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# 1 NATURAL HERITAGE GUIDELINE

This guideline provides additional information on managing natural heritage items in association with designing a development proposal and assessing development applications.

## 1.1 NATURAL HERITAGE ITEMS

The following relate to the various types of land on which Insect Fossils and Geology of Scientific Interest may be found and expected responses:

### **Public land (land owned by Office of Environment and Heritage, Crown Lands or Council)**

Land is to be maintained as bushland and managed so as to prevent destruction of insect fossil beds and is generally zoned environmental to reflect the natural heritage that exists on the land.

### **Privately owned Large Rural/Residential Lots**

Rural use of the land surface could continue however, intensification of land use over the fossil seam should be avoided eg. no permanent structures, roads etc.

If excavation cannot be avoided then access to the excavated material for scientific purposes should be provided. Development should reflect the natural heritage that is present on these lots.

### **Residential Land**

Residential use can continue, however if any excavation is proposed, any material excavated from the fossil beds shall be provided to palaeontologists from the Australian Museum.

Restriction to the building or siting of structures is not sought but access to the site during the excavation and the construction phase and permission to remove material is required from the landowner. This may be done as a condition of approval.

### **Roads and other excavation**

Access to any material excavated from the fossil beds should be provided to palaeontologists from the Australian Museum.

### **Other land**

Feasible intensification of development over the insect fossils should be avoided.

Destruction and pilfering of the fossil beds should be avoided. This is best done by leaving native vegetation cover.

The insect fossil beds should be retained in a state that allows access for future scientific research

Where it is not possible to retain the insect fossil seam and excavation is to occur, the Australian Museum should be notified and access provided to the excavated material.

### **Specific Sites**

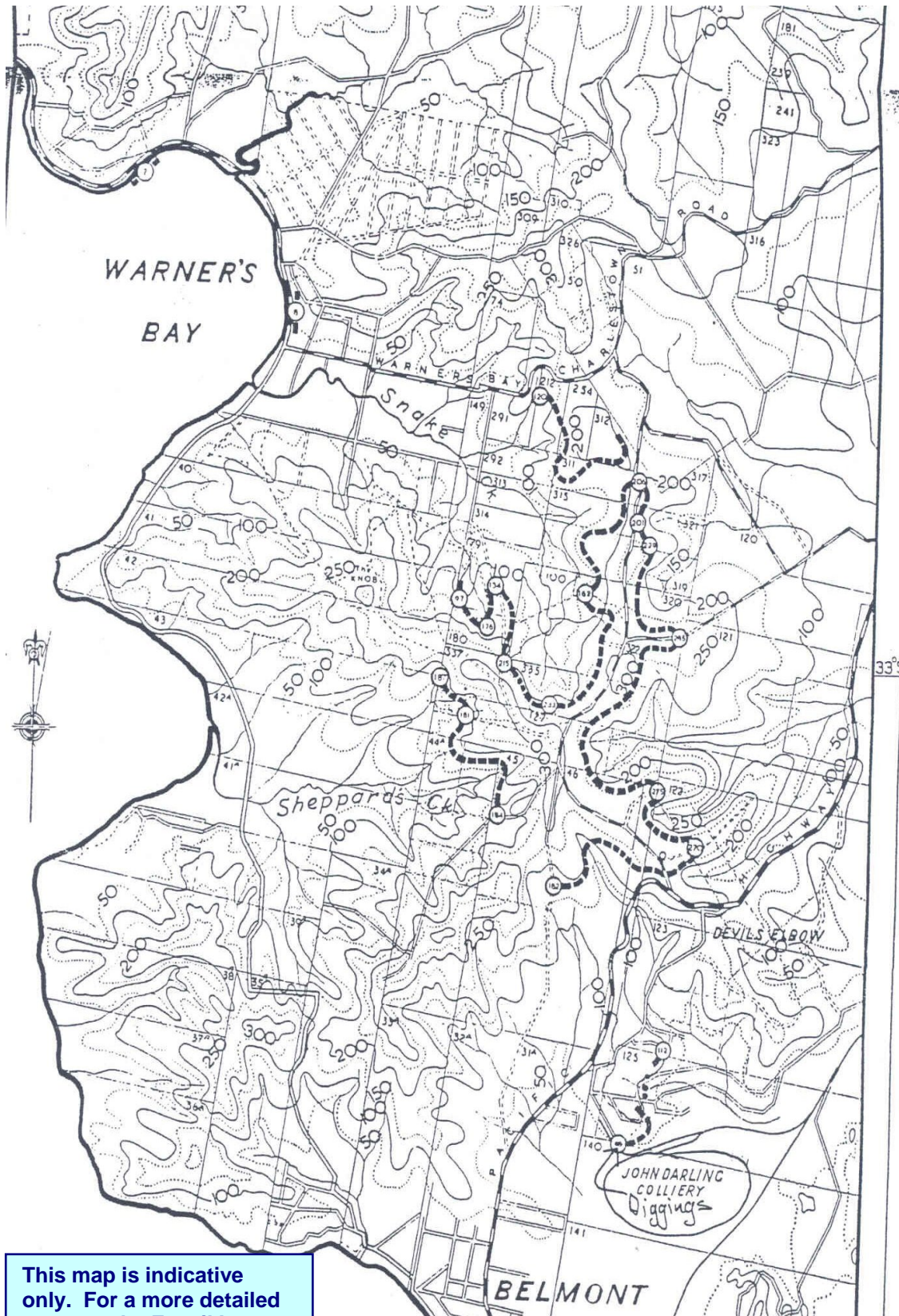
The land in the road verge adjacent to North Belmont Primary School is believed to be the location of Mitchell's discovery of the first ancestral butterfly wings. At this location destruction by road works or footpath construction should be avoided. Footpaths should be designed for easy removal eg. post and board.

Palaeontologists from the Australian Museum should be consulted as part of any development at these sites.

Research is continuing into geological features and insect fossils and may be considered as part of development assessment.

### **Note –**

Prior to development refer to the Insect Fossil Map held by Council. See Figure 1 - Indicative Fossil Insect Map on following page.



**This map is indicative only. For a more detailed map see the Fossil Insect Map held at Council.**

Figure 1 - Indicative Fossil Insect Map

### 1.2 HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR NATURAL HERITAGE ITEMS

Where a Heritage Impact Assessment is required for items of natural heritage significance, it is to be completed by a geologist or palaeontologist with the appropriate skills to assess the item. The HIA must establish the significance of the site and must include management strategies if the site were developed.