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I would like to thank the following people and organisations for their help with the survey of the Organ Pipes National Park.

Dr Caroline Bird from VAS

Ms Jemima Gardiner from Wurundjeri Community

The staff at The Organ Pipes National Park

The Survey was conducted as part of the VAS Aboriginal Site Officers Training Program.

1. INTRODUCTION

The Organ Pipes National Park is 104 hectares in size and is situated approximately 20 kilometres north west of Melbourne on the Calder Highway heading towards Diggers Rest. (Figure 1)

In recent months the staff at the Organ Pipes National Park have contacted the Victoria Archaeological Survey (VAS) with concerns about the occurrence of sites throughout the park. Ranger Andy Govanstone informed VAS that they were going to improve walking tracks through the Park. David Clark an archaeologist from VAS inspected the tracks and found that they were disturbing a site. Park staff advised that stone artefacts had been found at several locations.

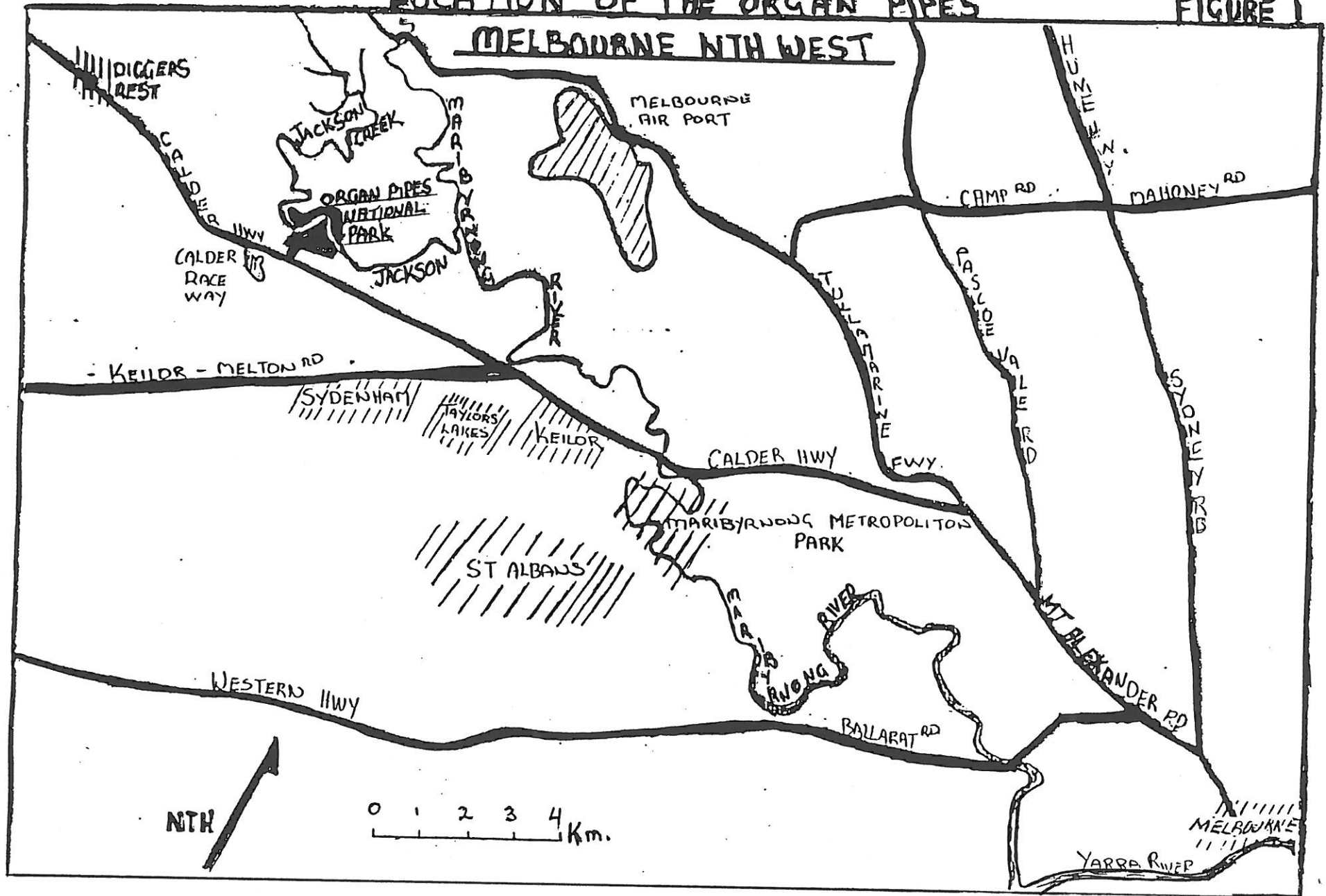
The Organ Pipes Park appears to be archaeologically sensitive. Aboriginal archaeological sites are protected by the law and VAS recommended that the area be properly surveyed. This will enable a management plan to be devised, which will allow works and maintenance to proceed without damaging archaeological sites and at the same time allowing people to have improved access to the Park.

The main aim of this survey is to provide a workable set of management guide-lines to aid the park staff in updating the parks facilities without disturbing Aboriginal sites.

I consulted with the Wurundjeri Tribe Land Compensation and Cultural Heritage Council community and the staff at the Organ Pipes National park before any work was conducted. Caroline Bird, an Archaeologist from VAS and Jemima Gardiner from Wurundjeri helped me with the survey.

LOCATION OF THE ORGAN PIPES MELBOURNE NTH WEST

FIGURE 1



2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2.1 ENVIRONMENT

On the basis of the geology, the topography and land use, I have divided the survey area into two landscape units.

The first landscape unit is the Gorge with steep to moderate slopes formed by the Jackson Creek flowing along its base to the Maribyrnong River. The geology is mainly basalt though quartz pebbles occur in the Creek and there are silcrete outcrops. The soil on the Gorge base and surrounding plains is a fine clay loam. The land use is passive recreation.

The second landscape unit is part of the volcanic plains of the Western District which are used for grazing and cultivation.

2.2 LAND USE

The survey area is situated on an old lava flow and was cleared of natural vegetation for farming in the late 1800s by a family of settlers called Hall. Over the last few years, the staff at the park, friends of the Organ Pipes along with local residents have restored parts of the park's vegetation to its original condition before contact. The unusual volcanic rock formations and walking tracks in the park are the present day recreational attractions. There is also an information centre on the history of the park.

Vegetation found at the Park comprises trees, mainly box, gum, eucalyptus and Mallee that has been restored by the staff and local residents. The grass and landscape was altered from the original condition by land clearance for farming at contact (Land Conservation Council 1985).

2.3 ABORIGINAL HISTORY

The Marin Bulluk clan of the Wurundjeri Tribe was the principal land owners of the study area. This group's clan estate encompassed the land between Kororoit Creek and the Maribyrnong River Valley at contact.

The Maribyrnong River was one of the first rivers explored by Europeans and in 1803 a party of Europeans observed Aboriginal groups for the first time during their travels in and around the area of the park. From 1835 on, squatters arrived in the area and it was then used for grazing. This caused the local clan to rely on scanty government provision and on handouts from settlers, as much of the original food resources had been reduced by grazing and the impact of European settlement. Eventually, the remnants of the clan drifted to Melbourne where they either died from disease or were directed to one of the government mission stations (Smyth 1878, Barwick 1984).

2.4 EUROPEAN HISTORY

The area between Keilor and Gisborne was first settled by squatters in the late 1830s. By the late 1800s the park was settled by the Hall family and was used for farming. The area between Diggers Rest and Gisborne is principally rural, although some housing estates are being developed close to Diggers Rest. The railway was constructed to accompany the later part of the gold rush (du Cros & Rhodes 1989).

2.5. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Several archaeological surveys have been carried out in Melbourne's Western region and Maribyrnong River, but no systematic surveys of the National Park have been carried out. In a 2.5 kilometre radius from the park thirteen surface artifact scatters and isolated artifacts have been recorded along the escarpment between the Calder Raceway and Sydenham Park (See Table 1 and Figure 2). These sites were similar to the sites recorded in the survey area such as the stone resources, tool technology and the topography etc... (du Cros & Rhodes 1989; du Cros 1990).

TABLE 1 SITES RECORDED AROUND AND IN THE SURVEY AREA

SITE NO	SITE TYPE	LANDSCAPE	CONDITION	STONE MATERIAL	DATE	RECORDER	THREATS
7822/369	ARTEFACT	FLD PLAIN	EXCELLENT	SILCRETE	00/08/89	D.RHODES	DEV'T-UNLIKELY
7822/370	ARTEFACT	FLD PLAIN	POOR	WORKED FLAKES	00/08/89	D.RHODES	DEV'T-UNLIKELY
7822/371	SCATTER	FLD PLAIN	EXCELLENT	QUARTZ FLINT CHERT SILCRETE	00/08/89	D.RHODES	DEV'T-UNLIKELY
7822/372	SCATTER	FLD PLAIN	VERY POOR	WORKED FLAKES	00/08/89	D.RHODES	DEV'T PROBABLE
7822/373	SCATTER	FLD PLAIN	VERY POOR	QUARTZ	00/08/89	D.RHODES	DEV'T PROBABLE
7822/405	SCATTER	FLD PLAIN	FAIR	QUARTZ	11/05/89	H.DU CROS	DEV'T PROBABLE
7822/406	SCATTER	RIDGE	FAIR	QUARTZ	11/05/89	H.DU CROS	DEV'T PROBABLE
7822/407	ARTEFACT	RIDGE		QUARTZ	00/05/89	H.DU CROS	DEV'T IMMINENT
7822/408	SCATTER	GULLY	FAIR	SILCRETE QUARTZ	00/05/89	H.DU CROS	DEV'T UNLIKELY
7822/409	SCATTER	GULLY	FAIR	QUARTZ SILCRETE	00/05/89	H.DU CROS	DEV'T UNLIKELY
7822/410	ARTEFACT	GULLY		SILCRETE	00/05/89	H.DU CROS	DEV'T UNLIKELY
7822/411	SCATTER	GULLY	FAIR	QUARTZ SILCRETE	00/05/89	H.DU CROS	DEV'T UNLIKELY
7822/412	SCATTER	GULLY	FAIR	QUARTZ SILCRETE	00/05/89	H.DU CROS	DEV'T UNLIKELY

KEY :

FLD PLAIN - flood plain

EXCELLENT - undisturbed materials well preserved

GOOD - partly disturbed materials well preserved

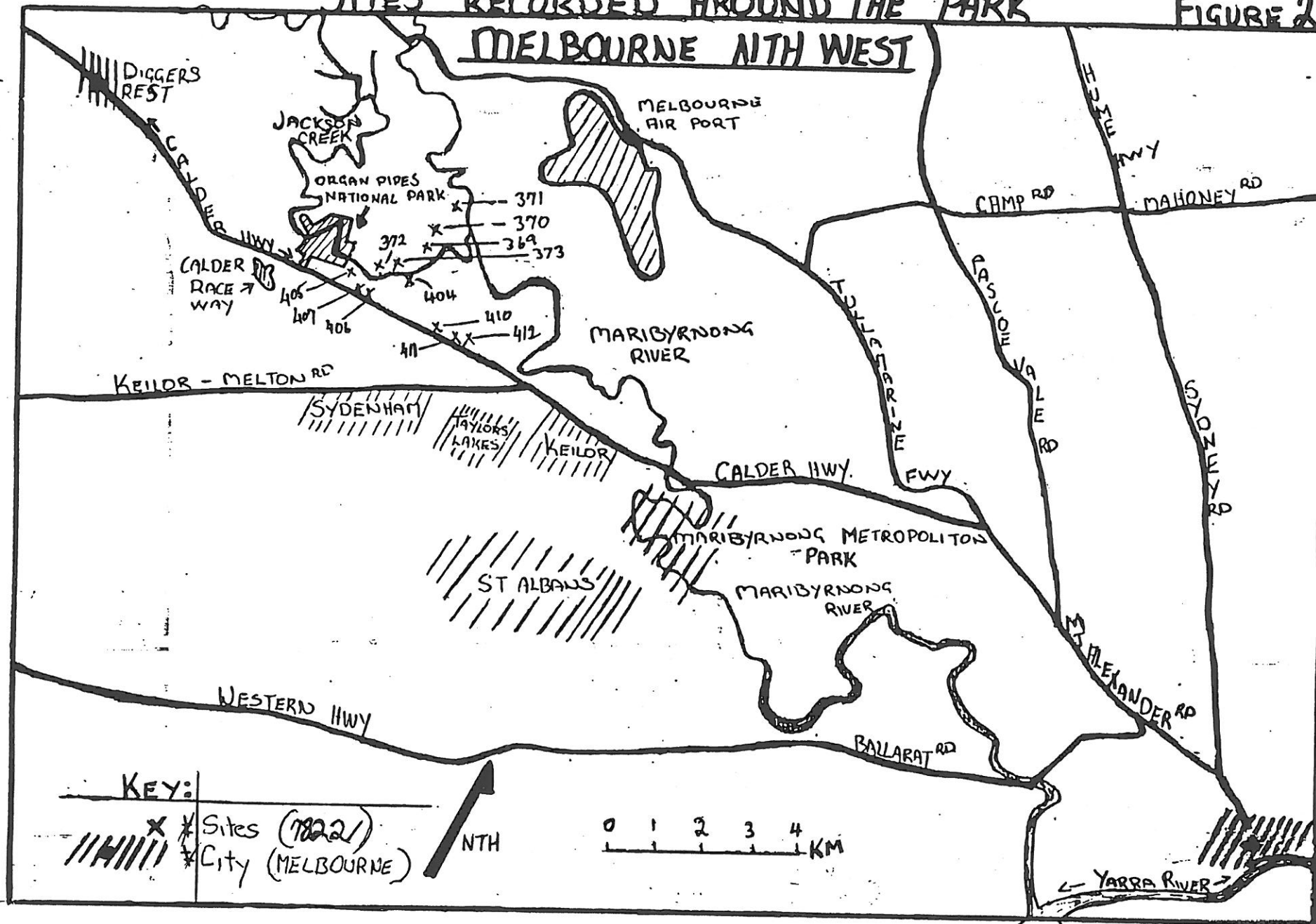
FAIR - indefinite amount of disturbance and preservation of materials

POOR - materials weathered and heavy erosion

VERY POOR - very poor but some materials left

SITES RECORDED AROUND THE PARK MELBOURNE NTH WEST

FIGURE 2



Two sites have been previously recorded in the park: a silcrete outcrop as a quarry by I. Lyall in 1975 and a surface artefact scatter by P. Coutts in 1973. The artefact scatter was poorly recorded with very little information about the site. I was unable to relocate this site. However I am guessing that it is the site opposite the Organ Pipes rock formation across from the Jackson Creek.

Amateurs have also over the years collected a number of artefacts from the Organ Pipes Park for their collections. For example Rollo Hammet collected 200 artefacts from the park (VAS files). This is a important fact to take into account when estimating the amount or types of artefacts present while recording a site

The archaeological sites immediately south of the survey area demonstrate the Aboriginal occupation during the Pleistocene, possibly extending back more than 38,000 years (Coutts & Cochrane 1977). Evidence for Pleistocene occupation is also likely to occur on remnants of the older alluvial river terraces in the Maribyrnong River Valley. Evidence for Aboriginal occupation after c. 8-5000 years B.P. is more extensive and indicates both intensive use of the river valley and adjacent volcanic plains (du Cros & Rhodes 1989).

3. SURVEY STRATEGY

As the Park is being re-vegetated, most of the area has good ground cover and ground surface visibility is poor and the steep slopes of the deeply entrenched Jackson Creek are difficult parts of the park to survey. I therefore concentrated on the access tracks where areas of good visibility occurred. I investigated different parts of the two landscape units including steep and gentle slopes and the flat plains. I focused mainly on access tracks which occur on the gentler slopes and flat areas where sites are likely to be located (see Figure 3).

ORGAN PIPES NATIONAL PARK

FIGURE 3

GROUND COVERAGE IN THE SURVEY

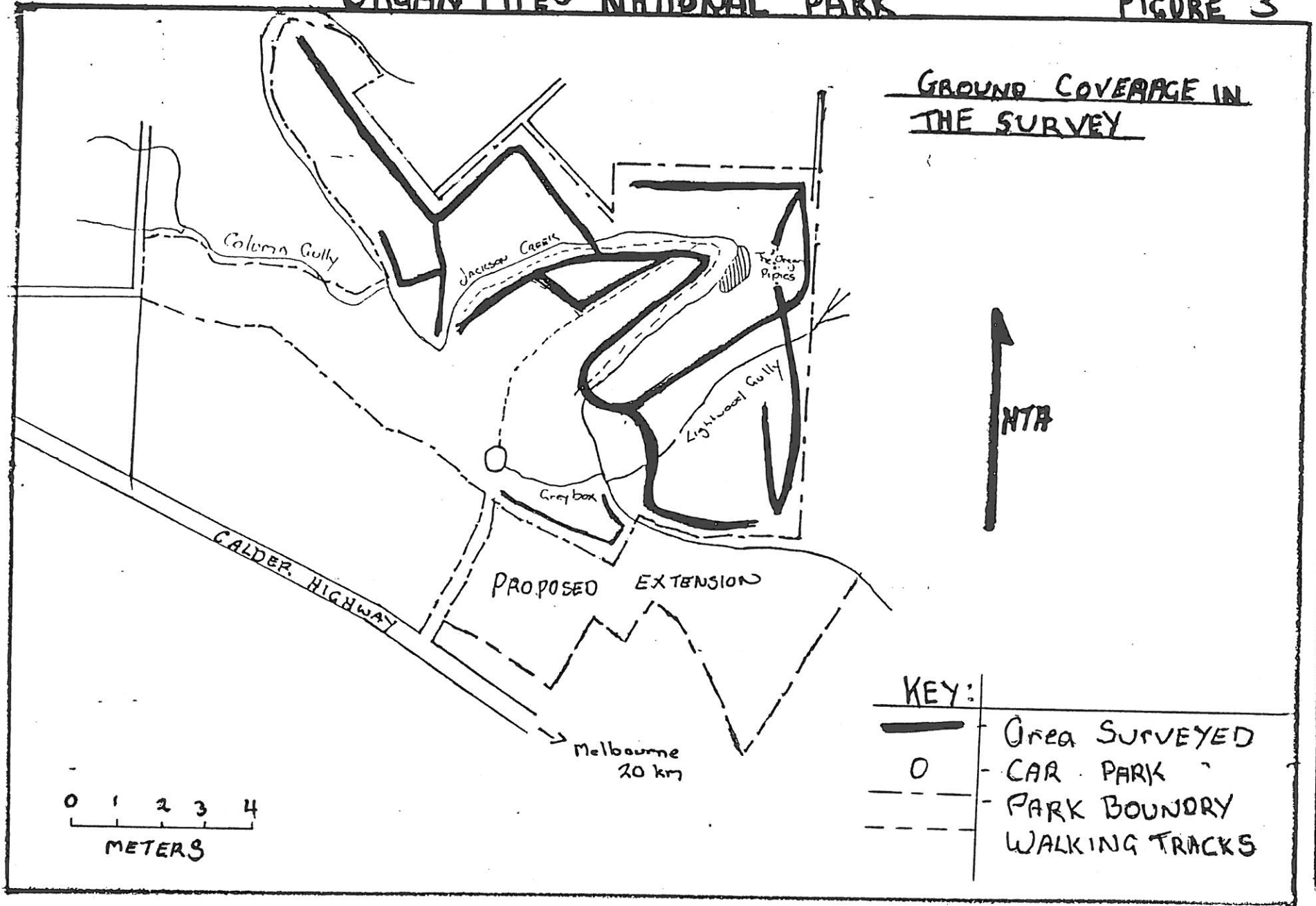


TABLE 2 SITES RECORDED IN THE SURVEY AREA

SITE NO	SITE TYPE	LANDSCAPE	CONDITION	STONE MATERIAL	DATE	RECORDER	THREATS
7822/019	QUARRY	HILL SIDE	EXCELLENT	SILCRETE	06/11/75	I. LYALL	DEV'T UNLIKELY
7822/020	SCATTER	-----	-----	FLAKES-COURSE	10/05/73	P. COUTTS	DEV'T UNLIKELY
7822/565	SCATTER	PLAIN	FAIR	QUARTZ CHERT SILCRETE	23/09/91	XIBERRAS	DEV'T UNLIKELY
7822/566	SCATTER	PLAIN	FAIR	QUARTZ CHERT SILCRETE BASALT	23/09/91	XIBERRAS	DEV'T UNLIKELY
7822/567	SCATTER	PLAIN	FAIR	QUARTZ CHERT SILCRETE	23/09/01	XIBERRAS	DEV'T UNLIKELY
7822/568	SCATTER	PLAIN	FAIR	QUARTZ CHERT SILCRETE	24/09/91	XIBERRAS	DEV'T UNLIKELY
7822/569	SCATTER	PLAIN	FAIR	QUARTZ CHERT SILCRETE	24/09/91	XIBERRAS	DEV'T UNLIKELY
7822/570	ISOLATED	PLAIN	POOR	CHERT SILCRETE	24/09/91	XIBERRAS	DEV'T UNLIKELY
7822/571	ISOLATED	PLAIN	POOR	CHERT SILCRETE	24/09/91	XIBERRAS	DEV'T UNLIKELY

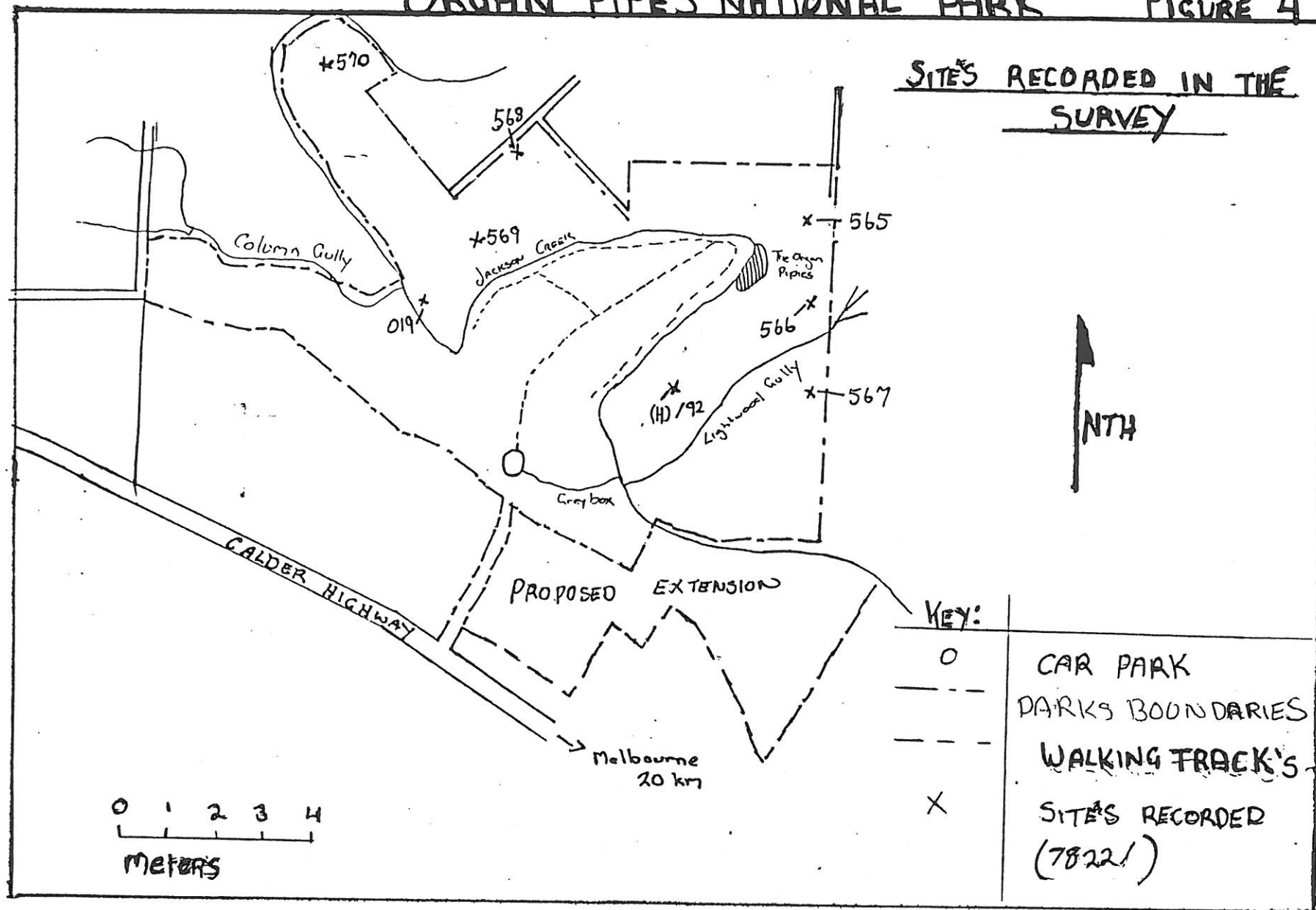
SITE NO	SITE TYPE	LANDSCAPE	CONDITION	STRUCTURAL REMAINS	DATE	RECORDER	THREATS
H 7822/92	HOMESTEAD	HILL SIDE	VERY POOR	BLUESTONE WALLS	24/09/91	XIBERRAS	WEATHERING
"	2 SHEDS	HILL SIDE	VERY POOR	BLUESTONE WALLS	24/09/91	XIBERRAS	WEATHERING
"	WELL	HILL SIDE	VERY POOR	CORRUGATED IRON	24/09/91	XIBERRAS	OVER GROWTH

KEY:

- EXCELLENT - undisturbed, materials well preserved
- GOOD - partly disturbed materials well preserved
- FAIR - indefinite amount of disturbance and preservation of materials
- POOR - materials weathered heavy erosion
- VERY POOR - very poor only some material left

ORGAN PIPES NATIONAL PARK

FIGURE 4



4. RESULTS

4.1 ABORIGINAL SITES

I located eight sites in the survey area including the one already recorded (See Table 2 & Figure 4). In the first landscape unit (the gorge), there are three sites, two isolated artefacts and a silcrete outcrop registered by I. Lyall as a quarry in 1975. The isolated artefacts were in natural drainage areas washing away from the escarpments. The stone material used are chert and silcrete. Some retouched artefacts were found.

In the second landscape unit, I found five sites, - all artefact scatters. The scatters occur on flat or gently sloping areas and are in fair condition. The stone material consisted of quartz, chert, silcrete and fine grain black basalt. There are some good examples of scrapers and some large cores. It appears that the artefact scatters have a main concentration with smaller areas of artefact concentration around them.

I re-recorded the silcrete quarry documented by Lyall in 1975. As there was no evidence of quarrying, that is flaked pieces and old or weathered fractures on the outcrop, its use by Aborigines as a source of raw material must be considered doubtful.

4.2 HISTORICAL SITE

The park was once a farm owned by the Halls and was used for an orchard and grazing from the late 1800s until the mid 1900s. The homestead is only partly intact with parts of the chimney and bluestone walls left. It is overgrown with weeds and bushes. Two sheds stood beside the house, - one still has the door frame, window frame and walls still almost intact, while the other only has small parts of the blue stonewalls left. There is also a water well made out of corrugated iron still remaining in its full structure (See Table 2 & Figure 4).

5. DISCUSSION

The ground surface visibility was so poor in the survey area, it is highly likely that many more Aboriginal sites are in the park. In order to obtain a better understanding of possible site distribution in the park and to help to form a model of where sites are likely to occur, I have included in my analysis sites recorded within a 2.5 kilometre radius of the park. Most of the sites occurred where the terrain was reasonably level, access to water was easy, being not much more than a hundred metres from Jackson Creek. The natural food sources in the park would have been in abundance, as before contact the park was native Australian bush having bracken, lilies, yams, kangaroos, fish etc...A super market out your back door

Archaeological sites are protected by state legislation (The Archaeological & Aboriginal Relics Preservation Act 1972). VAS is the government body that enforce the acts. Aboriginal sites are also protected under the Federal Act -The Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984.

If person willfully defaces or damages or otherwise interferes with a Aboriginal object or place, penalties have been put in place, these are:

Federal Penalties

- 1 - Individuals; there is a fine of \$10,000 and or imprisonment for 5 years.
- 2 - Corporate Bodies; a fine of \$50,000 and or imprisonment for 5 years.

State Penalties

A fine not exceeding \$1000 or and not more than three months imprisonment.

Since all sites cannot be preserved, the site significance has to be assessed. Site significance can be divided into Aboriginal significance and scientific significance. Aboriginal significance is that all sites are equally important, but there are some sites that take preference over others, these are burial and ceremonial sites. The five artefact scatters I recorded have the same significance because of the artefacts that have already been taken from the park, these sites give you some form of site content. The sites show a good example of stone usage as well as types.

Scientific significance assesses representativeness, preservation, structure, educational and social values. Site number 7822/566 would be the most important site because it has most of the scientific criteria present. Site numbers 7822/565 & 567 to 570 are also good sites but they do not have all the representation of stone sources or tools that site 7822/566 has. The silcrete outcrop has no evidence of usage even though it is a good example of what a quarry would look like. The other two isolated sites are just artefacts washing away from a site above. These are sites I have named sites of no fixed address. You really don't know where they came from or where they will end up. These sites are not significant, as they are here today gone tomorrow.

Significance is decreased by disturbance by; amateurs collecting all, or the better examples of artefacts, rabbit burrows, cultivation and farming which disrupt the stratigraphy sometimes damaging the artifacts or contents of the sites. These factors increase the changes to a site from its original state or density so it would be hard to be sure of the integrity of a site.

The Historical site has significance because it is the only homestead from the 1830 still left in a reasonable condition within the area.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That park staff notify the Wurundjeri Community and VAS before any works which will disturb the ground surface.
2. Level areas up to 100 meters from Jacksons Creek seem to be where most sites occur. Any proposed works in these locations should be preceded by sub-surface testing to determine whether buried sites are present.
3. Further investigation of the possible silcrete quarry should be carried out in order to verify whether it was utilised by Aborigines. Sub-surface testing to see if any artefacts are present. Silcrete artefacts from the surrounding sites should be taken along with a sample from the outcrop to a geologist to be analysed, therefore being able to finding out if they both came from the same stone sources.
4. Park staff, VAS and the Wurundjeri Council co-operate to utilise appropriate sites in conjunction with the display centre to develop greater visitor awareness of the area's cultural heritage.
5. A conservation analysis of the homestead site be carried out.

GLOSSARY

- TOPOGRAPHY - The description of the landscape of an area.
- GEOLOGY - The study of rock types.
- CONTACT - When the Europeans first arrived in Australia (post 1788).
- ESCARPMENT - The steep face of a slope on a Cliff.
- PLEISTOCENE - The last glacial period (ice age).
- ALLUVIAL - Washed up sediment, built up on a river bank.
- TERRACES - Raised shelf of earth, Remains of an old river bank when the water flow level was higher.
- ANALYSIS - To look at the results and explain what is happening.
- TERRAIN - The ground surface of the land.
- CORE - A stone that has been used to make stone tools.
- SCRAPER - A flaked stone tool with retouched edges, used for scraping or shaping other things.
- DENSITY - The amount of objects present in the area.
- INTEGRITY - Being in its entire state. Everything intact.
- CRITERIA - A standing of judging objects to form a standard.
- STRATIGRAPHY - The order in which things are placed on top of each other in a deposit

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