

Exploring archaeological methods in the Western Volcanic Plains - Greigs Road, Rockbank VIC

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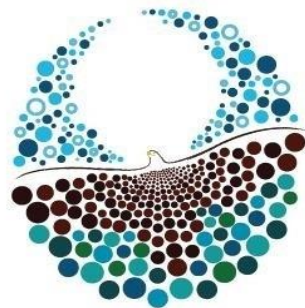
William Truscott





Wurundjeri

Land and Compensation
Cultural Heritage Council
Aboriginal Corporation

The logo for Bunurong Land Council features the text "Bunurong" in black and "Land Council" in red. To the right of the text is a yellow circle containing a black silhouette of an eagle in flight.

Boon Wurrung Foundation

Outline

1. Introduction
2. Previous approaches
3. CHMP picture
4. Explore methodologies
5. Salvage picture
6. Moving forward



Study area

- 870 hectares
- Mt Atkinson
- Proposed residential development
- Previous VAHR



CHMP 13712

- Cultural heritage sensitivity
 - Within 200 metres of a waterway (Skeleton Creek)
 - Within 50 metres of a previously recorded place
- Residential subdivision
- Mandatory CHMP



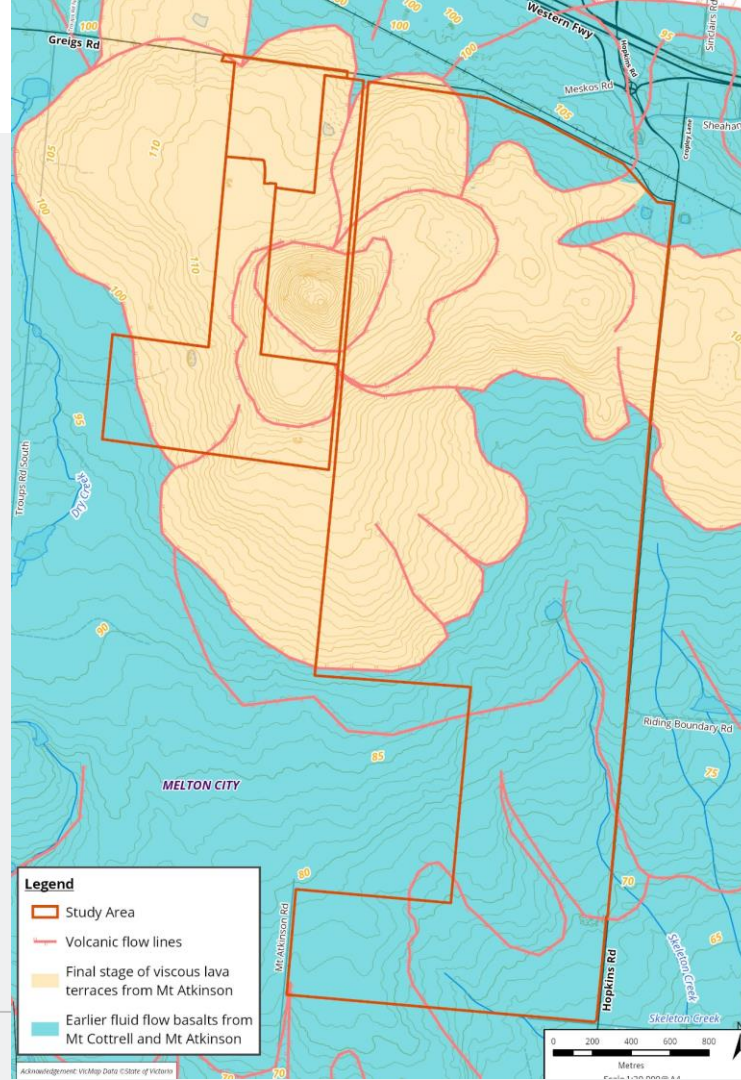
Western Volcanic Plains

- Volcanic activity approximately 10 million to 5,000 years ago
- Lava infilled valleys and watercourses
- Basalt flows can be mapped using magnetics and chemical signatures
- Drainage has incised through basalt over millennia



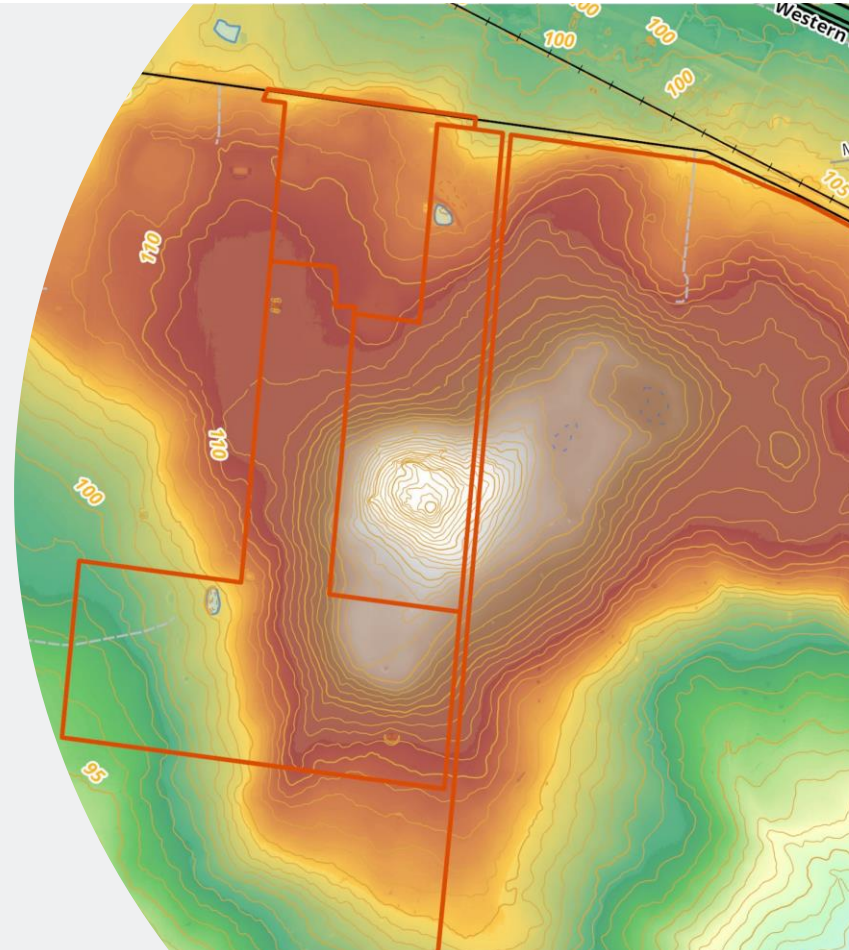
Geomorphology

- North, dominated by eruption point (Mount Atkinson)
- Lava formed lobes with plateaus & steep slopes
- South, plains from earlier basalt flows (Mount Cottrell)



Landform features

- Weathered reddish ropy and vesicular basalt
- Water run off from terraces, minor ephemeral drainage
- Natural weathered hollows accumulate water
- Ferrosols, sodosols



Land use

- Grazed since 1840s
- Cropped, north
- Orchard, north
- Rock removal



Previous approaches



Previous approaches

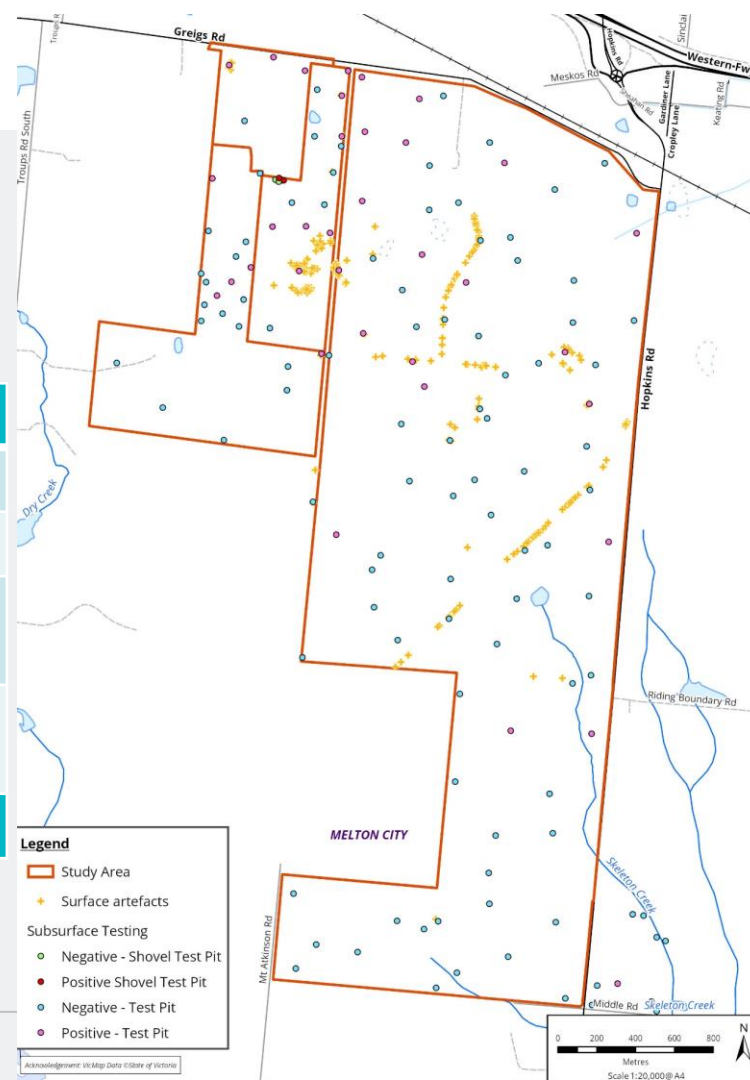


Previous approaches



CHMP

	Surface	Subsurface	Total
Franklin A CHMP	8	10	18
Franklin B CHMP	1	7	8
Mt Atkinson A CHMP	310	220	530
Mt Atkinson B CHMP	991	166	1157
Total	1310	403	1713





Plains – CHMP results



Plains - explore methodologies

Before



Post plough



Plains - explore methodologies

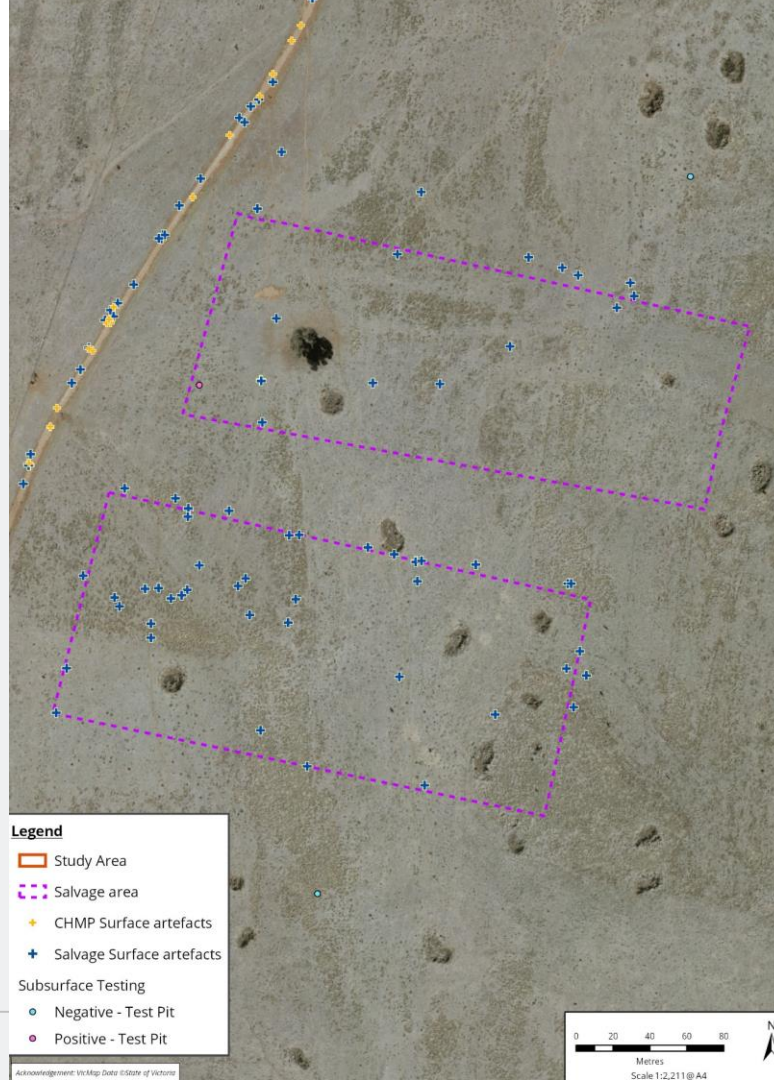
Fire break



Post burn



Plains – salvage results



Plains - comparison

CHMP = 0 artefact m²

Plough area = 1 artefact 3060 m²

Burn area = 1 artefact 937 m²



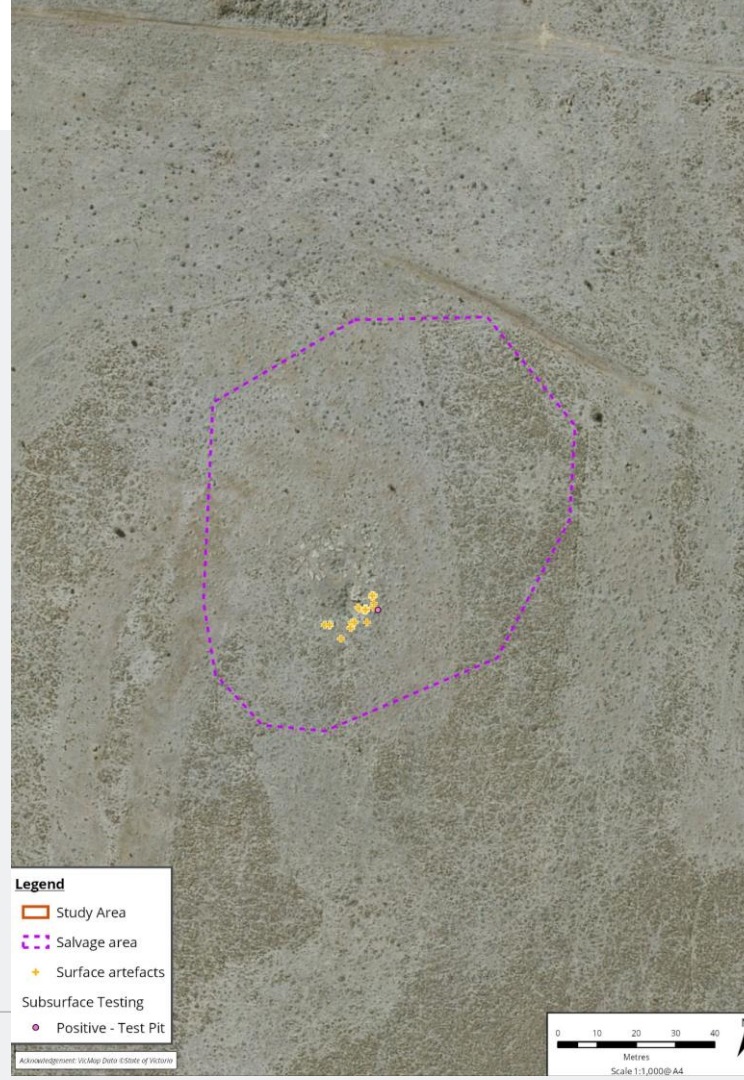
Plains - conclusions

- Reflection of 'background' scatter
- Densities not conducive to SST
- Burn = superior





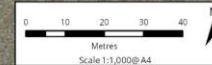
Stony rise – CHMP results



Legend

-  Study Area
-  Salvage area
-  Surface artefacts
- Subsurface Testing
-  Positive - Test Pit

Acknowledgment: W-Map Data ©State of Victoria



Stony rise - explore methodologies

Before



Post burn

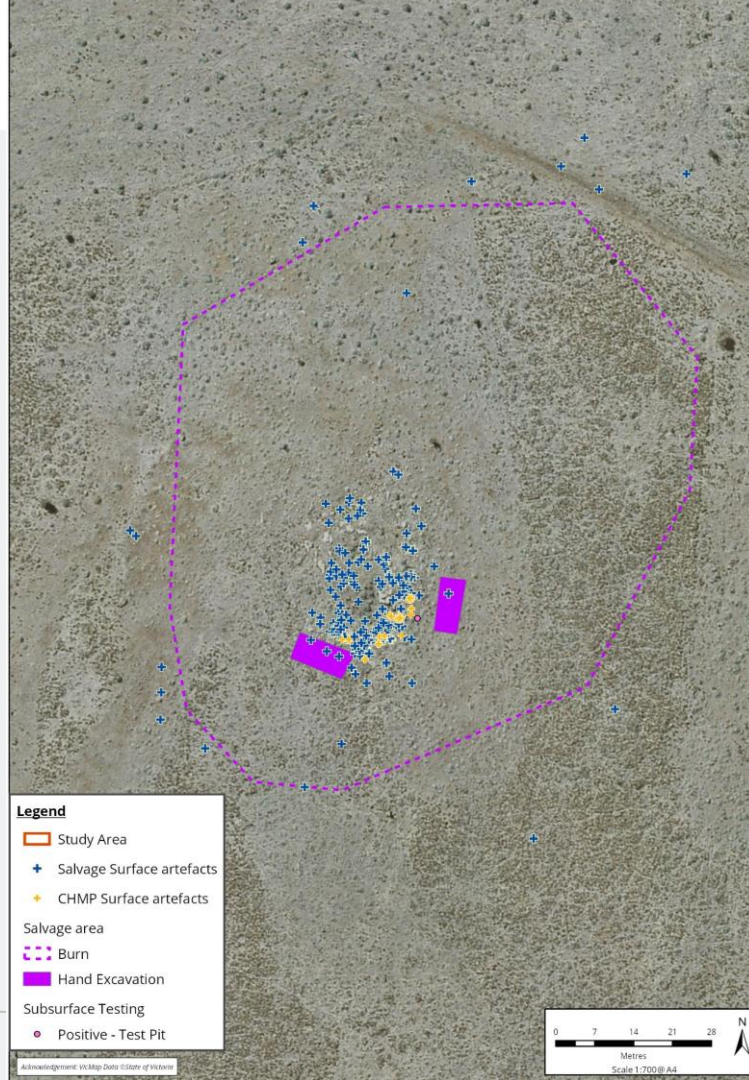


Stony rise - explore methodologies

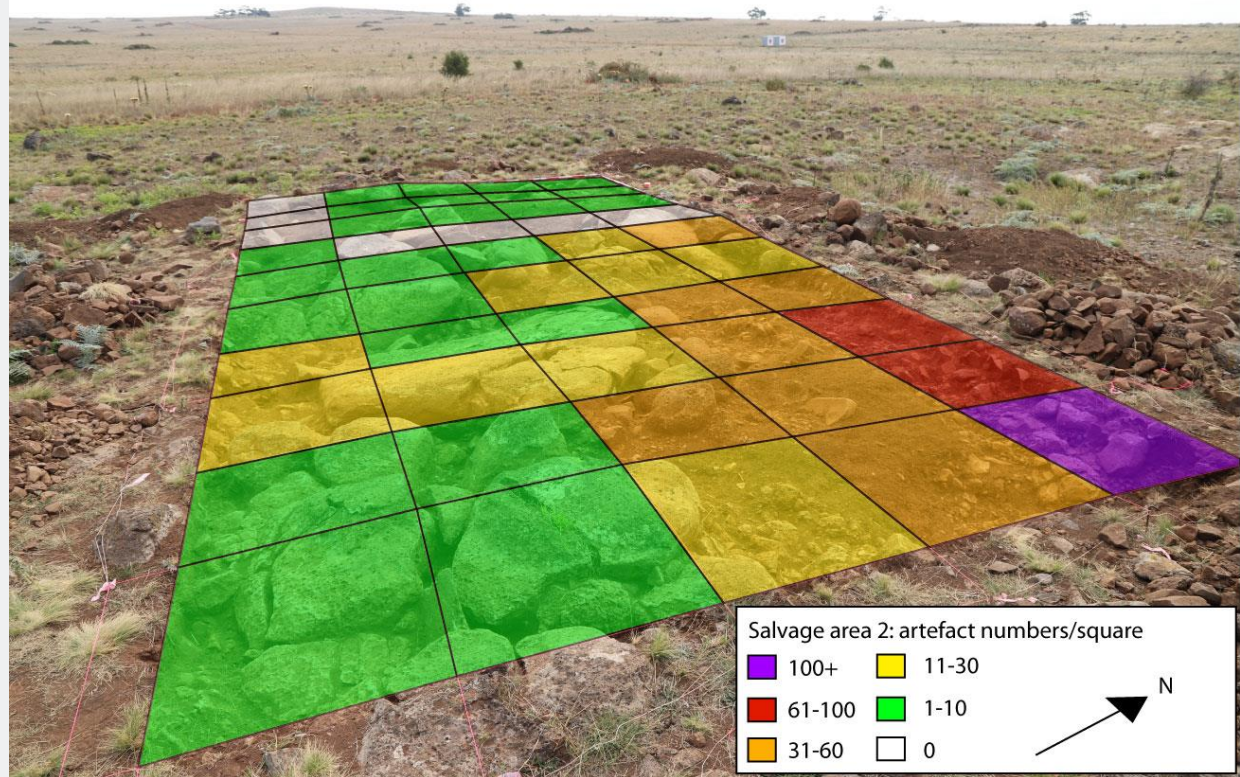
Hand excavation



Stony rise – salvage results



Stony rise – salvage results



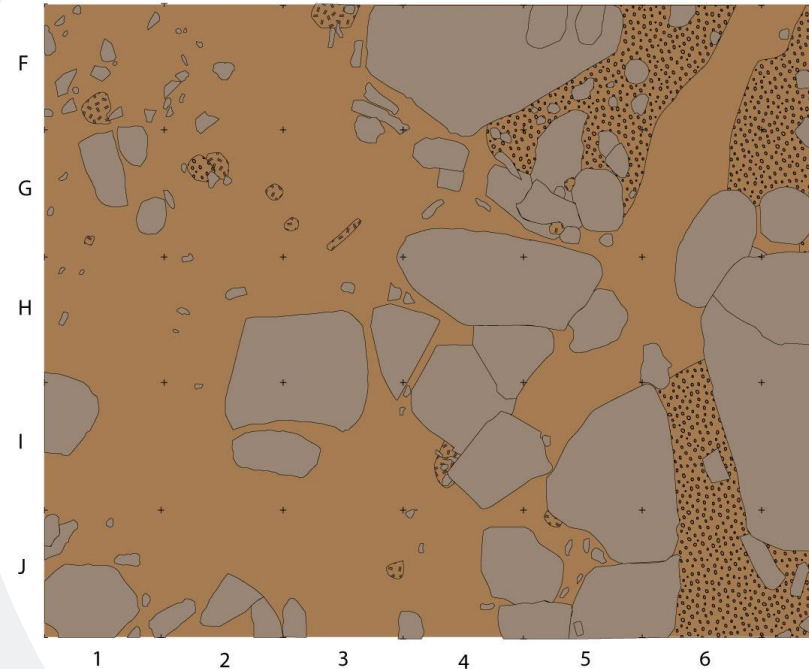
Stony rise - comparison

CHMP = 1 artefact 87 m²

Burn area = 1 artefact 26 m²

Hand excavation area = 1 artefact 4m²

25930 - Mt Atkinson Salvage
Plan view of trench rows F-J
9/3/2018

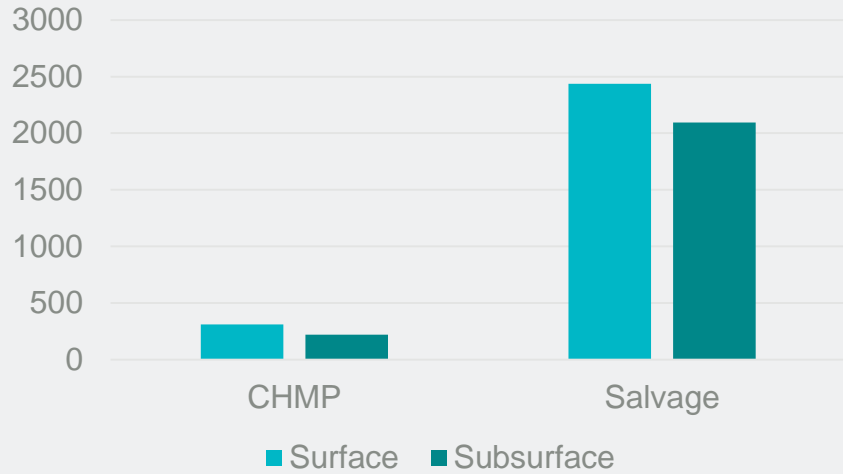


Stony rise - conclusion

- Occupation deposit
- Densities provide for interpretation
- Hand excavation = superior



CHMP & Salvage - comparison



Moving forward

- Landform approach, investigation & registration
- Employ different methodologies earlier
- Understand research questions
- Assemblages that allow interpretation

