

Chapter 17

Non-Indigenous Cultural Heritage

Oct-2021

Genex Kidston Connection Project - Ministerial Infrastructure Designation Assessment Report

17.0 Non-Indigenous Cultural Heritage

This section presents the non-Indigenous (historical) cultural heritage assessment for the Preferred Alignment. This section identifies the historical cultural heritage values that are known or likely to occur near the Project, describes potential impacts on these values, and recommends measures to suitably avoid, minimise or mitigate impacts. These actions have been developed in accordance with the requirements of legislation and recognised industry standards. For the purposes of this assessment, the Project area is taken to be the 50 m either side of the Preferred Alignment.

17.1 Existing Environment

The desktop historical heritage assessment is informed by legislative and Project ToR requirements, as well as *Assessing cultural heritage significance: Using the cultural heritage criteria* (Environment and Heritage Protection 2013), which provides a framework for the identification and management of historical significance as required under the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992*. In keeping with this framework, the key elements of this assessment are listed below.

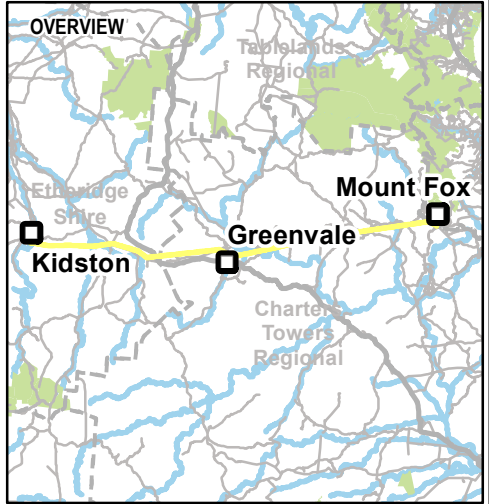
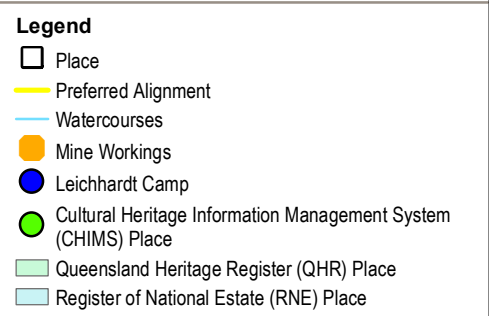
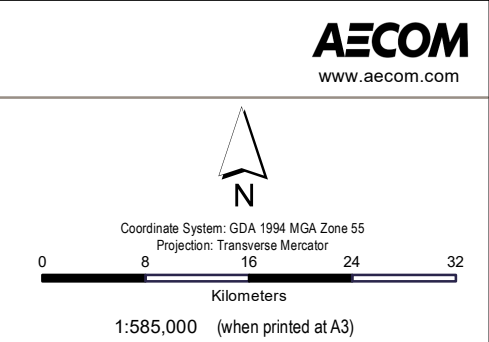
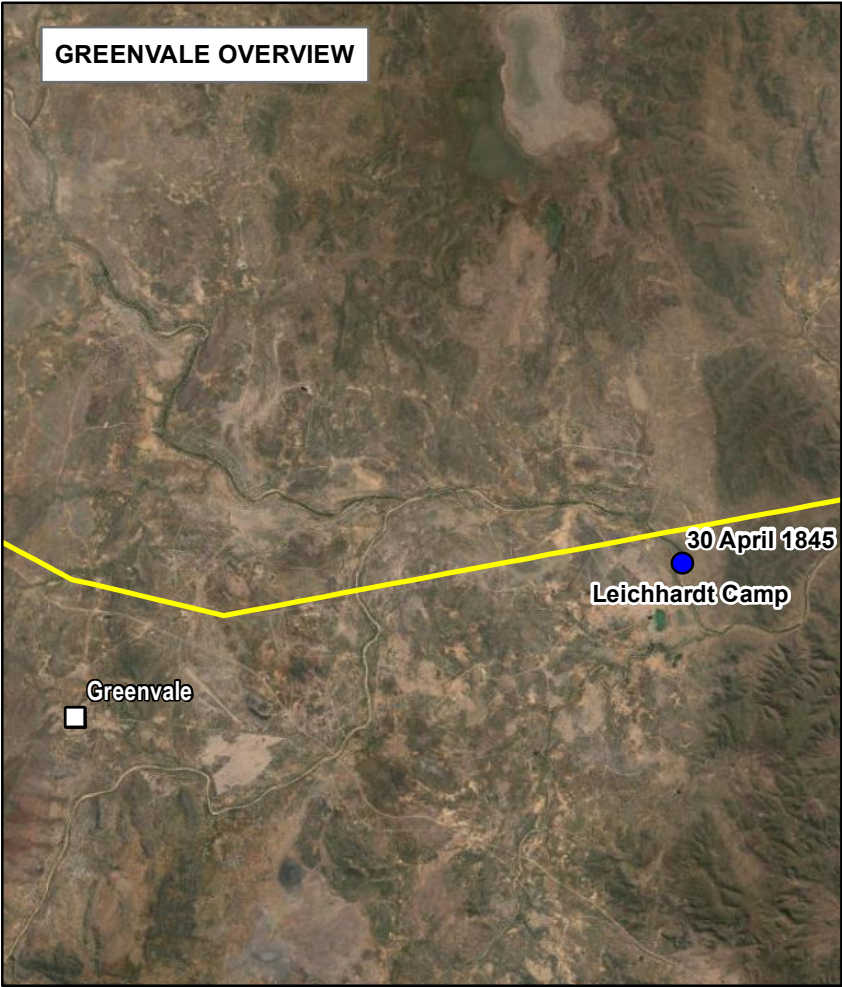
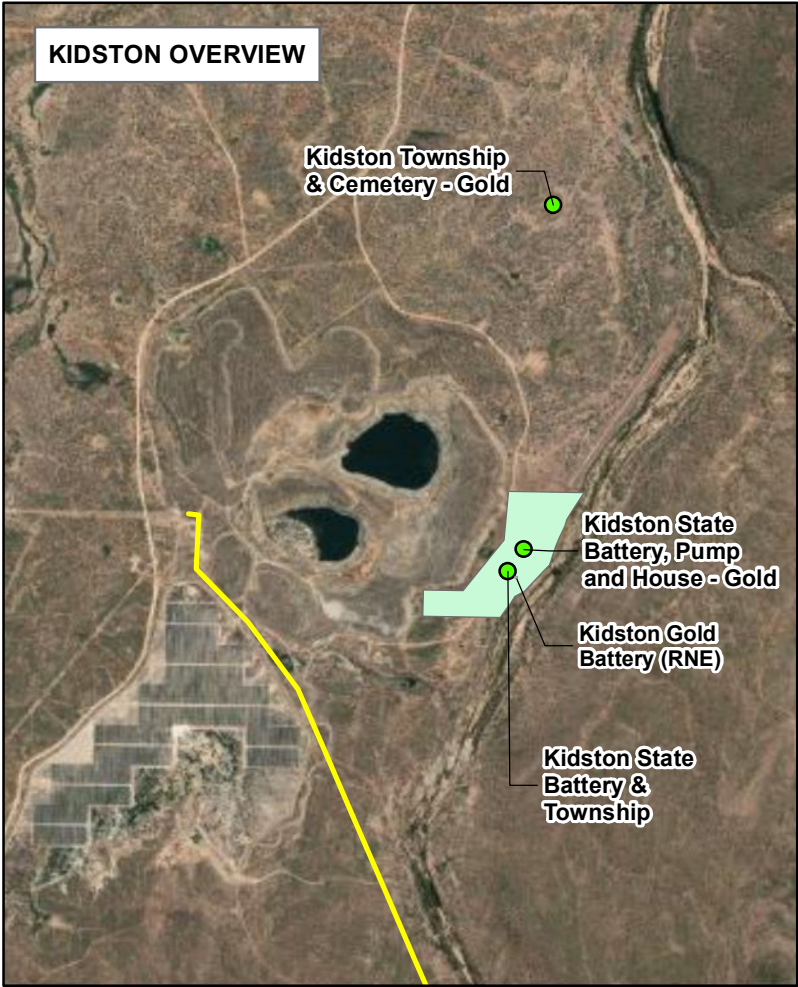
- Heritage register searches that include:
 - World, National and Commonwealth Heritage Registers
 - Queensland Heritage Register
 - Local Heritage Registers including the Etheridge Shire Heritage Overlay (2020), Charters Towers Heritage Overlay (2005), and Hinchinbrook Heritage Overlay (2017)
 - Non-statutory Heritage Registers including the Register of National Estate (RNE) and the Cultural Heritage Information Management System (CHIMS).
- A review of available historical studies, historical documents and previous historical cultural heritage assessments of the area.
- An assessment of potential Project impacts and recommendation of mitigation and management measures.

17.1.1 Heritage context

Historical accounts of the Project area commence with the Leichhardt expedition in 1845 (Leichhardt 1847). Seeking a route from Moreton Bay, Queensland to Port Essington, Northern Territory, Leichhardt crossed through the middle section of the Project area as his party travelled north along the Burdekin River. Describing the river as a 'fine stream of water' (Leichhardt 1847:232), Leichhardt camped at a location on its banks some 500 m south of the Project, in the vicinity of Greenvale (Figure 17-1).

Almost a decade after Leichhardt's expedition, the land in and around the Project area was opened for pastoral selection as a part of the Cook and Kennedy pastoral districts. Early runs concentrated on the relatively well-watered country adjacent to major watercourses, and included Carpentaria Downs on the Copperfield River at the western extent of the Project (Figure 17-2), and Kangaroo Hills on the Burdekin River in the east (Figure 17-3) (Office of the Surveyor General 1885; Surveyor General's Office 1896). Early runs such as these were initially stocked predominately with sheep but, as wool prices slumped in the 1860s and the animals proved unsuited to the tropics, sheep were replaced with cattle (Wegner 1990).

There do not appear to be any pastoral head stations in or near the Project area, but there is the potential for unrecorded outstations, yards or other structures to be located across the former holdings. Such complexes are often related to early sheep grazing, which requires infrastructure not needed for cattle, such as shepherds huts, wool sheds and scours (Wegner 1990).



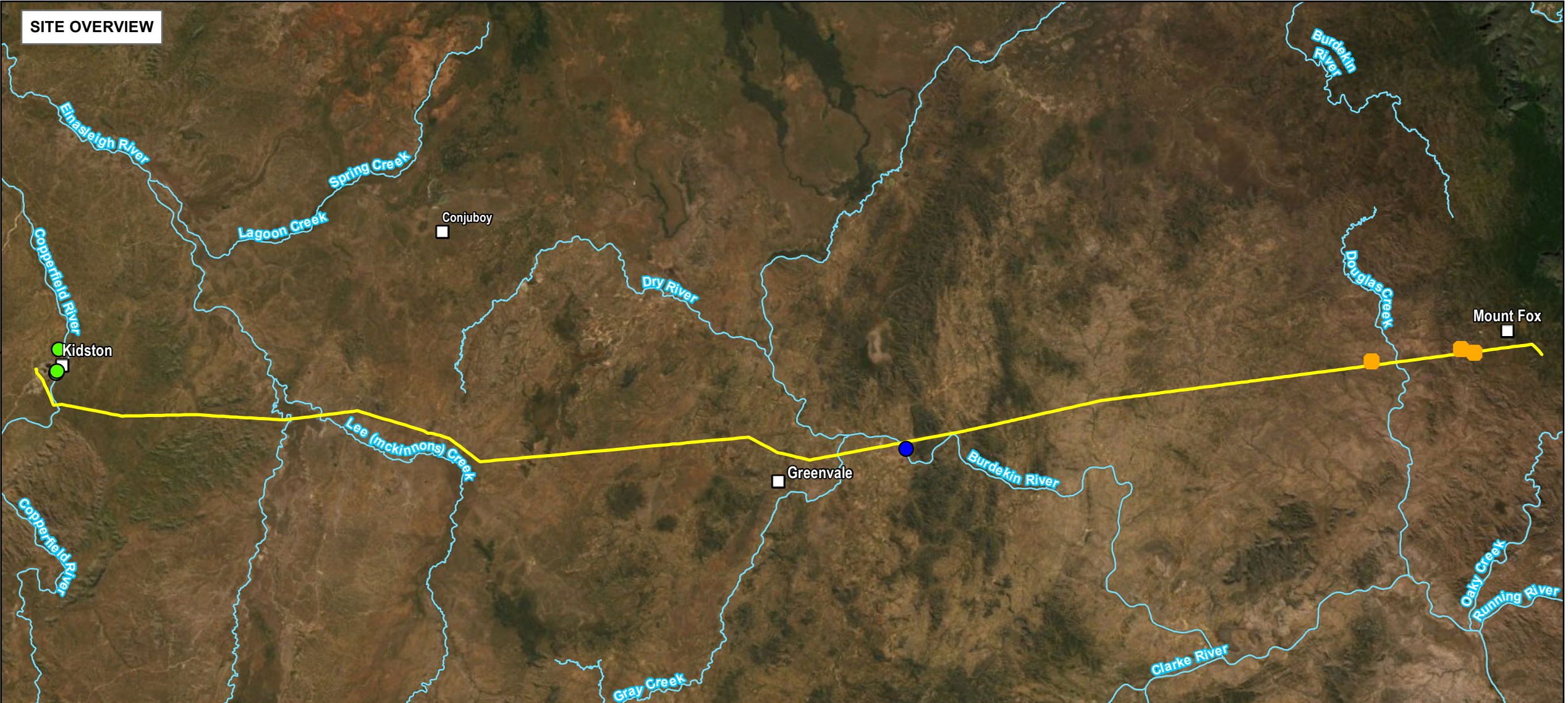
Data sources:
DCDB, Roads, Watercourses - DNRM 2017
Site Features and Layout - AECOM 2018
© SISP Imagery 2017

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Kidston Connection Project

NON-INDIGENOUS CULTURAL HERITAGE

PROJECT ID:	60577456	Figure F17-1
CREATED BY:	JB	
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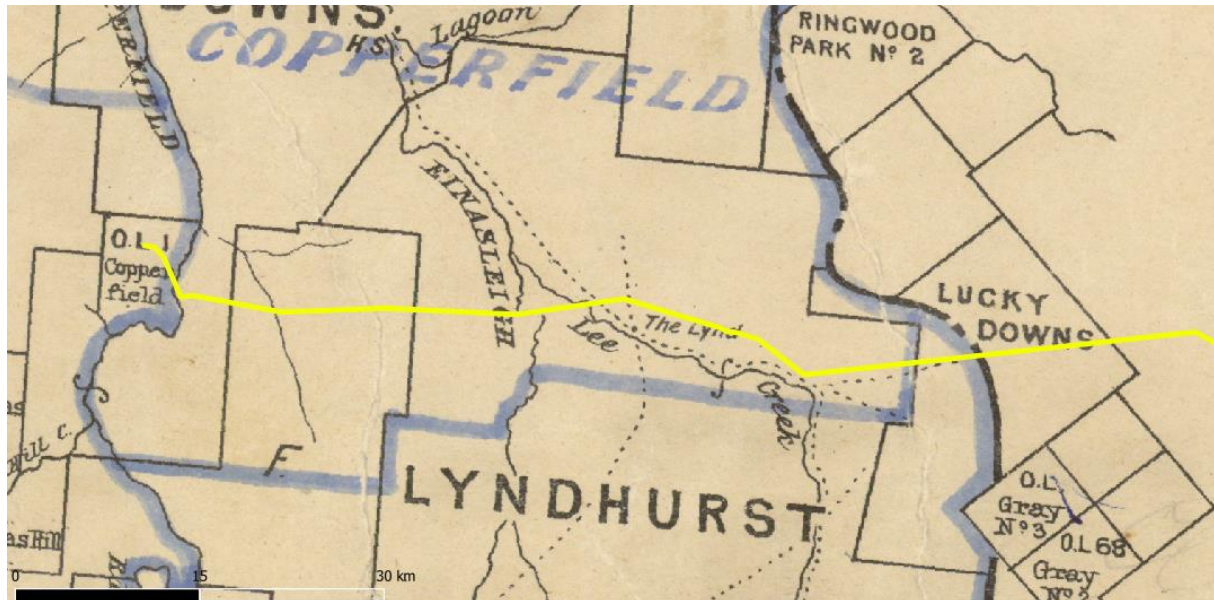


Figure 17-2 Detail of 1896 pastoral map showing western section of the Project (yellow) in the Cook District

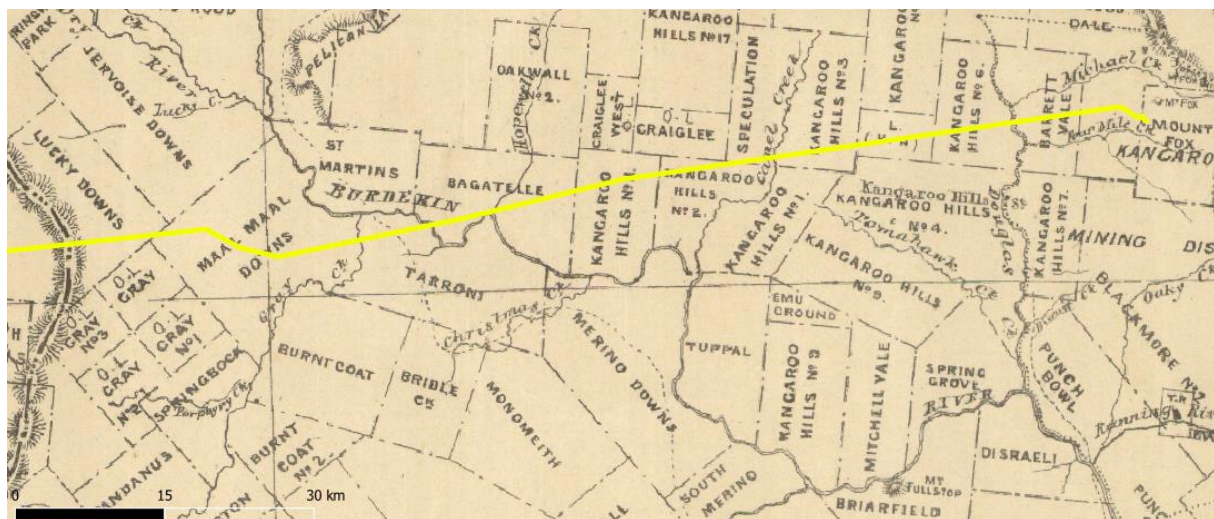


Figure 17-3 Detail of 1905 pastoral map showing eastern section of the Project (yellow) in the Kennedy District

In the late 1870s, alluvial silver was discovered at Running River in the Kangaroo Hills, followed by reef deposits of both tin and silver (Wegner 1982). By the 1890s, claims were being worked throughout the district, and the population of the field was said to be over 1,500 (Wegner 1982). For a short time, the local economy transformed from pastoralism to mining, but in 1891 the silver price collapsed and, with it, the Kangaroo Hills field. Several attempts were made to revive the field in the early 20th century, but with little success (Wegner 1982).

A similar cycle occurred in the west of the Project area, when alluvial gold was discovered in 1907 near present day Kidston. Workings sprang up across what was called the Oaks Goldfield (Figure 17-4) (Geological Survey Office 1911), with populations reaching 1,500 before the alluvial deposits were exhausted at the end of 1908. Reef mining continued sporadically on the Oaks field through the 20th and into the 21st century, but populations never again exceeded 500 (Hooper 2001; Wegner 1990).



Figure 17-4 Detail of 1911 mine map showing western section of the Project (yellow) in the Oaks Goldfield

Although the Project avoids the main workings at present day Kidston, it passes through the slightly later 'Copperfield' claims. Dating to around 1912 (*Cairns Post* 22 October 1912: 3), these include four mining leases, plus a miner's homestead lease (Figure 17-5).

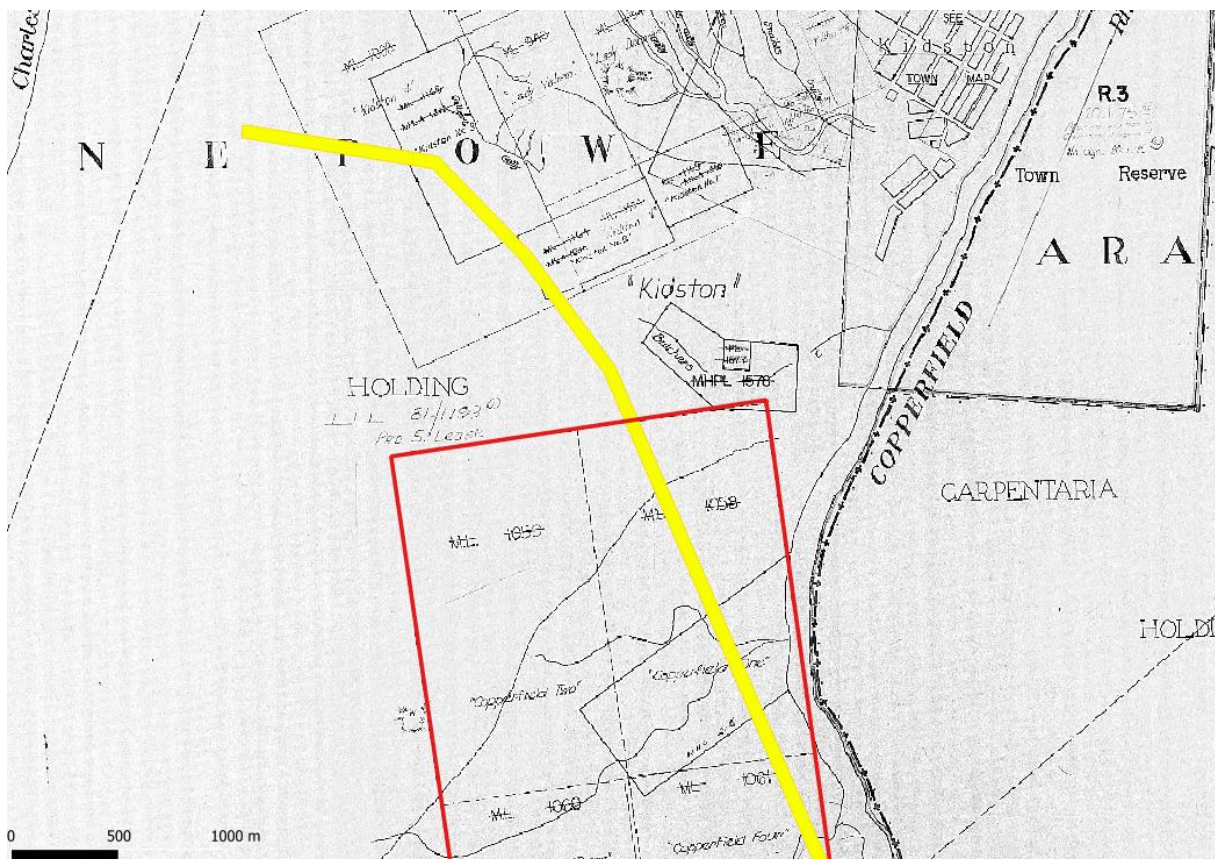


Figure 17-5 Detail of undated geological survey mine map showing the Project (yellow) passing through the 'Copperfield' leases (red)

17.1.2 Heritage register searches

A search of relevant Commonwealth, State and Local heritage registers was conducted on 20 August 2021. These searches indicated that there are no registered historical heritage places within the Project area (Table 17-1). There is one place on the non-statutory Register of National Estate (RNE) located at the eastern end of the Project area – the Mount Claro Fauna Area (RNE#100337), however this place is listed for its natural values, rather than historical heritage values.

Table 17-1 Summary of historical heritage register searches of the Project area

Register	In Project area
World Heritage List	None
National Heritage List	None
Commonwealth Heritage List	None
Register of the National Estate (non-statutory)	None
State Heritage Register	None
Cultural Heritage Information Management System (non-statutory)	None
Etheridge Shire Heritage Overlay, Charters Towers Heritage Overlay, and Hinchinbrook Heritage Overlay	None

A wider search indicates that there is one State heritage place, one local Etheridge Shire place, three Cultural Heritage Information Management System (CHIMS) places and one RNE historical place within 5 km of the Project area, all related to the gold mining town of Kidston (Table 17-2, Figure 17-1 and Figure 17-5). It is not anticipated that any of these places will be impacted by the Project, but they do highlight the importance of mining heritage in the area.

Table 17-2 Summary of historical heritage listings within 5 km of the Project area

Register	ID	Name	Distance to Project area
Register of the National Estate (non-statutory)	009133	Kidston Gold Battery	1.8 km north-east
State Heritage Register	600506	Kidston State Battery & Township	1.1 km north-east
Etheridge Shire Heritage Overlay	NA	Kidston Cemetery	3.8 km north-east
Cultural Heritage Information Management System (non-statutory)	000800	Kidston State Battery, Pump and House - Gold	2 km north-east
	024227	Kidston State Battery & Township	1.8 km north-east
	000824	Kidston Township & Cemetery - Gold	4 km north-east

Although not listed on any heritage registers, it should be noted that the Queensland Government mines data records a large number of abandoned mine workings in the area near the Project (Figure 17-6)(Department of Natural Resources Mines and Energy 2018). The location of these workings is often approximate, garnered from a variety of historical maps and reports, and so it is difficult to establish their proximity to the Project. However, allowing for up to a 500 m margin of error, there are at least three sites that have the potential to be in or adjacent to the Project (Table 17-3, Figure 17-1).



Figure 17-6 Abandoned mines surrounding Preferred Alignment (yellow) (Department of Natural Resources Mines and Energy 2018)

Table 17-3 Summary of mine workings within approximately 500 m of the Project (Department of Natural Resources Mines and Energy 2018)

Site ID	Name	Status	Recorded Extent of Workings	Main Commodity	Approximate Distance to Project	Property Name
040598	Unnamed 681149	Abandoned Mine	60 m long, 50 m wide and 10 m deep	Tin	500 m north	Kilclooney
040408	Dixon's	Abandoned Mine	300 m long, 250 m wide and >5 m deep	Tin	70 m north	Kilclooney
481058	Porphyry Dyke	Abandoned Mine	Unknown	Gold	400 m north	Kangaroo Hills

Landholder engagement and field investigations in 2018 for the proposed transmission line identified an old tin mine immediately on the northside of the Ergon 66 kV line within 'Kilclooney' station, most likely either Dixon's or Unnamed 681149 (Table 17-3). The mine is thought to have been established between 1900-1950 and is now used as a private campsite with several buildings that have services connected. The Project area for the transmission line is located on the southern side of the 66 kV line to avoid this camp site.

17.1.3 Historical archaeological sensitivity

The historical and register information presented in the previous sections suggests that any unrecorded historical sites near the Project are most likely to relate to the early pastoral or mining industries. Sites related to pastoralism are most likely to be located close to water (natural or artificial), and may be archaeologically represented by:

- building remains (fireplaces, posts, post holes)
- rubbish dumps (discarded bottles, crockery, metal and bone)
- yards and fencing (posts or post holes)
- water infrastructure (bores, windmills, tanks, dams, wool scours).

Mine workings will be located on suitable deposits of ore but, wherever possible, living and processing sites will also be located close to water. Archaeological evidence of mining may include:

- workings (pits, mounds or trenches)
- processing (tools and machinery)
- living (fire replaces, rubbish dumps).

Historical mine data suggests three sets of mine workings located within 500 m of the Project but, as noted, this data is approximate, and sites may be nearer to or further from the Project. Of these three

sites, two appear to have a high potential for archaeological remains in or adjacent to the Project. The first is the former mining site (Dixon's or Unnamed 681149) on the Kilclooney property which stakeholder engagement and site inspections confirms is located just to the north of the Project (see Section 17.1.2). The second area of high potential is on the Copperfield claims to the south of Kidston. As outlined in Section 17.1.1, historical mapping indicates the presence of both mining and homestead leases in this area, along the Preferred Alignment.

17.2 Potential Impacts

17.2.1 Impacts to known heritage values

There are no registered historical heritage places within or directly adjacent to the Preferred Alignment, and so no impacts are proposed to known heritage values.

17.2.2 Impacts to unknown heritage

There is some potential for the Project to impact unidentified historical heritage places. Any such unidentified places are most likely to relate to the pastoral or mining history of the region. This includes three abandoned mines that are thought to be within 500 m of the Preferred Alignment (Figure 17-1), as well as other, potentially undocumented mine workings or early pastoral complexes.

As discussed in Section 17.2.1, archaeological potential is thought to be highest around the former mine workings and present-day camp site on Kilclooney, and on the Copperfield leases south of Kidston. Powerlink have already sought to minimise impact on the Kilclooney site by moving the Preferred Alignment to the southern-most side of the proposed corridor. However, the potential for heritage impact on the Copperfield leases and the requirement for any mitigations has yet to be established.

17.3 Mitigation and Management Measures

The Project will not impact on any known registered historical cultural heritage values. There is, however, some potential for impact on currently unrecorded places, principally on the Copperfield leases. It is recommended that site inspection be undertaken in this area to identify any mining heritage places, and to recommend management measures if required.

Residual risk across the remainder of the Project will be mitigated by the following general measures:

- Cultural heritage inductions for all Project personnel engaged in ground-breaking works.
- Implementation of procedures in the case of unexpected finds
 - cease all works in the vicinity of the find
 - inform supervisor or cultural heritage coordinator
 - a qualified archaeologist will make an assessment and recommend management measures.