

livestock have caused severe erosion, no artefacts were found on the surface. It is unlikely that there are any cultural deposits along this section of the escarpment.



Figure 7: TH005, showing fine silt conditions north of Somerton Road



Figure 8: TH017, showing rocky basaltic clay conditions on escarpment east of Deep Creek

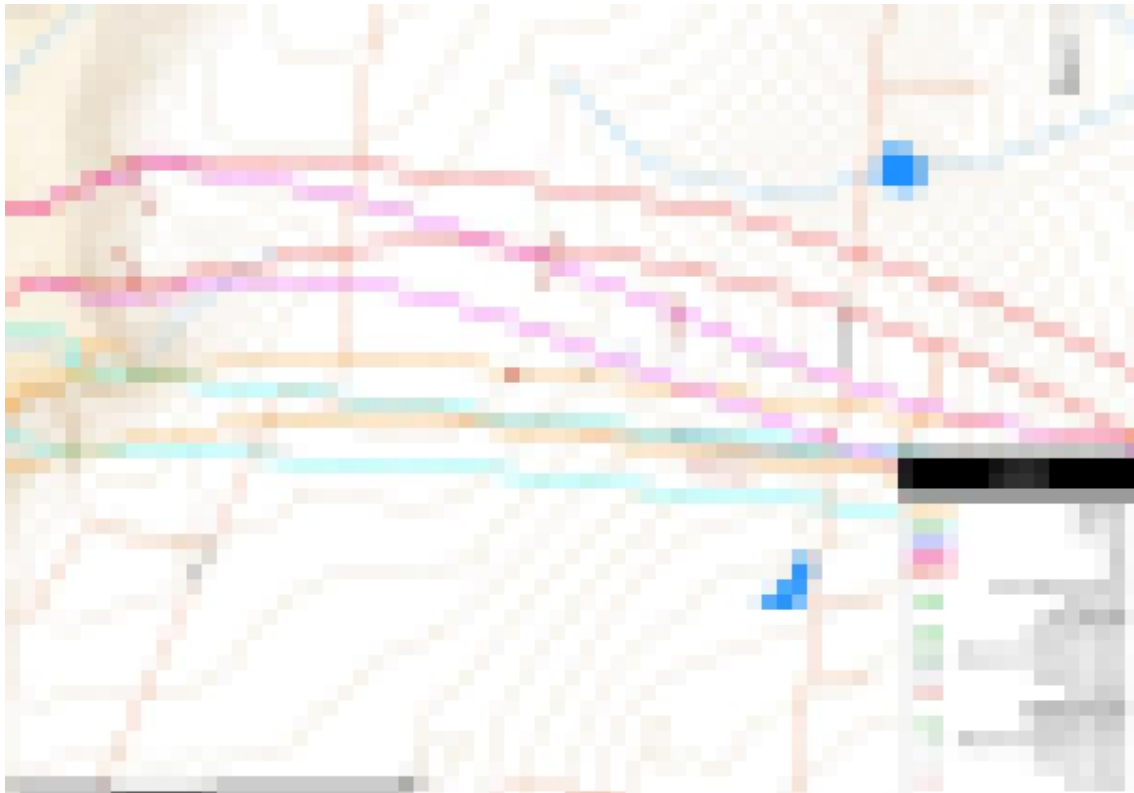


Figure 9: Test excavations between Wildwood Road and Lochton (section 2B)

## 4.2 Section 2D – Lochton

The western side of the gully forms part of the interlocking spur west of Lochton homestead

Though most of the spur has been discounted from the activity area since alignment option BB4 was dropped, alignments BB2 and BB3 intersect with the southern part of the spur,

Lochton 7 was recorded as a single artefact during the survey in 2011, but inspection of a large manna gum tree located a scar along the lower trunk which was determined to be a cultural marking, which was recorded as a scarred tree (Figure 10). An excavation pit (TP03) was positioned on the flat, slightly westward facing top of the terrace. The soil consists of compacted granitic sand and silt with frequent and diverse inclusions and large quantities of mica and iron pyrites, with clay present at 350mm depth (Figure 11). Lithic artefacts were contained within the upper 300mm, including quartz, silcrete and quartzite, as well as pieces of flaked basalt. Four THs in the vicinity of the middle terrace (THs 021-025) include one (TH024) with numerous silcrete artefacts (Figure 30). Another 1m<sup>2</sup> test pit (TP04) was excavated on the south side of the scarred tree, though no artefacts were found.

A large boulder of knapped silcrete was recorded

excavation (TP14) found artefacts contained in granitic soil similar to Lochton 7, at depths of 100-200mm, above coarse granite bedrock (Figure 13). A small number of surface artefacts were recorded but the extent of this site, and whether it relates to Lochton 7, remains to be investigated (Figure 12).





Figure 10: Scarred tree at Lochton 7



Figure 11: TP03 at Lochton 7, west wall



Figure 12: View facing north towards Lochton 7, showing position of TP14



Figure 13: TP14, north wall, in which artefacts are present above the granite base

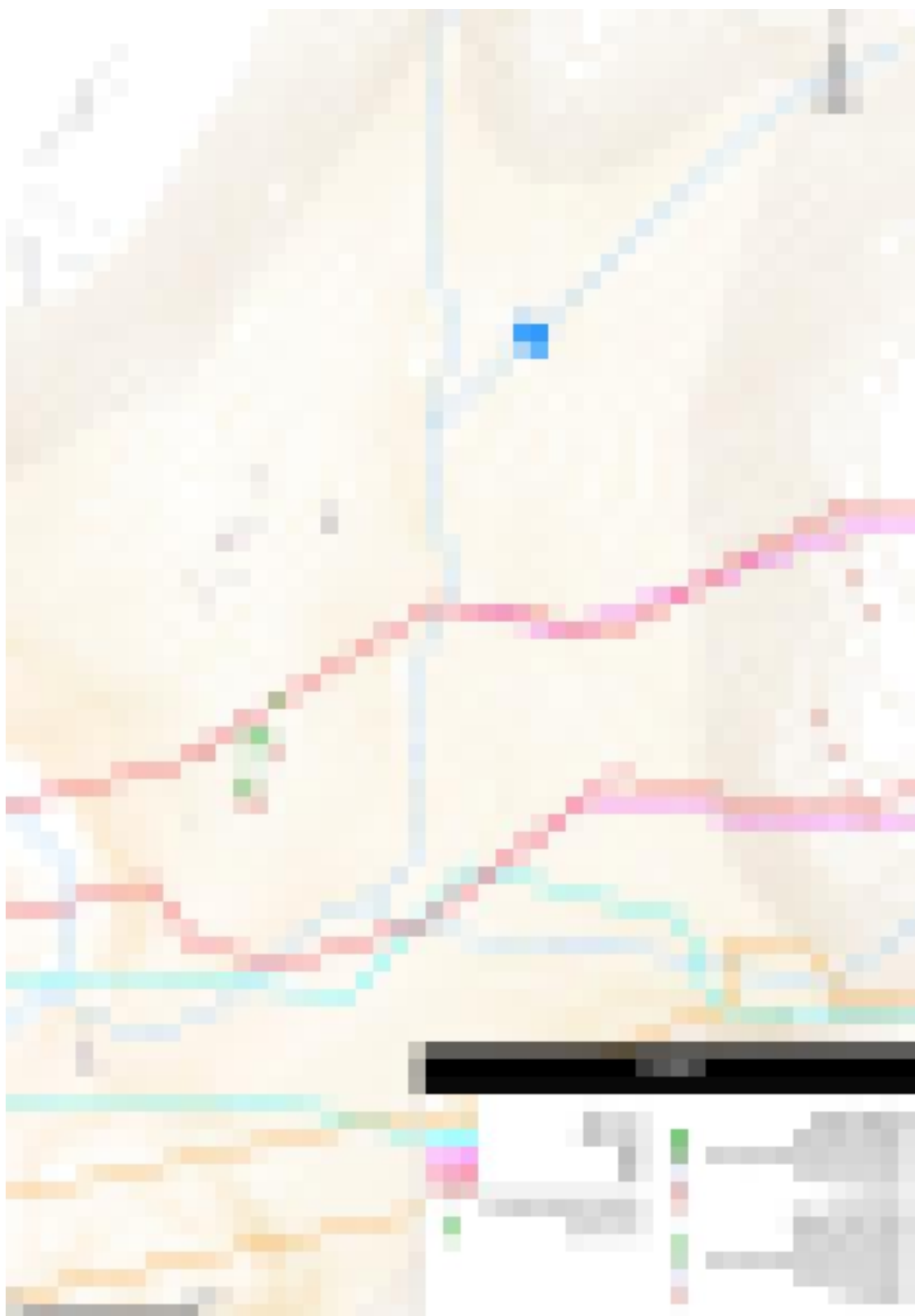


Figure 14: Test excavations around Lochton 7 (section 2D)

### 4.3 Section 2C – Deep Creek East

The ground falls sharply to the south and west of Lochton 7, into the main valley of Deep Creek. Here, the activity area crosses two adjacent terraces that span each side of the



creek, where the stream forms a meander to the east and then to the west. The alignments cross the terraces on both the east/south bank (BB1 North and BB1 South) and the west/north bank (BB1 South, BB2, BB3).

Artefacts were recorded on the surface [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] (VAHR 7822-3278), with a smaller scatter on rocky ground [REDACTED] (VAHR 7822-3279). The strategy for investigating this area was to excavate pits at different positions across the terrace where there was a variety of elevations and ground conditions, especially to find out whether there are buried cultural deposits or only of surface artefacts (Figure 23).

The smaller artefact scatter [REDACTED] (Bulla 2) occupies a granite outcrop [REDACTED]. Excavation of TP09, in the centre of the scatter, found few artefacts below ground, which are all contained within a thin (100mm) layer of loose, dark basaltic topsoil that overlies natural deposits of kaolin/chalk (Figure 16).

To the west of Bulla 2, [REDACTED] there is a break in surface artefacts [REDACTED]. Excavation of eroded ground [REDACTED] found different conditions to those at TP09, [REDACTED]. Here, lithic artefacts are within the top 200mm of reddish brown, clayey silt that contains numerous rounded and angular pebbles (Figure 17). The situation is similar approximately 80m to the southwest, in a pit [REDACTED] (TP08 - Figure 18), and again another 100m further west (TP10), [REDACTED] where the rocky surface is replicated below ground (Figure 20), in which artefacts are present to a shallow depth (Figure 19).

Two pits were excavated [REDACTED] where there are different ground conditions and vegetation. The soil contrasts with the rocky ground [REDACTED] consisting of dark grey, clayey silt which is dry and highly compacted. In the pit further to the east (TP11), lithic artefacts are present from a shallow depth, and continue to below 300mm, though a glass fragment at 250mm shows that this soil has been deposited in recent times (Figure 21). Further to the west (TP13), excavation was very difficult due to the highly compacted soil (Figure 22). Though there are lithic artefacts distributed throughout, this soil has certainly been redeposited in recent times, probably during flooding, which is confirmed by the presence of a glass bead at the base of the pit (500mm depth).

Excavations [REDACTED] clarifies the nature of the artefact scatter [REDACTED]. The discovery of lithic artefacts in every excavated pit confirms that artefacts are not confined to the surface but that they are present below ground [REDACTED]. The context of these deposits is variable, but appears to consist of three main types: thin, loose, basaltic and granitic soil overlying chalk (TP09); red clayey silt in which there are numerous rocks with shallow cultural deposits overlying clay at depths of little more than 200mm (TPs 09, 10 and 12), and deep deposits of compacted silt in which modern items have been mixed with prehistoric material (TPs 11 and 13). All of these contexts have undergone erosion and deposition, but it is suspected that the red clayey silt constitutes an ancient ground surface whereas the darker, compacted soil has been deposited recently. Though there are no deeply stratified or secure contexts, the results show this to have been an expansive area of past habitation, where the variety of stone artefacts (discussed below) suggest varied activities practiced over long time periods.



Figure 15: Terrace on the east side of Deep Creek, facing east (section 2C)



Figure 16: TP09, east wall, showing dark topsoil above natural chalk





Figure 17: TP12, south wall



Figure 18: TP8, south wall





Figure 19: TP10, west wall



Figure 20: TP10, showing rocky ground immediately below the surface