

Tropicana Gold Project: Public Environmental Review

8. Heritage Management and Protection



INDEPENDENCE GROUP NL



8. HERITAGE MANAGEMENT AND PROTECTION

The nearest Indigenous communities are located at:

- Laverton and at Cosmo Newberry, which are both approximately 220 km away to the west-northwest;
- Coonana, which is approximately 225 km to the southwest; and,
- Tjuntjuntjarra, which is approximately 250 km to the east.

The Project is wholly within the area of the former Wongatha Native Title Claim (WC 99/001), which was dismissed in the Federal Court in 2007. Heritage management for tenements within this claim area has been undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the Goldfields Region Standard Heritage Protection Agreement as agreed by Government, Industry and Representative Bodies.

The Joint Venture is committed to working cooperatively with local Indigenous communities, to build relationships to explore opportunities related to the project's development that will result in enduring beneficial community outcomes. Chapter 4 contains further details on the community and stakeholder consultation undertaken to date and Chapter 13 contains the proposed Social Management Commitments. Key areas envisaged as primary opportunities are in employment, business development, cultural heritage preservation and cross cultural education. Youth development and education related initiatives are envisaged as also warranting focused attention.

The Joint Venture partners will build on existing relationships with communities in the Goldfields region and continue to broaden those consultations and engagement with communities and groups with interests in the Great Victoria Desert Region, which will include working with agencies such as the Central Desert Native Title Services and others. As part of a long term commitment to the local Indigenous community, the Joint Venture is in the early phase of developing an Indigenous Community Partnership mechanism, the purpose of which will be to facilitate the creation and implementation of community development initiatives, such as those described above.

Heritage consultation has been an ongoing process that commenced with the first exploration license applications in 2002. Heritage surveys continued each year through to the current day. Subsequent to the demise of the Wongatha claim in 2007, an agreed interim arrangement was put in place for continuing heritage management of Joint Venture tenements located within the former Wongatha claim area. This arrangement was jointly agreed by both Representative Bodies, being the Central Desert Native Title Services (CDNTS) and the Goldfields Land and Sea Council, as well as the Wongatha claimant's North East Independent Body representatives.

The heritage protection measures agreed were essentially a continuance of the existing process of consultation and heritage management utilising the Goldfield's Region Regional Heritage Agreement protocols as the standard endorsed by Government, the Representative Bodies and Industry. This in turn was a process of receiving advice and instruction on heritage management via the North East Independent Body's heritage committee. As of the beginning of 2009, the CDNTS has assumed heritage management responsibility (as the Native Title Representative Body for the region) for the eastern area of the previous Wongatha claim area. The Joint Venture has been working with CDNTS on the development of an appropriate heritage management strategy for the Project. The strategy will establish the heritage management protocols for future activities associated with the Project. A draft of this strategy is provided in Appendix 3F.

8.1. ARCHAEOLOGICAL

Between early 2006 through to December 2008 archaeological site surveys were undertaken over the Operational Area, Infrastructure Corridors and a Water Supply Area and water pipeline corridor. The following section summarises the work by Waru Consulting Pty Ltd (Appendix 2-A2). On behalf of the Joint Venture, the archaeological studies were commissioned in order to meet the obligations under the *WA Aboriginal Heritage Act*

1972 and the requirements of EPA Guidance Statement 41 (EPA 2004e), and in recognition of commitments to the Indigenous communities surrounding the Project.

At the commencement of the archaeological surveys, there were no recorded archaeological sites within 50 km of the Project Operational Area, and only four such sites within 100 km. This was directly related to the lack of previous archaeological surveys. Research found only one such survey which had been carried out in the western half of the Great Victoria Desert.

A total of 11 sites were discovered and recorded within the Operational Area (Figure 8.1), while more sites were discovered during surveys of the supporting infrastructure. Only 1 site has been found within the 60 km² of the Resource Area with the remaining 10 sites located within an estimated 230 km² of the remainder of the Operational Area. Surveys of the infrastructure corridors located 12 sites (refer to Figures 6.18 and 6.19 in Chapter 6). Only 1 site is within the final alignment of the Tropicana-Transline Communications Corridor ("Plumridge Road Quarry 02") and this very small knapping centre can be easily avoided by aligning any infrastructure to one side of the corridor. Several other sites or potential sites were noted near the road corridors and in these instances deviations were selected and surveyed to ensure the sites were avoided. No sites were found in the Water Supply Area or along the pipeline corridor. Artefact sites recorded in the Operational Area and associated infrastructure areas are listed in Table 8.1.

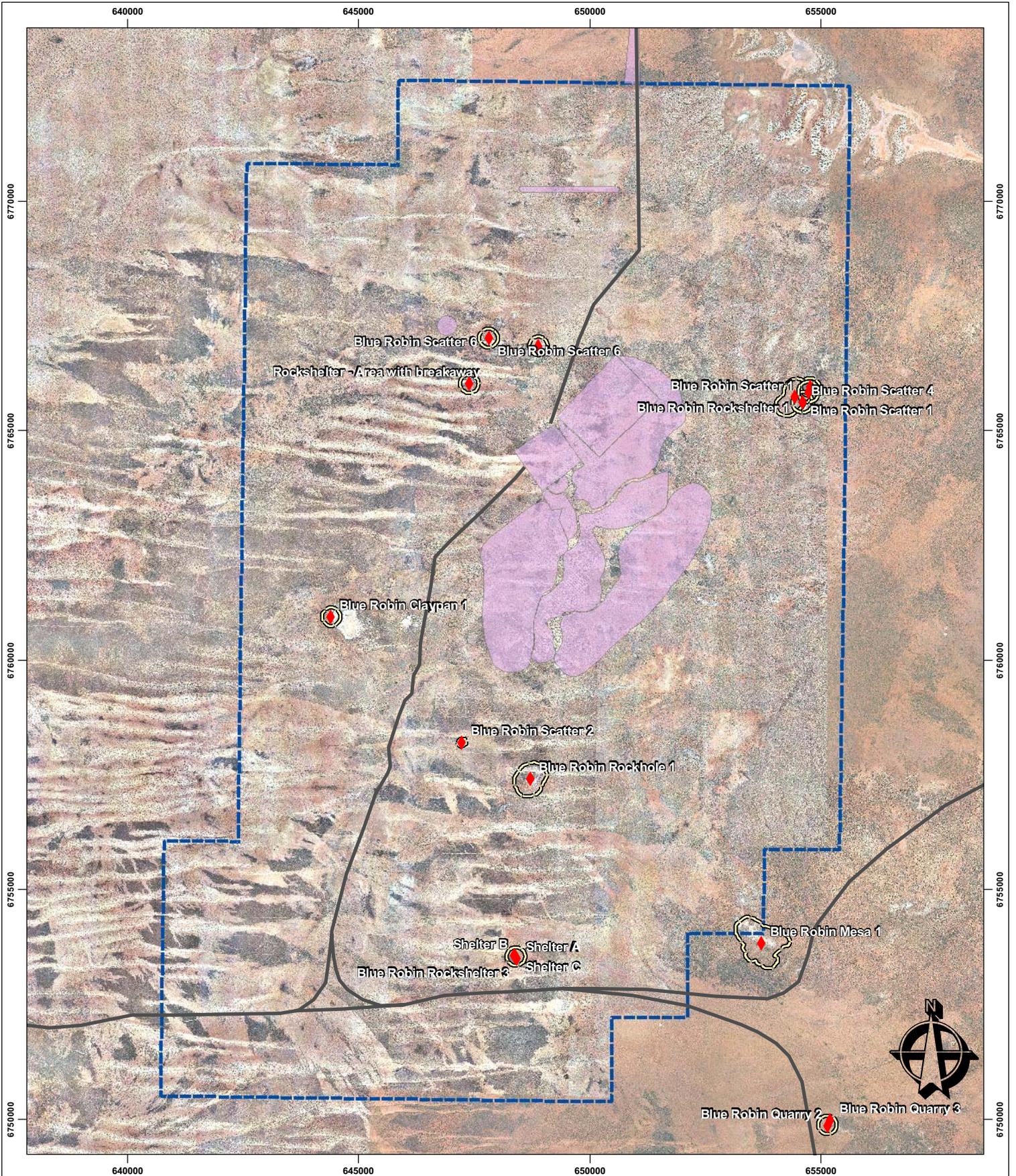
The most common archaeological sites are artefact scatters and quarries, with a small number of rockshelter sites. Artefact scatters represent campsites and activity centres where a range of day- to- day tasks were conducted. Two very large scatters (with more than 50, 000 artefacts) were found beside gnammas (rockholes). These sites were clearly used on many occasions, probably over centuries or millennia, and served as base camps. Several medium sized scatters (with a few thousand artefacts) were found near ephemeral water sources and indicate repeated visits to these locations. Small and very small scatters are the most common site types and are widely distributed, but in almost all cases were found near a water source, such as a claypan or depression. These may be the remains of camps used by small groups travelling through the district or may be satellite sites occupied briefly by people staying at the much larger campsites.

The quarry sites range in size from knapping centres used once or twice to small quarries (with hundreds of pieces) visited on a number of occasions. Markedly different is a major quarry ("Blue Robin Quarry 07") which is estimated to contain 100,000 pieces and which was visited many times over centuries or millennia. Most of the quarries are clustered in hills a few kilometres south of the Operational Area where there are outcrops and scree patches of coarse or medium-grain silcrete. Some quartz outcrops and scree patches were also exploited, but the few recorded quartz quarries are small and consistent with casual exploitation by transient groups.

Table 8.1: Summary Information of 25 Artefact Sites within the Operational Area and Associated Infrastructure Areas

Site name	Components	Size (no. artefacts)	Significance	Management Recommendations
Mining area				
Blue Robin Scatter 02	AS	100 – 200	Low	Consider signage and or fencing
Surrounding Project Area				
Blue Robin Mesa 01	AS, Gn, RS, GP	50 000 – 100 000	high	ground disturbance procedures restricting activities to avoid site
Blue Robin Rockhole 01	AS, Gn	~ 5000	moderate	ground disturbance procedures restricting activities to avoid site
Blue Robin Claypan 01	AS	<50	very low	ground disturbance procedures restricting activities to avoid site
Blue Robin Scatter 01	AS	~ 5000	moderate	ground disturbance procedures restricting activities to avoid site
Blue Robin Scatter 03	AS	<100	Low	ground disturbance procedures restricting activities to avoid site
Blue Robin Scatter 04	AS	<50	very low	ground disturbance procedures restricting activities to avoid site
Blue Robin Scatter 06	AS	~ 200	Low	ground disturbance procedures restricting activities to avoid site
Blue Robin Shelter 01	AS, RS	100	moderate	ground disturbance procedures restricting activities to avoid site
Blue Robin Shelter 02	AS, RS	<50	moderate	ground disturbance procedures restricting activities to avoid site
Blue Robin Shelter 03	RS, AS	~ 1000	moderate	ground disturbance procedures restricting activities to avoid site
Pinjin Infrastructure Corridor				
Kirgella Gnamma Quarry 01	AS, Gn, Q	200 000	high	Road design to avoid. Fencing during construction phase
Kirgella Gnamma Quarry 02	AS, Gn, Q	<2000	low – moderate	Road design to avoid. Fencing during construction phase
Pinjin Claypan Scatter 01	AS	~ 400 + buried pcs	low – moderate	Road design to avoid. Fencing during construction phase
Pinjin Claypan Scatter 02	AS	~ 500 + buried pcs	low – moderate	Road design to avoid. Fencing during construction phase
Pinjin Claypan Scatter 03	AS	500 + buried pcs	low – moderate	Road design to avoid. Fencing during construction phase
Pinjin Claypan Scatter 04	AS	250 + buried pcs	low – moderate	Road design to avoid. Fencing during construction phase
Pinjin Claypan Scatter 05	AS	~ 25	very low	Road design to avoid. Fencing during construction phase
Pinjin Claypan Scatter 06	AS	~ 50	Low	Road design to avoid. Fencing during construction phase
Pinjin Claypan Scatter 07	AS	<50	Low	Road design to avoid. Fencing during construction phase
Pinjin Claypan Scatter 08	AS	<200 + buried pcs	low – moderate	Road design to avoid. Fencing during construction phase
Pinjin Claypan Scatter 09	AS	~ 30	very low	Road design to avoid. Fencing during construction phase
Kirgella Rocks Scatter 01	AS	<2000	Low	Road design to avoid. Fencing during construction phase
Kirgella Rocks Gnamma 1	Gn	nil	Low	Road design to avoid. Fencing during construction phase
Tropicana/Transline Infrastructure Corridor				
Plumridge Road Quarry 02	Q	~ 20	very low	Road design to avoid. Fencing during construction phase

AS = Artefact Scatter, Gn = Gnamma Hole, RS= Rock Shelter, Q= Quarry

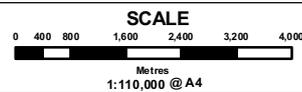


Legend

- ◆ Heritage Site
- Heritage Site Buffer
- Proposed Infrastructure Corridor
- Conceptual Site Layout
- Operational Area

Imagery is a composite of aerial and satellite photography

NOTE THAT POSITION ERRORS CAN BE >5M IN SOME AREAS
 - AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY SOURCED FROM LANDGATE 2007
 - LOCALITY MAP SOURCED FROM ANGLO GOLD ASHANTI 2008



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METADATA RECORDED		PROJECTION	
100%		MGA ZONE 51	
HORIZONTAL DATUM		HEIGHT DATUM	
GDA 94		N/A	
CREATED BY	CHECKED BY	APPROVED	
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DATE	REVISION	DRAWING ID	
13.08.09	0	351-1.24	

Tropicana Joint Venture
TROPICANA GOLD PROJECT

Public Environmental Review
 Operational Area: Archaeological Sites
 Located in or Near the Operational Area
 Figure 8.1

Several rockshelter sites were found in the few breakaways that occur in the Operational Area. These typically had only a few associated artefacts, but two rockshelters had small artefact scatters below their talus slopes. The largest artefact scatter site ("Blue Robin Mesa 01") also contains three rockshelters. All of the rockshelters appear to contain shallow deposit, which would limit their potential for having dateable organic material and their potential for providing a chronology for Indigenous occupation of the Tropicana district and the Great Victoria Desert. Some of the smallest artefact scatters and quarries have little if any research potential and may not meet the criteria for registration as sites under the *WA Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972*, even though meeting the definition of an archaeological site adopted for these studies.

Management of Aboriginal archaeological heritage involves, in the first instance, avoiding any impact to these sites. The current Project layout and infrastructure planning has taken into account the location of the archaeological sites and has been modified as required to achieve site avoidance.

8.2. ETHNOGRAPHIC

The following sections have been adapted from work undertaken by the Joint Venture and summarised by Waru Consulting Pty Ltd (Appendix 2-A3). The initial ethnographic survey which included the Operational Area was conducted with representatives of the Wongatha claimant group at a time (2002) when the Wongatha Native Title Claim was registered at the National Native Title Tribunal. That survey was followed by subsequent ethnographic surveys with representatives of the same group. Since 2002 additional surveys have been undertaken to cover additional tenements, including proposed Water Supply Area and pipeline corridor, Pinjin Infrastructure Corridor and parts of TT Corridor, and exploration tenements underlying the proposed water pipeline corridor. In addition, there have been a number of visits to the proposed Operational Area by local Indigenous representatives for discussions on the draft Project Heritage Management Strategy document that is specifically designed to accommodate the proposed mining operations. Whilst onsite visits were also made to archaeological sites found in the course of archaeological surveys as discussed in section 8.1.1.

In all cases, the Wongatha's North East Independent Body heritage committee has nominated their representatives for these surveys, visits and meetings. No ethnographic or heritage sites have been identified within the Operational Area or within the supporting infrastructure areas including but not limited to the Pinjin and TT Corridors and Water Supply Area. Nor have any such sites been reported nearby.

Only two ethnographic sites have been identified in the wider Joint Venture tenements in the course of the surveys. A large gnamma referred to as "Women's Rockhole" considered to have mythological associations and a well defined arrangement referred to as "Men's Stone Arrangement" considered to have had been a ceremonial place. These two sites are approximately 20 km and 36 km, respectively, east-northeast of the Operational Area. Consultations to date have not revealed any other ethnographic information on the Project area or for the wider region.

Additional consultation to ascertain if any further ethnographic information exists for the Project area is underway. In conjunction with CDNTS a series of meetings are planned with some of the more remote desert communities during 2009 (if recommended from these meeting, visits to Project area may be carried out).

Ethnographic consultation is an ongoing engagement process and will continue over the life of the operation. Information obtained during further consultations will be managed under the Project's Heritage Management Strategy. The Joint Venture aims to not adversely affect the ethnographic values of the region.

8.3. HERITAGE MANAGEMENT

A comprehensive field survey program has been carried out to identify the occurrence of Aboriginal heritage sites throughout the Project area. A database of heritage sites has been developed and is maintained by the Joint Venture to assist ongoing management of identified occurrences.

A draft Heritage Management Strategy has been prepared and contribution/feedback received from the Department of Indigenous Affairs, CDNTS, the North East Independent Body and other members of the Indigenous community (Appendix 3-F). It is based on the adaptive management approach and has been designed to include key principles that ensure the management and protection of Aboriginal Sites and other Heritage Sites within the Project area. Broad consultation has been undertaken to ensure the plan meets community expectations and is in compliance with respective State and Federal legislation established for the protection of heritage, including the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972 (WA)*, the *Heritage of Western Australia Act 1990*.

The principal objective of the Heritage Management Strategy is to prescribe the management practices that will be used by all employees and contractors working at the Project to ensure the protection and management of Aboriginal Sites and other Heritage Sites. The draft Heritage Management Strategy is a work in progress and it is envisaged the document will be periodically modified as community consultation continues throughout the life of the Project.

Employees working on the Project will complete a cultural awareness course. The cultural awareness course will include local Indigenous community content that highlights the important connections to country and the values placed on areas of significance in the GVD area. A record of employees and contractors who have completed a cultural awareness course will be maintained. Performance against the Heritage Management Strategy will be subjected to regular audits by an appropriate external audit process.

As described above under section 8.2, there is an expectation going forward that further consultation with a wider group of Indigenous people may bring forward new information from an ethnographic perspective, which will be managed under the Project's Heritage Management Strategy. As part of this process the Joint Venture is working closely with CDNTS to facilitate gaining any additional advice and information to compliment current data concerning heritage sites and their management, which in turn underpins the effective operation of the Heritage Management Strategy.

The Joint Venture Actions

Action 14: A Heritage Management Strategy will be finalised in consultation with the DIA, CDNTS and local Indigenous group prior to the commencement of construction. The principal objective of the Heritage Management Strategy is to prescribe the management practices that will be used by all employees and contractors working within the Project area to ensure the protection and management of all known and any newly discovered Aboriginal Sites and other Heritage Sites associated with the Project.

Action 15: No archaeological sites identified during the Project surveys will be removed by the Project as described in this PER.