

# Heritage (Decision about Provisional Registration of Horse Park (Wetlands, Aboriginal Sites and Homestead Precinct), Gungahlin) Notice 2012

Notifiable Instrument NI 2012—473

made under the

***Heritage Act 2004* section 34 Notice of decision about provisional registration**

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**1. Name of instrument**

This instrument is the *Heritage (Decision about Provisional Registration of Horse Park (Wetlands, Aboriginal Sites and Homestead Precinct), Gungahlin) Notice 2012*.

**2. Registration details of the place**

On 6 September 2012 the ACT Heritage Council decided to provisionally register Horse Park (Wetlands, Aboriginal Sites and Homestead Precinct), Gungahlin to the ACT Heritage Register. Registration details of the place are at Attachment A: Provisional Register entry for Horse Park (Wetlands, Aboriginal Sites and Homestead Precinct), Gungahlin.

**3. Reason for decision**

The ACT Heritage Council has decided that Horse Park (Wetlands, Aboriginal Sites and Homestead Precinct), Gungahlin meets one or more of the heritage significance criteria at s 10 of the *Heritage Act 2004*. The provisional register entry is at Attachment A.

**4. Date of Provisional Registration**

6 September 2012

**5. Indication of council's intention**

The Council intends to decide whether to register the place under Division 6.2 within 5 months of provisional registration.

**6. Public consultation period**

The Council invites public comment by Wednesday 10 October 2012 on the provisional registration of Horse Park (Wetlands, Aboriginal Sites and Homestead Precinct), Gungahlin to:

The Secretary  
ACT Heritage Council  
GPO Box 158  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

**Jennifer O'Connell**  
**A/g Secretary**  
**ACT Heritage Council**

**6 September 2012**



ACT Heritage Council

**AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

**HERITAGE REGISTER  
(Provisional Registration Details)**

For the purposes of s. 33 of the *Heritage Act 2004*, an entry to the heritage register has been prepared by the ACT Heritage Council for the following place:

Horse Park (Wetlands, Aboriginal Sites and Homestead Precinct), 45 Roden Cutler Drive,  
Gungahlin, ACT

Blocks 766 and 814 (part), District of Gungahlin

**DATE OF PROVISIONAL REGISTRATION**

6 September 2012 Notifiable Instrument: 2012—473

**PERIOD OF EFFECT OF PROVISIONAL REGISTRATION**

Start Date: 6 September 2012 End Date: 6 February 2013

**Extended Period (if applicable)** Start Date \_\_\_\_\_ End Date \_\_\_\_\_

Copies of the Register Entry are available for inspection at the ACT Heritage Unit. For further information please contact:

The Secretary  
ACT Heritage Council  
GPO Box 158, Canberra, ACT 2601

Telephone: 13 22 81 Facsimile: (02) 6207 2229

## IDENTIFICATION OF THE PLACE

Horse Park (Wetlands, Aboriginal Sites and Homestead Precinct), 45 Roden Cutler Drive, Jacka , Gungahlin, ACT

Blocks 766 and 814 (part), District of Gungahlin

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## STATEMENT OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

This statement refers to the Heritage Significance of the place as required in s12(d) of the *Heritage Act 2004*.

Horse Park (Wetlands, Aboriginal Sites and Homestead Precinct) presents a cultural landscape unparalleled in the ACT. Its evolution is likely to span several thousand years and continues to the present.

Together, the Horse Park wetlands, history of Aboriginal occupation and the homestead precinct tell a rich story of land occupation connected to water and food resources. It is one of few sites within the ACT where this story can be so easily read and understood within the landscape in which it is situated. It is a story of the common needs and desires of both Aboriginal and European people in their choice of camp and settlement, creating layers of interaction and occupation likely spanning several thousand years and continuing to the present.

Each layer of heritage values—natural, Aboriginal and historic—is also of heritage significance in its own right.

### Natural values

The Horse Park wetlands (including pedoderm site) is significant as a relic of a once larger hydrological system, and is today a significant ecological community and habitat for a range of flora and fauna species, including the distinct occurrence of Latham's Snipe at a vulnerable stage of its life cycle, after its migration from the northern hemisphere.

The wetland is an important census point for monitoring the species health and annual life-cycle of Latham's Snipe (*Gallinago hardwickii*), which is protected under three international agreements (the Japanese and Australian Migratory Bird Agreement – JAMBA; the Chinese Australian Migratory Bird Agreement – CAMBA and, ROKAMBA, the Republic of Korea and Australian Migratory Bird Agreement)

The wetlands are also a significant ecological community and habitat for the distinct extensive ACT example of the association of rushes (*Juncus* spp.), Spike Rush (*Eleocharis* spp.) and sedges (*Carex* spp.). The locally uncommon Brownback Wallaby Grass (*Danthonia duttoniana*), Buttercup (*Ranunculus papulentus*) and Wavy Marshwort *Nymphoides crenata* are also found here.

### Aboriginal values

A number of exposures of Aboriginal stone artefacts have been recorded on the land bordering the wetland, demonstrating the importance of the wetland resources to Aboriginal people and its integration into the pre - European local economy. These places are all part of the physical evidence of a traditional way of life and form of pre-European land use that is no longer practiced within the ACT.

The individual artefacts at Horse Park also have significance due to their role in local Aboriginal tradition, and their potential to contribute to research about Aboriginal stone technology and the adaptation of that technology using introduced European manufactured glass.

The extent of Aboriginal artefact exposures around the Horse Park wetlands represents a strong association between the Aboriginal people and the resources offered by the wetlands. As a whole, the artefact exposures provide physical evidence of a well developed hunter-gatherer economic activity, and contribute to the overall picture of Aboriginal land use history of the Gungahlin area.

#### Historic values

Horse Park Homestead is one of the oldest continually occupied and worked rural properties in the ACT, dating from 1853, and the homestead precinct, together with its outbuildings and other infrastructure, is demonstrative of a way of life on a farming property in the nineteenth century. The range of construction methods utilised at Horse Park, together with the predominance of local materials likely sourced from the property, demonstrates a nineteenth century custom of vernacular building techniques to create simple structures appropriate to their purpose. The 1850s stone cottage at Horse Park is a rare example of a reasonably intact permanent and substantial building within the ACT dating from this time.

The homestead precinct is of significance for its association with the Gillespie family who were prominent in the rural development of the area. The settlement of John Gillespie's son, James, at the nearby Elm Grove property, is typical of and demonstrates the close connections and relationships between properties and families on smaller satellite properties in a rural region in the nineteenth century.

The Horse Park Homestead is a notable and rare example of a nineteenth century rural homestead and demonstrates the main characteristics of that kind including a homestead building surrounded by the outstations critical to a pastoral operation which together illustrate the spatial relationship of domestic and work life during this period.

Rural homesteads within the region portray a time before the establishment of the Federal Capital Territory, when the area was commonly occupied by small to medium scale pastoral operations, along with larger land holdings. The character of the ACT has changed dramatically since 1913, with today's city landscape deceptive of its early origins. It is often difficult to read the past agricultural and pastoral land use of the region. Remaining rural properties in the ACT have become important in interpreting the early European history of the area.

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### **OTHER RELATED REGISTRATIONS**

- Elm Grove, Gungahlin (entered separately to the ACT Heritage Register)
- A known Aboriginal spiritual site located in east Moncrieff.

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### **FEATURES INTRINSIC TO THE HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PLACE**

The attributes listed below are assessed as features intrinsic to the heritage significance of the place and require conservation:

- The Wetlands environment including the pedoderm site which feeds into it;
- Evidence of Aboriginal occupation including lithic and glass artefacts;
- The Homestead precinct, comprising:
  - stone cottage with weatherboard extension;
  - weatherboard cottage adjoining the stone cottage;
  - slab building with skillion extension;
  - weatherboard shed;
  - corrugated iron machinery shed;
  - former buggy/dairy shed;

- woolshed of corrugated iron with sheep-yards and dip;
- mature plantings of pear, prunus, willow, elms and cedars
- Early remnant fencing.

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### APPLICABLE HERITAGE GUIDELINES

The guiding conservation objective is that Horse Park, 45 Roden Cutler Drive and adjacent Block 814 (part), Gungahlin, shall be conserved and appropriately managed in a manner respecting its heritage significance and the features intrinsic to that heritage significance, and consistent with a sympathetic and viable use or uses. Any works that have a potential impact on significant fabric (and / or other heritage values) shall be guided by a professionally documented assessment and conservation policy relevant to that area or component (i.e. a Statement of Heritage Effects – SHE).

The 2006 Conservation Management Plan prepared by Eric Martin and Associates or any updated Conservation Management Plan endorsed by the ACT Heritage Council shall be referred to for specific conservation policies which shall guide the management of this place, including its natural, Aboriginal and historic heritage values.

#### Historic values

The 'Heritage Guidelines: General Conservation Guidelines for Historic Heritage Places 2012' adopted under s25 of the *Heritage Act 2004* are applicable to the conservation of the Horse Park Homestead Precinct.

#### Aboriginal values

The place is expected to contain further evidence of Aboriginal occupation of the area. Detailed archaeological surveys should occur as opportunity presents, or prior to the commencement of any works or development.

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### REASON FOR PROVISIONAL REGISTRATION

Horse Park (Wetlands, Aboriginal sites and Homestead Precinct) has been assessed against the heritage significance criteria and been found to have heritage significance when assessed against seven criteria under the *Heritage Act 2004* including (c), (e), (f), (g), (h), (j) and (l).

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### ASSESSMENT AGAINST THE HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE CRITERIA

Pursuant to s.10 of the *Heritage Act 2004*, a place or object has heritage significance if it satisfies one or more of the following criteria. Significance has been determined by research as accessed in the references below. Future research may alter the findings of this assessment.

- (a) **it demonstrates a high degree of technical or creative achievement (or both), by showing qualities of innovation, discovery, invention or an exceptionally fine level of application of existing techniques or approaches;**

Horse Park does not meet this criterion.

- (b) **it exhibits outstanding design or aesthetic qualities valued by the community or a cultural group;**

While the Horse Park Homestead and its rural pastoral setting have distinct inherent aesthetic qualities, the relatively low level of community awareness of the rural history of the ACT and of this property impedes community appreciation of the design and aesthetic qualities.

Horse Park does not meet this criterion.

- (c) it is important as evidence of a distinctive way of life, taste, tradition, religion, land use, custom, process, design or function that is no longer practised, is in danger of being lost or is of exceptional interest;**

#### As a cultural landscape

The Horse Park Precinct is important as evidence of a distinctive land use of exceptional interest, as an organically evolved cultural landscape. Together, the wetlands, evidence of Aboriginal occupation, and later European settlement of this area tell an intricate story of the human association with and response to the natural environment. Evidence of occupation and extant built features of Horse Park portray its evolution over time, including continuance to the present.

There are no known comparable examples within the ACT which demonstrate to the same extent the layering of natural, Aboriginal and historic values.

#### Aboriginal values

Horse Park is important as evidence of an Aboriginal way of life and land use that is no longer practiced. The stone artefact scatters recorded at Horse Park demonstrate past Aboriginal occupation, technology, and settlement patterns in this area of Gungahlin, and contribute further to the picture of past activity in the area. Stone was a vital resource in Aboriginal culture, essential to everyday living, and the exposures represent a well-developed hunter-gatherer economic activity.

The moderate density of lithic artefacts found at the margins of the wetlands attest to the association between Aboriginal people and lowland wetland food resources (ACT Heritage Unit 1994). Aboriginal people were likely to have procured specific resources from this local environment such as water birds and their eggs, fish, frogs and yabbies (see below), the wetlands and lithic assemblage thus remain as evidence for a form of land use no longer practiced.

#### Historic values

Horse Park Homestead is also important as evidence of a distinctive way of life and custom in the nineteenth century that is of exceptional interest.

The range of construction methods utilised at Horse Park in 1853 and 1899, together with the predominance of local materials sourced from the property, demonstrates a nineteenth century custom of vernacular building techniques to create simple structures which are appropriate to their purpose.

The 1853 homestead was constructed of stone. The later, 1899, building was constructed of timber slabs. These construction techniques were typical of these eras within the Canberra region, though are no longer common today.

The homestead precinct, together with its outbuildings and other infrastructure, is demonstrative of a way of life on a farming property in the nineteenth century.

The siting of the homestead precinct near the wetlands with permanent water, and the hierarchy and relationship of the associated buildings and plantings illustrate nineteenth and twentieth century rural traditions and the way of life on an isolated property.

The settlement of John Gillespie's son, James, at the nearby Elm Grove property, is typical of and demonstrates the close connections and relationships between properties and families in a rural region in the nineteenth century.

Together with Elm Grove, Horse Park provides a picture of a family enterprise extending over more than a century and a half. Horse Park's articulation with the adjacent property, Elm Grove, contributes to its significance under this criterion. These properties enhance the interpretation of each other and together have the potential to promote understanding of a living pastoral and agricultural history of the ACT region, from the 19<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Horse Park meets this criterion.

**(d) it is highly valued by the community or a cultural group for reasons of strong or special religious, spiritual, cultural, educational or social associations;**

The ACT Aboriginal community considers all physical evidence of the past occupation of the ACT by Aboriginal people to be significant. However, there is insufficient evidence to show that the Horse Park Wetlands feature strongly enough in general cultural knowledge to warrant inclusion under this criterion.

There is insufficient evidence to suggest that Horse Park (wetlands, Aboriginal sites and homestead precinct) is highly valued by the community or a cultural group for reasons of strong or special religious, spiritual, cultural, educational or social associations.

There is no evidence before Council to indicate that the place meets this criterion.

**(e) it is significant to the ACT because of its importance as part of local Aboriginal tradition.**

Aboriginal values

The Horse Park area has yielded glass artefacts that are important as part of local Aboriginal tradition, and are significant to the ACT. Glass artefacts are rarely found in archaeological contexts in the ACT and represent an identifiable time period of occupation, and particular method of material procurement and tool manufacture within the Territory. The place displays evidence that relates to an important phase of traditional Aboriginal occupation of the ACT region, reflecting the adaptation and survival of Aboriginal people following European settlement of the region.

Horse Park meets this criterion.

**(f) it is a rare or unique example of its kind, or is rare or unique in its comparative intactness**

As a cultural landscape

Horse Park (wetlands, Aboriginal sites and homestead precinct) is a rare example of an organically evolved cultural landscape within the ACT which shows evidence of the combined efforts of nature and people in creating layers of interaction and occupation likely spanning several thousand years and continuing to the present.

There are no other known comparable examples in the ACT which demonstrate such a wealth of natural, Aboriginal and historic values inter-related and layered upon the one site to such an extent.

Aboriginal Values

The glass artefacts uncovered at Horse Park are rare examples of adaptation following contact between Aboriginal people and European settlers in the ACT.



#### Historic values

The Horse Park Homestead is an uncommon example of a nineteenth century rural homestead in the ACT region.

Rural homesteads within the region portray a time before the establishment of the Federal Capital Territory, when the area was commonly occupied by small to medium scale pastoral operations, along with larger land holdings. Other examples of nineteenth century rural homesteads in the ACT include Elm Grove, Belconnen Farm, Gungaherra, Well Station, and Lanyon.

The character of the ACT has changed dramatically since 1913, with today's city landscape deceptive of its early origins. It is often difficult to read the past agricultural and pastoral land use of the region. Remaining nineteenth century rural properties in the ACT have become important in interpreting the early European history of the area.

Horse Park meets this criterion.

**(g) it is a notable example of a kind of place or object and demonstrates the main characteristics of that kind**

#### Aboriginal values

The artefacts discovered at Horse Park are notable examples of Aboriginal tools as constructed from glass. They are identified as flakes or flaked pieces with blood and/or starch residue indicative of sectioning animal or other food sources (EMA 2006: 57). However, although previous assessments have asserted their Aboriginal provenance with some confidence, for the purposes of this citation there is insufficient information currently available to conclude that they demonstrate the main characteristics of their kind.

#### Historic values

The Horse Park Homestead is a notable example of a nineteenth century rural homestead and demonstrates the main characteristics of that kind.

The characteristics evident at Horse Park include the homestead building and precinct, including the outbuildings crucial for supporting the operations of an agricultural and pastoral farm. The homestead precinct, including outbuildings, has an ability to demonstrate the spatial relationship of domestic and work life during this period, and portrays the way of life on a rural property at that time.

The two neighbouring properties of Elm Grove and Horse Park together enhance an understanding of each other as representative of successful smaller properties with a heavy dependence on family labour and endurance, and demonstrate a dynastic character usually associated with larger properties. In addition, the integrity of Horse Park's farming infrastructure and building types and the aesthetics of its landscape setting demonstrate different characteristics of their kind while providing an example of properties with a shared history.

Horse Park meets this criterion.

**(h) it has strong or special associations with a person, group, event, development or cultural phase in local or national history**

#### Aboriginal values

The Horse Park area has special association with the cultural phase of contact history between Aboriginal people and European settlers. This association is evoked by the occurrence of glass artefacts, which commonly attest to 'contact' in the archaeological record. They occur frequently

in certain parts of Australia, but rarely in the ACT. The artefacts discovered within the Horse Park boundaries can be viewed in context with two others located in the greater area. When considered collectively these artefacts are illustrative in terms of understanding past cultural contact in the Gungahlin region.

#### Historic values

The Horse Park Homestead has a special association with the Gillespie family who were important in local history as one of the earliest families to settle on a small area of land in the Ginninderra district. The Horse Park Homestead Precinct was settled by the first generation of the Gillespie family in the district.

The Gillespies exhibited the common practice among small and medium-scale graziers of building up their pastoral holdings by judicious acquisitions in the surrounding area. Horse Park itself was added to in this way. This practice characterised the settlement pattern in what was to become the ACT in the second half of the nineteenth century, and the association with the homestead as the centre of such activity has symbolic significance and interpretative potential.

In addition, together with the Elm Grove property, Horse Park has strong associations with the pastoral and agricultural history of the ACT.

Horse Park meets this criterion.

**(i) it is significant for understanding the evolution of natural landscapes, including significant geological features, landforms, biota or natural processes**

Horse Park does not meet this criterion.

**(j) it has provided, or is likely to provide, information that will contribute significantly to a wider understanding of the natural or cultural history of the ACT because of its use or potential use as a research site or object, teaching site or object, type locality or benchmark site**

#### Natural values

The Horse Park wetlands environment (including pedoderm site) is likely to provide information that will contribute significantly to a wider understanding of the natural history of the ACT because of its use as a research site.

The wetland is an important census point for monitoring the species health and annual life-cycle of Latham's Snipe. Regular surveys are conducted on its status in the area during its southern residence in south-eastern Australia. The surveys enable a continuing census of the birds leading to a better understanding of the species, its behavior and habitat requirements.

#### Aboriginal values

The place is likely to contain more Aboriginal artefact scatters, and the relationship between the wetland and these associated cultural sites is of research interest.

These sites have a high potential to reveal further information about artefact function and manufacture in addition to patterns of occupation and resource procurement, contributing significantly to a broader understanding of past Aboriginal life in this region.

Horse Park meets this criterion

- (k) for a place—it exhibits unusual richness, diversity or significant transitions of flora, fauna or natural landscapes and their elements

Horse Park does not meet this criterion.

- (l) for a place—it is a significant ecological community, habitat or locality for any of the following:
- (i) the life cycle of native species;
  - (ii) rare, threatened or uncommon species;
  - (iii) species at the limits of their natural range;
  - (iv) distinct occurrences of species.

#### Natural values

The Horse Park Wetlands (including pedoderm site) is a relic of a once larger hydrological system, and is today a significant example of this ecological community and habitat for a range of flora and fauna species.

The wetlands are part of the floodplain of Horse Park Creek, a small drainage creek leading into Ginninderra Creek and ultimately the Murrumbidgee River. The origin of the wetlands is due in part to the natural constriction of flow near the headwaters of the creek caused by low opposing ridges. It is a good example of a wetland type within a biogeographic region (south eastern highlands) of Australia.

The Horse Park wetlands are a significant ecological community and habitat for the distinct occurrence of Latham's Snipe (*Gallinago harwickii*) at a vulnerable stage of its life cycle, after its migration from the northern hemisphere. The wetlands provide a refuge for the birds, particularly during adverse drought conditions. Latham's Snipe is seen only at a small number of locations in and around the ACT. The Horse Park Wetlands is possibly the most important site for this species in the ACT. The migratory bird is protected under three international agreements—Japanese and Australian Migratory Bird Agreement (JAMBA), the Chinese Australian Migratory Bird Agreement (CAMBA) and the Republic of Korea and Australian Migratory Bird Agreement (ROKAMBA). These agreements provide for the reciprocal protection of the migratory species and their habitats.

The wetlands are also a significant ecological community and habitat for the distinct occurrence of the association of *Juncus* spp., *Eleocharis* spp. and *Carex* spp as an extensive example in the ACT. While these genera are quite common, Horse Park is the only wetland in the lowland area of the ACT where preservation of this association enables an extensive example of the original type to be seen. The locally uncommon Brownback Wallaby Grass (*Danthonia duttoniana*), Buttercup (*Ranunculus papulentus*) and Wavy Marshwort *Nymphoides crenata* are also found here.

Horse Park meets this criterion.

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## SUMMARY OF THE PLACE HISTORY AND PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

### HISTORY

Horse Park (Wetlands, Aboriginal Sites and Homestead Precinct) is a complex site with a range of heritage values spanning natural, Aboriginal and historic. The layered history of Aboriginal and European occupation of the area is resultant from the naturally occurring wetland habitat, and the water and food source it has provided.

It is one of few places within the ACT which is registered for all values under the *Heritage Act 2004* – natural, Aboriginal and historic.

### **Wetlands**

‘Wetlands of the ACT are both naturally occurring and artificially constructed. In the ACT, wetlands range from naturally occurring freshwater swamps and marshes, peatlands and bogs to man-made lakes, dams and ponds. There are many wetlands located within the ACT, of which one is recognised as internationally important (Ginini Flats Wetlands Ramsar Site, in Namadgi National Park) and 13 have been listed as nationally important’ (ACT Government, 2004: 1).

Only two of these sites are outside of Namadgi National Park—Horse Park Wetlands, Gungahlin and Jerrabomberra Wetlands, Jerrabomberra. The Horse Park Wetlands is the only one not currently located in a reserve system and not formed by human intervention.

‘Wetlands perform important ecological functions and possess values that are important to the community. They provide important linkages in our landscapes and are home to a wide variety of plants, animals and micro-organisms’ (ACT Government, 2004: 1).

The Horse Park Wetlands are formed by the Horse Park Creek which flows through a valley constricted by two ridgelines. Alluvium, originating from the eroding ridgelines and from reduced creek flow velocity within the low-lying area, has created a flat configuration of the valley, which formed a wide flood plain for the creek. Surface water of the wetland results largely from local rainfall running into the creek and drainage from the surrounding slopes, particularly from the extensive catchment area to the north.

The present wetlands are a relic of a larger hydrological system. The effects of more than a century of farming and land clearing have reduced an area that once occupied much of the valley of Horse Park Creek and its tributaries to the small ‘Y’ shaped wetlands that exist today. Grazing by sheep and cattle still continues on the wetlands and surrounding land and this has facilitated weed invasion.

The Horse Park Wetlands is considered to be of national importance and is listed in *A Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia* (Lintermans & Ingwersen 1996).

A pedoderm basin lies immediately upstream from the wetlands environment and is integral to its sustainability and structure. ‘The basin, through its significant water storage and flow attenuation capacity, ensures that some 95% of catchment discharge is by seepage into the wetland zone, and sustains slow release of water storage (maintenance of seepage within the wetland zone) through extended dry periods’ (ACTPLA, 2008: 13). The pedoderm provides a buffer to help protect the wetlands at times of major storm discharge and the interception of water pollutants.

A pedoderm is a ‘region of gravels and sandy clays lying between residual surface soils and bedrocks’ (ACTPLA, 2008: 13). Pedoderm: in brief, ‘the soil skin’. At Horse Park Wetland, the pedoderm is a shallow bed (up to 4m deep) of alluvial silt, sands and gravels that is able to absorb and retain large volumes of water, thereby attenuating down-stream erosion. (Ian Lawrence, ‘*Horse Park Wetland: Hydraulic Analysis*’. CRC for Freshwater Ecology Report. ACTPLA Jacka Residential Estate Study 2005)

Further information regarding flora and fauna species of the Horse Park Wetlands is provided under ‘Description’, below.

### **Aboriginal**

The Ngunnawal people are traditionally affiliated with the lands within the Canberra region. The Ngunnawal people draw cultural significance from and strongly associate with places such as the Horse Park environs. However, it is also acknowledged that other local and regional Aboriginal groups with traditional affiliations to the Canberra region draw significance from places such as this. In this citation,

'Aboriginal community' refers to the Ngunnawal people and other Aboriginal groups within the ACT who draw significance from the place. Whilst the term 'Aboriginal community' acknowledges these said groups in the ACT, it is recognised that their traditional territories extend outside contemporary borders.

The following history of Aboriginal occupation at Horse Park has been extracted from *Horse Park, Gungahlin: Conservation Management Plan*, Eric Martin and Associates and Peter Dowling, 2006 (pp 55-68).

Aboriginal use of Horse Park has an antiquity most likely dating back to the beginning of the Holocene.

Several Aboriginal surface artefact exposures have been recorded within the boundary of Horse Park – containing examples of backed blades and glass artefacts – occurring mainly around the periphery of the wetlands (Biosis Research, 2012; Huys 1993; Saunders, 1994; and ACT Heritage Unit 1994). The places were recorded during four separate surveys Biosis Research 2012; (Huys, 1993; Saunders and Officer, 1994; ACT Heritage Unit, 1994).

The Horse Park Wetlands together with other similar areas in the southeast highlands are likely to have been a focal point for Aboriginal groups. Occupation of wetland environments was possibly throughout the year, with usage intensity fluctuating in accordance with the season and the availability of surface water. The presence of a reliable source of water for most of the time offered by wetlands and environs provided a wide range of food resources located in a confined area. These included the glutinous rhizomes of the bulrush, *Typha* species, roots of several species of rush and yam, water birds and their eggs, yabbies, fish, frogs, shell fish, reptiles and the large and small mammal populations of the surrounding grasslands and open forests.

The extent of Aboriginal artefact exposures around the Horse Park wetlands represents a strong association between the Aboriginal hunter-gatherers and the resources offered by the wetlands.

The existence of the wetlands and associated food and resources would have been a primary reason for Aboriginal use of the Horse Park area.

The presence of backed blades and glass artefacts in the Horse Park area can tell us something of the time depth of occupation and use of the wetlands as a resource. Backed blades make their appearance in the archaeological record of the southern highlands approximately 4,000 to 3,500 years ago. Their presence in the Horse Park area then indicates that Aboriginal use of the wetlands resources may date from that time period or even earlier.

The presence of artefacts manufactured from glass is even more definitive in terms of the period of use of the wetlands as it can be stated that Aboriginal people were occupying and using the Horse Park Wetlands after the arrival of European settlers.

The Aboriginal archaeology at Horse Park is largely representative and typical of open artefact scatters found throughout the Southern Highlands region. The distribution of the sites, bordering the wetlands, reflects the predictive trend with a higher density of site distribution and size nearer to major water and food sources. The stone artefacts within the sites are made from local lithic sources and again reflect the common trend of utilising nearby available stone sources.

Where the Horse Park precinct differs both regionally and throughout the ACT is in the presence of artefacts manufactured in the traditional way but using glass as the source material. Two glass artefacts were recorded within a site on a track leading in a southerly direction from the homestead precinct. These artefacts provide strong evidence of the co-existence of Aboriginal and European people within the area. (Huys, 1993: 65).

A third site at the Ginninderra Blacksmith Shop also contained an artefact manufactured from similar glass. While glass artefacts are not uncommon in Aboriginal sites throughout Australia, particularly those dating up to the mid and late nineteenth century, there is only one other recorded site in the ACT (at Hume) displaying glass as a medium for traditional tool manufacture.

## **Historic**

### **Contextual history**

The Gungahlin area was first recorded by a European in 1820—explorer Charles Throsby. The first European settlement of the district was circa 1826 by George Thomas Palmer at the area later known as 'Ginninderra'. Further squatters and pastoralists took up extensive areas of land in the Gungahlin area.

'Until 1861 the majority of landholders took up large blocks, or amalgamated smaller holdings into larger agglomerations' (Pearson, 2002: 13). From 1861 with the introduction of the *Robertson Land Act*, selectors began to occupy smaller holdings, primarily the less desirable and less well-watered lands in the northern and western part of Gungahlin (Pearson 2002:13). These selections resulted in a denser and more varied population than the previous large pastoralist holdings.

The *Robertson Land Act* required selectors to reside on their land, resulting in an increase in the area's population (Pearson, 2002: 14).

While George Thomas Palmer had established a substantial pastoral holding at Ginninderra Creek on land granted to him in 1831 (Pearson 2002), one of the earliest European settlers in the Gungahlin area was John Gillespie, who took up Portion 28 at Dead Horse Gully in the Parish of Goorooyaroo in 1852. The following year he built a permanent home there called Horse Park, which is believed to have been the earliest homestead in Gungahlin (Gillespie 1985).

These early settlers were generally on smaller holdings than the early land grants of Moore, Palmer and Campbell. It was often a high priority for these settlers to establish themselves as self sufficient. Land was quickly cleared and crops and gardens were established with wheat, oats, maize, fruit trees and basic vegetables providing some of the staples of life alongside livestock such as cattle. Wheat was an important crop with flour being an essential commodity. Sheep were the main pastoral stock on most of the large holdings in the area, although cattle and horses were also both common (Navin Officer, 2010).

### **Horse Park and the Gillespie family**

John Gillespie emigrated in 1841, and worked for William Klensendorff at Canberra for two years before he, his wife Mary Anne, daughter Elizabeth Jane, and son George, moved to the Ginninderra district, where a second son, James, was born in 1844.

Gillespie bought 30 acres (portion 28) at Dead Horse Gully in 1852, near the headwaters of Ginninderra Creek in 1852. They named their property 'Horse Park' and began building the stone homestead and other structures in 1853. Prior to this, they had lived in a slab house, which they had built on the property. The stone homestead was probably the earliest in Gungahlin and is certainly the earliest of those still remaining in the area today (Gillespie 1985:4; 1992:13-14).

Following a further survey of land in the area by Surveyor Thomas Weever in 1856, the Gillespies purchased an adjoining block of 80 acres (portion 27, Parish of Goorooyaroo). In the years to come John and Mary Ann, together with their four sons and two daughters, successfully farmed Horse Park and added considerably to their holdings as adjoining land became available (Gillespie 1992:13-14).

The Gillespies continued to live at Horse Park until John died on 15<sup>th</sup> January 1889. His widow, Mary Ann, carried on the property with the assistance of her second youngest son, William, continuing on after his death in 1893, until she died on 5<sup>th</sup> January 1895.

The property was then sold to William Ryan of Michelago (Gillespie 1985:31). The Ryans were successful farmers at Horse Park, raising a family and acquiring more land in the district.

In 1899, during their tenure at Horse Park, the original kitchen was burnt down (Gillespie, pers. comm. 1999) and subsequent additions were made to the existing homestead, including the slab building, which was built by Frederick Thomas Jones c. 1900.

The main homestead buildings existed when the property was surveyed by the Commonwealth in 1913 (Moriarty valuation). This gave the building dates for the stone building as 1875, the slab kitchen as 1900 and the weatherboard cottage as 1910. A baker's oven, laundry, dairy, buggy shed, outhouse, woolshed (built 1905-07) and mouse-proof barn were also listed.

The Ryan's ownership of Horse Park ended and the property was broken up when a portion of the total land was compulsorily acquired on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 1916, as part of the Federal Capital Territory. At the time of acquisition, the Ryans owned a total of 4,774 acres of land. Approximately 3,000 acres were outside the boundary of the ACT. The Ryans were compensated for both areas of land.

Since the acquisition of Horse Park, the homestead has been occupied and the land worked by a series of lessees (Gillespie 1985:31). These include Jack Tickner, Frank Gifford, D.A. McPherson, Bob Stewart (did not live on the property), Graham Hyles, and Allan and Doris Pattinson.

### Elm Grove

John Gillespie's son, James, settled at the nearby Elm Grove in 1882, building a timber cottage at this time. James lived there until his death in 1926, and his wife, Isabella, until her death in 1938. Their son, Harold, continued to farm the property until 1974 (Gillespie 2000:18, 25).

The Gillespie family at both the Horse Park and Elm Grove properties pursued the common practice among small and medium scale graziers of building up their pastoral holdings by judicious acquisitions in the surrounding area. The settlement of eldest son James at Elm Grove neighboring his parents' property at Horse Park is a typical example of this practice in the pastoral development of the region.

### CULTURAL LANDSCAPES

The International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) has defined three types of cultural landscapes:

- clearly defined landscapes, such as gardens and parks;
- organically evolved landscapes; and
- associative cultural landscapes, including those that have strong religious, artistic or cultural association rather than material evidence (ICOMOS, 2009).

ICOMOS defines organically evolved cultural landscapes as those that have resulted 'from an initial social, economic, administrative, and/or religious imperative and has developed its present form by association with and in response to its natural environment. Such landscapes reflect that process of evolution in their form and component features' (2009). Organically evolved cultural landscapes may be relict or continuing.

In this sense, the Horse Park Precinct is considered a continually evolving organic cultural landscape. It has resulted from an initial social imperative—to live near water and food resources; and has developed its present form (including evidence of Aboriginal occupation and elements of the built environment) by association with and in response to the wetlands. Its evolution continues as a continually occupied homestead and property.

### **DESCRIPTION**

Horse Park is located in the Gungahlin district, near to the proposed future suburb of Jacka. The site consists of wetlands, 26 Aboriginal artefact scatters within Block 766 and an additional site within the registered area of Block 814, and a homestead precinct containing a number of built structures.

### Wetlands

The 40 ha wetland area is formed on the flood plain of Horse Park Creek. The majority of the wetland is associated with the main creek channel with a large catchment area to the north. The occurrence of the wetland is due in part to the natural constriction of flow caused by low opposing ridges (Lintermans &

Ingwersen 1996:42). There is a secondary permanently wet drainage area in the western portion of the wetland, which rejoins the creek, approximately 400 m downstream of the wetland. The total catchment area discharging into the wetland is approximately 685 ha (Scott & Furphy Pty Ltd and David Hogg Pty Ltd 1992 cited in Lintermans & Ingwersen 1996:42).

A pedoderm plain is located immediately to the north-west of the Horse Park homestead, forming part of the wetlands environment. The pedoderm is an extensive natural drainage and flow attenuation system. 'The Horse Park wetland is fed by groundwater. Runoff from the surrounding catchment is collected underground in the pedoderm basin and water is slowly discharged to the wetland through the lower 'face' of the pedoderm' (Barlow et al., 2005: 6).

The area provides a wetland habitat attracting many waterbirds and acts as an important refuge for them particularly during drought periods (National Capital Development Commission 1984:43). One of the most important migratory species is Latham's Snipe (*Gallinago hardwickii*), which is seen only at a small number of locations in and around the ACT. The wetlands are possibly the most important site for this species in the ACT (Lintermans & Ingwersen 1996:42). Latham's Snipe breed in northern Japan and the southern Kurile Islands and migrate to southeast Australia for the southern summer. They are protected by international agreements between Australia, Japan, China and Korea. These agreements, collectively known as the Japanese and Australian Migratory Bird Agreement (JAMBA), the Chinese Australian Migratory Bird Agreement (CAMBA) and the Republic of Korea and Australian Migratory Bird Agreement (ROKAMBA), provide for the reciprocal protection of the migratory species and their habitats.

'Latham's Snipe are seasonal migrants, leaving their breeding grounds in the northern hemisphere to overwinter in Australia. Snipe arrive in the ACT in mid-August and depart in late- February/March' (EMA, 2006: 68).

Mark Linterman's 1992/93 survey of Latham Snipe at the Horse Park Wetlands recorded 20 of the birds in October, clearly indicating 'that this wetland is one of the most important sites for snipe known for the ACT' (EMA, 2006: 68). However, 'no general survey of snipe distribution has been carried out in the Gungahlin region and consequently the Horse Park population cannot be placed in any regional context' (EMA, 2006: 68).

Censuses of the birds are regularly taken and any change in their abundance that resulted from deterioration of the habitat would become a matter of international concern.

The vegetation of the wetland is an open sedgeland dominated by *Carex* and *Juncus* species including *J. australis*, *J. vaginatus*, *J. sarophorus* and introduced *J. articulatus*. *Carex appressa* and *C. tereticaulis* form clumps over a metre high with *C. appressa* dominating the wetland area. The wetland area contains Brownback Wallaby Grass (*Danthonia duttoniana*), Buttercup (*Ranunculus papulentus*) and Wavy Marshwort (*Nymphoides crenata*), all of which are considered locally uncommon in the ACT (Lintermans & Ingwersen 1996:42). While the dominant genera are quite common, there is no other wetland area of the ACT where preservation of this association enables an extensive example of its type to be seen. Although Jerrabomberra Wetland contains patches of related vegetation, much of this is of recent development resulting from manipulation of the drainage of the eastern area of Lake Burley Griffin.

### **Aboriginal artefact scatters**

The artefact exposures at Horse Park are mainly located on elevated ground around the immediate margins of the wetlands, indicating a strong association with the wetlands and a distinctive form of Aboriginal activity in the area. The majority of sites have been found on exposed or eroded areas of the Homestead Precinct. The recorded sites may represent a subset of a much larger site precinct associated with the wetlands (EMA, 2006: 54-55). However, poor visibility owing to tall, reedy grasses bordering the wetlands has made this hypothesis difficult to test (BIOSIS 2012).

The artefacts previously and recently recorded within the Horse Park curtilage are made from a variety of stone types including chert, silcrete, jasper, rhyolite, chalcedony, quartz and volcanic material. All these



stone types are available in the general ACT / NSW area. Two pieces of sandstone have been recorded (ACT Heritage Unit, 1994). The pieces show evidence of abrasion and are believed to be fragments of a grinding stone. Sandstone sources suitable for the manufacture of grinding stones are rare in the ACT and few of these implements have been recovered in an archaeological context in the ACT. Detailed microscopic examination would be required to ascertain whether the grinding stone was used to sharpen stone or wooden artefacts or to grind vegetables or pigments (National Trust, nomination).

The variety of stone types used in tool manufacture is wide and suggests that diverse activities occurred on the site and that stone materials used were derived from local sources and possibly traded from outside locations (National Trust, nomination).

The existence of the wetlands and associated food and resources would have been a primary reason for Aboriginal use of the Horse Park area. Huys (1993) has recorded over 30 more sites of Aboriginal artefacts – including glass – in the Horse Park region (outside the boundary of this place) that would have been associated with the use of the wetlands and creek systems in the area. However, the highest artefact densities and the highest site density occur around the margins of the wetland (EMA, 2006: 55).

The following sites have been recorded at Horse Park and the adjacent registered area of Block 814 Gungahlin:

**Table 1**

**HP1**

A scatter of at least 16 stone artefacts located on a slight rise along the Horse Park homestead drive. Recorded – Huys 1993, Saunders 1994.

**HP2**

A scatter of at least 7 stone artefacts located in an area to the north-east and between Horse Park homestead and the wetland. Recorded – Huys 1993, Saunders 1994.

**HP3**

A scatter of at least 15 stone artefacts located on a vehicle track north of Horse park homestead. Recorded – Huys 1993, Saunders 1994.

**HP4**

A scatter of at least 3 stone artefacts located on a vehicle track on a slight rise, 40m from creek and wetlands. Recorded – Huys 1993, Saunders 1994.

**HP5**

A scatter of at least 16 stone artefacts located in a vehicle track on slight rise, 25m from creek and wetlands. Recorded – Huys 1993, Saunders 1994.

**HP6**

A scatter of at least 3 stone artefacts located on a raised vehicle track 25 metres from creek and wetlands. Recorded – Huys 1993, Saunders 1994.

**HP7**

A scatter of at least 5 stone artefacts located on a vehicle track on a slight rise, 20m from creek and wetlands. Recorded – Huys 1993, Saunders 1994.

**HP8**

An open scatter of 19 flaked stone artefacts located on and around a vehicle track, 100 m from HP7 on opposite side of creek. Huys, S 1993 Prehistoric Gungahlin BA Hons thesis ANU  
Saunders, P and Officer K 2001

**HP9**

Located on saddle of same knoll where HP8 was located, 100 m from creek and wetland. Site is probably continuous with HP8. 1. Grey chert flaked piece 10 x 5 x 2 mm 2. Grey chert flaked piece 10 x 5 x 3 mm Huys, S 1993 Saunders, P and Officer K 2001

**HP10**

An open scatter of flaked stone artefacts located beside Horse Park sheepyards and approximately 40 m from HP9. Site is on small knoll, 100 m from creek and wetland. At the time of original recording it was suggested that the site may be continuous with HP8 and HP9. 1. Grey chert flake 20 x 10 x 10 mm 2. Grey chert flake 15 x 20 x 3 mm Huys, S 1993 Saunders, P and Officer K 2001

**HP12**

A scatter of at least 2 stone artefacts located on a vehicle track on a slight rise, 20m from creek and wetlands. Site is possibly a continuum of site HP1. Recorded – Huys 1993, Saunders 1994.

**HP32**

A scatter of at least 3 stone artefacts located on top of a knoll, 300m from wetlands.

Recorded – Huys 1993, Saunders 1994.

**HPIF1**

An isolated stone artefact located on a track skirting the Horse Park wetlands, east of HP1.

Recorded – Huys 1993, Saunders 1994.

**HPIF2**

An isolated stone artefact located on a slight rise approximately 50m from wetlands.

Recorded – Huys 1993, Saunders 1994.

Glass artefact

**MIF2**

A single artefact find located on the moderately steep basal slopes of a spur, approximately 50 above a western branch of the northern headwater tributary of Ginninderra Creek. 150m NW of Wetlands Saunders, P 1994 Saunders P 1995

**C3/20**

An open scatter of 14 flaked stone artefacts located on a knoll and the side slopes of a knoll, overlooking a tributary of Ginninderra Creek Kuskie, 1992 Walshe, 1993

**C3/18**

An open scatter of 6 flaked stone artefacts located on a bank/flat of a tributary of Ginninderra Creek. Kuskie, 1992 Walshe, 1993

BIOSIS Research undertook a cultural heritage assessment of Aboriginal sites within the Horse Park precinct in 2012. Thirteen Aboriginal cultural heritage sites were identified. The report observed *only one of the newly recorded sites corresponds to an area where a previous recording has occurred. The area of site 9 (see Table 2 below) was originally recorded by Kuskie in 1992 as part of his EIS study for the Gungahlin areas sites C3/20 and consisted of 14 artefacts located on knoll and side slopes on vehicle track. This corresponds to the findings of the current survey which relocated a core and two flakes (p. 5).*

Table 2 below lists the sites identified during the BIOSIS survey, and thus the most current picture of Aboriginal site location at Horse Park as at 2012:

**Table 2**

Site Name	Contents
H1 – Isolated Find	Chert Flake
H2 – Artefact Scatter	2 x Chert proximal flakes
H3 - Isolated Find	Quartz Flake
H4 - Artefact Scatter	Microblade, core, 9 x proximal flakes, 12 x flakes, 1 x angular fragment, 3 x cores
H5 - Artefact Scatter	3 x cores – chert, quartz, chalcedony
H6 - Isolated Find	Quartz core

H7 - Isolated Find	Chert core
H8 - Artefact Scatter	3 x chert core, 2 x quartz proximal flakes
H9 - Artefact Scatter	2 x quartz distal flakes, 2 x chert flakes, silcrete core
H10 - Isolated Find	Chert distal flake
H11 - Isolated Find	Chert flake
H12 - Artefact Scatter	2 x quartz proximal flakes
H13 - Isolated Find	Quartzite flake

### **Homestead precinct**

The homestead precinct occupies the eastern part of the place, with the wetlands located to the west.

The homestead precinct is made up of a number of structures, these being:

- stone cottage with weatherboard extension;
- weatherboard cottage adjoining the stone cottage;
- slab building with skillion extension;
- weatherboard shed;
- iron machinery shed;
- former buggy/dairy shed; and
- woolshed of corrugated iron with sheep-yards and dip.

In addition, an old windmill and tanks exist south west of the homestead.

Exotic plantings including three mature elms, two mature deodars and other mature exotics are significant features associated with the Homestead precinct.

Further from the homestead, and located within the Horse Park block (Block 766), are the following elements:

- hayshed constructed from corrugated iron and timber;
- a deteriorating early fencepost; and
- stockyards constructed from post and rail fence.

### **Stone cottage**

This is the original homestead building at this site built by the Gillespies in 1853. The walls, built of stone and mortar, are at least 40cm thick and are partially rendered with cement. The mortar contains a high proportion of earth and is deteriorating in places where the render has broken away. An ochre coloured limewash on the outside walls is fading.

The original cottage now comprises three rooms: a bedroom in which the central dividing wall has been removed to make two rooms into one, a lounge/dining room with a fireplace and a room that has been kept in its original state. The latter room has exposed timber floorboards, which may be original, and an

early light fitting. The other rooms have concrete floors covered with carpet. There are three small 12 paned, timber framed windows in the southern wall of the cottage.

The western wall of the stone cottage is supported by large concrete buttresses which have been installed to prevent its collapse.

A weatherboard addition with a skillion roof has been built on the southern side of the stone cottage. The western wall of this addition is of corrugated iron with a brick chimney which has been weakened by deteriorating mortar and is also supported by a concrete buttress. The horizontal weatherboard on the southern wall has been replaced and the top half of this wall consists of continuous timber framed double casement windows.

#### Weatherboard Cottage

A weatherboard cottage was built on the eastern side of the stone house circa 1910. This building was originally separated from the stone cottage by a 2m wide space, but this has more recently been enclosed with a corrugated iron and laser light roof and enclosed with a door and hallway so that the two buildings are joined. A toilet has been built next to the bathroom in the gap on the southern side and behind this is a small storeroom with a door opening onto the southern side.

The gabled roof and the gables have scalloped timber bargeboards on the eastern, western and southern sides. The bargeboard on the western gable has been replaced and is well matched with the original. There is a verandah along part of the eastern and southern sides with a bull-nosed corrugated iron roof supported by timber octagonal verandah posts on square bases. The posts and the timber plank flooring of the verandah were in poor condition and have been recently replaced, the latter with modern grooved timber planks.

#### Slab cottage

This building dates to 1899 and is located a short distance to the north of the stone building and is linked by a walkway covered with a curved corrugated galvanised iron roof; the ground between the two buildings has been recently concreted. The southern wall and internal dividing wall of the slab building are built of vertical slabs and the western and northern walls are of horizontal lapped weatherboard. The eastern wall is brick and includes two brick chimneys.

The roof is gabled and made of corrugated iron. A skillion-roofed section has been built along the full length of the northern side and is divided into three small rooms.

On the southern side (facing the stone building) is a 2.5m wide verandah covered by corrugated iron.

The building is in very good condition.

#### Weatherboard shed

The shed is on the north side of the Homestead paddock. It is built of weatherboard on a timber frame with a concrete floor, and measures 6m x 3m. It has a gabled, timber framed corrugated iron roof and two rooms. The eastern wall and half of the southern and northern walls have been removed, leaving the room exposed, but the western room is intact and used as a storage room.

#### Corrugated Iron Machinery Shed

In the yard adjacent to the homestead paddock on the northern side is a corrugated iron shed on a sawn timber frame, with a hen shed attached at the rear.

To the northeast is a shed built of corrugated iron on a timber pole frame, with a gabled roof. This may have been the buggy shed and/or dairy. There is a skillion-roofed addition at the northern side of this shed. To the north east of this shed is the woolshed, described below.

### Woolshed

The woolshed is built of galvanised iron with a bush timber frame. It has been built in two stages. The remains of the earlier structure are evident in the short timber slabs included in part of the southern and western walls and the smaller size of the wool bins. This part of the building was constructed in 1905/7. The new section has been built to adjoin the original, and the roof where they meet is sealed with flattened corrugated galvanised iron.

The floor is of timber boards. These are deteriorating and sheets of plywood have been laid over the timber boards in parts.

The northern section of the shed contains three equipped shearing stands and one non-equipped stand. In addition to the shearing stands there are nine wool bays, a circular classing table, pens, chutes and an assortment of refrigerators, tables, tools, and other associated items that attest to decades of continuing use of the shed. The woolshed is in good condition and is a good example of bush timber construction.

A sheep dip is located at the rear of the woolshed.

### Plantings

There are a number of mature exotic plantings in the Homestead paddock, including a willow, pear tree, prunus, privet hedge and an elm. The area around the Homestead is substantially open with mature trees within the property including Blakely's Red Gum (*E. Blakelyi*) and Yellow Box (*E. melliodora*).

A recent timber fenced vegetable garden has been established in front of the weatherboard cottage adjoining the stone cottage.

In the yard adjacent to the homestead paddock on the northern side are several exotic trees, including three mature Elms (*Ulmus procera*) and two mature Deodars (*Cedrus deodara*), dog kennels and the machinery shed.

### Remnant Fences

On the western side of the wetlands are a post and rail section of fence and a single barbwire remnant from early fences. While further research is required to fully assess these materials, both are examples of a form of fencing that is no longer used on rural properties (Saunders 1994:20) and, as they are still *in situ*, provide a link within the context of the property to early farming methods in the area.

Beyond the garden is the area where the tennis court, mentioned in the 1916 valuation, was located. It is now overgrown but the posts still remain.

### Physical condition and integrity

Horse Park displays a high level of integrity across its natural, Aboriginal and historic elements.

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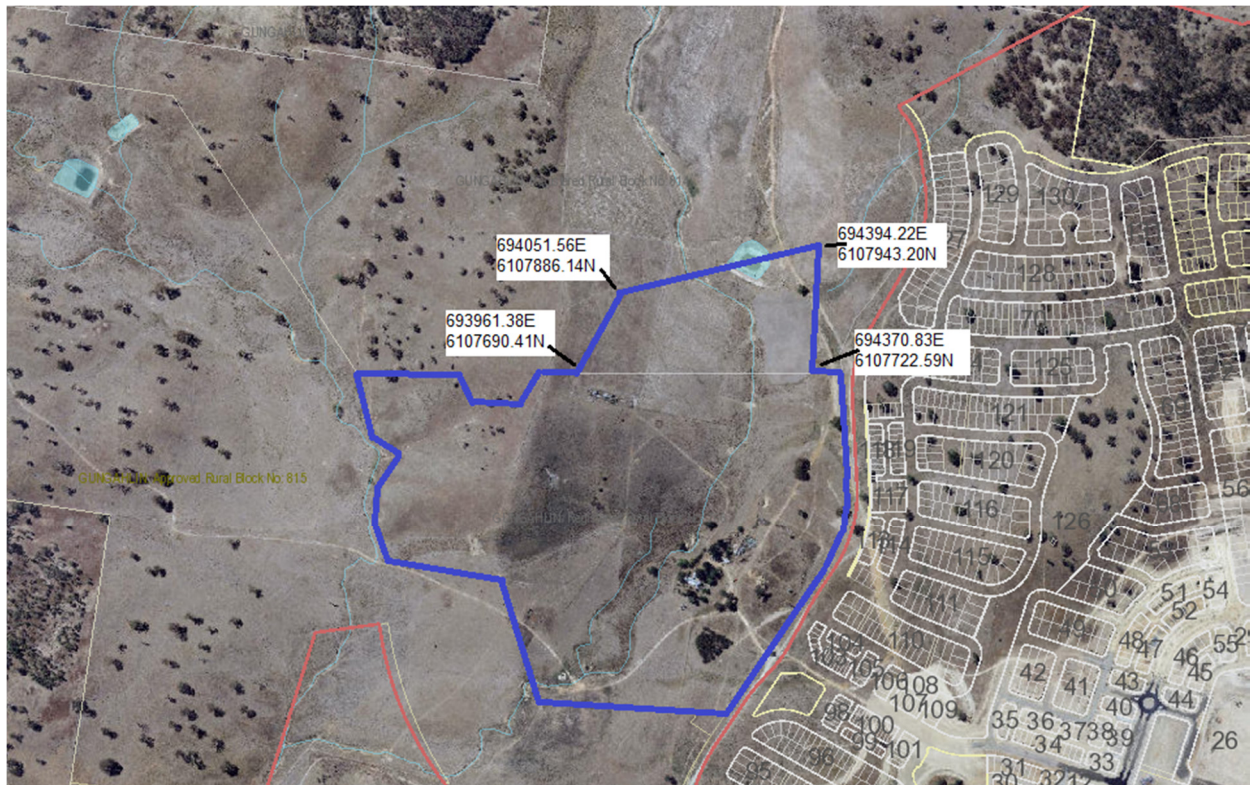
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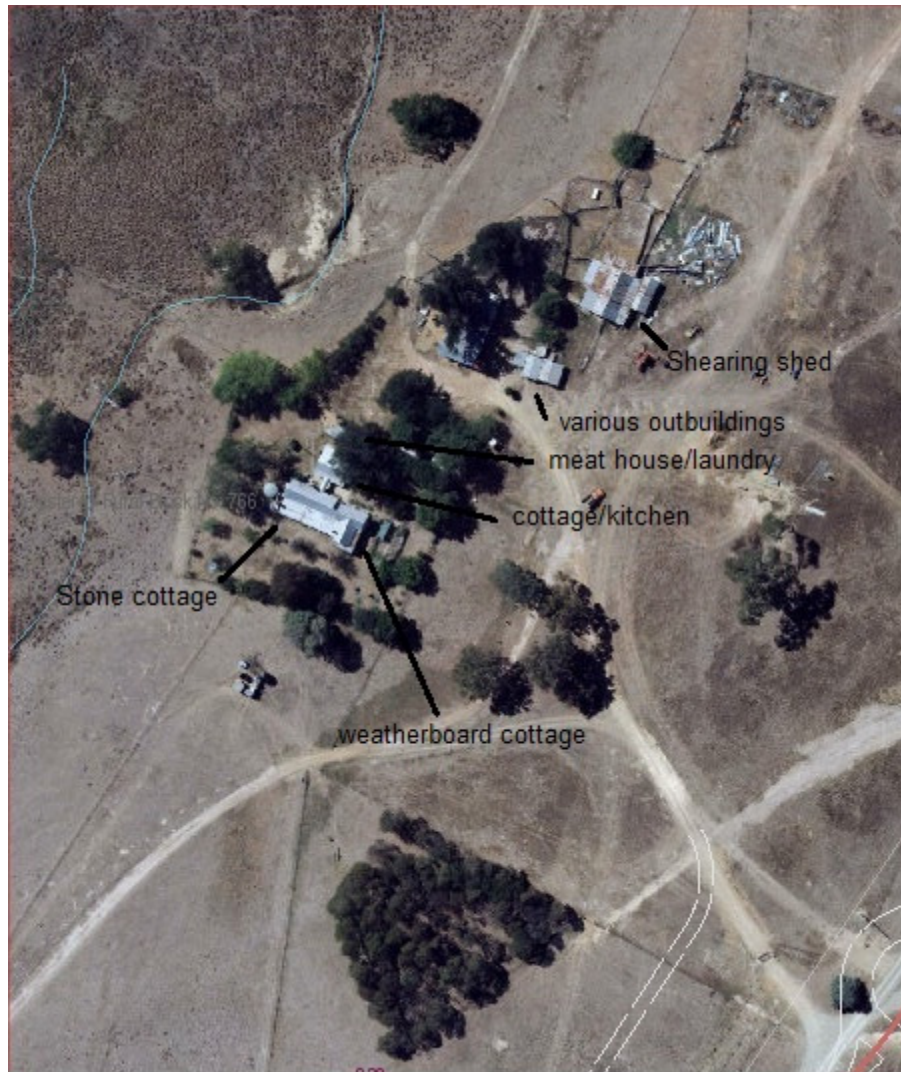
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## SITE PLAN AND IMAGES

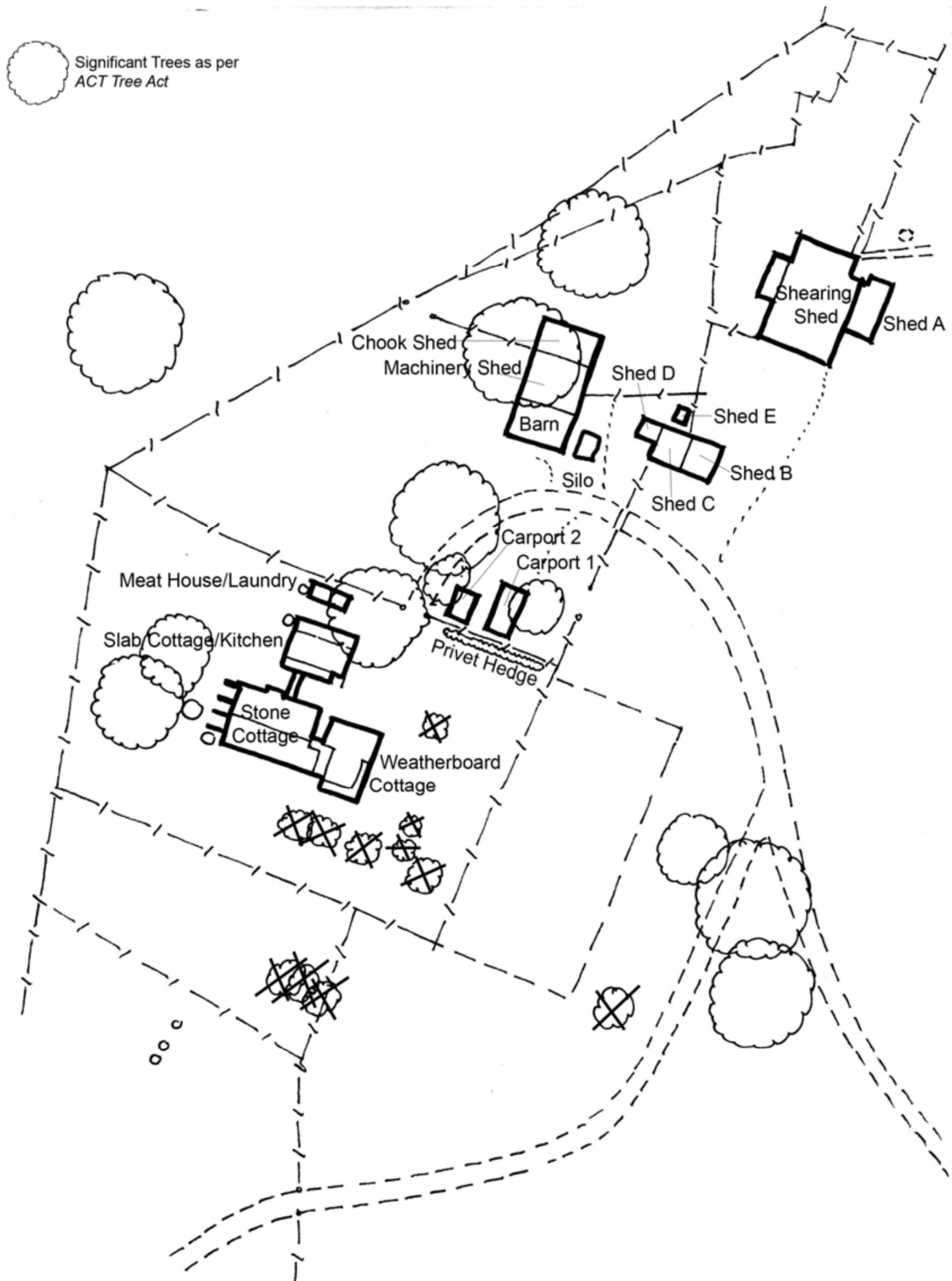


Horse Park (Wetlands, Aboriginal Sites and Homestead Precinct), Gungahlin as indicated by solid blue line. The road layout of the adjacent suburb of Jacka is outlined in white.

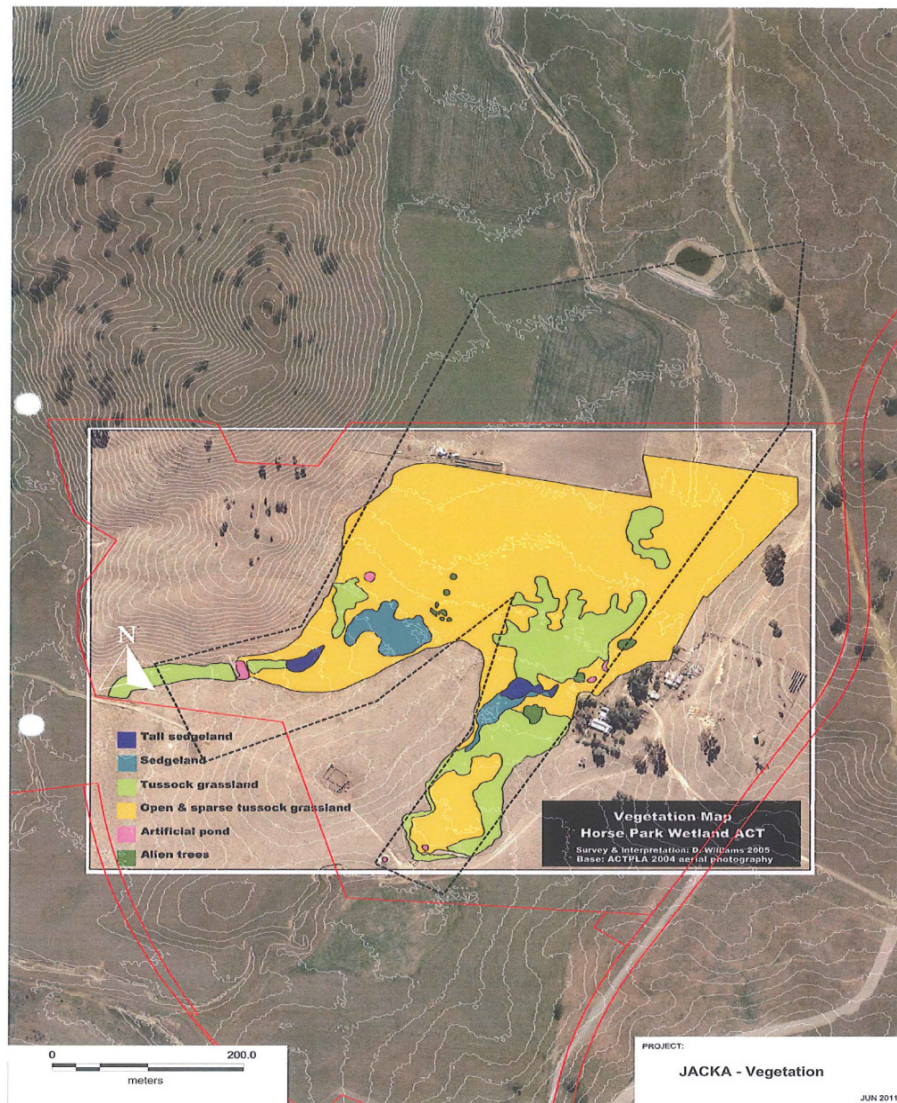




Aerial imagery of Horse Park Homestead area and associated buildings (Source ACT MAPi 2012)



Location of Homestead features indicating existing buildings, plantings, fences and access ways  
(Source: Eric Martin & Associates 2006)



Black dotted line indicates extent of wetlands and pedoderm area.

The solid red line indicates Block 766.

Source: Land Development Agency, ACT Government 2011



Images taken 1 June 2011



1850s stone cottage



c.1910 weatherboard cottage addition



c.1910 weatherboard cottage addition



1899 slab cottage



Stone and weatherboard cottage complex



weatherboard shed



Outbuildings



Horse Park wetlands



Horse Park wetlands



Horse Park wetlands



Looking towards pedoderm site