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10. CULTURAL HERITAGE ENVIRONMENT

This chapter describes the cultural heritage environment associated with the Papua LNG Project – Downstream (the Project). This chapter summarises the findings of the cultural heritage technical study prepared by EcoLogical Australia (ELA) with input from the Papua New Guinean consultancy Social Research Institute (SRI) (Appendix A).

10.1 CHARACTERISATION METHOD

10.1.1 Study area

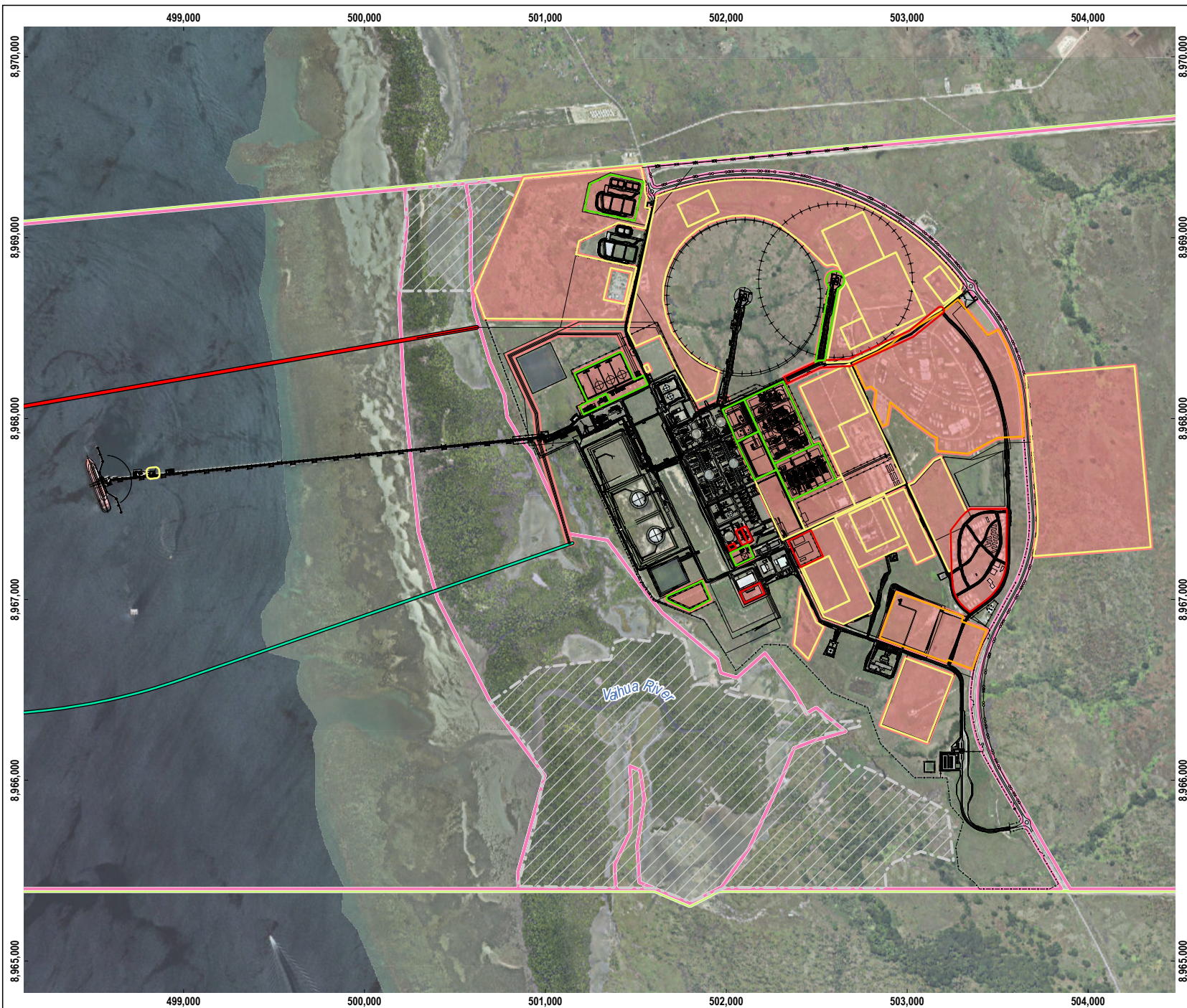
The desktop cultural heritage study area was based on the onshore Project disturbance footprint, including the existing LNG Plant (Figure 10.1).

10.1.2 Study method

Extensive cultural heritage surveys have previously been undertaken from 2008 to 2013 within and along the boundary and bypass road prior to the construction of the LNG Plant, buffered by an additional 10-metres (m). An additional field survey was required in the proposed eastern laydown area as only limited assessment had previously been conducted in this area.

Characterisation of the existing cultural heritage environment involved:

- Review of existing information prepared for the PNG LNG Project, including the EIS and supporting cultural heritage reports and post approvals salvage investigations. This included:
 - David et al. (2009) provided a detailed summary of archaeological investigations along Papua New Guinea's south coast and hinterland in Central Province and Gulf Province that were completed in the 40 years leading up to the PNG LNG Project EIS (Allen 1972, 1977a, 1977b, 1978, 1984; Allen and Rye 1982; Bulmer 1969, 1971, 1978, 1982; David, 2008; Frankel et al. 1994; Pretty 1967; Rhoads 1980, 1994; Swadling 1976, 1977, 1980; Swadling and Kaiku 1980).
 - Cultural heritage field surveys supporting the preparation of the PNG LNG Project EIS that were undertaken within, and in the vicinity of, the LNG Plant site in January 2008 and again in April to May 2008 (David et al. 2009).
 - Cultural heritage surveys undertaken in 2008, 2009 and 2011 (David, Skelly and Araho (2009), Paterson, David and Richards (2009) and Paterson et al. (2009).
 - An archaeological salvage program completed at the LNG Plant site and nearby locations during 2009 (David et al. 2010; David et al. 2011; Richards et al. 2011).
- Field investigation of the proposed laydown area in 2019. The method is summarised in Table 10.1.



- LEGEND**
- PNG LNG pipeline
 - Proposed Papua LNG pipelines route
 - Existing and proposed plant layout
 - Proposed new facility
 - Proposed expanded/upgraded facility
 - Temporary construction area
 - Temporary camp
 - PPFL2 boundary
 - APPFL boundary
 - Cultural heritage restricted area
 - Cultural heritage study area

SOURCE
 Cultural heritage study area and data from ELA.
 Infrastructure, historical cultural heritage and lease boundary
 from EMPNGA.
 Imagery from EMPNGA and Google Earth.



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 PAGE SIZE: A4
 PROJECTION: WGS 1984 UTM Zone 55S

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FIGURE 10.1
Location of the cultural heritage study area



Table 10.1 Field investigation program method

Field investigation aspect	Method
Pre-awareness discussions	EMPNG's Community Affairs department conducted pre-survey village awareness briefings with nominated communities to inform them of the fieldwork program, to gain their endorsement to enter their lands and document the information gathered, and to identify individuals who would be willing to assist the field program by participating in interviews.
Community consultation	Interviews were held with representatives nominated by relevant cultural groups regarding known cultural heritage sites potentially located within the study area. All interviews were conducted with the assistance of EMPNG Community Affairs staff. The aim of the consultation process was for community representatives to understand that the purpose of the survey, which was to identify cultural heritage values associated with the study area and that this would enable EMPNGA to avoid or minimise the impact of project activities on cultural heritage. Field inspections also included onsite consultation with local community representatives regarding the presence or absence of oral tradition sites within the study area.
Archaeological field survey and cultural heritage site recording	The field program commenced on 18 July 2019 and concluded on 16 August 2019. The study area was progressively cleared of potential unexploded ordnance (UXO) before the surveys were carried out. This occurred in the presence of an archaeologist and involved two stages: • Stage 1: vegetation was cut down to 20 cm using tractor-towed slashers and manually operated bush cutters for creek lines to avoid damage to cultural heritage items. • Stage 2: a visual inspection of the cleared area was completed by a UXO specialist. All areas were cleared of UXO before any surveys commenced. Following this a three-phase approach was adopted to achieve coverage of more than 90% of the study area. This involved: • Phase 1: selected polygon surveys ○ The surveys commenced at two localities in the north-west of the study area, which had excellent ground surface visibility (80%) as it had been burned by local villagers. ○ A 200x200 m polygon located in the north-western portion of the study area was then surveyed. ○ There were 17 discrete locations selected for surveys. The locations were selected based on earlier results of surveys that identified locations where artefacts were most likely to be found. • Phase 2: Systematic transect survey. This involved several transects running the full length and width of the study area being surveyed following 2 m wide slashed and cleared corridors. • Phase 3: Systematic surface scatter survey ○ Two locations in the southern portion of the study area were grided into a 3x3 m and 4x4 m survey area with internal quadrats every 1x1 m. The location of every artefact within each quadrat was recorded on an x and y axis to the nearest centimetre.

Field investigation aspect	Method
	○ All archaeological material was left in its original find location. ○ All material was individually recorded using a standardised form, photographed and its location recorded using a Garmin GPSmap 62 handheld global positioning system (GPS) device standardised to the WGS84 datum and UTM Zone 55S projection. Formal cultural heritage survey tracks were also recorded using the handheld GPS. All recorded archaeological exposures were assigned a unique, consecutively numbered field code using the acronym EX (Exposure, e.g., EX001, EX002.). ○ Site recording forms included a summary of information on each defined archaeological or oral tradition site identified during the field assessment, including the site's size and contents, its environmental context, a general description of the site and preliminary observations. The forms were submitted to the Prehistory Department at the National Museum and Art Gallery on 17 February 2020.

10.1.3 Cultural heritage significance

Cultural heritage significance was established using the process provided by the Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance 2013. Also known as the ‘Burra Charter’ (Australia ICOMOS 2013), article 1.2 states that:

- Cultural significance means aesthetic, historic, scientific, social or spiritual value for past, present or future generations.
- Cultural significance is embodied in the place, its fabric, use, setting, associations, meanings, records and related objects and places.
- Places may demonstrate a range of these significance criteria for different individuals or groups.

In the cultural heritage assessment, the cultural heritage significance of each site or value was assessed on its historic, scientific, social and spiritual values.

Definitions of the criteria used in the assessment of cultural significance have been outlined by Australia International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) (Australia ICOMOS, 2013). Table 10.2 presents a summary of the definitions used in these criteria.

Table 10.2 Cultural heritage significance assessment criteria definitions

Criterion	Description
Aesthetic	Refers to the sensory and perceptual experience of a place—that is, how we respond to visual and non-visual aspects such as sounds, smells and other factors having a strong impact on human thoughts, feelings, and attitudes (Kerr 1990:10). Aesthetic qualities may include the concept of beauty and formal aesthetic ideals. Expressions of aesthetics are culturally influenced. Despite the poorly defined nature of aesthetic significance, it remains one of the most important criteria for official registration of heritage sites in many parts of the world (e.g., Schapper 1993).
Historic	Intended to encompass all aspects of history—for example, the history of aesthetics, art and architecture, science, spirituality, and society. It therefore often underlies other values. A place may have historic value because it has influenced, or has been influenced by, an historic event, phase, movement or activity, person, or group of people. For any place the significance will be greater where the evidence of the association or event survives at the place, or where the setting is substantially intact, than where it has been changed or evidence does not survive. However, some events or associations may be so important that the place retains significance regardless of such change or absence of evidence.
Scientific	Refers to the information content of a place, or its ability to reveal something about the past using scientific techniques such as archaeology. The relative scientific value of a place is likely to depend on the importance of the information or data involved, on its rarity, quality or representativeness, and its potential to contribute further important information about the place itself or a type or class of place or to address important research questions. To establish potential, it may be necessary to carry out some form of testing or sampling. For example, in the case of an archaeological site, this could be established by a test excavation.
Social	Refers to the associations that a place has for a particular community or cultural group and the social or cultural meanings that it holds for them. Places of social significance are usually important in maintaining a community’s integrity and sense of place; that is, a sense of belonging to a particular area as a distinctive cultural group (Hall and McArthur 1993:8). For many peoples, Indigenous archaeological sites (e.g., burials) and European-Indigenous contact sites (e.g., missions, plantations) have strong social significance. Archaeological sites with materials deemed to be markers of the prior presence of the cultural groups may also assume a strong social significance during land ownership disputes.

Criterion	Description
Spiritual	Refers to the intangible values and meanings embodied in or evoked by a place which give it importance in the spiritual identity, or the traditional knowledge, art and practices of a cultural group. Spiritual value may also be reflected in the intensity of aesthetic and emotional responses or community associations and be expressed through cultural practices and related places. The qualities of the place may inspire a strong and/or spontaneous emotional or metaphysical response in people, expanding their understanding of their place, purpose and obligations in the world, particularly in relation to the spiritual realm.

An assessment of aesthetic value was not included in the assessment as it is subjective and there is a lack of established criteria that can be applied. The values of each site were individually assessed and rated as low, medium or high according to the criteria in Table 10.3. Each criterion was then assigned a rating of low (1), medium (2) and high (3). Equal weight was given to all four criteria when determining the overall significance of each site. The overall significance rating given for each site was derived as a cumulative score across the four cultural heritage criteria, according to the following classification system:

- ≤ 6 – Low significance
- 7 to 9 – Medium significance
- ≥ 10 – High significance.

Table 10.3 Cultural heritage significance criteria ratings

Criterion	Example	Rating
Historic	The place or value may be associated with an important event or theme in history, or a particular person or cultural group important to the history of the local area, state or nation.	Historical value was rated as follows: • Low (1) for places or values which are not associated with any known historical event, person or theme. • Medium (2) for sites or values which are associated with a moderately significant historical event, person or theme at either the local, provincial and/or national level. • High (3) for sites or values which are associated with a highly significant historical event, person or theme at either the local, provincial and/or national level.
Scientific	Using scientific techniques such as archaeology, the place of (if relevant) value has the potential to reveal new information or understandings about people, places, processes or practices.	Ratings for scientific value are mostly applied to archaeological sites, and consider: • Site contents (e.g., size and patterning of site where 0 = no materials remaining, 1 = small number of artefacts with limited diversity (0 to 10 artefacts), 2 = larger number but limited range of artefacts, 3 = large and diverse range of artefacts) • Site condition (0 = destroyed, 1 = deteriorated, 2 = fair to good, 3 = excellent) • Site representativeness (1 = common, 2 = occasional, 3 = rare). The rating for overall scientific significance is calculated based on the cumulative score for site contents, site condition and site representativeness where: • Cumulative score 1 to 3 = Low (1) • Cumulative score 4 to 6 = Medium (2) • Cumulative score 7 or greater = High (3).

Criterion	Example	Rating
Social	The place or value may be an important local marker or symbol or contribute to the identity of a particular cultural group	Social value was rated as follows: • Low (1) for places or values which do not appear to have any clear social connection at either the local, provincial and/or national level. • Medium (2) for places or values which have a moderately significant social connection for a cultural group at either the local, provincial and/or national level. • High (3) for places or values which have a highly significant social connection for a cultural group at either the local, provincial and/or national level.
Spiritual	The place or value may contribute to the spiritual identity or belief system of a cultural group and/or may be important to maintaining the spiritual health and wellbeing of a culture or group.	Spiritual value was rated as follows: • Low (1) for places or values which do not appear to have any clear spiritual connection with a cultural group at either the local, provincial and/or national level. • Medium (2) for places or values which have a moderately significant spiritual connection for a cultural group at either the local, provincial and/or national level. • High (3) for places or values which have a highly significant spiritual connection for a cultural group at either the local, provincial and/or national level.

10.2 EXISTING CULTURAL HERITAGE ENVIRONMENT

10.2.1 Cultural heritage groups

The four closest villages to the LNG Plant consist of two cultural groups: the Motu and the Koita (also known as the Koitabu by the Motu). These two groups are categorised as:

- Porebada: Western Motu
- Boera: Motu (more closely linked to Western Motu than Eastern Motu)
- Papa: Koita
- Lea Lea: Western Motu.

10.2.2 Cultural heritage site types

Cultural heritage in the study area considers both tangible and intangible heritage. Tangible heritage includes objects, property, sites, structures or groups of structures, natural features that embody cultural values (e.g., lakes, ponds, outcrops, rocks and waterfalls). Intangible forms of heritage include knowledge, innovations, religious ceremonies, values, beliefs and continuing practice of traditional lifestyles.

Typically, studies investigating the potential for impact on cultural heritage from the extractive industry in Papua New Guinea define two classes of cultural heritage sites: oral tradition sites and archaeological sites. Oral tradition sites can contain tangible evidence of human behaviours and/or have history of being associated with intangible heritage (e.g., a cultural activity or belief). These places can include ceremonial sites, former or temporary settlements, burials, cemeteries, subsistence or trade sites and story sites. Archaeological sites are those where evidence of human activity is preserved, such as artefact scatters, occupation sites (e.g., settlement sites, caves and rock shelters), economic sites (e.g., stone quarries, former gardens and sago sites), ossuary sites, marked graves and cemeteries.

Previously identified cultural heritage types

The original cultural heritage assessment completed for the PNG LNG Project EIS (David et al. 2009) identified cultural heritage types as present or likely to be present within or near the LNG Plant. These types were also identified in subsequent investigations at the LNG Plant between 2009 and 2011. These included:

- Oral tradition sites
 - Ethnographically known as villages
 - Human burials or cemeteries
 - Sacred sites
 - Traditional story sites.
- Archaeological sites (pre-contact)
 - Stone artefacts – including isolated stone artefacts or scatters
 - Pottery – including isolated pottery sherds or scatters
 - Midden shell – including isolated shells or scatters
 - Artefact scatters – including stone and pottery, stone and midden shell, pottery and midden shell, or all three
 - Animal bones, only occurring as components of scatters.
- Archaeological sites (post-contact)
 - The surface within the LNG Plant may have been subject to disturbance associated with activities during the post-contact period. These include:
 - Early sites associated with the London Missionary Society
 - Sisal production (early 1900s)
 - Military defence during World War Two (1940s)
 - Fairfax Cattle Station (1950s to 1980s).

10.2.3 Cultural heritage values

10.2.3.1 PNG LNG Project EIS

Cultural heritage surveys were completed within and in the vicinity of the LNG Plant in 2008 to support the preparation of the PNG LNG Project EIS. The surveys were focused on the northern area within the proposed location of the LNG Plant security fence. Cultural heritage sites located outside of the security fence that were identified through literature and interviews with locals were also surveyed.

The surveys identified the following sites within the LNG Plant lease boundary:

- 120 archaeological sites
- Three traditional resource sites
- Five traditional story/sacred sites known for oral traditions
- 12 traditional villages sites known for oral traditions
- Three *Lagatoi* wrecks
- Two early missionary sites
- Three World War Two aircraft crash sites
- 11 World War Two defence facilities
- One World War Two shipwreck

- Two other colonial period infrastructure sites.

The surveys identified 78 archaeological sites and one oral tradition site (Konekaru) within or near the security fence.

The PNG LNG Project EIS cultural heritage study noted that the LNG Plant is located in an area between the most important regional cultural heritage (including oral tradition) sites. These include:

- Konekaru to the north-west of the security fence, which was avoided and an exclusion fence was installed
- Aemakara to the south, which was avoided and an exclusion fence was installed
- Davage to the south-west, which was located enough away from the security fence not to be affected by PNG LNG Project activities.

Interviews in the four villages of Porebada, Boera, Papa and Lea Lea did not uncover any important oral tradition sites within the security fence.

The likelihood of human remains at the Konekaru village site within the lease boundary (outside the security fence) is high. The likelihood of burials at other large sites recorded during the field surveys is high but was not identified during interviews. Project activities will not be undertaken in these areas.

Four traditional sites related to the story of the ancestral hero Edai Siabo and his first *lagatoi* (David et al. 2009) were identified outside the LNG onshore and marine facilities areas: two on land and two in shallow water.

A total of 77 archaeological sites were recorded in and around the LNG Plant. These included:

- 22 sites of scatters of pottery, stone artefacts and midden shell
- Two sites of scatters of pottery, stone artefacts, midden shell and animal bones
- Eight sites of scatters of pottery and stone artefacts
- 11 sites of scatters of pottery and midden shell
- Five sites of scatters of pottery
- Three sites of scatters of stone artefacts and midden shell
- Seven sites of scatters of stone artefact
- Seven sites of scatters of midden shell
- Two sites of isolated stone artefacts exposed on the ground surface
- Two sites of isolated pottery shards exposed on the ground surface
- Eight sites of isolated shells exposed on the ground surface.

10.2.3.2 Additional PNG LNG Project cultural heritage surveys

A further 875 archaeological sites were added to the project database following surveys undertaken in 2008, 2009 and 2011 as part of the PNG LNG Project. These included:

- 640 sites at infrastructure locations inside the security fence and between the security fence and the perimeter fence
- 98 sites along the perimeter fence
- 45 sites along a proposed heavy haul road right of way alignment south of the LNG Plant
- 92 sites along a bypass road immediately adjacent to the eastern boundary of the security fence.

10.2.3.3 2019 cultural heritage field program

Cultural material recorded during the Phase 1 and Phase 2 surveys included plain and decorated pottery fragments, flaked stone artefacts, and whole shells and shell fragments (including gastropods and bivalves). Culturally worked basalt fragments and a ground-edge basalt axe-adze were also identified.

A total of 81 newly recorded sites were located within the laydown area (Figure 10.2)¹. These sites included:

- Seven isolated stone artefact sites
- 20 isolated potsherd sites
- One stone artefact scatter site (small/low-density)
- 48 pottery scatter sites (four medium/low-density, 43 small/low-density and one small/medium density)
- Two shell scatter sites (both small/low-density)
- Three stone/pottery scatter sites (one small/low-density, one medium/low-density and one large/low density)
- Two pottery/shell scatter sites (one small/low density and one small/medium density).

The size and density distributions of newly recorded sites located in the laydown area were consistent with site size and density distributions recorded in the region (including the study area) during the PNG LNG Project EIS fieldwork program. The site prediction model from the 2009 to 2011 cultural heritage assessment found that archaeological sites near the study area were most likely isolated artefacts or small low-density artefact scatters. Of the 81 newly recorded sites identified in the laydown area during the 2019 field program, 74 (90%) are small low-density sites.

10.2.3.4 Cultural heritage values within the study area

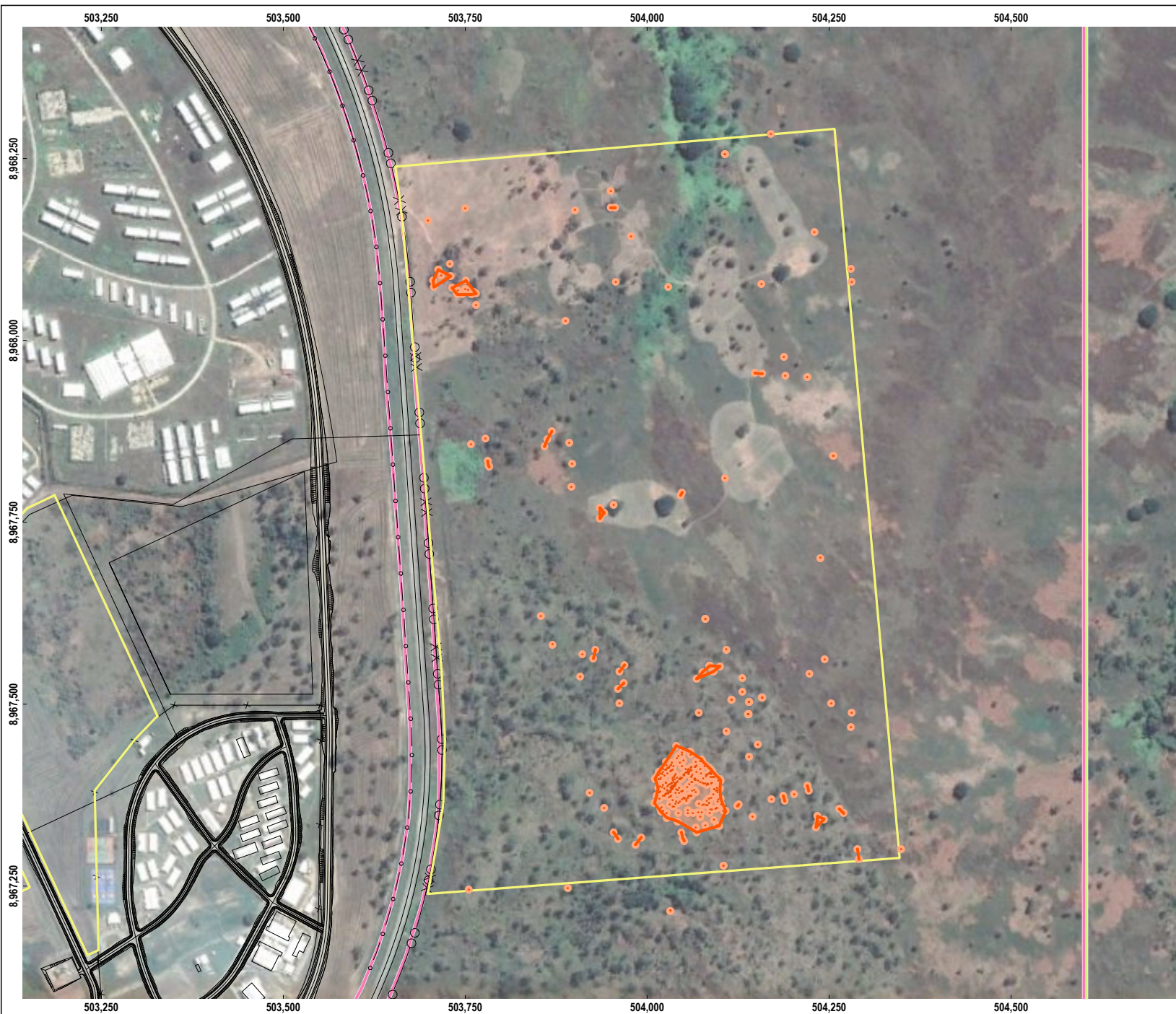
The cultural heritage values located in the study area included 333 archaeological sites, including 251 previously recorded sites (Figure 10.3) and 81 newly recorded sites (Figure 10.2) (see section 10.2.3.3).

The cultural heritage values identified within the study area included archaeological sites only. No oral tradition sites or other forms of intangible heritage value have been identified in the study area to date. Cultural heritage site types present within the study area include isolated stone, pottery and shell artefacts, and scatters of stone, pottery and shell in varying combinations. Pottery and shell are the dominant cultural heritage site types represented in the assemblage.

Seven of these previously recorded sites are located within the laydown area, outside of the security fence. The remaining 244 of the previously recorded sites are located within the existing LNG Plant.

The characterisation of cultural heritage sites is heavily influenced by PNG LNG Project activities, including surface artefact collection, salvage excavation and the subsequent construction and operation of the LNG Plant. Wherever possible culturally significant sites were avoided; however, in a few instances avoidance was not possible and EMPNG engaged cultural heritage specialists to salvage materials or carry out relocations according to local custom. Most of the 244 sites previously recorded within the LNG Plant were either disturbed or destroyed during the construction of the LNG Plant in 2010 to 2012 after implementation of the appropriate management measures from the approved PNG LNG Project Cultural Heritage Management Plan. Under the Cultural Heritage Management Plan, an extensive archaeological salvage program was undertaken at the LNG Plant and nearby locations during 2009 which involved the collection of surface artefacts and archaeological excavations.

¹ One newly recorded site DS076, an isolated ceramic fragment, was possibly recorded as part of a previously recorded archaeological site NA/AK 8.2. It was concluded DS076/ABYD should be subsumed with the NA/AK 8.2. Therefore, the total number of archaeological sites was reduced to 333, including 251 previously recorded sites and 81 newly recorded sites.



LEGEND

- Existing and proposed plant layout
- Temporary construction area
- PPFL2 boundary
- APPFL boundary
- Cultural heritage site
 - Cultural heritage point
 - Cultural heritage line
 - Cultural heritage area

SOURCE
 Cultural heritage study area and data from ELA.
 Infrastructure, historical cultural heritage and lease boundary from EMPNGA.
 Imagery from Google Earth (capture date 21/08/2019).



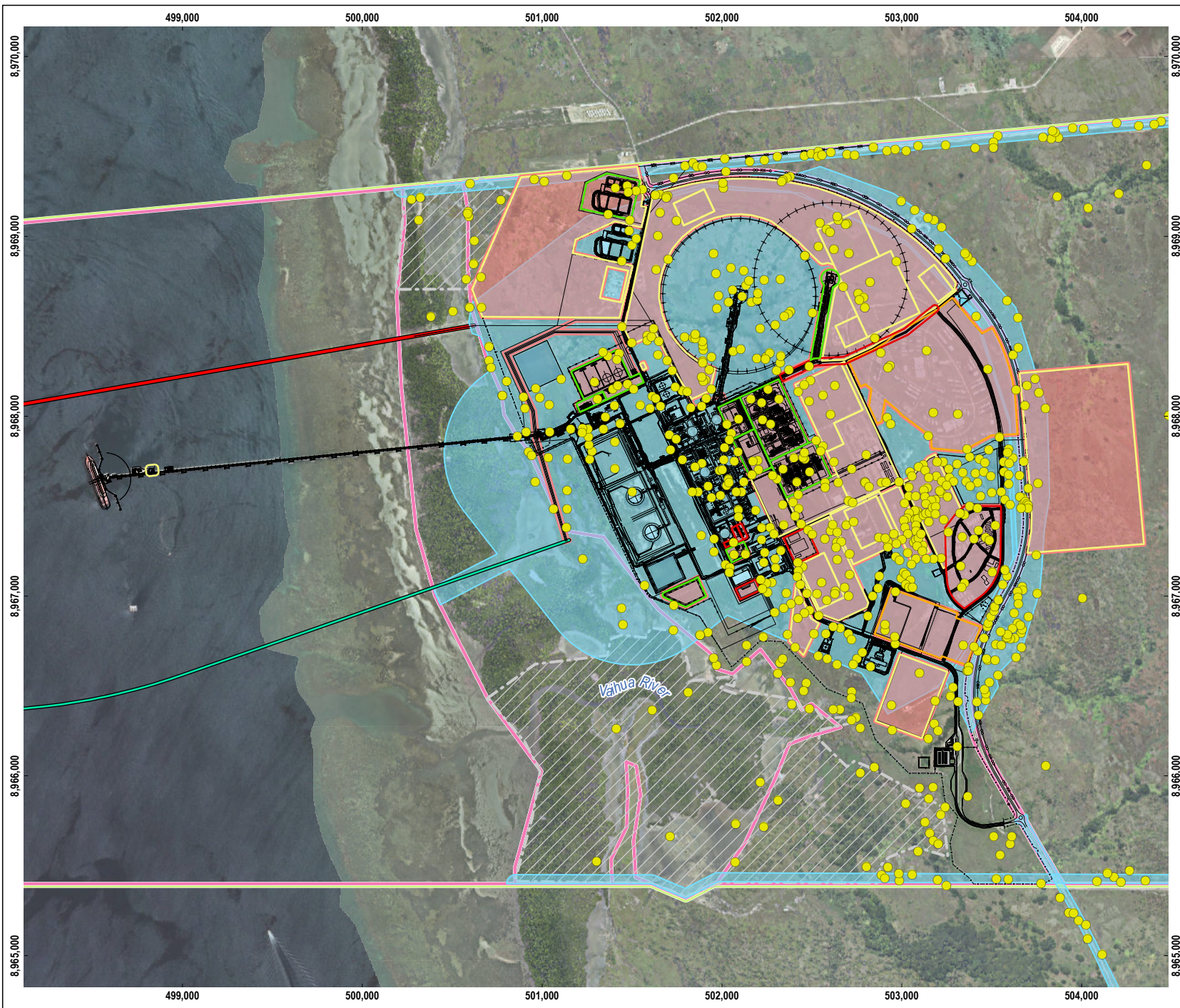
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FIGURE 10.2

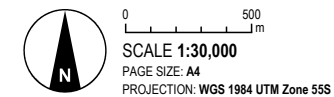
Mapped cultural heritage sites during the 2019 field program





- LEGEND**
- Previously recorded cultural heritage site
 - PNG LNG pipeline
 - Proposed Papua LNG pipelines route
 - Existing and proposed plant layout
 - Proposed new facility
 - Proposed expanded/upgraded facility
 - Temporary construction area
 - Temporary camp
 - PPFL2 boundary
 - APPFL boundary
 - ▨ Cultural heritage restricted area
 - Cultural heritage study area
 - PNG LNG Project EIS cultural heritage study area (2009-2010)

SOURCE
 Cultural heritage study area and data from ELA.
 Infrastructure, historical cultural heritage and lease boundary from EMPNGA.
 Imagery from EMPNGA and Google Earth.



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FIGURE 10.3
 Previously recorded cultural heritage sites mapped in relation to the study area



10.2.4 Local community perspectives on cultural heritage significance

No specific cultural values were identified by SRI personnel during the interviews as being present in the study area. Chief Nao Nao of Papa Village, in 2019 during an interview, identified that the study area was a hunting ground used by the Koita in the past. The location may have been the site of a temporary settlement used by the Koita as they transited between the coast and ancestral villages located in the ranges east of the study area.

10.2.4.1 Individual site significance assessments

The cultural heritage values identified within the study area are associated with tangible and intangible places. Most of the 236 archaeological sites identified during the preparation of the PNG LNG Project's EIS and located within the LNG Plant were either disturbed or destroyed during construction of the facility from 2010 to 2012. It is unlikely that the construction and operation of the Project will further impact these 244 archaeological sites, therefore these sites were not included in the significance assessment. Table 10.4 summarises the assessment of the 88 archaeological sites in the laydown area (including the seven sites identified in the previous survey) against the criterion outlined in Table 10.3.

Table 10.4 Significance assessment summary

Criterion	Assessment summary
Historic	- None of the archaeological sites are associated with a specific historical, event, person, or theme. - Although the study area was identified by Chief Nao Nao as an old hunting ground and possibly the site of a temporary settlement, except for DS021, none of the archaeological sites have a clear connection with either of these activities. The archaeological sites were not identified by Chief Nao Nao as having any specific social or broader cultural significance. - None of the archaeological sites demonstrate a clear spiritual connection with a cultural group.
Spiritual	
Social	
Scientific	- All of the archaeological sites were rated as 1 on condition (deteriorated) as they are surface sites without any indications of have any layers below the surface. - All isolated artefacts were uniformly rated as 1 on content (small number of artefacts with limited diversity) and representativeness (common). - All medium-sized archaeological sites were rated as 2 (occasional) on representativeness, and large sites were scored as 3 (rare). - Sites with 11 or more artefacts and more than one type of archaeological material present were rated as 2 (larger number but limited range of artefacts) on content.

DS021 was the only site not assessed as being of low cultural heritage significance. It was rated as being of medium (8) cultural heritage significance. This site was the only large site recorded and likely represents a former settlement. However, further fieldwork is required to determine if the settlement was temporary, transitorily used by the Koita moving between the nearby coast an ancestral village to the east or a long-term village. Regardless, DS021 represents a substantial, tangible link to the actions and behaviours of ancestral Koita communities and was rated as 2 on historical (associated with a moderately significant historical event, person or theme at the local and level), and 2 on social (moderately significant social connection for a cultural group at the local and level).