

Heritage Inventory Site Card

Site Card must be completed in conjunction with the *Guidelines for Conducting Historical Archaeological Surveys* at www.heritage.vic.gov.au.

1. Place

Name Cumberland Ruins

Other/former names: Cumberland; Cumberland Homestead.

Current site description

Remnant sections of lower walls and chimney, foundations, in-ground cistern, and collapsed bluestone and brick from the late 19th/early 20th century Cumberland house, as well as aloe/agave plants, trees and shrubs associated with the former house garden. Artefact scatter of glass, metal, building materials and ceramic amongst aloe/agave plants and in the general area surrounding the ruins.

2. Current statutory listing

Victorian Heritage Register Number

Heritage Overlay Number HO239

3. Suggested protection

Victorian Heritage Register

Heritage Overlay, Local Planning Scheme

4. Archaeological description

Surface cultural material

Features

Artefacts / Artefact scatter

Sub-surface cultural deposits

Disturbance

Archaeological potential

5. Archaeological significance

High

Medium

Low

None

Unknown

6. Location

Site location (where known) Woodlands Historic Park

Street number 63 Street Swain

Suburb Greenvale State VIC Postcode 3059

Local Government Area City of Hume

Full AMG co-ordinates (**must be AGD 66**) Easting 310494 Northing 5830126

Mapsheet name and number (1:100,000 only) 7822 Melbourne

7. Cadastral location

County Bourke Parish Will-Will-Rook Township

Section 7 Allotment 7A SPI.....

8. Indigenous values

Site has known Indigenous values Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register Number TBA

9. Associated sites (Inventory, VHR, HO or other)

Woodlands Homestead (H1612, HO25)

10. Keywords

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> early 19 th century | <input type="checkbox"/> urban outside | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> pastoral | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic |
| <input type="checkbox"/> mid 19 th century | <input type="checkbox"/> urban | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agricultural | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> late 19 th century | | <input type="checkbox"/> timber | <input type="checkbox"/> commercial |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> early 20 th century | | <input type="checkbox"/> mining | <input type="checkbox"/> religious |
| <input type="checkbox"/> mid 20 th century | | <input type="checkbox"/> transport | <input type="checkbox"/> maritime infrastructure |
| <input type="checkbox"/> mid-late 20 th century | | <input type="checkbox"/> communication | <input type="checkbox"/> civic |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> recreation | <input type="checkbox"/> military |
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11. Plan of site **Plan attached**

12. Place history (attach sheet if necessary)

Cumberland is the name given to Crown Allotment 7 (880 acres) in the Parish of Will Will Rook. First purchased from the Crown in January 1839 by Thomas Wills of Yarraville, the land was sold, leased, and mortgaged several times through the early 1840s. In 1845 William Coghill purchased a share in the land, and by 1854 Coghill had gained ownership of all of the *Cumberland* land (Lennon 1993: 51).

The exact date of the construction of the *Cumberland* house is unknown. Title documents relating to William Coghill's ownership of the property refer to it as *Cumberland*, perhaps indicating the property was built between 1854 and 1860 (Lennon 1993: 52). Alternatively the homestead may have been built for Richard Colclough between 1868 and 1873, which would account for the doubling in purchase price of the estate during this time (Lennon 1993: 52). No mention of the actual homestead is made until 1889 and 1890 when William Croker is described as being the occupier of the estate. This description is however ambiguous and may simply refer to the land rather than the homestead itself (Lennon 1993: 52). *Cumberland* would eventually become the residence of the McCracken family in 1898, suggesting the house must have been constructed by the 1890s at the latest. *Cumberland* was a large double storey bluestone house in the Gothic Revival style featuring dormer windows in the upstairs rooms, a projecting bay window downstairs at the front, a short front verandah, slate roof and elaborate bargeboards on the gables and dormer windows (Lennon 1993: 53). Similar designs can still be viewed in Bacchus Marsh with Molesworth Greene's *Greystones*, the *Heronswood* homestead in Dromana, and at 157 Hotham Street in East Melbourne (Lennon 1993: 53).

Between 1898-1916 *Cumberland* was used as the country residence of the McCracken family. The McCrackens were a wealthy family who owned a brewery which was eventually sold to Carlton and United Breweries (Lennon 1993: 53). They ran sheep on the estate as well as horses used for hunting, and regularly used the *Cumberland* residence as the host venue for the Oaklands Hunt Club as Mr. Alex McCracken was one of the club's chief supporters (Lennon 1993: 54). The house was subsequently leased by Mr Ingles until 1920 and then by Mr. John Johnston. The Johnstons ran sheep on the property and oats were grown on the nearby *Woodlands* acreage. In 1934 the Johnstons moved to Glen Dewar and the house remained empty (Lennon 1993: 54). In 1939, the land was leased by Mr. F. M. Mitchell however the house fell into disrepair. Local accounts suggest *Cumberland* was condemned by the Health Department in 1955 or rather that it was severely damaged by a fire and subsequently demolished for its dressed bluestone (Lennon 1993: 66).

Lennon, J. 1993. *Red Gums and Riders: A History of Gellibrand Hill Park*. Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, East Melbourne.

13. Interpretation of site (Include phases in the development of the site, functions and activities represented)

The site includes remnants (foundations, walls, paving, collapsed brick and bluestone, and an in-ground cistern) of the domestic homestead structure as well as a surface scatter of domestic artefacts such as ceramics and glass, as well as building materials. The site also contains an infestation of aloe/agave which originates from plants which were part of the garden, and a mature lemon-scented gum is also apparently part of the former garden. The surface artefacts do not appear to be related to any specific function or area, but rather appear to have been dispersed around the wider site area through dumping, demolition of the house and intensive rabbit activity around the aloe/agave patch. The layout of rooms within the house is difficult to discern due to surface rubble, but internal brick foundations are visible in some areas, and these suggest that the ground floor of the house may have had up to six or seven rooms . two or three in a long northwest wing and three or four (or possibly two large rooms and a wide hallway) in the southeast wing of the house. However there is no surface indication of the function of any of these rooms. It is also not clear on the basis of materials on the surface or in the remnant structural features if the house was constructed in phases.

14. Assessment of archaeological significance

The site is of medium archaeological significance. Taking into account the house itself and the surrounding garden area and artefact scatter, the site is comparatively large. Although the house was the subject of demolition, and there appears to be little integrity to the loose artefact scatter surrounding the house (and these surface artefacts are fragmentary), it appears that there are several intact internal foundations and it is therefore likely that intact archaeological deposits will be present inside the ruin. Although the period of occupation of the house is potentially quite short (because the date of initial construction is not clearly known this could be as little as 40 years, or as much as 80 years), these intact deposits provide the opportunity for recovery of detailed information about domestic occupation of the house in the late 19th and early 20th century.

15. Assessment of cultural heritage significance

Historical significance

Statement of Significance

The site is of historical significance in particular for its association with Alexander McCracken. Cumberland was the country residence of the McCracken family from 1898 to 1916 (and was possibly built for them). Alexander McCracken (1856 . 1915) was a brewer and sportsman, whose family owned McCracken's City Brewery, which was one of the six brewing firms that later merged to form Carlton & United Breweries, of which Alexander McCracken became a director. He was a powerful figure in the brewing industry, being an early president of the Brewers' Club of Melbourne (1891), and first chairman of the Brewers' Association of Victoria (1901). He was also an important sporting figure in Victoria. He was the first secretary, and later became president (1897-1903) of the Essendon Football Club, and was founder and president of the Essendon Rowing Club, and founder of the Essendon Cricket and Tennis Clubs. He was the first President of the Victorian Football League (1897-1915), when it broke away from the Victorian Football Association. He was also active in the racing industry, racing a number of horses with modest success and serving as chairman and vice-chairman of the Victoria Racing Club. He was also founder of the Oaklands Hunt Club.

Scientific significance

The site is of moderate scientific significance in that its archaeological potential could provide additional information that is currently unknown about the site, particularly the date of the original construction of the house. Similarly, research questions about the use of the site as a country residence by a significant Melbourne figure in the late 19th and early 20th century, and the use of the site as a base for the Oaklands Hunt Club could be addressed. Given that these combined uses are not likely to have been duplicated at any other site in the Melbourne region the site has good research value.

Aesthetic significance

The site has little to no aesthetic significance. Although it is located in a reserve and includes trees and plants belonging to the original house garden, the main component of the site is a ruin, and the site location is overshadowed by Melbourne airport, which substantially detracts from any potential aesthetic value.

Social or spiritual significance

The site is of social significance as a component of the Woodlands Historic Park, which was established in the 1970s, and provides an important recreation, visitor and tourism venue on Melbourne's outer northwestern fringe. The Park protects significant cultural values including the Woodlands homestead, Cumberland and Dundonald Ruins, and numerous indigenous sites, as well as substantial natural values including geological features and flora and fauna. Park management actively encourages community use and supports the involvement of friends groups in Woodlands Historic Park.

16. Present use

The site is located within the Woodlands Historic Park managed by Parks Victoria. The site is within the fenced Back Paddock portion of the Woodlands Park, an area which is utilized as a recovery site for the threatened Eastern Barred Bandicoot and management of other wildlife. The house ruin itself is also fenced, and interpretive signage, outlining the history of Cumberland, is in place.

17. Threats

There are no specific threats to the house ruins, but Parks Victoria is planning to remove the majority of the aloe/agave plants because they provide rabbit harbour.

18 References/ Informants

19. Photographs of site

Photographs Attached.

20. Map showing location of site

Plan attached

Site is located at Melways Ref: 178 C12

Describe in detail directions to locate the site in the future

From Greenvale shopping centre head north on Mickleham Road for 500 metres, turn left into Somerton Road and continue west for approximately 2.5km. Turn left into Livingstone Drive and continue south for approximately 600 metres to Parks Victoria Office. From Parks Victoria office continue south for approximately 1.3km on tracks to the 'Back Paddock. Turn into Back Paddock and continue southeast for approximately 600m, then southwest for 400m to the ruins of the Cumberland Homestead. Keys and a guide are required. Contact the land manager.

21. Owner & Occupier Details

Agency Parks Victoria

Owner's name

Contact name Tristan Factor

Postal address Woodlands Historic Park, 1055 Somerton Road, Greenvale 3059

Telephone 03 8427 3065 Facsimile

Email address tristan.factor@parks.vic.gov.au

Occupier's name As above

Postal address

Telephone Facsimile

Email address

Recording Archaeologist Matt Chamberlain

Company name Heritage Insight Pty Ltd Date recorded 18/7/2016
(Day/Month/Year)

Other Comments:

Parks Victoria will be submitting an application for consent to undertake removal of aloe/agave plants that form part of this site

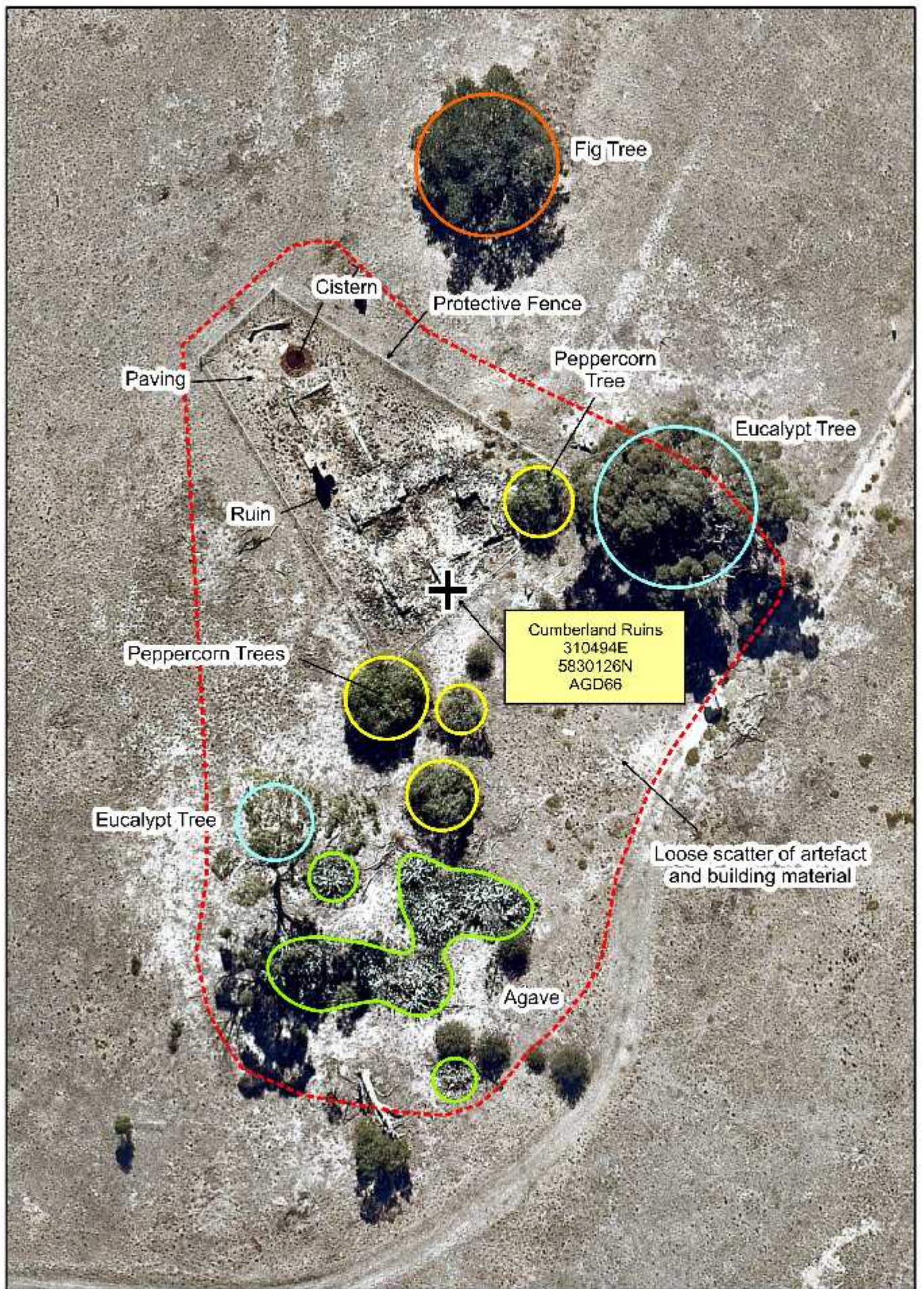
Return completed Site Cards to Heritage Victoria via email at archaeology.admin@delwp.vic.gov.au or Heritage Victoria, PO Box 500, Melbourne 8002

Office Use Only

Report Numbers..... Associated Consent numbers

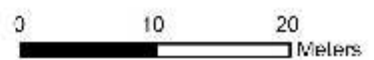
Any personal information about you or a third party in your correspondence will be collected, held, managed, used, disclosed or transferred in accordance with the provisions of the Information Privacy Act 2000 (Vic) and applicable laws. Enquiries about access to information about you held by the Department should be directed to the Privacy Officer, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, PO Box 500, Melbourne, VIC 8002.

Notwithstanding the above, please note that information provided to enable the administration of the Heritage Act 1995 may be disclosed to persons with an interest in the heritage place or object particularly, and information provided as part of a permit application may be made available on-line where the application has been publicly advertised under section 68 of the Heritage Act 1995.



LEGEND

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View southeast over northwest 'wing' of Cumberland ruin



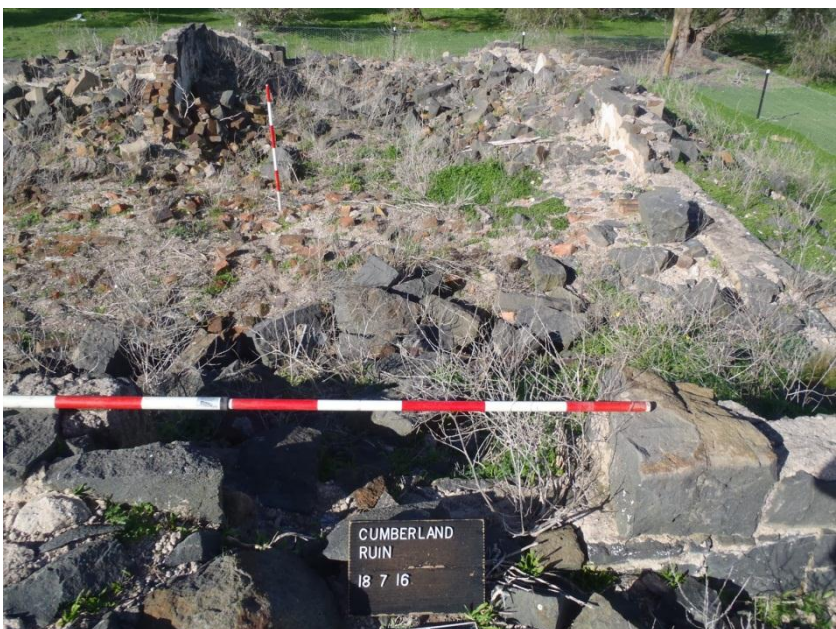
Cistern on the northwest side of the ruin. View southeast



View southeast over paving, cistern and ruin



View northwest over northwest wing of the ruin



View southeast over southeast wing



View east over southeast wing



View west over southeast wing



View southwest over southeast wing



View south of exterior on northern side of ruin



View southeast of walls on east side of ruin



View southwest of walls along the southern side of the ruin



View northwest of walls along the western side of the ruin



View northwest showing ruin at centre, with peppercorns and shrubs



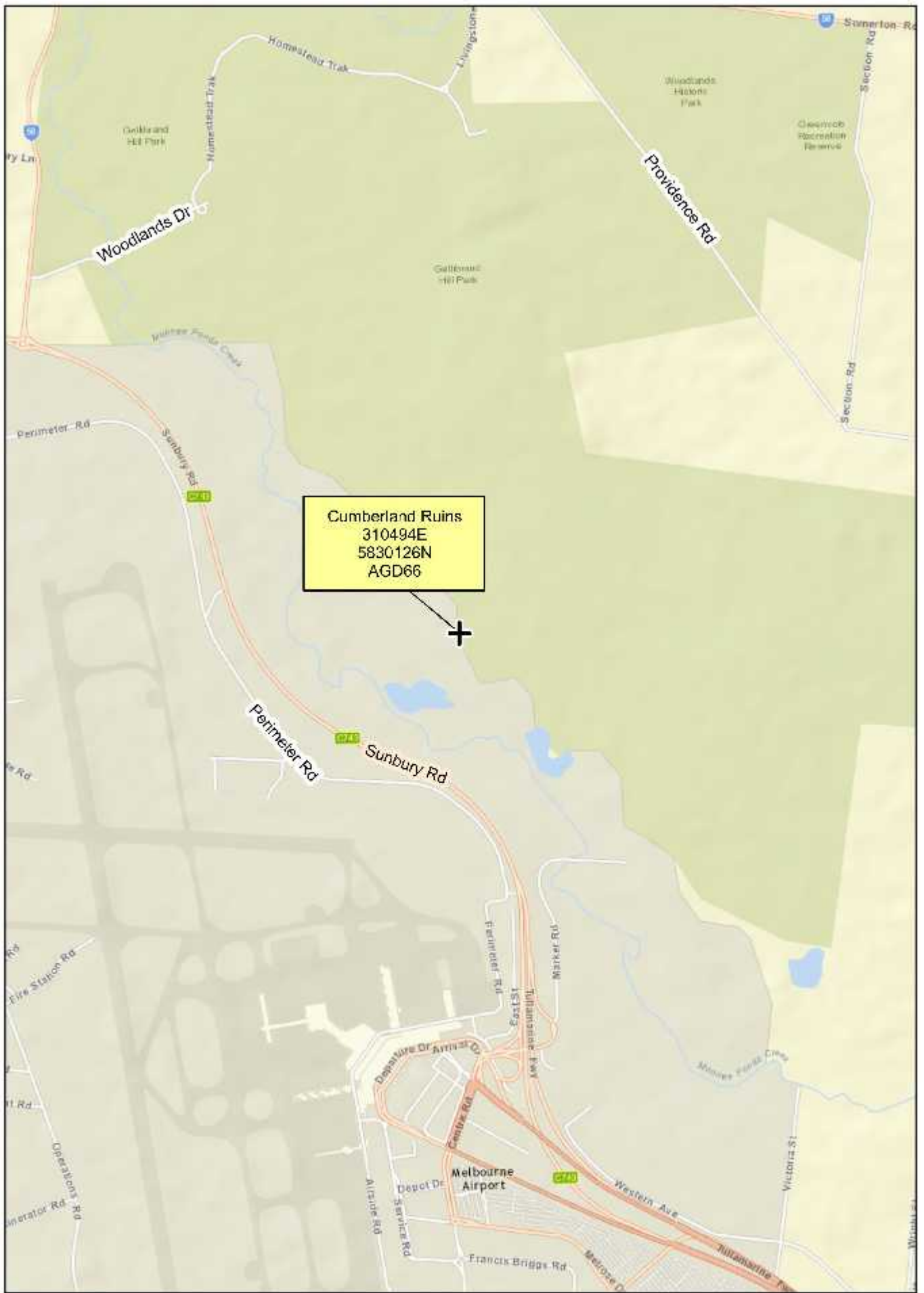
View west showing the ruin at right and the agave/aloe at left



View south of agave/aloe south of the ruin



Fragmentary artefacts among the agave/aloe



Cumberland Ruins
 310494E
 5830126N
 AGD66



Legend

- Primary GPS coordinate
- Major Road
- Minor Road
- Watercourse
- Waterbody
- Reserve
- Airport

