CASE STUDY ON THE BORALGA NATIVE MOUNTED POLICE CAMP, CAPE YORK PENINSULA

KELSEY M. LOWE, HEATHER BURKE, NOELENE COLE, LINLEY A. WALLIS, BRYCE BARKER, IAIN DAVIDSON, ELIZABETH HATTE AND RINYIRRU ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

The archaeological signature of ‘ant bed’ mound floors in the northern tropics of Australia

AIMS

Can geophysics help us understand historical features?

Identify ant beds?

Determine if floors are made of ant mounds?

EARTHEN/ANT MOUND FLOORS

‘Trampled earth or packed clay’ (Freeland 1968:13)

BORALGA NATIVE MOUNTED POLICE CAMP

Boralga ‘Laura’ NMP 1884 (Queensland Police Museum PM0634)

Boralga ‘Laura’ NMP with drovshed (Queensland State Library 66481)

LOCATION

Queensland State Archives A/44857

Queensland State Archives A/41364

Courtesy of Alyssa Madden

‘Queensland State Archives’
PREVIOUS SITE VISIT - 2002

Geophysical instruments used

Bartington Instruments Grad601-2

GSSI Sir3000

Both instruments: GSA01-GSA04

Gradiometry only: GSA05-GSA08

LABORATORY ANALYSIS

- Total sediment samples: 21
- Boragla Rooms (n=10)
- Old Laura Homestead (n=2)
- Excavated dumps (n=6)
- Natural/control (n=2)

GPR RESULTS

Floor 1: Officer’s Quarters
GRADIOMETER RESULTS

PSA: FINE GRAIN VS COARSE GRAIN

LOSS ON IGNITION

MAGNETIC SUSCEPTIBILITY

2016 ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS
FINAL REMARKS

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Leslie Harrigan and Rinyirru National Park Rangers

Laura Rangers