AHIMS # 102799
REPORT

Waimea Downs Aboriginal burials, Toogimbie Station

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OEH Archaeologist, 6th May 2013

Toogimbie Station is owned and managed by the Hay Local Aboriginal Land Council and the Nari Nari Tribal Council. It is located some 40 km west of Hay on the Sturt Highway. A large part of the property is sub-leased to Mr. Simon Maynard, of Woloondool Station, Hay. Mr Maynard grows crops on the developed irrigation areas of the property. An inspection of the area was undertaken on the 18th April, 2013 at the request of the Hay LALC to view an area of Aboriginal heritage recently impacted by cultivation. Following this inspection a meeting took place with Mr Maynard, sub-leasee of the area.

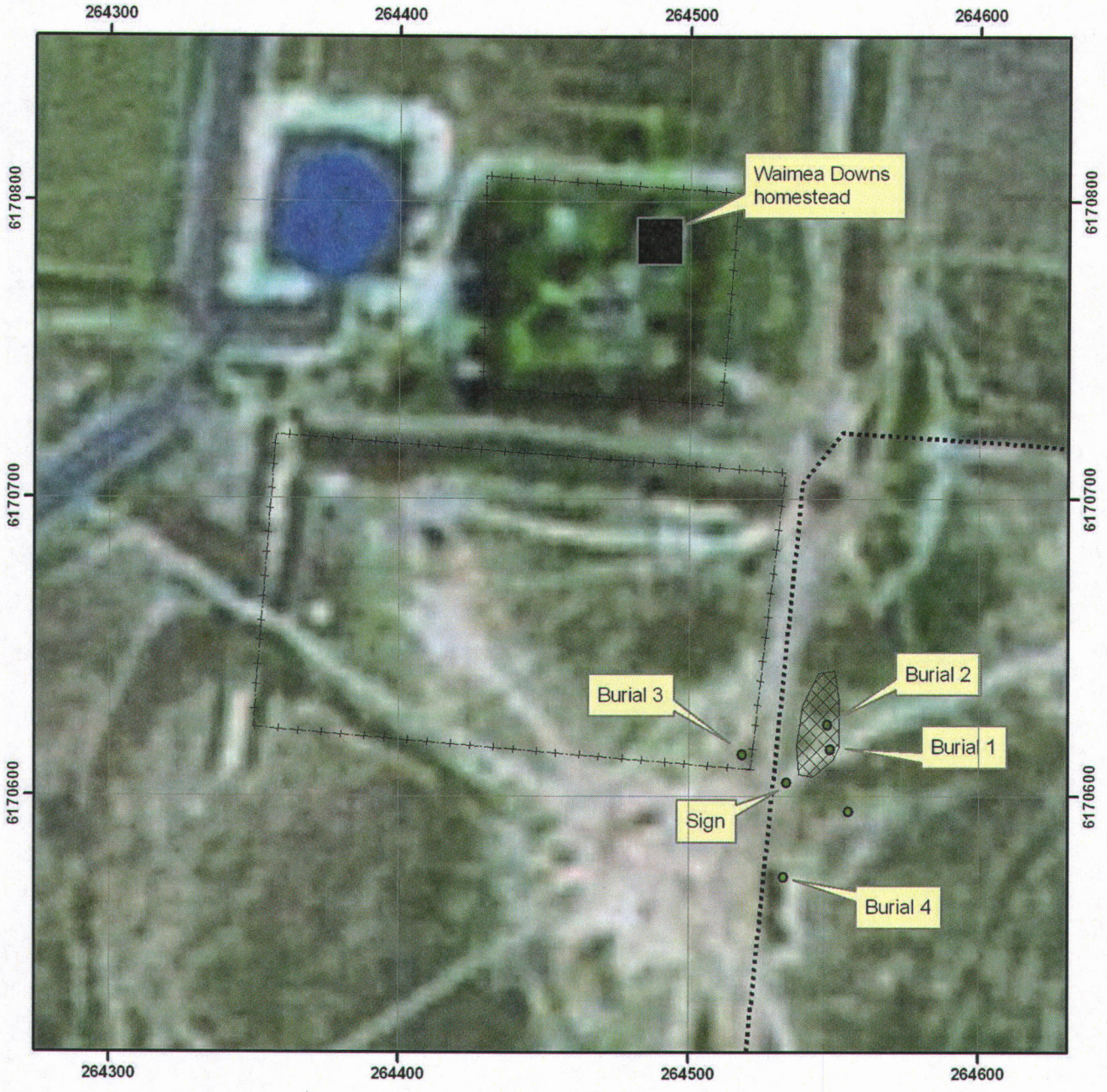
There are a number of signs around the property indicating the location and significance of Aboriginal heritage. A very large number of Aboriginal burials and mounds have been found on the property, and part of Toogimbie is now a declared Aboriginal Place. The Hay LALC maintain a mapping database of sites, features and infrastructure on the property, and are continuing to add to this data on a regular basis. In the vicinity of the Waimea Downs access road a sign advises that Aboriginal burials, stone artefacts and fireplaces occurred in the area, and states "Please do not drive across this area". The sign was erected some years ago to close a station track that was impacting on various Aboriginal heritage sites.

At some time in ca. 2012 two agriculture exchange work experience students from Denmark were driving tractors on the property, and were instructed to plough the margins of the cropped areas to maintain firebreaks and remove windmill grass. Without authorisation they cultivated an area of land, 50m x 15m, immediately beside (eastern side) the Waimea Downs homestead track (the location is adjacent to the Waimea Downs homestead, but on Toogimbie Station). The cultivation was done for unknown purposes, but occurred immediately beside the sign that had been erected by the Nari Nari Tribal Council.

Four Aboriginal burials have been reported from this area, and 2 of these were impacted by the cultivation (Burials 1 and 2, see below).

- Burial 1 (wpt 253). 6 teeth, right mandible (fragmented) and 2 finger bones (phalanges), cranial fragments and approx. 20 unidentified bone fragments.
- Burial 2 (wpt 254). 5 cranial fragments and 4 long bone fragments.
- Burial 3 (wpt 251). Located within the SE corner of the machinery yard. The burial is not visible, and the location was identified by Ian Woods (Hay LALC). At the time of recording, the burial had a farming implement parked on top. The sub-leaseee has been asked to move the equipment.
- Burial 4 (wpt 256). This is a reburial location. Graves were visible in this location in the 1990s and were covered with gravel and fill at that time. No remains are visible at this location now.
- Anvil/grindstone (wpt 255). Anvil in the general area, not in the impact area.
- Hearth/fireplace in roadside (wpt 257), exposed in the margin of the Waimea Downs access track.

LOCATION	FEATURE	AMGE	AMGN	REC_DATE
251	Burial 3 in machinery yard (not visible)	6170614	264518	18-APR-13 12:06
252	Nari Nari Tribal Council Sign	6170605	264534	18-APR-13 12:12
253	Burial 1	6170616	264549	18-APR-13 12:24
254	Burial 2	6170624	264548	18-APR-13 12:28
255	Anvil/grindstone not in impact area	6170595	264555	18-APR-13 12:35
256	Burial 4 Reburial area (1990s)	6170573	264533	18-APR-13 12:42
257	Hearth/fireplace on roadside	6170591	264515	18-APR-13 12:43



Site plan of burials located in the vicinity of Waimea Downs HS, Toogimbie Station. Dotted line = main access track from Sturt Highway. DATUM = GDA. MGA shown. Impact area of cultivation shown HATCHED.

Recommendation

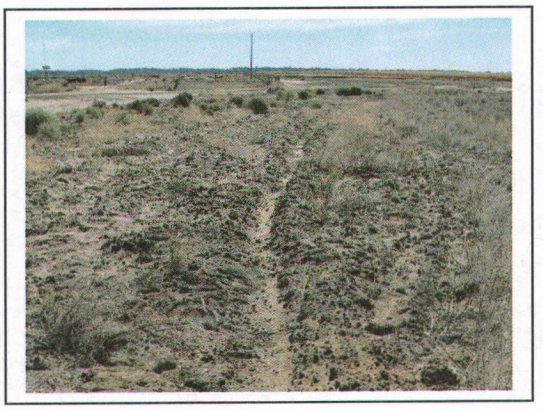
Mr Maynard has not been provided with a map of the location of Aboriginal sites on Toogimbie. He does not have plans to expand the area of cultivation. He has been advised by Hay LALC not to drive or impact areas of high ground. However the impacts to this area took place beside a sign that clearly advised on the sites location and requested the area be avoided. In this context it is recommended that:

1. Mr Maynard be issued with a warning letter, advising him to be aware of the presence of Aboriginal heritage sites on Toogimbie, and to plan works so as to avoid further impacts to these sites.

2. The exposed burials should be reburied and covered, in line with other similar works that have taken place on Toogimbie. The property employs a cultural heritage officer, and he is experienced in the identification and protection of Aboriginal burials.

3. Hay LALC provide Mr Maynard with more information (maps) on the location of Aboriginal sites on the property, areas of sensitivity, etc. to avoid further inadvertent impacts to Aboriginal sites.

Burial 3, located in corner of machinery yard, beneath implement. No bone visible



Burial 1 location (immediate foreground). View to N, over area that has been impacted by machinery

Burial 1, general view of scattered remains

Burial 1, close up of molars, incisors, mandibular fragment

Burial 2 location (immediate foreground), view to N over area impacted by cultivation machinery

Burial 2, cranial and long bone fragments

Nari Nari Tribal Council sign. Burals 1 and 2 are located 14m to the N (mid ground) in cultivated area. Details of sign at right.

Burial 4 (wpt 256). This is a reburial location, the graves that were visible in the area.

Anvil/grindstone at wpt 255.

Fireplace material at wpt 257, eroding from eastern margin of Waimea Downs access track.