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K O R K U P E R R I M O

TOURING THE PAST



HERITAGE ADENDUM: ASSESSMENT OF OUTSTANDING SITES

Parwan Employment Precinct Structure Plan PSP 1522

Acknowledgement of Country

Touring the Past recognises that our conservation practice takes place on Country whose sovereignty was never ceded. We recognise the First Nations People of Australia and the continuity of their cultural practices and relationships with Country.

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land now known as Parwan, the WurundjeriWoi Wurrung, Wadawurrung, and Dja Dja Wurrung peoples, and pay our respects to their Elders past, present, and emerging. We recognise the depth of spatial and environmental knowledge held by First Nations communities and the long continuum of Aboriginal land management, science, and design that shapes this place.

Touring the Past Pty Ltd

Conservation | Heritage | Interpretation

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1 BACKGROUND

1.1 Purpose

This addendum has been commissioned by the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) in January 2026 in the context of preparing the Parwan Employment Precinct Structure Plan. It is to be read in conjunction with the *Parwan Employment Development Plan Historic Cultural Heritage Assessment* prepared by Archaeology At Tardis, dated 7 October 2020 (HCHA).

The HCHA identified a subset of seven potential heritage and/or historic archaeological places within the precinct that could not be inspected at the time of preparation due to access constraints and/or uncertainty regarding precise locations. This addendum addresses those outstanding gaps through targeted field survey and investigation, and provides updated place-specific findings and management recommendations to support implementation within the Structure Plan framework.

During the course of the engagement, some additional heritage management considerations also emerged in relation to places previously evaluated in the HCHA. Accordingly, in addition to resolving the seven 'unsurveyed' items, this addendum records those matters and provides broader recommendations relating to heritage and historic archaeological potential for consideration in the next stages of precinct planning and delivery.

1.2 Methodology

The author of this report is an experienced cultural heritage specialist and accredited professional historian. The conclusions expressed are the author's own and have been reached independently.

The assessment is informed by a non-invasive inspection of the subject place(s) and their settings undertaken in favourable field conditions on 4 February 2026. As discussed in Section 2, the majority of the previously 'unsurveyed' items identified in the HCHA were inspected on-site, or (where access was not permitted) were inspected from the public realm to a sufficient level. This fieldwork resolves a key limitation of the earlier assessment, which was constrained by access and/or uncertainty regarding precise locations.

Terminology and principles in this document are grounded in established values-based heritage practice, as articulated in , *The Burra Charter: The Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance* (rev. 2013). Due regard is also given to *PPN01: Applying the Heritage Overlay* (August 2018, DTP), the *Policy for Determining Low Archaeological Value* (Heritage Victoria, undated), and the *Guidelines for Conducting Historical Archaeological Surveys* (Heritage Victoria, February 2024).

In line with the brief, this addendum has relied on the baseline research and contextual findings of the HCHA, except where an obvious factual error was identified and has been corrected or clarified on the basis of additional checking.

A Notification of Intent to Survey was not lodged with Heritage Victoria for this engagement because the commission did not comprise a formal historical archaeological survey program intended for submission to, or direction by, Heritage Victoria. The scope was a hybrid, planning-led heritage exercise focused on above-ground inspection, setting analysis, and place-specific management recommendations to support precinct planning. Where observations during inspection indicate potential historic archaeological sensitivity, this addendum identifies that potential at a precautionary level and recommends appropriate next steps.

Noting the above, the primary obligation to notify Heritage Victoria of any historical archaeological survey activity associated with this precinct planning work more properly sat with the HCHA, which comprised a whole-of-precinct heritage and archaeological investigation across the study area.

The author also engaged with DTP officers and representatives of the consent authority, Moorabool Shire Council, on 11 February 2026 to discuss preliminary findings and implementation considerations.

This addendum makes no comment on Aboriginal cultural heritage.

1.3 Study Area

The Parwan Employment Precinct study area (the PSP 'activity area') is approximately 2,500 hectares in extent. It is located south of the Bacchus Marsh town centre and approximately 46 kilometres west of Melbourne. The study area is bordered by Parwan Creek to the north, Nortons Road and the wastewater treatment plant to the east, Nerowie Road and Glenmore Road to the south, and Bacchus Marsh-Balliang Road to the west, and is bisected by Geelong-Bacchus Marsh Road.

The area remains predominantly agricultural and rural-residential in character, comprising broadly open paddocks with dispersed dwellings, farm infrastructure, and associated outbuildings, together with a small number of larger 'special use' or utility activities. Key existing uses identified across the precinct include the Bacchus Marsh Aerodrome (and associated operations), Parwan motocross, a meat processing plant, the Western Water recycled water plant adjoining the eastern edge, and other rural-industrial/agri-business uses.

In landscape terms, the precinct is characterised as a largely flat volcanic plain within the broader 'Western Plains' landscape character type, with shelterbelts and scattered woodland elements. The landform is generally flat with gentle falls (including toward the Werribee River to the north/north-west), and with some wetland systems present. Parwan Creek is a defining interface and amenity corridor, and Bingham's Swamp in the south-east is identified as an important environmental feature and a cultural element in the local landscape. Scenic quality is uneven across the precinct: the Parwan Creek corridor (and associated escarpments) is assessed as having high scenic value, while the flatter plains are generally assessed as moderate.¹

Strategically, the precinct is intended to accommodate agribusiness and related industries (including vertically integrated operations), with the planning rationale emphasising separation from sensitive residential uses, proximity to the Bacchus Marsh Irrigation District, and access to the arterial and freeway network.

The precinct is fragmented in ownership, with no single landowner controlling the study area. This has practical consequences for the future implementation of heritage management outcomes.

1.4 Existing Heritage Framework

As recorded in the 2020 HCHA, the activity area contains a single statutory heritage overlay: the Former Parwan South (Nerowie) State School No. 4175 and Mechanics Institute, which is included in the *Moorabool Planning Scheme* as HO196. The HCHA otherwise states that there are no places included in the Victorian Heritage Register or Victorian Heritage Inventory within the activity area.

A separate check of the Victorian Heritage Inventory undertaken for this addendum indicates that the aforementioned site is also recorded as H7722-0081. On the available information, it is not possible to confirm whether this Heritage Inventory record pre-dates or post-dates the HCHA's preparation.

1.5 Summary History

The Parwan Employment Precinct sits within a broader rural district whose nineteenth century development is tied to pastoral expansion, later agricultural intensification, and successive waves of subdivision and infrastructure that progressively 'worked' the landscape into a patchwork of farms, a limited number of community sites, and some mid-to-late twentieth century industry. The following overview draws on the historical context compiled for the HCHA.

- **Squatting runs (1840s-60s).** By the mid nineteenth century the Parish of Parwan was largely encompassed by two major squatting runs, Glenmore and Exford. Glenmore was operated from 1840 by James Moore and Charles James Griffith, later involving Molesworth Richard Greene. Exford, acquired by Simon Staughton in 1842, extended across the western edge of the parish and remained a substantial landholding into the later nineteenth century.
- **Agricultural development and local networks (mid nineteenth century onwards).** Across the wider Bacchus Marsh district, grazing and wheat production were prominent in the mid nineteenth century, with cultivation

¹ Tract, Parwan Employment Precinct: Landscape and Visual Character Assessment, VPA, 27 September 2023, passim

concentrated on river flats. Dairying later emerged as a dominant land use from the 1870s through to the 1960s. Transport and service networks developed in parallel, supporting movement between Melbourne, Bacchus Marsh, and the Ballarat goldfields, and local governance structures also formed during the nineteenth century.

- **Subdivision and 'closer settlement' patterns (early twentieth century).** The HCHA identifies the *Closer Settlement Act 1904* (VIC) as an important driver of local change, noting that subdivisional sales of larger estates (particularly between 1909 and the 1920s) facilitated smaller holdings and new homestead development across the Parwan area. This intensification is linked to the growth of local services, including a community-funded Parwan South State School (HO196, H7722-0081).
- **Twentieth century extraction, aviation, and emerging industry (1920s onwards).** The HCHA notes the emergence of brown coal mining in the wider district, including expansion after the Second World War and associated impacts such as lowering of the water table and pressure on farmers to sell land. It also records the establishment of the Bacchus Marsh airfield in 1943 as a wartime 'dispersal aerodrome', with subsequent post-war civil aviation training and ongoing use by aero clubs and gliding. In addition, the contemporary precinct context includes a small number of larger 'special use' and rural-industrial/agri-business activities, including (for example) a meat processing facility and utility infrastructure such as the recycled water plant on the eastern edge, signalling a limited but visible shift from purely agricultural land use toward mixed rural production and service/industrial functions.



Figure 1. Parwan Post Office, operated 1901-87, location unresearched, building no longer extant.
(Source: National Archives of Australia, B5919)

2 ASSESSMENT OF OUTSTANDING PLACES

2.1 Introduction

The core task of this addendum is to complete the outstanding survey and assessment of a subset of places identified in the HCHA for which no site inspection could be undertaken at the time, due to access constraints and/or uncertainty regarding precise locations. The purpose of the addendum review of the HCHA, additional research, and non-invasive field inspection was to verify location (noting that no property addresses were provided in the HCHA), inspect each place in the field, undertake a targeted literature review and additional research as necessary, and reach a conclusive determination on whether each place warrants the application of a Heritage Overlay and/or consideration for inclusion in the Victorian Heritage Inventory as an archaeological site of more than low historical archaeological value, or whether neither pathway is justified.

The places identified in DTP's RFQ brief (as extracted from the HCHA) and addressed by this section are:

- Alexander's Farm Dwelling
- George Running Homestead
- M. Delahey Stone Fence Boundary
- M. Daley stone fence boundary and potentially other drystone walls [noting this was confirmed with DTP as a duplication to the M. Delahey-related fencing item above, and, as such, not separately examined]
- J. Connell House
- McLennan Dwelling
- Mahoney Family Homestead
- Bluestone Quarry

The findings are set out below, with a discrete subheading for each place. Each place entry records inspection access and viewing conditions, provides a brief assessment and discussion, and sets out recommended next steps appropriate to the precinct planning.

2.2 Alexander Farm Dwelling (4104 and 4144 Geelong-Bacchus Marsh Road, Parwan)

As set out in the HCHA, 'Alexander's Farm' was an early-selection pastoral and agricultural holding within the Parish of Parwan, associated with the first generation of closer rural occupation in the 1860s and 1870s. W. Alexander selected Crown Allotment H1 (Section 9) and Peter Alexander selected the adjoining Crown Allotment H2 (Section 9), each of 164 acres. By 1866, the selection was fenced. When Alexander's Farm was offered for sale in 1876, it was described as a cleared 164-acre farm with 'a comfortable dwelling and yards'.

Crown Allotments H1 and H2 equate with 4104 and 4144 Geelong-Bacchus Marsh Road, Parwan.

No. 4104 is a large, broadly rectangular rural holding laid out as a series of long, narrow paddocks running north-south, with evenly spaced remnant trees or shelter plantings creating a strong 'strip' pattern across the site. Access is from Geelong-Bacchus Marsh Road along the western edge, with a small cluster of modern buildings and yard infrastructure near the frontage and a farm track running broadly east-west through the middle of the property. The balance of the land is open grazing or cropped pasture, with limited built form away from the road frontage.

No. 4144 is a smaller holding that accommodates a late twentieth century brick residence, associated outbuildings, and windbreak plantings. All fencing was contemporary.

Site access to 4104 Geelong-Bacchus Marsh Road was requested and permitted.

Given the scale of the holding (in excess of 130 acres), a review of the *Military Survey of Australia: Ballan* mapping (1917), together with historic aerial imagery dated 1931, was undertaken to test whether any built footprints were recorded in the early twentieth century. This exercise identified two to three small structures either side of the existing driveway alignment of

no. 4104. The relationship of these structures to the Alexander Farm and its dwelling is uncertain. The remainder of Crown Allotments H1 and H2 appears unbuilt in these sources.²

The site inspection confirmed that no built forms in these mapped locations are extant.

Assessment: from a historic archaeological perspective, the potential for surviving archaeological remains associated with the mapped early twentieth century structures is assessed as low. The Geelong-Bacchus Marsh Road frontage and the area around the driveway corridor show evidence of substantial and repeated ground disturbance consistent with long-term agricultural land forming and soil movement, together with road and accessway formation and ongoing farm operations. These processes typically truncate or redeposit shallow archaeological deposits, disperse artefact scatters, and remove structural evidence such as brick footings, post-holes, and compacted occupation surfaces.

In the absence of extant fabric, visible surface material, or a demonstrated association between the mapped minor structures and a historically significant phase of occupation, any residual archaeological deposits (if present) are unlikely to retain sufficient integrity or context to yield meaningful information about nineteenth century settlement patterns or farm operation beyond what is already available through documentary sources. On this basis, the likelihood that the area contains an archaeological site of more than low historical archaeological value is considered low.

Recommendation: on the basis of the documentary review and field inspection, no further heritage controls or archaeological actions are recommended for 4104 and 4144 Geelong-Bacchus Marsh Road in relation to 'Alexander's Farm', beyond the application of a standard unexpected finds protocol during any future ground disturbance.



Figure 2. Area on the south side of the existing garage/yard of 4104 Geelong-Bacchus Marsh Road where historic mapping and aerial imagery indicate former small structures. No extant building fabric or readily identifiable surface evidence was observed at the time of inspection. The ground surface shows substantial soil disturbance consistent with earthmoving and ongoing farm operations. (Source: Touring the Past, 4 February 2026)

² Commonwealth Section, Imperial General Staff, *Military Survey of Australia: Ballan, Meredith & Melbourne (Victoria)*, 1917, State Library of Victoria, available [online](#); and Geoscience Australia, *Military Mapping Photography*, MAP2061 and MAP2062, 3 November 1931, available [online](#)

2.3 George Running Homestead (2538 Bacchus Marsh-Balliang Road and 384 Glenmore Road, Rowsley)

In the HCHA, the George Running Homestead is described as a modest late nineteenth century farm holding linked to George Running, who acquired freehold title to Lots 1 and 2, Section 4, Parish of Parwan in 1871. The HCHA records documentary evidence of early improvement works in 1874, when Running invited tenders to clear and stack dead wood on the property. When the property was offered for sale in 1876, it was described as including a cottage and stock yards, indicating a functional farmstead rather than a substantial 'homestead' complex.

The historic holding aligns with 2538 Bacchus Marsh-Balliang Road and 384 Glenmore Road, Rowsley. The land to the south of Parwan Creek comprises a largely open, gently undulating paddock landscape with very limited built form. Parwan Creek forms a sinuous, treed riparian corridor along the northern edge, which is the dominant landscape feature and a visual boundary between the creek flats and the wider plains.

Across the remainder of the properties, vegetation is sparse and scattered, with one or two more pronounced clusters of trees and scrub that read as shelter plantings or remnant vegetation. Two separated mid-to-late twentieth century dwellings, a small farm dam, and track/road infrastructure are located toward the western edge near the Bacchus Marsh-Balliang Road interface (no. 2538). There are no extant built structures at 384 Glenmore Road, and the balance of the land at both properties is cleared grazing and/or cropping paddocks or agricultural fields.

No site access agreement was in place for 2538 Bacchus Marsh-Balliang Road. The owner of 384 Glenmore Road was not contacted on the basis that the property contains no extant built structures and that no specific built footprint for the George Running cottage is indicated in the historic sources reviewed. Readily available sightlines across both properties were available from adjoining public roads.

Neither the *Military Survey of Australia: Ballan* mapping (1917) indicates the presence of a built footprint at this holding. A dwelling is visible in 1931 aerial imagery near the existing northernmost driveway off Bacchus Marsh-Balliang Road; however, this building has since been removed and, as an interwar development, is not demonstrated to relate to the George Running farmstead.³

Assessment: the potential for an archaeological site of more than low historical archaeological value associated with the George Running Homestead is assessed as low. These properties have been subject to longstanding agricultural use and land management, with associated ground disturbance from cultivation, grazing, fencing, and track formation. No extant nineteenth century fabric was observed from accessible vantage points, and the historic sources reviewed do not identify a reliable, fixed location for a late Victorian period dwelling within the existing cadastral parcels. In the absence of a demonstrated site locus with reasonable integrity, any residual sub-surface deposits (if present) are unlikely to retain the contextual integrity required to yield information beyond what is already available in documentary form.

Recommendation: accordingly, no specific heritage or archaeological listing measures are recommended, beyond the application of a standard unexpected finds protocol during future ground disturbance.

2.4 M. Delahey Stone Fence Boundary (65 Parwan South Road, Parwan)

The HCHA records that M. Delahey had obtained Crown Allotments 15, 29, 30 and 31 in Section 9, Parish of Parwan by at least 1866. At that time it was reported that Delahey had some 50 acres 'under cultivation' and that, 'the ground being stoney, is erecting a stone fence'.⁴ The HCHA suggests this may have been drystone construction, although the historic description could also encompass other forms of stone fencing and/or stone-based boundary treatment.

Delahey's historic holding is understood to equate with 65 Parwan South Road, Parwan. Site access was requested and granted.

³ *Military Survey of Australia: Ballan, Meredith & Melbourne (Victoria)*, 1917, available [online](#); and Geoscience Australia, *Military Mapping Photography*, MAP2060, 3 November 1931, available [online](#)

⁴ 'The Working of the Land Act', *The Age*, 23 August 1866, p5 [referenced in the HCHA and reviewed by the addendum]

Assessment: the property comprises a post-Second World War cream brick veneer residence fronting Parwan South Road with associated shelterbelt plantings, with the remainder of the land comprising open paddock with occasional scattered trees. Existing fencing is limited to boundary treatment and comprises modern post-and-wire construction, with some remnant timber posts. No evidence of stone fencing (drystone, rubble lines, stockpiles, or otherwise) was observed during the inspection within the inspected areas, nor was any such fabric described by the landowner-when queried.

Immediately north of Delahey's former selection (now 239 Parwan-Exford Road, Parwan; historically Crown Allotment 14, Section 9, identified in the HCHA as the Egan Farm), a low stone alignment is present for approximately 300 metres along Parwan South Road. The feature comprises naturally occurring basalt boulders that appear to have been gathered from the adjoining paddock and placed as a low, discontinuous 'dump' or marker line at the fence edge. It presents as agricultural clearance rather than a purpose-built drystone wall: there is no consistent batter, coursing, facing stones, through-stones, returns, or other construction logic that would indicate a designed fence structure. The stones are irregular in size and spacing, sit at ground level, and in places are clustered rather than continuously aligned, which is consistent with field-stone removal and edge-piling undertaken to facilitate cultivation and grazing.

On this basis, the feature cannot be reliably attributed to Delahey's reported 'stone fence' (as distinct from general stone clearance) without stronger documentary or physical evidence. Even if the alignment originated as late nineteenth century clearance activity, this is a common and low-specificity farm practice across stony volcanic country in Victoria and, in its current form, does not demonstrate the distinctiveness, integrity, or legibility that would support Heritage Overlay application.

From a historic archaeological perspective, the feature is also unlikely to constitute an archaeological 'site' of more than low historical archaeological value. It is an above-ground clearance deposit with limited stratigraphic potential, minimal artefactual association, and low capacity to yield information beyond demonstrating that the adjacent paddock was stony and was cleared for farming.

Recommendation: accordingly, the stone piles/low marker line are assessed as having no meaningful heritage or archaeological listing potential. No management measures are recommended beyond the application of a standard unexpected finds protocol during any future ground disturbance in the vicinity.



Figure 3. Low stone alignment of naturally occurring basalt boulders along the east side of Parwan South Road, facing north, adjacent to 239 Parwan-Exford Road, Parwan.



Figure 4. Detail of the low stone alignment along the east side of Parwan South Road, adjacent to 239 Parwan-Exford Road, Parwan, showing irregular basalt boulders placed at the fence line.

2.5 J. Connell House (3949 Geelong-Bacchus Marsh Road, Parwan)

The HCHA records that J. Connell selected Crown Allotments 4, 5, and 6 of Section 8 (approximately 301 acres) in the Parish of Parwan and obtained freehold in 1874. It further notes that Connell had earlier purchased land to the north on the opposite side of Parwan Creek (outside the study area) in the 1850s, where his primary residence was located. The HCHA also notes that the 1917 Military Survey mapping depicts a building close to the Geelong-Bacchus Marsh Road alignment, now within the property at 3949 Geelong-Bacchus Marsh Road, Parwan. No other built elements were recorded elsewhere across Connell's allotments.

A review of contemporary aerial photography indicates that the subject property was cleared of its structures by August 2025. Site access to no. 3949 was requested and granted. The location of the former built footprint indicated by the 1917 mapping was inspected and showed complete demolition, with no above-ground fabric, and an area of disturbed and compacted ground consistent with recent removal and site levelling.

Assessment: the potential for an archaeological site of more than low historical archaeological value is assessed as limited. The former building area has been comprehensively disturbed by relatively recent demolition and associated ground works. In the absence of extant surface evidence, and given the likelihood that demolition and subsequent levelling have truncated and reworked near-surface deposits, any residual sub-surface material (if present) is unlikely to retain sufficient context to yield informative evidence beyond what is already available through documentary sources about the study area.

Recommendation: having regard to the above, no heritage listing or archaeological listing measures are recommended for 3949 Geelong-Bacchus Marsh Road in relation to the J. Connell House, beyond the application of a standard unexpected finds protocol during any future ground disturbance.



Figure 5. Detail of View of the former building area south of the existing driveway at 3949 Geelong-Bacchus Marsh Road, Parwan, facing west. No extant structures or surface evidence associated with the 1917 mapped historic footprint were observed. (Source: Touring the Past, 4 February 2026)

2.6 McLennan Dwelling (73 Cummings Road, Maddingley and 4265 Geelong-Bacchus Marsh Road, Parwan)

The HCHA records that A. McLennan acquired, inter alia, a Section 42 occupation licence over Crown Allotment 19 and freehold title to the adjacent Allotment 22 (both Section 9, Parish of Parwan) in the early 1870s. Soon after, in 1872, mortgagees forced a sale and the two allotments were combined and offered for sale with a dwelling and associated farm improvements noted.

This portion of the McLennan's Parwan's holding aligns with 73 Cummings Road, Maddingley and 4265 Geelong-Bacchus Marsh Road, Parwan.

The HCHA notes that the 1917 Military Survey mapping depicts a built footprint only for the former brick Parwan State School (1868-1930), located within the interface zone between the fence line of 73 Cummings Road and School Lane, within the road reserve/verge. No other built structures are shown on the 1917 mapping within the subject land. The 1931 aerial imagery (Figure 6) similarly depicts the school building with associated plantings arranged in a square formation (consistent with a playground setting), and does not indicate any other structures across the broader holding. The school was later removed.

No site access agreement was in place for 73 Cummings Road. Access was requested for 4265 Geelong-Bacchus Marsh Road but was denied.

Given the absence of any dwelling footprint other than the schoolhouse in the early twentieth century mapping and aerial sources reviewed, it is likely that the McLennan dwelling had been removed prior to 1917.⁵

Assessment: the former schoolhouse location was inspected from publicly accessible land. The area presents as heavily disturbed and compacted, with visible evidence of ground reworking consistent with road reserve formation and ongoing

⁵ *Military Survey of Australia: Ballan, Meredith & Melbourne (Victoria)*, 1917, available [online](#); and Geoscience Australia, *Military Mapping Photography*, MAP2062, 3 November 1931, available [online](#)

maintenance, together with extensive erosion and soil movement. While mature eucalypts and a dense belt of prickly pear/cactus growth nearby may relate to the former school setting, these landscape elements, in isolation, do not warrant Heritage Overlay application. They also do not support consideration for inclusion in the Victorian Heritage Inventory, which is concerned with historical archaeological sites defined by physical remains, features, deposits, or artefact assemblages (generally sub-surface or structural) that have the potential to yield informative evidence about past activity. Isolated vegetation or plantings, without an associated archaeological locus of integrity, are not typically treated as an archaeological 'site' for inventory purposes.

Recommendations: no further heritage or archaeological actions are recommended beyond the application of a standard unexpected finds protocol during any future ground disturbance in the vicinity.



Figure 6. Extract from aerial photography dated 1931 showing the former Parwan State School (brick school and teacher's residence) and associated arranged plantings in the north-west corner of McLennan's Crown Allotment 19 (arrowed). (Source: Geoscience Australia, *Military Mapping Photography*, MAP2062, 3 November 1931)



Figure 7. Northwest corner of 73 Cummings Road and adjacent road reserve, facing southwest from School Lane. (Source: Touring the Past, 4 February 2026)

2.7 Mahoney Family Homestead (149 Daisybank Lane, Rowsley)

The HCHA records that J. Mahoney had acquired Crown Allotment 4B, Section 4, Parish of Parwan under an occupation licence by 1866 (later freehold), with other members of the Mahoney family also obtaining land to the south around the same period (Crown Allotments 3A and 3B). The holding is described as having been run collectively by the Mahoney family and known as 'Hut in Ruins'. The HCHA identifies that a residence was constructed back from Parwan Creek on Crown Allotment 4B and is depicted on the 1917 Military Survey mapping at a location now within 149 Daisybank Lane, Rowsley.

A modest building footprint with associated outbuildings and surrounding tree groups is visible at this location in 1931 aerial imagery reviewed for this addendum. The site of this small-scale ensemble has subsequently been redeveloped and is now occupied by a medium-sized farm dam, with associated excavation and regrading evident.

No other built elements are depicted in the 1917 Military Survey mapping or the 1931 aerial photography within the other Mahoney holdings.

No access agreement was in place for 149 Daisybank Lane and the former residence location is not visible from the public domain.

Assessment: on the available evidence, the potential for surviving historical archaeological remains of more than low value associated with the former Mahoney homestead is assessed as limited. The construction of the dam would have required intensive excavation, soil removal, and reworking of ground surfaces across the former building area, which is likely to have removed or truncated any shallow archaeological deposits associated with the dwelling and its immediate yard area. Even if small pockets of deposits survived beyond the dam excavation footprint, contemporary aerial imagery indicates ongoing agricultural use and ground disturbance across the surrounding paddocks, further reducing the likelihood that any residual material would retain integrity and context.

In the absence of an extant structure, a definable site locus, or observable surface material, there is no reasonable basis to recommend Heritage Overlay application. For the same reasons, there is no basis to recommend consideration for Victorian Heritage Inventory inclusion as an archaeological site.

Recommendations: as such, no heritage or archaeological actions are recommended for this place beyond the application of a standard unexpected finds protocol during any future ground disturbance in the vicinity of the dam.

2.8 Former Bluestone Quarry (4265 Geelong-Bacchus Marsh Road, Parwan)

The HCHA notes that 'some bluestone quarrying' occurred on Crown Allotment 19, Section 9 (McLennan's grant, see Section 2.5 of this document). This comment is based on a set of 'recollections' about the Bacchus Marsh district written in the late 1920s under the nom-de-plume 'Pyrette'. One anecdote relates to the construction of St Bernard's Catholic Church, 63 Lerderberg Street, Bacchus Marsh (HO92), in the early 1870s, recalling:

While viewing this building, I could not miss contrasting the foundation with the majority of the buildings of those days. Those big blue stones were all cut out by Steve Whelan, from a gully in Sandy McLennan's paddock at Parwan, just south from the Parwan School.⁶

On the basis of the area described, this former quarry would be situated within the southern or central part of sizable property at 4265 Geelong-Bacchus Marsh Road, Parwan. A site access agreement is in place for this property; nevertheless, access was not permitted by the landowner when contacted.

During fieldwork undertaken from the property boundary, evidence of historic bluestone extraction was observed approximately 130 metres south of the fence line from School Lane. The feature location is recorded at approximately—37.7061781, 144.4509334 (latitude/longitude in decimal degrees; WGS84), screen-picked from Google Maps imagery. These coordinates are indicative only and are not survey-verified. Refer to Figure 8 for mapping.

It is likely that this quarry is the late nineteenth-century extraction site noted by 'Pyrette'.

⁶ 'Pyrette', 'Some Recollections, no. 3', *Melton Express*, 29 January 1927, p4

No other documentary references to quarrying at this location have been located, making it difficult to establish the quarry's longevity or frequency of use.

It is most plausibly interpreted as small-scale, opportunistic quarrying of the early 1870s, taking advantage of readily accessible basalt to supply foundation stone for a substantial ecclesiastical building within the wider Bacchus Marsh district.

Figures 9 and 10 depict the quarry and its setting, viewed from School Lane.

The setting is an open pastoral landscape organised by geology and erosion as well as by agricultural use. Broad convex ridgelines fall into shallow sweeping valleys and incised gullies, forming a repeating rhythm of spurs and drainage lines that are prominent, even at a distance. Thin, often stony soils occur on the higher shoulders and exposed rises, with deeper, more moisture-retentive ground accumulating in the lower folds. Vegetation reinforces this structure: remnant eucalypts persist along ridgelines and upper margins, while gullies and drainage lines present as darker, greener seams where water and regrowth collect.

Within this context, the observed feature presents as a small-scale bluestone extraction scar at the head of an incised gully, expressed as a shallow amphitheatre-like recess with exposed basalt faces and a rubble-strewn floor. The quarry edge is defined by low, broken rock 'walls' and ledges where basalt has been removed along natural joints, leaving irregular vertical and near-vertical faces of varying height (generally around one to two metres). Short returns suggest working from a limited number of points rather than a long, continuous face. The exposed stone shows blocky fracture consistent with splitting along joint planes rather than extensive drilling and blasting, and there is no evidence of mechanised benching or later industrial-scale extraction—albeit this comment is made from a remote observation point.

Loose quarried material and fall debris (angular bluestone blocks and smaller spalls) are scattered downslope and across the gully floor immediately below the faces, forming a low talus that merges into the natural drainage line.

No associated built infrastructure was observed from accessible vantage points (for example, a cut access track, loading ramp, winch post, tool platform, or formal stockpile), supporting an interpretation of limited extraction for local use rather than a sustained commercial quarrying operation.



Figure 8. Contemporary aerial image of 4265 Geelong-Bacchus Marsh Road, Parwan (approximately dashed) with the location of the former quarry circled. North is top of page. (Source: Metromap, January 2026)



Figure 9. Panoramic view toward the centre of 4265 Geelong–Bacchus Marsh Road, Parwan, from School Lane, facing south, with the location of the quarry scar indicated. (Source: Touring the Past, 4 February 2026)



Figure 10. Closer view of the bluestone quarry scar at the head of an incised gully within 4265 Geelong–Bacchus Marsh Road, Parwan, viewed from School Lane. The feature is expressed as an irregular recess with exposed basalt faces and ledges (approximately one to two metres high) and a scatter of quarried stone and fall debris across the gully floor below. (Source: Touring the Past, 4 February 2026)

Assessment: in the view of this addendum, on the basis of the current evidence, the bluestone quarry on Crown Allotment 19 is locally interesting and physically legible, but it does not demonstrate the multi-strand significance of other quarry-related places in Moorabool currently protected by a Heritage Overlay, including Werribee Gorge Quarry (HO199), Bald Hill Quarry (HO200), and the Goodmans Creek gold sites and Darley Quarry (HO136). Those places have more robust and demonstrable connections to consequential local and state themes, major public works, and/or include additional fabric that carries interpretive weight (for example, tramway formations, mining huts, water channel remnants, and related infrastructure). By comparison, the subject quarry presents as a small extraction scar with exposed basalt faces and downslope rubble. This evaluation is necessarily tempered by the fact that the feature was viewed remotely.

In its favour from a heritage perspective, the quarry has a plausible association with a landmark Bacchus Marsh ecclesiastical building, linking it to an important construction episode in the municipality. Its smaller scale and (at best) intermittent use also illustrates how foundation stone was sourced before improved transport and industrial quarrying normalised supply in what was then a rural district. Having said that, in the author's experience, small basalt 'gully quarries' and opportunistic extraction scars are common across volcanic landscapes in the broader region.

On the available evidence, the subject quarry does not presently demonstrate rarity, integrity, or a documented association strong enough to elevate it above that common place type.

In the absence of additional corroborating records or evidence demonstrating that quarrying at this location was more sustained than a one-off or short-lived activity, and without access to confirm tool marks, identify working floors, and assess whether any associated elements survive, the evidentiary base remains thin. Combined with its significance profile being below that of Bald Hill, Goodmans Creek, or Werribee Gorge, the most defensible position is that the application of a Heritage Overlay is not recommended.

It is recognised that a quarry can constitute an archaeological site, particularly in an industrial archaeology context where the 'artefact' is the worked landscape (extraction faces, working floors, spoil/talus, trackways, loading areas, and sometimes associated camps or tool scatters). The more difficult question in this case is whether the quarry is likely to meet the threshold for an archaeological site of more than low historical archaeological value. As access was denied and observations were necessarily remote, it has not been possible to demonstrate whether diagnostic working traces (for example, drill marks, wedge scars, or defined working platforms) or associated deposits are present that would support confident interpretation of date, method, or work/labour practices.

If the quarry were to be impacted imminently, the appropriate test is: what new knowledge could be gained through archaeological recording or investigation that could not be obtained through documentary sources and general history? On the current evidence, the likely answer is limited, given the quarry's apparent limited scale, lack of demonstrated associated deposits, and a lightly evidenced narrative of use.

Recommended management response: in light of the above, the more proportionate and implementable approach is to treat the feature as a mapped constraint or sensitivity within the PSP (an indicative historic bluestone quarry), with a moderate buffer (20 metres). Escalation to a Victorian Heritage Inventory pathway is only recommended if future works would directly impact the quarry, at which point landowner access should be secured to enable an archaeological survey-level assessment to confirm extent, integrity, diagnostic traces, and statutory implications (if any). A standard 'unexpected finds' and 'stop work and assess' protocol should also apply to any ground disturbance in the immediate area.

2.9 Recommendation Summary

In summary, this addendum finds that, for the seven previously unexamined places identified in the HCHA, the majority do not meet the threshold for inclusion in the Moorabool Heritage Overlay and do not warrant consideration as archaeological sites of more than low historical archaeological value. Accordingly, beyond the application of a standard unexpected finds protocol, no further heritage or archaeological management actions are recommended.

The exception is the former bluestone quarry identified on 4265 Geelong-Bacchus Marsh Road, Parwan. While the site was only viewed remotely from accessible public vantage points and could not be inspected in detail, there is sufficient potential archaeological interest to justify a precautionary management response. It is therefore recommended that the quarry be mapped within the PSP as an indicative constraint or sensitivity area with a small buffer. If future works would directly impact the feature, the Applicant should commission a targeted archaeological survey-level assessment to confirm extent, integrity, and research potential, and to determine whether the quarry warrants treatment as an archaeological site of more than low historical archaeological value.

3 ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 Introductions

As part of preparing this addendum, the 2020 HCHA was reviewed in detail alongside the field inspection findings. Given the time elapsed since the HCHA was prepared, a broad 'sense check' of the HCHA's treatment of other historical places and potential historic archaeological sensitivities within the study area was also undertaken.

In most respects, this addendum concurs with the HCHA's overall conclusions and management approach. Nonetheless, in a small number of cases this addendum reaches a different view on significance and/or recommended management. In addition, two further historical elements observed during fieldwork are noted as warranting specific attention in the precinct planning context. These matters, and the associated recommendations, are set out below.

3.2 Montrose and Nissen Hut (429 Parwan South Road, Parwan)

The HCHA identifies a late Federation-era hipped-roof brick homestead, constructed for George Sutherland (a prosperous and locally involved farmer), located within the Parwan MX Track landholding at 429 Parwan South Road, Parwan. The dwelling, known as 'Montrose', appears to adopt a Victorian Survival design idiom. A relocated Second World War Nissen hut, of distinctive cylindrical form, is located to the north of the house.

Montrose is set well back from Parwan South Road and its principal façade address the interior of the site. As a result, key character-defining elements are largely screened from public viewpoints. The Nissen Hut is not practically visible from the fence line. No site access agreement was in place with the landowners for the purposes of the HCHA or addendum, and a full assessment of the dwelling and Nissen hut's intactness, integrity, and setting has not been possible.

Notwithstanding the limited access, the HCHA concluded that the place does not meet threshold requirements for application of a heritage overlay. This addendum considers that conclusion to be contestable on the current evidence base.

While Montrose does not, on the available information, appear to be an architecturally distinguished example of its type, a relatively modest late Federation-era homestead may nonetheless warrant recognition if it retains a reasonable degree of intactness and integrity and if its historical associations and illustrative value amplify its capacity to contribute to an understanding of the locality. This includes associations with Sutherland and the ability to demonstrate Parwan-based early twentieth century smaller holdings/agricultural themes. It is also noted that other surviving timber and brick homesteads within the study area (which comprises a substantial portion of the Parwan locality) have not been found to meet heritage threshold. In that context, the potential further attrition of this homestead typology should be avoided, unless a closer inspection demonstrates that integrity and significance are insufficient.

Further, the Nissen hut warrants more careful consideration than has been applied to date. While Nissen huts are a known building type in Victoria, their heritage value can be elevated where they demonstrate a clear Second World War association, retain integrity, and are uncommon in the relevant local government context.

On that basis, the potential individual or combined value of the homestead and the Nissen hut merits closer investigation.

Recommendation: given that the assessment cannot be meaningfully advanced without site access and detailed inspection, a precautionary approach is recommended. The PSP should identify an indicative area of sensitivity around Montrose and the Nissen hut (a nominal 20 metre buffer from the cardinal points of each structure). If future works would directly impact this sensitivity area, the Applicant should commission a targeted heritage significance assessment by suitably qualified heritage professionals to determine whether the place warrants Heritage Overlay application and to inform appropriate management and design responses.



Figure 11. Aerial image of Montrose (blue arrow) and Nissen Hut (red arrow). North is top of image.
(Source: Metromap, January 2026)



Figure 12. Long-range camera zoom view of the rear of 'Montrose' from the Parwan South Road fence line, facing east.
(Source: Touring the Past, 4 February 2026)

3.3 Kerr Farmhouse (229 Smiths Road, Parwan)

The HCHA carries an ambiguous recommendation in relation to the c. 1900 Kerr Farmhouse at 229 Smiths Road, Parwan—refer to Figure 14. On close reading, it is apparent that a Heritage Overlay was not recommended, chiefly due to unsympathetic modifications that have reduced the dwelling's intactness and integrity.

The HCHA also raised the possibility of an optional Section 173 Agreement under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* (VIC) to protect noteworthy internal elements. In practical terms, this mechanism is unlikely to be pursued or accepted in this context.

This addendum inspected the Kerr Farmhouse from within the property (site access granted) and concurs with the HCHA's overall assessment. The building has been materially altered and visually 'disfigured' by successive changes, including the rendering of the original brickwork. On that basis, it is not considered to meet Heritage Overlay threshold.

Recommendation: notwithstanding the above, the Kerr Farmhouse remains one of the earlier surviving homesteads within the study area and retains some historical elements of note. It is recommended that, if substantial alteration/addition or demolition is proposed, an archival photographic recording of the dwelling and its immediate setting be prepared by a suitably qualified heritage professional and lodged with Moorabool Shire Council. This requirement should be embedded as an implementation measure within the PSP.



Figure 13. Kerr Farmhouse, a highly modified Federation period dwelling, showing façade (left) and north (right) elevations. (Source: Touring the Past, 4 February 2026)

3.4 Stepped drain (229 Smiths Road, Parwan)

During the inspection of the Kerr Farmhouse at 229 Smiths Road, Parwan, a stepped stormwater drain was recorded (Figure 13) on the south side of the property drive, close to its intersection with Smiths Road.

The drain comprises a linear, open earthen channel with a series of spaced 'drop' structures (check dams) that step flows down-slope for approximately 187 metres. Each drop is formed by rubble stone masonry sidewalls (irregular fieldstone, likely locally sourced) laid in cement mortar, with cast in situ concrete wing walls and aprons that flare into the surrounding ground. Several elements include concrete capping and a seeded/exposed-aggregate finish to horizontal surfaces. At least one structure incorporates a concrete box-culvert unit with twin rectangular openings. Evidence of later minor interventions and ongoing wear is also apparent, including a modern pipe laid along one edge, cracking, siltation, and localised erosion around aprons.

On fabric alone, the works read as mid-twentieth century and are consistent with mid-twentieth century municipal or civil drainage practice (as opposed to agricultural). It is plausible that the drain relates to the period of intensified infrastructure and land management associated with establishment and operation of the Bacchus Marsh Airfield at Parwan from 1943 (located to the south), noting that drainage and erosion control are typical support works for such facilities. However, the combination of repeated standardised drops, cast concrete wing walls, exposed-aggregate finishes, and the use of a concrete box-culvert unit suggests a post-war construction or upgrade, potentially in the 1950s to 1970s.

Recommendation: if this element can be demonstrated to relate to the wartime establishment of the Bacchus Marsh airfield, it would represent a sizeable piece of infrastructure and would likely be of historical interest, with potential local significance. Confirming that association would require targeted historical investigation into the 1940s formation and servicing of the airfield, which is beyond the scope of this addendum.

In the absence of an imminent threat to the drain, there is no urgency for further work at this time. Notwithstanding, it is recommended that additional research be undertaken at a later stage to determine whether the drain warrants recognition as a potential local heritage item.

On the available evidence, the drain should not be treated as an archaeological site. It is a largely exposed, mid-twentieth century civil drainage work, expressed primarily through standing fabric (concrete and rubble masonry) rather than sub-surface deposits or features that would require archaeological methods to reveal or interpret. Its potential heritage interest, if any, lies in its historical association and engineering function, not in buried archaeological potential.

Accordingly, it may be appropriate to embed a PSP implementation measure requiring this targeted investigation if direct impacts to the exposed drain are proposed. Alternatively, the feature could be flagged within Council's internal asset and heritage information systems to ensure it is considered in future works planning and referral processes.



Figure 14. Aerial imagery with the length of the stepped exposed drain indicated, 229 Smith Road, Parwan. The northern end of the Bacchus Marsh airfield is visible bottom left. Kerr Farmhouse is identified by the arrow. North is top of page. (Source: Metromap, January 2026)



Figure 15. Broad view of the stepped stormwater drain on the south side of the Kerr Farmhouse driveway, near its intersection with Smiths Road, showing the sequence of drop structures stepping down-slope. (Source: Touring the Past, 4 February 2026)



Figure 16. Detail of one of the stepped 'drop' structures within the stormwater drain, showing rubble stone masonry sidewalls with concrete wing walls and apron. (Source: Touring the Past, 4 February 2026)



Figure 17. Close-up of the step 'dropped' structure.
(Source: Touring the Past, 4 February 2026)

3.5 Tree-lined driveways

During fieldwork, tree-lined driveway plantings associated with the early twentieth century homestead layer were noted as striking landscape elements within the study area, particularly at 34 Glenmore Road (Figures 18-19) and 3922 Geelong-Bacchus Marsh Road (Figures 20-21), Parwan.

Recommendation: consideration could be given to embedding the retention and management of these tree-lined drives within the PSP as a landscape interpretation measure, to help express the historic rural patterning of the precinct and to maintain legible cues of the former homestead/agricultural landscape.



Figure 18. Aerial imagery of the tree-lined driveway, approximately indicated, 34 Glenmore Road, Parwan. North is top of page.
(Source: Metromap, January 2026)



Figure 19. View down the tree-lined drive, 34 Glenmore Road, facing south.
(Source: Touring the Past, 4 February 2026)



Figure 20. Aerial imagery of the tree-lined driveway, approximately indicated, 3922 Geelong-Baccus Marsh Road, Parwan. North is top of page. (Source: Metromap, January 2026)



Figure 21. View up the tree-lined drive, 3922 Geelong-Baccus Marsh Road, facing east. (Source: Touring the Past, 4 February 2026)

END OF ADDENDUM