LONG PLAINS, SAVAGE RIVER TASMANIA, HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

FOR

GRANGE RESOURCES (TAS) PTY LTD

April 2013

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ABBREVIATIONS

AHMS Archaeological and Heritage Management Solutions
HO Heritage Overlay
HT Heritage Tasmania
THR Tasmanian Heritage Register

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Grange Resources Pty Ltd engaged *Archaeological and Heritage Management Solutions* (AHMS) *Pty Ltd* to undertake a historical archaeological assessment as part of a feasibility study for a potential future mining operation at Long Plains, approximately 10km south of current mining operations at the Grange Resources Savage River Mine in north-west Tasmania.

The purpose of the study was to assess the impact of proposed development on historical (post-contact) archaeological sites and objects. The objective of the study was to provide a clear identification of constraints and potential risks for any potential future mineral extraction, processing and associated activities within the study area. The report also provides recommendations for future assessment and management to ensure compliance with heritage legislation and the requirements of Heritage Tasmania (HT). The study may also be employed to support EPA consideration of an Environmental Impact Statement in relation to planning consent applications for potential future mining and associated activities in the study area.

The desktop assessment for this study documented mid to late 19th century gold mining to the north of the study area and predicted that some small scale or ephemeral features associated with 19th century gold mining may also be present within the study area. An archaeological survey of the study area was carried out on 5th February 2013. Although it was limited by lack of access and visibility in large portions of the study area, physical evidence of past logging (felled trees and stumps) and a small hand excavated cutting, interpreted as the remains of a former pack track were identified. The pack track was interpreted as a heritage landscape element that was probably associated with either past mining or logging.

The felled trees identified during the field survey are not considered to have aesthetic, social, historic or scientific values. This is due to the lack of documentary evidence or associated historic remains that would allow adequate assessment of their potential significance. Regardless of this, the felled trees are unlikely to be significant because they are abundant in the local landscape.

The section of pack track identified during this investigation is not considered to have aesthetic, social or scientific value, however, this feature is considered to have limited historic value because these kinds of tracks are documented in primary source material relating to the local area. The small cutting identified in the study area is assessed as having low significance at a local level.

Historical maps and plans reviewed during our study did not indicate the presence of any additional historical places within the study area other than the above-mentioned items. However, there is some potential for the study area to contain additional undocumented archaeological remains and small features associated with 19th Century gold mining and timber getting. As the majority of the study area is dominated by very thick (and in many areas impenetrable) vegetation it is simply not currently possible to predict whether or not any such remains are present, nor is it possible to predict where they may be present as most parts of the local landscape were utilised for mining and timber getting.

In our opinion the felled trees located during this investigation do not warrant any further assessment or recording as their level of assessed significance is unlikely to reach any thresholds that would warrant recording or conservation. This is largely due to the fact they are not rare in the local landscape.

The pack track located within the study area is considered to have low significance at a local level, because these kinds of tracks have been documented and described in the historical record for the local area and may have some local rarity. Therefore this report recommends the following in relation to the small cutting interpreted as a former pack track:

1. Prior to works commencing in the area, the pack track should be recorded and photographed using archival standard photography, in accordance with best practice methods and in accordance with the relevant sections of Heritage Tasmania's Practice Note 3: Procedures for Recording a Heritage Place.

We also recommend the following in the event that any additional historical archaeological remains or features are found prior to or during future mining of the area (these recommendations are made in line with Heritage Tasmania's Pre-Development Assessment Guidelines):

1. If any historical places or associated objects are found during the course of an activity, works must cease immediately in that area and a radius of 100 metres should be cordoned off with flagging tape or barrier fencing. Works may continue outside the cordoned area.

2. A suitably qualified archaeologist or heritage consultancy should be engaged to assess the place, record it in accordance with best practice and Heritage Tasmania Guidelines and provide advice about the significance of the place in line with Section 16 of the *Historic Cultural Heritage Act 2006* to determine if any further actions are required in accordance with the Act.

3. Notify Heritage Tasmania of the find and the proposed course of actions; and

4. Seek guidance on the measures or steps that should be taken in relation to managing the discovery.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Grange Resources Pty Ltd engaged *Archaeological and Heritage Management Solutions* (AHMS) *Pty Ltd* to undertake an historical archaeological assessment as part of a feasibility study for a potential future mining operation at Long Plains, approximately 10km south of current mining operations at the Grange Resources Savage River Mine in north-west Tasmania.

This study will contribute to an EPBC referral as well as an Environmental Impact Statement for EPA approval.

The purpose of the study was to assess the impact of proposed development on historical (post-contact) archaeological sites and objects. The objective of the study was to provide a clear identification of constraints and potential risks for any potential future mineral extraction, processing and associated activities within the study area. The report also provides recommendations for future assessment and management to ensure compliance with heritage legislation and the requirements of Heritage Tasmania (HT).

1.1 Study Area

The subject land is located to the south of the current Savage River mine and encompasses the Long Plains Ridge and the land between it and the Corinna Road, located 1.5km to the East (Figure 1). The study area is dominated by a prominent north-south ridge with steep sloping sides. Deeply incised valleys are located on all four sides of the ridge. The study area lies approximately 25km inland from the western coast of Tasmania.

1.2 Authorship and Acknowledgements

This report was written by Emma Rae (Senior Archaeologist) and reviewed by Jim Wheeler (Manager AHMS). AHMS archaeologist Adrian Burrow assisted with research and mapping.

We would also like to thank Josh Ridgley (Grange Resources), who assisted us with the survey and Emily McPhee (Grange Resources) and Roger Hill (Grange Resources) who assisted us with organising the survey. In addition, we would like to thanks Stephen Kent of Caloundra Environmental for his assistance and for providing access to background reports.

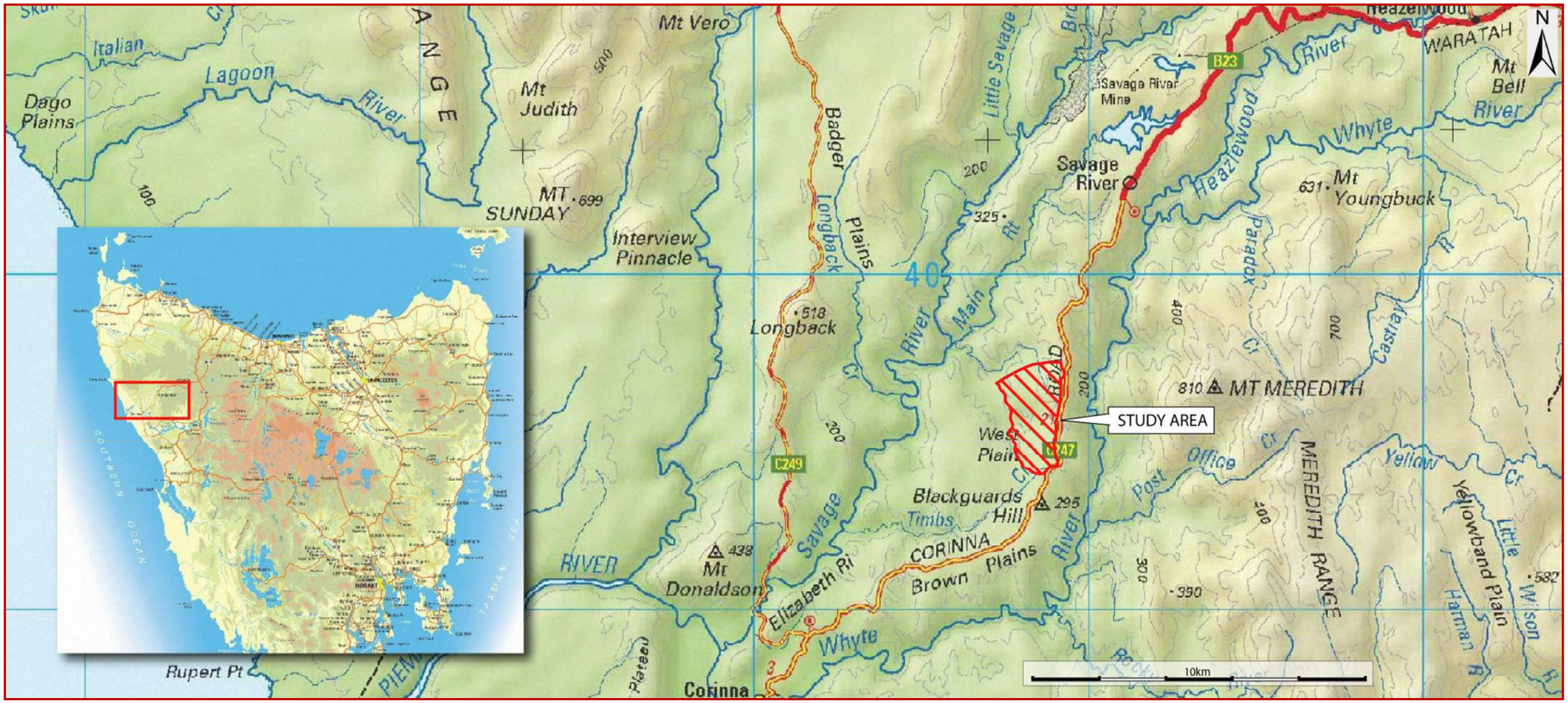

Figure 1: The general location of the study area, marked in red(source: Google Maps).

2.0 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS AND HERITAGE LISTINGS

Historical heritage and archaeology in Tasmania can be protected by a number of pieces of legislation; Commonwealth, State and local. Those of relevance are summarised below, with an explanation of how they apply to potential future mining and development of the study area.

2.1 Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cwlth)

The Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) provides a statutory framework for protecting and managing significant environmental and cultural heritage places, flora, fauna and environmental communities. The Act establishes the National Heritage List (NHL) and the Commonwealth Heritage List (CHL) and provides protection for places included in the two lists. The Act also provides protection for those Australian places inscribed on the World Heritage List (WHL).

The study area is not included on the WHL, the NHL, or the CHL.

2.2 Historic Cultural Heritage Act 1995 (Tas)

The *Historic Cultural Heritage Act 1995* is designed to conserve the historical heritage of Tasmania and regulate development impacts on the state's heritage assets.

The *Historic Cultural Heritage Act 1995* establishes the Tasmanian Heritage Register (THR), a list of places and objects of State heritage significance. The Act provides statutory protection for items included on the THR. A 'works approval' form issued by the Tasmanian Heritage Council is required prior to

undertaking work that results in the alteration or modification of a THR-listed item.

There are no items on the Tasmanian Heritage Register within the study area.

2.3 Local Government Planning Scheme

The Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993 requires local government to have responsibility for conserving significant historic heritage within their jurisdiction.

The study area is within the Waratah –Wynyard Council area, and is subject to the *Waratah-Wynyard Planning Scheme Planning Scheme 2000*.

There are no items within the study area included in the Heritage Overlay or Heritage Schedule of the Waratah-Wynyard Planning Scheme.

2.4 Non-Statutory Listings

The following relevant non-statutory heritage lists have been searched:

- Register of the National Trust of Australia (Tasmania).

The study area does not include any items listed in the Register of the National Trust.

3.0 HISTORICAL USE AND OCCUPATION

The early European history of the Savage River area is centred upon mining. The first significant amount of gold was found in Tasmania near Fingal (North East Tasmania) in 1852 [1]. In 1871 James Smith, discovered deposits of tin at Mt Bischoff near Waratah, approximately 30km east of Savage River[2].

The first record of gold mining in the Savage River area was in 1879 when Harry Middleton and his team found gold at Middleton's Creek near Corinna, south of the study area. When the miners had exhausted the deposits in the creek they began to mine the gravel banks along the creek, often working their way high up the surrounding hillsides[3].

Following this initial discovery and subsequent exploration, miners quickly spread out and found gold in the majority of the creeks running into the Donaldson, Savage and Whyte Rivers. Gold was found near Long Plain (to the north of the study area, near the current Savage River Mine) in 1879 by Ted Peever and George Johnson, sparking a rush focused upon Big Duffer Creek[4] located to the north of the study area, close to the present day Savage River Mine. The deposits, however, were not as rich as expected and the area was abandoned shortly after. In 1881 Tom Smith and Henry Howard explored another creek, running in the opposite direction to Big Duffer Creek and discovered concentrations of course gold[5][6]. Many miners converged on this area and large quantities of gold were extracted[7]. It is reported that 50.5 kg

[1] Julen 1981:2

[2] Julen 1981:10

[3] Julen 1981:17

[4] Julen 1981:18

[5] Course gold refers to large gold nuggets

[6] Julen 1981:2

[7] Julen 1981:19

of gold was deposited in the Waratah bank from the Long Plains area[8]. Once the deposits along this creek were exhausted, the miners went in search of the source of the gold and discovered "Golden Ridge" nearby, where nuggets of gold were found close to the ground surface. The government geologist at the time, J Harcourt Smith estimated that between 20,000 and 30,000 ounces (565kg – 850kg) of gold was mined from the Golden Ridge to the north of the study area in the first 20 years of production[9].

In 1893 hydraulic mining operations were introduced in the area and hundreds of men were employed to excavate the many kilometre of water races required to carry water (largely employed by Savage River Gold Mining Company). By 1895, these operations had ceased due to insufficient gold[10].

Iron Ore extraction was first explored in the Savage River area by The Orluzza Gold Mining Company and the Savage River Silver Prospecting Company in 1891. Many kilometres of foot and pack tracks were cut through the forest as part of these operations, however, none of these would be passable today unless they have been cleared or repaired by the mining companies[11].

3.1 Study Area

In conducting research for this historical assessment numerous resources were consulted including:

- Waratah-Wynyard Planning Scheme 2000;
- Previous historical archaeology studies carried out for the Savage River Mine;

[8] Godfrey 1984:50

[9] Julen 1981:26

[10] Julen 1981:36

[11] Julen 1981:41

- Local histories and primary sources at both Burnie and Wynyard libraries;
- Historic maps available at Burnie and Wynyard libraries; and
- 1970s series topographic mapping included on www.thelist.com.au

Review of these information sources was undertaken to:

1. Assess the extent and type of any previously identified heritage items and places within the locality incorporating the study area; and
2. Initially assess whether or not the study area was likely to contain significant historical archaeological remains.

There are no entries on the Waratah-Wynyard Planning Scheme 2000 relevant to the study area.

An 1897 Map drawn by Sprent features the Long Plains ridge which is within the study area (see Figure 2), however, there are no historic sites or features annotated on the map within the study area. The Waratah-Corinna main track can be seen running adjacent to the study area, which is now Corinna Road. Despite several smaller tracks being marked on the map running through the forested areas, there are no tracks through the study area.

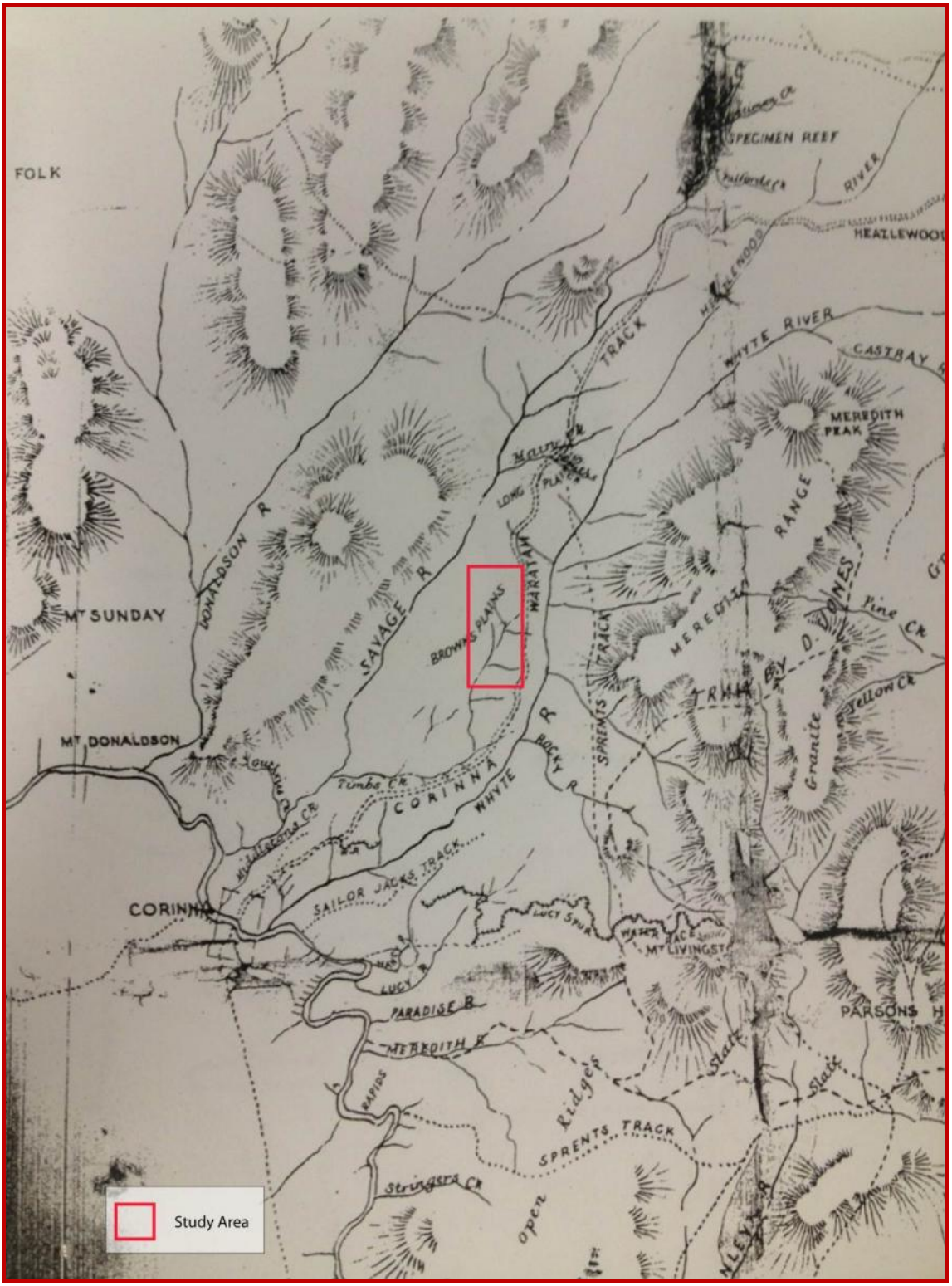

Figure 2: Sprent's 1876 map of the region. The location of the study area is outlined in red.

The 1903 "Plan of Area Formerly Held By Long Plains Mining Company" drawn by the government geologist (Government geologist) accurately locates the main mining activities occurring in the 'Long Plains' area from approximately 1879, focused around Big Duffer Creek, Main Creek and 'Golden Ridge'. Figure 3 plots the 1903 Twelvetrees plan onto a topographic map and demonstrates that these activities were focused further north of the study area, near to the current Savage River mine.

McConnell[12] conducted an archaeological survey in this area in 2006 in relation to a proposed Tailings Dam associated with the Savage River Mine. McConnell relocated many of the features shown on Twelvetrees 1903 plan including many of tunnels excavated through 'Golden Ridge'. McConnell noted that the 1903 plan was very accurate[13].

Although the available historical resources do not document any historic features within the study area it's possible that old pack tracks as described in Section 3 or other ephemeral features and remains associated with 19th century gold mining exist within the study area. Any features or remains present are likely to be contained within very overgrown vegetation and may not be identifiable.

There is no historical evidence for established saw mill or logging operations within the Long Plains study area, however, it is possible that some evidence of timber getting may be found during the survey. It is, however, worth noting that Brown referred to a large fire burning through the area in the 1980's and this may make finding such features less likely.

It is also possible that there may be some evidence of early alluvial gold mining along the creeks which border the Long Plains Ridge. The desktop

[12] McConnell 2006

[13] McConnell 2006: 13

assessment has demonstrated that the majority of the mining activity was focused further to the north; however, there is always a possibility that small scale mining occurred outside these areas and has not been documented in the historical record.

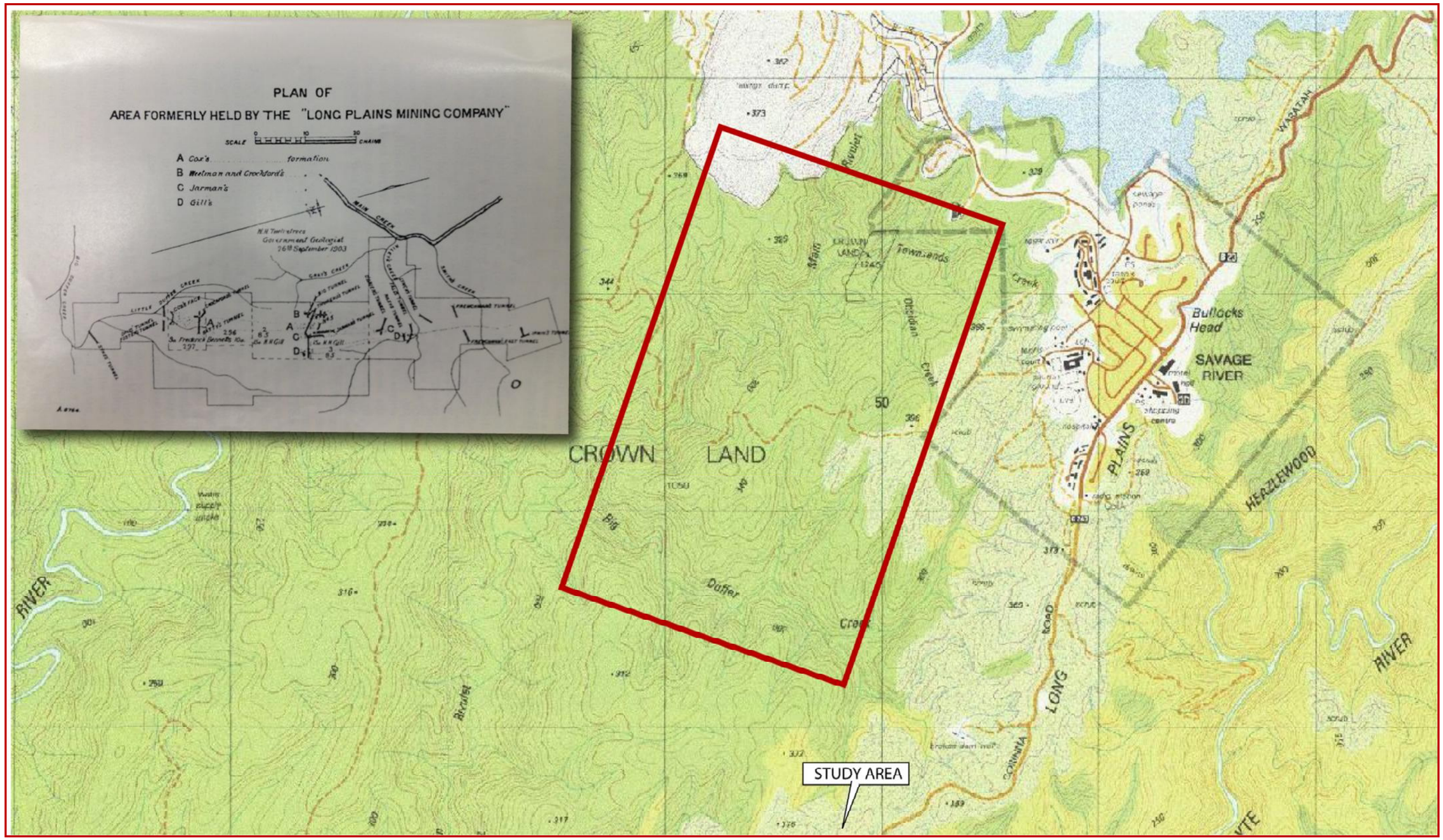

Figure 3: The red outline on this figure represents the approximate location of the area formerly held by "Long Plains Mining Company" (inset). The study area is located further to the south.

4.0 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

An archaeological survey of the study area was undertaken by AHMS archaeologists Jim Wheeler and Emma Rae on the 5th February 2013. Josh Ridgely of Grange Resources assisted with the survey.

The survey coverage was limited to areas free of vegetation (4 x 4 tracks, some costeans and gridlines which had been cut through the vegetation) that provided ground surface visibility (see Figures 4-6). The remainder of the study area comprises very dense forest that is difficult (and in places unsafe, due to steep slopes and unstable soils) to access and has no ground visibility. The 4x4 tracks, costeans and some accessible grid lines that provided ground surface visibility were targeted for pedestrian survey.

Figure 4: An example of a 4 x4 track cut through the forest in Long Plains study area

Figure 5: An example of a costean in the Long Plains study area

Figure 6: An example of a gridline in the Long Plains study area.

For the purposes of discussing survey coverage and archaeological potential, the study area was divided into 2 principal units based on access or entry points into the Long Plains area. The units were as follows:

Survey Unit 1 – Northern Access (Figure 7)

100% visibility on 4 x 4 tracks, approximately 50% visibility on costeans and no visibility on gridlines.

Survey Unit 2 – Southern Access (Figure 8)

100% visibility on 4 x 4 tracks, approximately 50% visibility on costeans and no visibility on gridlines.

During the survey a small number of tree stumps were noted, particularly when surveying through the scrub along accessible gridlines. These stumps appeared to have been created by manual tree felling. Although there were no associated finds, it is possible that these tree stumps are evidence of small scale timber getting practices in the area.

Within Survey Unit 2 – Southern Access, a track had been cut through the forest down slope to a creek for the purpose of installing a water pump. This track was surveyed and the exposed section of creek line was also examined. The creek in this area is very steep sided on both sides with very little exposed bank. There was no evidence of alluvial mining along this section of creek (Figure 9).

A small hand excavated cutting was located in Survey Unit 1 on the top of the ridge and parallel with the recent 4WD access track utilised for the current geological exploration programme (Figure 10). The visible extent of the cutting was approximately 15 m in length and an average height of .6m. The cutting is likely to be the physical remains of a former pack track, probably used to access the area by timber getters or 19th century gold miners.

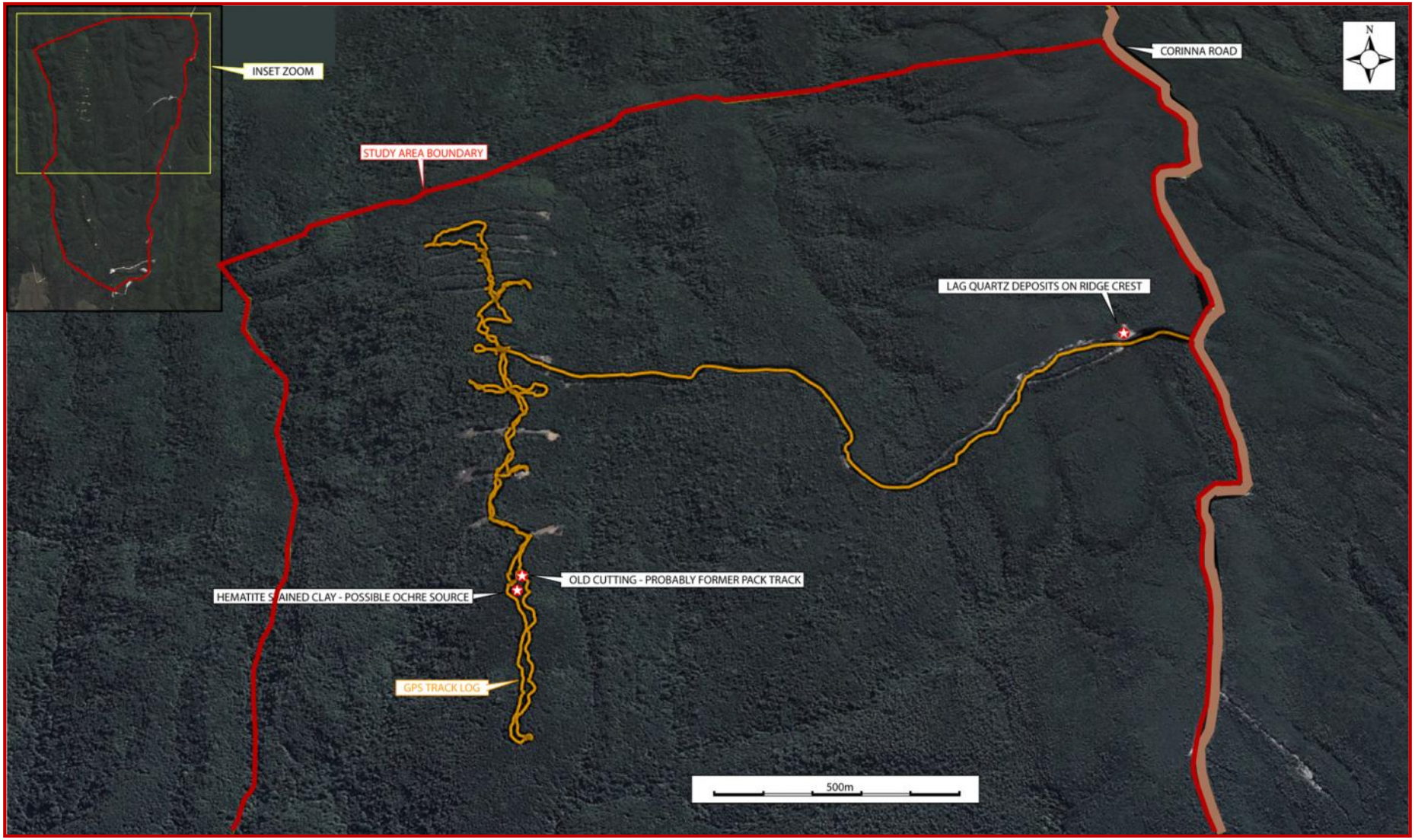

Figure 7: Northern Access, orange track log shows both survey coverage and the extent of accessible areas with ground surface visibility

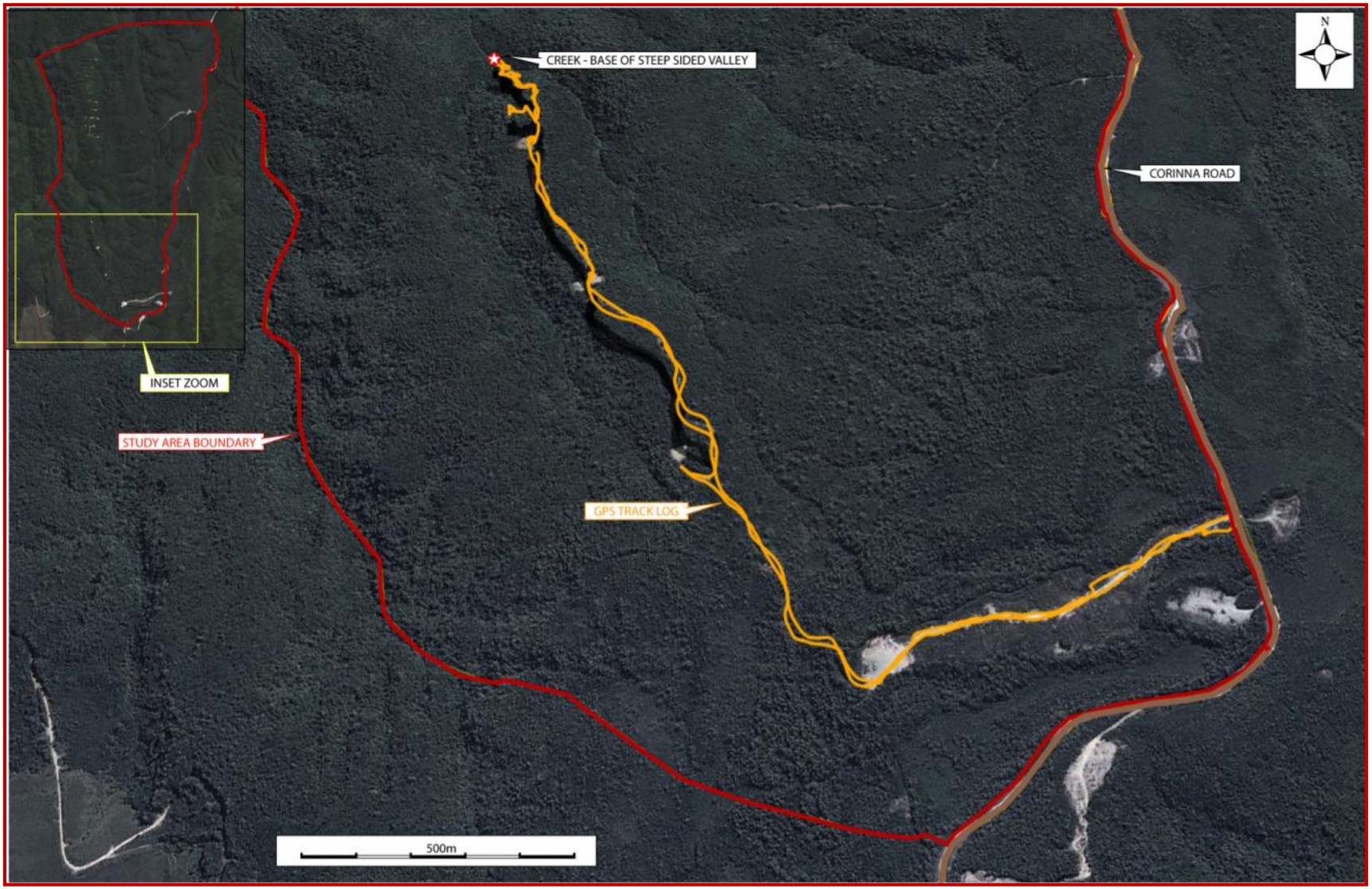

Figure 8: Southern Access, orange track log shows both survey coverage and the extent of accessible areas with ground surface visibility

Figure 9: The steep sided creek with little to no bank, Survey Unit 2

Figure 10: A cutting, made with hand tools through outcropping bedrock, likely to be the remains of a former pack track used in historic mining or logging activities.

5.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

The archaeological potential for significant historical sites within the study area is low because the historical record reviewed in Section 3 of this report indicates the focus of 19th century gold mining was well to the north of the study area and no historical maps or plans indicate any gold mining or other features within the study area.

There is some potential that small isolated ephemeral features, similar to the remains of a former pack track located during the survey, may survive in the study area in areas that are currently overgrown and not accessible.

There may also be potential for further evidence of logging activities, such as opportunistically felled trees etc, however, large sites associated with logging

such as saw mills are very unlikely in the study area. This is due to a number of factors, namely the difficult terrain would have made establishing any kind of significant logging base impractical and there is no historic evidence to suggest these activities were occurring on a large scale within the study area.

6.0 SIGNIFICANCE ASSESSMENT

6.1 Introduction

'Heritage significance' and 'cultural significance' are terms used to describe an item's value or importance to our society. The *Australia ICOMOS Burra Charter* defines cultural significance as:

aesthetic, historic, scientific, social or social value for past, present or future generations.[14]

This value may be contained in the fabric of the item, its setting and relationship to other items, the response that the item stimulates in those who value it now, or the meaning of that item to contemporary society. Accurate assessment of the cultural significance of sites, places and items is an essential component of the heritage assessment and planning process. A clear determination of a site's cultural significance allows informed planning decisions to be made for places, in addition to ensuring that their heritage values are maintained, enhanced, or at least minimally affected by development.

Assessments of significance are made by applying standard evaluation criteria. For the assessment of the cultural heritage significance of archaeological places, the *Burra Charter* criteria is often used: aesthetic value, historic value, scientific value, and social value.[15]

[14] Australia ICOMOS, 1999, *The Burra Charter: The Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance*, Australia ICOMOS Incorporated.

[15] Australia ICOMOS, 1999, *The Burra Charter: The Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance*, Australia ICOMOS Incorporated

Scientific value includes archaeological significance, which relates to the research potential of the archaeological relics that are present on a particular site. In Australia this concept is commonly defined as a set of questions that are used as a means of assessing the significance of an archaeological site within a relative framework:

- Can the site contribute knowledge that no other resource can?
- Can the resource contribute knowledge that no other site can?

Is this knowledge relevant to general questions about human history or other substantive questions relating to Australian history, or does it contribute to other major research questions?

6.2 Cultural Heritage Values Assessment

Aesthetic Value

The remains of a former pack track and felled trees found within the study area have some aesthetic values, although the level of those values is considered to be very low given that felled trees are common in the local area and in the region and the remains of the former pack track are fragmentary and heavily overgrown. Loss of these remains would not have any appreciable impact on the assessed negligible historical aesthetic values of the study area.

Historic Value

There were no artefacts or other dateable features associated with either the pack track or felled trees located in the study area. Given the land use history of the broader area it is possible that the pack track dates from between 1879 and the early 1900's based on descriptions in the historical record, however, it's not possible to confirm this interpretation. The felled trees could date anywhere from the late 19th century well into the 20th century when mechanized methods of logging were introduced.

The remains of the former pack track hold some limited historic value for their possible association with 19th century gold mining and/or timber getting. However, the level of historical value is considered low at a local level given the association with any particular use or period is not clear and given that similar features are likely to be common in the local area and in the region. The remains of the pack track does not provide any new information about historical use of the area, although it does provide physical corroboration of historical accounts that indicate such trails were numerous in the Long Plains area.

The felled trees have negligible historical value, given they are very common and provide no new information about historical use of the area. There is no documentary or physical evidence available to assist with determining when these trees were felled.

Scientific Value

The remains of the former pack track and felled trees may provide some very limited scientific information about the nature of construction and hand cutting techniques used to construct pack tracks and the nature, methods and techniques employed to carry out logging in the local area.

The nature of past logging techniques is already well documented in historical records and in the common physical remains of felled trees and stumps found throughout the forests in the local area. Therefore the felled trees have negligible scientific value.

The nature and methods of construction of pack tracks may not be quite as well understood, therefore the cutting found during the survey may have some limited local significance for its potential to provide information about construction of pack tracks.

Social Value

The historical values identified during research do not indicate any specific social values associated with the study area or the physical remains found during the survey. The study area may be associated with 19th century gold mining and is associated with timber getting. However, both activities were almost ubiquitous in the local area during the later 19th century and there are more intact and more cohesive examples of timber getting and gold mining present in the local area (An example of this would be the remains associated with Golden Ridge to the North of the study area, located by McConnell in 2006). Therefore, loss of the remains identified in the study area would not be considered to be a loss of socially significant places.

6.3 Statement of Significance

The felled trees located during this investigation have negligible levels of aesthetic, social, historic or scientific value primarily because they are very common in the local area and in the region and do not provide any new information to the historical record.

The remains of a pack track located during this investigation are considered to have low local values, particularly with regard to historic and scientific values. Although the remains of pack tracks are unlikely to be rare in the local area and have negligible aesthetic and social values, the physical evidence found during the investigation does corroborate historical accounts that a network of pack tracks crossed through the Long Plains area and does provide potential information about the nature and methods of construction used to build pack tracks. The level of significance is low local.

7.0 POTENTIAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT

Grange Resources Tasmania Pty Ltd are currently conducting feasibility studies at Long Plains, Savage River, NW Tasmania for the extraction of Magnetite deposits.

At this stage there are no finalised plans in relation to the footprint of the proposed mine, however, it is likely that the entire study area would be subjected to ground disturbance caused by mining, ore processing and construction of associated infrastructure if the feasibility study indicated that mining was viable and Grange Resources received consent to proceed with development of a mine.

The felled trees and the remains of the pack track were all found close to the top of the ridge that directly overlies the centre of the magnetite ore body. Therefore it is highly likely that future mining would result in disturbance of the remains of the pack track and felled trees.

The research conducted for this assessment in conjunction with the archaeological survey suggest that there is some potential for further ephemeral historical archaeological sites and features to be present in areas which could not be accessed during the current investigations. These potential sites would also be impacted by the proposed mine and therefore recommendations are made in Section 8.0 for the management of these potential places.

8.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

We recommend the following in relation to the remains of a former pack track found during the archaeological survey and shown on Figure 7 and 10:

1. Prior to mining or other works that could have potential to disturb the site, the cutting should be recorded and photographed using archival standard photography, in accordance with best practice methods and in accordance with the relevant sections of Heritage Tasmania's Practice Note 3: Procedures for Recording a Heritage Place.

We also recommend the following in the event that any additional historical archaeological remains or features are found prior to or during future mining of the area (these recommendations are made in line with Heritage Tasmania's Pre-Development Assessment Guidelines):

1. If any historical places or associated objects are found during the course of an activity, works must cease immediately in that area and a radius of 100 metres should be cordoned off with flagging tape or barrier fencing. Works may continue outside the cordoned area.

2. A suitably qualified archaeologist or heritage consultancy should be engaged to assess the place, record it in accordance with best practice and Heritage Tasmania Guidelines and provide advice about the significance of the place in line with Section 16 of the *Historic Cultural Heritage Act 2006* to determine if any further actions are required in accordance with the Act.

3. Notify Heritage Tasmania of the find and the proposed course of actions; and

2. Seek guidance on the measures or steps that should be taken in relation to managing the discovery.

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