

Heritage (Decision about Provisional Registration of the Kowen Cultural Precinct, Kowen) Notice 2015

Notifiable Instrument NI2015–152

made under the

Heritage Act 2004, s34 Notice of decision about provisional registration

1 Name of instrument

This instrument is the *Heritage (Decision about Provisional Registration of the Kowen Cultural Precinct, Kowen) Notice 2015*.

2 Registration details of the place

On 9 April 2015 the ACT Heritage Council decided to provisionally register the Kowen Cultural Precinct, Kowen to the ACT Heritage Register. Registration details of the place are at Attachment A: Provisional Register entry for the Kowen Cultural Precinct, Kowen.

3 Reason for decision

The ACT Heritage Council decided that the Kowen Cultural Precinct, Kowen 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

9 April 2015

5 Indication of Council's intention

The Council intends to decide whether to register the place under Division 6.2 within 9 months of provisional registration.

6 Public consultation period

The Council invites public comment, within 4 weeks after the day the notice is notified, on the provisional registration of the Kowen Cultural Precinct, Kowen to:

The Secretary
ACT Heritage Council
GPO Box 158
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Email: heritage@act.gov.au

Jennifer O'Connell
Secretary (as delegate for)
ACT Heritage Council
9 April 2015



**AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
HERITAGE REGISTER
(Provisional Registration)**

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

Kowen Cultural Precinct

(Part Blocks 16, 30, 60, 71-73, and 94, Kowen)

DATE OF PROVISIONAL REGISTRATION

9 April 2015 Notifiable Instrument: 2015–

PERIOD OF EFFECT OF PROVISIONAL REGISTRATION

Start Date 9 April 2015 End Date 9 January 2016

Extended Period (if applicable) Start Date _____ End Date _____

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

The Secretary
ACT Heritage Council
GPO Box 158
CANBERRA ACT 2601
Telephone 13 22 81

This statement refers to the location of the place as required in s. 12 (b) of the *Heritage Act 2004*.

LOCATION OF THE PLACE

Kowen Cultural Precinct

(Part Blocks 16, 30, 60, 71-73, and 94, Kowen)

This section refers to the description of the place as required in s.12(c) of the *Heritage Act 2004*.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PLACE

The Kowen Cultural Precinct, comprising (to be read in conjunction with the map in Figure 1):

- The cultural landscape, comprising the open/un-forested areas of the Glenburn Valley and 1km downstream along the Molonglo River so that the connections between the following features can be observed, interpreted and appreciated;
- Glenburn Homestead, comprising:
 - The pisé structure,
 - The timber slab structure, and
 - The original fence and the yard contained therein;
- Glenburn Machine Shed and Yards, comprising:
 - The remaining in-situ posts, and
 - The artefactual remains;
- Glenburn Shearing Complex, comprising:
 - The woolshed and yards, including the sheep dip, and
 - The associated equipment and machinery contained within the woolshed, including the two wooden and one iron wool presses, the Lister shearing mechanisms and motors, and scales;
- Glenburn Hayshed consisting of four pairs of restored posts;
- Colverwell Graves, consisting of,
 - Two pairs of headstones and footstones, and
 - The original post and rail enclosing timber fence and the area contained therein;
- Ploughlands in which the ridge and furrow patterns are still evident;
- Kowen Public School and Charcoal Kilns, consisting of:
 - The remaining nine mounded areas,
 - The scattered remains of burnt bricks and other associated paraphernalia, and
 - The area immediately surrounding the visible ruins and earthworks that may contain archaeological remains;
- 1980s Sheep Yard and Loading Ramp, consisting of:
 - Loading ramp, and

- Sheep yards constructed from star pickets and galvanised steel wire and sheeting;
- 1920s Sheep Dip and Yards, consisting of:
 - The excavated brick and concrete lined sheep dip,
 - The remains of the timber post and rail yards;
- Excavated areas along Glenburn Creek between the Glenburn Hayshed and Glenburn Shearing Complex containing possible evidence of early sheep washing and dipping practises;
- Kowen Copper Mine, consisting of a small spoil heap of blue gravel;
- Collier's Homestead Ruins, including:
 - The stone ruins of the homestead,
 - The remaining orchid, and
 - The area immediately surrounding the visible ruins and earthworks that may contain archaeological remains;
- Curley's Hut Ruins, consisting of:
 - The stone remains of the hearth,
 - The remaining in-situ wooden posts,
 - The remaining orchid, and
 - The area immediately surrounding the visible ruins and earthworks that may contain archaeological remains;
- John Coppin's Homestead Ruins, consisting of:
 - The ruins of two hearths with partially standing chimneys,
 - The mounded areas surrounding the hearth remains indicating the remains of the buildings,
 - The mature Osage orange tree, and
 - The area immediately surrounding the visible ruins and earthworks that may contain archaeological remains;
- Argyle Ruins, consisting of:
 - The ruins of the hearth with partially standing chimney, and
 - The area immediately surrounding the visible ruins and earthworks that may contain archaeological remains; and
- Remains of the old track at the southern end of the Glenburn Valley between Curley's Hut and Collier's Cottage and the ford across the Molonglo River.

NOTE: The Precinct specifically excludes the ACT Gun Club premises, but the club and grounds are within the Precinct boundary so as to preserve the open, pastoral context

This statement refers to the heritage significance of the place as required in s.12(d) of the *Heritage Act 2004*.

STATEMENT OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The Kowen Cultural Precinct (the Precinct) is an excellent example of a 19th century pastoral landscape. The place contains various elements that cover different building practices, land tenure, technology and primary industry. It contains all of these features in a highly intact context where the connections between the different places can be observed and the pastoral industry uniting them is evident. The Precinct as a whole can be interpreted in such a way that the 19th Century pastoral community that lived there can be appreciated as an important link to past. *[Criteria (a), (b) and (d)]*

The Precinct is an excellent example of how European settlement spread into the region and its subsequent development. It shows how land selection allowed smaller settlers to try and establish themselves and the lengths that they had to go to in order to prove they were a bona-fide selector. *[Criterion (a)]*

Wool growing was the primary industry that drew people to the area. The Precinct demonstrates almost all facets of 19th Century wool production. It demonstrates woolshed development from early simple forms through to the large sprawling shed with specialised zones for shearing, machinery, sorting and classing as well as improved working conditions and animal control. The Precinct also contains evidence of changing animal health practices with different sheep dip areas and possible evidence of wool washing in excavated areas along Glenburn Creek. *[Criteria (a), (b) and (d)]*

The Precinct contains one of the six significant ACT ploughlands that remain from over 100 that existed prior to the formation of Federal Capital Territory. The Precinct's ploughlands are of particular importance as they have retained most of their rural context and can demonstrate the role that they played in the overall operations of a 19th Century pastoral holding. *[Criteria (a), (b) and (d)]*

The Precinct, located between the Gundaroo Goldfields to the north and the Captains Flat mining area to the south, contains a small copper mining test area as well as a small scale alluvial, probably gold, mining area. Minerals mining went through a boom period in the mid-19th Century and had a profound effect on the development of the country. The Precinct demonstrates some of the fervour of the rush with the small scale testing for payable deposits occurring throughout the country. *[Criterion (a)]*

The Precinct's charcoal kilns are the remains of an alternative fuel effort during WWII. With strict petrol rationing an alternative way of powering automobiles was required and within only a few years of the start of the war each state had many charcoal production facilities to produce fuel for essential vehicles which had been fitted with coal gassifier units. *[Criterion (a)]*

CONSERVATION OBJECTIVE

The guiding conservation objective is that the Kowen Cultural Precinct shall be conserved and appropriately managed in a manner respecting its heritage significance.

The ACT Heritage Council may adopt heritage guidelines applicable to the place under s25 of the *Heritage Act 2004*.

For further information on guidelines applicable to the place, or for advice on proposed works or development, please contact ACT Heritage on 13 22 81.

REASON FOR PROVISIONAL REGISTRATION

The Kowen Cultural Precinct, Kowen, has been assessed against the heritage significance criteria and been found to have heritage significance when assessed against three criteria [(a), (b) and (d)] under s.10 of the *Heritage Act 2004*.

ASSESSMENT AGAINST THE HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE CRITERIA

The Council's assessment against the criteria specified in s.10 of the *Heritage Act 2004* is as follows.

In assessing the nomination for the Kowen Cultural Precinct, Kowen, the Council considered:

- the original nominations and documentary evidence supplied by the nominator, including:
 - William Collier Homestead, Block 94;
 - Colverwell Graves and Glenburn Creek Complex, Block 78;
 - Glenburn Rural Group Ploughlands, Block 72 (part); and
 - Coppins Homestead Ruins and Orchard, Block 16;
- information provided by site inspections on 15 November 2013, 9 September 2014, and 5 December 2014 by ACT Heritage staff; and
- the report by ACT Heritage titled, *Background Information Kowen Cultural Precinct*, April 2015, containing photographs and information on history, description, condition and integrity.

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. Future research may alter the findings of this assessment.

(a) importance to the course or pattern of the ACT's cultural or natural history;

The Kowen Cultural Precinct, Kowen, meets this criterion.

The Kowen Cultural Precinct contains several features that, together with its contextual landscape, are representative of a 19th Century pastoral landscape which is an important part of the pre-FCT landscape that has continued through to current times demonstrating the changing practices that occurred throughout this time. The Precinct contains several features that demonstrate important aspects of 19th Century pastoral life in Australia, including changes in land tenure, wool industry, agricultural practices, and mining with continued use into the 20th and 21st Centuries with features related to WWII and sheep farming.

There have been three major changes to land tenure systems in the region; the first involved land grants from the Governor, then the Robertson Land Acts and then the resumption of land and the introduction of leasing with the Capital. The initial European occupation of the area occurred as unlicensed squatting by Luke Colverwell, presumably for his employer James Atkinson, in the early 1830s. Atkinson officially purchased the property in 1836 and it was sold through various owners until Martin Byrne transferred it to the *Real Property Act 1862* in order to sell to George Campbell. The early purchasing of the land and the stability this provided allowed the owners to invest in larger, more permanent structures, such as the Glenburn Homestead and the Glenburn Shearing Complex. The other blocks in the area are largely a result of the Robertson Land Acts with Collier's Homestead, Curley's Hut, John Coppins Homestead, and Argyle Ruins the results of improvements to property in order to fulfil conditional purchases on ~40 acre blocks with river frontage and roughly conforming to topographic features. These division and spread of features are still evidenced within the current block boundaries which changed after the creation of the Capital due to Commonwealth and the then ACT leasing arrangements.

Australia's early growth is strongly linked to the wool industry. Early expansion into the country was pushed by pastoralists finding new grazing land for their stocks and it was for this purpose that the area around the Kowen Culture Precinct was settled by Europeans in the 1830s. This early pastoral settlement has resulted in the Kowen Cultural Precinct containing evidence for traditional shearing practises and the subsequent development of more advanced methods of sheep cleaning and dipping, shearing methods, and woolshed design.

Although the area was primarily a sheep station, those living there still managed to cultivate crops for their own subsistence and as an additional source of income. The northeastern part of the Precinct contains evidence of ploughlands – a distinctive pattern of ridges and furrows that result from animal-driven plough equipment. Whilst the ploughlands have degraded through natural causes over time, they are still discernible, but more importantly have retained their rural context with connections to the Glenburn Homestead and pastoral activities, placing them in their appropriate context as a subsidiary function within the larger 19th Century pastoral property.

The Australian mining boom of the mid-19th Century had a profound effect on the country. Regionally it can be seen in the Gundaroo Goldfields to the north of the Precinct and to the south in the Captains Flat copper, gold, zinc and silver mining area. Within the Precinct there are records that show people had applied for mineral exploration leases. The Kowen Copper Mine is evidence of some of these explorations, but the extent of the spoil heap indicates that it was a small-scale test and probably did not provide enough payable ore to expand any further. Additionally, there is evidence of alluvial gold mining in the northwest part of the Precinct where there is severe erosion along the banks of an ephemeral tertiary stream. These features are the result of small scale testing, or backyard operations.

The remains of the charcoal kilns are an important, yet little known, link to the war effort in the ACT and the adaptability of the country to fuel shortages. The Charcoal Kilns are the remains of an alternative fuel effort during WWII. With strict petrol rationing an alternative way of powering automobiles was required and within only a few years of the start of the war each state had many charcoal production facilities to produce fuel for essential vehicles which had been fitted with coal gassifier units. The remains of the kilns are evidence of the ACT's participation in the war effort.

(b) has uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of the ACT's cultural or natural history;

The Kowen Cultural Precinct, Kowen, meets this criterion.

The Precinct contains several aspects of the ACT's 19th Century cultural history which are being lost to time and the expansion of the city of Canberra. These are contained within a cultural landscape that shows how these things are related to each other, including early wool production, and early agricultural practices.

The cultural landscape of the Kowen Cultural Precinct has formed around a landscape that is favourable to European settlement with open pastures and access to other natural resources. This resulted in a clustering of homesteads which then allowed for shared community features such as the school and woolshed. This is a common theme throughout much of 19th Century ACT and NSW and evidence for this should be able to be found in most locations that had a large enough population to host a public school, however this kind of large scale comparative analysis has not yet been completed, but a 2002 desktop study by Dr Mike Pearson on ACT rural complexes included Glenburn as one of only eight places in the ACT as a high ranking example.

There are seven extant woolsheds in the ACT that date from the 19th Century (Duntroon, 1833; Glenburn, 1890; Naas, 1890; Cuppacumbalong, 1893; Naas Valley, 1900; Rose Hill, 1900; and Well Station, 1900). These earlier woolsheds have the ability to show the development of the type as design and technology advanced and are a tangible link to Australia's pastoral past when the 'country rode on the sheep's back'. However, these early woolsheds are becoming less common with the passing of time as they are replaced, left to fall down or destroyed by development or natural causes. The Glenburn Woolshed is a particularly fine example as it demonstrates the complete range of design and technological changes of woolshed design as well as retaining a pastoral context, including the nearby Glenburn Homestead and the shearers' quarters.

The ploughlands at Glenburn are included as one of only six in the ACT that were identified in a 2002 study by Dr Mike Pearson as having heritage significance. Of the more than 100 known to have existed prior to the establishment of the FCT only 16 had intact evidence of their prior use, but only six had good evidence, which included associated pastoral features.

The Precinct also has examples of several different building methods including pisé, wood slab, stone and corrugated iron clad balloon frame. Whilst the rarity of these methods could be argued, the intactness of the examples in the Precinct are quite poor; most of the buildings exist as ruins. Poor intactness does not necessarily preclude inclusion under this criterion, but there are intact examples of all of these building styles that provide a better example. For this reason, the building practises represented in the Precinct are not considered to meet the threshold for this criterion.

(c) potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the ACT's cultural or natural history;

The Kowen Cultural Precinct, Kowen, does not meet this criterion.

Most of the features within the Precinct exist as ruins and are likely to contain archaeological material. Collier's Homestead, Curley's Hut, Coppins Homestead, the Argyle Ruins and the Glenburn Homestead are all likely to yield information pertaining to 19th Century pastoral life, including the day-to-day subsistence of the average pastoral family. However, it is unlikely that any of the features would yield information that would contribute to an understanding of the ACT's cultural history beyond what is already known. Everyday lifestyles and information pertaining to women and children in the past has been an area of interest, particularly academic interest since the 1970s and is still identified as an important subject. While this information is likely to be significant to the fields of archaeology and history it is questionable whether it will be to a great enough extent to make a significant addition to the cultural history of the ACT.

There is also the potential to yield information on construction techniques for pisé, slab, stone and timber buildings, however, due to the poor condition of the buildings, it is unlikely that it will provide information of a significant nature, or that is better represented elsewhere in a more intact example.

Additionally, whilst the place is an excellent example of wool production and ploughlands, these features have been thoroughly studied (e.g. Dowling & Cosgrove, 2002; Pearson, 2002; Langdon, 1993, McAlister, 2007) and are unlikely to produce any significant new information that will contribute to an understanding of the ACT's cultural history.

(d) importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural or natural places or objects;

The Kowen Cultural Precinct, Kowen, meets this criterion.

The Kowen Cultural Precinct is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a 19th Century pastoral landscape/community, woolsheds and ploughlands.

The Precinct is an excellent example of a 19th Century pastoral landscape. It demonstrates how a small community formed around the natural features of the place while conforming to the relevant laws at the time. It contains various types of housing within an authentic context that shows how the places were connected by proximity to each other, centralised around a school and a large woolshed.

The Glenburn Shearing Complex is an excellent intact example of its type showing its development over time. It demonstrates early practices with the central part of the shed and its 'A'-frame design; it demonstrates later expansion of the shed and the introduction of new technologies through its lean-to additions, including the additional sweating pens, engine shed with machinery extant, dip, raised floor and complex of external pens. The bush pole framing with later sawn timber additions, clad in corrugate iron demonstrate the principle materials of woolshed construction. Additionally, the associated structures – the shearers' quarters, water tanks, outhouses, laundry and meat locker demonstrate the later additions that were required as various laws were introduced.

The ploughlands are important as they are set in a context of overall land use (part of total used to support the family, with main support coming from stocks) and as a class of cultural place they are important as they clearly demonstrate the characteristic ridge-and-furrow pattern of a single-, and later a four-, share plough.

The other built features of the Precinct – the pisé, slab and stone buildings – are all in extremely poor condition and are not considered to be important in demonstrating the principle characteristics of their kinds as there are several other examples within the ACT of the same building techniques and styles that are in much better condition and much better examples. The pisé building does demonstrate important characteristics of the building technique – such as the building up of the walls in layers, joining different sections of walls, and methods of integrating walls and doors – however, these characteristics are only evident due to its advanced state of deterioration as the protective external render has fallen away from most of the walls and as the pisé matrix weathers it reveals weak points in the structure where sections are joined or other features intrude into the material.

There is also evidence of mining activities within the Precinct and while such activities are an important part of Australia's history, the mining features within the Precinct are very minor examples and only demonstrate a few characteristics of the class. There are significant examples regionally, such as Kiandra and Captains Flat, that are excellent examples of different mining activities and contain characteristics of the entire range of historic mining sites, including the small scale test pits and small scale alluvial mining that are found in the Precinct.

(e) importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by the ACT community or a cultural group in the ACT;

The Kowen Cultural Precinct, Kowen, does not meet this criterion.

The landscape is quite picturesque and is valued by visitors to Kowen Forest as well as the Friends of Glenburn, but there is no evidence that it is valued by the wider community or a cultural group. Additionally, woolsheds have an aesthetic that may be appreciated by many, but there is no evidence that this particular woolshed is valued for its aesthetic characteristics by the ACT community or a cultural group.

The Council notes that the 'ACT community' encompasses the broad community of the ACT, across the full geographical context, and a broad spectrum of society; while 'a cultural group' has a narrower focus, taken to be a 'group of people within a society with a shared ethnic or cultural background' or 'a group of people connected through the same way of living, which has been transmitted from one generation to another'. The definition specifically precludes professional organisations or special interest groups.

(f) importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement for a particular period;

The Kowen Cultural Precinct, Kowen, does not meet this criterion.

The Precinct contains several features, all of which are common or representative examples of their type for the period. In particular, the woolshed is an excellent example of the class of place, but there is no evidence of creative or technological achievement beyond any other woolshed of its time.

(g) has a strong or special association with the ACT community, or a cultural group in the ACT for social, cultural or spiritual reasons;

The Kowen Cultural Precinct, Kowen, does not meet this criterion.

The Precinct has associations with the descendants of its early inhabitants as well as special interest groups and organisations, such as the Friends of Glenburn. However much these groups value their association with the place, there is no evidence to suggest that this value is shared with the wider ACT community or with a particular cultural group.

The Council notes that the 'ACT community' encompasses the broad community of the ACT, across the full geographical context, and a broad spectrum of society; while 'a cultural group' has a narrower focus, taken to be a 'group of people within a society with a shared ethnic or cultural background' or 'a group of people connected through the same way of living, which has been transmitted from one generation to another'. The definition specifically precludes professional organisations or special interest groups.

- (h) has a special association with the life or work of a person, or people, important to the history of the ACT.

The Kowen Cultural Precinct, Kowen, does not meet this criterion.

The Precinct has been associated with several people, however whether the people are considered to be important to the history of the ACT or if the association is considered special has not been demonstrated. The Campbell family had purchased and leased land in the area as well as built Collier's Homestead to house the employees of the family. While there is no doubt about the importance of the Campbell family to the history of the ACT, their connection to the Precinct is not considered to be special as it was only one part of their significant land holdings in the region and there is no evidence that they even set foot in the precinct. The McInnes family has had a long and special association with the Precinct and have been prominent in the region through their business dealings, however whether they are considered to be important to the history of the ACT has not been clearly demonstrated. There are several other people and families that could be considered to have a special association with the Precinct, but there is no evidence that they are important to the history of the ACT.

SITE PLAN

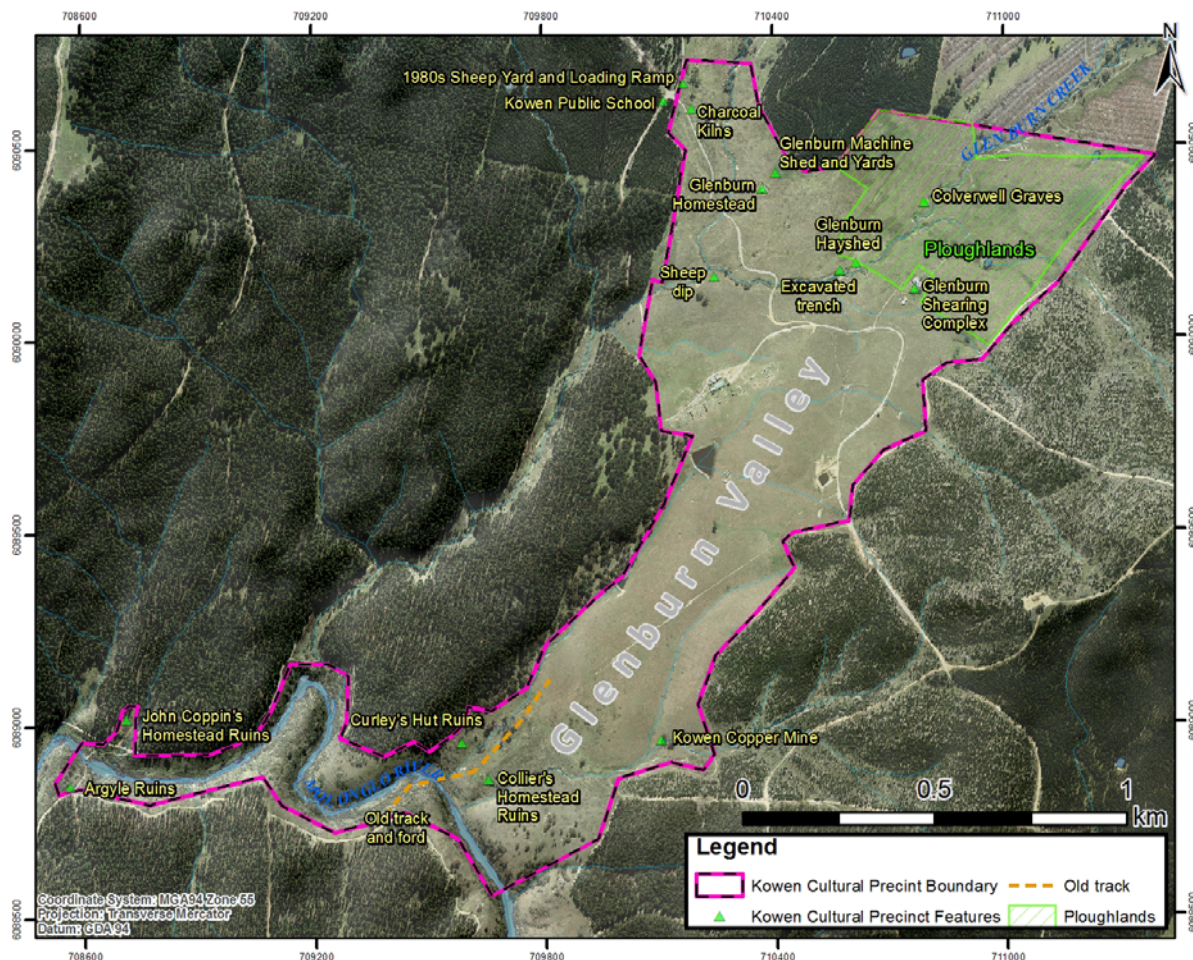


Figure 1 Kowen Cultural Precinct