

HUMEWOOD FOREST

Por. 77 Parish of Menangle, Appin Road Gilead

Stand of Gum Trees



HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION:

The name Humewood is associated with the trees and the house just to the south of the area called Meadowvale (previously Known as Humewood). According to local reports, Miss Ellen Clayton Hume desired in her will that these fine trees be kept. The land (80 acres) was first granted to Francis Rawon Hume in 1823 (Portion 77) and access to Beulah (Portion 78) is through it.

The site is characteristed by Wianamatta Shale with outcroppings of Hawkesbury Sandstone along Woodhouse Creek.

The trees have also been referred to as Beulah Forest in recent times. There is debate over the most appropriate name to be used. Humewood Forest is used in this and other previous heritage studies. Previous studies consider the trees as part of the Hume Group. It is assumed that Humewood is used to recognize the Hume Family.

CONDITION AND USE:

The vegetation is in good condition.

The vegetation appears to be in relatively natural state with good canopy cover and a diverse understorey of shrubs and grasses. However it is understood that some trees have been removed for timber. Trees are predominately Eucalyptus Maculata (Spotted Gum). Humewood Forest is an important wild life habitat and forms part of the wildlife corridor that links the Nepean and Georges Rivers.

HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE:

- The vegetation is of great landscape value.
- The area has significance as a remnant of natural forest vegetation with trees and ground species intact and possessing good long-term viability. In [particular it is unusual plant community on Wianamatta Shale, dominated by Spotted Gum, now rare with the regional area. It has important value in terms of "biodiversity" for both flora and fauna and as part of the Georges/Nepean River corridors (Alan Leishman)

HERITAGE LISTING:

LOCAL: IDO 15

STATE: *Proudfoot:* Index No. 107 Category 1

Macarthur Regional Heritage Study: Map 8, No. 35

Heritage Act 1977: Listed Item – although not on the State Heritage Register