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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

The 'Friends of North Bruny Island' are currently seeking statutory approval to lay down a historic coastal trail around Kelly's Point, the very northernmost promontory on that island. More specifically this community based project would see the connection of a number of historic sites by a walking track that included a number of interpretive signs providing information on the history and contents of the sites. This project has been notionally approved and provided with grant money supervised by the Tasmanian National Parks & Wildlife Service. One of the conditions of the approval requires the engagement of a qualified archaeologist to undertake a survey based assessment of the resident historic sites or features and make recommendations regarding the nature and extent of their incorporation into the proposed walking trail. This report summarises the results of the archaeological survey and seeks to satisfy the relevant statutory requirement.

1.2 Location and extent of survey area

The 4-500mm long walkway/trail will traverse the very northern tip of Bruny Island and in doing so will:

- Commence at the very northern end of Jetty Beach
- Pass through the National Parks & Wildlife Service administered Coastal Reserve
- Terminate in the western vicinity of Kelly's Point.

In doing so the track will traverse a combination of land tenures including public beach and Coastal Reserve (NP&WS).

1.3 Nearby related sites

Two nearby historic sites relate to those described in this report.

1) 'Woodlands' house

The house erected on the adjacent 'Woodlands' property was built by the original landowner James Kelly in the 1820's - 1830's. During that period Kelly expanded his pastoral holdings here and created another commercial enterprise based around whaling.

2) John Merrison's headstone

A grave headstone of former convict John Merrison stands in the grounds of the nearby Dennes Point community centre. Merrison became the manservant of landowner James Kelly at Woodlands until his death in c.1859. Although buried in Hobart, Merrison's headstone was re-located to its current position in 1972.

1.4 Previous studies

No formal previous studies of the subject historic site and its features have been previously undertaken.

1.5 Methodology

This brief investigation essentially consisted of:

- A preliminary briefing about the history of the site
- A day long site based archaeological survey
- A half day map and survey based search of the State Archives Office and Lands Titles Office
- Completion of this report

2.0 HISTORICAL SUMMARY

2.1 Aboriginal occupancy and earliest European visitation

Prior to European contact and occupation, Bruny Island was home to the *'Nuennonne'* band that formed a part of the greater South East tribe of the Tasmanian Aboriginal community. The 70 or so members of that band also frequently crossed the channel to the Tasmanian Main to hunt game and interact with neighbouring bands. Bruny Island historically became one of Australia's earliest consistent way points for European voyages of exploration commencing in 1642 with the passage and partial charting of the island by Abel Tasman. Lured by the certainty of permanent water on the southern half of the island (Adventure Bay), a succession of European explorers followed in Tasman's wake during the latter part of the 18th century including Tobias Furneaux (1773), James Cook (1777), William Bligh (1788 + 1792), Bruni D'Entrecasteaux (1792/93) and Nicolas Baudin (1801). While the English visitations proved very transient, the latter two French expeditions remained long enough to meet and interact meaningfully with the *Nuennonne* community. Several of the encounters between the two cultures appear to have taken place on and around the subject properties at Cape De La Sortie (Dennes Point) where the band gathered crayfish and various shellfish. The presence of a large freshwater lagoon there (Bottom Lagoon) proved a further incentive.

2.2 James Kelly

The earliest European land grant on Bruny Island occurred at the subject property which was granted in c1818 to James Kelly by a Colonial Administration grateful for his recent circumnavigation of Van Diemen's Land. After this initial 100 acre grant Kelly gradually expanded his pastoral holdings here to 2000 acres which supported grain crops, livestock, fruit, vegetables and an abundance of timber that was sold to passing vessels and the rash of bay whaling stations that sprang up along the east coast of Bruny Island. Kelly also constructed a substantial farmhouse (Woodlands) and erected buildings for farm labourers, servants and infrastructure. Some structures from this period form part of the focus of this investigation. A victim of bankruptcy in 1842 James Kelly divested the bulk of his North Bruny assets with the exception of the farmhouse, some nominal acreage and his faithful servant's (John Merrison) cottage.

2.3 Pilot station

Upon James Kelly's death in 1853, his remaining North Bruny property was eventually rented by pilot John Bleach. The point remained a Pilots Station until Bleach's retirement in 1879.

2.4 Water Police

A contingent of water police consisting of two boat crews led by Constable Francis Harris was stationed on the subject property some time prior to 1854 when the station was disbanded. They may have been located here in the mid 1840's after Governor Franklin established the service to deter smuggling and the escape of convicts. Harris and his compliment of at least six crewmen captured several escapees during their tenure here. The station is known to have included a waterside boatshed and by 1853 Harris was actively cultivating crops here also.

2.5 Subsequent landowners

After James Kelly's bankruptcy in 1842, the bulk of his farmland was acquired in 1845 by Thomas Brown and William Knight. The land was the nin turn acquired by Mr. Anthony Smith Denne The farmhouse and its allotment was sold in 1853 after Kelly's death and rented by various tenants until 1879 when Mr. Denne acquired the remainder.

2.6 Miscellaneous activities

Tented fairs appear to have been held beside the lagoon in the vicinity of the subject property throughout the early 20th century.

3.0 TABULAR RESULTS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY

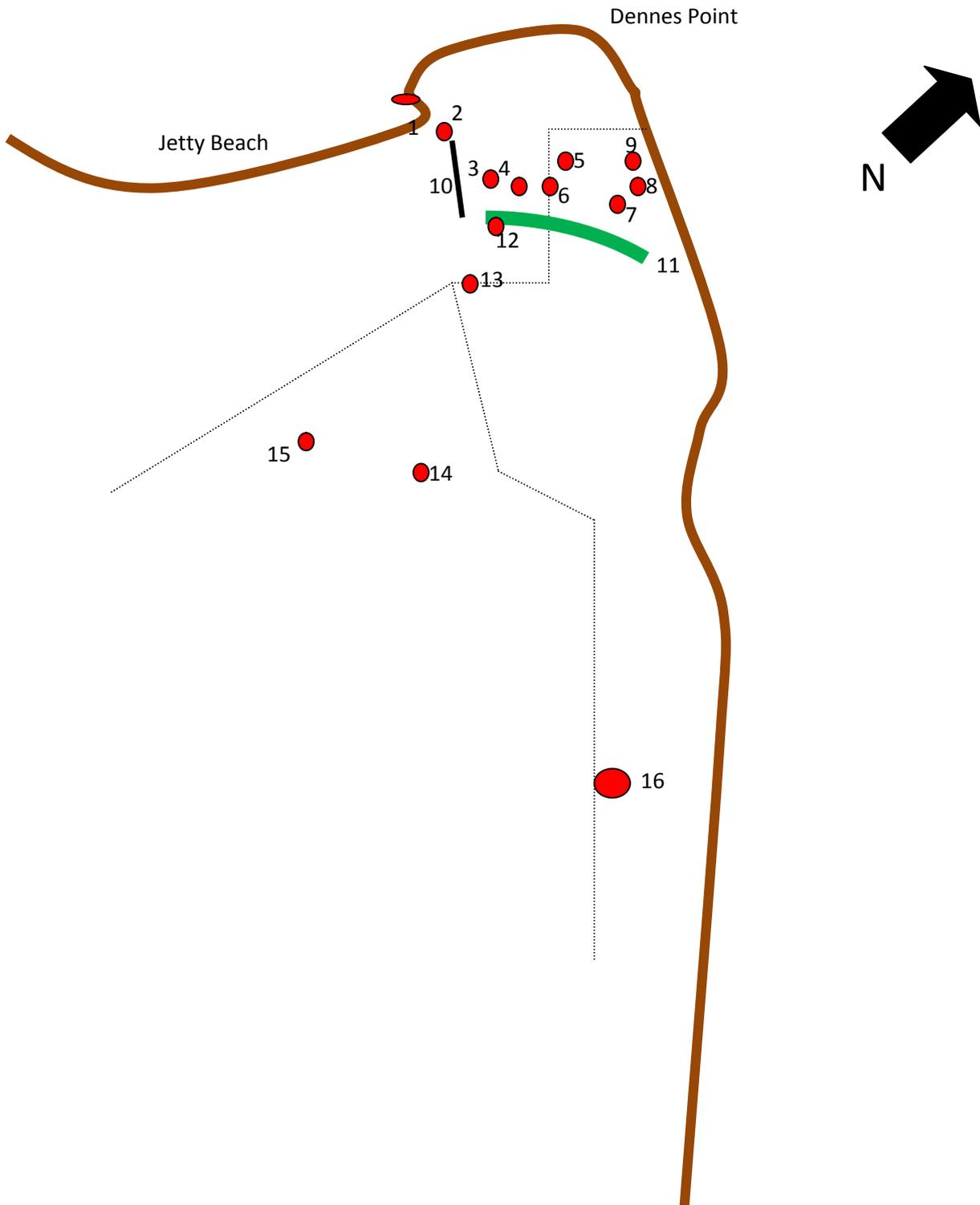
FEATURE NUMBER	FEATURE NAME	DESCRIPTION	INTERPRETATION	CURRENT PHOTOGRAPH
01	Water side stone ramp	11 x 6 x 2.2 metre high waterside embankment consisting of rounded dolerite beach boulders mounded within a ruinous timber retaining wall. The wall consists of five unsquared hardwood pylons.	1948 Car ferry ramp	
02	Cemented stonework	6 x 4 x 0.25 metre high ovoid mound of dolerite beach boulders with occasional concrete render adhering. A pile of woven steel hawser cable lies beside this feature.	Former 19 th century boatshed location re-used for 20 th century Public Works Department replacement	
03	Stone cluster 1	7 x 3 metre wide scatter of beach boulders and at least three fragmentary 19 th century sandstock bricks. Fragments of hand forged iron noted near centre of stones.	Mid 19 th century structure associated with 1850's Marine Police station.	

04	Stone cluster 2	5 x 2.5 metre wide composite formation of beach boulders and 19 th century sandstock brick fragments. The centre of this feature contains a large amount of powdered brick implying the presence of a additional brick beneath.	Feature appears to be a fireplace relating to a mid 19 th century structure associated with 1850's Marine Police station.	
05	Stone cluster 3	Mounded 2 metre diameter cluster of beach boulders with four associated sandstock brick fragments.	Feature appears to be a fireplace relating to a mid 19 th century structure associated with 1850's Marine Police station.	
06	Stone cluster 4	3 x 2 metre wide rectilinear shaped mound of beach boulders.	Unidentified part of mid 19 th century structure associated with 1850's Marine Police station.	
07	Stone cluster 5	6 x 3 metre wide scatter of beach boulders and occasional fragmentary sandstock bricks.	Unidentified part of mid 19 th century structure associated with 1850's Marine Police station.	

08	Stone nest	2 metre diameter crudely circular concentration of beach boulders surrounding fragmentary sandstock bricks.	Unidentified part of mid 19 th century feature (flag mast support?) associated with 1850's Marine Police station.	
09	Artefact scatter	6 x 3 metre wide scatter of mid 19 th century artefacts (glass and ceramic fragments) lying 3 metres west off Feature 8. The orientation of this artefact scatter follows the adjacent stony bank of the shoreline.	Possible tip site associated with the 1850's Marine Police station.	
10	Sandhill cutting	30 x 3 x 3.5 metre wide cutting through resident sand dune.	1948 Ferry road cutting leading to jetty (Feature 1)	
11	Stone wall scatter	60 x 10 x 1.5 metre high linear stone mound running north-south across promontory. Large numbers of briar roses grow along this feature	Boundary wall separating Marine Police reserve from Kelly's farm?	

12	Stone cluster 6	6 x 3 x 0.3m high mounded stone cluster containing several fragmentary sandstock bricks. Note this feature lies adjacent to southern section of Stone wall (Feature 11).	Unidentified part of mid 19 th century structure associated with Kelly's Farm.	
13	Sparse brick scatter	Ephemeral scatter of two 19 th century bottle glass fragments and one sandstock brick fragment	Surface debris scatter associated with associated with Kelly's Farm.	
14	Briar rose stonework 1	2 metre high briar rose growing out of stone cluster measuring 2 x 2 metres in dimension. A hand forged nail was noted beside one of the constituent stones.	Unidentified part of mid 19 th century structure associated with Kelly's Farm.	
15	Briar rose stonework 2	1 metre high briar rose and surrounding 1.5 metre diameter circular stone nest	Unidentified part of mid 19 th century structure associated with Kelly's Farm.	

16	Coastal stones	Briar rose infested stone scatter measuring 15 x 5 metres in dimension. Stone clustering is very dense. No cultural material evident.	Plough stones from adjacent paddock?	
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Current site plan showing location of all described features.
Scale 1cm = 10m

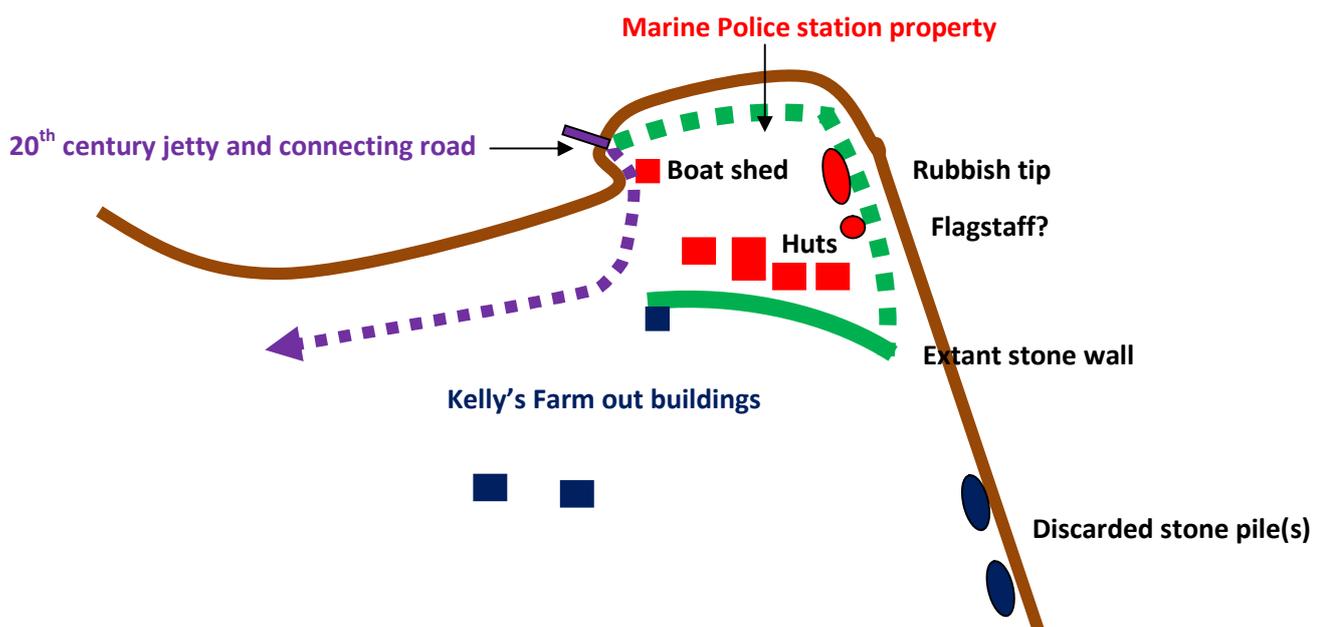
4.0 INTERPRETATION OF RESIDENT FEATURES

The physical features noted at the subject property essentially relate to three distinct geographically separate historic activities.

4.1 Marine Police station

Stationed on the headland of Dennes Point the so called 'Marine Police' are known from historic records to have consisted of at least seven men and their equipment (boats) and stores. During their tenure here it is also known that their senior officer attempted to grow crops. These claims are readily borne out by the surviving archaeology at the site which includes:

- No less than five to six remnant stone features that suggest the presence of fireplace footings. These features contain both local stone and fired brick, the latter being used predominantly in the construction of the hearth. The absence of greater volumes of stones or masonry obviously indicates that the buildings here were made of timber. Likewise the low numbers of evident bricks suggests previous pilferage from the site.
- A substantial stone wall (all but collapsed) spanning the width of the point. This feature would have served as a demarcation/boundary marker between the water police station and adjacent private land in addition to protecting crops and amenities from NW winds.
- A linear band of surface glass and ceramic behind the north foreshore appears to have some depth to it suggesting a deposit of broken domestic materials resulting from their being discarded as kitchen rubbish.
- The presence of at least one fireplace feature that appears to have hosted high temperature heating may indicate the presence of a forge facility for repairing equipment.
- There are number of other features not represented by the observable archaeology including privies additional perimeter walls and a jetty/wharfage.



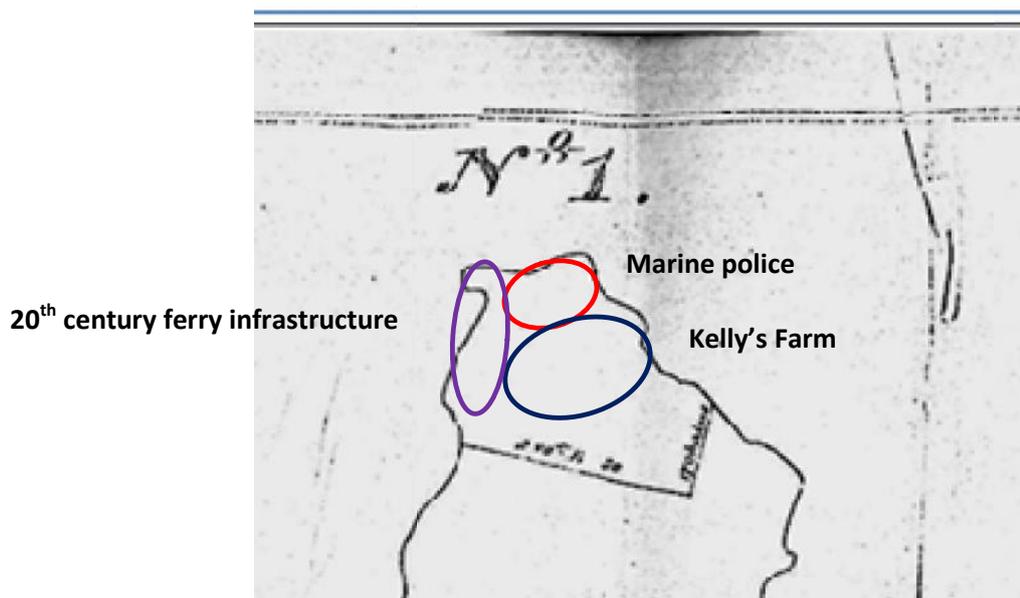
4.2 Kelly's Farm features

Assuming that the extant stone wall did indeed serve as a legal boundary between land users on the point, all activities and physical remains on the south side of it could be expected to relate to Kelly's Farm. Such features appear to include:

- A least two or three fireplace footings marking the location of timber cottages used to house farm employees or overseers.
- Built up clusters of local rock along the northern boundary of the private property that may relate to historic land clearance for pastoral activities.

4.3 20th century jetty infrastructure

The most recent historic activities around the periphery of the site are those relating to the former ferry site at the very north end of Jetty Beach. The remains consisting of the approach road and jetty remain well defined.



5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

In regard to the proposed walkway development it is recommended that the development be allowed to proceed with no further archaeological constraint. More specifically the following recommendations are made.

5.1 Orientation of route

From an archaeological viewpoint the route of the proposed walkway is quite optional providing that all archaeological features are avoided.

5.2 Contents of walk

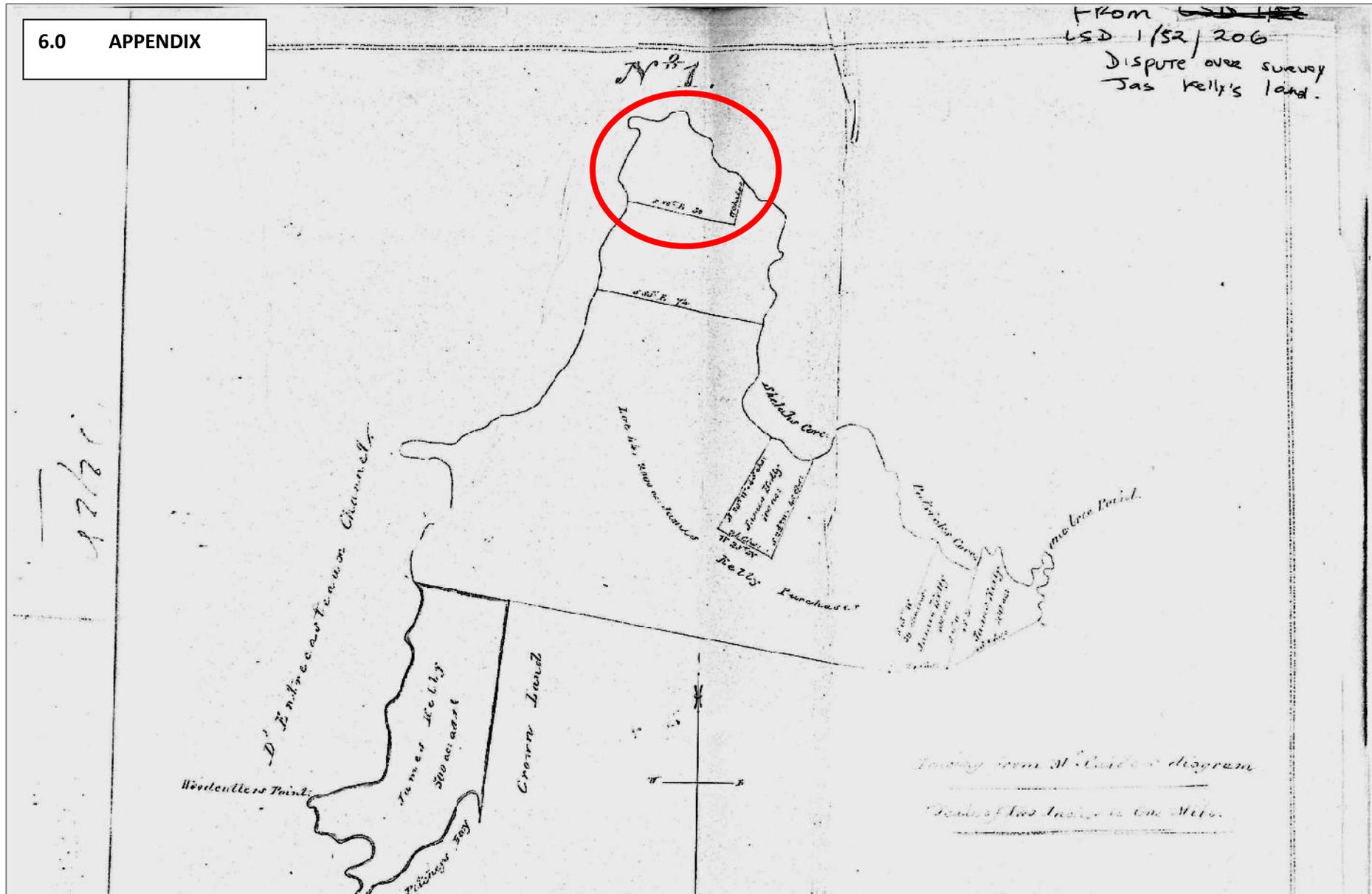
Ideally the walk would encompass as many features as possible including John Merrison's relocated headstone, the Pilot Station ruins and additional interpretation.

5.3 Interpretation

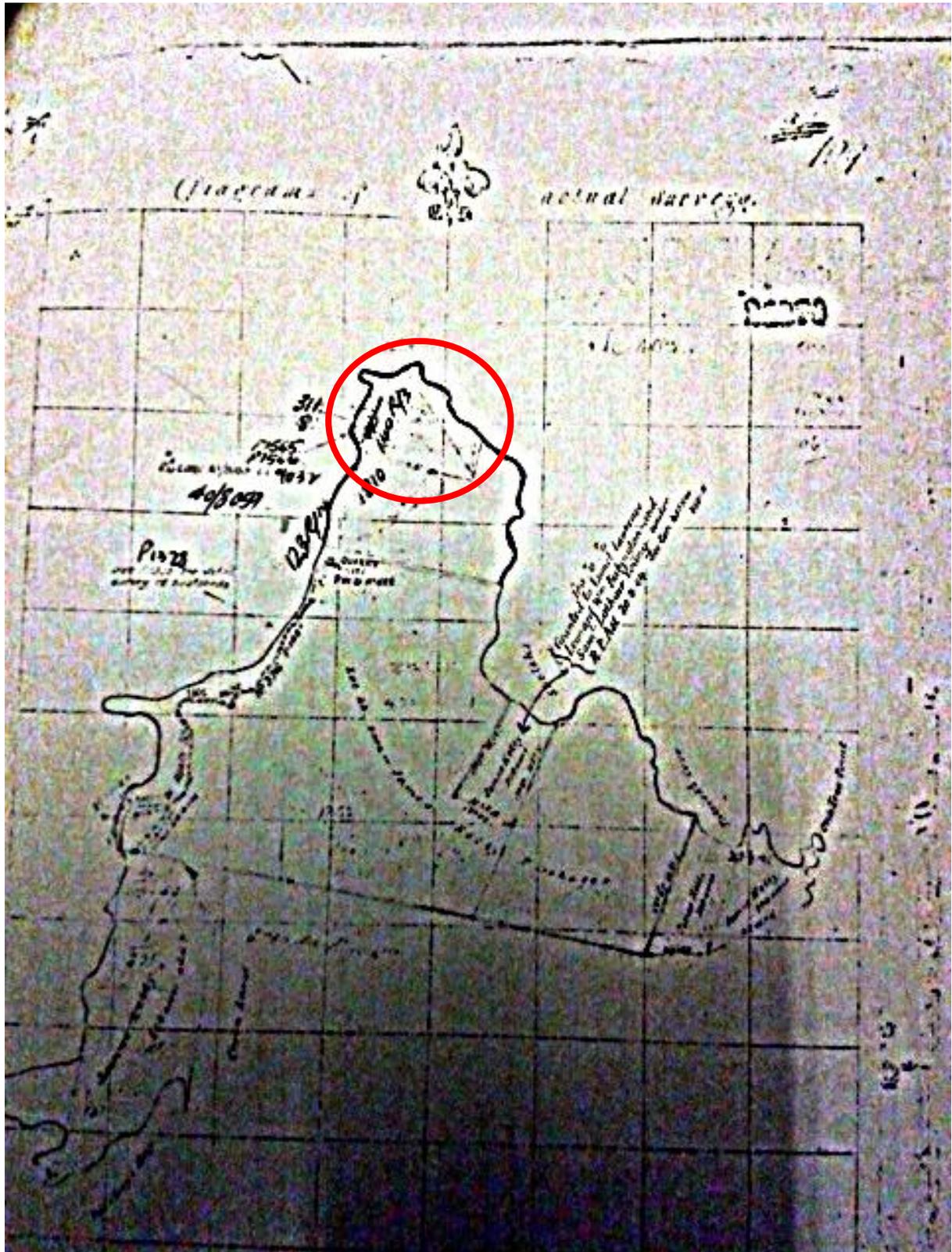
Periodic interpretation along the walk would be needed to best explain the contents of the walk. These could relate to:

- The story of the *Nuennone* and the French explorers
- James Kelly's farm
- Whaling on North Bruny Island
- The Marine Police

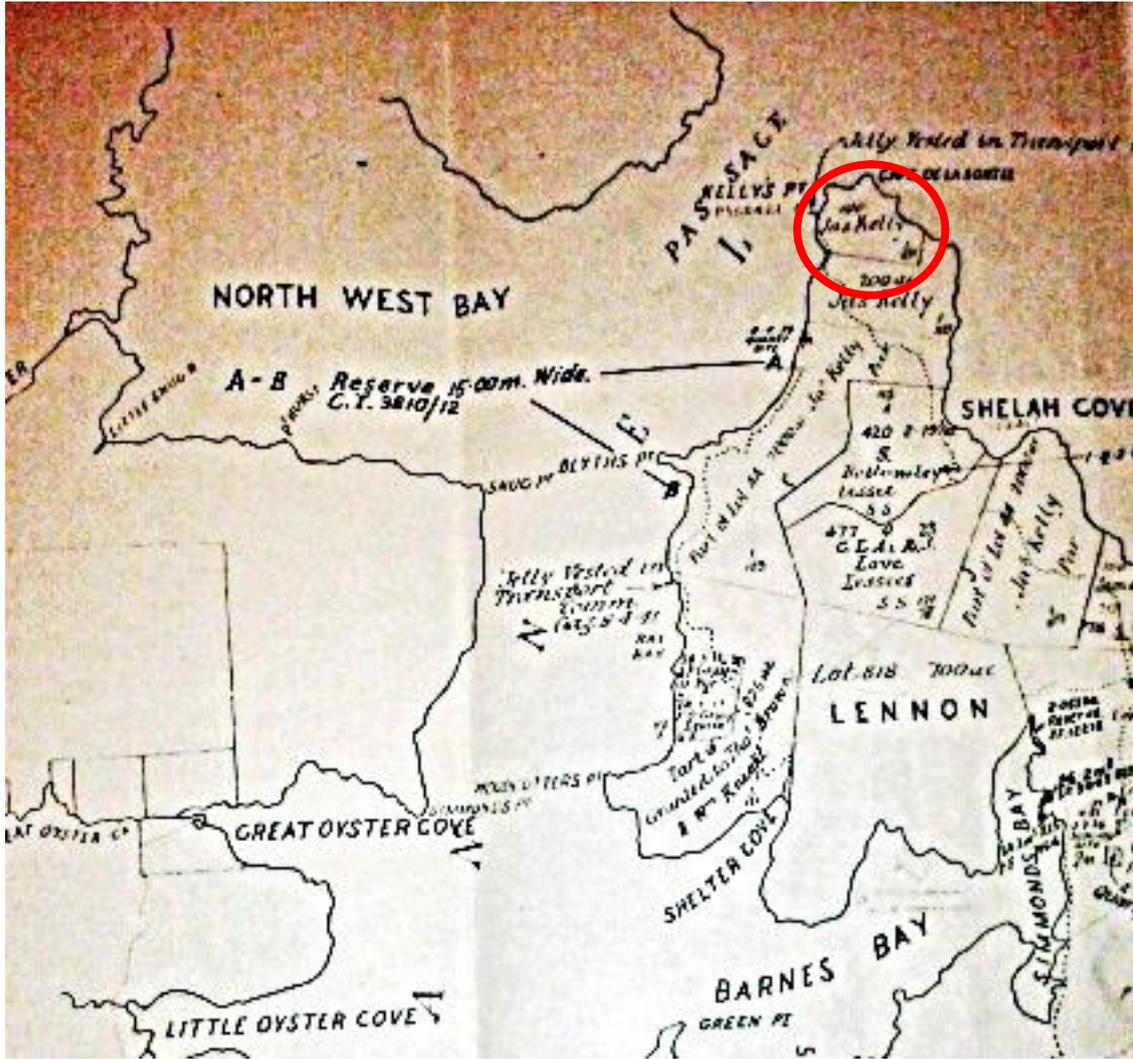
6.0 APPENDIX



(c.1840's?) map showing James Kelly's lands on North Bruny Island including the original 100 acre grant containing some of the subject site. Archives Office of Tasmania. LSD 1/52/206



Another survey showing Kelly's 100 acre block at the north end of the Point



Mid 20th century county chart showing Kelly's original 100 acre grant

