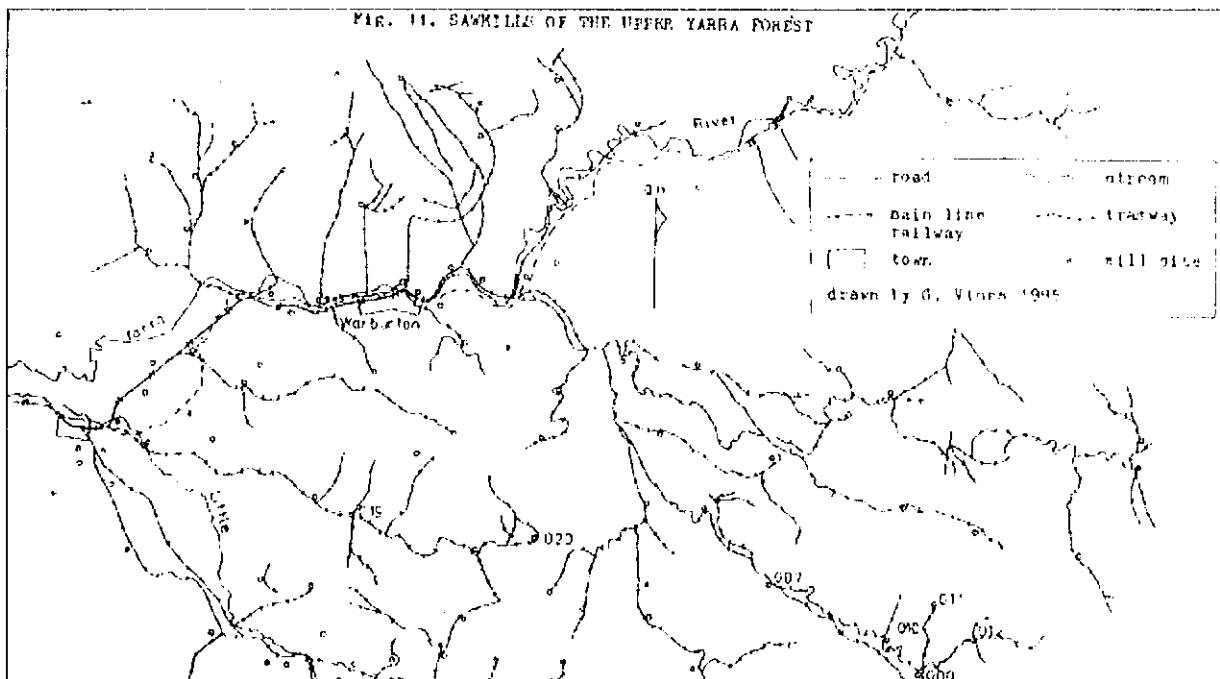


## Cultural Heritage Assessment

### Objectives of the project

This cultural heritage proposal has been developed in accordance with information provided by Yarra Ranges Council together with an appraisal of the required approval mechanisms to achieve permitting for the project. The Yarra Ranges Shire has specified four key phases for the project. The cultural heritage studies will contribute information to - *Phase 1: Development of trail masterplan* and *Phase 3: Permits and Approvals* and will include the entire project area of Mt Tugwell, Mt Little Joe and Mt Donna Buang as shown in Appendix 2.

Due to the former rail corridors and rural townships, former mining activity and the development of the forest for water supply, tourism, sawmilling and timber tramways, a number of recorded Victorian Heritage Inventory (VHI) places are noted in the area, and there is a high potential for further unrecorded historical heritage to be present within the study area.



**Figure 1 Sawmills and tramways in the forests near Warburton (Vines 1985)**

It is proposed to undertake background research, evaluation of existing heritage inventories, a targeted historic and archaeological field survey, and significance assessment of any identified places in order to determine the nature of cultural heritage that may be impacted by the project. Following this stage, discussions with the client will focus on means to avoid, minimise and/or manage impact to heritage places. Where impacts cannot be avoided, documentation will be prepared for submission with the required permits or consents.

### Background Research

Background research will build on the substantial data already compiled by the Light Railways Research Society of Australia (LRRSA), local historical societies and published historical material to characterise the

nature of cultural heritage in the study area and identify the specific locations of potential historic and archaeological sites. In particular, Mike McCarthy's 'Mountains of Ash' comprehensively documents the sawmills and tramways of the district. Potential heritage places will be compiled from existing heritage place inventories including:

- National Trust Register and Significant Trees Register
- Victorian Heritage Inventory
- Victorian Heritage Register
- Yarra Ranges Heritage Overlay
- National and Commonwealth Heritage Lists
- Former Register of the National Estate
- DSE Historic Places register

Records of the former Forrest Commission, MMBW/Melbourne Water, and National Parks Service will also be investigated.

From these sources mapping will be compiled noting the locations of each type of heritage place. This will be overlaid with the proposed trail system in order to identify potential impacts and establish a field survey investigation strategy.

### **Cultural heritage Survey**

The survey of potential heritage sites will be targeted to address locations where there is potential conflict between the proposed trails and potential heritage features and sites.

Locations of the historic features identified in background research will be digitised in our GIS system and loaded into hand held differential GPS devices for identification in the field.

Fieldwork will target locations according to a hierarchy of archaeological potential, cultural significance and proximity to the proposed trails. These sites will be inspected and any evidence or archaeological and historical features recorded. Where the remains meet the criteria and thresholds for inclusion on the Victorian Heritage Inventory, Heritage Victoria archaeological site record cards will be completed and lodged with HV.

### **Community Consultation**

Biosis understands that Yarra Ranges Council wish to run community consultation to seek any community known information on the historic heritage of the study area. Biosis will prepare a consultation method to frame the discussion during consultation meetings and will analyse community feedback to be included in the survey report.

### **Report and assessment**

A report will be prepared that documents the purpose, methods, background history, survey results, significance assessment and management recommendation. This will include mapping of all sites and an evaluation of options for mitigating harm to identified cultural heritage, either through alteration of the trail alignment or archaeological salvage as appropriate.