

Montrose Quarry

Heritage Impact Assessment

Prepared for Boral

November 2024 – v1



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1. Introduction

1.1 Project background

Extent Heritage Pty Ltd (Extent Heritage) has been commissioned by Boral, to undertake a Historical Archaeological Assessment and Impact Statement of the Montrose Quarry (hereafter the 'subject area') in advance of the expansion of the site's extraction boundary.

1.2 Study Area

The Montrose Quarry site is located at 56-72 Canterbury Rd, Montrose VIC 3765, within the Yarra Ranges Shire. Located at the perimeter of the industrial area clustered along Canterbury Road, the property is bounded by industrial land to its west, residential to its east and a mixture of green wedge and parkland to its south and south-east. The parcel on which the heritage resources are located is 1/TP247561.

1.3 Proposed development

To meet growing demand for State infrastructure projects, Boral Quarries propose the expansion of the existing quarry pit's boundary towards the south and south-east. This activity will involve, but not be limited to, the following:

- Removal of vegetation, waste rock material and any other structure within the subject area;
- Mechanical removal of topsoil and overburden;
- Extraction of rock by drilling and blasting;
- Removal of extracted rock via dump trucks.

1.4 Previous reports and investigations

The BQ House site H7922-0295 has previously been investigated from a heritage standpoint in 2003 by Lucy Amorosi and in 2023 by Tardis Archaeology Pty Ltd.

In 2003, it was observed that remnant fruit trees and rectangular pits remained as evidence of the site's former use. The remains of the house were described as a "single lined brick foundation of two rooms, rendered with cement." The site was also noted to contain a shed and a "dump of domestic and architectural artefacts."

Tardis Archaeology undertook a site visit on the 12th of August, 2022, where the condition of the site was recorded to be moderate. A large amount of modern material was found to have been dumped within the area of VHI listing H7922-0295. The condition of the house's foundations were observed to be similar to that noted in 2003. Other elements, including the bricks, corrugated iron sheeting and enamel stove had been relocated since 2003. The dressing table mirror described in 2003 could not be located. This investigation involved undertaking test excavation in accordance with that specified in CHMP 18510.

The Historic Dump site H7922-0296 has previously been investigated from a heritage standpoint in 2003 by Lucy Amorosi and in 2009 by Annie Noble.

As recorded in 2003, the historic artefact scatter H7922-0296 was comprised of “bottle glass, ferrous metal, ceramic tableware, terracotta, butchered bones, complete medicine bottles with Bakelite lids, broken grinding stone, stoneware jars and two broken garden forks.” The scatter was measured to cover an area of 10m x 30m. In 2009, a site visit was not conducted therefore an updated description was not provided. A site card was written based upon the 2003 observations.

1.5 Report objectives

As the proposed quarry expansion will require the complete removal of both H7922-0295 and H7922-0296, the preservation of the VHI sites’ heritage value will be through record. This Heritage Impact Assessment seeks to determine and satisfy that;

1. Any deposits that are present are sufficiently understood, and;
2. Any present deposits have been appropriately recorded prior to application lodgement for Consent to Damage.

1.6 Limitations

This report uses historical documentation and previously established significance assessments prepared by third party heritage consultants to describe and assess the heritage significance of land that would be affected by the proposal.

This report does not consider any Aboriginal cultural heritage values of the study area.

1.7 Authorship

This report was prepared Alexandra Eadie (GHA) and Anastasia Klasen (SHA).

It was reviewed by Mike Hincks, Principal Heritage Advisor.

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Montrose Quarry

 Victorian Heritage Inventory

 Boral Activity Area

Drawn by: Kate Chan
 Checked by: Anastasia Klasen
 Date: 6 November 2024
 Projection: GDA 1994 MGA Zone 55
 Data sources: Extent, Nearmap, DEECA
 LGA: Yarra Ranges
 Parish: Mooroolbark



0 100 200 300 400
 Metres

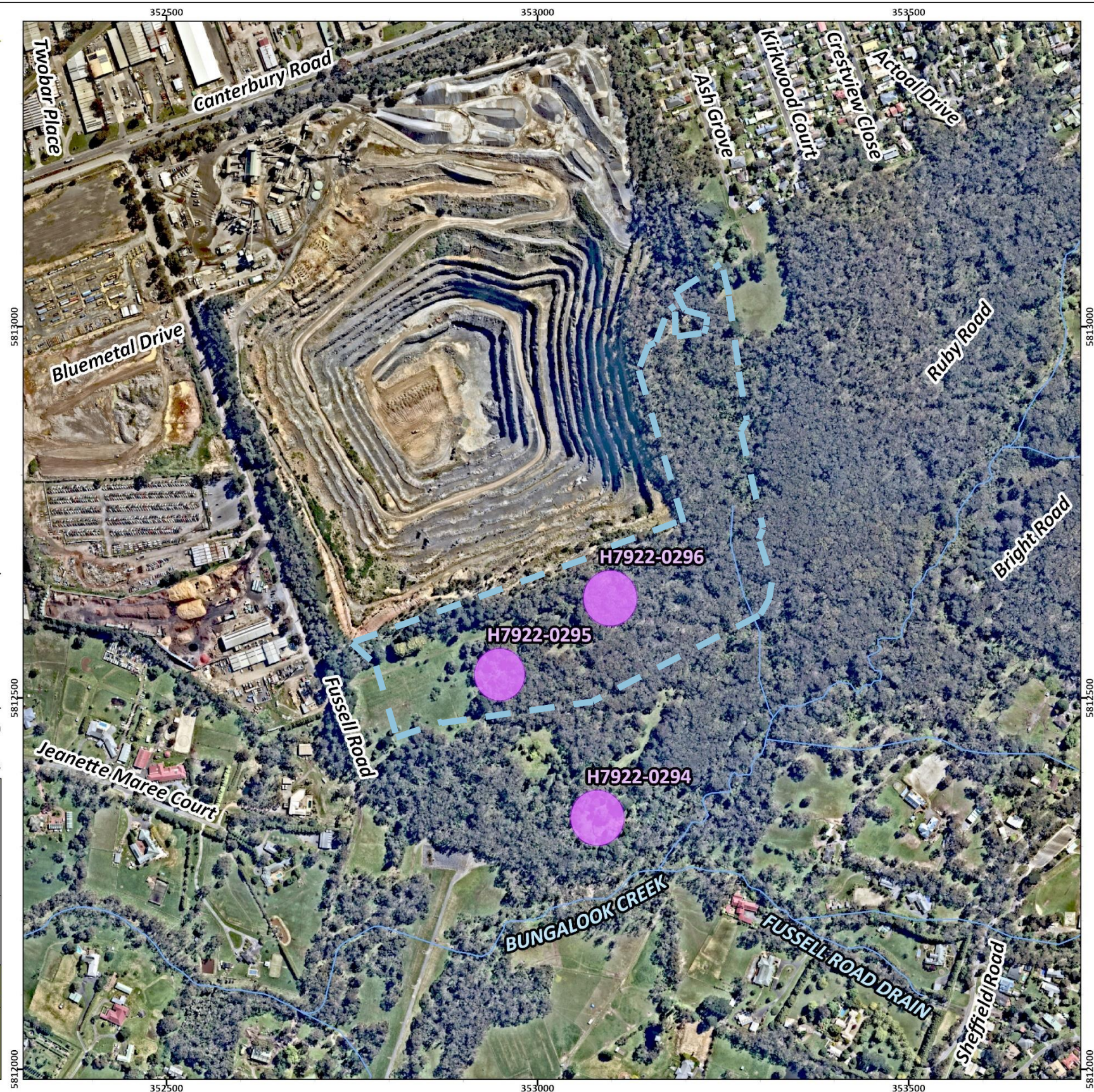
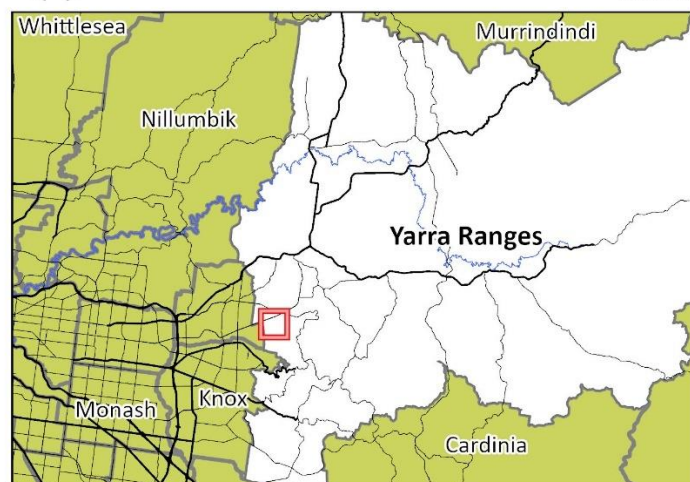


Figure 1. VHI sites in the vicinity of Montrose Quarry. Basemap source: Nearmap.

2. Legislative context and heritage designations

The following section summarises the relevant legislation applicable to historical archaeology in Victoria, and the results of heritage database searches undertaken on 22 November 2024. Heritage listings applicable to the study area and properties in proximity to it are outlined below.

2.1 Heritage Act 2017

All places on the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) and the Victorian Heritage Inventory (VHI) are legally protected under the *Heritage Act 2017*. Penalties apply for actions that may damage a place listed on either list in the absence of a permit (in the case of the VHR) or consent (in the case of the VHI) under the Heritage Act.

The Heritage Act confers blanket protection on all significant heritage material of over 75 years in age, regardless of whether it is included on a statutory list. This is particularly relevant to archaeological material. The VHI, under section 117 of the Heritage Act, lists all known archaeological sites and relics. Penalties apply if actions that may damage a listed place are undertaken without a consent under the Heritage Act. Under the Heritage Act an 'archaeological site' means a place (other than a shipwreck) which:

- a. contains an artefact, deposit or feature which is 75 or more years old;
- b. provides information of past activity in the State;
- c. requires archaeological methods to reveal information about the settlement, development or use of the place; and
- d. is not associated only with Aboriginal occupation of the place

2.1.1 Victorian Heritage Inventory

The study area includes two listings on the Victorian Heritage Inventory (VHI) (see Figure 1):

- House Site 1 (H7922-0295)
- Historic Dump 1 (H7922-0296).

VHI site H7922-0294 is not within the area impacted by the proposed quarry expansion.

If works are proposed that may disturb or destroy historical archaeological sites or places listed on the VHI, Consent to Damage is required in accordance with the Heritage Act. Prior to issuing a Consent to Damage, Heritage Victoria will need to be satisfied that the archaeological resource has been appropriately investigated. This investigation may require separate consents (to uncover or excavate) prior to impact occurring and may have associated conditions such as archaeological excavation.

An application for Consent must be made on the prescribed form and should be supported by accompanying details and plans of the proposed works and any other relevant supporting documentation (such as a consultant's report).

There are fees associated with applying for the consent that vary according to the nature of the proposed activity. Archaeological investigation, monitoring or mitigation works should be undertaken in compliance with Heritage Victoria's Guidelines for Investigating Historical Archaeological Artefacts and Sites (2017).

2.2 Planning and Environment Act 1987

The Victorian Planning and Environment Act 1987 is the legislative basis for all planning schemes in the state. It was created to establish a framework for planning the use, development, and protection of land in Victoria. Protection of heritage through the Planning and Environment Act 1987 is most often enacted through heritage overlays created as part of local council planning schemes.

The study area is not subject to a Heritage Overlay.

2.3 National and Commonwealth Heritage Lists

A search of the relevant databases shows that the study area is not subject to any National or Commonwealth listing that would be a consideration under the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act).

3. Historical context

The subject area has been the subject of a number of heritage reports and studies. This report relies largely on the historical research contained in the past archaeological investigations carried out third party heritage consultants (1.4), as well as detailed analysis of historical plans and aerials. This section of the report provides a summary of the main phases of development and is presented in the history below.

3.1 Site history

The Montrose Quarry and study area are part of the traditional lands of the Wurundjeri people, of the Kulin Nation. The Wurundjeri people have lived in and cared for these lands for tens of thousands of years, maintaining a deep spiritual and cultural connection to the Country.

Phase 1

With the skyrocketing demand for construction material to supply the growing city of Melbourne, opportunistic pioneers pushed inland in the 1840s, drawn to the abundance of timber upon and surrounding the Dandenong Ranges. Before formal mills were established, millers would work itinerantly, milling native timber where it fell (Figure 2) (McLennan 1987, 10). In 1855, Government surveyor Clement Hodgkinson described the area as being 'very barren, scrubby stringybark Ranges' (McLennan 1987, 9).

William Turner was likely the first European to base himself nearby the study area, in the northern and western foothills of the Dandenong Ranges. Having arrived in Victoria in 1837, he swiftly moved inland to establish his run, centred around the Dandenong Creek (McLennan 1987, 10).

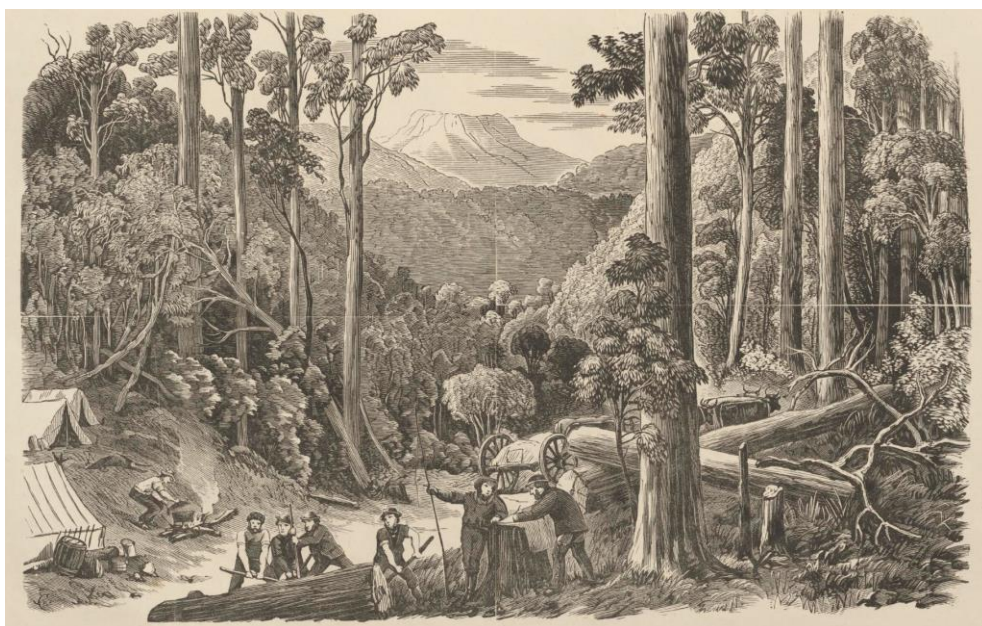


Figure 2. Chevalier, N. c.1873. 'Splitters in the Dandenong Ranges,' Wood engraving: 16.3 x 25.6cm. Source: Trove

Phase 2:

Mooroolbark Parish had been surveyed in 1841, however the Montrose area remained sparsely settled for decades to come. It wasn't until the opportunity to lease Crown Land under the 1869 Lands Act arose that the Montrose area became permanently occupied. The first sale of land in the Montrose area is understood to have occurred in 1875. That year, Samuel Ridge purchased allotment 38, which would later encompass the Montrose Quarry and the study area. Within 10 months, Ridge sold the title to Louis Monichon, a farmer who resided in Nunawading (Figure 3). The 200 acre property was described as 'land of fair grazing quality, timbered with messmate' and as having 'no stone' (McLennan 1987, 12). This observation of 'no stone' indicates the unawareness at the time of the resource beneath the ground, which would later be quarried.

Development was slow to arrive in Montrose, largely due to the difficulty in accessing the area. Its access tracks remained unimproved throughout the nineteenth century (McLennan 1987, 42) and was located at a considerable distance from both the Belgrave and Lilydale railway lines. Services and amenities were slow to arrive too, retaining the area's rural atmosphere well into the twentieth century (Figure 4).

Following the death of Monichon in 1891, the property was sold (The Lilydale Express, 1891). At the time, it was described as being 'securely fenced, subdivided into paddocks and partially cleared' (Tardis Archaeology 2023).

In 1896 the southern portion (including the study area) of allotment 38 was sold, which had been subdivided by the National Bank of Australasia in the time since the death of Monichon (Tardis Archaeology 2023). James Alfred Jackson was the purchaser, whose family had been farming in the region since its settlement (Figure 3) (McLennan 1987, 40). Jackson used the land to harvest vegetables and cereals (Leader, 1899), whilst residing in the nearby township of Croydon (The Reporter, 1918).

In 1904, Jackson further subdivided his lot. He sold 41 acres, which would later contain the two VHI subject sites, to his daughter Nellie Alice Legg, who resided in Kilsyth. She further subdivided the land in 1908, selling 21 acres whilst retaining 20 acres, which contained the study area.

Following Legg's death in 1941 (The Age, 1942; Tardis Archaeology 2023), the remaining 20 acres went to her husband Harold Henry Legg, and Thomas Matthew Nicholls, an engineer. Legg remained the owner of the property until he died in 1950 (The Age, 1950).

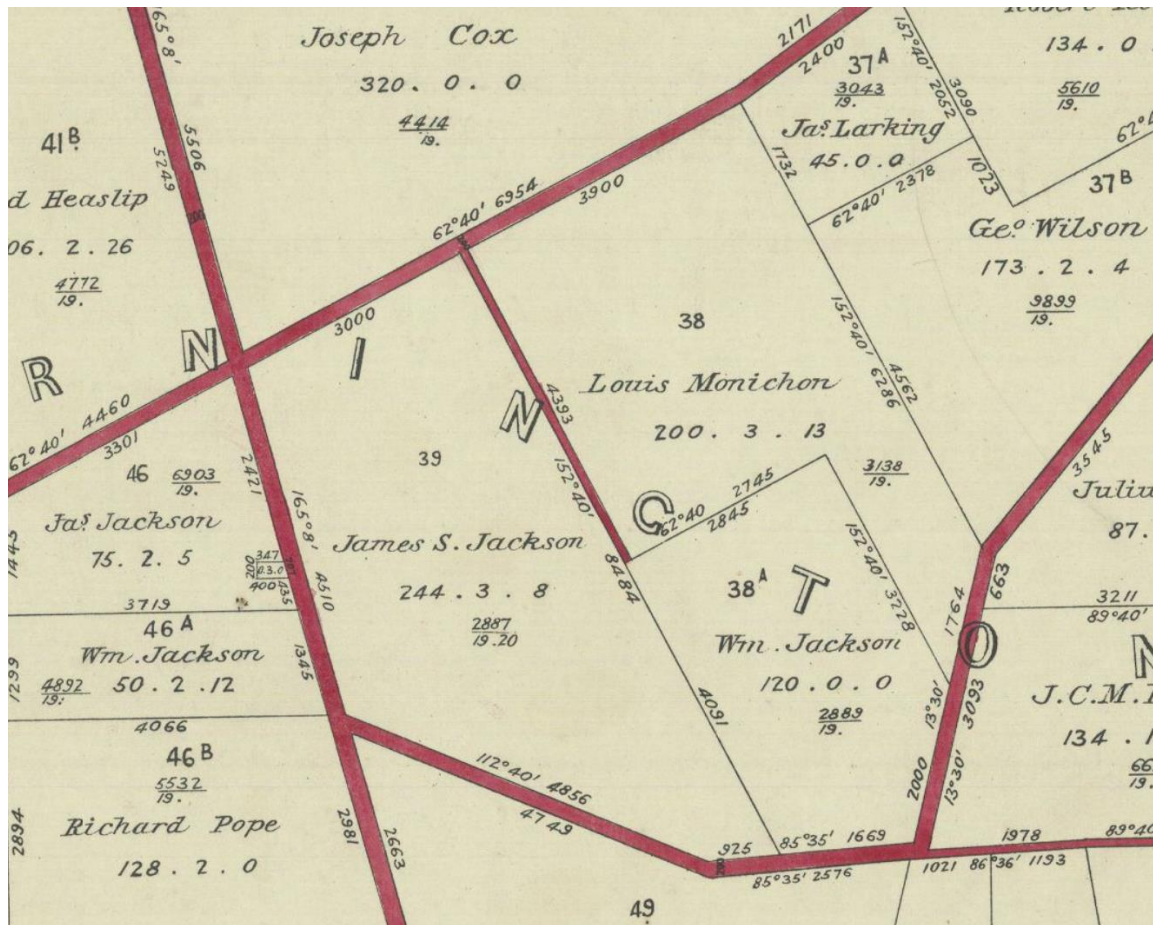


Figure 3. 1879 Parish of Mooroolbark map. Source: <https://prov.vic.gov.au/archive/B82859A3-F843-11E9-AE98-015C802CD360?image=1>



Figure 4. 1945 aerial image, illustrating agricultural land use. Source: <https://spatialapps-prd-mapshare-platform-storage.s3-ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/WebmapMedia/HistoricPhotomap/RINGWOOD/849B3.jpg>

Phase 3:

The 20 acres changed hands to May and Cyril Callam in 1952. The land was used for orcharding and a small-scale tropical fish hatchery (Amorosi 2003). The Callams resided at the property, along with May's father Alfred and their three daughters (The Argus, 1955), becoming the first people to live at the site post-European contact. Their home comprised two rooms, constructed in cement-rendered brick. Extant remains on site indicated there also having been out-buildings in proximity of the dwelling.

This stage aligned with a period of rapid increase in development and population in the Montrose area. The proliferation of the motor car in the post war environment necessitated improvement in road infrastructure, dramatically improving the accessibility of the area. The idyllic semi-rural location attracted families influenced by the 1950s push for decentralisation, initiating the area's transformation from a small country town to a growing suburb (McLennan 1987, 83) (Figure 5).

Soon after the arrival of the Callam family, quarrying commenced on the northern part of the original allotment 38. Bayview Quarries Pty Ltd obtained the land on the western side of Fussells

Road in 1953, commencing extraction a few years later (The Argus, 1956). When further quarrying on the eastern side of Fussells Road was proposed in 1965 by Albion Reid Pty Ltd, which would later become Boral, the community resistance that had first reared its head in 1956 against the Bayview quarry arose again (The Argus, 1956). By 1973 an agreement had been struck that balanced the quarrying activities with appropriate treatment of the surrounding environment. The original licence was for 15 years, which has been renewed in the decades since (McLennan 1987, 94). In 1968, Albion Reid had purchased the 20-acre property from the Callam family, forming a buffer area around the quarry pit until the opportunity to expand extraction arose.



Figure 5. 1968 aerial image, quarry indicated by arrow. Reproduced from Geoscience Australia.

Phase 4:

The 1968 departure of the Callam family closed the period of agricultural use of the property. Much of the dwelling was demolished, with the material and household appliances spread across the property. The lack of activity at the site since has meant there has been reduced disturbance and alteration since 1968, despite the rapidly densifying urban development across the surrounding region (Figure 6).



Figure 6. 1989 aerial image, quarry indicated by arrow. Reproduced from Geoscience Australia.

3.2 Phases of development

Based on the historical research undertaken, the following broad historical phases of site development could be identified:

- Phase 1 Early 19th century-1874: Early pastoral use and informal logging
- Phase 2 1875-1952: Sale of land and agricultural/orcharding use
- Phase 3 1952-1968: Residence of the Callam family
- Phase 4 1968-present: Quarry ownership

4. Physical description

Two Extent staff, Ana Klasen and Alex Eadie undertook a site visit on 07 November, 2024. The finds are detailed below:

4.1 House Site 1 (H7922-0295)

The house site was found to be in much the same condition as had been recorded by Tardis Archaeology in 2023. As per the original 2003 description, the dwelling was found to comprise two rooms, with walls constructed with a single row of bricks with cement rendering inside and outside (see Figure 7 and Figure 8). As per the previous site inspections, these remains were found above-ground. The height of the walls above ground ranged between 300-600mm. The dwelling was severely overgrown with foliage, with the trunk of a gum tree having interfered with the wall in the dwelling's north-eastern corner.

Traversing in an east-west alignment, south-west of the main dwelling, were the remains of a single-row brick and stone linear structure. The western half of the structure was constructed from brick (Figure 9), while the eastern half was constructed from bluestone and basalt (Figure 10). Tangled wire and star pickets were also visible in this area. This structure may have formerly comprised a fence or an outbuilding.

Spread around the remains of the dwelling, as far as 75m to the west and 20m to the east, were various household waste deposits. These included corrugated iron sheeting, wire, a bathtub (Figure 12), an abundance of used bricks (Figure 16), a 1950s oven and kettle (Figure 11), various scrap metal pieces likely associated with farming or household services (Figure 13 and Figure 15), broken window glass and oil drums. It is likely that the building material was dispersed across the study area at the time of the dwelling's demolition. The pile of bricks, found approximately 15m east of the dwelling, appeared to be the same type and era as those still remaining in the dwelling structure. Two bricks with different frog branding were uncovered from the pile of bricks. The 'Clifton' brick originated from the Clifton brick company based in Preston and was approximately dated to the 1950s (Figure 17). The 'Iris' brick originated from the Glen Iris Brick Company in Thornbury and was approximately dated to sometime between 1956-1970 (Figure 18). This approximate period aligns with the settlement of the Callam's at the site, indicating that the registered site is dated no earlier than 1950.

Found to the west of the dwelling were four reinforced concrete tubs, measuring approximately 600mm long, 200mm wide and 300mm high, each with a central partition (Figure 14). One of these tubs was retaining water, indicating that the tub was not very porous. These tubs are likely associated with the tropical fish farming that the Callam's undertook throughout the 1950s and 60s.

In the open paddock west of the dwelling, through which the driveway traverses, were remnant fruit-bearing trees (Figure 19 and Figure 20). These trees would have been associated with the historic use of the site as an orchard.



Figure 7. Eastern interior wall of dwelling.



Figure 8. Overview of northern room of dwelling, facing north.



Figure 9. Remains of brick portion of structure, wire and star picket, west of main dwelling.



Figure 10. Remains of stone portion of structure, west of main dwelling.



Figure 11. Household waste, c.mid-1950s oven, 10m east of dwelling.



Figure 12. Household waste: bathtub, corrugated metal sheets and wire 75m west of dwelling.



Figure 13. Household metal waste, approximately 20m north-east of dwelling.



Figure 14. Reinforced concrete tubs associated with the farming of tropical fish, approximately 5m west of the dwelling.



Figure 15. Household metal waste, east of the dwelling.



Figure 16. Pile of used bricks approximately 15m east of the dwelling, likely associated with the demolition of the dwelling.



Figure 17. 'Clifton' frog brick taken from used brick pile, dated to the 1950s.



Figure 18. 'Iris' frog brick taken from used brick pile, dated between 1956-1970.



Figure 19. Extant fruit-bearing trees within orchard area.



Figure 20. Overview of remnant trees within orchard area, west of the dwelling

4.2 Historic Dump 1 (H7922-0296)

The historic dump was located north-east of H7922-0296, where vegetation had grown densely (Figure 22Figure 20). The deposit was much smaller than what had been originally recorded. In 2003, the scatter was recorded as covering an area of 30m x 10m. Presently, the scatter is reduced to mainly a patch measuring 2m x 2m (Figure 21), with the occasional broken scrap spread out around the immediate area. Visible within the remnant patch were broken glass bottles, chinaware, terracotta, ceramic, brick fragments, plastic and scrap metal. No in-tact artefacts were remnant. This substantial reduction in fabric attributed to the historic dump is likely due to illegal collection by members of the public over the past two decades.

Two fragments of glass bottles containing different base marks (Figure 23 and Figure 24) and one porcelain teacup fragment with a base stamp (Figure 25) were able to be identified within the remaining scatter. The light green bottle was a soft drink bottle by R. Harrison of Fitzroy, dating as late as 1930. The yellow-brown bottle was manufactured by the Manufacturers Bottle Company of Victoria, dating to the 1930s or 1940s. The teacup was manufactured by Sutherland Bone China in England, sometime between 1912 and 1940.

Given the wide spread of artefacts found surrounding H7922-0296, it is reasonable to assume that this deposit is also related to the abandonment of the dwelling in the late 1960s. The glass and tableware would have belonged to the Callam family, which was then subsequently discarded along with the rest of the domestic objects found strewn across the property. This theory was first suggested in 2003, when the deposit was significantly more intact and was therefore able to provide more historical information from which to draw this conclusion.



Figure 21. Overview of historic dump fabric.



Figure 22. Wooded area surrounding dump site.



Figure 23. Broken glass bottle within scatter.



Figure 24. Broken glass bottle within scatter.



Figure 25. Broken porcelain teacup within scatter, Sutherland Bone China dated between 1912-1941.

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Montrose Quarry

- Victorian Heritage Inventory
- Artefact scatter
- Bluestone paving
- Brick wall
- House

Drawn by: Kate Chan
Checked by: Anastasia Klasen
Date: 14 November 2024
Projection: GDA 1994 MGA Zone 55
Data sources: Extent, Nearmap, DEECA
LGA: Yarra Ranges
Parish: Mooroolbark

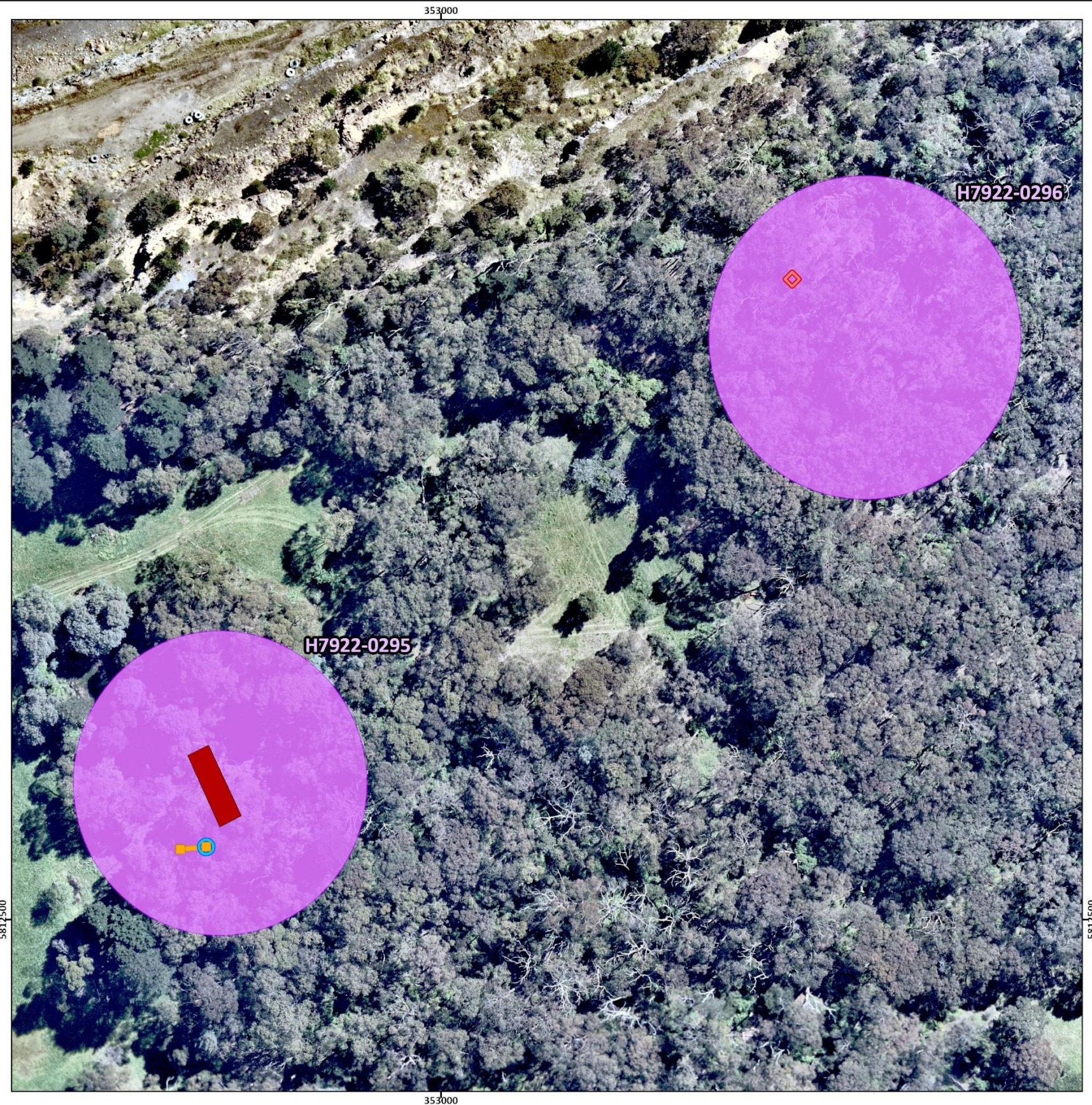
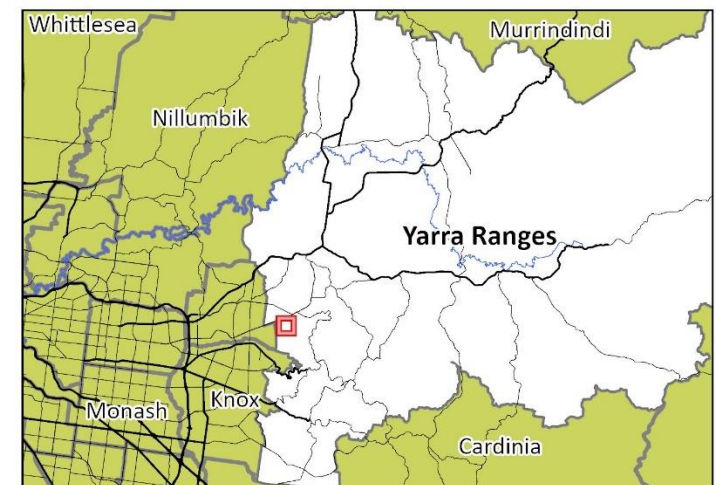
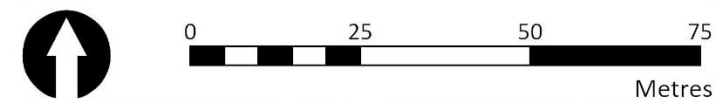


Figure 26. Extent of fabric associated with VHI listings. *Basemap source: Nearmap.*

5. Historical archaeological potential

5.1 Introduction

This section of the report discusses the site's potential to contain archaeological evidence of the previous phases of occupation. The potential for the archaeological resource to reveal useful information about the previous uses or activities that shaped its history depends on its extent, nature and level of intactness. Disturbed archaeological features and deposits in the form of fragmentary structural remains and random artefacts may be evidence of previous occupation, but their use or value in reconstructing the past though providing meaningful information is limited. This is because such features and deposits are disassociated from the stratigraphic sequence that establishes their provenance and secured date of deposition.

This section identifies where intact archaeological evidence is likely to be found at the site, and to what extent it may be preserved. The level of significance of archaeological evidence (known or potential) is discussed in Section 6.

5.2 Evaluation of potential

Table 1 below lists the potential archaeological remains from all phases of historical development with summarised formation process which may have affected the survival of those relics. Their likelihood of survival is graded in accordance with the following classification: Nil, Low, Moderate, High and Extant.

Table 1. Summary of historical archaeological potential

Phase	Site feature or site activities	Potential historical remains	Likelihood of survival	Potential to yield archaeological information
1	Ephemeral pastoral use	Evidence of early informal camps	Nil-Low	Low
	Periodic/seasonal logging activity	Logging or milling equipment	Nil-Low	Low
2	Subdivision and sale of land Agricultural activity including pastoralism, cropping and orcharding	Fruit trees	Medium	Low
		Post and wire fences	Low	Low
		Animal remains	Low	Low
		Land clearance	Medium	Low
		Grading and ploughing	Medium	Low
3		Dwelling	Extant	Low

	Residence of the Callam family	Fish farming activity	Extant	Low
		Deposits relating to domestic activity	Extant	Low
		Subsurface domestic deposits	High	Medium
4	Quarry ownership, designation as buffer land.	Regrowth of vegetation	n/a	n/a
		Illegal access/dumping		

Phase 1:

The transient nature of the early pastoral and logging activity in the area meant that the study area was likely only occupied briefly or in passing. Although the land fell within the rough perimeters of William Turner's pastoral run, he is recorded to have been primarily around the Dandenong Creek, south of the study area. Therefore, due both to this distance from the main activities of the pastoral run and the low density at which the run would have been farmed, it is of low likelihood that there exists any extant archaeological deposits associated with this period of pastoral occupation.

Similarly, the early logging activity that took place across the region was essentially itinerant, where timber was milled where it fell. Later more formal timber mills were established, these however were in other areas of the Dandenong ranges. Thus, although this period of logging would have significantly altered the landscape ecologically and visually, the likelihood of any archaeological evidence associated with logging activity surviving is very low.

Phase 2:

Formal sale of land and the establishment of agriculture marked a period where lasting impacts upon the landscape would begin. The incremental clearing of the land in the latter half of the nineteenth century is still evidenced by the open paddock in the western portion of the property. The act of clearing the land of vegetation, as well as subsequent grading and ploughing for cropping, would have destroyed any remnant evidence of earlier occupation and activity.

Still extant within the site are a small number of fruit trees. The maturity of these trees is not confirmed, however it is likely that they were either part of the orcharding activity taking place in the mid-twentieth century, or subsequently germinated from the original trees. Although these trees are representative of the historic use of the site, they would not yield any archaeological information yet unknown. Another feature also associated with agricultural activity would have been fencing, most likely post and wire. The site visit revealed that if there had historically been fencing, it has since been replaced with modern material, likely replaced during recent leases for horse grazing.

Phase 3:

The extant fabric above ground associated with the period of occupation by the Callam family was extensive but in poor condition. The ruinous state of the dwelling, the degradation of the domestic appliances and materials, as well as the wide-spread of dumped objects and rubbish across the quarry buffer land, are all factors that reduce the amount of information able to be obtained from the remains. Given the lack of destructive activity or earthworks that has occurred since the departure of the Callams, it is unlikely that there is much, if any, remains from this period below ground. There is the possibility that further domestic deposits are beneath the ground. Deposits relating to all of the known activities that occurred at the site were all located above ground, including the fish tanks and orchard trees. Therefore, there is a low likelihood that archaeological investigation would reveal any more information than what there is currently available above-ground.

The artefact scatter, identified on the VHI as H7922-0296, has been substantially pillaged in the decades since its registration on the VHI. The remaining fabric is comprised of broken fragments of twentieth century tableware and rubbish, with no in-tact bottles or objects remaining. Thus, the potential to obtain any significant information from these artefacts is low due to their degraded condition. Additionally, as theorised within the 2003 investigation of the site, it is likely that the artefacts manufactured in the early-to-mid twentieth century were deposited contemporaneously with the end of the Callam's occupation, thus not being related to the early 20th century development of the area. These items were likely used or stockpiled by the residents during their time at the property, then dumped in a single event upon leaving. Therefore, both the significant reduction in the size and condition of the deposit, as well as the dumping event likely being later than originally expected, means that it is unlikely that any useful archaeological information is obtainable from the extant scatter.

5.3 Statement of archaeological potential

Despite the study area having been subject to economic and some residential activity since the early decades of the Victorian colony, it has remained relatively undeveloped. As determined by historical research, construction upon the site did not occur until after 1952. Activity prior to this consisted of pastoralism, cropping and orcharding. The potential for the study area to yield any new archaeological information is low.

6. Assessment of historical archaeological significance

Archaeological significance refers to the heritage significance of known or potential archaeological remains. While they remain an integral component of the overall significance of a place, it is necessary to assess the archaeological resources of a site independently from above-ground heritage elements. Assessment of archaeological significance is more challenging as the extent and nature of the archaeological features is often unknown and judgment is usually made on the basis of anticipated or potential attributes.

This desktop assessment follows principles established by the Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance ('The Burra Charter', 2013) on understanding what is significant about a place as an essential precursor to managing any change that may impact on that cultural significance.

It is accepted best practice that the assessment of an archaeological site's significance be gradually refined through successive stages of investigation, should these be necessary – see below.

6.1 Existing Statements of Significance

BQ House Site 4 H7922-0294 (not within activity area)

As stated on the Victorian Heritage Inventory:

The site is of local significance as one of the houses moved into during WWII.

House Site H7922-0295

As stated on the Victorian Heritage Inventory:

The house site reflects the period of settlement and development of the Montrose foothills by orchardists.

As stated within the 2023 report by Tardis Archaeology Pty Ltd:

What is significant?

This site contains significance for its ability to provide information about the past through archaeological investigation and contains artefacts from the 50s. As the assemblage is older than 75 years it meets the criteria of an archaeological site under the *Heritage Act 2017*. In relation to Threshold A that determines if a place has archaeological value, it does meet the definition of an archaeological site under the ACT, it does contain artefact deposits and they are in relation to an archaeological feature, which is the building foundations, and is in moderate

condition. Some of the artefacts can be dated and are likely to provide a moderate contribution to the understanding of the site. The site reaches Threshold B, that determines the significance of place history and it provides evidence for the historical phase and the function of the site. The site history may hold local relevance about the history of Montrose.

How is it significant?

The datable artefacts may provide evidence of how the occupants of the property utilised this place. The site is of local significance due to it being one of the first locations in Montrose that was occupied. The site also contains evidence to support a narrative about the site.

Why is it significant?

The site contains deposits and building foundation that are related to the initial occupation and farming practices that were undertaken. There is evidence to support the orchard and fish farming activities that took place.

Historic Artefact Scatter H7922-0296

As stated on the Victorian Heritage Inventory:

The dump is significant as representative of domestic and rural artefacts used during the early occupation of the property.

6.2 Reassessment of Archaeological Significance

As defined in section 3 of the *Heritage Act 2017*, an archaeological site is a place which:

- a. contains an artefact, deposit or feature which is 75 or more years old;
- b. provides information of past activity in the State;
- c. requires archaeological methods to reveal information about the settlement, development or use of the place; and
- d. is not associated only with Aboriginal occupation of the place.

The following section reassesses the archaeological significance of any remnant archaeological deposits based on the above definitions and defined through the phases previously identified in 3.2.

Phase 1:

Any possible remnant archaeology associated with the period of informal pastoralism and timber felling would be significant to the local region for its potential to reveal information on methods and techniques employed. As many such records already exist, both written and artefactual, of these widespread and common activities, it is unlikely that such archaeological resources would

reveal new information. Therefore, any extant archaeological resources pertaining to phase 1 would likely be of low local significance.

Phase 2:

Remnant archaeology associated with the phase of land sales and agriculture would be of relevance to the development of the agricultural activity of the Montrose area. As the activities that took place at the site during this period were limited to pastoralism and cropping, any archaeological resources have the potential to reveal information about agricultural methods of the period. However, this information is already widely understood, thus, any extant archaeological record pertaining to phase 2 would be of low local significance.

Phase 3:

Aside from the artefact scatter and domestic remains examined by Extent staff (07/11/24), any archaeological evidence associated with the occupation by the Callam family would be relevant to mid-century agricultural life and construction. It is likely that domestic objects and materials are present below ground, deposited in both the period of the family's occupation and in 1968 when the dwelling was deconstructed, dumped and vacated. Such archaeological records may reveal information about the lives of the Callam family. The nature of this information would be very generic, as goods were mass produced and consumed broadly by mainstream society, rather than being specific to the Callam family. Further, the Callam family had little impact on the development of the region. Therefore, such information obtained from archaeological deposits would be of low significance. Potential archaeological records of 1950s construction methods would also be of low local significance, as this is a well understood and documented period in construction. Much of this information is also captured in living memory, as well as an abundance of other intact examples of 1950s construction.

6.3 Summary of Significance

VHI sites H7922-0295 and H7922-0296 are of low heritage significance due to several factors spanning the various phases of the site's history. The early pastoral and logging activities in the area were transient and low in concentration, resulting in a low probability of any extant archaeological deposits. The subsequent formal settlement and establishment of agriculture, marked by the clearance of the wooded land for crops and pastoralism, likely destroyed any earlier archaeological remains. The remnant trees associated with orcharding provide minimal historical insight.

Associated with the Callam family's mid-20th century occupation are remnant domestic ruins and scattered waste, all in poor condition. The artefact scatter (VHI H7922-0296) primarily consists of fragmented 20th-century tableware and rubbish, likely having been dumped during the Callam family's departure, unrelated to early twentieth century activity in the area. This deposit has been significantly robbed since its previous recording in 2003.

In addition to the low significance of the historic activities that took place at the site, the deposits themselves are of low heritage significance, as per section 3 of the Heritage Act 2017:

The fabric and deposits associated with VHI sites H7922-0295 and H7922-0296 are less than 75 years old. As established in this report, the Callam family were the first to reside on the property; prior to 1952, the owners of the land had not lived at the site. The Callam family settled at the property 72 years prior to the writing of this report, thus not meeting the requirement of 75 years of age. VHI site H7922-0296 was most likely deposited contemporaneously with the demolition of the dwelling and dumping of domestic objects associated with H7922-0295 in the late 1960s. Therefore, the fabric associated with both VHI listings do not meet threshold A.

The activities that took place at the property in the early development of the Montrose area are well documented in literature and archives. Although there exists evidence of landscape alteration for agricultural purposes, which supports the existing historical knowledge of the region, the site does not provide any new information. Archaeological investigation of the site would not provide any information further to that already known, as discussed in 5.3. Therefore, thresholds B and C are not met.

Section 130 states that a site less than 75 years old may be considered as having archaeological value if it meets the other criteria. In the case of this site, however, the other criteria are not met, therefore it still cannot be considered to be of archaeological significance.

Overall, the site does not meet the criteria for being of archaeological significance as defined in the *Heritage Act 2017*, nor does it provide new information that would contribute to the understanding of the region's history. Therefore, both H7922-0295 and H7922-0296 are of low heritage significance.

7. Impact Assessment

The proposed expansion of the quarry pit, as indicated in Figure 1, will permanently remove all fabric relating to VHI listings H7922-0295 and H7922-0296.

H7922-0295 and H7922-0296 are attributed to the same phase of development as H7922-0294, which will not be physically impacted by the proposed quarry expansion. As the historical context, use and ownership of VHI sites H7922-0295 and H7922-0296 are distinct from H7922-0294, the significance of H7922-0294 (6.1) will not be impacted by the removal of H7922-0295 and H7922-0296.

The two VHI sites within Boral's activity area (Figure 1) have been assessed within this report to be of low significance due to being in very poor condition and not meeting the threshold of what determines archaeological value. Considering the very low heritage value of H7922-0295 and H7922-0296 as assessed in 6.3, the proposed expansion of the quarry is considered to have little impact upon heritage value and archaeological significance of the site.

Section 8 below sets out the relevant recommendations and conclusions.

8. Conclusions and recommendations

8.1 Key findings and conclusions

As determined in this report, the extant archaeological resource of VHI sites H7922-0295 and H7922-0296 are of very low significance and integrity. The potential for archaeological information to be obtained from the remaining fabric is very low. The likelihood of any fabric remaining from phases 1 and 2 is very low. The extant fabric associated with phase 3 has been assessed within this report to not meet the threshold for archaeological value, therefore its retention is of low importance.

This assessment demonstrates that VHI sites H7922-0295 and H7922-0296 no longer meet the definition of an archaeological site (Threshold A) (*Policy for determining low archaeological value*). It has also been demonstrated that the quarry does not provide a meaningful contribution to the place history (Threshold B) (*Policy for determining low archaeological value*).

8.2 Impact Statement

The proposed expansion of the quarry pit will permanently remove all fabric relating to VHI listings H7922-0295 and H7922-0296. Given the assessed heritage value represented by the Quarry, it is considered that the removal will have little impact to the local heritage concerns.

8.3 Recommendations

Based upon the assessment within this report, it is recommended that H7922-0295 and H7922-0296 be delisted from the VHI under Section 119 of the Heritage Act 2017 (s. 85 Heritage Amendment Bill 2023).

1. A copy of this report is to be provided to HV for consideration relating to the delisting of H7922-0295 and H7922-0296.
2. Should any archaeological resources be uncovered during works, beyond those identified in this assessment, further consultation must be undertaken.

9. References

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