

Definition - Disturbed Land

The NPWS [Due Diligence Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales](#) defines disturbed land as:

“Land is disturbed if it has been the subject of human activity that has changed the land’s surface, being changes that remain clear and observable.”

Examples of activities that may have disturbed land include soil ploughing, construction of rural infrastructure, construction of roads, trails and tracks, construction of buildings or structures, installation of utilities, clearing of vegetation and substantial grazing or earthworks.

A site inspection is required to determine if land is ‘disturbed’. Photographs should be documented with the project files. Examples of considerations include:

- Is the work site clearly disturbed?
- Has the ground surface been historically modified?
- Has all topsoil been eroded with only rock or clay subsoil remaining?

Indicative scenarios of disturbed land is shown below:



Examples of disturbed land

Indicative scenarios of undisturbed land is shown below:



Examples of undisturbed land