

Appendix 2

Site Assessment Proforma

Numbers in this text style refer to relevant sections of the *Guidelines*.

1. **NAME OF SITE:** _____

2. **LOCATION:** _____

3. **DATE OF ASSESSMENT:** _____

4. **ASSESSMENT COMPLETED BY (name):** _____

5. **LAND USE** (section B.2.1)

5.1 **Describe the current use of the site:** _____

5.2 **What is the proposed/likely future use of the site?** _____

6. **SITE CHARACTERISTICS** (section B.2.2)

Attach a map/sketch of the site.

6.1 **Altitude:** _____

6.2 **Aspect**

What directions do different parts of the site face? Are they likely to be shadowed/windy/subject to snow build-up?

6.3 **Soil** (section B.2.3, Appendix 13)

6.3.1 **Depth/Condition of Topsoil** (A13.2): _____

6.3.2 **Composition/Type** (A13.3.I): _____

6.3.3 **Dispersibility** (A13.3.II): _____

6.3.4 **Compaction** (A13.3.III): _____

6.3.5 **Infiltration** (A13.3.IV): _____

6.3.6 **pH** (A13.3.V): _____

6.3.7 **Other features of the soil:** _____

6.4 **Slope angle:** (measure with an inclinometer if possible, s. B.2.4) _____

6.5 **Drainage** (section B.2.4)

Describe drainage on the site – is it boggy/dry? Where does water run/accumulate?

6.6 Vegetation (section B.2.5)

6.6.1 General Vegetation Type/variations over the site: _____

6.6.2 Species List

<u>Species</u>	<u>Abundance*</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

*Estimate number/proportion of site covered by the main species.

6.6.3 List of Weed Species Present*(section B.2.6)

<u>Species</u>	<u>Abundance*</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

*Estimate number/proportion of site covered by the main species.

6.7 Is the site adjacent to a building or other asset vulnerable to bushfire? (s. B.2.7)

6.8 Note threatened species or significant species: (section B.2.8)

6.9 Are there any other special features of the site? (section B.2.9)

Consider the visibility of the site, its historic or cultural significance etc.

7. ATTACHMENTS

Attach photos and plans of the site, illustrating characteristics described, such as drainage, proximity to special features, existing/historical condition.

Sample Site Assessment

SITE ASSESSMENT - HOTHAM CHALET

Lot 1 Higgi Drive, Mt Hotham Alpine Resort - November 2004

1. Land Use

The Hotham Chalet is located on the corners of Higgi Drive and Lawlers Lane in the Mount Hotham Alpine Resort. It is a high profile, freehold site which is highly prominent when you drive through the Mount Hotham Alpine Resort. Improvements in both the infra-structure and the landscape of this site will add to the aesthetic and commercial value of both the Hotham Chalet proposed apartments and the Mount Hotham Alpine Resort.

Figure A Current condition – Hotham Chalet, November 2004.



2. Altitude, Aspect and Exposure

The site is located at an altitude of approximately 1820 metres above sea level. In general it has a northerly exposure, however the Chalet casts a shadow over the southern parts of the site, and the western side is also sheltered by a cutting. In general, the site is cold and exposed, however the northern part of the site would be somewhat warmer and dryer than other sides. Snow would be most likely to build up and persist on the southern and western sides of the site which are cool, shady and relatively sheltered from wind.

3. Soil

The current landscape condition of this site is poor. It has only a few remnant indigenous alpine shrubs to the rear of the building, which have managed to survive in rocky shale and little obvious soil. From a close observation of this site, it is apparent that there have been many disturbances to the soil in the past. All of the natural landscape qualities of this site have been lost.

4. Slope and Drainage

There is currently a drainage problem to the rear of the building resulting in pooling of water. If this site is to be rehabilitated successfully then the drainage problem must be ameliorated. A vehicular track to the rear of the Chalet contributes to drainage problems and needs to be closed for rehabilitation to be successful.

5. Vegetation Communities

The only indigenous vegetation present on site is located on a small slope to the rear of the Chalet. This is illustrated in figure B. These plants have probably colonised from a remnant local seed bank. They include one plant of the *Hovea* species, one *Ozothamnus* and one small Snow Gum.

Figure B Indigenous vegetation on a small slope to the south east of the Chalet.



Towards the front of the site, adjacent to the Lodge's rubbish hatch, is a small stand of Snow Gums on land managed by the Mount Hotham Alpine Resort. They provide an example of the type of vegetation likely to have formerly existed on the Chalet site.

Vegetation on the site is highly disturbed and species currently present on this site are predominantly weeds. These are described below. Only about 5% of vegetation on the site is indigenous, including the following species:

- *Eucalyptus pauciflora* – Snow Gum
- *Grevillea australis* – Alpine Grevillea
- *Hovea montana* – Rusty Pods
- *Olearia phloggopappa* var. *flavescens* – Dusty Daisy Bush
- *Poa fawcettiae* – Snow Grass
- *Poa hothamensis* – Ledge Grass
- *Ozothamnus alpinus* – Alpine Everlasting

6. Weeds

As much as 95% of the site is covered with exotic species, including:

- *Achillea millifolium* – Milfoil
- *Agrostis capillaris* – Brown Top Bent Grass
- *Dactylis glomerata* – Cocksfoot
- *Holcus lanatus* – Yorkshire Fog
- *Hypochoeris radicata* – Cats Ears
- *Phleum pratense* – Timothy Grass
- *Rumex acetosella* – Sheep Sorrell
- *Trifolium repens* subsp. *repens* – White Clover

7. Bushfire Protection Issues

The site is located adjacent to the Chalet, therefore bushfire protection needs to be considered in rehabilitation.

8. Threatened and Significant Features

The Hotham Chalet site is very close to Mount Higginbotham, which is a listed (EPBC Act 1999 and FFG Act 1988) *Burramys parvus* – Mountain Pygmy Possum habitat. This area is also known as habitat for Broad-toothed Rat and, possibly, the Alpine She-oak Skink. The Hotham Chalet site has no suitable habitat for these species but by rehabilitating this area with indigenous provenance based alpine plants, this area may eventually provide a small, habitable buffer zone between Mt Higginbotham and Higgi Drive.

9. Other Special Features

As this site is so prominent in the Mount Hotham Alpine Resort, it is important that it is rehabilitated with indigenous alpine species and attention to the aesthetic aspect of the site.

