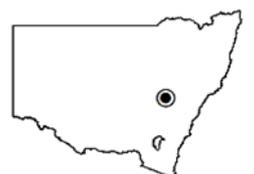




NSW NATIONAL PARKS & WILDLIFE SERVICE

Hill End Historic Site

Plan of Management



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Cover photo: panoramic view of Hill End, photographed between 1870 and 1875, Holtermann Photographic Collection (ref. code 62446), Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales

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How to use this plan

This plan of management directs the management of Hill End Historic Site. This plan includes a scheme of operations consistent with section 72AA of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*. Once the plan is adopted, no management operations can be undertaken that are not consistent with the plan and its scheme of operations. This plan will also apply to any future additions to Hill End Historic Site.

Sections 1 to 6 of the plan summarise the historic site's key values, management principles and management considerations. These matters are outlined thoroughly in the Hill End Historic Site Planning Considerations document. **It is recommended that readers of the plan refer to the planning considerations document for detailed explanations of the site's values and management considerations.**

The scheme of operations (Section 7) is the core part of this plan. It describes the desired outcomes for the site's values and actions that National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) proposes to undertake to achieve these outcomes.

The park use regulations tables (Section 8) set out the recreational and commercial activities that are permitted in the historic site and any requirements to undertake these activities, including whether consent must be sought from the NPWS to undertake them.

Acknowledgements

Hill End Historic Site is in the traditional Country of the Wiradjuri People.

This plan of management was prepared by staff of NPWS.

Contact us

For more information about this plan of management or Hill End Historic Site, contact the NPWS Hill End Historic Site Office at Beyers Avenue, Hill End NSW 2850 or by telephone (02) 6370 9050.

Our vision for Hill End



Photo 1 Hill End Historic Site. Conybeare Morrison

Hill End Historic Site conserves and invigorates a living village as a unique example of a 19th century mining settlement of the gold rush era and post-World War II artists' colony.

Growth and development of new activities are encouraged to reinforce community, heritage, the economy and cultural tourism within conservation limits.

A whole-of-landscape approach is applied in managing the authenticity and integrity of Hill End village, so that its natural, cultural and social heritage values are appropriately conserved, interpreted and enhanced.

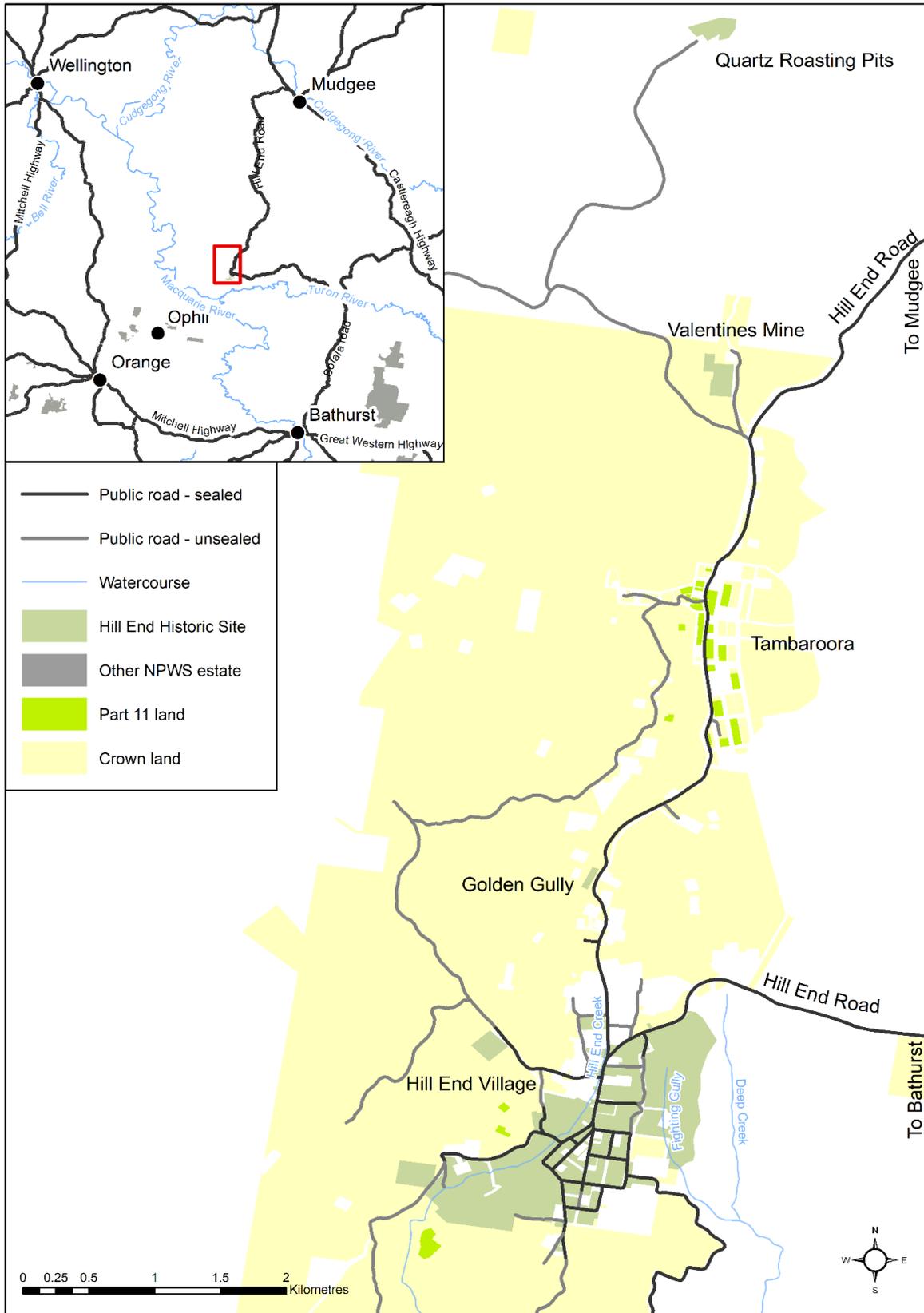


Figure 1 Location of Hill End Historic Site

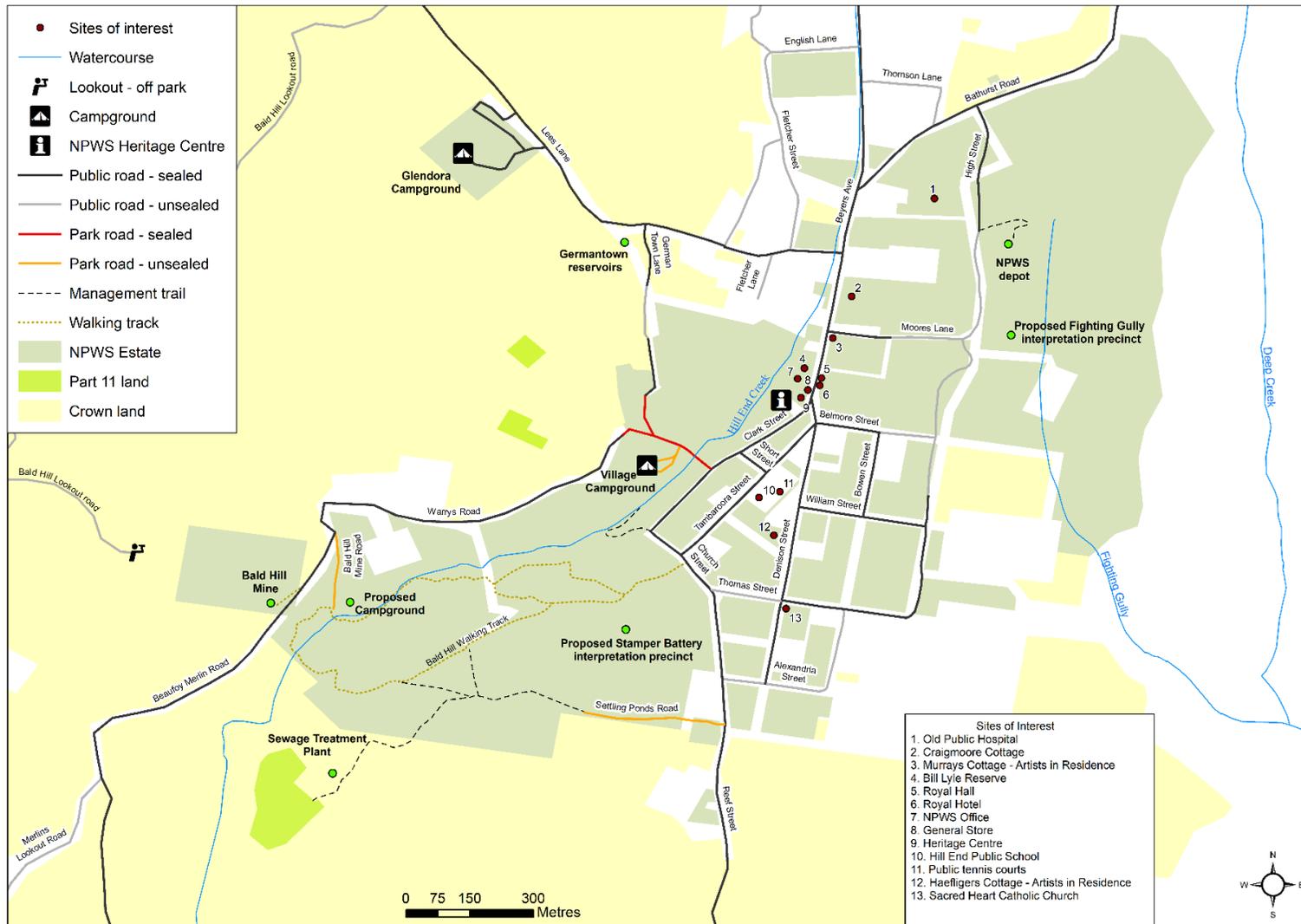


Figure 2 Hill End village

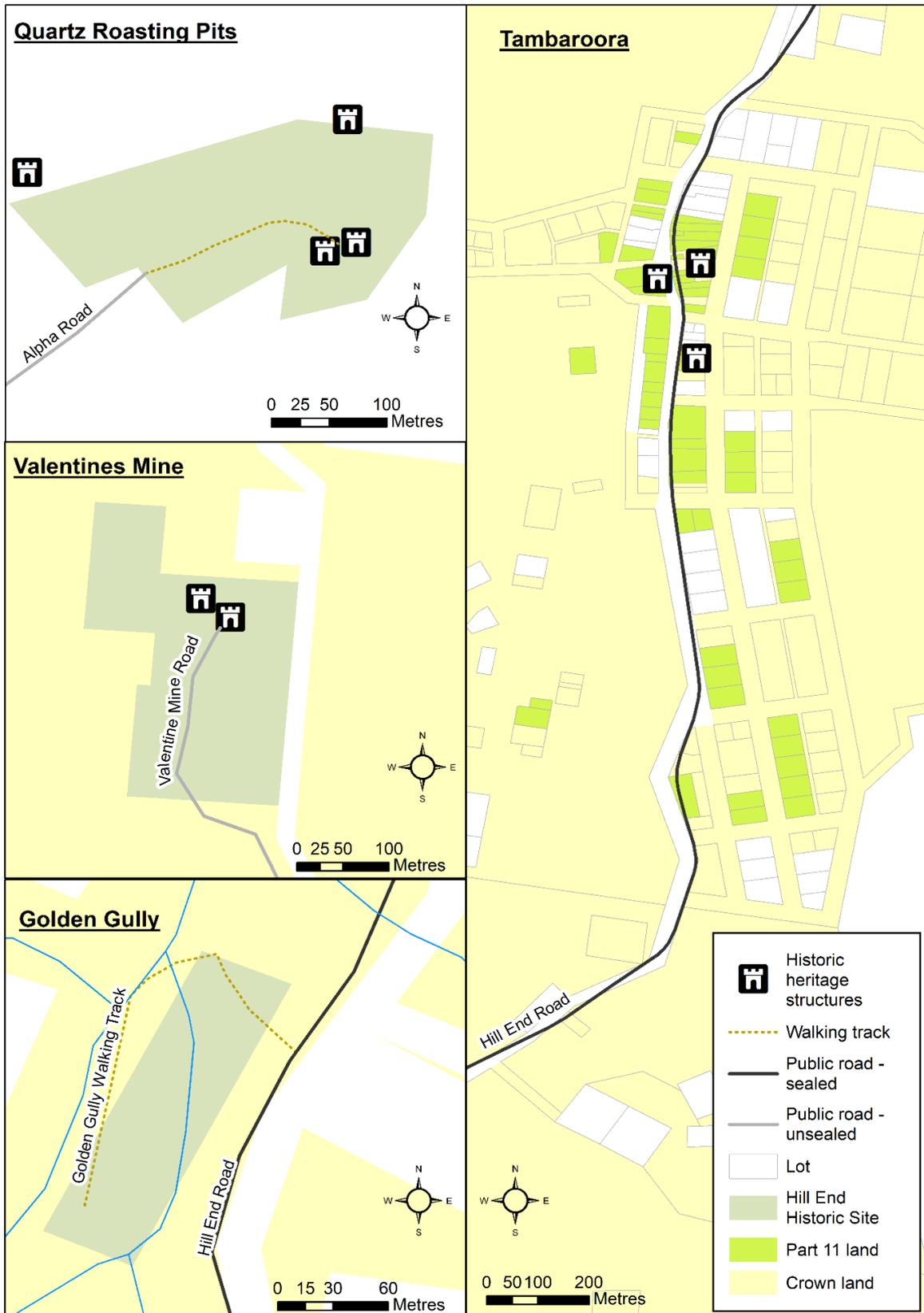


Figure 3 Outlying historic mining sites which form part of Hill End Historic Site

1. Hill End Historic Site

Hill End Historic Site is located in the Central Tablelands of New South Wales, approximately 75 kilometres from Bathurst and 70 kilometres from Mudgee. As well as the core of Hill End village, the site includes several dispersed former goldmining sites: Tambaroora, Golden Gully, Valentines Mine and the Quartz Roasting Pits. See Figures 1, 2 and 3.

The historic site is almost completely surrounded by the Hill End and Tambaroora Common which comprises approximately 2500 hectares of Crown land managed by the Hill End and Tambaroora Common Trust under the *Commons Management Act 1989*.

Parts of the site are held under Part 11 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* including most of the former town of Tambaroora, and some isolated parcels to the west and south-west of Hill End village. These lands are vested in the Minister for Energy and Environment and are managed as if they were part of the gazetted historic site.



Photo 2 View of Tambaroora Street, Hill End/DPE

Why the historic site is important

The historic site conserves a unique cultural landscape which dates from the gold rush of the 1850s and is now listed on the NSW State Heritage Register. The world's largest specimen of reef gold, known as Holtermann's Nugget, was uncovered at Hill End in 1872.

The standing collection of intact heritage buildings and mining infrastructure at Hill End, and a vast collection of moveable heritage items exhibit a high degree of authenticity and integrity. National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) management is concentrated on restoring and conserving these shared heritage values which provide an immersive living history experience for visitors in the form of a large outdoor museum. Hill End attracts in the order of 110,000 visitors annually and makes an important contribution to regional tourism.

Post-World War II, Hill End also became the venue for artists seeking to interpret the raw, frontier history and tortured landscape of the former goldfield. Many of these artists were to become famous, including Donald Friend, Russell Drysdale and Margaret Olley. The legacy of these early artists continues through an ongoing artist in residence program and other independent artists.

Today, the historic Hill End village has a modest population of between 80 and 100 people. NPWS manages the historic site as part of a living village and, unusually for the agency, fulfils the role of a landlord for those residents living within the historic site.

The site is also significant as being among the first suite of reserves protected under the original *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1967* (now repealed).

Table 1 The park and its regional setting

Features	Description
Area	134 hectares
Reservation date	A core area of 27.5 hectares was reserved in 1967, and in 1970 further land was added to bring the site up to its current area
Previous tenure	The majority of the site was formerly private land; some was also held by various public authorities
Biogeographic region	South Eastern Highlands

Management principles

Development of the objectives, actions and regulations in this plan has been directed by the management principles outlined in the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*.

The National Parks and Wildlife Act requires that a historic site be managed to:

- conserve places, objects, features and landscapes of cultural value
- conserve natural values
- provide for sustainable visitor or tourist use and enjoyment that is compatible with the conservation of the historic site’s natural and cultural values
- having regard to the conservation of the historic site’s natural and cultural values:
 - provide for the sustainable use (including adaptive reuse) of any buildings or structures or modified natural areas
 - provide for appropriate research and monitoring.

Planning for Hill End Historic Site

Much detailed planning has been undertaken to guide the management of Hill End and its exceptional cultural heritage prior to preparation of this plan of management. The outcome of this work forms the basis for a set of master plan documents that provide the detail to the policies outlined in this plan of management.

A Conservation Management & Cultural Tourism Master Plan for Hill End Historic Site (referred to as the master plan in this plan) guides the protection of the unique cultural landscape at Hill End in accordance with the requirements of the *Heritage Act 1977*. The master plan was publicly exhibited in 2012 in draft form, finalised in 2013, and endorsed by the NSW Heritage Council in the same year. It is delivered in four volumes:

- (i) a master plan
- (ii) a conservation management plan
- (iii) a landscape management plan
- (iv) a cultural and tourism recreation master plan.

Each of these documents contains comprehensive explanations, directions and strategies for adequate protection, ongoing management and interpretation of the unique values of the historic site.

NPWS implements the master plan with assistance from a project control group which includes local community representatives. This group meets on an as-needs basis. As a statutory document, this plan of management enables the master plan to be put into effect.

2. Looking after our culture and heritage

Aboriginal cultural heritage

The historic site lies in the traditional Country of the Bularidee tribe of the Wiradjuri People, and within the present-day Orange Local Aboriginal Land Council area. However, the history of Aboriginal occupation of Hill End is poorly known due to the paucity of archaeological and documentary evidence and the dominance of goldmining histories for the area.

No Aboriginal sites have been recorded within the historic site. The comprehensive disturbance to ground surfaces by goldmining is certain to have destroyed an unknown number of Aboriginal sites and would have had a significant impact on many archaeological remains in the area. However, it is likely that the area provided a variety of natural resources for the Wiradjuri before they were displaced in the 1840s by the rule of European law. Tambaroora and other Aboriginal place names in the area add to the legacy of Aboriginal history.

NPWS acknowledges Aboriginal connection to Country and includes Aboriginal history in interpretation of the site where possible. NPWS also seeks to encourage Aboriginal involvement in protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage and other site management activities where appropriate.

Goldmining

There were three main periods of gold prospecting in Hill End: alluvial mining from 1851 to 1870, reef mining from 1871 to 1874, and a third boom period from 1908 to 1924. The world's largest specimen of reef gold was discovered at Hill End by the Star of Hope Gold Mining Company, owned by Bernhardt Otto Holtermann and Ludwig Hugo Louis Beyers. 'Holtermann's Nugget' as it was known, weighed 630 pounds (286 kilograms), measured 59 inches (1.5 metres) and had an estimated gold content of 3000 troy ounces (93 kilograms).

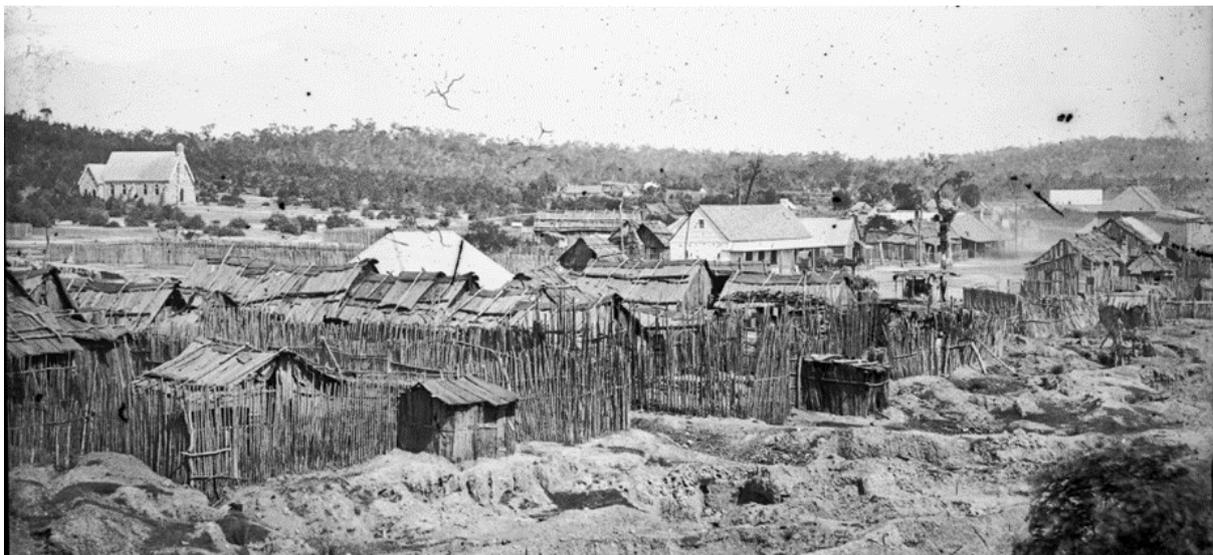


Photo 3 Looking from Chinatown to St Saviours Church, Tambaroora, 1870-1875. Holtermann Photographic Collection (Ref. Code 62962), Mitchell Library, State Library of NSW

Gold was discovered at Tambaroora first, which developed as a village before Hill End village due to its proximity to alluvial mining in Tambaroora Creek. Within a year of the discovery of the first gold, Tambaroora had a tent village of 2000 people. The settlement quickly grew and when proclaimed a town in 1884, boasted gridded streets and an assortment of elegant public buildings.

At the peak of the gold rush in 1872, Hill End had a population of more than 8000 people, shops extending for more than a kilometre, more than 200 mining companies, 27 pubs, 5 banks and 2 newspapers. In 1874, the yield of gold started to decline dramatically, with mines closing down and prospectors moving to other fields. The boom had lasted less than 2 years and by the turn of the century the population fell to around 500 people. A modest mining revival occurred in the pre-World War I years, centred on reef mining around Hawkins Hill, and reworking of alluvial deposits at Tambaroora and Golden Gully.

Artists

With the end of the gold era, like other goldmining towns, Hill End declined and the only activities to continue were timber-getting, cattle grazing and small-scale fossicking. Then, in 1947 after World War II, Hill End and Sofala were 'discovered' by a significant number of now well-known artists, starting with a visit by Donald Friend and Russell Drysdale. A second generation of artists were attracted to Hill End in the 1960s and 1970s. These included Jeffery Smart, Brett Whiteley, John Olsen and John Firth-Smith. Part of the attraction of the place to the artists' sensibility was that Hill End seemed to exist on the margins of Australian society and had an element of oddity about it that included a romantic frontier history, real or imagined. The result has been a collection of remarkable paintings which have become iconic Australian works, reflecting the tortured landscape, vernacular architecture and people of Hill End.

The Hill End Artists in Residence Program continues the legacy of the early artists' colony, based in Murrays and Haefligers cottages (Beyers Avenue and corner of Denison and Havilah streets respectively). The program started in 1995 and is currently run by Bathurst Regional Art Gallery in cottages owned by NPWS.

Shared cultural heritage

The village of Hill End was relatively untouched by development from the 1900s onwards, and the site now contains a highly significant wealth of 19th century historic heritage. This includes standing buildings and other structures, former mines, moveable heritage and a rich archaeological resource.

NPWS owns and manages 60 buildings in Hill End, open space areas and historic heritage structures, all listed on the State Heritage Register. Many of the privately owned properties in the village are also listed heritage items under Bathurst Regional Council's planning instrument.

At the time of acquisition, the condition of the buildings varied greatly, from those requiring minimal attention to those requiring urgent stabilisation or comprehensive renovation works. Natural ageing, termites, dry rot, vermin and fire all pose ongoing risks to standing heritage structures. The heritage buildings require ongoing monitoring and maintenance.

Extensive investment and restoration works since 1967 have recovered and conserved many heritage values. Early management efforts focused on stabilisation of historic buildings under the guidance of broad conservation management strategies. All buildings and sites owned by NPWS are now managed in accordance with the detailed conservation policies contained in the conservation management plan, which forms volume 2 of the Hill End

master plan. All works on state-listed heritage items and work in areas of archaeological sensitivity require the approval of the Heritage Council.



Photo 4 Interior, Beyers Cottage, Hill End. John Spencer/DPE

NPWS is progressively restoring 21 buildings/sites in Hill End village under the Hill End Historic Site Conservation Management and Cultural Tourism Master Plan Implementation Strategy (referred to as the master plan implementation strategy). Many of the buildings are proposed to be adaptively reused as a means of achieving an optimum conservation outcome. Where adaptive reuse is proposed, emphasis is placed on retaining the original heritage fabric where possible and avoiding impacts on heritage values during the restoration process. Adaptive reuse provides a lively and economic way for past stories to be brought alive. It means heritage buildings and grounds can be used for suitable visitor and community purposes, including accommodation, visitor experiences, cafes, restaurants and community facilities, which then generate an economic return and fund ongoing maintenance.

NPWS offers leases over heritage buildings in Hill End village as a way of meeting heritage conservation objectives, maintaining Hill End as a viable living community and encouraging visitation. Leases on offer allow for a variety of residential, commercial and/or retail use. With the constraints of a very small permanent population and comparative isolation, lease conditions and terms for business opportunities in Hill End must be sufficiently flexible to suit local circumstances. As with all state-listed heritage properties, all leased heritage buildings within Hill End are subject to the provisions of the Heritage Act, including the requirement to meet the minimum maintenance standards.

The outlying historic mining sites form an important part of the historic site's shared cultural heritage and are also of state heritage significance. These sites are provided with a basic level of access and interpretation, but overall require less active management than Hill End village.

- **Tambaroora** is surrounded by Crown land which attracts people fossicking for gold and this can cause inappropriate use of the lands held by NPWS, part of the Environment, Energy and Science Group of the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE). NPWS seeks to work with the relevant Crown land management agency and the Heritage Council to improve compliance with NPWS legislation. Despite its lack of standing heritage structures, Tambaroora is considered by the master plan to be one of Australia's most significant archaeological sites. The Hill End master plan makes a series of recommendations for ensuring that this heritage significance is adequately recognised. These include making visible the historic footprint of Tambaroora's roads and allotments, staged archaeological research which may identify additional parcels to be acquired by the Department, and enhanced interpretation, including signage and upgrading of paths.
- **Golden Gully** is located in a creek gully and features dramatic man-made landforms which are subject to ongoing erosion. While natural erosion will be allowed to take its course, NPWS will continue to monitor the site to ensure the safety of staff and self-guided visitors. The access track to Golden Gully is partly on Crown land and NPWS will work with the relevant Crown land management agency to provide appropriate management and visitor safety.
- The **Quartz Roasting Pits** (also known as the Cornish Roasting Pits) are a well-preserved, 1855 example of a reef mining technique developed in Cornwall, England, to extract gold from quartz by industrial means. The roasting pits are exceptionally well-preserved and represent one of the oldest surviving gold extraction sites surviving in Australia. While interpretation signage has been provided, the site would benefit from improved orientation for visitors.
- **Valentines Mine** includes enclosed mine shafts, a stamper battery (which consists of rows of cylinder heads that moved up and down to crush the ore) and other redundant mining equipment. Several mine shafts have been fenced off to ensure visitor safety. Interpretation and visitor orientation need to be improved.



Photo 5 Ruins of quartz processing building, Quartz Roasting Pits. John Spencer/DPE

Moveable heritage

Hill End's collection of moveable heritage forms an important component of the physical evidence of the village's history as one of the earliest goldmining towns built during Australia's first gold rush. The collection includes a large number and variety of mid-19th century items ranging from original home furnishings and domestic paraphernalia, to tools, stamper batteries and other mining equipment.

Perhaps the most significant moveable heritage associated with Hill End is the Holtermann Photographic Collection, held off-site and managed by the State Library of New South Wales. This collection consists of 3500 well-preserved glass plate negatives which depict highly detailed scenes of life and people in Hill End and other goldfields between 1872 and 1876, as well as Sydney Harbour and other sites. The collection is described as the most important photographic documentation of life in the goldfields and was included on the UNESCO Australian Memory of the World register in May 2013.

Hill End's moveable heritage collection is housed at several venues around the historic site. NPWS is in the process of establishing a web-based inventory which is readily accessible to a range of users. This will become increasingly important as the collection of objects is likely to expand if archaeological investigation of key sites is undertaken.

The Hill End master plan implementation strategy includes a project to develop a comprehensive moveable heritage plan to address the researching, cataloguing and secure housing of this important heritage asset. This plan would also promote exhibition and publications to make the collection more accessible to the public.



Photo 6 The site of Tambaroora township. M Billington/DPE

Archaeological heritage

Hill End as a whole represents an area of outstanding archaeological sensitivity. An archaeological zoning plan identified the core precinct around Clarke and Church streets as high sensitivity, this being the oldest section of Hill End dating from 1859. Moderate sensitivity is beyond this area to the east, which is associated with the later expansion of the town from 1871. Low sensitivity areas are further to the east and north as well as in areas of past mining disturbance.

The archaeological landscape management plan is dated (prepared in 2002) and should be revisited and expanded to include other areas which were not originally assessed. Some areas also need to be reviewed for the accuracy of their zoning boundary.



Photo 7 Archway at Golden Gully. M Billington/DPE

3. Providing for residents and visitors

Visitation to Hill End has fluctuated and exact visitor numbers are difficult to determine as there are multiple access points to the site. Combined data from traffic counters and the campgrounds indicates there were approximately 112,000 visitors in 2018. Visitors are attracted to Hill End by its goldmining history, historic heritage dating from the mid-19th century, art and family history.

Two of the larger visitor groups are people seeking information about their genealogy and fossickers. The Hill End Family History and the Hill End and Tambaroora Gathering Groups have had a long association with Hill End over many decades and are responsible for publishing a considerable body of research into various aspects and characters of its fascinating history. Although fossicking is not permitted within the historic site, fossickers are drawn to Hill End for the fossicking opportunities available in the surrounding Hill End and Tambaroora Common and wider region.

The site is ideal for self-guided visitors who wander at will around the village and drive the short distance to outlying mining sites after accessing information from the Heritage Centre, the NPWS website and/or the NPWS Site Office in Beyers Avenue. The site has a few hard-roofed accommodation options and two well-equipped campgrounds for visitors. A range of interpretive experiences are offered in the site, including private tours, onsite interpretation and occasional events.

NPWS is working to consolidate and improve cultural tourism opportunities consistent with the master plan for Hill End, which will ensure that Hill End's state significant heritage values are protected into the future and the economic and social prospects of the village improved. Retaining the character of Hill End's significant built environment and surrounding landscape is integral to the strategy for visitation, and critical to the amenity of local residents who live in the historic site.

NPWS is working with the local community, commercial operators and regional organisations to grow visitation in alignment with regional objectives and to see a viable return on investment for both the agency and private business operators. NPWS has completed a tourism market assessment, choice modelling and other tools to help identify the best means of developing and promoting Hill End's unique offering. A business plan is being developed which will direct sustainable tourism and business opportunities in Hill End into the future.

NPWS is continuing its program of conserving and adaptively reusing heritage buildings in order to provide a strong foundation for cultural tourism. NPWS has also developed the village centre precinct around the intersection of Beyers Avenue and Clarke Street to create a central hub for visitors and a sense of arrival. This included opening a new Heritage Centre in the restored 1950s Old Rural Fire Service (RFS) Shed, providing an outdoor gathering and dining space at the General Store, and relocating the NPWS office to the newly refurbished former Country Women's Association (CWA) Building.

Other options being explored for growing cultural tourism include:

- augmenting visitor accommodation
- developing 'authentic cottage hotel'
- providing greater choice in food and dining venues
- adaptively reusing the former Sacred Heart Catholic Church as a cultural arts centre
- addressing technology issues to allow improved use of digital devices
- developing themed walking trails around the village
- encouraging partnerships with entrepreneurs and private operators

- implementing the interpretation plan, including consideration of a new interpretation precincts.



Photo 8 Entry road to Glendora Campground, Hill End. M Billington/DPE

Pets are generally not allowed in NPWS-managed parks other than assistance animals under the *Companion Animals Act 1998*. However, in view of Hill End Historic Site being part of a living village, NPWS permits lessees to keep pet dogs at site premises, provided lessees comply with lease conditions.

NPWS also acknowledges that some visitors who make an overnight stop or stay for a few days at Hill End would like to be able to bring their pet dog when staying in the campgrounds and visiting the site's attractions. This plan allows pet dogs to be brought into the site for short-term stays, provided their owners meet certain requirements as set out in the park use regulations (see Section 8, Table 3).

In the event that compliance by dog owners in the campgrounds is lacking, or the presence of pet dogs in the campgrounds is found to be unacceptable, visitors' pet dogs may be excluded from Hill End.

No cats may be kept by lessees or temporarily brought into the site.

The park use and regulations tables in Section 8 set out the recreational and commercial activities that are permitted in the park and any requirements to undertake these activities.

4. NPWS infrastructure and services

In addition to managing site values, NPWS provides drinking water and wastewater services to some of the residential population of Hill End, and the 60 properties it manages in the historic site. This is not a usual role for NPWS but was originally seen as a NPWS responsibility in the years following reservation of the historic site.

NPWS manages a drinking water system for Hill End in accordance with the requirements of the NSW *Public Health Act 2010*. Until recently, drinking water was obtained from two licensed groundwater bores and transferred to storage reservoirs for secondary treatment. Due to critically decreasing groundwater levels in the summer of 2019, the supply was expanded to enable connection to a network of three bores, and voluntary water restrictions were introduced to lessen pressure on the supply. NPWS is pursuing measures aimed at avoiding exhaustion of the aquifer to ensure an adequate supply into the future.

NPWS also provides a centralised, reticulated sewerage system which it manages in accordance with Environment Protection Authority (EPA) requirements under the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997*. An assessment of the system in 2015 found it to be sufficient for current demands.

Septic tank waste is pumped to the sewage treatment plant at Kittys Flat. The only access to the plant is partly through the Hill End and Tambaroora Common. NPWS will review tenure and access arrangements in consultation with the relevant Crown land management agency to ensure secure access for sewerage management in the longer term.



Photo 9 NPWS Heritage Centre. M Billington/DPE

As at 2020, 53 properties were connected to the sewerage system. This includes 17 privately owned properties that are not reserved as part of the historic site, and there are still additional privately owned properties in Hill End village which have septic systems not connected to the sewerage system. Those that are upgradient (uphill) of the groundwater bores which supply drinking water pose a risk to the village's water supply.

Maintaining the utilities at Hill End involves several challenges, including some very old infrastructure, the presence of significant heritage assets, and fragmented ownership. The short distances between sewage disposal and drinking water bores present risks of contamination and emphasises the need for having preventative measures in place.

The provision of drinking water and wastewater services is outside the regular business of the agency but NPWS recognises the importance of these essential services. Following a review of current facilities and their effectiveness, NPWS is enacting a series of strategic improvements. To date, residents have received sewerage and water services at rates well below those levied by local government and other providers in the surrounding region. NPWS is no longer able to provide these services under the current arrangements and is reviewing its servicing commitments with a view to achieving more sustainable water usage and partial cost recovery. This will mean the introduction of more contemporary usage charges to align with regional benchmarks and to ensure that NPWS can continue to provide these services.

Some access tracks to dispersed parts of the historic site, for example, at Valentines Mine and Golden Gully, are on land which is not owned by NPWS. A reserve access strategy has been prepared to address tenure issues such as these with the relevant Crown land management agency and/or other landowners as appropriate.

Visitor facilities managed by NPWS include the Heritage Centre, two campgrounds and walking tracks. By nature of Hill End's history and distance from other townships, NPWS also maintains various buildings for community facilities for the wellbeing of local residents and visitors including: the Post Office, General Store, Royal Hall, community health clinic, Bill Lyle Reserve Picnic Area, and the cricket oval.

Other NPWS-managed infrastructure is limited to the NPWS Site Office, works depot and an archive shed.

5. Non-NPWS infrastructure and services

Most of the roads in the historic site are public roads owned and maintained by Bathurst Regional Council. The council also has responsibility for protecting and maintaining significant heritage values that occur in the road reserves, such as historic tree plantings and sections of original stone kerb and guttering.

Some roads on the outskirts of Hill End village are Crown roads, including the road accessing the sewerage treatment plant at Kittys Flat, Germantown Lane, part of Reef Street and the northern end of High Street.

Other non-NPWS infrastructure includes powerlines, above-ground and below-ground telecommunications, and the Hill End Volunteer Fire Brigade shed.

6. Protecting the natural environment

Hill End's natural environment was extensively and dramatically modified by the gold rush and what remains today is a cultural landscape almost completely unrepresentative of its natural history. Not only did wholesale clearing of vegetation take place but massive disturbance of topography, natural drainage and the soil matrix itself.

NPWS management of the historic site recognises that the contemporary landscape is highly significant for its rich cultural history but less notable for biodiversity values.

Hill End's geology can be traced back 400–500 million years ago to the Ordovician, Silurian and Devonian periods when the narrow belt of gold-bearing quartz was formed, running south from Tambaroora to Hawkins Hill, which ultimately gave rise to the gold rush. Centuries of weathering have produced sandy loam soils over clay subsoil.

Throughout the local area, gold prospecting activities and soil erosion have resulted in the downslope movement of sandy loam topsoil and much of the subsoil layers. Former mining sites are often defined by sparse areas of regenerating bushland and areas of eroded soil. The impact of these processes is highly visible in some areas, for example Golden Gully, and creates challenges for erosion control, nutrient and salinity management.

Vegetation at Hill End is a mix of introduced species and severely modified remnants of native woodland communities, limited in species composition and reduced to stunted, coppiced canopy trees. Exotic plantings such as gardens, orchards and street trees are recognised as important cultural landscape elements, complementing built heritage and the broader cultural setting. These plantings were initiated during Hill End's heyday and add to our understanding of life in the goldmining town.

One of the most striking of the exotic plantings is the row of landmark trees along Beyers Avenue, which marks an entrance to the historic site. This avenue of trees was initiated in 1877 by Louis Beyers who was a Polish miner involved in the famous Holtermann Nugget discovery, and who later became the mayor of Hill End. The trees include English elm, London plane tree and English oak.

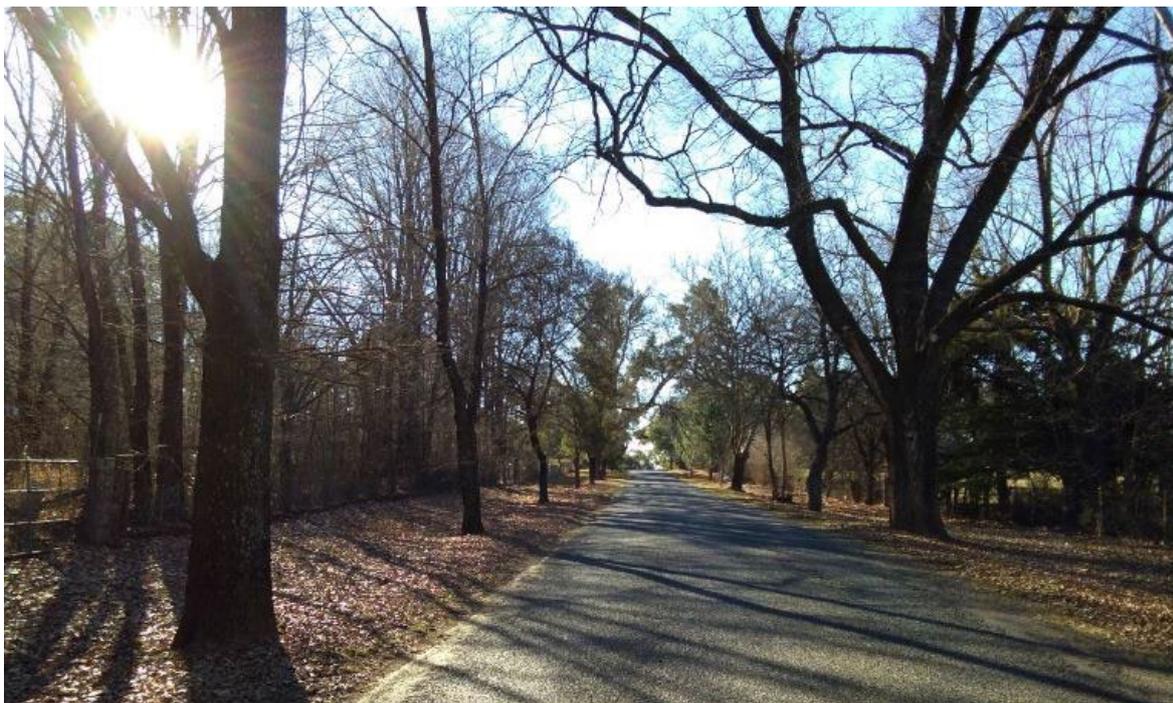


Photo 10 Historic plantings along Beyers Avenue, Hill End. M Billington/DPE

A landscape management plan forms the third volume of the master plan for Hill End. It includes guidance for managing all vegetation values of the historic site, including native vegetation, introduced plant species, visual values and the cultural landscape as a whole. The landscape management plan proposes that, where possible, the cottage gardens, orchards and significant street trees should be retained and interpreted alongside the heritage buildings and structures.

Some of the introduced species in the historic site are pest plant species that need to be actively managed, mostly along previously mined creek lines, creek batters, pit heads and around the sites of former mining equipment. The NPWS regional pest management strategy identifies pest species and priority programs for the site consistent with the *Central Tablelands Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan 2017–2022* prepared by Central Tablelands Local Land Services. The main species of concern at Hill End are St John's wort, serrated tussock, Paterson's curse, radiata pine wildings and exotic grasses. St John's wort and serrated tussock are identified as regional priority weeds.

Despite the paucity of intact native habitat, the historic site supports a varied suite of native fauna including 55 bird species, 10 mammal species (of which seven are bats), and 15 reptile species. Five threatened animal species listed under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* have been recorded, however, some of these records are old and the species are unlikely to be present now.

With increased visitation to Hill End proposed through the development of additional visitor experiences and facilities it is unlikely that the site will become home to increased numbers of native animals.

Open grassed areas around Hill End village are attractive to kangaroos in good seasons. At times, there is potential for kangaroos to become aggressive and a nuisance to residents and visitors at the campgrounds. NPWS will update signage and visitor education to reduce any risks.

A number of introduced pest animal species are having negative environmental and social impacts at Hill End. These include feral fallow deer, feral goats and foxes. The NPWS Blue Mountains Branch draft pest management strategy identifies pest species and priority programs for Hill End Historic Site consistent with the *Central Tablelands Regional Strategic Pest Animal Management Plan 2018–2023* prepared by Central Tablelands Local Land Services.

Isolated populations of these species occupy habitat in the surrounding Hill End and Tambaroora Common. Deer and goats are a regular presence in Hill End village and make a nuisance of themselves by foraging on garden plants and fruit trees. From time to time feral pigs are also observed in the village.

NPWS acknowledges that pest control activities in the vicinity of Hill End village must be carefully planned in order to maintain safety for Hill End residents and visitors and will continue to work with the Common Trust and the relevant Crown land management agency to reduce the adverse impacts of vertebrate pests.

A fire management strategy which defines the fire management approach for the historic site has been prepared by NPWS and supports the RFS Chifley Bushfire Management Risk Management Plan. The strategy is updated periodically.

In Hill End village, the risk of fire damaging state heritage buildings and structures is the key threat. In keeping with its statutory role NPWS does not respond to structural fires in Hill End; they are attended by the Hill End Volunteer Bushfire Brigade. In keeping with the management principles of historic sites and the heritage significance of Hill End, the key focus of the strategy is on protecting built heritage rather than ecological assets.

As a result of the changing climate, the site is expected to experience increases in temperature, the number and frequency of heatwaves and the severity of fire weather. A

generally hotter and drier climate will exacerbate the effects of aging for Hill End's standing shared heritage structures, especially timber components and cultural plantings of exotic species, some of which are already about 160 years old. Climate change is also likely to place further pressure on the groundwater system which supplies drinking water to the site.

7. Scheme of operations

The scheme of operations in Table 2 is consistent with section 72AA of the National Parks and Wildlife Act. It details the desired outcomes for the historic site's values and actions that NPWS proposes to undertake to achieve these outcomes.

A management priority has been assigned to each action to guide the allocation of resources.

- **Very high** – Loss or significant decline in the condition of the value is likely if action is not taken or significant improvement in the condition of the value is likely if action is taken.
- **High** – Decline in the condition of the value is likely if action is not taken or improvement in the condition of the value is likely if action is taken.
- **Medium** – Some decline in the condition of the value is possible if action is not taken or some improvement in the condition of the value is possible if action is taken.
- **Low** – While decline in the condition of the value is not likely in the short term, the action would help build the long-term resilience of the park value.

NPWS performance in meeting the desired outcomes in the scheme of operations will be measured through periodic assessments. Performance in delivering the actions in the scheme of operations will be measured through regular audits of plans of management.

The scheme of operations sets strategic goals that may include the development and delivery of subsidiary plans. Subsidiary plans enable adaptive responses to new information or changed circumstances, such as for pests, weeds, fire, heritage values and recreational activities, as required by NPWS policy. Assessments of performance and review will be used to inform adaptive management in these subsidiary plans as well as any required adjustments and improvements to future plans of management for the park.

The implementation of actions set out below may be subject to statutory responsibilities under the National Parks and Wildlife Act and other relevant state and Commonwealth legislation, including environmental impact assessments and approvals. Further community consultation on the proposed actions may be undertaken as part of these processes.

Information on popular recreational or commercial activities that are permitted in the park is provided in the park use regulations tables in Section 8. More detailed information on other activities is available on the NPWS website.

Table 2 Scheme of operations

Desired outcome	Actions	Priority
1. An integrated master planning approach is applied to safeguard the significant heritage and other values of the historic site while allowing for reinvigoration and new opportunities.	a. Apply the policies of the <i>Conservation Management and Cultural Tourism Master Plan for Hill End Historic Site</i> (as detailed in Chapter 7 of volume 2, the conservation management plan) to all planning, programs and works for the site, and work with relevant external stakeholders to do the same.	High
	b. Revise the Hill End Historic Site Conservation Management and Cultural Tourism Master Plan Implementation Strategy (the master plan implementation strategy) at least every 5 years.	High
2. Hill End supports a stable residential community which is involved in the management of the historic site where relevant.	a. Consider the needs of the residents of Hill End village at all levels of planning for the historic site and provide regular opportunities for community input, through a variety of mechanisms.	High
	b. Collaborate with the Hill End and Tambaroora Common Trust to manage the interface of the site and the common.	Low
	c. Support community-driven events, which promote appreciation of site values and their conservation.	Medium
	d. Provide leased premises if required to support community services such as a postal service, health clinic, general store and the like.	High
Looking after our culture and heritage		
3. Aboriginal cultural heritage in the site is protected and celebrated in consultation with the Aboriginal community.	a. Consult and engage with the Wiradjuri Aboriginal community, including Orange and Bathurst local Aboriginal land councils and other relevant groups, regarding involvement by the community in protecting and interpreting Aboriginal cultural heritage.	Low
	b. Include information about Aboriginal cultural heritage and Aboriginal history in interpretation material for the site.	Medium
	c. Support members of the Aboriginal community in renewing or maintaining connection with Country, for example, through cultural surveys, interpretation of cultural heritage, development of tourism experiences and/or other activities.	High
4. Built heritage items are conserved, managed and maintained in accordance with their assessed level of heritage significance.	a. Undertake planning, restoration works, maintenance and adaptive reuse in accordance with the priorities identified in the Hill End master plan implementation strategy and the Hill End business plan (refer 11a).	High

Desired outcome	Actions	Priority
	b. Manage state-listed heritage items in accordance with a conservation management strategy until item-specific conservation management plans have been adopted.	Low
	c. Contingent on funding, prepare conservation management plans for individual state-listed heritage items for endorsement by the Heritage Council.	High
	d. Seek a review of the listing in the State Heritage Register for Hill End Historic Site as recommended in the Hill End Master Plan.	Low
5. Outlying historic mining landscapes and other former mined areas within the site are conserved and managed in accordance with their assessed level of heritage significance.	a. Monitor erosion at former mining sites, particularly Golden Gully, and undertake safety works as necessary to allow for safe access by staff and visitors.	Very high
	b. Work with the relevant Crown land management agency and the Heritage NSW to educate visitors and address compliance issues for managing the Tambaroora section of the site.	Low
	c. Support the relevant Crown land management agency to make visible the footprint of the former town of Tambaroora.	Low
	d. Work with the relevant regulatory authority to identify and manage open-holed treatments at legacy mines throughout the historic site.	Very high
6. Archaeological values in the site are appropriately investigated and considered in site management.	a. Review and expand the Hill End Historic Site Archaeological Landscape Management Plan (Long & Associates 2002) to include those parts of the historic site with high archaeological potential and/or those areas not fully addressed.	Medium
	b. Encourage universities and other research organisations to partner with NPWS in carrying out archaeological work for the site.	Low
7. Moveable heritage is conserved, managed and interpreted to complement the broader heritage values of the site.	a. Prepare and implement a comprehensive moveable heritage plan which addresses all aspects of moveable heritage management.	High
8. The tradition and history of artistic endeavour are continued in Hill End with support from NPWS where appropriate.	a. Continue to support an artist in residence program in collaboration with relevant stakeholders. Haefligers and Murrays cottages will be made available for this purpose.	High
	b. Include local artists and their work in tourism activities for the site where appropriate.	Low

Desired outcome	Actions	Priority
	c. Make secure premises available for short-term exhibition of work by artists in Hill End, including those participating in an artists in residence program, where the exhibitions meet the objectives of this plan of management.	Low
	d. Support local artists and other relevant stakeholders to develop a cultural arts centre/artists space in Hill End village.	Low
9. Heritage properties of state heritage significance or which otherwise have the potential to enhance operational management are added to the historic site.	a. Identify and review lands which have been acquired but not yet reserved and add them to the historic site where suitable.	High
	b. Consider the results of archaeological investigations at Tambaroora to identify properties which could be acquired and added to the historic site in consultation with the relevant Crown land management agency.	Low
	c. Consider opportunities for acquiring land within or adjoining Hill End village and in Tambaroora that is offered on a voluntary basis where it meets NPWS criteria for adding to the historic heritage values of the historic site.	Medium
	d. Undertake a boundary survey for suspected or known boundary encroachments to determine the correct boundary and assign costs to the relevant landowner.	Low
	e. Where a suspected or known boundary encroachment involves a state-listed heritage structure, identify and implement an appropriate alternative to removal or demolition where possible.	Medium
10. Restored heritage buildings are available for lease by third parties including residential, commercial and community uses.	a. Provide a range of leases across Hill End that support the living and business environment of Hill End while meeting responsibilities for maintaining state-listed heritage values and maximising occupation of restored heritage buildings.	High
Providing for residents and visitors		
11. Hill End Historic Site provides a strong foundation for a viable visitor destination while preserving the amenity of residents.	a. Develop and implement a business plan for Hill End Historic Site which provides for sustainable business opportunities for the promotion and growth of visitor experiences and other activities that reflect market demand, industry demand and visitor expectations.	Very high
	b. Work with regional tourism stakeholders to facilitate visitor opportunities in Hill End which align with local, regional and broader tourism objectives through the master plan.	High

Desired outcome	Actions	Priority
	c. Continue to collect visitor data and monitor trends in visitation to inform ongoing planning and management of the site.	Medium
	d. Provide a range of accommodation options to meet visitor needs including basic camping, supported camping and hard-roofed accommodation in restored heritage buildings.	High
	e. Subject to funding and demand, plan and develop a third campground at the base of Bald Hill Mine. Other sites may also be considered for a campground in consultation with relevant stakeholders.	Low
	f. Support commercial tour operators, tourism businesses and other relevant stakeholders within and surrounding the historic site to develop a program of visitor activities.	High
	g. Continue to enable residents and other stakeholders to deliver events in NPWS-managed buildings and sites.	Medium
	h. Continue to enable and support arts and cultural events in partnership with relevant stakeholders to celebrate the arts history of Hill End and enhance visitor experiences.	Medium
12. The significant cultural values of the site are interpreted through a range of media for visitors to aid their understanding and enjoyment.	a. Review and implement the Hill End Interpretation Plan and Implementation Strategy including the development of self-guided interpretation using digital device applications.	High
	b. Develop and implement concepts for new interpretation precincts as proposed in the master plan, subject to environmental and cultural assessments, and funding.	Low
	c. Develop themed walking trails, including an art trail around Hill End village, supported by appropriate digital content.	Low
	d. Improve visitor infrastructure and interpretation at Valentines Mine and the Quartz Roasting Pits.	High
13. Pet dogs are allowed in the site in accordance with the requirements of the <i>Companion Animals Act</i> and the requirements in Table 3.	a. Allow pet dogs to be kept by residents of NPWS-owned premises in accordance with a current lease. Cats cannot be kept by residents.	Medium
	b. Allow dogs to be temporarily brought into the site by day and overnight visitors subject to the requirements in Table 3. No cats may be temporarily brought into the site.	Medium
	c. Install signage at the campgrounds and include information on the visitor website to inform visitors about the NPWS rules for pets.	High

Desired outcome	Actions	Priority
NPWS infrastructure and services		
14. Sustainable essential services are provided to NPWS-managed properties in the village of Hill End and other stakeholders as appropriate.	a. Manage and maintain the sewerage system for the village of Hill End in accordance with the EPA licence.	Very high
	b. Work with Bathurst Regional Council to ensure that privately owned properties which present a high risk of contaminating the drinking water supply, or are in other priority locations, are connected to the reticulated sewerage system.	High
	c. Allow additional connections involving new infrastructure to the NPWS-managed sewerage system for non-NPWS properties on a case-by-case basis subject to assessment.	High
	d. Manage and maintain the supply of drinking water to the NPWS-managed properties in the village of Hill End in accordance with the approved Hill End Historic Site Risk-based Drinking Water Management System.	Very high
	e. Apply cost benefit analysis to all requests seeking a connection to the reticulated drinking water system for non-NPWS properties.	High
	f. Encourage water-saving measures for all existing users and new connections to the reticulated drinking water system in the site and implement where feasible.	Very high
	g. Assess and implement strategic system improvements needed to secure future drinking water and sewerage services as per the Long-term Utilities Management Plan.	Very high
	h. Work with the relevant water management agency and other stakeholders to develop a strategy for the security of drinking water into the future. This will include a review of groundwater bores and allocations in Hill End Historic Site and the surrounding area.	High
	i. Develop priorities for providing essential services to new users and implement a contemporary pricing structure for all essential services in consultation with relevant stakeholders.	Very high
15. Temporary staff housing is available as needed subject to NPWS ongoing management requirements.	a. Allow staff and other personnel required to work on NPWS projects to temporarily occupy houses and cottages in the site.	Very high
16. Legal and practical access is provided to all component parts of the historic site.	a. Implement the reserve access strategy to resolve outstanding or nonconforming tenure issues.	Low

Desired outcome	Actions	Priority
	b. Work with the relevant Crown land management agency to address security of access for all sections of the historic site including essential service facilities. This may require minor boundary adjustments or a lease over non-NPWS land.	Very high
Non-NPWS infrastructure and services		
17. Non-NPWS infrastructure has minimal impact on the values of the historic site.	a. Work with Bathurst Regional Council to manage public road verges and maintain an appropriate standard of signposting and public road access to and within the historic site.	Very high
18. NPWS premises are made available for community services in the village subject to availability and ongoing NPWS requirements for site management.	a. Continue to provide premises for the Hill End Volunteer Bushfire Brigade in Moores Lane.	Very high
	b. Participate in decision-making affecting community facilities for Hill End village.	Very high
Protecting the natural environment		
19. Native vegetation and native animal habitat are restored where appropriate while maintaining historic heritage view corridors.	a. Undertake weed control, targeting priority threats such as invasive species and adapting to new information and emerging threats over time in accordance with relevant weed strategies.	High
	b. Implement relevant actions in the <i>Biodiversity Conservation Program</i> and recovery plans for threatened species, populations and ecological communities.	Low
	c. Support targeted surveys to update information about the availability of suitable habitat and presence of threatened plant and animal species.	Low
20. Non-native vegetation is managed and, where appropriate, promoted to interpret and enhance built heritage.	a. Retain, manage and where necessary replant historic non-native plantings in accordance with the landscape management plan.	Medium
	b. Encourage lessees and neighbouring landowners to reinstate and maintain cottage gardens, orchards and significant historic plantings.	Medium
	c. Work with Bathurst Regional Council to monitor and maintain historic street trees along public roads.	High
21. Erosion of former mined areas is controlled where possible while retaining cultural values.	a. Prevent runoff and further erosion of disturbed sites, particularly drainage lines and creeks that were previously mined, using soft engineering methods where possible. Native vegetation may be planted to assist in consolidating the riparian zone.	Medium

Desired outcome	Actions	Priority
22. Pest animals are controlled and where possible eliminated.	a. Implement pest programs in accordance with relevant pest management strategies. Primarily target pest species whose removal will provide the greatest benefit to threatened species, the local community in Hill End village and the protection of cultural heritage values.	Medium
	b. Work with the relevant Crown land management agency and the Hill End and Tambaroora Common Trust to provide regular, effective pest animal monitoring and control in Hill End village in consultation with the local community.	Medium
23. Negative impacts of fire on life, property and the natural environment in and adjoining the historic site are minimised.	a. Implement and update the fire management strategy as required.	High
	b. Participate in strategic fire planning for the region through the Chifley Bush Fire Management Committee.	Very high
	c. Collaborate with RFS and landowners in protecting Hill End and Tambaroora Common and Hill End village.	Very high

8. Park use regulations

Recreational activities

There are many recreational activities that can be undertaken in the historic site without consent from park managers. Other activities can occur if consent is provided by NPWS. All activities that occur in the site are subject to relevant policies and legislation.

Conditions may be applied to ensure an activity is undertaken safely and to minimise environmental risks and risks to other users. Consent may be refused after consideration of the proposed activity and its likely environmental, visitor safety and park management impacts.

Activities may be subject to operating conditions or limits from time to time. For example, access to parts of the site may be closed during periods of bushfire risk, bad weather or maintenance or improvement works.

Activities not shown in Table 3 may also be regulated by signage within the park or by consent.

Information regarding activities that require consent is available on the NSW national parks visitor website or by contacting the relevant NPWS office (contact details at the at the front of this plan).

Table 3 Park use and regulations – Recreational activities

	Type of activity	Allowed	Note/Exceptions
	Walking	Yes	
	Cycling	Yes	On public roads in the site, subject to any requirements of Bathurst Regional Council. No cycling on walking tracks or off-trail.
	Dogs ¹	Yes	Dogs must be leashed and kept under control at all times. Dogs are allowed on public access roads and site walking trails within Hill End village. Dogs may be kept temporarily by visitors in the campgrounds. Dogs may be kept by residents of NPWS-leased residential premises but the dogs must stay outside of the building. A limit on the number of dogs to be allowed by permanent residents may be imposed. Dogs are not allowed in 'authentic cottage hotel' venues and other temporary visitor accommodation.

¹ These requirements relate to dogs that are **not** assistance animals. Assistance animals are allowed in all sections of the park, provided they are kept under effective control at all times with a leash or harness.

Type of activity	Allowed	Note/Exceptions
		<p>Dogs are not allowed within 10 metres of barbecues and picnic tables (except where these coincide with a footpath or walking track), and dogs are not allowed within 10 metres of children’s playgrounds.</p> <p>Dangerous dogs and restricted breed dogs as defined under the Companion Animals Act must be muzzled at all times.</p> <p>Dog owners must clean up after their dogs in the site.</p>
	No	Cats may not be kept by lessees nor temporarily brought into the site.
	Yes	<p>Portable gas and liquid stoves are allowed. Solid fuel fires are prohibited during total fire bans and site-specific solid fuel fire bans.</p> <p>Residues from solid fuel fires must not be deposited in the site.</p>
	Yes	<p>In designated campgrounds. Bush camping is not allowed.</p>
	Yes	<p>Only in fireplaces provided at Village and Glendora campgrounds. Outdoor wood fires are prohibited elsewhere in the site.</p> <p>Wood fires are prohibited during total fire bans and site-specific fire bans.</p> <p>Electric barbecues are provided at Village and Glendora campgrounds, and Bill Lyle Reserve.</p>
 	Yes	<p>Consent is required for exclusive use by large groups as per Table 4, for example, in NPWS-managed premises to ensure the residential amenity of the Hill End community is not adversely affected, and so that limited available space can be sustainably managed.</p>
 	Yes	<p>Consent is required for use of drones in the site in accordance with the NPWS <i>Drones in Parks Policy</i> (see website).</p> <p>Drones may be used for site management purposes and may be authorised as part of a commercial filming consent.</p> <p>This plan does not regulate aeroplanes or drones launched from outside the site that may be within the airspace above the site. In these circumstances, the use of such devices is subject to relevant civil aviation regulations.</p>

	Type of activity	Allowed	Note/Exceptions
	Horse riding	No	Not permitted due to the small size of the site and the potential for impact on archaeological values.
	Climbing and abseiling	No	Not permitted in derelict mines or any other locations in the site due to the safety risks and the potential to damage heritage values.
	Off-road driving / four-wheel driving/trail bike riding	No	Not permitted due to risks to conservation values and potential risks to other site users.
			
	Fossicking	No	Not permitted on land managed by NPWS due to the likelihood of damaging archaeological values. Some Crown land is available for fossicking at Tambaroora.

Events, functions and commercial activities

Organised group activities at Hill End Historic Site may require consent under the National Parks and Wildlife Regulation. All activities must be consistent with the management principles for historic sites and be compatible with the natural and cultural heritage values of Hill End Historic Site. Applications will be assessed in accordance with NPWS policy.

The Regulation requires consent for:

- public events such as concerts, public meetings, functions, demonstrations, group activities or gatherings involving more than 40 persons
- sporting activities that form part of an organised competition or tournament
- photography or filming for commercial use.

All activities of a commercial nature require licensing under the Regulation. Under NPWS policy, commercial operators may be required to support understanding of cultural heritage conservation and management, dependent on the nature of the business.

Table 4 lists some common group activities that may be permitted in the site with consent, lease or licence from NPWS. It is not a definitive or exhaustive list of permitted commercial or other activities. Information on relevant policies, required approvals and fees is available on the Department of Planning and Environment and NPWS websites:

- Commercial recreation and tour operators – Parks Eco Pass
- Events, functions and venues policy
- Host a special event.

The Royal Hall and Sacred Heart Catholic Church are used regularly by the community of Hill End and are also available for hire for public events. All requests for use of these indoor venues will be assessed by NPWS having regard to the nature of the event and consideration of the needs of the local community.

Approval to use supporting equipment, such as marquees, amplified sound or drones, will be determined on a case-by-case basis subject to an assessment of potential impacts on the

Hill End community, historic site values and other site users. Use of any supporting equipment will be subject to consent conditions.

Table 4 Events, functions and commercial activities

Type of activity	Group size	Type of approval
Events open to public participation (e.g. festival, fun run)	All groups irrespective of size	Consent or licence
Non-commercial, organised, community or club-based activities	All groups irrespective of size	Consent
Wedding ceremonies	All groups irrespective of size	Consent
All other private functions involving groups of more than 40 people	All groups of 40 or more	Consent
Commercial activities including tours, filming and photography	All groups irrespective of size	Licence or lease

9. More information

- Commercial recreation and tour operators – Parks Eco Pass
- Events, functions and venues policy
- Hill End Historic Site Planning Considerations
- Host a special event.
- National Parks and Wildlife Service