

THE HALLSTROM FAUNAL RESERVE, NO. 15, GOWAN.

Section 9(5) of the Fauna Protection Act, 1948-1964, provides -

- (a) The Panel shall in respect of each faunal reserve cause to be drawn up a detailed written scheme of the operations which it is proposed to undertake on or in relation to such reserve.
- (b) The object of the scheme shall be the protection and care of fauna, the propagation of fauna and the promotion of the study of fauna on the faunal reserve.
- (c) Such scheme shall be submitted to the Minister for his approval and if approved by him, shall become the working plan for such faunal reserve.
- (d) No operations shall be undertaken on or in relation to a faunal reserve unless such operations are in accordance with the working plan for the reserve.
- (e) The working plan for a faunal reserve may, with the approval of the Minister, be amended or altered from time to time.
- (f) The working plan may contain provisions for the panel to carry out any work in connection with the improvement, development and maintenance of any faunal reserve, including the opening of roads, tracks and paths, the erection of buildings and other structures, and the prevention and control of fires.

A working plan for The Hallstrom Faunal Reserve, No. 15, was approved in 1960 covering the 750 acres notified in Government Gazette, No. 69, of 10th June, 1960. Since that time the Reserve has been extended and consolidated.

This situation, together with the fact that the Reserve is now managed at a fairly high level, has provided the circumstances for the preparation of a Master Plan for The Hallstrom Faunal Reserve, No. 15.

Attached hereto is a proposed Master Plan for the consideration of the Fauna Protection Panel.

The original working plan was approved by the Chief Secretary on 29th July, 1960.

It is recommended in accordance with Section 9(5)(e) of the Fauna Protection Act, 1948-1964, that the working plan be altered to read as provided in the Master Plan now submitted.

Diagrams showing Appendices "A" and "B" are available from the office of the Fauna Panel.

THE HALLSTROM FAUNAL RESERVE, NO. 15.
MASTER PLAN.

PRELIMINARY.

An area of 750 acres of Crown land, parish Cowan, county Cumberland, Shire of Hornsby, was dedicated as a faunal reserve under Section 9(1) of the Fauna Protection Act, 1948-1964, and notified in Government Gazette, No. 69 of 10th June, 1960. Extension No. 1 of 1,230 acres was added to the original and notified in the Government Gazette, No. 13 of 5th February, 1965, to give a total acreage of 1,980 acres. A small Reserve for Public Recreation has been proclaimed under the Crown Land Consolidation Act to act as a "buffer zone" to the entrance of the Faunal Reserve. The Department of Lands has appointed the nominees of the Fauna Panel, as a Trust to manage this small "buffer" reserve.

The development of Faunal Reserve, No. 15, presumes that portions 249 and 339, parish Cowan, county Cumberland, will be later added in order that the effectiveness of the specialised services of the Reserve shall be consummated.

PURPOSES.

(a) Preservation of ecosystems.

The Hallstrom Faunal Reserve, No. 15, is a sample of the Hawkesbury Sandstone vegetation typified by dry sclerophyll forest and tall shrub woodland forms. These will be preserved on most of the Reserve, in a condition as near to pristine as possible, for scientific enquiry, by the limitation of human interference, the control of exotic plants and animals, the suppression of bushfires and such other management techniques found necessary.

The wildlife values of this Faunal Reserve are enhanced by the adjoining Muogamarra Sanctuary (for the Conservation of Native Flora and Fauna under the Crown Lands Consolidation Act) which is administered by a Trust and is a proclaimed Wildlife Refuge under the Fauna Protection Act. The Working Plan for The Muogamarra Wildlife Refuge, No. 138, will be complimentary to, and perhaps coincide with, the wildlife management procedures on The Hallstrom Faunal Reserve, No. 15.

(b) Scientific Enquiry.

The Hallstrom Faunal Reserve, No. 15, will be available for experimentation into the effect of bushfire on the environments contained, the control and suppression of bushfires, techniques in the management of natural environments and such other matters as the Panel may from time to time, determine or approve.

(c) Koala breeding experiment.

In an attempt to experiment with the breeding of koala under simulated natural conditions, a monetary gift from Sir Edward Hallstrom has been used to construct a residence for a warden ranger and to enclose and establish a plantation of koala food trees as a managed koala breeding centre from which surplus koalas might be re-established in natural environments on faunal reserves, wildlife refuges and elsewhere as approved. This work will proceed and be expanded as opportunity permits.

(d) Special study facilities.

A maximum of fifty acres of Faunal Reserve, No. 15, preferably in the vicinity of the Administrative Centre will be used to provide facilities for approved research by organisations or individuals.

(e) Visitor facilities.

Faunal Reserve, No. 15, will provide an opportunity for the general public to see the work being undertaken in wildlife conservation on the Reserve, to benefit from the nature trails and to enjoy the amenities and natural environments on the Reserve according to provision made in this Master Plan.

(f) Facilities for stores and general purposes.

Due to its location near the headquarters of the Fauna Protection Pnael together with the urgent need to establish storage space for field and other equipment, and for holding pens for animals held under the provisions of the Fauna Protection Act, The Hallstrom Faunal Reserve, No. 15, will be developed as the base reserve for these facilities.

DEFINITION OF USAGE.

1. ADMINISTRATIVE CENTRE (Layout on Appendix "A").

- a. The Warden Ranger's Residence is provided at the official entrance to the Reserve. All authorised usage of the Reserve except as otherwise permitted in this Master Plan, must be made by using the entrance at the Ranger's Cottage.
- b. Storage Shed. A storage shed within the Administrative Centre will house bulk materials and articles for distribution throughout the Faunal Reserve, Wildlife Refuge and Game Reserve Systems. It will also house educational, display and exhibition materials.
- c. Equipment Shed. An equipment shed will house vehicles, fire fighting tender, trailer, carrying cages for animals, and allied machinery, fire fighting equipment, and other equipment as required.
- d. Laboratory and Museum. To provide amenities and facilities to promote ecological and biological research on the Reserve.
- e. Quarantine. A quarantine area will be provided for animals in transit or held under the powers of the Act.
- f. Aviaries. Aviaries will be provided to house avifauna in transit or held under the powers of the Act.

2. VISITORS' CENTRE.

A Visitors' Centre will be located on the perimeter of the Reserve near the Administrative Centre to provide shelters, toilets, parking area, fireplaces and other amenities and facilities for the visiting general public. An information display building will be located in the Visitors' Centre for the purpose of providing general information and education of the casual visitor. A small museum will be included.

3. ACCOMMODATION.

Facilities for the accommodation of research workers and other authorised persons will be provided in the proposed Laboratory at the Administrative Centre, the Field Hut on Djara Creek (Djara Hut) and the Boatshed.

4. CAMPING.

No area for recreational camping will be provided, Permission to camp on the Reserve for any purpose allied with the work of the Reserve will be authorised in writing by the Chief Guardian of Fauna or any Officer of the Panel to whom the Chief Guardian delegates authority.

5. ACCESS AND USAGE.

Access to The Hallstrom Faunal Reserve, No. 15, is via road leading from the Pacific Highway between Berowra and Cowan.

Persons engaged in boating on Berowra Creek may land on the Faunal Reserve at places where fireplaces are provided for the purpose of using the fireplaces but not for camping.

No other access or usage (other than those stated in this Master Plan) is permitted except for a purpose authorised in writing by the Chief Guardian of Fauna or any Officer of the Panel to whom the Chief Guardian delegates authority.

6. FIREPLACES.

The lighting of fires anywhere in the Reserve is prohibited except in the fireplaces provided. The use of these may be prohibited at any time for any stated reason.

7. FIRETRAILS.

Use of vehicles along the firetrails is restricted to Officers of the Panel and such other persons authorised in writing by the Chief Guardian of Fauna or any Officer of the Panel to whom the Chief Guardian delegates authority.

The Warden Ranger (or his deputy) may authorise the use of any firetrail as a Nature Trail. Firetrails used as Nature Trails are subject to the same restrictions as apply to Nature Trails.

8. NATURE TRAILS.

All tracks designated as Nature Trails shall be available for public use unless circumstances require that the Warden Ranger (or his deputy) close a Nature Trail. Public use of a Nature Trail does not provide access to the Faunal Reserve away from the Nature Trail unless authority is given in writing by the Chief Guardian of Fauna or an Officer of the Panel to whom the Chief Guardian delegates authority.

9. BOATSHED.

A boatshed will be provided to house a reasonably sized craft and fire fighting equipment and provide casual accommodation for authorised persons engaged in essential activities in connection with wildlife conservation and bushfire control.

10. BUSHFIRE PREVENTION, CONTROL AND SUPPRESSION.

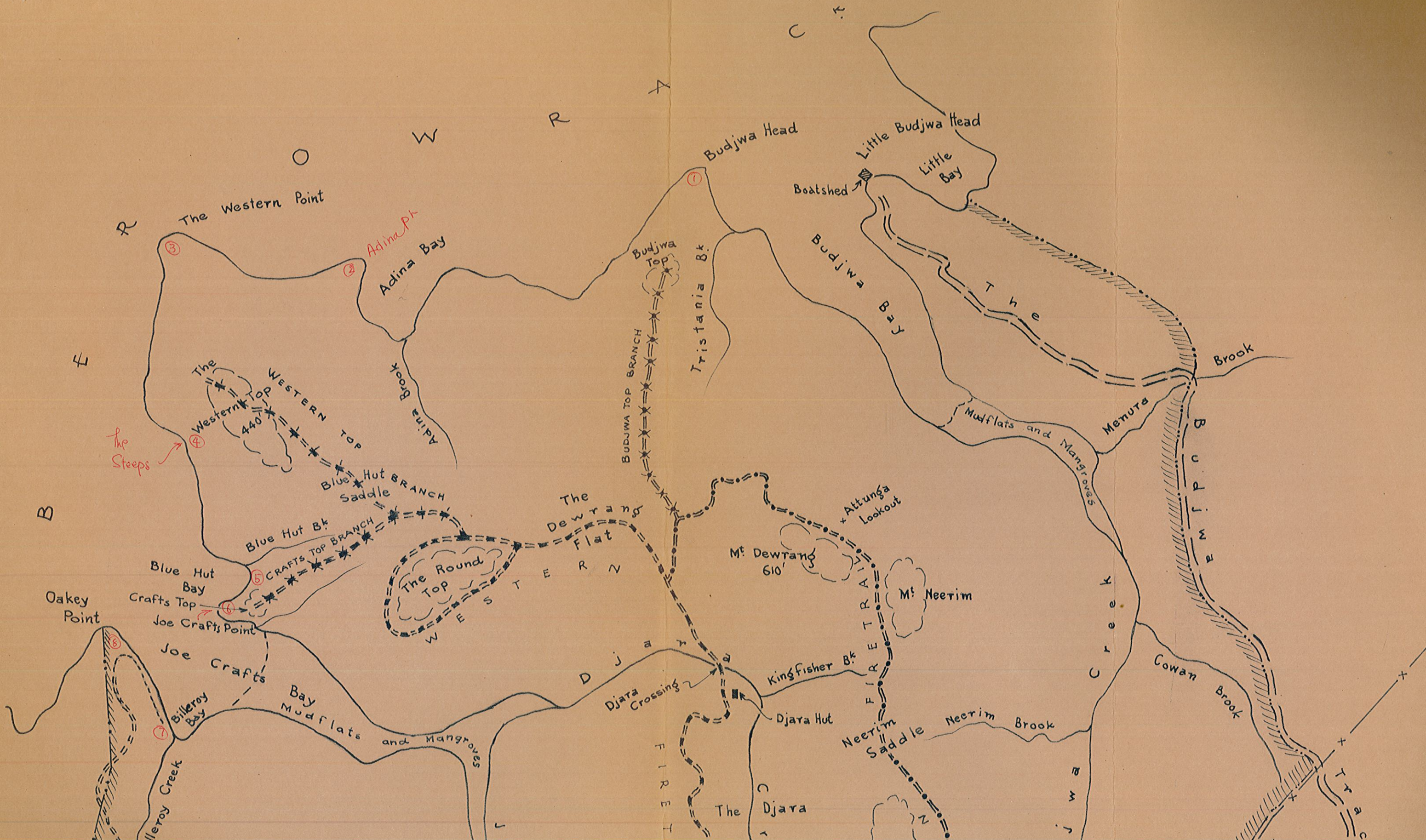
1. Prevention : Bushfire prevention works will consist of -

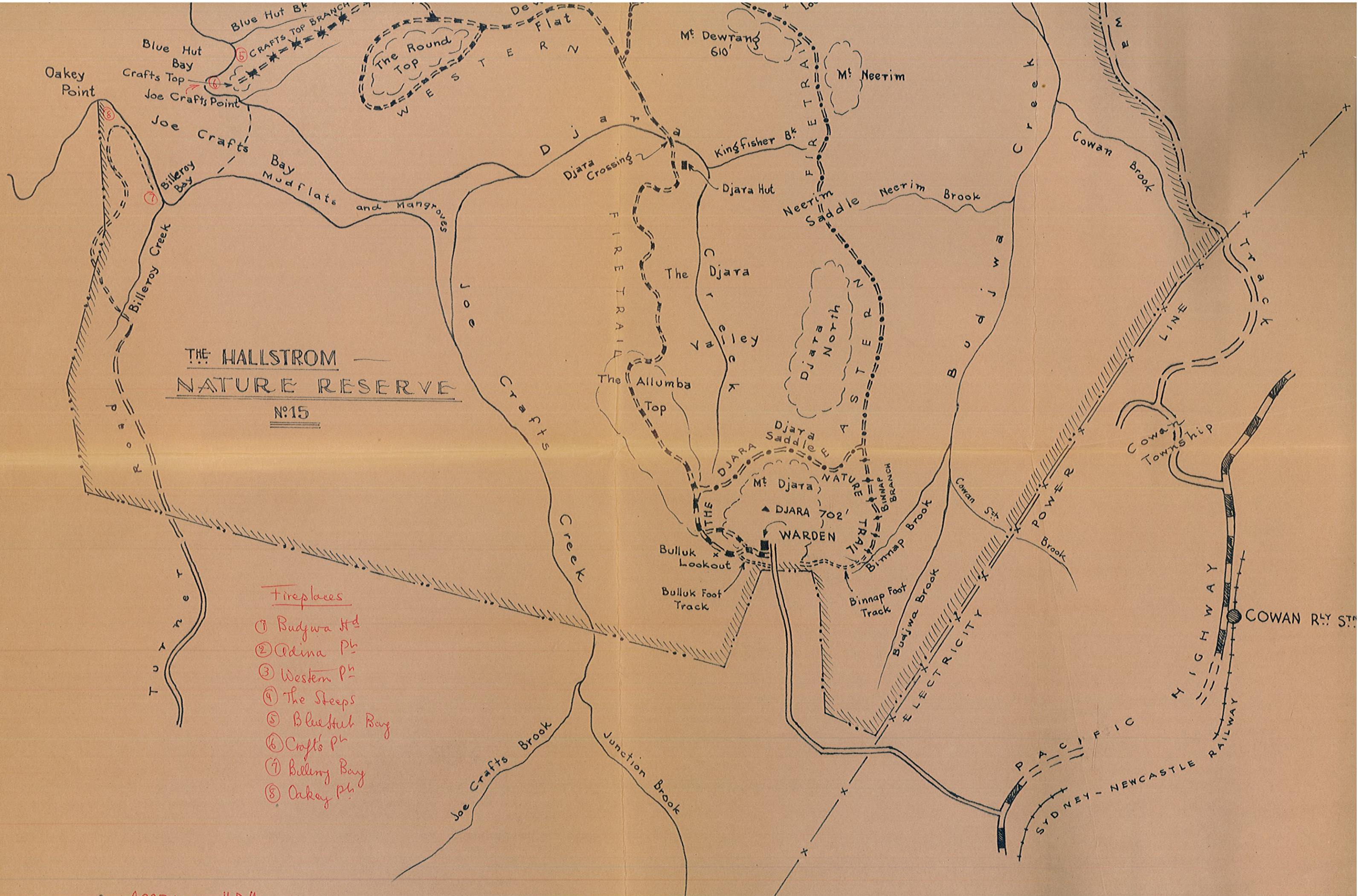
- (a) a network of fire access tracks as shown on Appendix "B". The purpose of these tracks is to provide quick access to suppress and extinguish fires. The tracks will cut the Reserve into a series of compartments in which fires may be isolated, controlled, suppressed and extinguished.
- (b) walking tracks will be constructed to provide access to the waterfront for supervision and fire suppression purposes.
- (c) reduction of fuel will be possible by burning off approximately at the boundaries of the Faunal Reserve, towards the townships of Berowra and Cowan. It is not intended that further fuel reduction within the Faunal Reserve shall be necessary pending determination of the effect of fire on the ecology of the environments contained within the Reserve.
- (d) fireplaces will be constructed at the locations shown along the foreshores to Berowra Creek, and suitable areas will be cleared around these to provide safety.
- (e) regular patrols of the waterfront will be undertaken by water craft in an effort to prevent fires spreading from careless use in this area.

2. Control : Bushfire control shall be attempted by -

- (a) the securing of adequate bushfire fighting equipment commensurate with finance and manpower available to the Panel.
- (b) the establishment of a bushfire brigade in terms of Section 19 of the Bush Fires Act, 1949-1963, the Warden Ranger to have the powers of a Bush Fire Captain as defined in the Bush Fires Act.
- (c) the encouragement of the co-operation of local bushfire protection and prevention organisations to assist in the bushfire scheme for the Reserve. The Chief Guardian of Fauna or an Officer of the Panel authorised by the Chief Guardian, shall have power to permit the operation of Council approved bushfire brigades on the Faunal Reserve.
- (d) the reticulation of a water supply system and the provision of water holding centres throughout the Reserve.

3. Suppression: The Warden Ranger on The Hallstrom Faunal Reserve, No. 15, is to use whatever means he has available to suppress and extinguish all bushfires on the Faunal Reserve.



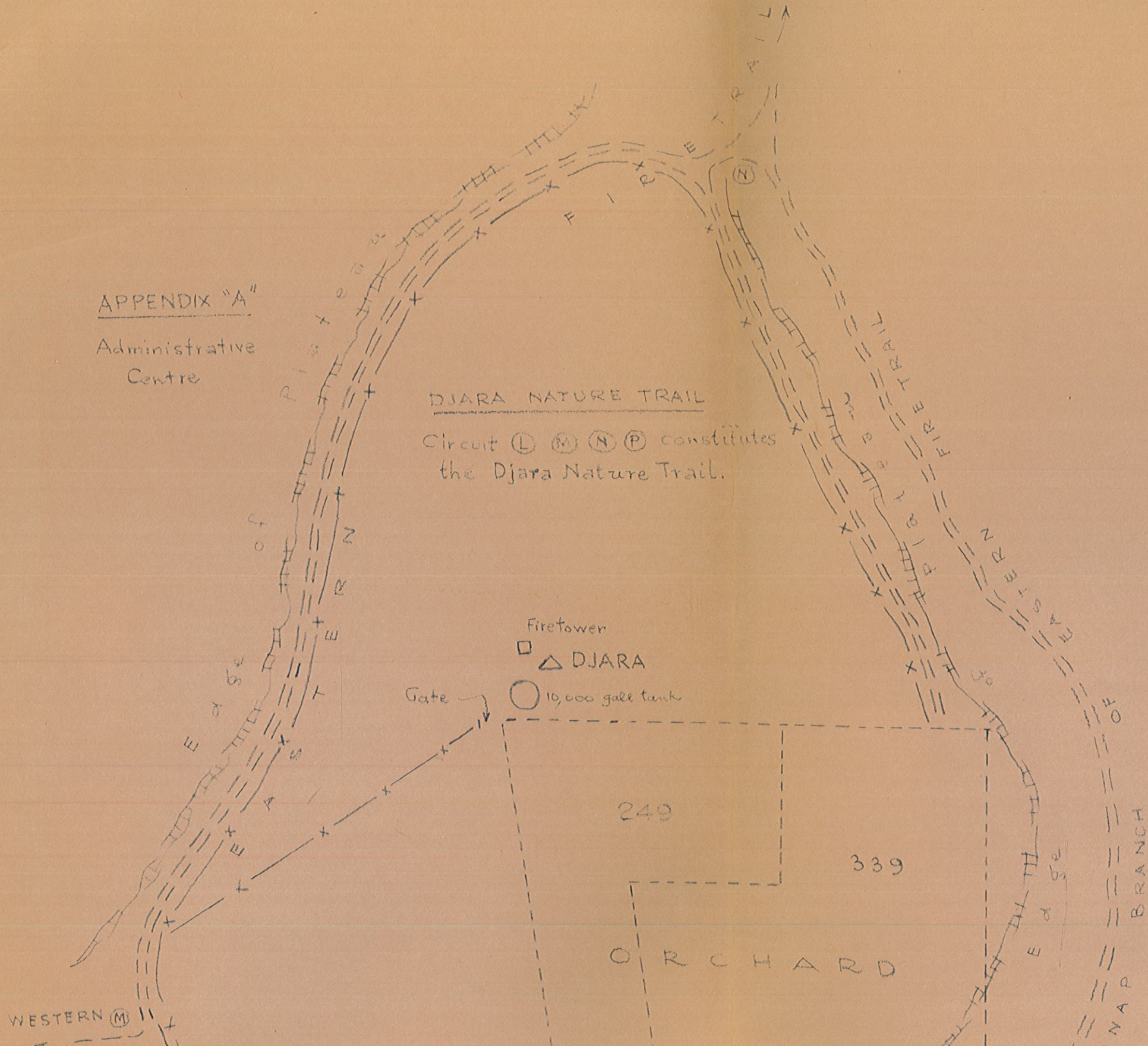


APPENDIX "A"

Administrative
Centre

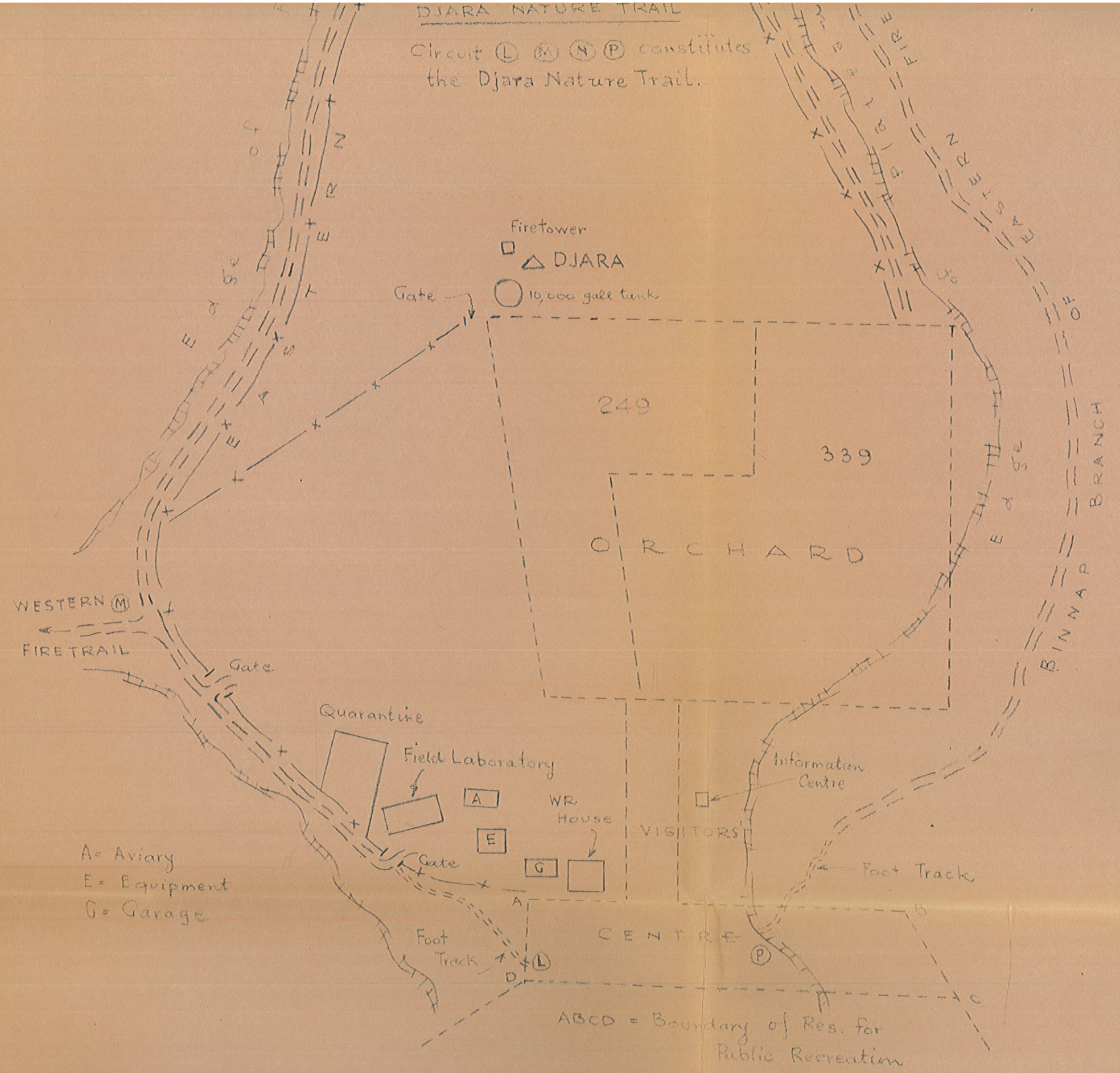
DJARA NATURE TRAIL

Circuit (L) (M) (N) (P) constitutes
the Djara Nature Trail.



DJARA NATURE TRAIL

Circuit L M N P constitutes the Djara Nature Trail.



A= Aviary
 E= Equipment
 G= Garage

ABCD = Boundary of Res. for Public Recreation