

# Battery of the Nation – Rowallan PHES

ROBH05 Geotechnical  
investigation site Aboriginal  
heritage addendum report

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December 2019



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Hydro Tasmania Standard			
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# 1.0 Summary

This report summarises the results of an Aboriginal heritage inspection of proposed borehole ROB05 situated on North Maggs Road, 2.4km north of Maggs Mountain and 2.2km northwest of Rowallan Dam. The proposed borehole is supplementary to the substantive Rowallan PHES geotechnical investigation program which focussed on an area to the west of Maggs Mountain. This report is a brief addendum to the report titled *Battery of the Nation – Rowallan PHES Geotechnical Investigation Sites Aboriginal Heritage Assessments* dated September 2019.

The field assessment was limited to an area measuring 80m x 60m containing the proposed ROB05 borehole pad and c. 120m of access track linking the pad to North Maggs Road.

No Aboriginal artefacts were observed within the proposed works area comprising the drill pad and access track.

A single artefact was found to the east of North Maggs Rd. c. 70m south-east of previously recorded artefact scatter AH1635 and 0.9km north of the ROB05 drill pad. Neither site will be impacted by the proposed drilling activity.



## 3.0 Results

### 3.1 Survey coverage

Physical coverage of 3390m<sup>2</sup> was achieved within the 80m x 60m ROBHO5 drill pad study area, equating to 72.6%. Ground-surface visibility was very low however, averaging 7.9% overall but being typically below 5% away from the access track that passed along the north-side of the proposed drill pad. Full survey coverage was achieved of the access track from North Maggs Road which averaged 15% visibility. A summary of study area findings is presented in [Table 2](#) and illustrated in [Figure 1](#)

### 3.2 Identified Aboriginal heritage values

No Aboriginal artefacts were observed within the ROBHO5 drill pad and access track study areas.

A single artefact, a hornfels flake designated RO-AH05, was found 7m to the east of North Maggs Road approximately 70m south-east of the reported location of a small artefact scatter (AH1635) originally recorded in 1981 [Figure 2](#). A search was made for AH1635 at its reported location, however the terrain did not correspond to the description on the AH1635 site card. This is understandable given that it was originally recorded with reference to the Tasmap 100,000 map sheet series with the coordinates being later scaled and transformed for the AHR. The actual location of AH1635 may be anywhere within a 100-200m radius of the AHR coordinates. Notwithstanding, RO-AH05 has been recorded as a separate site to avoid confusion with the legacy record. RO-AH05 is 900m north of the ROBHO5 drill pad and will not be affected by the proposed activity.

Summary details of RO-AH05 are provided in [Table 1](#).

Aboriginal sites identified during assessment		
Field_ID	Description	Potential impacts
RO-AH05	Hornfels decortication flake 55mm x 45mm x 30mm situated in local scald in roadside windrowed area 7m east of North Maggs Rd. No other artefacts observed but glacial siliceous lag gravels present.	Will not be impacted by proposed activity

**Table 1: Rowallan Aboriginal sites located during field assessment**

### 3.3 Aboriginal heritage management recommendations

All Aboriginal relics in Tasmania are protected under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1975* (AHA) and cannot be impacted without a Permit issued by the Minister pursuant to the AHA.

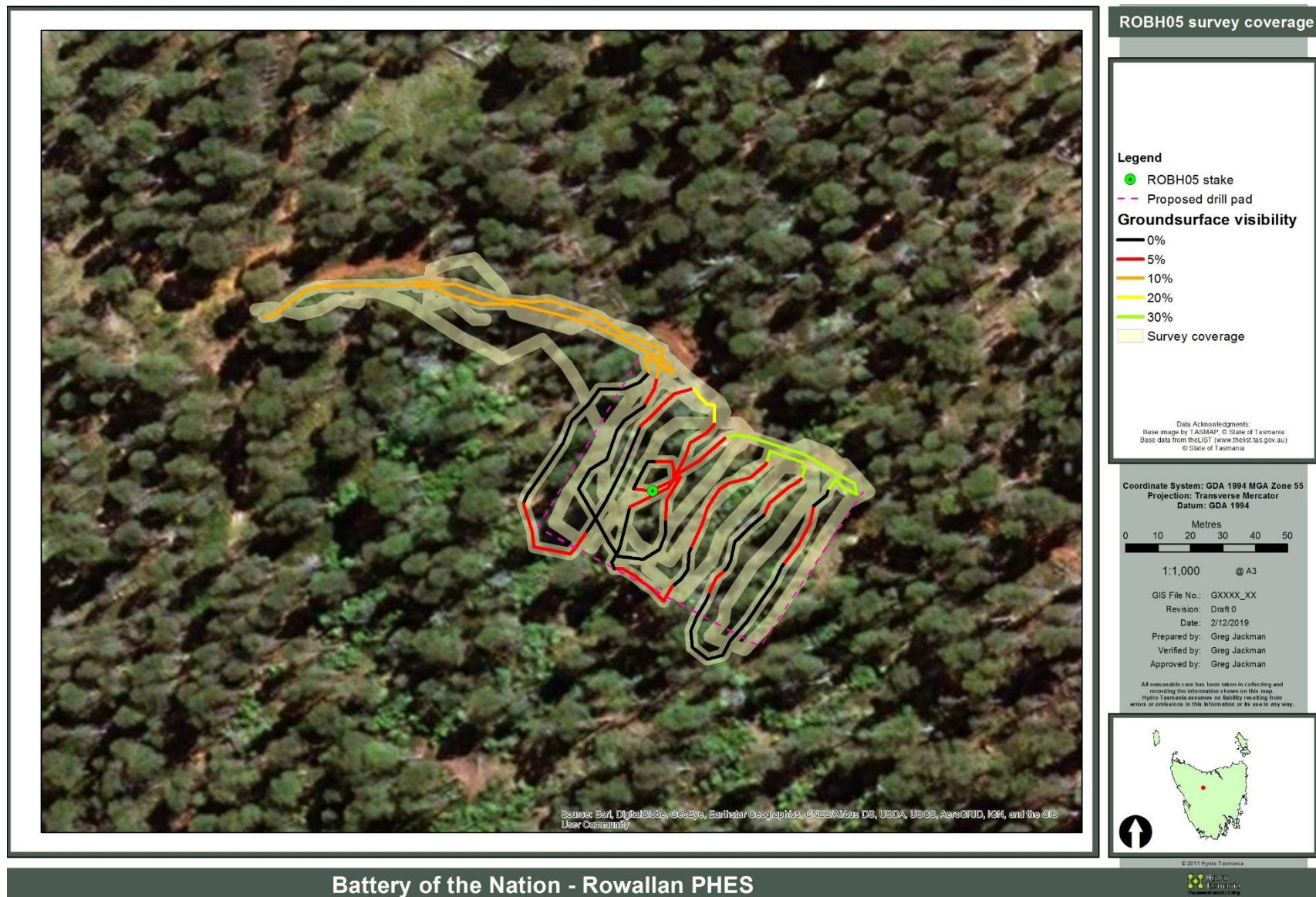
The proposed activity associated with ROBHO5 will not impact any identified Aboriginal relics, consequently no AHA Permit is required.

Given the Medium potential for undiscovered Aboriginal relics (i.e. stone artefacts) to be present on the elevated plateau generally, it is essential that the works contractors are aware of their responsibility to avoid impacts if relics are encountered during works. It is recommended that a copy of Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania's Unanticipated Discovery Plan is kept on hand for reference during the geotechnical investigations, and enacted if/when any relics are found. A copy of AHT's UDP is appended to this summary report.



Table 2: ROB05 field summary

Investigation site field summaries						
ID	Study area	Coverage	GSV	Description	Heritage risk	Image
RO-BH05	4672	73%	8%	Adjoins forestry track. Area has been historically logged with numerous large (>1mbhd) stumps and several trunks present. Ground heavily scarred and rutted/hummocky, with evidence of dozing and log dragging etc. Topsoil partially stripped exposing B clays with grass and prickly shrub cover.	Low-Medium	
RO-BH05 Access	480	100%	15%	4m wide forestry track, scalped to B clays with thin covering of grass and mosses. Land slopes gently westwards.	Low	



## Battery of the Nation - Rowallan PHES

Figure 1: ROB05 survey coverage and ground-surface visibility



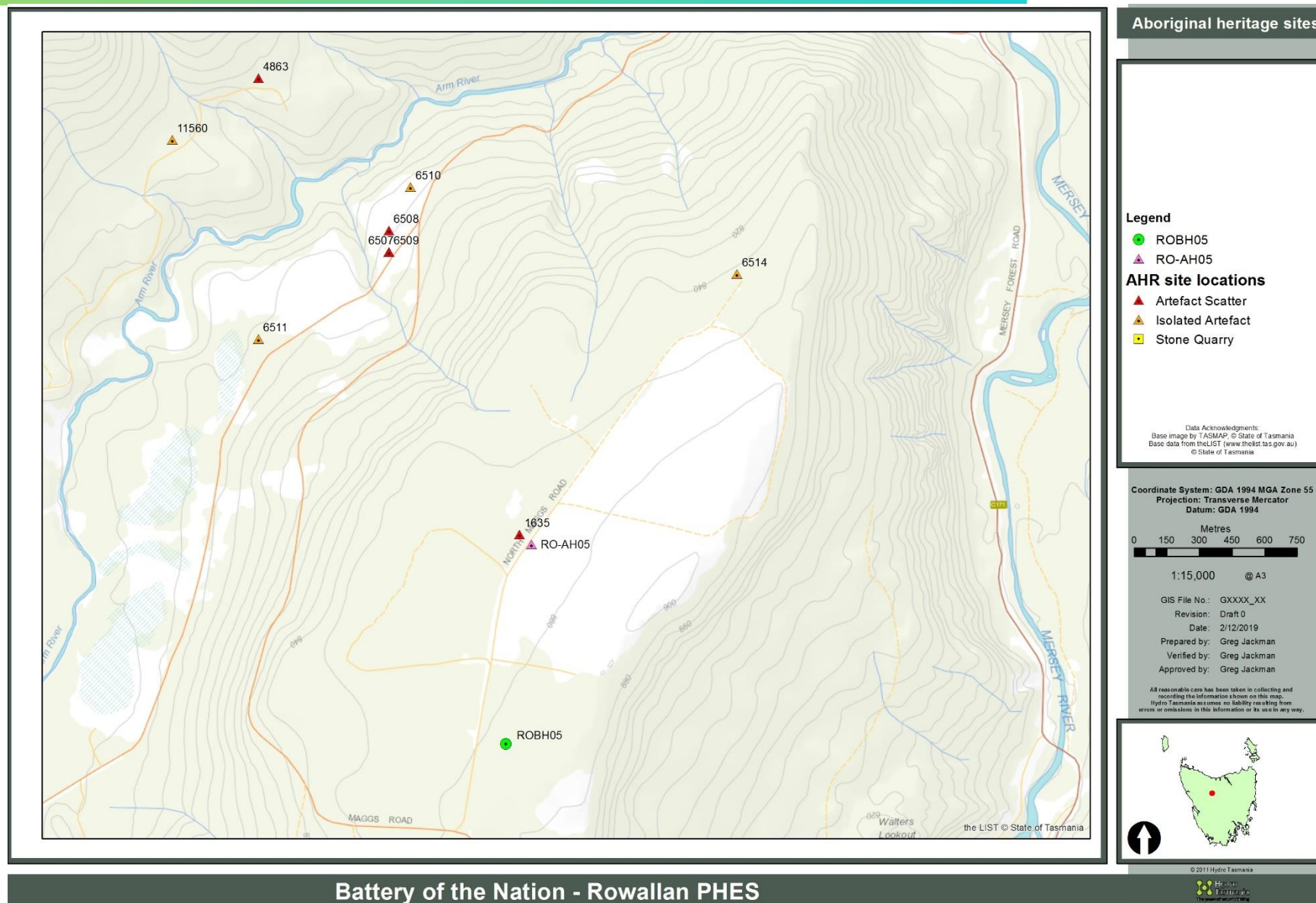


Figure 2: Aboriginal heritage sites in local area



# AHT Unanticipated Discovery Plan

## Unanticipated Discovery Plan

Procedure for the management of unanticipated discoveries of Aboriginal relics in Tasmania

For the management of unanticipated discoveries of Aboriginal relics in accordance with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1975* and the *Coroners Act 1995*. The Unanticipated Discovery Plan is in two sections.

### Discovery of Aboriginal Relics other than Skeletal Material

#### Step 1:

Any person who believes they have uncovered Aboriginal relics should notify all employees or contractors working in the immediate area that all earth disturbance works must cease immediately.

#### Step 2:

A temporary 'no-go' or buffer zone of at least 10m x 10m should be implemented to protect the suspected Aboriginal relics, where practicable. No unauthorised entry or works will be allowed within this 'no-go' zone until the suspected Aboriginal relics have been assessed by a consulting archaeologist, Aboriginal Heritage Officer or Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania staff member.

#### Step 3:

Contact Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania on **1300 487 045** as soon as possible and inform them of the discovery. Documentation of the find should be emailed to **aboriginal@heritage.tas.gov.au** as soon as possible. Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania will then provide further advice in accordance with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1975*.

### Discovery of Skeletal Material

#### Step 1:

Call the Police immediately. Under no circumstances should the suspected skeletal material be touched or disturbed. The area should be managed as a crime scene. It is a criminal offence to interfere with a crime scene.

#### Step 2:

Any person who believes they have uncovered skeletal material should notify all employees or contractors working in the immediate area that all earth disturbance works cease immediately.

#### Step 3:

A temporary 'no-go' or buffer zone of at least 50m x 50m should be implemented to protect the suspected skeletal material, where practicable. No unauthorised entry or works will be allowed within this 'no-go' zone until the suspected skeletal remains have been assessed by the Police and/or Coroner.

#### Step 4:

If it is suspected that the skeletal material is Aboriginal, Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania should be notified.

#### Step 5:

Should the skeletal material be determined to be Aboriginal, the Coroner will contact the Aboriginal organisation approved by the Attorney-General, as per the *Coroners Act 1995*.

