1)
- Newer Volcanic Group - basalt flows (Neo)
- Swamp and lake deposits (Qm1)



Local Government: City of Melton  
25k Mapsheets: Sydenham West 7822-4-2/Melton 7822-4-3  
Coordinate System: MGA Zone 55 (GDA94)  
Map Scale: 1:50,000

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**Map 4**  
**Geomorphology**  
Post-Contact Heritage  
Assessment for the  
Melton East PSP

**Legend**

- Study Area
- Search Area (2km buffer)
- Contour (1-5m and 10m )
- Minor Watercourse
- Major Watercourse
- Permanent Waterbody
- Land Subject to Inundation
- Wetland/Swamp

**Geomorphology**

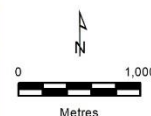
**Western Plains**

- 6.1.3 Plains with poorly developed drainage and shallow regolith (Wingeel)
- 6.2.5 Terraces and floodplains, and coastal plains (Barwon River, Moolap sunlands, Cape Otway)

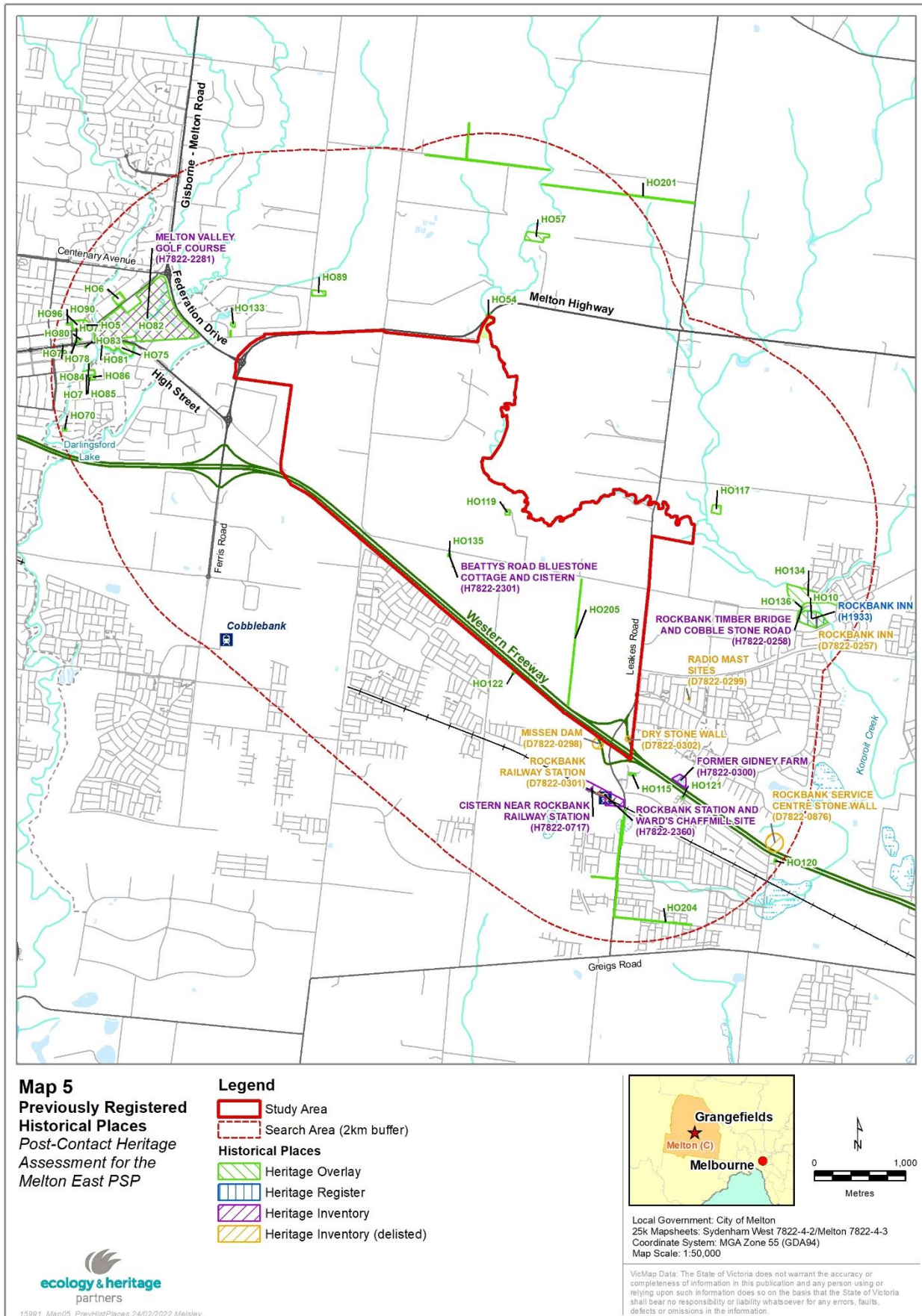


Local Government: City of Melton  
25k Mapsheets: Sydenham West 7822-4-2/Melton 7822-4-3  
Coordinate System: MGA Zone 55 (GDA94)  
Map Scale: 1:50,000

VicMap Data: The State of Victoria does not warrant the accuracy or completeness of information in this publication and any person using or relying upon such information does so on the basis that the State of Victoria shall bear no responsibility or liability whatsoever for any errors, faults, defects or omissions in the information.











## Map 6 Overview

### Survey Results

#### Post-Contact Heritage Assessment for the Melton East PSP

### Legend

- Study Area
- Contour (10m)
- Heritage Overlay
- Heritage Inventory
- Nissen Hut (1232-1290 Beattys Road, Grangefields)
- Dry Stone Wall N232
- Indicative Areas of Archaeological Potential



Local Government: City of Melton  
 25k Mapsheets: Sydenham West 7822-4-2/Melton 7822-4-3  
 Coordinate System: MGA Zone 55 (GDA94)  
 Map Scale: 1:28,000

VicMap Data: The State of Victoria does not warrant the accuracy or completeness of information in this publication and any person using or relying upon such information does so on the basis that the State of Victoria shall bear no responsibility or liability whatsoever for any errors, faults, defects or omissions in the information.





**Map 6a**  
**Survey Results**  
 Post-Contact Heritage  
 Assessment for the  
 Melton East PSP

**Legend**

- Study Area
- Contour (10m)
- Heritage Overlay
- Heritage Inventory
- Nissen Hut (1232-1290 Beattys Road, Grangefields)
- Dry Stone Wall N232



Local Government: City of Melton  
 25k Mapsheets: Sydenham West 7822-4-2/Melton 7822-4-3  
 Coordinate System: MGA Zone 55 (GDA94)  
 Map Scale: 1:4,800

VicMap Data: The State of Victoria does not warrant the accuracy or completeness of information in this publication and any person using or relying upon such information does so on the basis that the State of Victoria shall bear no responsibility or liability whatsoever for any errors, faults, defects or omissions in the information.

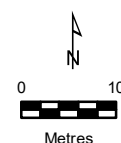




**Map 6b**  
**Survey Results**  
 Post-Contact Heritage  
 Assessment for the  
 Melton East PSP

**Legend**

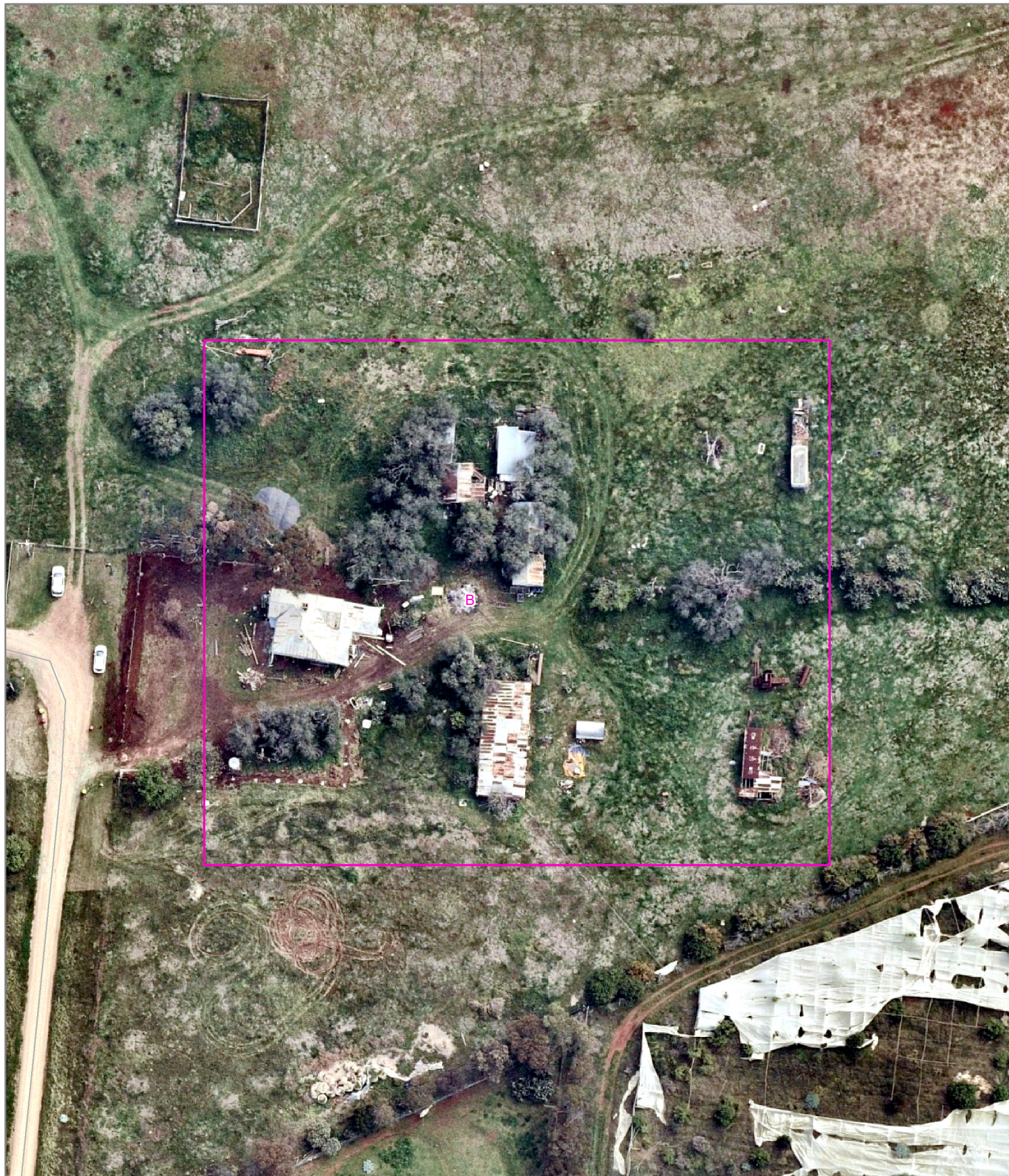
- Study Area
- Contour (10m)
- Heritage Overlay
- Indicative Areas of Archaeological Potential**
- Location A (28-100 Water Reserve Road, Grangefields)



Local Government: City of Melton  
 25k Mapsheets: Sydenham West 7822-4-2/Melton 7822-4-3  
 Coordinate System: MGA Zone 55 (GDA94)  
 Map Scale: 1:800

VicMap Data: The State of Victoria does not warrant the accuracy or completeness of information in this publication and any person using or relying upon such information does so on the basis that the State of Victoria shall bear no responsibility or liability whatsoever for any errors, faults, defects or omissions in the information.





**Map 6c**  
**Survey Results**  
*Post-Contact Heritage Assessment for the Melton East PSP*

**Legend**

Study Area

**Indicative Areas of Archaeological Potential**

Location B (107-121 Water Reserve Road, Grangefields)



Local Government: City of Melton  
 25k Mapsheets: Sydenham West 7822-4-2/Melton 7822-4-3  
 Coordinate System: MGA Zone 55 (GDA94)  
 Map Scale: 1:800

VicMap Data: The State of Victoria does not warrant the accuracy or completeness of information in this publication and any person using or relying upon such information does so on the basis that the State of Victoria shall bear no responsibility or liability whatsoever for any errors, faults, defects or omissions in the information.





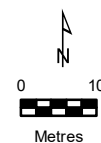
**Map 6d**  
**Survey Results**  
*Post-Contact Heritage Assessment for the Melton East PSP*

**Legend**

Study Area

**Indicative Areas of Archaeological Potential**

Location C (989-1029 Beattys Road, Grangefields)



Local Government: City of Melton  
 25k Mapsheets: Sydenham West 7822-4-2/Melton 7822-4-3  
 Coordinate System: MGA Zone 55 (GDA94)  
 Map Scale: 1:1,000

VicMap Data: The State of Victoria does not warrant the accuracy or completeness of information in this publication and any person using or relying upon such information does so on the basis that the State of Victoria shall bear no responsibility or liability whatsoever for any errors, faults, defects or omissions in the information.

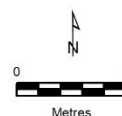




**Map 7**  
**Recommendations**  
*Post-Contact Heritage*  
*Assessment for the*  
*Melton East PSP*

**Legend**

- Study Area
- Contour (10m)
- Nissen Hut (1232-1290 Beattys Road, Grangefields)
- Heritage Overlay Recommended Curtilage



Local Government: City of Melton  
 25k Mapsheets: Sydenham West 7822-4-2/Melton 7822-4-3  
 Coordinate System: MGA Zone 55 (GDA94)  
 Map Scale: 1:280

VicMap Data: The State of Victoria does not warrant the accuracy or completeness of information in this publication and any person using or relying upon such information does so on the basis that the State of Victoria shall bear no responsibility or liability whatsoever for any errors, faults, defects or omissions in the information.

## APPENDICES

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## Appendix 1: Heritage Legislation

### A2.1 *Heritage Act 2017*(State)

Section 12 of the *Heritage Act 2017* is Assessment criteria regarding cultural heritage significance.

This section of the Act states that in determining assessment criteria for includes of places and objects in the Heritage Register under S.11(1)(k), the Heritage Council must have regard to the following matters:

- Criterion A: historical importance, association with or relationship to the State's history;
- Criterion B: Good design or aesthetic characteristics;
- Criterion C: Scientific or technical innovations or achievements;
- Criterion D: Social or cultural associations;
- Criterion E: Potential to educate, illustrate or provide further scientific investigation in relation to the State's cultural heritage;
- Criterion F: Importance in exhibiting a richness, diversity or unusual integration of features;
- Criterion G: Rarity or uniqueness of a Place or object; and
- Criterion H: The representative nature of a Place or object as part of a class or type of places or objects.

The Heritage Council must also have regard to the methods of establishing the extent to which land or object nominated for inclusion in the Heritage Register in association with a registered Place or a Place nominated for inclusion are integral to the State-level cultural heritage significance of the Place and any other matter which is relevant to the determination of State-level cultural heritage significance.

In addition, it is appropriate when assessing the significance of a site in Victoria to consider whether it is of Local, Regional or State (or potentially National) significance.

The Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) provides the highest level of statutory protection for historical places in Victoria. Places included in the VHR are subject to the provisions of the *Heritage Act 2017*.

This Act protects all heritage places deemed to be of State significance by registration in the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR). Proposed impacts to any site registered in the VHR will require a Permit from Heritage Victoria (HV). This Act also protects all non-Aboriginal archaeological sites older than 75 years. If non-Aboriginal archaeological sites of State Significance are listed in the VHR a Permit is required to impact the site from Heritage Victoria. If a non-Aboriginal archaeological site is not of State significance and has archaeological value, it is usually listed in the Victorian Heritage Inventory (VHI) and a Consent from Heritage Victoria would be required to impact the site.

### A2.2 *Planning and Environment Act 1987* (State)

All municipalities in Victoria are covered by land use planning controls which are prepared and administered by State and local government authorities. The legislation governing such controls is the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*. Places of significance to a locality can be listed on a local planning scheme and



protected by a Heritage Overlay (or other overlay where appropriate). Places of Aboriginal cultural heritage significance are not often included on local government planning schemes.

### **A2.3 *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Commonwealth)***

The *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) provides a national framework for the protection of heritage and the environment and the conservation of biodiversity. The EPBC Act is administered by the Australian Government Department of Environment and Energy (DoEE). The Australian Heritage Council assesses whether or not a nominated Place is appropriate for listing on either the National or Commonwealth Heritage Lists and makes a recommendation to the Minister on that basis. The Minister for the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts makes the final decision on listing. DoE also administers the Register of the National Estate.

The objectives of the EPBC Act are:

- To provide for the protection of the environment, especially those aspects of the environment that are matters of national environmental significance;
- To promote ecologically sustainable development through the conservation and ecologically sustainable use of natural resources;
- To promote the conservation of biodiversity;
- To provide for the protection and conservation of heritage;
- To promote a cooperative approach to the protection and management of the environment involving governments, the community, land-holders and indigenous peoples;
- To assist in the cooperative implementation of Australia's international environmental responsibilities;
- To recognise the role of indigenous people in the conservation and ecologically sustainable use of Australia's biodiversity; and
- To promote the use of indigenous peoples' knowledge of biodiversity with the involvement of, and in cooperation with, the owners of the knowledge.

### **A2.4 *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006 (State)***

The *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* protects Aboriginal cultural heritage in Victoria. A key part of the legislation is that Cultural Heritage Management Plans (CHMPs) are required to be prepared by Sponsors (the developer) and qualified Cultural Heritage Advisors in accordance with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* and the accompanying *Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2007*. A CHMP is the assessment of an area (known as an 'activity area') for Aboriginal cultural heritage values, the results of which form a report (the CHMP) which details the methodology of the assessment and sets out management recommendations and contingency measures to be undertaken before, during and after an activity (development) to manage and protect any Aboriginal cultural heritage present within the area examined.

The preparation of a CHMP is mandatory under the following circumstances:

- If the *Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2007* require a CHMP to be prepared (s. 47);
- If the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs Victoria requires a CHMP to be prepared (s. 48); or

- If an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is required by the *Environment Effects Act 1978* (s. 49).

The *Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2007* require a CHMP to be prepared:

- If all or part of the proposed activity is a 'high impact activity'; and
- If all or part of the activity area is an area of 'cultural heritage sensitivity'; and
- If all or part of the activity area has not been subject to 'significant ground disturbance'.

The preparation of a CHMP can also be undertaken voluntarily. Having an approved CHMP in Place can reduce risk for a project during the construction phase by ensuring there are no substantial delays if sites happen to be found. Monitoring construction works is also rarely required if an approved CHMP is in place.

Approval of a CHMP is the responsibility of the Registered Aboriginal Party who evaluates the CHMP and then it is lodged with the Secretary of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC) to take effect or, the Secretary of the DPC (AV). They will be examining the CHMPs in detail with key points including:

- Addressing whether harm to heritage can be avoided or minimised;
- All assessments (including test excavations) must be completed before management decisions are formulated; and
- Survey and excavation must be in accordance with proper archaeological practice and supervised by a person appropriately qualified in archaeology.

There are three types of CHMPs that may be prepared (*The Guide to preparing a CHMP 2010*). These are:

- Desktop;
- Standard; and
- Complex.

A desktop CHMP is a literature review. If the results of the desktop show it is reasonably possible that Aboriginal cultural heritage could be present in the activity area, a standard assessment will be required.

A standard assessment involves a literature review and a ground survey of the activity area. Where the results of ground survey undertaken during a standard assessment have identified Aboriginal cultural heritage within the activity area, soil and sediment testing, using an auger no larger than 12 cm in diameter, may be used to assist in defining the nature and extent of the identified Aboriginal cultural heritage (Regulation 59[4]).

Where the results of ground survey undertaken during a standard assessment have identified Aboriginal cultural heritage within the activity area or areas which have the potential to contain Aboriginal cultural heritage subsurface, a complex assessment will be required. A complex assessment involves a literature review, a ground survey, and subsurface testing. Subsurface testing is the disturbance of all or part of the activity area or excavation of all or part of the activity area to uncover or discover evidence of Aboriginal cultural heritage (Regulation 62[1]).

It is strongly advised that for further information relating to heritage management (e.g. audits, stop orders, inspectors, forms, evaluation fees, status of RAPs and penalties for breaching the Act) Sponsors should access the AV website (<http://www.aboriginalaffairs.vic.gov.au/>).



The flow chart below also assists in explaining the process relating to CHMPs.

#### **A2.5 Native Title Act 1993 (Commonwealth)**

Native Title describes the rights and interests of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in land and waters, according to their traditional laws and customs. In Australia, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's rights and interests in land were recognised in 1992 when the High Court delivered its historic judgment in the case of *Mabo v the State of Queensland*. This decision overturned the legal fiction that Australia upon colonisation was *terra nullius* (land belonging to no-one). It recognised for the first time that Indigenous Australians may continue to hold native title.

Native Title rights may include the possession, use and occupation of traditional country. In some areas, native title may be a right of access to the area. It can also be the right for native title holders to participate in decisions about how others use their traditional land and waters. Although the content of native title is to be determined according to the traditional laws and customs of the title holders, there are some common characteristics. It may be possessed by a community, group, or individual depending on the content of the traditional laws and customs. It is inalienable (that is, it cannot be sold or transferred) other than by surrender to the Crown or pursuant to traditional laws and customs. Native Title is a legal right that can be protected, where appropriate, by legal action.

Native Title may exist in areas where it has not been extinguished (removed) by an act of government. It will apply to Crown land but not to freehold land. It may exist in areas such as:

- Vacant (or unallocated) Crown land;
- Forests and beaches;
- National parks and public reserves;
- Some types of pastoral leases;
- Land held by government agencies;
- Land held for Aboriginal communities;
- Any other public or Crown lands; and/or
- Oceans, seas, reefs, lakes, rivers, creeks, swamps and other waters that are not privately owned.

Native Title cannot take away anyone else's valid rights, including owning a home, holding a pastoral lease or having a mining lease. Where native title rights and the rights of another person conflict the rights of the other person always prevail. When the public has the right to access places such as parks, recreation reserves and beaches, this right cannot be taken away by Native Title. Native Title does not give Indigenous Australians the right to veto any project. It does mean, however, that everyone's rights and interests in land and waters have to be taken into account.

Indigenous people can apply to have their native title rights recognised by Australian law by filing a native title application (native title claim) with the Federal Court. Applications are required to pass a test to gain certain rights over the area covered in the application. The Native Title Tribunal (NNTT) was established to administer application processes. Once applications are registered, the NNTT will notify other people about the application and will invite them to become involved so all parties can try to reach an agreement that respects

everyone's rights and interests. If the parties cannot agree, the NNTT refers the application to the Federal Court and the parties argue their cases before the Court.

As a common law right, native title may exist over areas of Crown land or waters, irrespective of whether there are any native title claims or determinations in the area. Native Title will therefore be a necessary consideration when Government is proposing or permitting any activity on or relating to Crown land that may affect native title<sup>2</sup>.

#### **A2.5 *Coroners Act 2008 (State)***

The Victorian *Coroners Act 2008* requires the reporting of certain deaths and the investigation of certain deaths and fires in Victoria by coroners to contribute to the reduction of preventable deaths. Of most relevance to heritage is the requirement for any “reportable death” to be reported to the police (s. 12[1]). The *Coroners Act 2008* requires that the discovery of human remains in Victoria (s. 4[1]) of a person whose identity is unknown (s. 4[g]) must be reported to the police.

## Appendix 2: Significance Assessment

### A4.1. The ICOMOS Burra Charter

The standard for determining significance of places is derived from an international formula developed by ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites). In Australia, the Burra Charter has been developed by ICOMOS which is a Charter for the Conservation of Cultural Significance (Australia ICOMOS 1999).

The Burra Charter defines cultural significance as “aesthetic, historic, scientific, social or spiritual value for past, present or future generations” (Australia ICOMOS 1999: Section 1.2). Cultural significance is a concept which helps in estimating the value of places. The Burra Charter Cultural Significance Guidelines definitions of the values implicit in assessing cultural significance are as follows (Australia ICOMOS 1999):

**Aesthetic value:** Aesthetic value includes aspects of sensory perception for which criteria can and should be stated. Such criteria may include consideration of the form, scale, colour, texture and material of the fabric; the smells and sounds associated with its place and use.

**Historic value:** historic value encompasses the history of aesthetics, science and society, and therefore to a large extent underlies all the terms set out in this section.

A Place may have historic value because it has influenced, or has been influenced by, an historic figure, event, phase or activity. It may also have historic value as the site of an important event. For any given Place the significance will be greater where evidence of the association or event survives in situ, or where the settings are substantially intact, than where it has been changed or evidence does not survive. However, some events or associations may be so important that the Place retains significance regardless of subsequent treatment.

**Scientific value:** The scientific or research value of a Place will depend upon the importance of the data involved, on its rarity, quality or representativeness, and on the degree to which the Place may contribute further substantial information.

**Social value:** Social value embraces the qualities for which a Place has become a focus of spiritual, political, national or other cultural sentiment to a majority or minority group.

### National Historic Themes

It is noted that when assessing historic values that the use of historic themes is of benefit. Historic themes are used by heritage professionals to assist in understanding the meanings and connections that historic places may have in addition to the physical fabric of a Place. Themes can help explain how particular elements of a Place are significant because of their ability to illustrate important aspects of its history (Australian Heritage Commission 2001). The nine theme groups that are most commonly used nationally are:



Theme 1	Tracing the evolution of the Australian environment
Theme 2	Peopling Australia
Theme 3	Developing Local, Regional and National economies
Theme 4	Building settlements, towns and cities
Theme 5	Working
Theme 6	Educating
Theme 7	Governing
Theme 8	Developing Australia's cultural life
Theme 9	Marking the phases of life

These theme groups are further expanded into more focussed sub-themes which will not be expanded on here. The themes are intended to be non-hierarchical and a historic Place may have a number of themes, which reflects how we look at the past, allowing for an integrated, diverse and complex human experience (Australian Heritage Commission 2001).

#### **A4.2. The *Heritage Act 2017* Criteria**

The *Heritage Act 1995* defines eight criteria against which cultural heritage significance can be assessed. These criteria are used to assist in determining whether places of potential State significance should be included in the Heritage Register. They are as follows:

Criterion A	The historical importance, association with or relationship to Victoria's history;
Criterion B	Good design or aesthetic characteristics;
Criterion C	Scientific or technical innovations or achievements;
Criterion D	Social or cultural associations
Criterion E	Potential to educate, illustrate or provide further scientific investigation in relation to Victoria's cultural heritage;
Criterion F	Importance in exhibiting a richness, diversity or unusual integration of features;
Criterion G	Rarity or uniqueness of a Place or object; and
Criterion H	The representative nature of a Place or object as part of a class or type of Places or objects.

In addition, it is appropriate when assessing the significance of a site in Victoria to consider whether it is of Local, Regional or State (or potentially National) significance.

#### **A4.3. Scientific Significance**

Scientific significance of a heritage Place (particularly archaeological sites) is also assessed in Victoria using a commonly accepted formula developed by Bowdler (1981) and Sullivan and Bowdler (1984). These are relative estimates of significance based on the current knowledge available about sites or places in a region. The assessment uses three criteria; site contents, site condition and representativeness.

#### **Site Contents Rating**

- 1 No cultural materials remaining.
- 2 Site contains a small number (e.g. 0-10 artefacts) or limited range of cultural materials with no evident stratification.
- 3 Site contains:
  - a. A larger number, bit limited range of cultural materials; and/or
  - b. Some intact stratified deposit.
- 4 Site contains:
  - a. A large number and diverse range of cultural materials: and/or
  - b. Largely intact stratified deposit; and/or
  - c. Surface spatial patterning of cultural materials that still reflect the way in which the cultural materials were laid down.

### Site Condition Rating

- 0 Site destroyed.
- 1 Site in a deteriorated condition with a high degree of disturbance but with some cultural materials remaining.
- 2 Site in a fair to good condition, but with some disturbance.
- 3 Site in an excellent condition with little or no disturbance. For surface artefact scatters this may mean that the spatial patterning of cultural material still reflects the way in which the cultural materials were laid.

### Representativeness

Representativeness refers to the regional distribution of a site type. It is assessed on whether the site type is common, occasional or rare within a given region. Current knowledge on the number of and distribution of archaeological sites in a region can change according depending on the extent of previous archaeological investigation.

The assessment of representativeness also takes into account the contents and condition of a particular site. An example is that in any region, there may be a limited number of sites of a particular type, which have been subject to minimal disturbance. These sorts of undisturbed sites (containing in situ deposits) would therefore be given a high significance rating for representativeness.

The **representativeness ratings** used for archaeological sites are:

- 1 Common occurrence
- 2 Occasional occurrence
- 3 Rare occurrence

### Overall Scientific Significance Rating

An overall scientific significance rating is assigned to the site based on a cumulative score from the assessment. This results in one of the following ratings being assigned for scientific significance:

- 1-3 Low

4-6 Moderate

7-9 High



## **Appendix 3: Heritage Citations**

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# BEATTYS ROAD BLUESTONE COTTAGE AND CISTERN

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## Location

1267 BEATTYS ROAD GRANGEFIELDS, MELTON CITY

## Municipality

MELTON CITY

## Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

## Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7822-2301

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

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Interpretation of Site	-
Archaeological Significance	Archaeological potential is likely to be within 10m around the exterior of the building.
Hermes Number	183776
Property Number	

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## History

<span class="c1">The Rockbank-Melton area has been used for agricultural and pastoral purposes since World War I when the 'Closer Settlement' scheme saw the breaking up of some of the larger land holdings in the area into smaller allotments. It is considered likely that this site pre-dates that scheme.</span>

*This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.*

*For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>*



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## HO54 - Bridge over Kororoit Creek



DCP\_0458.JPG



DCP\_0461.JPG



Bridge over the Kororoit Creek



Bridge

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### Location

Melton Highway PLUMPTON, MELTON SHIRE

### Municipality

MELTON CITY

### Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

### Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO54

### Heritage Listing

Melton City

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

The bridge over the Kororoit Creek, Melton Highway, Melton, is significant as one of few nineteenth century stone road bridges in the Melton Shire, as one of the few early round arch road bridges in Victoria, for its combination of an arch and a girder span, and for its likely early date. Probably built c.1860, it had a girder span added in 1870, with some interesting and rare design features. In the 1950s and 60s the parapets and original timber superstructure of the girder span were replaced with a concrete superstructure, and the masonry parts of the bridge may also have been sympathetically widened. It is moderately intact.

The bridge over the Kororoit Creek, Melton Highway, is historically and scientifically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC A.4, F.1). It illustrates a contextually rare form of stone bridge construction, being one of few nineteenth century stone road bridges in the Melton Shire. It is associated with one of Victoria's primary early roads from Melbourne to Portland, with the original Ballarat goldrush road, and was the main coach road between Melbourne and Ballarat until replaced by the railway in 1889. It is a scarce and probably very early example of a round or Roman arch bridge in Victoria. It is unusual within Victoria for having both an arch and a girder span, which demonstrates the event of the 1870 superflood, which devastated bridges throughout Victoria, and prompted a significant review of bridge design in the colony. The different spans are also likely to express the funding of the original bridge by the colonial government in the gold-era, and the funding of the new span by local government in the farming era. While modifications to its superstructure have compromised the ability of the girder span to demonstrate these changes, the rare shaped bluestone corbels and bluestone paved floor contribute especially interesting and illustrative feature with research potential.

Overall, the bridge over the Kororoit Creek is of LOCAL significance.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Melton - Shire of Melton Heritage Study phase 2, David Maloney, David Rowe, Pamela Jellie, Sera Jane Peters, 2007;
Construction dates	1859, 1870, 1955,
Other Names	Melton Highway crossing of Kororoit Creek (at 37 km post), Plumpton.,
Hermes Number	30050
Property Number	

---

## Physical Description 1

Physical Description -

The bridge over the Kororoit Creek, Melton Highway, Melton, has a large round arched (barrel vault) and side opening that was formerly spanned by a timber superstructure. The bridge is constructed of coursed random rubble bluestone and has an introduced concrete superstructure. Other early features include the projecting bluestone corbels that support the superstructure above, large bluestone cutwater wall, and cobbled bluestone creek floor.

The bridge was constructed in two stages. It is likely that the arched section of the bridge over the main watercourse was constructed first, and the girder section, and perhaps the massive cutwater, were added after the 1870 flood had washed away the bridge's embankments. The stonework on the arched span is coursed, but much less regularly than that in the girder span section, and its stone is also of an overall lighter hue, with many distinctly reddish stones.

The projecting stone corbels on the girder span are a highly unusual and probably rare (and perhaps even unique) feature of the bridge. Many nineteenth century bridges with bluestone abutments and timber girders contain small niches inserted into the abutments for the girders themselves, and sometimes nicely worked 'shoes' or housings for timber struts (or springing points for timber arches) to rest in the wall a metre or so below the top of the pier or abutment, but not projecting stone corbels. The shaping of the corbels - in a manner that is a direct copy of many timber corbels in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries - is even more interesting.

The concrete deck of the bridge was added in 1955.

Presumably the 1968 widening refers to the carriageway, but it is not clear whether stonework was added, or whether the widening was the cantilevered concrete deck (supported by large new concrete crossheads/abutments) on the upstream side. The carriageway width of the stone portions of the bridge appears wide for a nineteenth century bridge, so it is quite likely that they were widened. Such widening was common CRB practice for stone bridges at the time, enabling many historic bridges to be preserved in operational condition. If so it was undertaken in a typically sympathetic and successful manner. The evidence of non-original mortar pointing may be associated with these alterations.

## **Historical Australian Themes**

*Shire of Melton Historical Theme: Transport*

## **Integrity**

Integrity - Moderately intact

## **Physical Conditions**

Physical Condition - Good

*This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.*

*For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>*



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## HO119 - House, 107-121 Water Reserve Road, Rockbank



House

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### Location

107-121 Water Reserve Road GRANGEFIELDS, MELTON CITY

### Municipality

MELTON CITY

### Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

### Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO119

### Heritage Listing

Melton City

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### Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

The house at 107-121 Water Reserve Road, Rockbank, is significant as a moderately-intact example of a Edwardian style with interwar styled windows. This dwelling represents one of three Edwardian/Federation dwellings in the Melton Shire with interwar design overtones. Built c.1913, the house also has a later hipped roof addition to one side. Also on the site is an earlier Victorian vernacular cottage that also contributes to the significance of the place. It is also a good representative example of the small farms created as a result of the

break-up of the Clarke *Rockbank* pastoral estate, a watershed event in the history of Melton Shire.

The house at 107-121 Water Reserve Road is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level (AHC D.2). Although altered and extended, the house still clearly demonstrates original design qualities of an Edwardian style with interwar styled windows. The design qualities include the asymmetrical composition, single storey height, hipped roof form and the side gable that projects towards the front, together with the return convex verandah. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the horizontal timber weatherboard wall cladding, galvanised corrugated steel roof cladding, narrow eaves with paired timber brackets, multi-corbelled brick chimney, timber fretwork verandah valance, timber framed double hung windows arranged in banks of three and the front timber framed doorway with sidelights and highlights. The adjacent Victorian vernacular styled cottage also contributes to the significance of the place.

The house at 107-121 Water Reserve Road is historically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC A.4). It is a good representative and increasingly scarce remaining example of a rural weatherboard house built in Melton Shire in the first few decades of the twentieth century as a result of the increasing rural prosperity and historic changes of the era. In particular it is a good representative example of farming homesteads created as a result of the break-up of the Clarkes' massive *Rockbank* estate, which was a major turning point in the history of the Shire. The place is also associated with the important history of dairy farming, and water reserves, in the Shire.

Overall, the house off Water Reserve Road is of LOCAL significance.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Melton - Shire of Melton Heritage Study phase 2, David Maloney, David Rowe, Pamela Jellie, Sera Jane Peters, 2007;
Construction dates	1913, 1900, 1960,
Other Names	107-121 Water Reserve Road, Rockbank, O'Neills Water Reserve,
Hermes Number	30273
Property Number	

---

## Physical Description 1

### Physical Description -

The house at 107-121 Water Reserve Road, Rockbank, is set in a rural location with views to the adjacent water reserve. The house is surrounded by open grassed areas punctuated with beds of shrubs and flowers and some trees, and rear outbuildings associated with the former Chickadee Poultry Farm.

The asymmetrical, single storey, horizontal timber weatherboard, Edwardian styled dwelling is characterised by a hipped roof form, together with a gable that projects towards the front. On the other side of the gable roof is a slightly lower hipped roof wing that appears to be a later addition. There is an original convex return verandah, together with a similar verandah on the later work. These verandahs are supported by timber posts with framed timber fretwork valances. A multi-corbelled painted brick chimney adorns the roofline. Narrow overhangs with paired timber brackets are features of the eaves.

The timber framed double hung windows arranged in banks of three on the original building appear to represent changes during the interior period, as these windows are reflective of that era. Similar windows have been constructed in the later work. The raised concrete verandah floor also appears to have been introduced, as has the timber finial and truss in the gable end.

Another early design quality of the dwelling is the front timber framed doorway with sidelights and highlights.

On the north side of the dwelling is a small cottage that may represent an earlier building on the site. This

Victorian vernacular styled horizontal timber weatherboard dwelling has a simple gable roof form with a skillion verandah at the front. The roof forms are clad in galvanised corrugated steel. There is an early central timber framed doorway at the front and flanking timber framed double hung windows.

## **Historical Australian Themes**

*Melton Historical Themes: 'Farming'*

## **Integrity**

Integrity - Moderately intact

## **Physical Conditions**

Physical Condition - Good

*This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.*

*For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>*



## Citation No. 7 - Selection Wall, Western Highway

<b>Melton Dry Stone Walls Survey Nos:</b>	Wall No N224. (The Gidney Wall)
<b>Location:</b>	2344-2412 Western Highway Rockbank; 1031-1085 Beattys Road Rockbank; 986-1008, 1010-1024, 1026-1040, 1042-1060 Leakes Road, Rockbank. Crown Allotments 2, 3, 5, Section 7, Parish of Kororoit
<b>Critical Dates:</b>	Original construction 1867-68; progressive (non skilled) repair and reconstruction
<b>Existing Heritage Listings:</b>	None
<b>Recommended Level of Significance:</b>	LOCAL



### Statement of Significance:

The dry stone wall between the Western Highway and Beattys Road, Rockbank, is significant at the LOCAL level. Built c.1867-68, it is now an early and rare vestige of the opening up of the Rockbank commons for Selection in 1867. It is one of the longest walls in the Shire. It is the only example of the significant heritage of dry stone walls of the Shire of Melton that is visible to city-bound traffic on one of Victoria's major highways.

The dry stone wall, also known as the Selection Wall between the Western Highway and Beattys Road, Rockbank, is historically significant at the LOCAL level. (AHC A4, B2, D2) The wall is expressive of early farming practices on Melbourne's western plains. The wall is an early, rare, and one of the most substantial surviving structures of any sort associated with the Rockbank selections in the the 1860s and 70s; the only building known to survive from this selection period is the (much altered) former Rose & Crown Hotel, (HO 121) built 1875; other extant dry stone walls from the Rockbank selection

era are very much remnants of the originals. The wall comprises the most substantial surviving evidence of Isaac Gidney's Spring Farm, and his trade of horses and chaff for the India army, an enterprise engaged in by some large farmers in the Melton – Werribee districts. The wall is also associated with Digby Tarleton, a local farmer and Newmarket stock dealer, whose family still lives in Melton, and who married the daughter of celebrated Melton midwife Hannah Watts.

The dry stone wall between the Western Highway and Beattys Road, Rockbank is aesthetically significant at the LOCAL level. (AHC E1). It is one of the longest walls in the Shire, and one of only 13% of all walls that were recorded as being over 1300 millimetres in height. Its construction is representative of a typical style of wall in Melton Shire and Melbourne's west. It is one of the most prominent walls in the Shire by virtue of its location on the Western Highway. It is perpendicular to the highway, and is the only dry stone wall in the Shire of Melton that is in any way conspicuous to city-bound travellers on the Western Highway. Its visibility is greatly enhanced by its rural context of flat farmland and the virtual absence of buildings in its immediate vicinity.

The dry stone wall between the Western Highway and Beattys Road, Rockbank is scientifically significant at the LOCAL level. (A1, C2) It demonstrates the volcanic origin of the landscape. Its stone is generally smooth, round and dense with little surface friction, typical of Melton's dry stone walls. The wall has the potential to yield research information regarding wall construction techniques, nineteenth century rural settlement patterns, the impact of the Selection Acts, and ways of life on Melbourne's western plains.

The dry stone wall between the Western Highway and Beattys Road, Rockbank is socially significant at the LOCAL level (AHC G1). It has the potential to educate the community in regard to wall construction techniques, and also nineteenth century farm management, settlement patterns, and ways of life on Melbourne's western plains. As the only dry stone wall in the Shire of Melton that is effectively visible to city-bound traffic it has considerable potential for restoration and public education / interpretation regarding the important dry stone wall heritage of the Shire of Melton.

Overall, the dry stone wall between the Western Highway and Beattys Road, Rockbank is of LOCAL significance.

## Description:

The wall is situated about half way between Mount Cottrell to its south, and Mount Kororoit to its north. They are two of about 400 inactive eruption points that have been identified on Victoria's western volcanic plains, which stretch from the Darebin Creek to near the South Australian border. Most were active between 4.5 million and 20,000 years ago.

The wall is situated south of the Kororoit Creek, so Mount Cottrell is the most likely source of the fieldstone used in its construction. Mount Cottrell was built up by a succession of lava flows over its life. These broad, thin tongue flows of lava radiated from Mt Cottrell in all directions, the longest being to the south. The lava flows changed the drainage lines and caused the present courses of the Werribee River to its west, and the Kororoit Creek to its north.<sup>1</sup>

Although a very broad 'shield' volcano, like many of the volcanoes on these plains, which stretch from the Darebin Creek to near the South Australian border, Mount Cottrell lends a dramatic and distinctive character to an otherwise flat landscape. Geologically Mount Cottrell is of State significance, having been identified as the 'best example in Victoria of lava shield with lava cone forming summit.' Its notable features are the unusual structures at its bluff and crater, and the extent of its radial flows. It is the 'most massive of the Werribee Plains volcanoes, and one of the largest shield

volcanoes in Victoria'.<sup>2</sup>

The broad thin tongues of lava from Mt Cottrell were effusive and slowly cooling, producing a more dense basalt, in contrast to explosive eruptions, or quickly cooling flows, which produced a more vesicular scoria or tuff. While the vesicularity of the basalt extruded from Mount Cottrell varies, the dominant surface stone is a grey basalt,<sup>3</sup> which is evident in the round dense stones of the district.

This round-shaped heavy fieldstone is the dominant material used in the wall. Even the fieldstone with a vesicular surface (providing better friction for construction) is heavy and dense. These smooth, round and dense stones, having less surface friction, are difficult material with which to build a dry stone wall. The sides of walls built with these stones typically have a high batter, and are more pyramidal than vertical in cross-section.

After widening and lowering over time, this wall, like most original all-stone walls in the Shire, has been topped up with post and wire. Parts of the wall have had a detached post-and-wire fence added to the side of the original, rather than having been inserted into the wall. Therefore, unlike most such walls in the Shire, this wall is relatively undamaged. In addition the southern part of the wall (near the Western Highway) is an exception; it remains an all-stone rather than a modified stone and post & wire composite fence.

In common with most old dry stone walls on Victoria's volcanic plains, the wall has been non-professionally and crudely repaired over the decades. Its history of single ownership for most of its life is probably responsible for its reasonably consistent condition over the entire length. Although not one of the more intact walls in the Shire, its length and height are notable, and it retains a quite substantial presence.

The presence is greatly enhanced by its context of flat grassland, swampy depressions and farmland and the virtual absence of buildings in its immediate vicinity. It is perpendicular to the Western Highway, and its southern portion is clearly visible to city-bound traffic. It is in fact

1 Stewart, G, 'The Newer Volcanics lava field between Deer Park and the Werribee River', *Geological Survey of Victoria, Unpublished Report 1977/26*, 1977, pp.4, 7.

2 Rosengren, N, 'Eruption Points of the Newer Volcanics Province of Victoria: An Inventory and Evaluation of Scientific Significance', a report prepared for the National Trust of Australia (Victoria) and the Geological Society of Australia (Victorian Division), 1994, pp.162, 301, 349.

3 *ibid*

the only dry stone wall in the Shire of Melton that is in any way conspicuous to city-bound travellers on the Western Highway. It is effectively the only example of the significant Shire of Melton dry stone wall heritage that is visible to traffic proceeding eastwards along one of the most significant highways in the State.

At 1440 metres in length, it is one of the longest walls in the Shire. It is the 19<sup>th</sup> longest of the 303 walls for which length has been recorded, putting it well within the top ten percentile. It is almost three times the average length of the dry stone walls in the Shire.

It is also one of only 13% of all walls recorded in the Shire of Melton Dry Stone Walls Study that are over 1300 millimetres in height, the highest category of walls recorded in the Study.

## History:

### CONTEXTUAL HISTORY: DRY STONE WALLS IN NINETEENTH CENTURY VICTORIA

#### • Fencing the Wilderness, 1850s-1870s

The majority of dry stone walls in Victoria appear to have been built in the 30 year period from the 1850s to the 1880s.

In 1826 rural affairs commentator James Atkinson reported that he knew of no example of dry stone walling having been erected in the colony of New South Wales.<sup>4</sup> Initially pastoralists employed shepherds to look after sheep. They guided the sheep to pasture during the day, and in the evening returned them to folds, constructed of wooden hurdles or brush fences, near their huts (or outstations). There are several dry stone walls on Melton's Kororoit Creek that are thought to have been associated with early pastoralists: an outstation associated with Yuille at Caroline Springs, and the remnants of a wall that are thought to have been associated with a shepherd's enclosure.<sup>5</sup> Other fencing was used on the squatters' homesteads:- the 'home paddock' (likely for the squatters' precious horses) and the 'cultivation [or kitchen] garden'. Early fences were also required to separate stock for breeding purposes. These fences were usually of post & rail, vertical timber

slabs or other primitive paling material.<sup>6</sup> (However at *Greenhills* in Toolern Vale there are some remains of a dry stone wall that would appear to be the remnants of an original homestead garden.<sup>7</sup>)

Two major and related events in the early 1850s radically changed this situation. Firstly, the exodus to the gold-rushes made it difficult and expensive for squatters to retain labour for shepherding. And secondly, the extensive survey, subdivision and sale of Crown land in the early 1850s provided security of tenure to pastoralists, and incentive for them to invest in major improvements, including permanent fences, on their stations. Pastoralists were also encouraged to fence their land to ensure that neighbouring farmers didn't allow their stock to stray upon the open expanses of their stations.

Nevertheless, until the 1860s, extensive fencing of properties remained the exception rather than the rule. The first boundary fences in the Barrabool Hills of Victoria were only erected in 1854, and boundary and paddock fencing 'only gathered momentum after the mid 1850s'.<sup>8</sup> This was no doubt due to the extensive sale of Crown Land as freehold in the 1850s, as well as the increasing availability of capital due to the gold boom, and the increasing availability of labour including professional stone wallers as alluvial gold declined in the late 1850s.

Slowly, fences began to replace shepherds on the pastoral estates. Early maps of Melton Shire show that pastoralists built walls and fences relatively sparsely – only on property boundaries and to enclose huge paddocks (about 5-10 square kilometres in the south part of Clarke's Rockbank estate).<sup>9</sup> In dramatic contrast the same historical maps (and the mapping survey undertaken as part of this Study) show concentrated patterns of walled paddocks established on farms in the same areas at the same time. The creation of small paddocks enabled mixed farming, by securing crops and gardens from stock, and managing stock for breeding. This Study shows that, in the south of the Shire, virtually all of these fences were dry stone walls. Dry stone walls were also used to protect the homestead from stock,

4 Kerr, JS, 'Fencing, a brief account of the development of fencing in Australia', *Australasian Society for Historical Archaeology Newsletter*, Vol. 14.No.1, March 1984, pp.9-16.

5 Melton Heritage Study Place Nos. 467 and 81.

6 Kerr, *loc cit*; Allan Willingham, 'The Dry Stone Walls in the Corangamite Region: A Brief History', in Corangamite Arts Council Inc, *If These Walls Could Talk, Report of the Corangamite Dry Stone Walls Conservation Project*, Terang, 1995, p.44

7 Melton Heritage Study, Place No.055

8 Kerr, *loc cit*

9 Shire Map Series (1892); Army Ordnance Map, 1916: 'Sunbury'.

to construct stockyards, fowl houses and pigpens, and possibly, on a few of the larger farms, to provide aesthetic effect.<sup>10</sup>

Given the expense of establishing a farm from nothing in a wilderness, and the experience of many small farmers as agricultural labourers before coming to Australia, it is almost certain that the walls on all but the largest farms would have been constructed by farmers themselves rather than by professional wallers. For example, general hand William Ison and his wife arrived on a Werribee farm in the mid 1850s, and found there a small wooden cottage and a young German in charge, 'who had already done some clearing of the stones which covered the land ... We set to, and cleared about 10 acres, and had it fenced in with stones by the next sowing time.'<sup>11</sup> The quality of wall construction would have depended on the experience of the farmers and their seasonal hands at the craft. William Robinson who settled in the Tarneit area in 1872, was a stonemason who turned his skills to fieldstone, building a house (which does not survive) of the material and numerous fences (some of which do survive along Robinsons Road).

The outbreak of the highly contagious sheep disease, 'scab', which reached epidemic proportions in the 1850s, hastened enclosure of the pastoral estates.<sup>12</sup> Western District squatter Neil Black quickly enclosed his Glenormiston run, and in 1854 George Russell ordered five miles of wire: '...the importance of fencing is becoming every year more apparent.'<sup>13</sup>

Likewise, the appearance of pluerio-pneumonia in Australian cattle in the early 1860s impressed cattle-men of the need to isolate their properties from travelling or straying stock.<sup>14</sup> That 'dreadful disease' also encouraged

the erection of property fences by Melton dairy farmers (and was responsible for less use of local Commons by Melton farmers).<sup>15</sup>

By 1876 the presence of 'substantial stone walls' appears to have been hallmark of a good farm in the Melton district, the *Australasian's* 'Travelling Reporter' making sure to note these on the farms of Ralph Parkinson, George Missen and Isaac Gidney.<sup>16</sup>

However little is known of dry stone wallers who worked in the Shire at the time: Irish brothers John and George Funston worked in the Toolern Vale area from the 1850s; Patrick Connor worked on Mount Aitken in the 1860s; and Dick (the mason) Mitchell, and Arcoll (Arkell) worked in the Mount Cottrell area before 1872.<sup>17</sup>

The construction of fencing that was encouraged by sheep scab and cattle pleuro pneumonia was also fostered by legislation. At the beginning of the pastoral period in Victoria, common law held that, generally, a landowner was under no obligation to construct or maintain boundary fences, or fences adjoining a public road. However, as a result of Australia's rapidly expanding pastoral industry, trespass of stock, and the need for security, Victoria's *Fences Statute 1865* gave landowners the right to claim equal contribution towards the construction or repair of boundary fences from the owners of adjoining lands.<sup>18</sup>

#### • Types of Fencing in the Nineteenth Century

The great variety and combination of nineteenth century fencing arose 'as much from material shortages and the need to use what was procurable as from a desire to improve the utility and durability of fencing.'<sup>19</sup> As is the case with the rest of the Shire, most of the walls in the Greigs Road precinct are 'composite' stone and post & wire, rather than all-stone.

The *Fences Statute 1874* lists numerous types of fences, including 'walls' (stone walls) and 'combination' type fences. Walls that divided properties had to be a

10 Alan Marshall, asking an old waller why the walls on a particular property were so high, was told that ostensibly the reason was to keep steers in (they jumped fences), but the real reason was 'just so that he could say he had the best walls in the Western District, the biggest and the best, and bugger you.' (cited in Corangamite Arts Council, 1995, p.114). On Melbourne's western plains district however, such finely constructed walls were generally associated with formal gardens on only the largest properties, such as the Ha Ha walls on the Eynesbury (Melton Shire) and Werribee Park (Wyndham Shire) pastoral estates, or Greystones (Moorabool Shire).

11 Murray, E, *The Plains of Iramoo*, Henwood & Dancy, Geelong, 1974, p.111. (Murray notes that in 1974 these walls were still standing.)

12 Kerr, *loc cit*

13 Willingham, *op cit*, p.45

14 Kerr, *loc cit*

15 Victorian Parliamentary Papers, 1864, p.94 ; John Chandler, Michael Canon, *Forty Years in the Wilderness* (Loch Haven, Main Ridge, 1990), p.175

16 The *Australasian*, October 1876.

17 Bilszta, JA, 'Dry Stone Wall: Faulkners Road, Mt Cottrell, Shire of Melton', 9/9/1990, unpublished paper

18 Lawlink: New South Wales Law Reform Commission website: 'Report 59 (1988) – Community Law Reform Program: Dividing Fences'; Parliament of Victoria website: Law Reform Committee, 'Review of the Fences Act 1968'

19 Kerr, *loc cit*



minimum of 4 feet high (1.22 metres), with a base of 'not less than 2 feet wide at the bottom, and '9 inches at the top'.<sup>20</sup> Although the specifications for road boundary fences were not given (the Crown being exempt from the legislation) it could be expected that the walls on these public boundaries would be at least as high as those that divided neighbouring properties.

Post and rail fences were the most common early fence type in Australia, no doubt due to the prevalence of forests and woodlands, in comparison with stony land, across Victoria. They appeared early and were prominent in the study area. In 1854 William Westgarth, on his way to the goldfields Royal Commission in Ballarat, recorded that he 'struck west through post and rail fences onto the Keilor Plains'.<sup>21</sup> By the 1860s timber fencing, probably from the Grey Box forest in the west and south-west of the Shire, was common in the vicinity of Melton. But as local farmer John Chandler recorded, such fencing was prone to loss in the bushfires that swept south from the ranges over the plains.<sup>22</sup> Even in the volcanic area near Aitkens Hill to the north of the Shire, nearly 80% of squatter John Aitken's fencing was either 'post & rail' (either 2 rail, the most common, or 3 rail), or 'post & 2 rails with (2 or 3) wires', or 'post & rail with 5 foot palings'. The balance was 'stone walls'.<sup>23</sup> These figures might reflect squatters' early preference for timber fencing, and an early dearth of professional dry stone walling skills, not remedied until after the gold rushes. In 1868 on the same property Henry Beattie erected much more stone walling, but also built nearly twice as much '3-rail fence' in the same year.<sup>24</sup>

### • Dry Stone Walls

In 1856 a government agricultural reporter travelling through the eastern part of Melton Shire (the Parish of Maribyrnong) commented that: 'A few good stone

fences the only improvement worth noting'.<sup>25</sup>

A dry stone wall was the best solution:- 'Where stone was abundant, timber scarce, transport of fencing material expensive, skilled labour available, and where cheaper alternatives were unavailable'.<sup>26</sup> From about the mid-late 1850s, when freehold ownership exploded and the price of labour declined, and through the early 1860s when the price of labour remained cheap, the labour-intensive construction of stone walls remained very competitive.

Post and wire fences were first introduced into Victoria in the 1850s, but the price of the metal posts (which could often not go down into the dry hard ground in Victoria) made them 'exceedingly expensive'.<sup>27</sup> The very thick and soft 'black bull wire' was soon superseded by galvanised steel wires which, with droppers to keep the wire stable, allowing greater distance between fence posts, reducing the costs.<sup>28</sup> With progressive improvements, including local production of wire, use of timber posts, and winding and straining devices, by at least the early 1870s wire was the cheapest type of fence.<sup>29</sup> The invention of barbed wire in the 1870s, and its widespread use in Victoria in the 1880s meant that it could secure cattle as well as sheep, and it became the standard fence type from this time.<sup>30</sup>

Stone walls were built wherever stony ground made them possible, or necessary. While most farmers built their own walls to clear stony ground and manage stock and crops, pastoralists could afford professional wallers.<sup>31</sup> In the mid 1850s brothers John and George Funston, stone wallers and farm labourers from Ireland, are known to have been erecting walls on the Mount Aitken and Gisborne Park estates.<sup>32</sup> The Mount Aitken station accounts in 1868 showing the employment of a John Starkie for four weeks to help Henry gather and cart stones, and the engagement of 'Paterick [sic] Connor, Stone Wall Fencer' to erect 34 chains of stone

20 The Fences Statute 1874 (Fences Amendment Act, November 1873), Clause 4 (i-xi). Other types of early fencing are described in Michael Cannon's *Life in the Country: Australia in the Victorian Age*: 2, Nelson, West Melbourne, 1978, pp.89-90; and Graham Condah's *Of the Hut I Buildded*, Cambridge University Press, Melbourne, 1988, p.89.

21 Lack, J, Ford, O, 'Melbourne's Western Region: An Introductory History' (Melbourne's Living Museum of the West Inc, Melbourne Western Region Commission, 1986), p.27

22 Chandler, *op cit*, p.174

23 Map, 'Index of Fences' on John Aitken's Mount Aitken property (after Crown Land sales). PROV 460/P0/39365. (The stone walls would appear not to survive.)

24 Beattie, Steward K, *The Odd Good Year: Early Scots to Port Phillip, Northern Australia, Gap, Gisborne and Beyond*, Southwood Press, Marrickville, 1999, p.63

25 Victorian Parliamentary Papers, 'Statistics of Victoria for 1856', Appendix No.1, p.46

26 Vines, G, 'Comparative Analysis of Dry Stone Walls in Victoria, Australia and Overseas', in Corangamite Arts Council, 1995, *op cit*, p.56

27 Willingham, *op cit*, pp.45-6

28 Cannon, 1978, *op cit*, pp.89-91

29 Survey of 21 Selectors in the Holden – Mount Cottrell districts.

30 Willingham, *op cit*, p.46; Kerr, *loc cit*; Cannon, 1978, *loc cit*

31 Ann Beggs-Sunter, 'Buninyong and District Community News', Issue 211, August 1996

32 Judith Bilszta, Melton Heritage Study Research, Place No.029 (3/8/2005)

walling at the very low rate of only 8 shillings per chain.

The popularity of stone walls with farmers is evident in the Lands Department files relating to the 1860s Selection Acts, which record the type, length and price of fencing 'improvements' made by each selector. A detailed examination of 21 selections in the Mount Cottrell, Rockbank, Mount Kororoit and Diggers Rest–Holden areas reveals that stone walling constituted by far the largest proportion (60%) of the 32.3 kilometres of fencing built on those properties by c.1875, despite the fact that it was the most expensive. Post & wire fences, one of the cheapest types of fencing then available, comprised only 6% of all fences erected. Post & rail fences, a little cheaper than the best stone walls, and a little dearer than the cheapest, constituted 9% of the fences. (Note that many other 'composite' varieties of fences were constructed from these three primary materials. There were also a small number of 'stub' or picket, and 'log' fences.<sup>33</sup>)

Stone walling resolved two problems: the need to clear the land of rocks, and the need for fencing. Unquestionably, as was the case elsewhere, the key reason for the preference for dry stone walls on Melbourne's western plains by selectors was the need to clear stony land to enable cropping and grazing (dairying).<sup>34</sup>

Apart from the relatively small areas of Melton Shire that were sold under the Selection Acts, there were many other areas of dry stone walling in the Shire. It is estimated that there were 23 miles of fencing on the Moylan brothers' Mt Kororoit property by 1876, and from the extensive walling that survives today it is evident that much of this was dry stone wall construction.<sup>35</sup> Property sale advertisements in the local paper suggest that the properties on the Keilor Plain east of Toolern

Creek were almost entirely walled.<sup>36</sup> Advertisements for stone wallers in the Buttlejorrrk, Diggers Rest and Rockbank Estate areas appeared regularly until 1890. Between Toolern Vale and Diggers Rest the Beaty family built many kilometres of medium sized stone walls along boundaries, and a few larger walls inside their properties for stock. Other walls, including one of substantial composition (on the former Campbells' Toolern Park property), are scattered lightly around Toolern Vale. The highest concentration of walls is situated in the southern plains of the Shire: the 1850s small farming communities of Mt Cottrell and Truganina, and the paddock and boundary fences of WJT Clarke's Rockbank station.

According to Vines the dry stone walls of the Keilor–Werribee Plains 'form a reasonably distinct regional style quite different from either the interstate examples or the Western District walls'. This regional style is characterised by:-

*'... walls constructed using the local rounded, smoothly weathered, basalt field-stone of variable size. They are generally fairly low walls, averaging 1.2 metres with a width at the base of an average of 0.83 metres and battered sides on a slope of about 5-10 degrees off the vertical. Coursing is uncommon although coping is almost always found on intact walls and through stones can usually be identified at regular intervals of about one metre. The coping stones are often quite large, rounded boulders of a maximum dimension of 400-500 millimetres. Because of their rounded shape the stones are rarely suited to the close-fitting construction seen on the Western district walls, either for the main part of the wall or the coping. As a result, the rabbit proofing techniques involving close plugging, overhanging coping, or other methods are never found in this region.'*<sup>37</sup>

These regular round stones lack interlocking, and often surface friction, and were never the ideal building material. The author of the 1848 'Rural Cyclopaedia' considered round stones objectionable 'as they are ever rolling off'. The small wedge stones which held these round stones in position were easily dislodged.<sup>38</sup> Similarly, the 'round stone fence' surmounted by turf was described in Loudon's 1857 guide to British agriculture as a 'very indifferent fence', whose only apparent benefit

33 Research of PROV VPRS 625 (Selection Act files) for the Keneally, Slattey, Reddan J, Reddan M, Tate, Rhodes C, Rhodes, McKenzie, O'Brien P, McLeod, O'Brien J, Moloney, White, Mangovin, Carrige, Moylan Mary, Moylan Margaret, Parry, Moylan, MP, Moylan T, and Watts selections. This sample is primarily of selectors on stony country, Hannah Watts, in the forest off Chapmans Road Toolern Vale being the only exception; interestingly, the cost of her post & rail fences were half the price of the others, no doubt reflecting the relative proximity of materials, with none of the other properties having ready access to local timber. Another possible bias of the sample is the over-representation of Moylan properties. But it remains a good sample of fences built in stony country in the period late 1860s to mid 1870s.

34 Selectors were in fact obliged under the Selection Acts to cultivate 10% of their land area.

35 The *Australasian*, 28th October 1876

36 Bilszta, 1990, *op cit*.

37 Corangamite Arts Council, *op cit*, p.58

38 Willingham, *op cit*, p.41

was that it cleared the land of stone and could be built by labourers. It was found to be unstable when built to a standard wall height. Stock could easily dislodge its copings, and 'great trouble and expense are annually required to keep it in repair.'<sup>39</sup> Despite this, as can be seen in an apparently scarce example of this type in Corangamite (the Foxhow Road Wall), a sturdy wall of very respectable height could be built by careful selection and coursing of stones, and the use of copestones and extensive plugging.<sup>40</sup>

The Fences Statute's specification of walls to be a minimum 4 feet (1220 mm) high seems to have been the 'average paddock height' for which tenders were called in sheep country.<sup>41</sup> Walls in cattle country were built higher 'to discourage the cattle from leaning over to reach greener pastures and dislodging coping stones'. While numerous Western District dairying walls are higher, 'walls enclosing cattle were generally at least 1.4 metres (4 feet 7 inches) high'.<sup>42</sup> This standard also seems to have been applied in Melton, where the Moylan's high walls on Mount Kororoit Farm measure 1400 mm.

Although there is no conclusive evidence of it in Melton Shire, elsewhere boundary walls were built higher than internal walls. Vines states that: 'In almost all the dry stone wall regions in Victoria, the ... most substantial walls are located along the boundaries of properties. Subdivision of properties into fields was evidently a secondary consideration once the property had been fenced. Additional stone walls would be constructed to subdivide the property into paddocks if the field stone was so abundant as to allow these.'<sup>43</sup> Perkins (whose stone wall education was in Britain) states similarly that: 'Inner boundaries however were not built as high as the boundary fences, which are also known as March Dykes.'<sup>44</sup>

While most of the walls in the Shire of Melton and on Melbourne's western plains were 'composite walls',

either built with a stone bottom and post-and-wire top, or had a post-and-wire top added as the original all-stone wall collapsed over time, Wall No.P200 on Plumpton Road is now unusual as a remaining all-stone wall in the Shire of Melton.

## History of the Place

The wall is situated in Section 7 Parish of Kororoit, and marks the boundary between three Crown Allotments (Nos. 2 on the west side, and 3 & 5 on the east side) that were sold under the Selection provisions of the Land Acts. On the east side of the wall the northernmost allotment (Crown Allotment 2, extending to Leakes Road) was selected by Digby Tarleton, and the southern one (Crown Allotment 5, also extending to Leakes Road), was selected by Isaac Gidney. The allotment on the west side of the wall (Crown Allotment 2) was selected by AT Frost.<sup>45</sup>

The land had previously been near the centre of the Rockbank 'farmers common',<sup>46</sup> the neighbouring farmers being permitted to graze stock there in proportion to the number of acres they cultivated. The appearance of the 'dread disease' pleuro pneumonia' on these commons there in 1864 had been a major cause of concern.<sup>47</sup> The land was opened for selection in 1867.

Early Melton settler Anders Hjorth recalled that a day or two before the Lands Board met to determine who would obtain the land there was a great influx of would-be selectors from different parts of Victoria, and even South Australia. 'They came in all sorts of conveyances, a good many in covered wagons'; the 'excitement was intense'.<sup>48</sup> The Lands Board, meeting in Bacchus Marsh, allocated the sites by ballot.

While the selection files held at the Public Records Office are usually a rich source of information regarding the description, extent and value of improvements (including fences and walls), unfortunately this is not so in relation to the selections on Section 7 Parish of Kororoit. All of the Gidney selections files are missing.<sup>49</sup>

39 Loudon, JC, *Encyclopaedia of Agriculture*, 5<sup>th</sup> Edition (Longman Brown Green Longmans and Roberts, London, 1857), p.496

40 Corangamite Arts Council, *op cit*, p.28

41 Willingham, *op cit*, p.41. (The 1300 mm height was chosen as one of the categories for Study field survey. Almost all of the walls in the Shire had a base width of 700-800 mm.); Corangamite Arts Council, *op cit*, pp.49, 113

42 *ibid*, pp.17, 21, 130; Rod McLellan, 'The Dry Stone Walls of Victoria's Western District', *Historic Environment* Vol 7 No 2, 1989, pp.28-32

43 Corangamite Arts Council, *op cit*, p.60

44 *ibid*, p.130

45 Parish Plan, Parish of Kororoit. (Note that the land was originally taken up under an earlier Land Act, but not alienated until after the passing of the 1869 Act.)

46 Bob Macdonald, 'History of Melton', typescript, October 1969, p.6

47 Anders Hjorth, 'Recollections of Melton 1861-67', in Melton & District Historical Society Newsletter, April 2001, pp.2-3

48 *loc cit*

49 PROV, VPRS 629/P/33 (File No.5949 in particular).

And the information provided for the Tarleton and Frost selections is unusually basic.<sup>50</sup>

Arthur Thomas Frost, who took up Crown Allotments 1 & 2 to the west of the wall in April 1867 is described in the file only as being from Riddells Creek. He appears to have taken over the selection from a Robert Johnson Sugden, who also had an interest in the allotments in April 1867.<sup>51</sup> AT Frost may have been a relation of Charles Frost, the Melton bootmaker who is reported to have also had a 'dairy at East Melton and when not at his trade had a horse and dray carrying goods to and from Melbourne.'<sup>52</sup> In September 1870 Frost successfully applied for his Selection lease to be replaced with a Crown grant. To have been entitled to make such an application Frost must have fenced the property boundary. Given the popularity of dry stone walls with selectors, and what is known about the survival of other selectors' dry stone walls, it is virtually certain that the existing wall (the eastern boundary of CA2), would have been constructed between April 1867 and September 1870.

The ratebooks of Braybrook Shire, within which the property was situated at the time, tell a little more about the ownership history of the allotments in this period. Gidney, Tarleton and Frost do not appear in the 1866 ratebooks, whereas in 1867 RJ Sugden (but not Frost) appears in association with Crown Allotments 1 and 2. (A George Gidney, perhaps a relation of Isaac, appears as a farmer/slaughterman, in the Parish of Cut Paw Paw, closer to Melbourne.) The 1868 ratebook shows that Frost has taken over Sugden's selection. Digby Tarleton also appears in 1868, apparently having taken over the selection of a Garnet Coghlan. Isaac Gidney suddenly appears as the owner or leese of 6 selection allotments totalling some 550 acres in the Parish of Kororoit and 140 acres in the Parish of Cut Paw Paw. Each of his Kororoit selections is taken up in partnership. In the case of the allotment adjacent to the wall (Crown Allotments 5) his partner is a Slater Mawson. This allotment has no dwelling marked, and there is no other evidence that a house was ever built on Gidney's allotments east of and adjacent to the wall. On the other hand a 'house' is recorded on his allotment on the opposite (eastern) side of Leakes Road, on the north-eastern corner of Western Highway, and a 'hut' on the allotments to the north of this.

50 PROV, VPRS 629/P/37 (File No.7580); VPRS 629/P/4 (File No.677).

51 PROV, VPRS 629/P/4 (File 677)

52 Alexander Cameron, 'Melton Memoirs' (M&DHS), p.9

It is of note that the valuation of the Sugden/Frost property increased between the years 1867 and 1868, but not between 1868 and the year 1870, at which time the wall must definitely have been built. It is very likely then that the 1867-68 increase in valuation was due to the construction of fencing/walls, as there was no house recorded on the property, and fences/walls were usually the first or one of the first major improvement made on new farms.<sup>53</sup>

In May 1873 Gidney received the Crown grant for the southern property on the east side of the wall, and in October 1873 Tarleton received the Crown grant for the northern property on the east side of the wall.<sup>54</sup>

In the selection file, the occupation of Digby Tarleton of Melton in 1867 is given as 'dairyman'.<sup>55</sup> A seaman before taking up land in Rockbank, Digby married Mary Burns, daughter of famous Melton midwife Hanna 'Grannie' Watts, after whom Melton's main park on Toolern Creek is named. There are numerous photographs of Digby and his descendents in Starr's history of Melton.<sup>56</sup> He became a cattle dealer with another Melton pioneer Harry Minns.<sup>57</sup> His business was substantial enough to be noted in Harry H Peck's celebrated memoirs of the Newmarket Stockyards as they were in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. With John Kirk, Harry Minns and John Dickins, he is described as one of the 'distinct personalities who were regular suppliers to Newmarket from their farms close to town'. Peck notes that Digby was by his accent 'Yorkshire or Lancashire':

*'Short and spare with little curly locks, active and quick-tempered, Digby with his light-weight had the sense to keep out of bodily encounters; he was hard to beat in a verbal one.'*<sup>58</sup>

*Digby 'went bust' in the drought of 1882.<sup>59</sup> This may have been the reason he left his Selection. He was killed in 1895. The family continued on in different farms in the Rockbank and Toolern Vale areas. In*

53 PROV, VPRS 1695/P/1, Shire of Braybrook Ratebooks, 1866-1870. Note that ratebook records can be some 12 months behind actual events.

54 Parish Plan, Parish of Kororoit.

55 PROV, VPRS 629/P/37 (File No.7580)

56 Starr, J, *Melton: Plains of Promise* (Shire of Melton, nd, c.1985), pp.100-109. The book's statement that Digby arrived in Australia in 1871 is clearly wrong.

57 Leo Tarleton, personal conversation, 27<sup>th</sup> December 2001.

58 Peck, Harry H, *Memoirs of a Stockman* (Stock and Land Co, Melbourne, 1972), p.123

59 Leo Tarleton, personal conversation, 27<sup>th</sup> December 2001.



1906 his son George took up a Closer Settlement allotment on what is now Tarletons Road, less than two kilometres from his father's original selection. In 1952 they purchased the property Bonnie Doon also on Tarleton's Road.<sup>60</sup> The association with Newmarket continued: son George bred the 'first Friesian cow to reach £100 at market'; George's son Leo, grandson of Digby, is photographed holding the cow at the Newmarket saleyards, with a group that includes Jim Minns, grandson of Digby's partner Harry Minns.<sup>61</sup> Although Mary Tolhurst (Digby's granddaughter) and other members of the Tarleton family remain in the Melton area, in the early 1990's Leo Tarleton moved the farm to Boort. Subdivision activities and projected rezonings in the Melton area had impacted on the long term viability of farming.<sup>62</sup>

Ratebooks indicate that by 1889 neither Frost nor Tarleton remained on their selections. By the 1880s good prices were being offered for Rockbank land, and Melbourne speculators, fired by the land boom, looked to buy land near new railway lines such as that which reached Rockbank in the early 1880s. However it was Gidney who purchased their lands. By 1889 ten properties totalling over 2,700 acres (c.1100 hectares) were in the occupation of Isaac, Charles, Henry and John Gidney, who describe themselves as 'dealers'. Most of these properties appear to have been actually owned by the Gidneys, with the exception of two which are leased from the executors of deceased estates, including that of William Tulloh (of *Strathtulloh*). All of the Gidney properties are marked as being entirely 'fenced', and some have a number of houses.<sup>63</sup> An 1892 map shows 'I Gidney' as the owner occupier of the entire extent of land north of the Western Highway and south of Beattys Road, between Paines Road in the west and to the Beattys Road crossing of Kororoit Creek in the east (over 1400 acres, or 580 ha). He had acquired the land of all the other selectors in this area: Frost, Tarleton, Frazer, Quaile, Mathews and Howard. At this time Gidney also possessed another c.500 (200 ha) acres nearby, to the south of the Western Highway.<sup>64</sup> At the same time he had disposed of one of his smaller relatively selections on the north side of Kororoit Creek (the site of the house

Bonnie Doon on Tarletons Road) to WJT Clarke. While this was the only one of his properties with stream frontage, there were two Water Reserves very close to his main property.

Isaac Gidney cropped, made hay, grazed stock and bred remount horses for the India service on this Rockbank property, which he called '*Spring Farm*'.<sup>65</sup> A native of Norwich England, he had made money supplying goods to goldfields and in the 1860s set up as a successful dealer. He was then living in Abbotsford Street North Melbourne. He invested heavily in land particularly in Shire of Braybrook, and also had land in the Parish of Maribyrnong under family management, and in the Parish of Pywhietjorrk under lease. In 1886 he sent for his brother who arrived to manage *Spring Farm*.

Whilst Isaac Gidney himself continued to reside in North Melbourne (moving from Abbotsford Street to 'Hotham Villa' in Dryburgh Street), his sons and nephews travelled extensively in pursuit of their business shipping horses between Melbourne and India. Nephew William, son of John, who worked on *Spring Farm*, died of Colonial fever in Madras in 1884 whilst managing a shipment of horses.

Charles Gidney and his descendents inherited *Spring Farm*. By the mid twentieth century it had begun to be sold out of the family. In early 1942 Sections 2 and 3 (202 acres) were developed as the United States Army receiving station for the Pacific War. Towards the end of the year, after major victories, the United States forces moved north and the station was developed as the Australian Army Signals (Receiving) Station. By 1952 the Army was looking to greatly expand its operations as part of the UK Army Wireless Chain and the AMF Command Communications System. The owners of the additional 884 acres that the Army sought to acquire were Mrs EM Hughes, 'daughter of Mrs Gidney' (604 acres), and Mr G Harrison (279 acres).<sup>66</sup> There were three dwellings on the property, one of which was 'owned by Mrs Hughes and is approximately 100 years old ... in poor condition'. It was at the time being rented by a Mr Jazar for 13 shillings 6 pence per week. This Hughes house was situated on Crown Allotment 1B, on the north-eastern corner of the Western Highway

60 Melton Express 26/4/1952

61 Starr, *op cit*, p.109

62 Mary Tolhurst, personal conversation, August 2005

63 PROV, VPRS 1696/P/1, Shire of Braybrook Ratebook, 1889. The ratebooks of 1880 and 1888 similarly note that the Gidney properties were all fenced.

64 Shire Map Series, 1892: Parishes of Kororoit and Pywhietjorrk.

65 The following biographical information on Isaac Gidney is Judith Bilsztas's research of genealogical (BDM etc) sources; *Victoria and its Metropolis*; the *Australasian* newspaper; the *Bacchus Marsh Express* and the 'Vertical Files' in the RHSV collection.

66 The *Bacchus Marsh Express*, 29<sup>th</sup> March 1952.

and Leakes Road (where the Signals personnel estate was built in the 1960s).<sup>67</sup> This was almost certainly the Gidney house that was noted in on these allotments (Crown Allotments 1 and 8) in the 1868 ratebook.

The other two houses noted in 1952 were built in the early twentieth century, and were occupied by Mr A Missen and Mr Harrison.<sup>68</sup> Others Rockbank families associated with the former *Spring Farm* in more recent years included Peacock and Summers. In Pywheittjorrk, the Misses Smith purchased the Gidney land to add to their *Strathtulloh* holding. *Spring Farm* had had a large stable complex of bluestone and split palings a short distance off Ballarat Road. Remnants of the stables could be seen in the paddock adjacent to the Western Highway east of Leakes Road until the mid 1980's. A 1916 map shows an intense pattern of walls near the stable location. This land was eventually purchased by Harold Missen.

There appears never to have been a house constructed on the allotments originally selected by Gidney on the western side of Leakes Road (Sections 5 and 6A), adjacent to the wall. However by 1916 a house does appear on the allotment on the western side of the wall (the Sugden/Frost selection); this was perhaps an early building, or else not very substantial, as it was gone by 1938.<sup>69</sup>

The pattern of dry stone walls shown in the 1916 map matches almost exactly the boundaries of the original properties that were offered to selectors. This indicates that the majority of walls were built in the original selection phase. Within a decade or two so much land was in the hands of a single owner. This wall (N224) and a short and more deteriorated remnant of a wall along Leakes Road (N241) are the only remnants of Selection in this region.

The wall also comprises the most substantial evidence of Isaac Gidney's *Spring Farm*, and the business of trade of horses and chaff for the India Army, which was a significant business in the districts of Melton, Braybrooks and Werribee.

67 Army Ordnance Map, 1916: 'Sunbury'; also NAA MT1131/1, CE Drawing No.7142 341.12.

68 National Archives of Australia, Series MT1131/1, Unit A259/18/297, AMF Minute Paper, 12/2/1953.

69 Army Ordnance Maps, 1916, 1938. Another house appears on the original Tarleton selection on the west side of Leakes Road. It is however situated on an early 5 acre excision from the Tarleton selection (Crown Allotment 4B), which does not abut the wall.

## Thematic Context / Comparative Analysis:

### Shire of Melton Historical Themes: 'Farming', 'Transport'.

#### Comparable Places in Shire of Melton:

- This is one of very few, and by far the most prominent, of the dry stone walls on the north side of the Western Highway. The other walls - Nos.N232, N241 and N212 – are nowhere near as substantial, or as intact, and are effectively undetectable to traffic. Effectively, Wall N224 is the only dry stone wall in the Shire of Melton that is visible to city-bound traffic (travelling in an easterly direction). As such it is of very high importance to the public image of the Shire of Melton's as a place with an important heritage of dry stone walls.
- Wall N224, built c.1867-68, is one of the most substantial surviving structures, of any sort, associated with the historical 'Selection Act' foundation of Rockbank in the the 1860s and 70s.

It is the most substantial and prominent of the few dry stone walls of the Rockbank selection district that now survive. The only comparable walls in terms of length are those on Leakes Road south of the Western Highway (Walls J150-152), associated with the original George Missen selection. Other extant walls associated with 'Selection Acts' at Rockbank are now very much remnants, usually short and highly deteriorated vestiges of the originals.

These walls are among the most substantial surviving structures of any sort associated with the Rockbank selections. No houses in the district date from the 1860s/70s 'Selection Act' period. The only early houses in the district were built after this period:- 1957-1963 Western Highway (built c.1895 for George Missen); 2341 Western Highway (built 1898 for George Pitson); and 107-121 Water Reserve Road (built c.1900/1913). The only place in any way comparable in terms of date is the former Rose & Crown Hotel, built 1875 but now much altered (the office for the Sundowner Caravan Park).

#### Condition:

Overall the wall is in Good-Fair condition.

### Integrity:

Fair

### Recommendations:

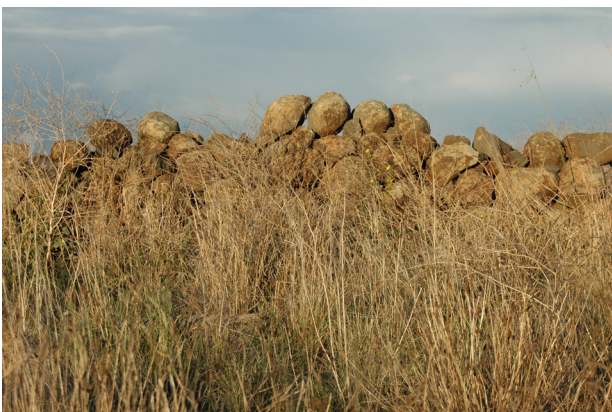
Recommended for inclusion in the Melton Planning Scheme Heritage Overlay.

### Other Recommendations:

- Planning controls should ensure that the visibility of the road from the Western Highway on its western (approach) side is retained. This would ensure that the view of the wall is not impeded by new buildings.
- The location of the wall gives it considerable strategic significance in promoting the heritage and image of the Shire of Melton as a place significant for dry stone walls. The restoration of at least the southern part of the wall should be given priority in the Shire of Melton. Interpretation of the wall should be part of such conservation works. It is recommended that grass be kept mown, at least on its south- western (approach) side, as part of such conservation and interpretation.

### Wall N224.

A section of the southern part of the wall in typically variable condition. Its height is evident behind the tall grass impeding its view.



### Wall N224.

Something of a sense of the length of the wall (in the middle distance) is evident from the the Western Highway at its southern end. The bushes (probably self-sown) help trace its form.



### Wall N224.

The northern (Beattys Road) end of the wall has been topped up with a post and wire fence inserted into one side, and the wall itself has evidently been inexpertly topped up in the past. The dense rocks with which the wall was built can also be seen here; (these round stones are more evident in the photograph on the title page of this report).







# Heritage Inventory: Archaeology Site Record

**Heritage**  
VICTORIA

Site name: DRY STONE WALL

Site type ☐ Civic ☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Domestic ☐ Maritime  
☒ Rural ☐ Religious ☐ Military ☐ Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

Listings ☐ National Estate ☐ Heritage Register ☐ National Trust  
☐ AAV Record ☐ Planning Scheme ☐ Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

## Location

Full AMG co-ordinates (Scale 1:25,000) E 293100 N 5822100  
 Map name and number MELBOURNE 7822 Scale 1:100 000

## Cadastral location

County BOUNGE Allotment 6A Block VII  
 Parish KOROROIT Parcel P Section VII Lot 6A  
 Local government area MELTON

## Description of site

Brief description of site Dry Stone wall of weathered basalt boulders - 1.4m high 8-900mm wide at base

Key components of site 300 meter length of wall on west side of Leake Road immediately north of junction with Western highway

Condition in fair condition - much of coping dislodged  
 Present use farm fence Threats Road widening

Statement of significance One of the most substantial and most intact dry stone walls in the region

MELBOURNE'S LIVING MUSEUM OF THE WEST INCORPORATED

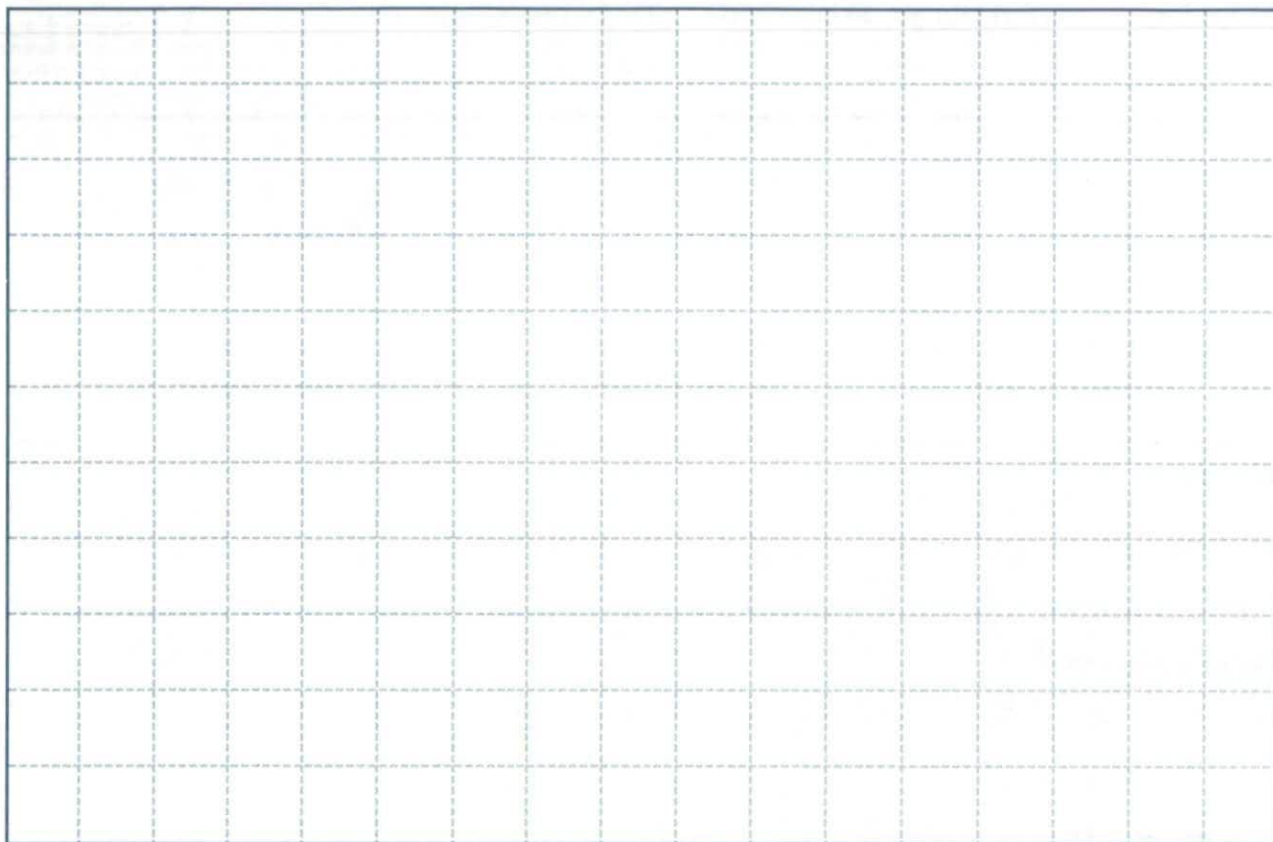
P.O. BOX 80 HIGHPOINT CITY 3032  
 PHONE (03) 318 3544

Recorded by Gary Vines Date 03/05/2000



## Plan of site

Scale 1:



## List all features noted on plan of site

(Indicate site boundary, relative location of important features, prominent landmarks, etc.)

300 m. length of wall on property boundary

## Interpretation of site

Remnant of once extensive dry stone walls which defined Sidneys farm paddocks - High level of technical skill (eg use of large field stones through stony, regular form using irregular stones) suggests skilled maker.

## Photograph of site

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### History of site

Point of Isaac Gidney's 850 acre farm which he acquired under Crown settlement in the 1870's. Gidney was a prominent local farmer with his farmhouse on the opposite side of Leakes Rd (demolished)

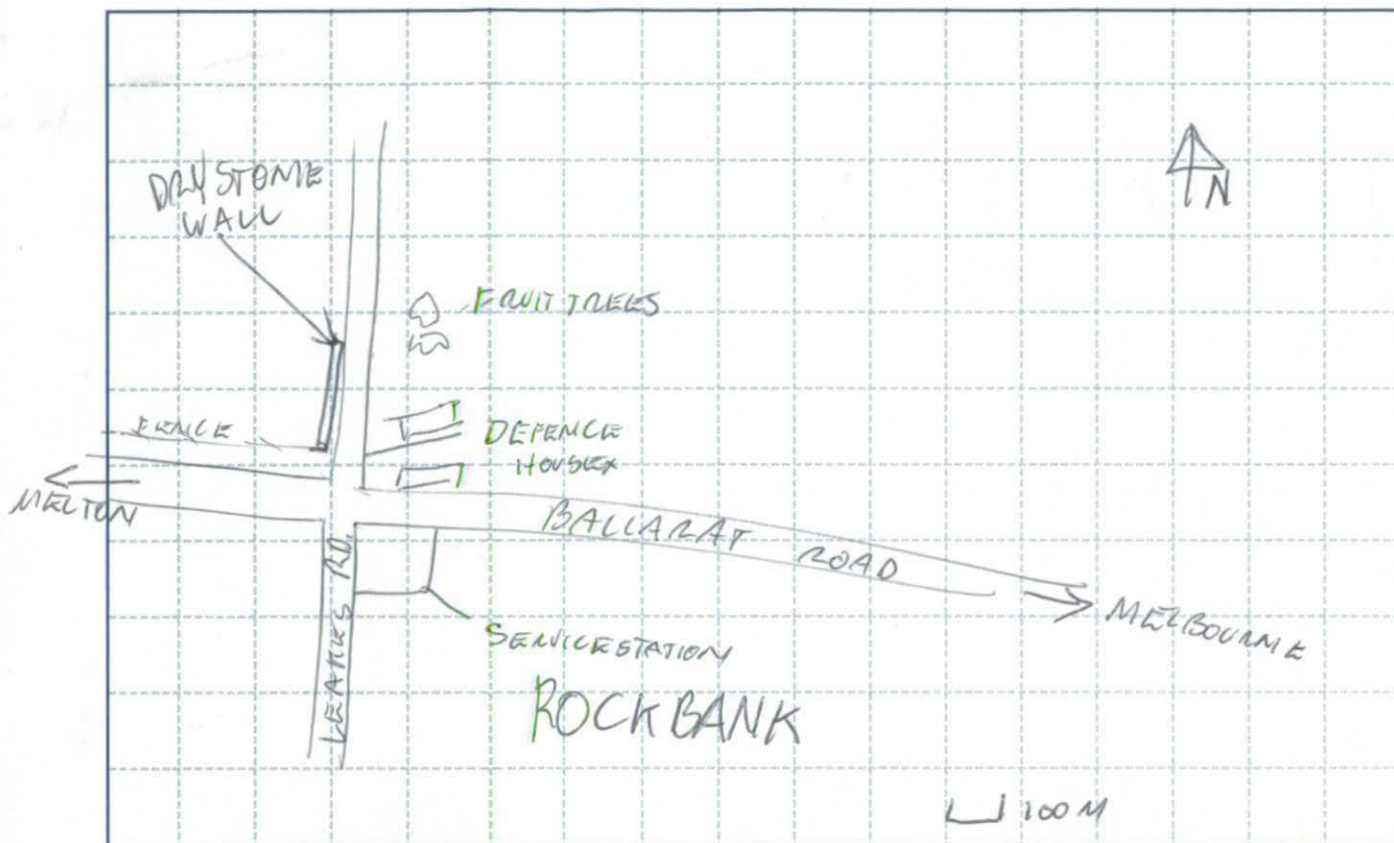
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### Informants, other information and references

Stern, 1999, Plains at Promise  
Living Museum Resource Centre records  
Vines, G. Built to Last - Dry Stone Walls CMH/1987

# Map showing location of site

Scale 1:



Directions for relocation and access WEST SIDE LEAKES RD NORTH OF  
BALLARAT ROAD

## Owner/occupier details

Private

Crown

Agency .....

Owner's name ..... Contact name .....

Postal address ..... Postal address .....

.....Postcode .....Postcode .....

Telephone..... Facsimile..... Telephone..... Facsimile .....

## Occupier (if applicable)

Occupier's name .....

Postal address ..... Postcode.....

Telephone..... Facsimile.....

## Office use only

Report No ..... File No.....

Consent No ..... Artefacts..... Location .....

Plan No ..... Inspection dates .....

Photo No .....

AHC Site Type .....



## Appendix 4: Glossary

Items highlighted in ***bold italics*** in the definition are defined elsewhere in the glossary.

Assemblage	The name given to encompass the entire collection of artefacts recovered by archaeologists, invariably classified into diagnostic items used to describe the material culture.
CHL	<b>Commonwealth Heritage List</b> . A register of heritage places, under the EPBC Act, on Commonwealth land or managed by the Commonwealth.
CHMP	<b>Cultural Heritage Management Plan</b> . A plan prepared under the <i>Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006</i> .
DAWE	<b>Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment</b> . The Commonwealth Government department responsible for management of heritage places on Commonwealth land or listed on the <i>WHL</i> , <i>NHL</i> or <i>CHL</i> .
DELWP	<b>Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning</b> . The Victorian State Government department, of which <i>HV</i> is a part, responsible for management of historical (non-Aboriginal) heritage in Victoria.
DPC	<b>Department of the Premier and Cabinet</b> . The Victorian State Government department, of which <i>AV</i> is a part, responsible for management of Aboriginal cultural heritage in Victoria.
EPBC Act	<b><i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i></b> (Commonwealth)
Fabric (Heritage)	Any physical element, feature, material or finish that is associated with the heritage values in all or part of a structure, Place, object, feature or site. The original heritage fabric is any such physical element that was an integral part of the original heritage site.
Feature (Archaeological)	A collection of one or more contexts representing some human non-portable activity that generally has a vertical characteristic to it in relation to site stratigraphy.
Heritage Place	A <i>registered</i> historical site listed on a heritage planning instrument that affords statutory protection to the site.
Heritage Values	The values of a heritage site that relate to its historical, social, cultural, spiritual, architectural, archaeological or technological significance.
Historical Heritage Likelihood	An area assessed by a Heritage Advisor as having potential for containing either surface or subsurface historical archaeological deposits or fabric.
Historical Site	An historical site, whether or not recorded in the <i>VHR</i> , <i>VHI</i> or other historical site database (cf. <b><i>Heritage Place</i></b> ).
HHA	<b>Historical Heritage Assessment</b> . An assessment of the historical heritage values of a defined study area by a qualified heritage consultant.
HO	<b>Heritage Overlay</b> . A list of Heritage Places of local significance with statutory protection under a local government planning scheme.
HV	<b>Heritage Victoria</b> . A division of <i>DTPLI</i> responsible for management of historical heritage in Victoria.
NHL	<b>National Heritage List</b> . A register of heritage places, under the EPBC Act, of heritage places of national significance.
RNE	<b>Register of the National Estate</b> . A commonwealth-managed register of heritage assets; as of 2012 the RNE no longer provides statutory protection to heritage places.
Taphonomy	The study of the processes (both natural and cultural) which affect the deposition and preservation of both the artefacts and the site itself.
VAHR	<b>Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register</b> . A register of Aboriginal places and Aboriginal historic Places maintained by <i>OAAV</i> .



VHI	<b>Victorian Heritage Inventory.</b> A register of Places and objects in Victoria identified as historical archaeological sites, areas or relics, and all private collections of artefacts, maintained by <b>HV</b> . Sites listed on the VHI are not of State significance but are usually of regional or local significance. Listing on the <b>VHR</b> provides statutory protection for that a site, except in the case where a site has been “D-listed”.
VHR	<b>Victorian Heritage Register.</b> A register of the State’s most significant heritage Places and objects, maintained by <b>HV</b> . Listing on the VHR provides statutory protection for that a site.
VPA	<b>Victorian Planning Authority.</b> Agency responsible for planning and coordinating infrastructure development in Melbourne’s growth areas: Casey, Cardinia, Hume, Melton, Mitchell, Whittlesea and Wyndham.
WHL	<b>World Heritage List.</b> A register of heritage Places, under the EPBC Act, of heritage Places of international significance.

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**Nearmap 2022.** Accessed under licence by Ecology and Heritage Partners.

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