



Image 4.12. Dense undergrowth in the northeast portion of Area 5. Facing southwest. Stedinger Associates, 2011 (File 2181).



Image 4.13. The northern portion of Area 5. Facing north. Stedinger Associates, 2011 (File 2186).



Image 4.14. View back over the cleared landscape on the west side of Area 5. Facing southeast. Stedinger Associates, 2011 (File 2205).



Image 4.15. Dense bushland borders the cleared land to the west in Area 5. Facing northeast. Stedinger Associates, 2011 (File 2222).

4.2. Vegetation.

Types of woodland in the area include Blackbutt, Bangalay, Grey Ironbark, Hard-leaved Scribbly Gums, Swamp Oak-Eucalypt, Sheoaks, and Tea Tree scrub. Grey mangroves are re-establishing along the estuary. No Bunya Pines or fruit trees, such as quince, lemons, apples and pears, which typically suggest the presence of early homesteads, were found. Isolated small Palms were found in Areas 3 and 5 have grown from seeds that have been dropped by birds or have blown in. No evidence of former gardens were associated with these plants.

Area 1 has been cleared in its eastern portion beside Canal Road East. The woodland to the west is secondary regrowth. Area 2 has been largely cleared with only sparse bushland remaining to the south and southwest. Areas 3 and 4 remain covered by secondary woodland, with visibility sometimes obscured by dense undergrowth. Some larger older trees remain, though indicating that former land clearance was selective. Approximately half Area 5 has been cleared, this open grazing land being located to the west. To the east its secondary bushland is a continuation of that in Areas 3 and 4



Image 4.16. Dense secondary regrowth in the northwest of Area 1. Facing southeast. Stedinger Associates, 2011 (File 2132).



Image 4.17. Bushland with cleared areas across the central west of Area 1. Facing east. Stedinger Associates, 2011 (File 2133).



Image 4.18. View southwest across cleared land in Area 2. Stedinger Associates, 2011 (File 2120).



Image 4.19. Dense bushland occurs in Area 3 (centre west). Facing north. Stedinger Associates, 2011 (File 2166).



Image 4.20. View into the dense bushland of Area 3 (west). Facing south. Stedinger Associates, 2011 (File 2169).



Image 4.21. View of dense bushland in Area 4 (northwest). Facing southwest. Stedinger Associates, 2011 (File 2180).



Image 4.21. Bushland and lantana in Area 5 (north). Facing southwest. Stedinger Associates, 2011 (File 2183).



Image 4.21. View of woodland and palm in Area 5 (centre). Facing south. Stedinger Associates, 2011 (File 2180).



Image 4.22. Isolated small Palms in Areas 3 and 5 have grown from seeds dropped or blown in. No evidence of a former garden was associated. Facing north. Stedinger Associates, 2011 (File 2160).



Image 4.23. View across cleared land in Area 5. Facing southwest. Stedinger Associates, 2011 (File 2201).

4.3. Heritage within the Proposed Development Site.

As part of a rural landscape and being in the vicinity of the Crookhaven River pastoral landscape⁷⁹ the survey area was examined for any evidence of former or existing structures like house footings, sheds or wells, remnant gardens, fencing or land division patterns, stock yards, access roads, drainage channels and. Its northern boundary was investigated for remnant slipways or jetties.

Spatial Area 1.

Spatial Area 1 contains a modern development at its southwest corner. A medical centre and opportunity shop presently operate from this location. Elsewhere on the east side of this area the land has been cleared. On the west side, secondary regrowth indicates a previous land clearance. No European heritage items, features or sites or potential archaeological deposits were located in this area.



Image 4.24. A cleared paddock on the east side of Area 1 with modern development in its southeast corner. Facing southwest. Stedinger Associates, 2011 (File 2127).

Spatial Area 2.

In Area 2 the remnants of a split log and wire fence still survive.⁸⁰ The posts indicate an early boundary or fence line. The tallest of the posts is 1600mm in height. Holes were initially drilled into the posts for 3 strands of wire. In more recent years 4 strands of wire has been tacked to the post. Although no longer continuous, it appears to have once extended southwards towards Lake Wollumboola. Components of the timber fence would have been replaced over the years. The burnt tall post indicates that at least part of the fence was destroyed by fire.

⁷⁹ Shoalhaven Heritage Inventory Database No.2390328.

⁸⁰ GPS: Area2 (south) 56H 0294 554 / 613 2080.



Image 4.25. Remnants of an early timber fence runs southwards from Area 2. Facing southwest. Stedinger Associates, 2011 (File 2124).

Spatial Areas 3 to 5.

Area 3 contains a few physical remnants of past European activity. In its early days timber cutters worked in the region. Few older trees survive in the survey area. Though, in Areas 3 and 4 the occasional tree has a diameter of between 500mm and 800mm. Leaving their mark, a wedge shape cut from an adze was found in one older dead tree.⁸¹ For some reason, the timber cutters did not continue to fell this particular tree some 100 years ago. Another large dead tree was noted in Area 4, though no adze marks were found.



Image 4.26. A wedge shape has been cut from a tree in the northeast section of Area 3. Facing northeast. Stedinger Associates, 2011 (File 2162).

Image 4.27. A large dead tree noted in the centre east portion of Area 3. Facing west. Stedinger Associates, 2011 (File 2165).



⁸¹ GPS: Area 3 (NE) 56H 029 4008 / 613 2933.

At the northern boundary of Area 3, a modern copper log post marks a former boundary set in from the shoreline oriented north to south. No other features were associated with the two posts, though a change of vegetation to grass on the east side of this fence suggests a former change of use.⁸²



Image 4.28. A modern copper log fencepost at the northern boundary of Area 3. Facing north. Stedinger Associates, 2011 (File 2157).

A small sandstone and concrete culvert was noted along a track to the southwest in Area 4.⁸³ Again, this feature is more recent and no evidence of a homestead or other European site was found at the end of the track. The pipe was inserted by the farmer as part of the maintenance of this access track.



Image 4.29. A more recent culvert has been inserted along a track in Area 4. Facing south. Stedinger Associates, 2011 (File 2178).



Image 4.30. No house site or other feature was found at the end of the track associated with the culvert. Facing west. Stedinger Associates, 2011 (File 2179).

⁸² GPS: Area 3 (north) - 56H 029 3948 / 613 3020.

⁸³ GPS: Culvert in Area 4 (southwest) - 56H 029 3211 / 613 2472.

A split post and wire fence extends from north to south in Area 5, separating the bushland from the cleared paddock. Use of the split posts appears to have continued for some 50 years. The extension of the fence into the estuary, however, is more recent despite the fence having collapsed at this location.



Image 4.31. Above: Extension of the fence into the river within the last 20 years. Facing southwest. Stedinger Associates, 2011 (File 2194).

Image 4.32. Left: Split post and wire fence in Area 5. Facing northeast. Stedinger Associates, 2011 (File 2197).

4.4. Archaeological Potential.

4.4.1. Potential Sites and Artefact Bearing Deposits.

As part of rural landscape the proposed development area was examined for evidence of early farming activities such as house or shed footings, early access roads, drainage channels, other features and associated artefacts.

No physical evidence of earlier structures was revealed by historical research or by site survey. There appears to be no likelihood features like refuse pits, privies, wells or demolition rubble from earlier structures occurring within the proposed development area. Accordingly, the subject survey area has little archaeological potential for accumulated deposits containing European artefactual material. It is not considered that archaeological evidence will contribute significant or substantial information about the

settlement of the area west of Culburra Beach.

4.4.2. Disturbance.

Ground disturbance is limited within the subject survey areas. Generally minor disturbance has resulted from land clearance leaving vacant paddocks and secondary regrowth. A narrow corridor in Areas 3 to 5 has been disturbed during the laying of the sewer line.



Image 4.33. View of cleared land and secondary regrowth across Area 2 beside a more recent community development. Facing east. Stedinger Associates, 2011 (File 2122).

4.5. Heritage in the Vicinity.

Two European sites occur in the immediate vicinity of the subject development area on the west side of Area 5. A former concrete shed is located approximately 500 metres to the northwest of Area 5 and a cattle yard and shed some 300 meters to the southwest.⁸⁴

The structure to the northwest is a mass concrete shed that once had a skillion roof fixed to its southwest side. Gaps cast into the concrete indicate the location of roof battens as well as those for the timber frame of the structure. The concrete itself was made using local resources, as indicated by the presence of river pebbles and shell in the aggregate. It appears to date to c.1910 and was probably a small storage shed and yard associated with a dairy. The use of concrete suggests the need to keep a substance, like milk, cooler. Shelving also once existed along the interior walls of the structure.

⁸⁴ GPS: Structure 1 (cool room) - 56H 029 2344 / 613 2612.



Image 4.34. View of the 'cool' shed west of Area 5. Facing north. Stedinger Associates, 2011 (File 2217).



Image 4.35. Entrance to the 'cool store' or shed west of Area 5. Facing southeast. Stedinger Associates, 2011 (File 2210).



Image 4.36. Interior of the 'cool' shed showing wall pegs that once supported shelves. Facing southeast. Stedinger Associates, 2011 (File 2211).



Image 4.37. Detail of pebble and shell aggregate with gap from former timber member. Facing northeast. Stedinger Associates, 2011 (File 2213).

The second structure lies further south on higher ground near the natural ridge. This shed with cattle yards is still operational. The lower wall of this shed is concrete. Its bluemetal aggregate and the presence of fibro cladding suggests a more recent date for this structure. The shed appears to date to the 1960s to 1970s.⁸⁵



Image 4.38. Cattle yards and shed southwest of Area 5. Facing northwest. Stedinger Associates, 2011 (File 2226).

⁸⁵ GPS: Cattle shed and yards - 56H 029 2219 / 613 2166

Only one other potential European heritage site may exist in the vicinity, in this instance as indicated in historical sources. Welch makes a brief mention that Mr Halloran began to cut a canal from Curley's Bay to Lake Wollumboola but was ordered to abandon the idea by the Lands Department.⁸⁶ It is assumed here that he is referring to Henry Halloran post dating 1950. No location, however, was given and no physical evidence was located during the recent survey of Area 1. It may be that Canal Street itself, east of Area 1, was the location of Mr Halloran's canal works. Alternatively, the canal may have been commenced closer to the shore north of Area 1.

The Wider Area.

Heritage items listed in the Culburra Beach and Coolangatta area are too far from the subject survey area to be considered as heritage in the vicinity. In the wider area several European heritage sites exist.

At Culburra Beach the pebble arched entrance to the former Culburra Guesthouse, known as "Moongate", is located at 196 Penguins Head Road. The Moongate and Norfolk Island Pines are the only tangible evidence of the former Culburra Guesthouse that was erected on this site.⁸⁷ At the end of this road, a geological site lies along the shore at Penguins Head. The Crookhaven Lighthouse Complex is located at Prince Edward Avenue. At Orsova Parade, Orient Park, a vertical timber drydock was built in the early twentieth century to service the dredge Pluto. The dredge kept the shipping channels in the Shoalhaven River navigable operating for 40 years.⁸⁸

North of the survey area, beyond Greenwell Point, in 1822 Comerong Island was separated from the mainland by the construction of a canal by Alexander Berry. It was connected to the mainland by the Comerong ferry.⁸⁹ The former Coal Wharf Site is located off Comerong Island Road.

⁸⁶ Welch, Pat (ed.). c.2010. *History in the Making. Culburra Beach, Orient Point, Crookhaven Heads*. Culburra Beach Progress Association Inc. p.57.

⁸⁷ Shoalhaven Heritage Inventory. Database No.2390656

⁸⁸ Shoalhaven Heritage Inventory. Database No.2390321

⁸⁹ Shoalhaven Heritage Inventory. Database No.2390283

The Coolangatta Estate is located at the foot of Mt Coolangatta, on Bolong Road. As discussed in Chapter 2, it was established in 1822 on land granted to Alexander Berry and his partner Edward Wollstonecraft. Coolangatta House (1824) was destroyed by fire in 1946. In 1968 the estate was purchased and restored by Colin Bishop converting the site into the Coolangatta Historic Village Motel.⁹⁰ Today the Coolangatta Estate Group includes Convict quarters, Federation residence and gardens, stables, coachman's quarters, harness room, homestead ruins, former office, Billiard Rooms, Colonial community hall, Worker's cottage, Blacksmith's shop, tinsmith's shop and residence, remnant gardens, Berry-Hay private cemetery. At Orient Point, Roseby Park is a 'contact period' site - a reserve for Aboriginal people many of whom were relocated from Coolangatta Estate.⁹¹



Image 4.39. Remains of the old homestead at Coolangatta. Stedinger Associates, 2011 (File 2147).

4.6. Views and Sightlines.

As part of a rural landscape being in the vicinity of the Crookhaven River pastoral landscape and natural landscapes like the Crookhaven River Estuary and the Lake Wollumboola as well as European heritage places in the wider area, significant views to and from the proposed development are considered here.

The foreshores of the river and estuary are natural aesthetic features at the subject site. They will continue as a scenic backdrop to this extension of the town of Culburra. At present, views to the foreshore from the proposed development site are obscured by vegetation in Areas 3 and 4. Closer to the shore in Area 5 land clearance allows a partial

⁹⁰ Shoalhaven Heritage Inventory Database No.2390185.

⁹¹ Shoalhaven Heritage Inventory Database No.2390323.

view of the estuary foreshore and Billy's Island. Just beyond Area 5, views along the river will be available from the estuary itself.



Image 4.40. Views to the shoreline obscures by vegetation, Area 4. Facing north. Stedinger Associates, 2011 (File 2170).



Image 4.41. Partial views to the shoreline and Billy's Island are available from Area 5 due to land clearance. Facing northeast. Stedinger Associates, 2011 (File 2192).



Image 4.42. Views along the estuary fronting Area 5. Facing northwest. Stedinger Associates, 2011 (File 2196).

No significant views extend to or from the Coolangatta Estate. This early settlement is sited in the far distance. The Coolangatta Estate lies to the north behind Comerong Island and Greenwell Point. Views back to West Culburra are also obscured, even from higher ground at the Estate.



Image 4.43. View to West Culburra from Coolangatta. Stedinger Associates, 2011 (File 2138).



Image 4.44. View to West Culburra from higher ground at the Coolangatta tennis courts. Stedinger Associates, 2011 (File 2141).

The existing settlement at Greenwell Point is just visible from the ridge at Area 5. This view is partly screened by vegetation. Like those between Greenwell Point and Culburra Beach, distant views will be exchanged between the western extension of Culburra and the adjacent coastal settlement.



Image 4.45. View to houses over the river at Greenwell Point from Area 5 (west). Facing north. Stedinger Associates, 2011 (File 2207).



Image 4.46. View to houses over the river at Greenwell Point from the southern boundary ridge at Area 5. Facing north. Stedinger Associates, 2011 (File 2220).

No significant views extend to the site from significant landmarks in the Culburra area. In most instances the proposed development area is too distant from such locations.



Image 4.47. View to West Culburra from Orient Point. Stedinger Associates, 2011 (File 2152).



Image 4.48. View to West Culburra from Whistler Street. Stedinger Associates, 2011 (File 2135).



Image 4.49. View across Lake Wollumboola to the catchment area with West Culburra beyond. Stedinger Associates, 2011 (File 2151).