



# The archaeological signature of 'ant bed' mound floors in the northern tropics of Australia



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

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## AIMS



- Can geophysics help us understand historical features?
- Identify ant bed floors?
- Determine if floors are made from ant mounds?

## EARTHEN/ANT MOUND FLOORS



*'Trampled earth or packed clay' (Freeland 1968:13)*

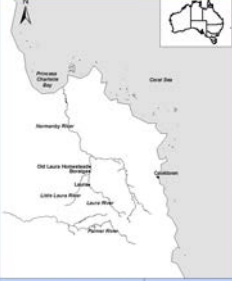
## BORALGA NATIVE MOUNTED POLICE CAMP



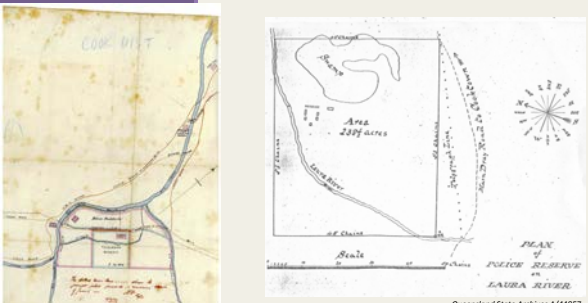
Boralga 'Laura' NMP 1884 (Queensland Police Museum PM0634)

Boralga 'Laura' NMP with drayshed (Queensland State Library 66481)

## LOCATION

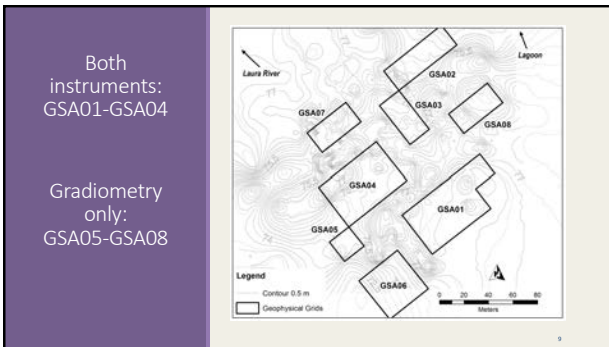
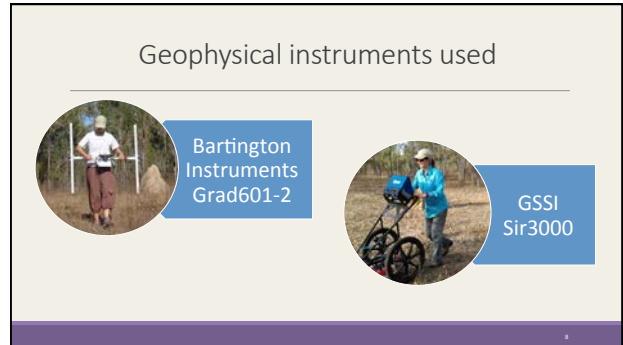
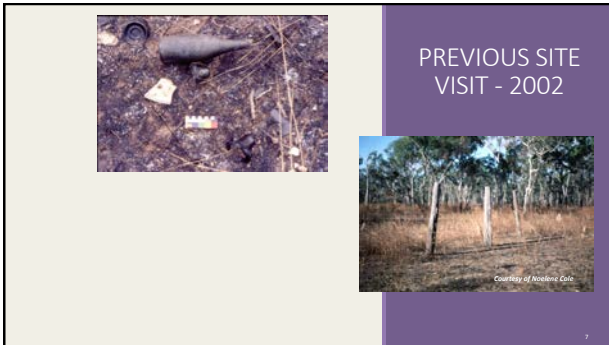


SOURCE: Geoscience Australia 2004  
 MAP BASE: Queensland  
 DATUM: GDA 1984  
 SCALE: 1:1,250,000



Queensland State Archives A/42364

Queensland State Archives A/44857



LABORATORY ANALYSIS

- Total sediment samples: 21
- Boragla Floors (n=10)
- Old Laura Homestead (n=2)
- Ant mound (n=1)
- Excavated dumps (n=6)
- Natural/control (n=2)

