

Our Ref: 2402/JW/NR/180309

18 March 2009

Mr Brett Nudd
Acting Manager
Planning and Aboriginal Heritage Section North East
Climate Change and Environment Protection Group
Department of Environment and Climate Change
Locked Bag 914
COFFS HARBOUR NSW 2440

Dear Brett

Re: Report on Works Conducted under AHIP#2741

The Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC) issued Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) #2741 on 14 August 2007 to enable surface collection of site LID33 (#37-3-0463) in an area to be impacted by the extension of an existing office complex within the Liddell Coal Mine Complex (refer to **Figure 1**). In accordance with Schedule C and Schedule E of AHIP#2741, a surface collection was conducted within the LID33 site on 17 August 2007. In order to satisfy Condition 25 of AHIP#2741 this letter provides a report on the surface collection.

Description of LID33 (#37-3-0463)

LID33 was initially recorded as an artefact scatter comprised of three mudstone artefacts located in an erosion scour associated with a vehicle track adjacent to the Old New England Highway (refer to **Figure 1**). At the time of initial recording the scour measured 100 metres by three metres and was located on an upper slope approximately 450 metres west of Bayswater Creek and 650 metres southwest of Chain of Ponds creek. The site was in poor condition in an eroded context that has been disturbed by the construction of a vehicle track.

The site was subsequently inspected on 1 May 2007. The original GPS coordinates for the site placed it approximately five metres from an actively eroding small gully bordering the Old New England Highway. The area was inspected but no artefacts were present and it is likely that the artefacts may have been relocated due to erosion. An area of approximately 40 metres by 40 metres surrounding the recorded artefact location was inspected by nine people spaced approximately 5 metres apart. Visibility was limited by the presence of leaf litter, however, all areas of exposure were inspected. A large area of exposure associated with a vehicle track approximately 100 metres in length was also inspected. Three artefacts were identified within the AHIP#2741 area during the inspection.

Aboriginal Stakeholder Consultation and Involvement

Consultation in relation to AHIP#2741 was conducted in accordance with the DECC *Interim Community Consultation Requirements for Applicants* (2004). The Aboriginal stakeholder groups consulted regarding AHIP#2741 and the subsequent works outlined in this report are listed below.

- Wanaruah Local Aboriginal Land Council;
- Aboriginal Native Title Consultants;

- Yarrawalk;
- Wonnarua Culture Heritage;
- Ungooroo Aboriginal Corporation;
- Wattaka Wonnarua CC Service;
- Wanaruah Custodians;
- Upper Hunter Heritage Consultants;
- Valley Culture;
- Hunter Valley Aboriginal Corporation; and
- Wonn1 Consultants.

In accordance with Condition 19 of AHIP#2741, each of these groups was invited to participate in the surface collection. The stakeholders indicated that it would be suitable for one Aboriginal stakeholder representative to participate in the surface collection, with Margaret Matthews (Aboriginal Native Title Consultants) undertaking the surface collection.

In accordance with Condition 29 a copy of this report has also been provided to all relevant Aboriginal stakeholder groups.

Methodology

The surface collection was conducted in accordance with the methodology outlined in the relevant AHIP application, and the relevant conditions (Condition 17, Condition 18 and Condition 19) of AHIP#2741. The surface collection was undertaken on 17 August 2007 by Jillian Ford (Archaeologist, Umwelt), and Margaret Matthews (Aboriginal Native Title Consultants).

The entire area covered by AHIP#2741 was inspected on foot to identify any additional artefacts that may have been present however only three artefacts were present. The location of these artefacts was recorded using a hand-held 12 channel GPS and their location is mapped in **Figure 2**. The artefacts were then collected and placed in an appropriately labelled plastic bag.

The recording and analysis of the salvaged artefact was undertaken in accordance with the methodology outlined in the relevant AHIP application.

Results

The salvaged artefacts are a core of Bowman's Tuff, and two flakes of light yellow mudstone. On a small portion of both flakes, areas of light red coloration are evident; however these appear to be natural colour changes in the stone. The flakes were both manufactured using free-hand percussion and the core has only been subject to freehand percussion. The relevant measurements for the artefacts are included in **Table 1** below.

Table 1 - Artefact Measurements

Artefact #	Weight (g)	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)	Platform width (mm)	Platform thickness (mm)
1 (core)	1280	130	102	60		
2 (flake)	11	28	32	12	13	5
3 (flake)	3.5	30	18	8	7	4

Approximately fifty per cent of the core surface exhibits pebble cortex. The core has been rotated once and has negative flake scars indicating the production of flakes with both feather and step terminations. Approximately sixty percent of flake two is covered by pebble cortex, with one dorsal scar. Flake three has only five percent cortex on the platform surface. It has five scars on its dorsal surface and these scars indicate that the core from which the artefact originated was not rotated. Both the flakes terminate in a feather termination.

Discussion

As discussed in the relevant AHIP application (Umwelt 2008:11,13), the artefacts salvaged from LID33 do not represent a rare or unusual category of artefact within the context of the Hunter Valley. The AHIP#2741 area is located within 450 metres of Bayswater Creek and 650 metres of Chain of Ponds Creek on a sloping landform. Within this context, it is expected that isolated artefacts or artefact scatters of low density will be present. The salvage of LID33 does not supplement or modify this model. The primary purpose behind the salvage of LID33 was not archaeological but related to the wishes of the Aboriginal stakeholders.

Care and Control of Salvaged Artefact

The artefacts from LID33 are currently being stored at the Umwelt office in Toronto NSW. Following submission of this report, the artefacts will be placed in the care of the Wanaruah Local Aboriginal Land Council.

The works within the AHIP#2741 area have therefore been completed in accordance with the methodology provided in the relevant AHIP application and the conditions of AHIP#2741. Should you have any queries regarding the completion of works under AHIP#2741, please do not hesitate to contact me on 4950 5322.

Yours faithfully



Nicola Roche
Senior Archaeologist

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Source: Xstrata, Liddell

Legend

- Liddell DA Boundary
- AHIP #2741 Area
- Artefact Scatter

FIGURE 2
Location of Salvaged Artefacts