

Chapter B7

European Heritage



Summary of key findings:

A detailed assessment of European heritage has been completed to ascertain the heritage values of the development area and immediate surrounds of Melbourne Airport's Third Runway (M3R).

Research was carried out to identify existing and previously unassessed heritage sites. This was facilitated through consultation with historical societies, experts and Heritage Victoria (HV), field surveys and excavation. The sites' historical significance was assessed using Commonwealth Heritage Criteria, and HV criteria and thresholds.

The study identified 16 existing and potential historical sites of heritage value. Of these, 10 required further assessment in the form of targeted excavations. The sites mainly relate to early European settlement in the Tullamarine area in the mid to late-19th century and consist of early residential homesteads, farms and early industrial development. Only one homestead, Aucholzie, was found to have surviving built structures. The other sites were either ruins, building foundations with remnant occupational and demolition deposits, or more modern and ephemeral archaeological deposits.

Of the sites identified, two were determined to have no remaining significant archaeological deposits or features. In the case of the Glen Alice Outbuildings, this was due to construction of the existing east-west runway (09/27).

In the case of Glenara Sheep Dam, this was due to reconstruction of the dam on Glenara Creek. Four sites are located nearby but outside M3R's development footprint. They are: Barbiston Farm Complex, Bellno Farmstead and Quarry, Oaklands Junction, and Radar Hill Track.

The remaining 10 sites will be directly impacted by M3R. They are: Aucholzie Homestead, Coghill's Sheepwash and Dam, Coghill's Boiling-Down Works, Fawkner Land Co Settlement, Grants Bluestone Culvert, Kennedy's Hut Site, Oakbank Farm Homestead, Roseleigh Homestead, Seafield Farm and Victoria Bank Homestead.

The proposed impacts before mitigation are assessed as minor, moderate or high due to sites being of either local or regional significance. The exception is Coghill's Boiling-Down Works, assessed as extreme. Salvage and recording of all sites will be done before any impact so that their heritage value can be documented and retained. This means any harm will be mitigated and the potential impact reduced. Coghill's Boiling-Down Works is considered a unique surviving example of early Victorian industry and assessed as being of state significance. Even after the salvage, recording and documenting of this site, the residual impact is considered to be high because of its significance.