

**DOCUMENTATION OF PLACES  
FOR ENTRY IN THE  
REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES**

1. **DATA BASE No.** *P06358*
2. **NAME** *Stone dwelling (ruin), Howatharra  
Chinaman House –stone ruin*
3. **LOCATION** adjacent Oakajee River, Howatharra
4. **DESCRIPTION OF PLACE INCLUDED IN THIS ENTRY**  
(leave for Land Information Officer to fill in )
5. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA** Shire of Chapman Valley
6. **OWNER** (leave for Land Information Officer to fill in )
7. **HERITAGE LISTINGS**
  - Register of Heritage Places: \_\_\_\_\_
  - National Trust Classification: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Town Planning Scheme: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Municipal Inventory: Adopted 31/10/1996
  - Register of the National Estate: \_\_\_\_\_
8. **CONSERVATION ORDER**  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. **HERITAGE AGREEMENT**  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

*Stone dwelling (ruin), Howatharra*, the remains of a purpose built vernacular stone dwelling, has cultural heritage significance for the following reason:

it is representative of a small-scale vernacular dwelling associated with agricultural settlement in the Chapman Valley area in the first half of the twentieth century.

## 11. ASSESSMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The criteria adopted by the Heritage Council in November 1996 have been used to determine the cultural heritage significance of the place.

### 11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE\*

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### 11.2 HISTORIC VALUE

*Stone dwelling (ruin), Howatharra* is indicative of small-scale vernacular dwelling associated with agricultural settlement in the Chapman Valley area in the first half of the twentieth century. (Criterion 2.1 & 2.2)

### 11.3 SCIENTIFIC VALUE

*Stone dwelling (ruin), Howatharra* may provide archaeological evidence of its occupation and the use of the surrounding area. (Criterion 3.1)

### 11.4 SOCIAL VALUE

*Stone dwelling (ruin), Howatharra* has social value for the local community who are aware of its existence as part of the occupation and history of the district. (Criterion 4.1 & 4.2)

## 12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

### 12.1 RARITY

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### 12.2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

*Stone dwelling (ruin), Howatharra* is a representative example of the ruin of a small vernacular stone building. (Criterion 6.1)

### 12.3 CONDITION

*Stone dwelling (ruin), Howatharra* is in poor condition. The place has been neglected over a considerable period of time and fallen into this ruinous state due to lack of any maintenance or works.

### 12.4 INTEGRITY

*Stone dwelling (ruin), Howatharra* has not been functional for many decades, and has declined to become a ruin. The remains show minimal evidence of the nature of the place, and they are not intact or redeemable. The place has a low degree of integrity.

### 12.5 AUTHENTICITY

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\* For consistency, all references to architectural style are taken from Apperly, R., Irving, R., Reynolds, P. *A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture. Styles and Terms from 1788 to the Present*, Angus and Robertson, North Ryde, 1989.

For consistency, all references to garden and landscape types and styles are taken from Ramsay, J. *Parks, Gardens and Special Trees: A Classification and Assessment Method for the Register of the National Estate*, Australian Government Publishing Service, Canberra, 1991, with additional reference to Richards, O. *Theoretical Framework for Designed Landscapes in WA*, unpublished report, 1997.

The ruin provides evidence of some original fabric of *Stone dwelling (ruin), Howatharra* in its context, but overall presents a low degree of authenticity.

### 13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

The documentation for this place is based on the heritage assessment completed by Irene Sauman, Historian and Laura Gray, Heritage and Conservation Consultant, in May 2010, with amendments and/or additions by HCWA staff and the Register Committee.

If there is any special curtilage that has been decided by the Register Committee or the Heritage Council a brief description of it should go here.

#### 13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

*Stone dwelling (ruin), Howatharra* is the ruin of a two-room stone dwelling located on Victoria Location 5663 adjacent to the Oakajee River at Howatharra.

The Champion Bay and Greenough Flats districts were explored in 1839 by Lieut George Grey, and again in 1848 by Assistant Surveyor A. C. Gregory. Both considered the area suitable for pastoral and agricultural activities, but it was the discovery of lead deposits 50 kilometres further north in the Murchison region that resulted in the area first being settled. The Geraldine Lead Mine opened in 1849, and the settlement of Geraldton was authorised on Champion Bay.<sup>1</sup>

Pastoralists moved into the district in the 1850s and took up large parcels of land on lease. In 1864, the township of Northampton was established in the southern part of the Murchison fields, about 34 miles north of Geraldton and a railway line, known as the Northern Railway was built between the two towns and officially opened on 26 July 1879.<sup>2</sup> The train stopped at twelve sidings associated with pastoral properties. Lead mining had slumped by the time the line was opened due to a 50% drop in price, and many mines closed, some never to reopen.<sup>3</sup>

In the twentieth century, however, mining and agriculture advanced and the Northampton line was extended between 1909 and 1913, with a spur line from Wokarina to Yuna and a 33-mile extension of the main line from Northampton to Ajana. These lines were wholly dependent on mining and agriculture. With government acquisition of some pastoral properties for subdivision for agriculture, in particular wheat cultivation, the district became more densely settled.<sup>4</sup>

*Stone dwelling (ruin), Howatharra* appears on a 1943 Army aerial survey map of the district but not on a 1926 Lands & Survey map.<sup>5</sup> Local information cannot put a date on the construction of the place, but *Stone dwelling (ruin), Howatharra* is understood to have been occupied by a person, or family, by the name of

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<sup>1</sup> 'The First Hundred Years: Geraldton Centenary 1850-1950', Municipality of Geraldton, [1950], pp. 5-7.

<sup>2</sup> Bain, Mary Albertus, *Ancient Landmarks: a social and economic history of the Victoria district of Western Australia 1839-1894*, UWA Press, 1975, pp. 86-89, 100-101, 162-164; Joyce, John (ed), *Western Australia's first government railway 1879-1957*, Australian Railway Historical Society (WA) Inc, Ashfield, July 1979, pp. 5, 8.

<sup>3</sup> Spillman, K., *A Rich Endowment: Government & Mining in Western Australia 1829-1994*, published to commemorate the centenary of the Department of Minerals & Energy, UWA Press, Nedlands, 1993.

<sup>4</sup> West Australian Government Railways (WAGR), *Annual Reports, 1950-1958*; Joyce, John (ed), *op cit*, p. 12; Glynn, Sean, *Government Policy and Agricultural Development: A study of the role of government in the development of the Western Australian wheat belt, 1900-1930*, UWA Press, 1975.

<sup>5</sup> Lands & Survey plan 1926, Battye Library cadastral maps 157A40, CN77; Royal Australian Survey Corp (Army) aerial survey map, 1943, Battye Library cadastral maps 37/4 (433C), CN15.

McDonald, who may have undertaken market gardening of tomatoes.<sup>6</sup> The 1943 map indicates what could be a fenced plot immediately south of the *Stone dwelling (ruin), Howatharra*.

A local legend that the place was occupied by a Chinaman who grew tomatoes is just that - a legend. A vague event involving a Chinaman found hanging from a tree in the area sometime in the late 1940s prompted local leaseholder Trevor Royce to call the place the Chinaman's Hut when, in fact, the Chinaman concerned had no association with the place. Trevor Royce leased Location 5663 from the Murrumbidgee Pastoral Co between 1977 and 1994. At the time of taking the lease in 1977, *Stone dwelling (ruin), Howatharra* was a ruin, as evidenced in 2010.<sup>7</sup>

While local residents are agreed on the fact that people by the name of McDonald lived there, no identification of this person (or persons) has been uncovered. There is no McDonald listed in either the Post Office Directory or the Electoral Rolls for the Howatharra area from the 1920s through the 1950s.<sup>8</sup> There is also no indication that the place was occupied in association with the nearby lime kilns, but it is possible some use may have been made of it by those using the kilns.

No other information has been uncovered regarding the place.

### 13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

*Stone dwelling (ruin), Howatharra*, the ruin of a stone dwelling, is situated adjacent to the Oakajee River at Howatharra, approximately 20 kilometres north of Geraldton, in a paddock, two kilometres west of the North West Coastal Highway. The site can only be accessed by a rough track skirting the topography of hills and riverbank.

*Stone dwelling (ruin), Howatharra* is only visible on close inspection. The context of the site is cropped paddocks, to the south and the vegetated river alignment to the west, north and east, undulating on a slope down to the where there is a river crossing some 30 metres to the northwest of *Stone dwelling (ruin), Howatharra*.

*Stone dwelling (ruin), Howatharra* comprises the remains of a stone structure. Elements of random rough stone are evident in the remains of a wall that is the most identifiable element of the ruin. Some low level remnant walls are evident along the east, and scattered piles of stones presumably from the former walls, indicate that the dwelling may have comprised of two rooms. The ruin indicates a north south alignment, with the remnant wall at the north end, but offers no further clues regarding the detail of the place.

The stone is local granite in random sized stones, suggesting local found stone. The remnant wall rises to several metres high stepping down, with a double stone width and evidence of an aggregate concrete mortar. The remnant wall widens

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<sup>6</sup> Information provided by Trevor Royce to Irene Sauman, 5 May 2010.

<sup>7</sup> Information provided by Trevor Royce to Irene Sauman, 5 May 2010. 92-year-old John Burges, in a conversation with Irene Sauman 5 May 2010, could only recall the Chinaman story in association with the Hut, but the lack of association by a Chinaman was confirmed to Laura Gary from Kelvin Royce during her site visit 15 April 2010.

<sup>8</sup> *Wise's Post Office Directory, 1915-1949*; WA Legislative Assembly Electoral Rolls, 1920-1956.

at the base. The east end of the remnant wall also evidences cement mortar on the face finish. The evidence of the room forms is ground level and approximately one random course of stone, one along the east, and the other, parallel, from the north wall remnant. On the west side of there are remnants of concrete slabs.

At a ground level visual inspection there is no other evidence of the footprint or other elements associated with the *Stone dwelling (ruin), Howatharra*.

### **13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION**

Locally available stone was a commonly used building material for vernacular farm structures. The random nature of the stone used in *Stone dwelling (ruin), Howatharra* and the remote location of the place indicates an opportunistic approach to the building materials of the dwelling.

There are a considerable number of stone farm buildings still in use and in good condition throughout Western Australia.

### **13.4 KEY REFERENCES**

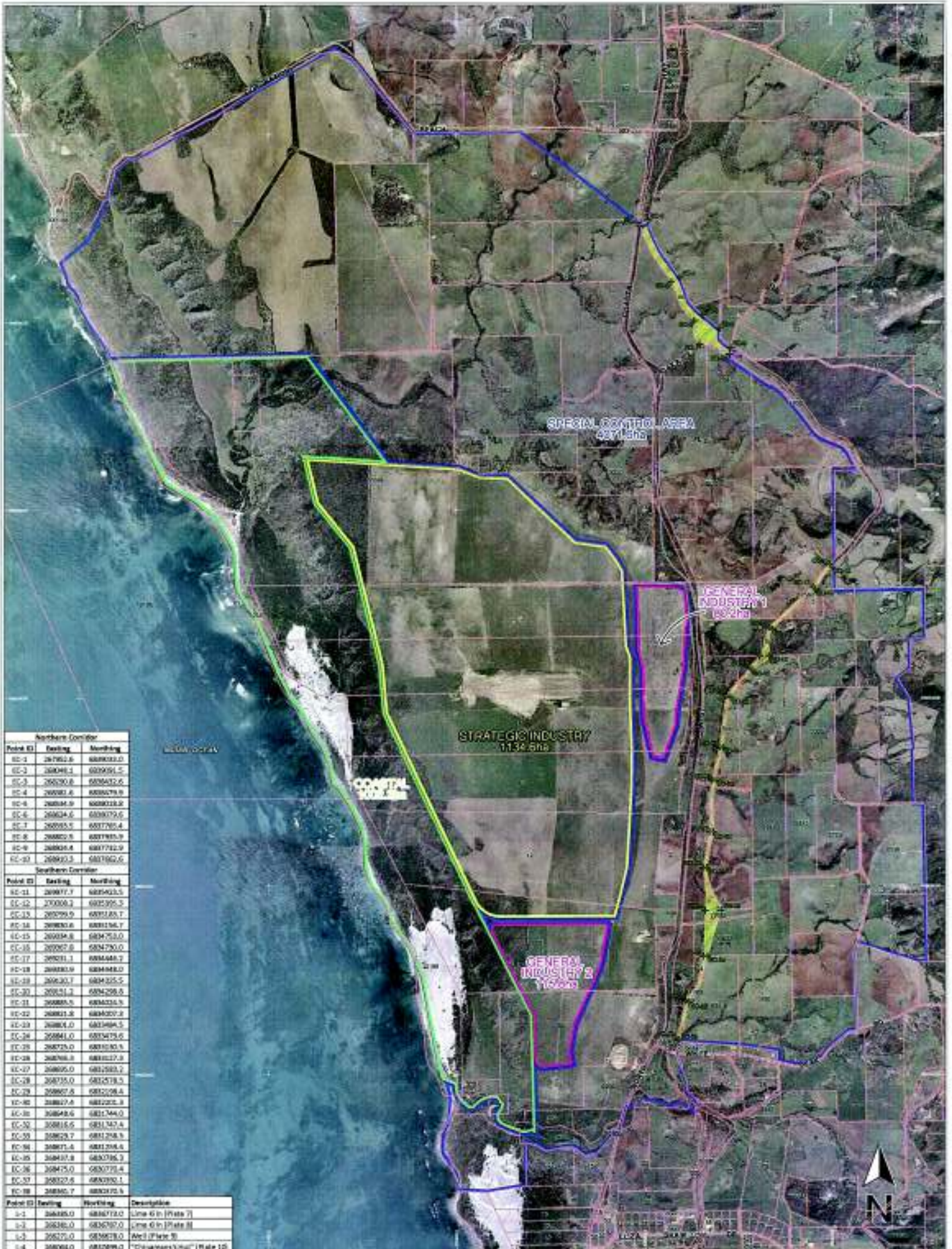
No key references.

### **13.5 FURTHER RESEARCH**

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1943 map showing a building on Location 5663 in the location of the Stone Hut. Royal Australian Survey Corp (Army), CN15, 37/4 (433C), Northampton.



**Northern Corridor**

Point ID	Easting	Northing
NC-1	267852.8	6089033.0
NC-2	268048.2	6079351.5
NC-3	268230.8	6076032.6
NC-4	268382.8	6080079.9
NC-5	268534.9	6080033.8
NC-6	268624.6	6080779.6
NC-7	268765.1	6077267.4
NC-8	268852.9	6077957.9
NC-9	268926.4	6077742.9
NC-10	268920.3	6077962.6

**Southern Corridor**

Point ID	Easting	Northing
SC-11	268977.7	6087623.3
SC-12	270008.2	6082395.3
SC-13	269299.9	6087188.7
SC-14	269380.8	6088156.7
SC-15	269394.8	6084753.0
SC-16	269282.8	6084780.0
SC-17	269231.1	6084048.2
SC-18	269383.9	6084048.0
SC-19	269330.7	6084335.2
SC-20	269221.2	6084298.8
SC-21	268885.6	6084336.3
SC-22	268821.8	6084307.8
SC-23	268824.0	6083984.3
SC-24	268841.0	6083478.6
SC-25	268725.0	6083083.8
SC-26	268766.8	6083027.8
SC-27	268695.0	6082583.2
SC-28	268735.0	6082578.3
SC-29	268682.8	6082108.4
SC-30	268627.8	6082000.8
SC-31	268548.6	6081744.0
SC-32	268516.6	6081387.4
SC-33	268528.7	6081298.3
SC-34	268471.4	6081298.6
SC-35	268437.8	6080798.3
SC-36	268475.0	6080778.4
SC-37	268322.8	6080392.1
SC-38	268340.7	6080378.8

Point ID	Easting	Northing	Description
S-1	268485.0	6086773.0	Line 6 in Plate 7
S-2	268486.0	6086787.0	Line 6 in Plate 8
S-3	268520.0	6086828.0	Arch 2 Plate 8
S-4	268664.0	6087099.0	"Chickens Hill" Plate 10

# OAKAJEE INDUSTRIAL ESTATE EUROPEAN HERITAGE PLAN

200m 0 Scale 1:7,500 1000m  
50000

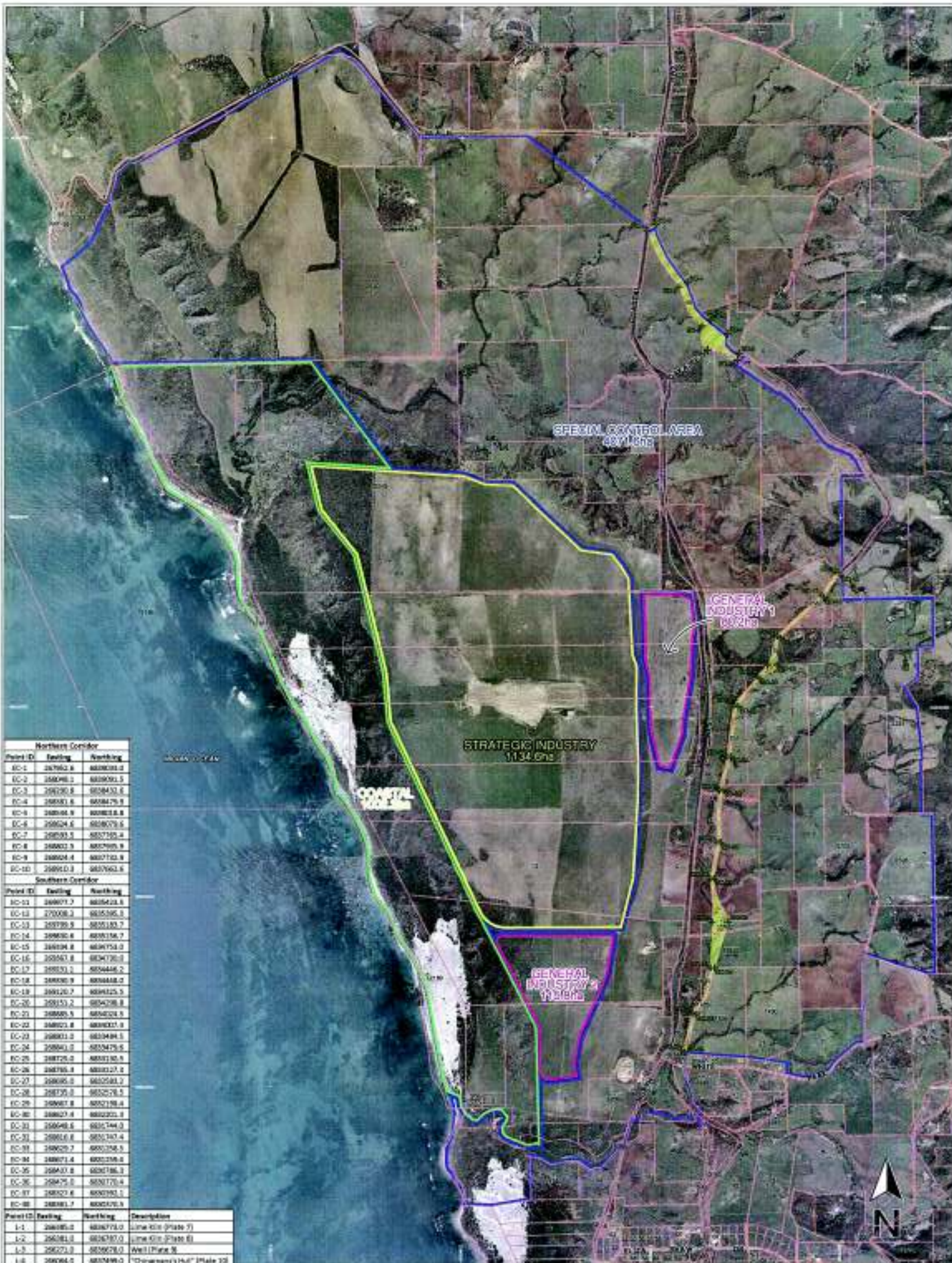
SCOPE DATA	Source	Date	Scale	Accuracy
Aerial Photography	LANDSAT	08/02/00	1:25,000	±1.5m
Map	911 Open-Data			±1.5m
Title Date	LANDCOMP	N/A	N/A	N/A
Customer Code	LANDGATE	08/10/10	N/A	±1.5m
Drawn: MGA	Scale: 80	Customer Inset: N/A		
Plan: 0001-01	Plan: A	Draw: 15/01/10	Draw: J	Draw: 01



25, Box 117 South Park, St. Louis, Missouri 63073 Fax: 636-369-1000  
 636-369-0010  
 www.mcmullenolan.com







Northern Corridor		
Point ID	Easting	Northing
NC-1	287962.8	8828081.0
NC-2	288046.2	8828081.5
NC-3	288230.8	8828432.8
NC-4	288383.8	8828476.9
NC-5	288566.8	8828518.8
NC-6	288624.8	8828579.6
NC-7	288593.3	8827785.4
NC-8	288602.3	8827995.9
NC-9	288624.4	8827782.8
NC-10	288691.3	8827662.8

Southern Corridor		
Point ID	Easting	Northing
SC-11	288971.7	8828423.8
SC-12	270008.2	8825265.3
SC-13	287795.9	8825182.7
SC-14	288630.8	8825136.7
SC-15	288934.8	8825153.0
SC-16	289563.8	8824730.0
SC-17	289553.2	8824446.2
SC-18	289330.9	8824448.0
SC-19	289120.7	8824225.5
SC-20	289153.2	8824208.8
SC-21	289265.5	8824204.8
SC-22	289303.8	8824211.8
SC-23	289311.0	8824494.3
SC-24	289261.0	8824275.8
SC-25	288726.0	8824180.8
SC-26	288766.4	8824127.8
SC-27	288695.0	8823583.7
SC-28	288726.0	8823278.5
SC-29	288681.8	8823198.4
SC-30	288627.8	8823203.9
SC-31	288548.8	8823144.0
SC-32	288516.8	8823147.4
SC-33	288529.7	8823258.3
SC-34	288471.4	8823258.8
SC-35	288437.8	8823186.3
SC-36	288475.0	8823170.4
SC-37	288422.8	8823161.3
SC-38	288381.7	8823170.9

Point ID	Easting	Northing	Description
L-1	288385.0	8826778.0	Corner K16 (Point 7)
L-2	288381.0	8826787.0	Corner K16 (Point 8)
L-3	288273.0	8826828.0	Well (Point 9)
L-4	288364.0	8826799.0	"Corner of 146" (Point 10)

# OAKAJEE INDUSTRIAL ESTATE EUROPEAN HERITAGE PLAN

SOURCE DATA	Source	Date	Scale	Accuracy			
Aerial Photographs	LANDSAT	1988001	1:50,000	±10m			
Map	BC11004-005A	2010	1:50,000	±10m			
Title Data	LANDFORM	NA	100	±1m			
Contour Data	LANDFORM	1991010	100	±1m			
Datum	WGS 84	Zone 10	Contour Interval	5m			
Plan	BC1101-01	Rev. A	Date	146-0318	Sheet	7	(Sheet 10)

STONE DWELLING (RUIN)

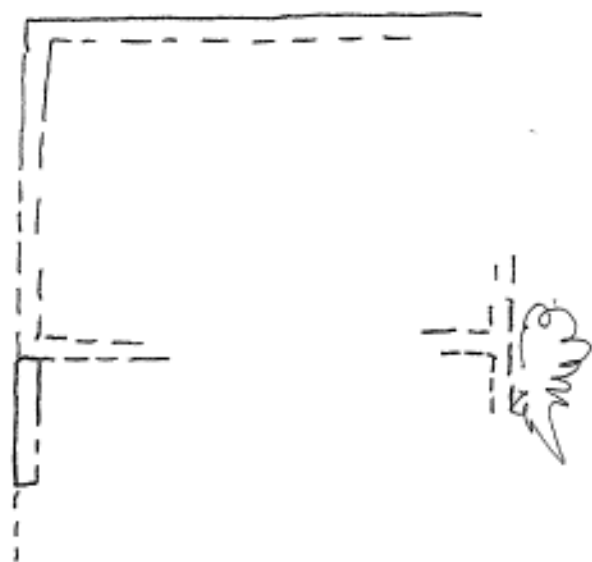
Chickadee  
Habitat

Lime kiln

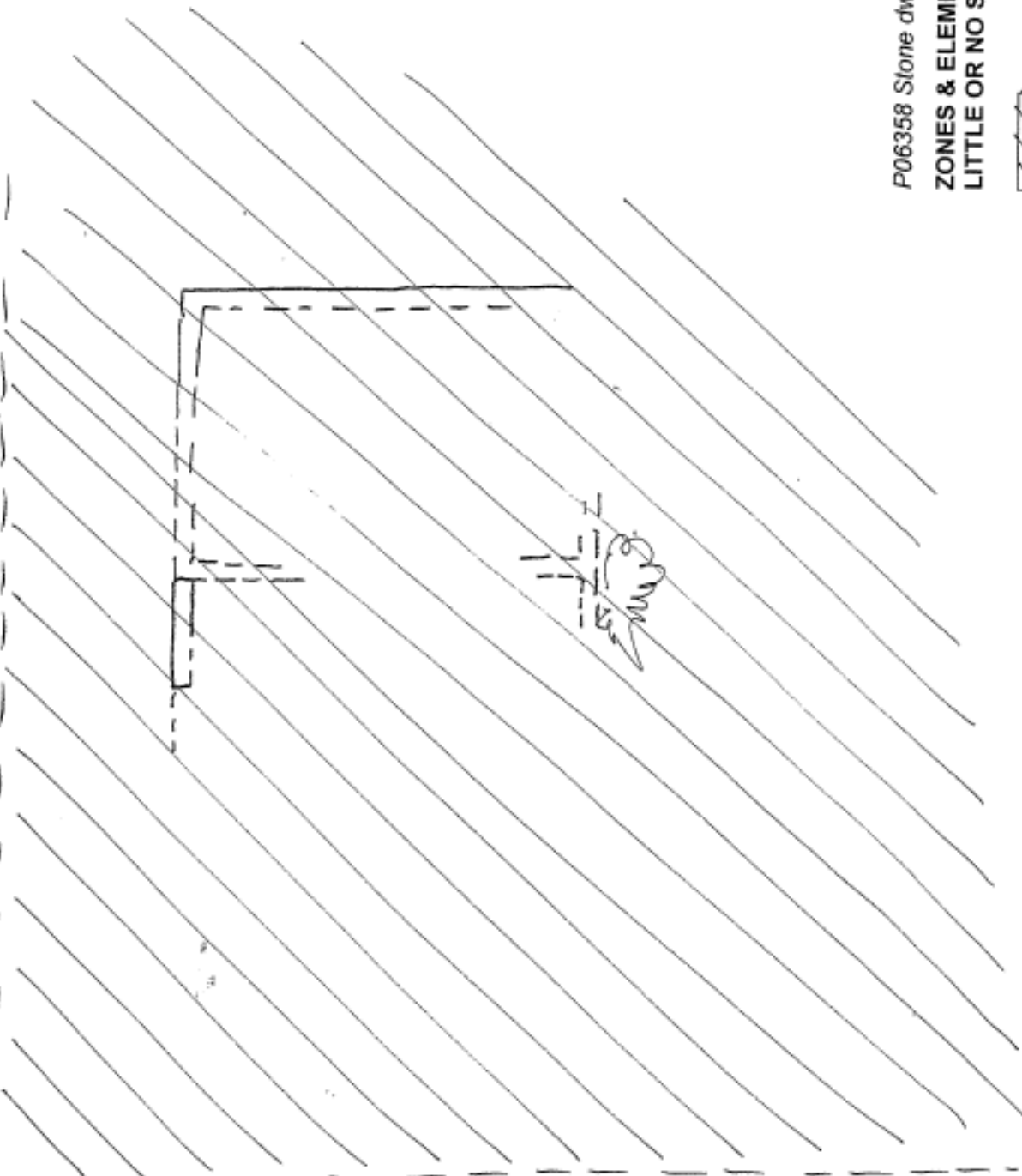
Gate off  
Highway



AK






PROPOSED CURTILAGE 100m x 100m



P06358 Stone dwelling (ruin), Howatharra

**ZONES & ELEMENTS OF  
LITTLE OR NO SIGNIFICANCE OR INTRUSIVE**

-  Little significance
-  No-significance
-  Intrusive

PROPOSED CURTILAGE - - - - -



*P06358 Stone dwelling (ruin), Howatharra* View looking east showing remnant wall at north end (left) and stone remains from there to the small bush (right). L Gray 15 April 2010.



*P06358 Stone dwelling (ruin), Howatharra* View looking south showing remnant wall at north end. L Gray 15 April 2010.

Register of Heritage Places

*P06358 Stone dwelling (ruin), Howatharra*

1

Place Assessed insert month year

Documentation amended:



*P06358 Stone dwelling (ruin), Howatharra* View looking west showing Oakajee River evidenced by the trees. Also showing remnants of the eastern wall and strewn stone elements. L Gray 15 April 2010.



*P06358 Stone dwelling (ruin), Howatharra* View looking northwest. L Gray 15 April 2010.



*P06358 Stone dwelling (ruin), Howatharra* View looking northwest showing Oakajee River evidenced by the trees, and remnants of the southern wall and strewn stone elements. L Gray 15 April 2010.



*P06358 Stone dwelling (ruin), Howatharra* View looking northeast showing north wall remains (left) and remnants of the southern wall (right). L Gray 15 April 2010.

Register of Heritage Places

*P06358 Stone dwelling (ruin), Howatharra*

3

Place Assessed insert month year

Documentation amended:



*P06358 Stone dwelling (ruin), Howatharra* View looking northeast showing the 'interior' of the north wall remains. L Gray 15 April 2010.



*P06358 Stone dwelling (ruin), Howatharra* View looking east showing the remains of the walls at the southeast corner. L Gray 15 April 2010.

Register of Heritage Places

*P06358 Stone dwelling (ruin), Howatharra*

4

Place Assessed insert month year

Documentation amended: