

SORELL HERITAGE STUDY

Address: Bream Creek Road, Bream Creek 7175		UPI:	PID:
Name: RAGGED TIER LANDSCAPE		Owner: DERFORD PTY LTD JIM DUNBABIN	
Feature Type:	Structure Type:	Dating: 1830-1890	
	Site Feature Type:	Access Restrictions: Restricted	
	Dam, Farm, Field clearance Drystone Walls Trees	Inspection date: October 96 Ian Terry	
		Style:	
		Grid ref:	5626 56800 526220
Indication of Significance: High Probable Significance		Theme: Land selection and closer settlement	
Material:		Listings:	
Condition: Excellent			
Integrity: Intact			
National Estate Criteria: A4 D2		Photograph Index: 13:22-23	
Risk: Excavation: ☐ Development: ☒ Maintenance: ☐ Vandalism: ☐			

SITE DESCRIPTION:

Situated on the upper slopes of the north eastern end of the Ragged Tier. The landscape consists of numerous sections of drystone walling, Kingstons Cottage (see separate entry), a small corrugated iron hut, a timber farm building, dams, extensive land clearance and bands of macrocarpa and pine tree plantings.

HISTORY:

The Ragged Tier was cleared following the Waste Lands Acts of 1858 and demonstrates an intensive agricultural Exploitation of the land made possible when labour was cheap and farming families large. By 1876 most of the Tier, notorious for its thick and impenetrable scrub and complete cover of stones, had been cleared by dint of hard work. The rewards were rich volcanic soils. In 1878 the following description of the Tier appeared in the *Tasmanian Mail*.

from the loftiness of its trees, the precipitousness of its steepes, the density of its scrub, and the thickness of its timber being cleared by the bushman's axe, it was not inappropriately named the Ragged Tier. It is distant from Bream Creek by the road about six miles, but by the mountain track not more than four miles. The journey by the road is dreary and uninviting; the shorter ascent the Tiers, though winding and steep, is varied and grand. Passing round the pretty farms of Alomes, Corbetts, Riley, and Tunbridge all clothed with verdure, the giants of the forest still standing but rung and dead, the top of the Tiers is reached. The traveller has an opportunity of taking breath, and viewing the charming scenery below and around. The ocean meets the eye at once, Hell-fire Bluff seems close at hand, and Maria Island is not far off. All around you are pretty farms in the mountain slopes, whilst in the distance may be seen, here and there, the flowing sails of a passing ship. The ground is extremely rich, and is everywhere covered with clover and English grass. It is also cropped with barley, wheat, peas, beans, potatoes, and tares, which thrive luxuriantly on its ever moist and virgin soil. Cattle, sheep, and pigs fatten surprisingly, and Hobart Town, by way of the Sorell Causeway, receives some of its choicest and sweetest meat from its green pastures.

With the coming of motor vehicles in the early twentieth century the steep mountain track became impassable and so the isolated farm houses became even more remote. A number of dwellings were removed to the lower slopes where access was easier.

BOUNDARY:

The boundary consists of a number of properties which make up the northern end of the Ragged Tier.

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COMMENTS:

The landscape has high significance as an outstanding example of a nineteenth century rural landscape in a remote district reflecting cheap labour and intensive work and farming practices.

The landscape meets Criteria A4 and D2 for inclusion in the Register of the National Estate. It should be included in Schedule 3 of the Sorell Planning Scheme and should be nominated for inclusion in the Tasmanian Heritage Register and the Register of the National Estate.

BIBLIOGRAPHY + PREVIOUS STUDIES:

DUNBABIN, Thomas. 1954. *A Farm at the Worlds End: Some account of the Dunbabins of Marchwiell in Tasmania*. T Dunbabin, Hobart.
Tasmanian Mail 23 November 1878, p14

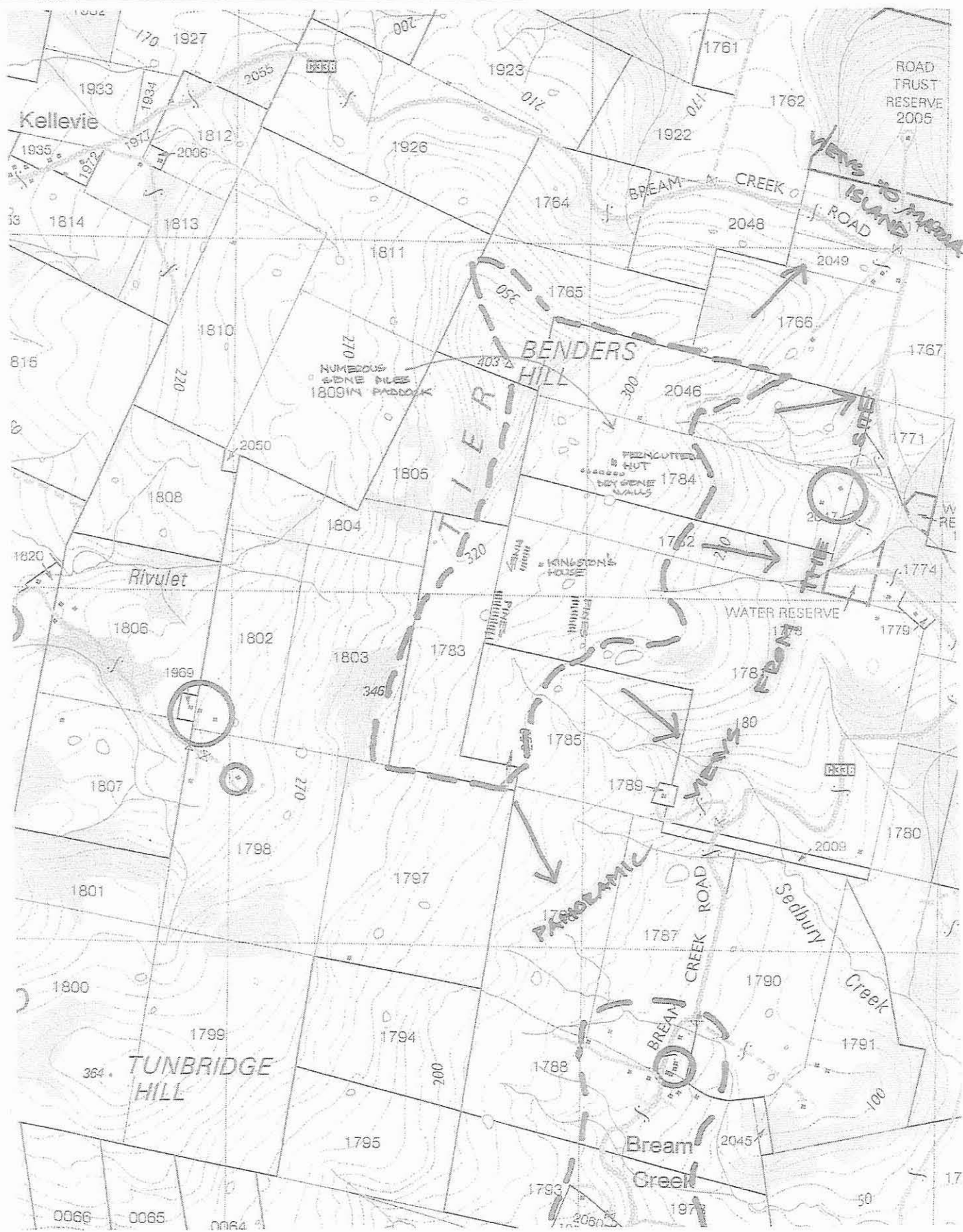
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RAGGED TIER LANDSCAPE (MAPSHEET 5626)