

Gariwerd assessment update



1. Recap (meetings 2&3)
2. Results of key projects (June 2019 – February 2020)
3. Traditional Owner engagement
4. Next steps



Meeting 2 (Oct 2019)

1. Presentation of assessment process for natural and cultural values

Meeting 3 (Dec 2019)

1. Presentation of preliminary survey observations
2. Presentations from specialists Ben Gunn and Andrew Thorne

Meeting 4 (Mar 2020 - today)

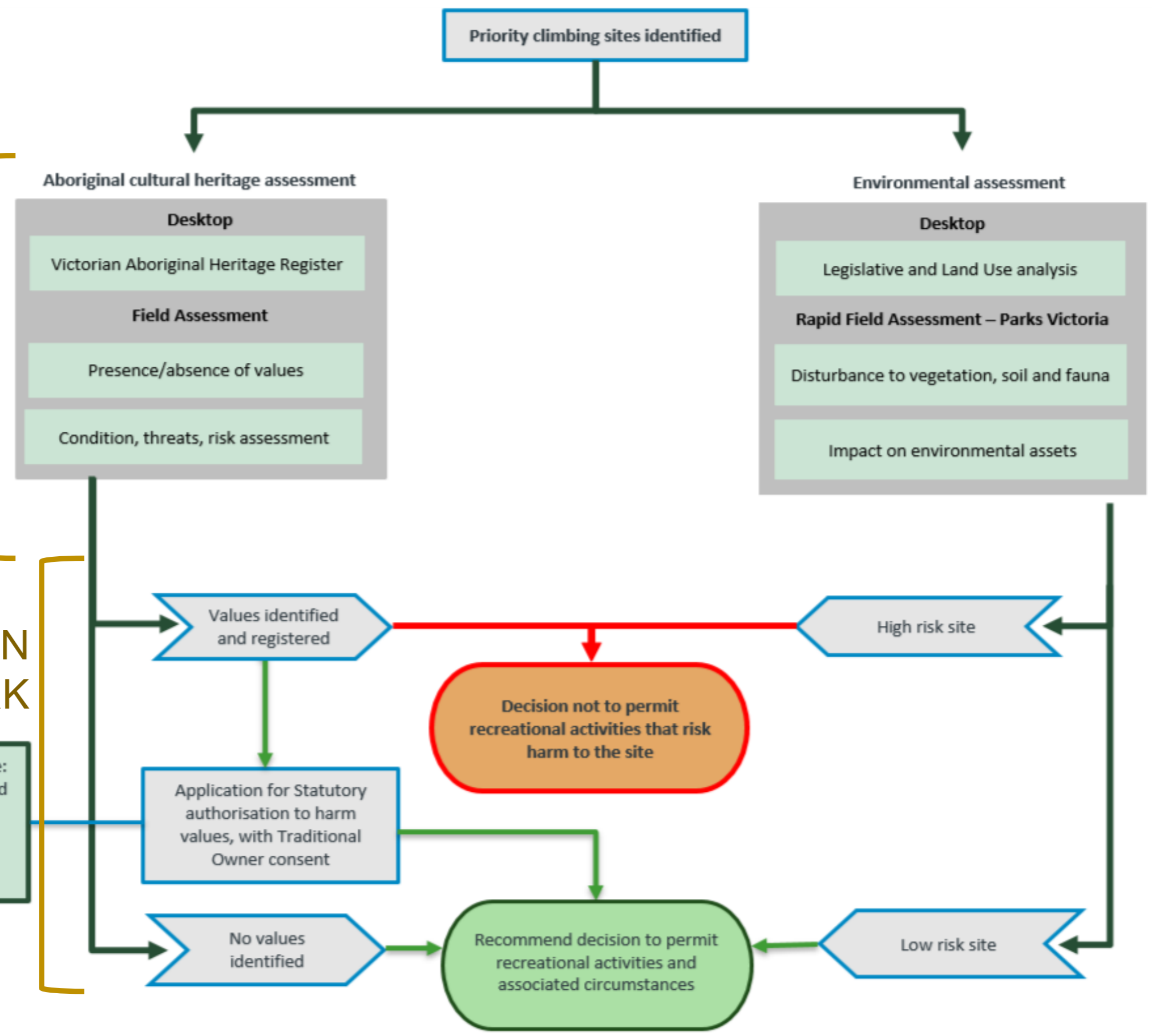
1. Presentation of assessments results and next steps, noting:
 - *No decisions made yet about access
 - *current management/protection regime unchanged

Note* This diagram is an example of the process taken for the initial sample sites assessed.

RESULTS

DECISION FRAMEWORK

- Possible considerations/conditions may include:
- Consent and/or authorisation is not received
 - Limited or conditional access with an LTO (for example, like SDV) or other groups
 - Certain activities permitted
 - Full use for all activities permitted



PROJECT 4 RESULTS (LOCATIONS & IMPACTS)

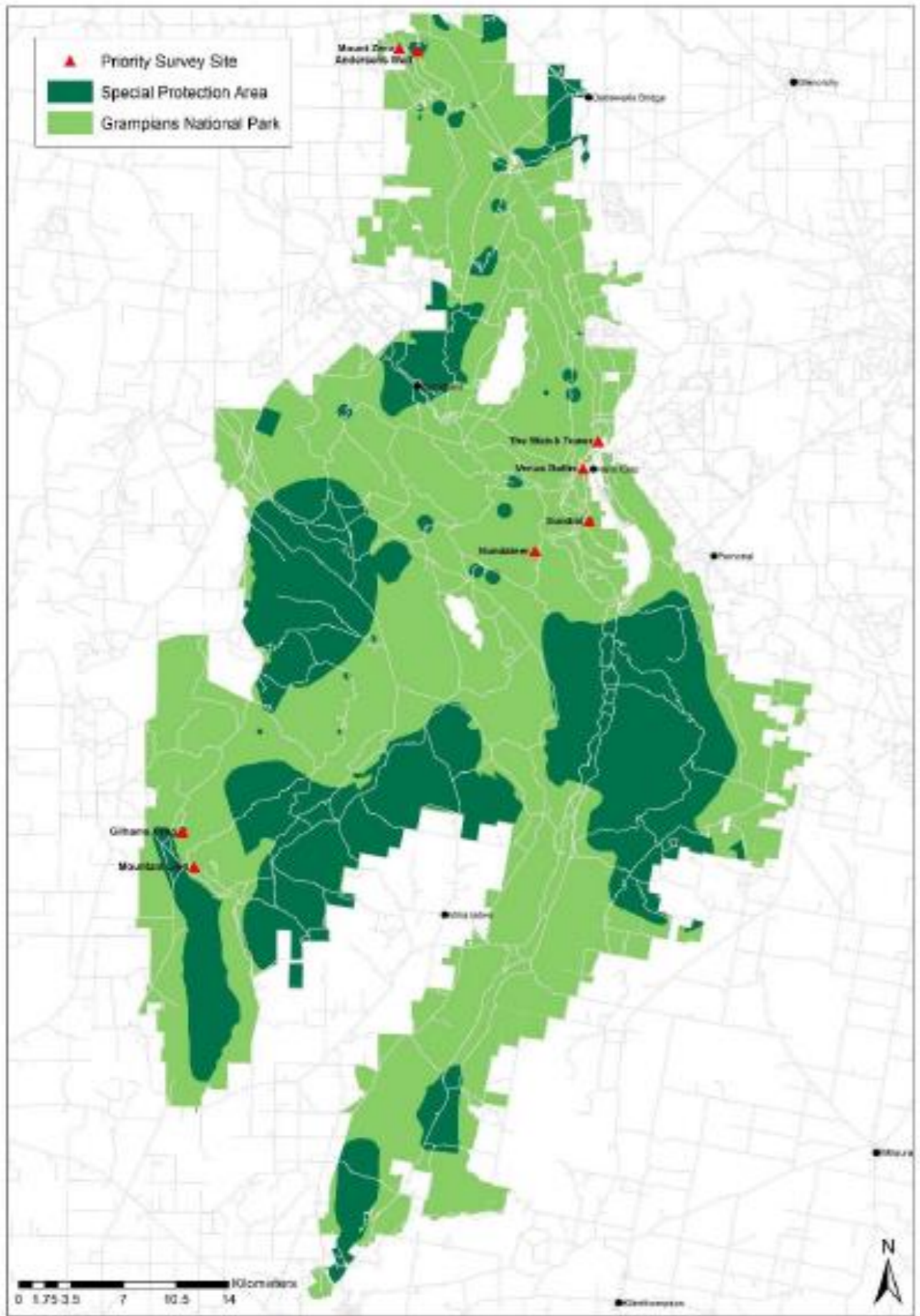
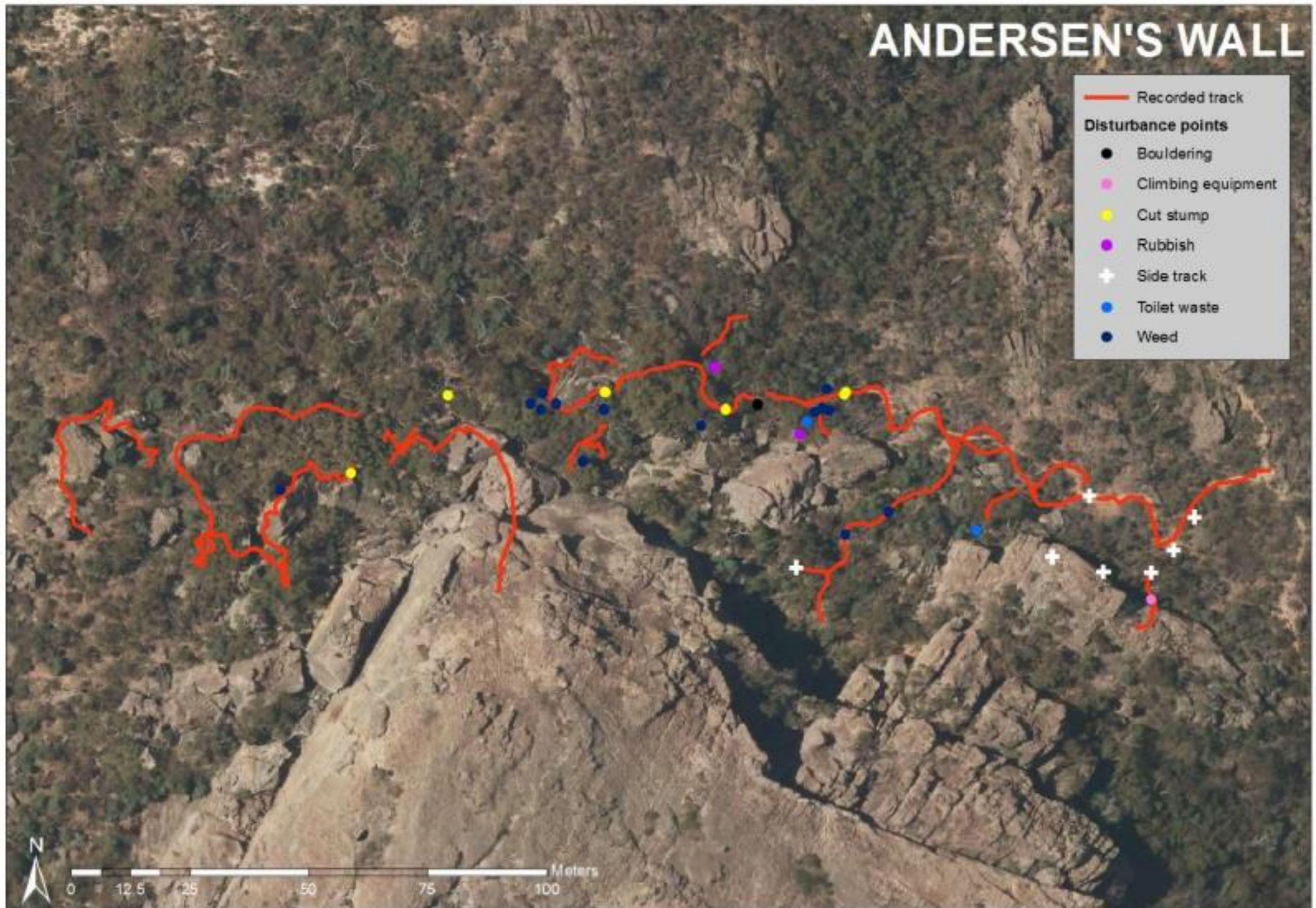


Table 1. Sites assessed for environmental impacts, occurrence within Special Protection Areas (SPA), type of climbing and assessment of level of use.

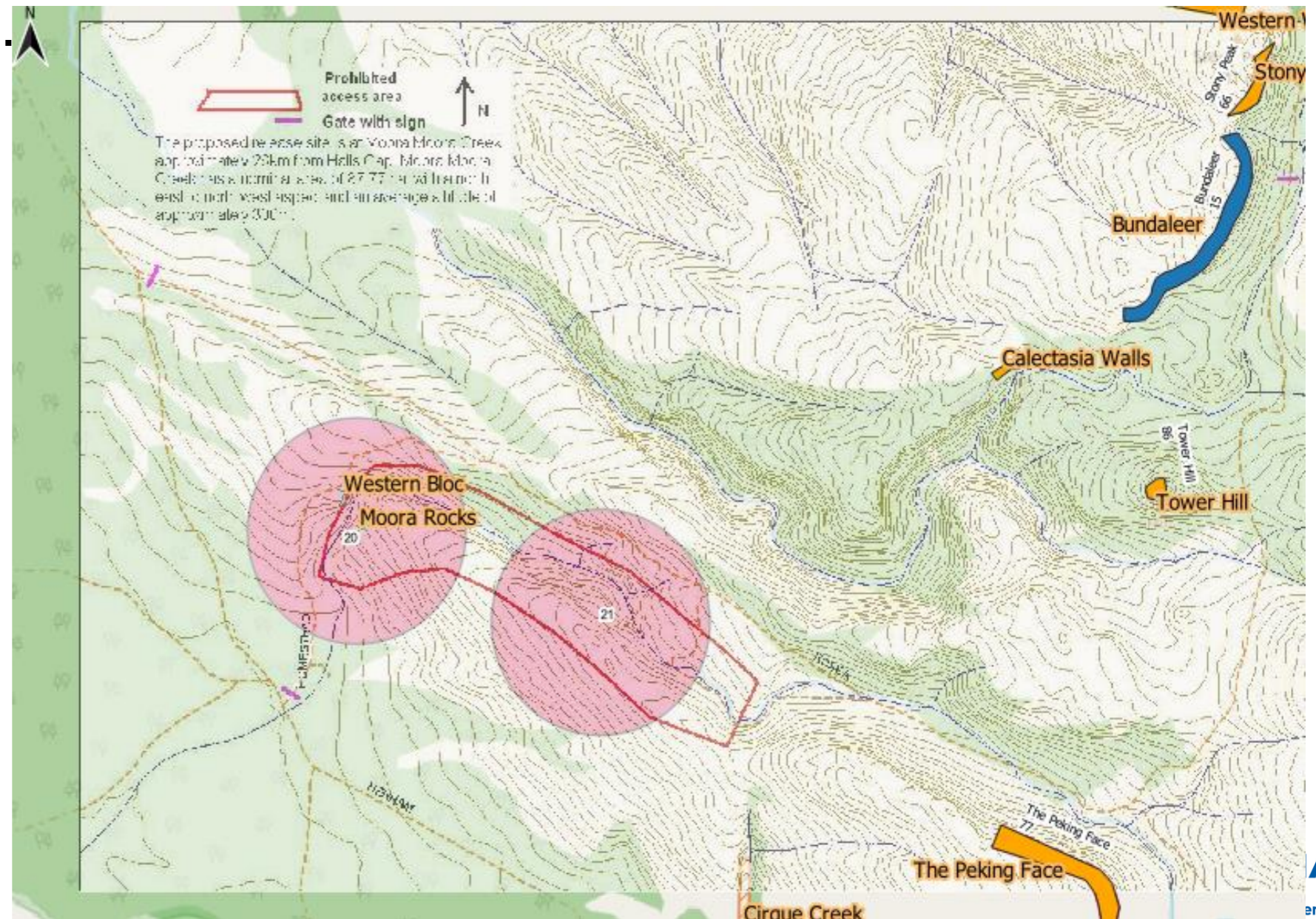
Site name	SPA	Main climb type	Level of use
Mt Zero	no	Bouldering and traditional	Very low
Andersen's Wall	Yes, Hollow Mtn	Bouldering and traditional	High
The Watchtower	no	Traditional – school groups	Moderate
Venus Baths	no	Bouldering	High
Lookout Wall, Sundial	Yes, SPA 47	Traditional	High (with LTO)
Bundaleer	Yes, The Bundaleer	Traditional	High
Gilham's Crag	Yes, SPA 57	Traditional	Low
Mountain Lion	no	Traditional – university groups	Low



Project 4	Environmental impacts assessment at rock climbing sites
Lead	Parks Victoria
TO involvement	Yes, engagement on assessment results
Aim	To gain an understanding of the total area of vegetation impacted and removed in the vicinity of rock-climbing sites; and to document the nature of other disturbances (other than vegetation removal) at rock climbing sites.
Key results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eight climbing sites were assessed - covering a range of geographic areas, climbing types and levels of use. Impacts were examined along access tracks and at the base of climb sites but did not include any impacts on walls or cliff faces. • All 8 sites surveyed showed evidence of disturbance along tracks and at activity areas. • Impacts detected included vegetation removal/damage, evidence of fires, rubbish, toilet waste, track formation and weeds. Cause of damage at climbing sites was not able to be identified nor attributable to any single source. • For the 8 sites (of the estimated ~200), vegetation loss of 0.72 Ha was detected in total. • Extrapolation of findings to the ~200 sites predict approximately 179,660 m² (18 Ha) of vegetation impact and approximately 108 km of informally developed walking tracks across the park.
Status	Assessments complete. Report being prepared.

Eastern Wall access and Brush-tailed Rock Wallaby colony

- Critically endangered, only other Victorian population is in Gippsland and impacted by fires.
- Grampians recovery program commenced 2008.
- Active breeding and genetic management including translocations from captive breeding.
- Recent (2019) breeding success with four new juveniles detected.
- Tracks: Rosea (reopened 2018), Homestead (reopened 2019), both will have normal seasonal closure June 2020.



Project 1	Assessment of climbing areas in the Grampians NP
Lead	Parks Victoria
TO involvement	Yes, involvement in survey teams and engagement on results
Aim	To assess priority climbing areas for tangible Aboriginal cultural heritage values
Key results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 survey areas that included 125 priority climbing areas. Approx. 4378 climbing routes located within these climbing areas • In total, 37 additional Aboriginal places were rediscovered • Of the 125 climbing areas, 30 were inside SPAs • Of the 125 climbing areas, additional Aboriginal places were rediscovered in 28 of these areas (22%) ie places not known prior to the assessments • Of the 125 climbing areas, tangible Aboriginal cultural heritage was not rediscovered in 97 (78%) of these areas • This survey covered approx. 40% of known climbing areas in the park. At least 100 further climbing areas outside the SPA are yet to be assessed.
Status	Planned assessments complete. Report being prepared.

Please note:

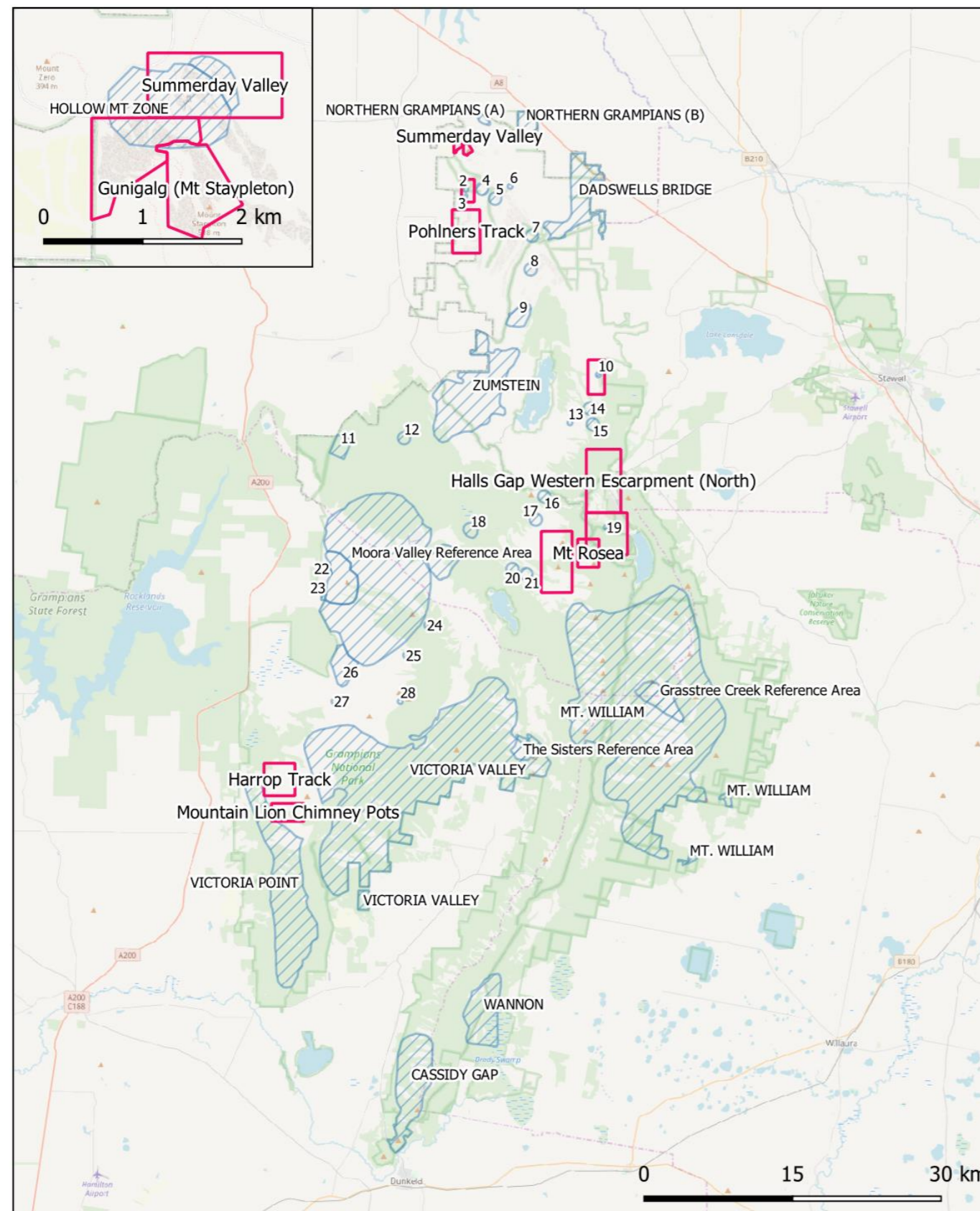
- Assessments of the at least 100 further climbing areas outside of the SPA are subject to resourcing and will not necessarily be completed by the finalisation of the Landscape Management Plan.
- Assessments for intangible heritage are still underway.

Prioritisation based on:

- *Number of climbing routes within climbing areas*
- *Popularity of climbing routes, measured by visitation data on the Crag*
- *Local PV knowledge of park usage*

Area	Name	# Routes	%	# Ticks/Visitation	%	SPA
1	Summerday Valley	334	4	5454	10	Yes
2	Wubjub Guyu (Hollow Mountain)	1013	12	14200	26	Yes
3	Gunialg (Mt Stapylton)	500	6	5640	10	Partial
4	Mt Stapylton Campground	148	2	2157	4	Partial
5	Pohlner's Track	42	1	1700	3	No
6	Northern Wonderland Range	348	4	1092	2	No
7	Southern Wonderland Range	326	4	698	1	Partial
8	Mt Rosea	217	3	925	2	No
9	Bundaleer Area	230	3	2139	4	TBC
10	Eastern Mt Difficult Range	232	5	193	0	Partial
11	Harrop Track	707	9	1538	3	Partial
12	Chimney Pot Gap	281	3	580	1	No
	Totals	4378	56.14%	36316	66.95%	
	Totals on the Crag	8372	100%	52,333	100%	

Please note– The percentage columns in the above table represent percentage of the total number of climbing routes and ticks extracted from the Crag.



125 Climbing Areas assessed across the Park

1. Summerday Valley – 15
2. Wubjub Guyun (Hollow Mountain) - 14
3. Gunigalg (Mt Staypylton) - 26
4. Ngamadidji (Staypylton Campground) - 7
5. Pohlner's Track - 3
6. Halls Gap Northern Wonderland Range - 22
7. Halls Gap Southern Wonderland Range - 6
8. Mt Rosea - 4
9. Bundaleer - 7
10. Eastern Mt Difficult - 5
11. Harrop Track - 9
12. Mountain Lion / Chimney Pots – 7

**See handout for all climbing area and route names covered by this assessment.*

Survey Locations - Grampians National Park

15-02-2020

EPSG:28354

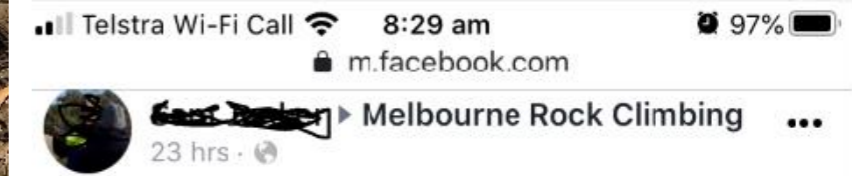


Legend

Survey Area (pink outline) Set Asides (blue hatched area)

Disclaimer: Parks Victoria does not guarantee that this data is without flaw of any kind and therefore disclaims all liability which may arise from you relying on this information. Data source acknowledgements: State Digital Mapbase The State of Victoria and the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning.

PROJECT 1 RESULTS (OBSERVED IMPACTS)



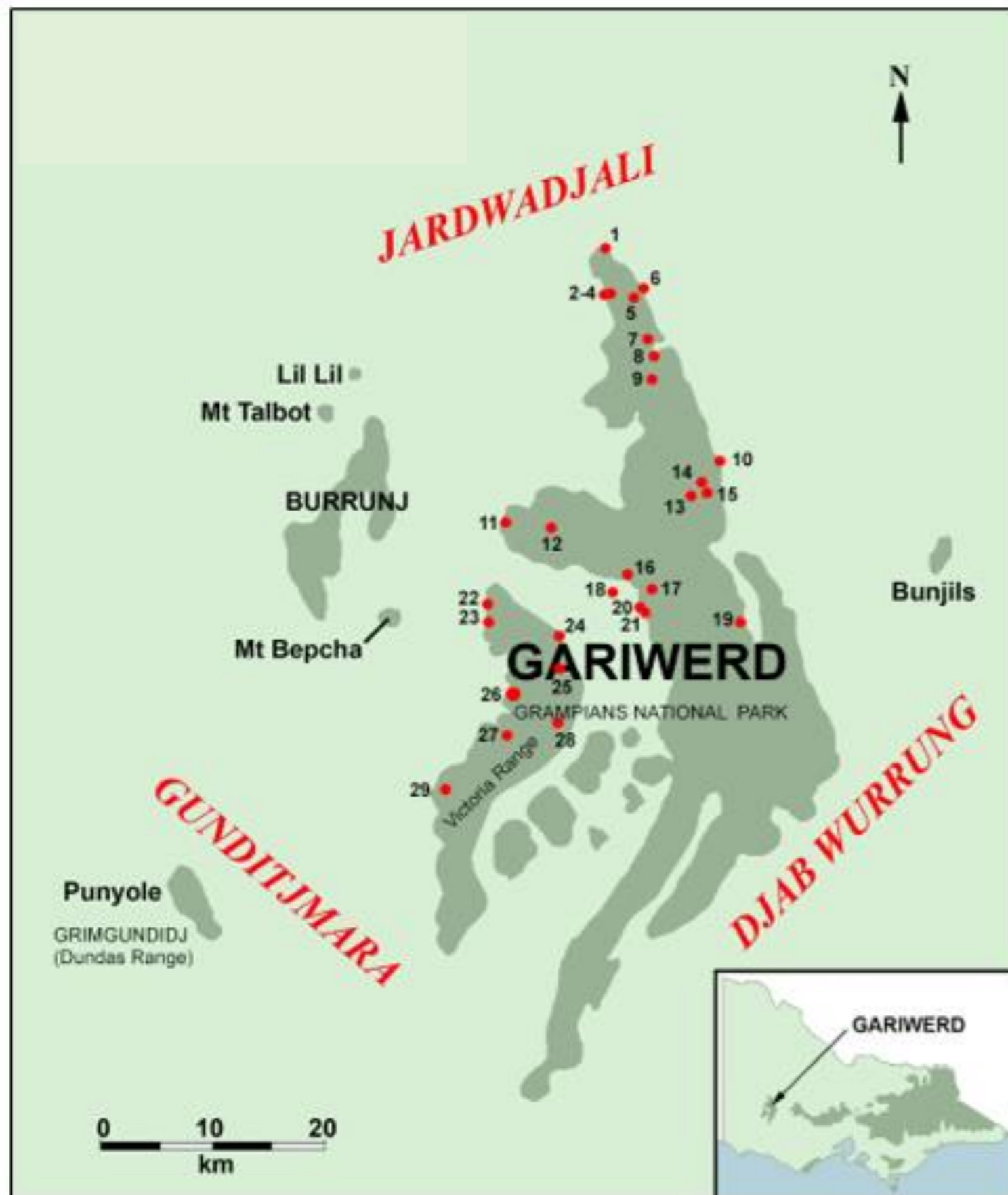
A warning for anyone looking to (literally) jump on Manic Depressive at Bundaleer, Grampians. On this past weekend a significant chunk of the starting jug, the one that everyone jumps off the stool to, broke off. And theres some serious cracks showing on what's remaining of the hold. So unless you really want to kill your belayer, or yourself, dont jump to it. Please.



- Graffiti
- Litter
- Chalk
- Bolts
- Exfoliation
- Tracks
- Veg clearance



Project 2	Aboriginal rock art site impact assessments in Grampians NP SPAs
Lead	Independent expert commissioned by Parks Victoria
TO involvement	Yes, in engagement on assessment results
Aim	To determine whether any of the rock art sites within the SPAs had been adversely impacted by rock climbing
Key results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The SPAs in the 2003 management plan were not re-assessed as part of this project. There are approximately 70 art sites in these SPAs • 72 rock art sites were assessed within 28 new SPAs (2019). Five of these sites were found to have evidence of chalking, bolting and/or rock breakage attributable to the activities of rock climbers. • Previously unreported rock art was identified at 5 sites • Gilham’s Shelter in SPA-29 was recorded as a significant quarry and occupation site. Two bolted climbing routes were identified over the site • All of the damaged art sites occur in the northern end of the park • Most bouldering sites are around/on access tracks to popular climbing sites. Most rock shelters have the potential for bouldering. Rock shelters at the base of cliffs have potential for bolted climbs • Although recent impacts are evident, it appears that present restrictions are being adhered to by the vast majority of rock climbers.
Status	Assessments complete. Report being prepared.



Art sites visibly affected by climbing related activities

SPA	SITE	Chalk	Rock Breakage	Climbing*
1	Gulgurn Manya (FR-01)	x	x	
5	GC-03	x	x	x
1	FR-03	x		x
9	BAR-02a	x		x
9	BAR-02b	x		
10	Plantation a	x		
10	Plantation b	x		
29	Gilham's Shelter			x
	Cliff face by Briggs Bluff trail			x

*climbing routes defined by bolts and/or chalk paths

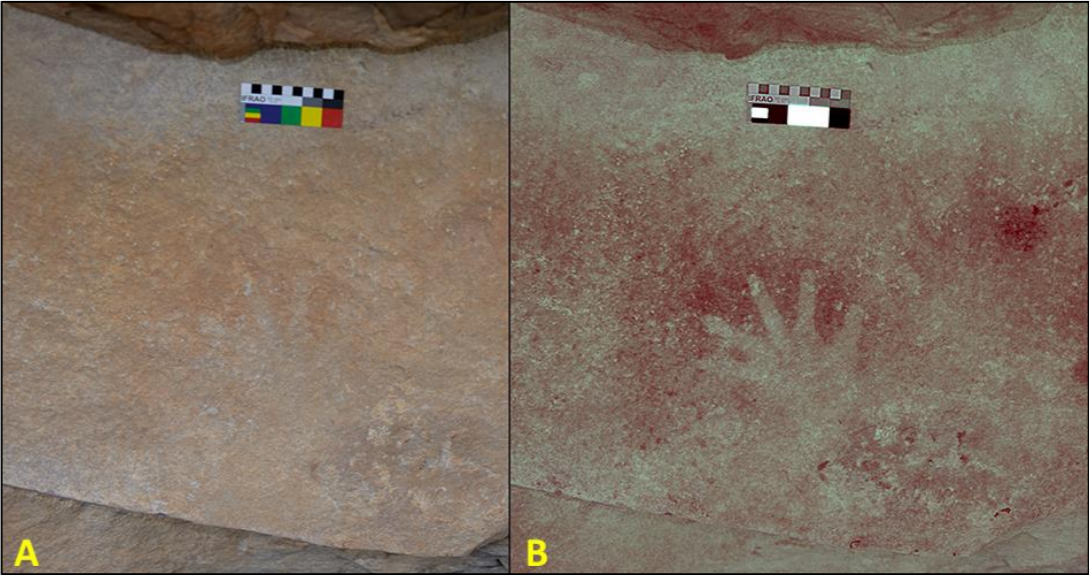
PROJECT 2 RESULTS (OBSERVED IMPACTS - SPA 1: FLAT ROCK 4)



Column of chalk marks within the shelter of the Flat Rock art site. The chalk build up is dense suggesting repeated climbing.

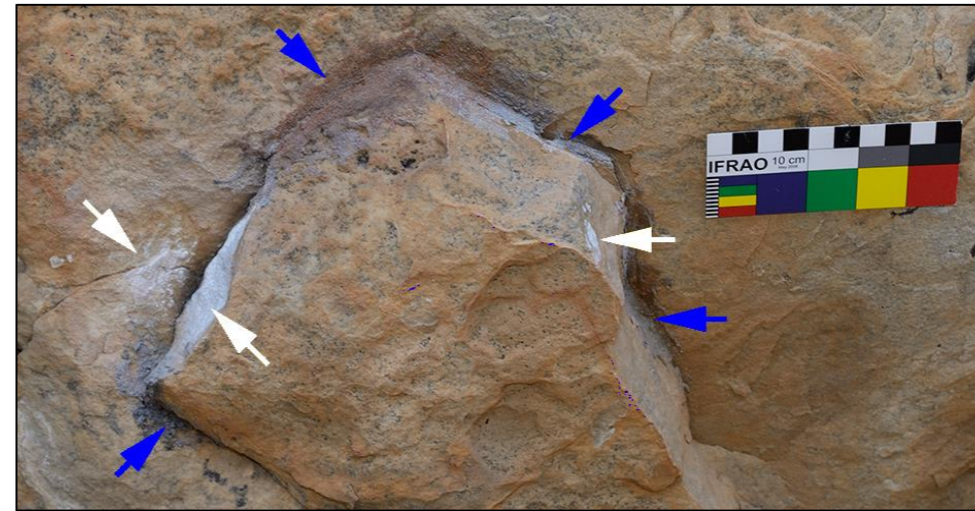


There is a chalked area is 3.5m west of the closest hand stencil.

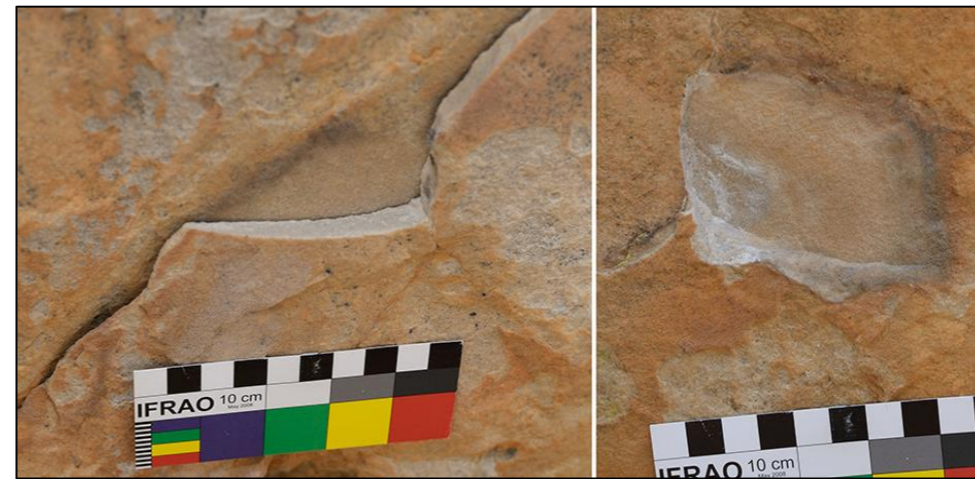


Left = flash photo; Right = D-stretch enhancement

PROJECT 2 RESULTS (OBSERVED IMPACTS - SPA 5: COPPERMINE TRACK 5)



Chalk marks (white) and adhesive remnants (blue)



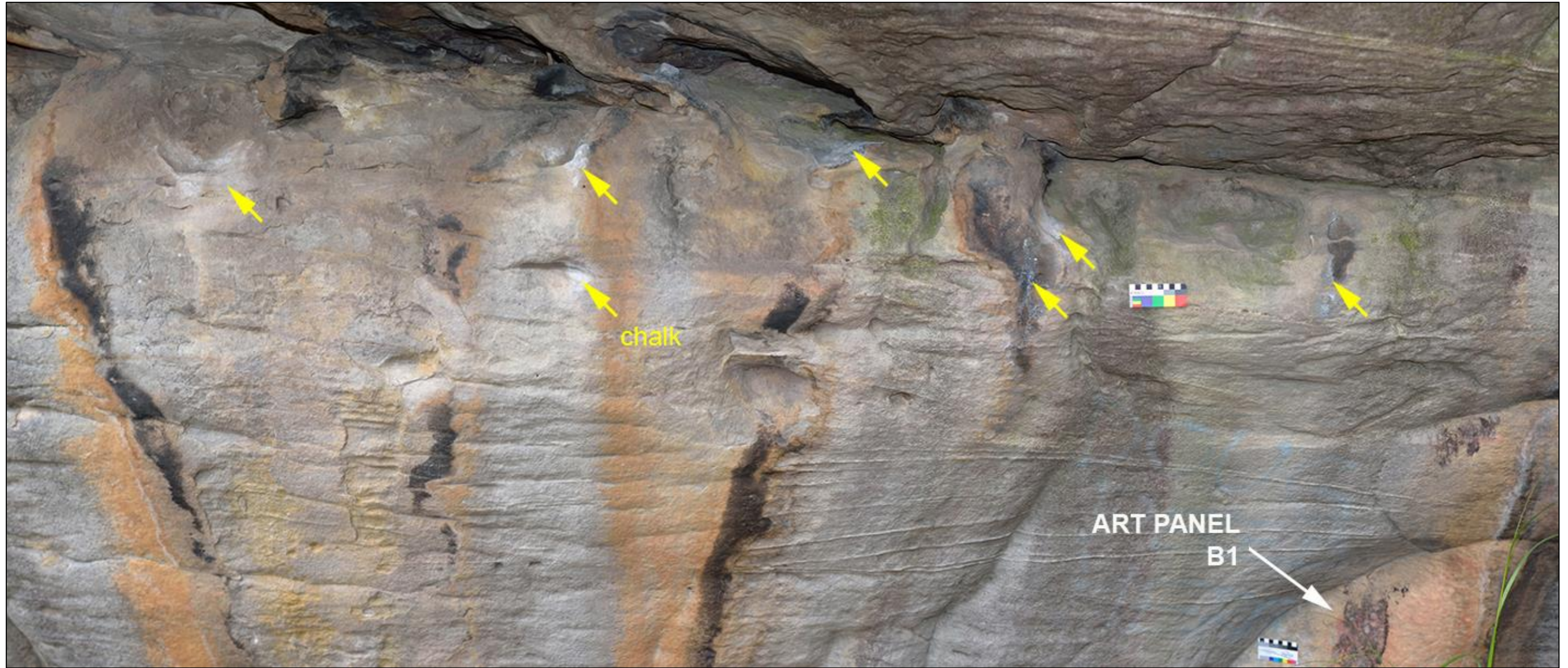
Two examples of recent rock damage



Further chalking evident in three adjacent rock shelters all located within 50 metres (and within the SPA).

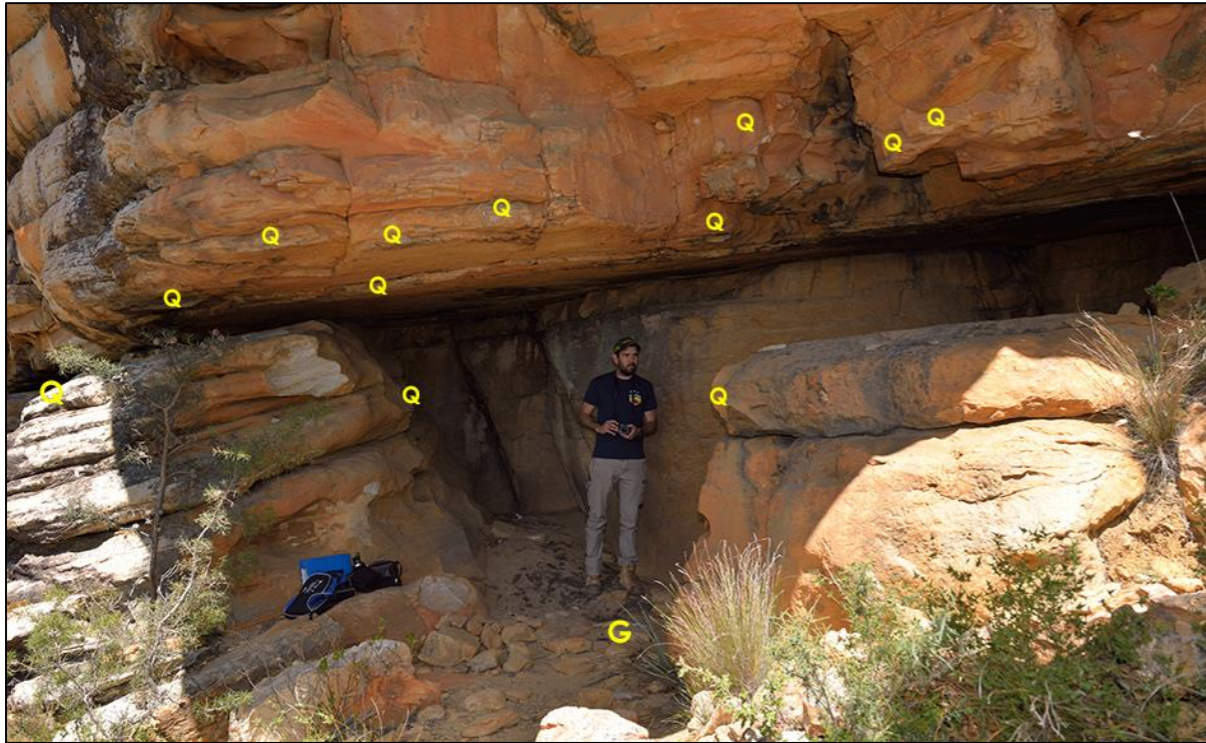
White = chalk, Red = recent rock breaks, Blue = adhesive
Yellow = location of hand stencil

The shelter has suffered serious damage as a result of bouldering. Four instances of bouldering chalk were located in the art shelter (1.8m east of the art). Four rock breaks consistent with bouldering damage were also present within the shelter. A cement-like material appears to have been applied in conjunction with the chalk.



Seven instances of bouldering chalk detected along a horizontal ledge above the art panel

PROJECT 2 RESULTS (OBSERVED IMPACTS – SPA-29: GILHAM'S SHELTER)



Gilham's Shelter does not contain rock art.

It is, however, a more significant archaeological site than was originally recorded as it has extensive quarrying throughout the shelter and around and along the northern cliff wall. The shelter also contains an Aboriginal grindstone and a surface scatter indicating that the site was an Aboriginal occupation shelter.



Gilham's shelter exterior wall showing location of visible climbing bolts

Project 3	Conservation works at 8 focus areas in the NVR SPA
Lead	Parks Victoria
TO involvement	Yes, involvement in survey teams and engagement on results
Aim	To remediate registered Aboriginal cultural sites in the Northern Victoria Range that have been impacted by rock climbing activity
Key results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence suggests that chalking associated with bouldering and sports climbing has increased dramatically in recent years • The most significant impacts on the rock are caused by permanent fixing of steel pins to facilitate access to more difficult climbs • While damage was treated at compliance activity locations, the remediation effort required to repair damage from pre-set bolt runs and chalking will be a longer term and more resource-intensive effort • For a site like the Gallery, it is estimated that removing all chalking and bolting, and filling holes, will require approximately 150 hours on site and cost at least \$40,000 plus labour.
Status	A week of conservation works completed with Traditional Owners. Further sites to be treated. Report being prepared.

PROJECT 3 RESULTS (LOCATIONS)



Chalk marks within the Gallery shelter – a registered stone quarry site

Compliance Activity Location	VAHR #	VAHR Name	Summary of observed impacts
Manja	7323-0064	Manja Lookout Shelter	Charcoal graffiti
Manja	7323-0065	Hut Creek 5	Climbers Chalk
Manja	7323-0004	Manja Shelters 1 and 2	Scratching graffiti
The Gallery	7323-0234	The Gallery	Bolting
Billimina	7323-0001	Billimina	Repaired bolt holes from old management cage
N\A	7323-0002	Glenisla 2	Imitation graffiti
Millennium Caves	7323-0091	Cultivation Creek 19	Fire rings
N\A	7323-0046	Cultivation Creek 12	Rubbish
Gondwanaland	7323-0009	Jananginj Njau (Emus Foot Shelter)	One place where works are yet to be completed

1. Survey/works teams (June 2019 – February 2020)

- Three Gariwerd Traditional Owner groups participated in all surveys in this period, and the remediation works in the Northern Victoria Range SPA



2. Presentation of preliminary findings (December 2019)

- Interim results presented and discussed at SPC meeting

3. Full presentation of results (February 2020)

- Detailed results and analysis presented to the SPC
- Results informed a subsequent 2-day cultural landscape workshop, attended by community knowledge holders, as part of the Greater Gariwerd Landscape Management Plan (GLMP) process



4. Next Steps

- a. Continue to co-design decision tools/principles at March SPC meeting
- b. Run assessment results through the agreed decision framework
- c. Recommendations for access, use and management
- d. Incorporate into the GLMP consultation plan

Draft principles to inform decision-making approach

1. Both cultural and natural values must be considered in site assessments
2. A cultural landscape approach is to be applied – values assessments must not be limited to presence/absence of tangible values
3. Cultural information must be protected.

Possible outcomes for climbing access

1. Areas confirmed/determined where climbing is not permitted under any circumstances
2. Areas determined for further assessment and/or Traditional Owner engagement. Expect a second phase of priority climbing areas for assessments – potentially informed by aerial lidar surveys
3. Areas determined where climbing is permitted under certain circumstances - where there is no risk to harming known values; and low risk to harming unknown values.

Depending on the site, permissions could be enabled by:

- a. Amended SPA boundaries
- b. LTO licence conditions
- c. Statutory authorisations under the AHA 2006 (CHP)
- d. Designated areas / zoning