Mt Alexander Fuel Reduction Burn: Preliminary Mapping of Habitat Destruction

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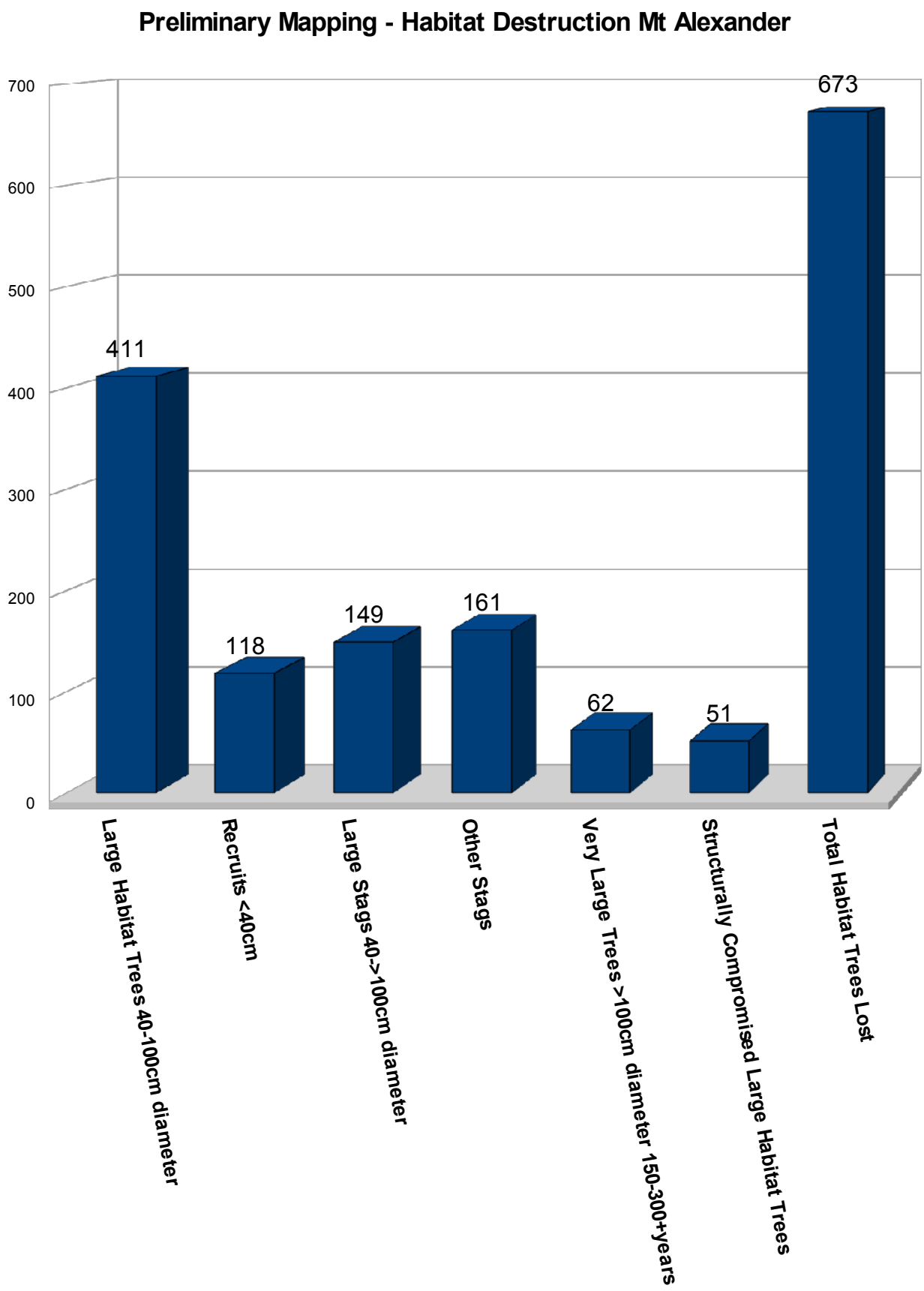
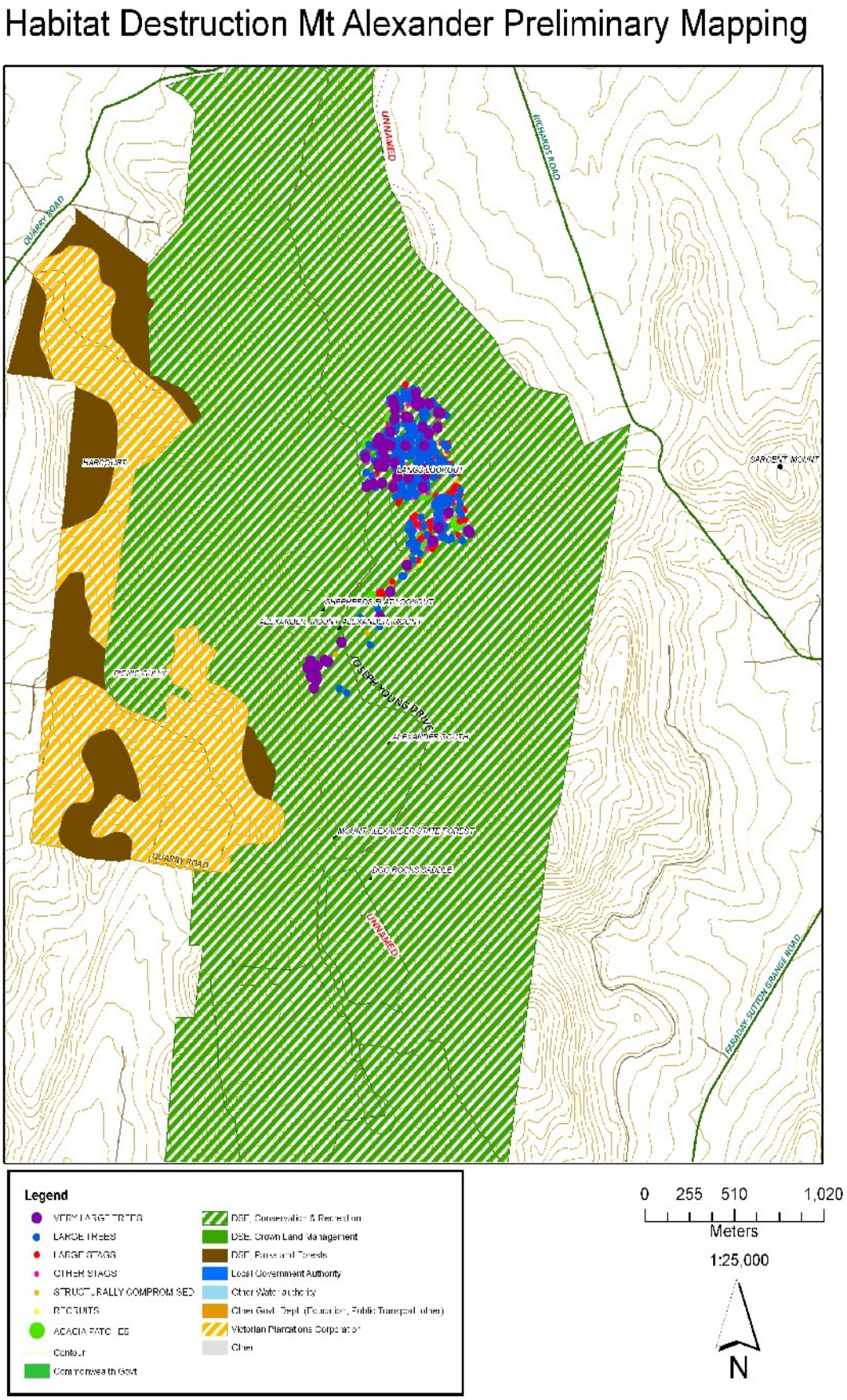
Mt Alexander is recognised as one of the three most significant large tree sites in central Victoria due to the size of the reserve and the density of large trees (VEAC 2001). The higher elevation areas surrounding the summit and southern slopes are particularly important as the lower and northern slopes support a more dispersed tree cover. *Over 600 significant habitat trees were destroyed due to a fuel reduction burn which affected an area of 90 ha. More than 60 Pre-European trees (between 200-300 years old) were needlessly destroyed.* In addition more than 100 recruits were also killed, many were the only mature trees available to replace large habitat trees destroyed, therefore replacement will require seedlings, and these will take a minimum of 100 years to mature before producing hollows.

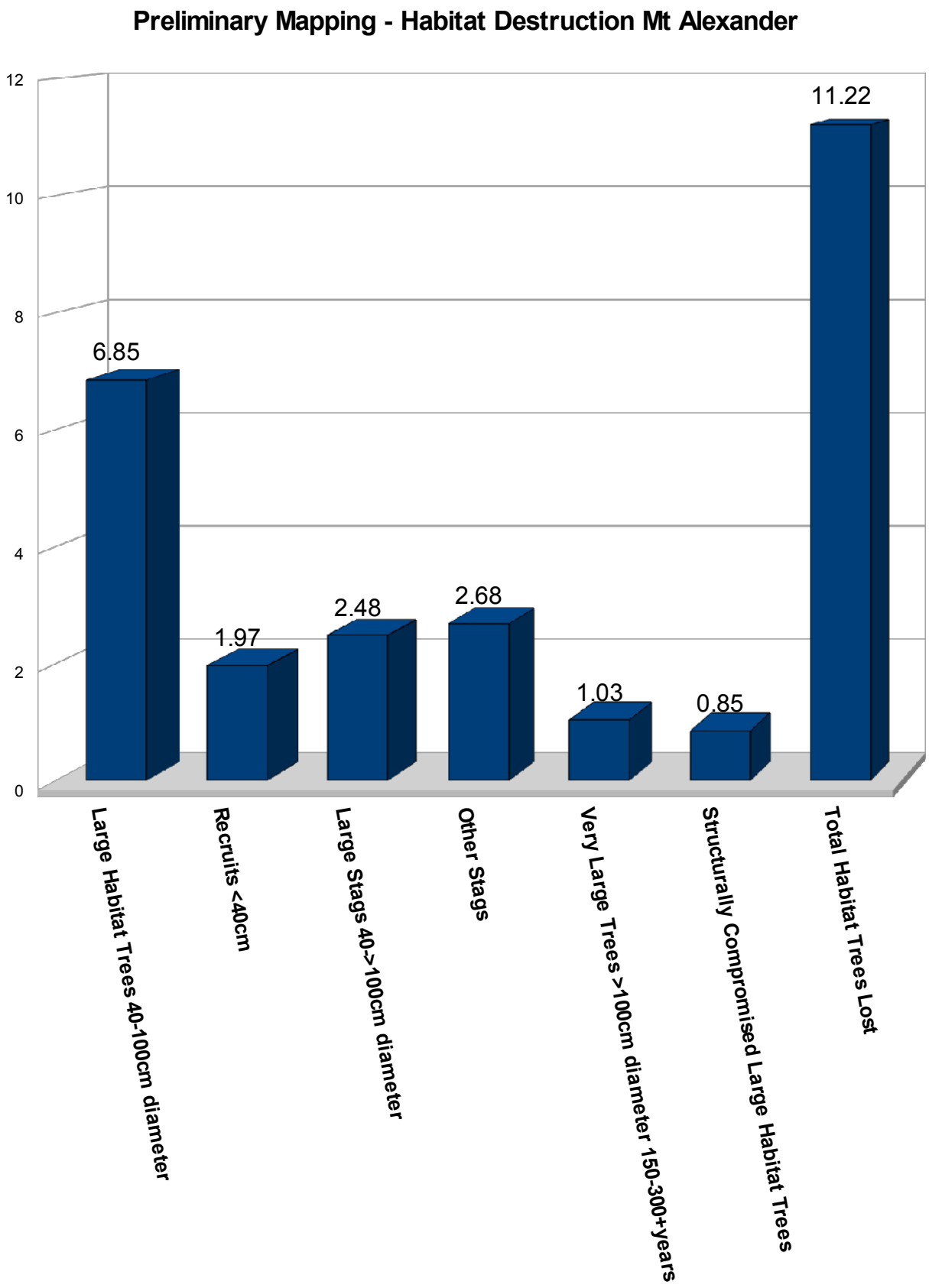
Graph 1: Total Habitat Trees Destroyed



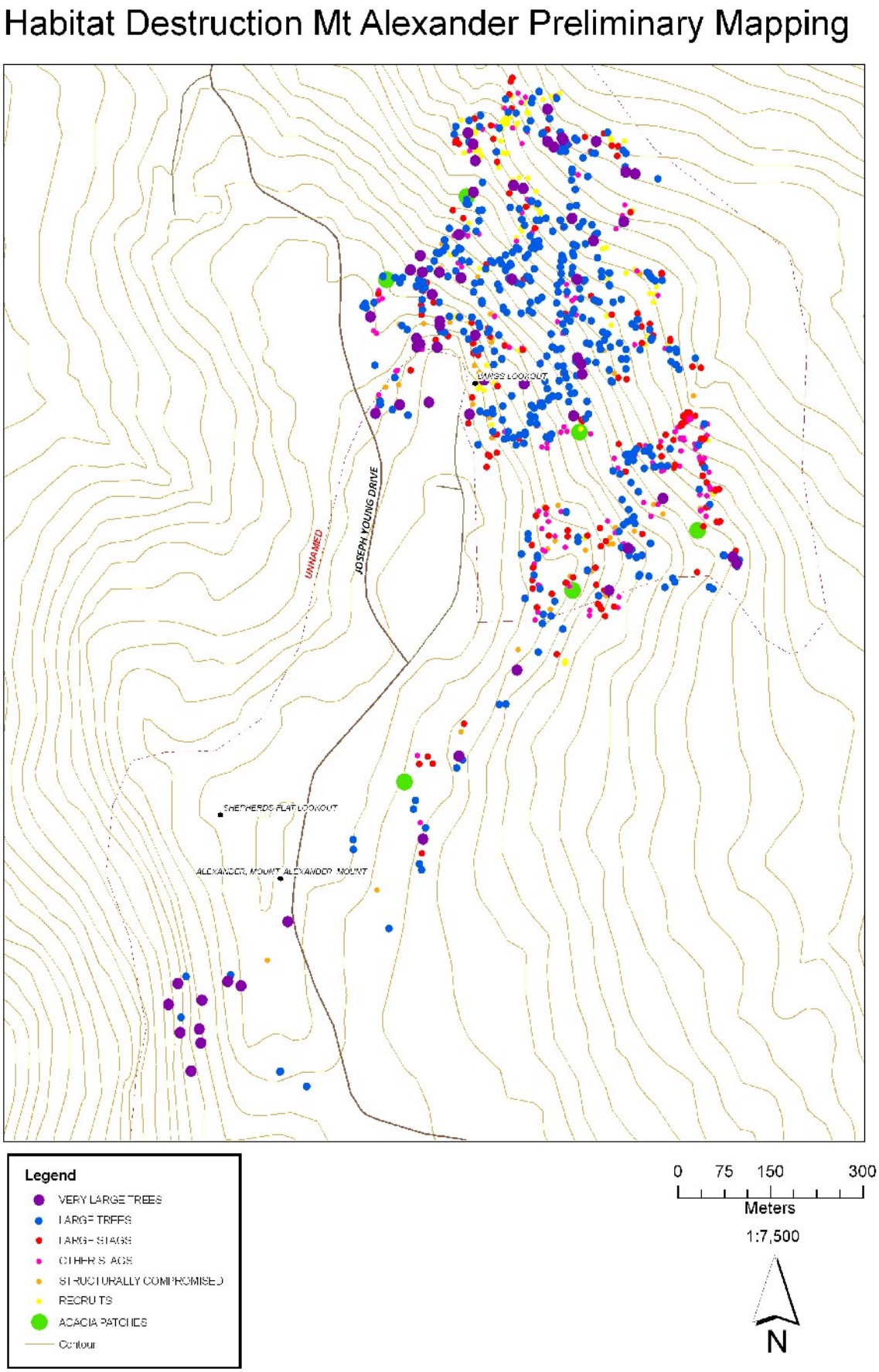
Map 1: General Area affected



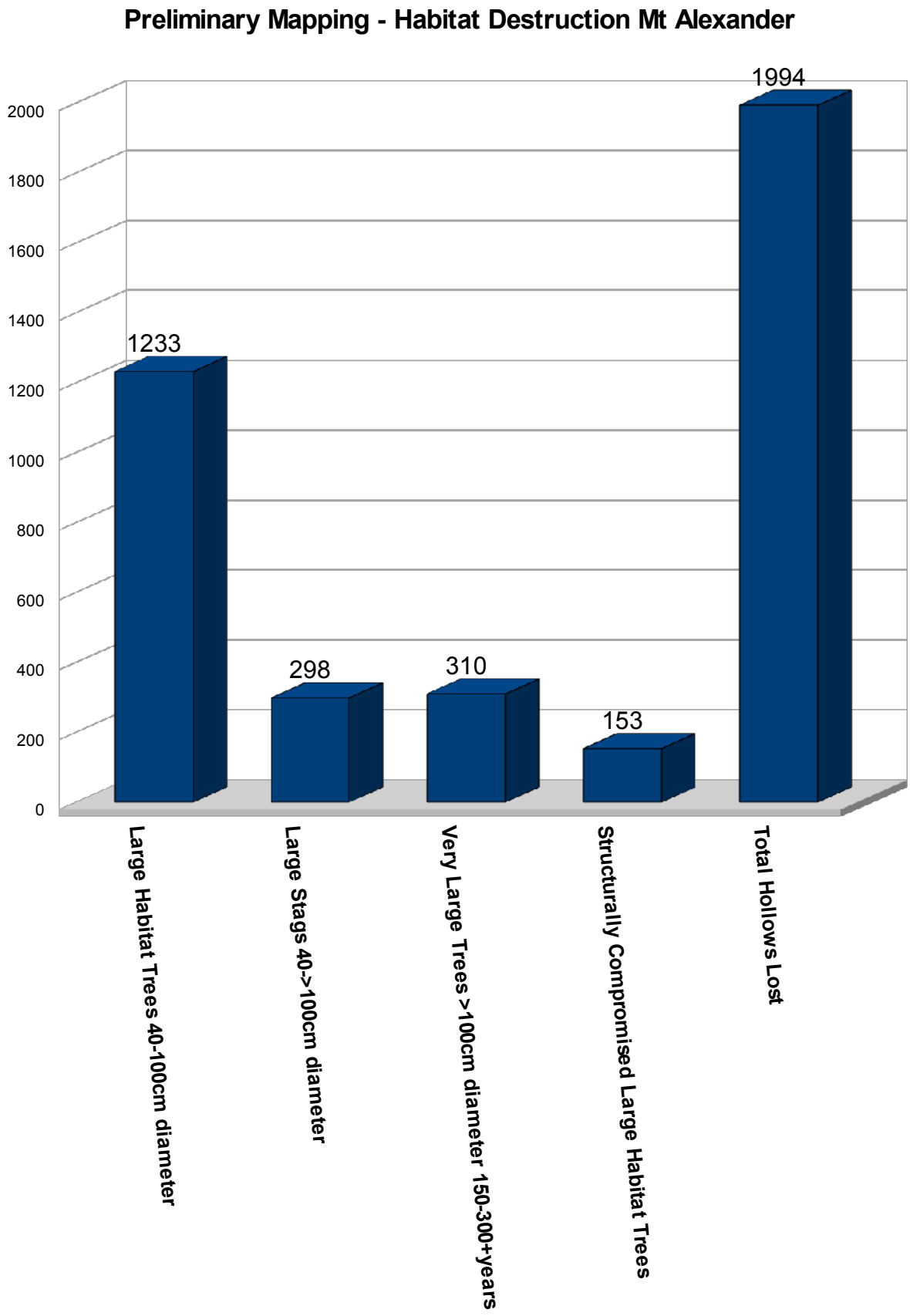
Graph 2: Average Density of Trees Destroyed p/ha (60ha initial survey)



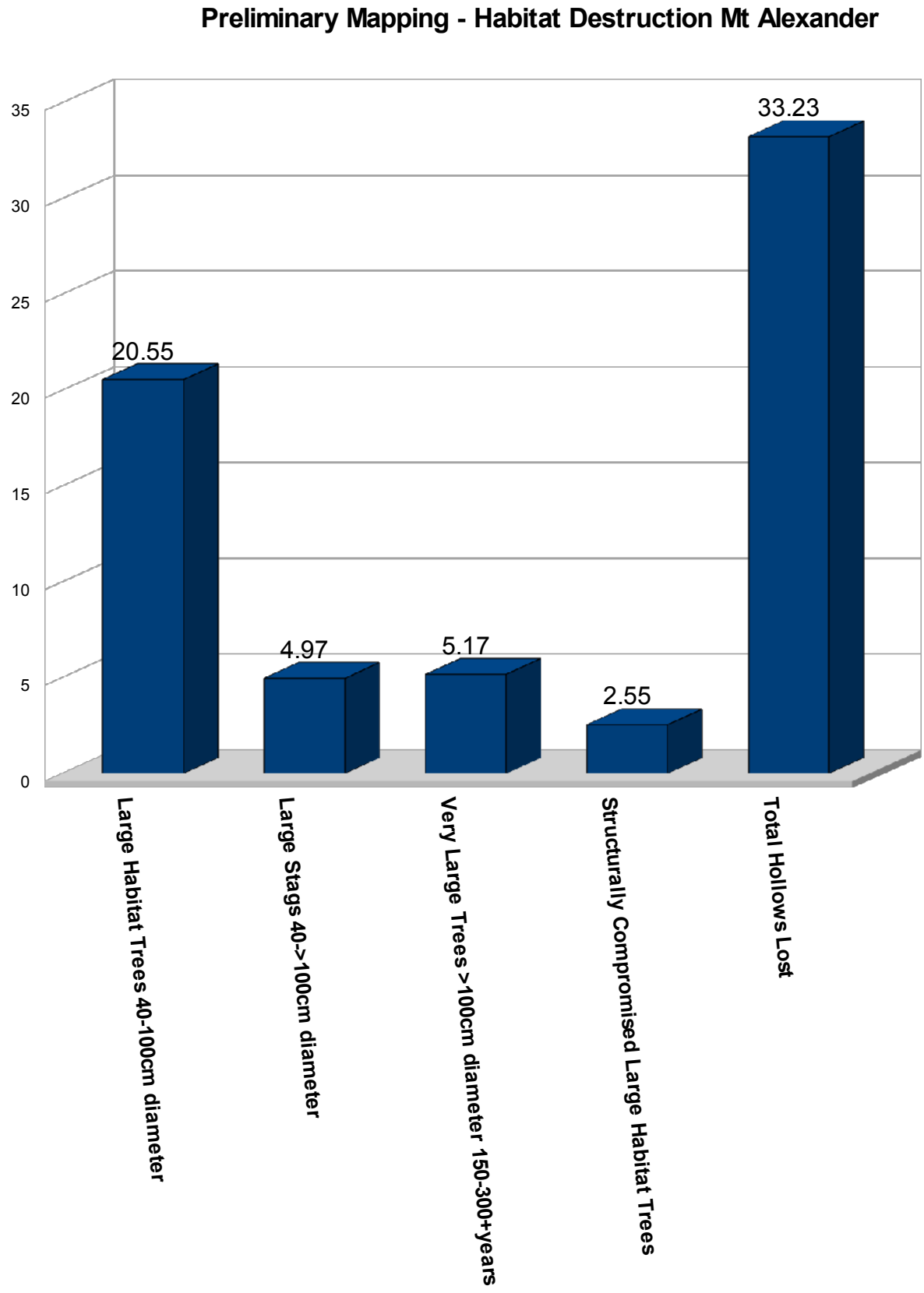
Map 2: Spatial Distribution of Habitat Trees and other Habitat Elements Destroyed



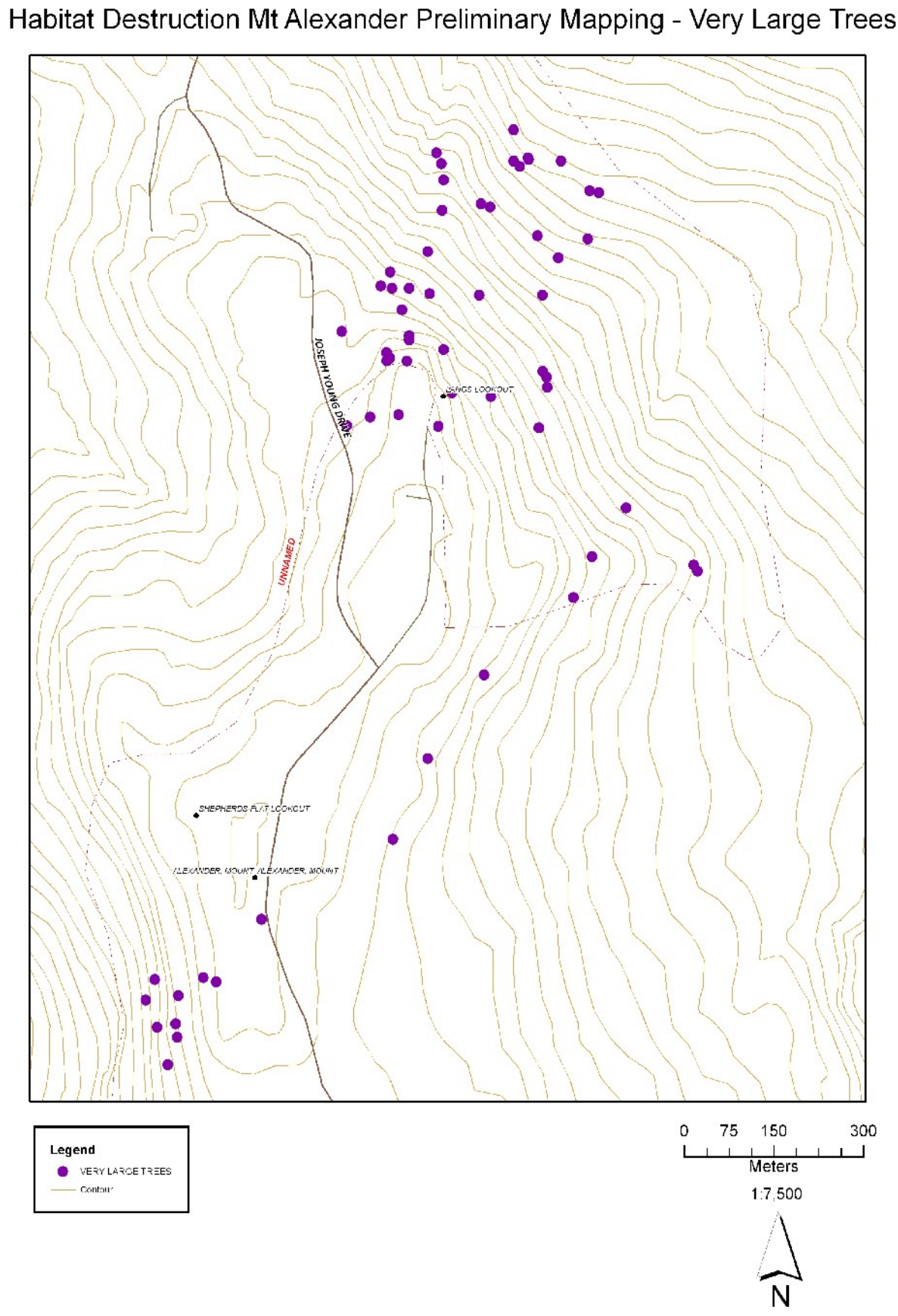
Graph 3: Estimated Total Hollows Removed



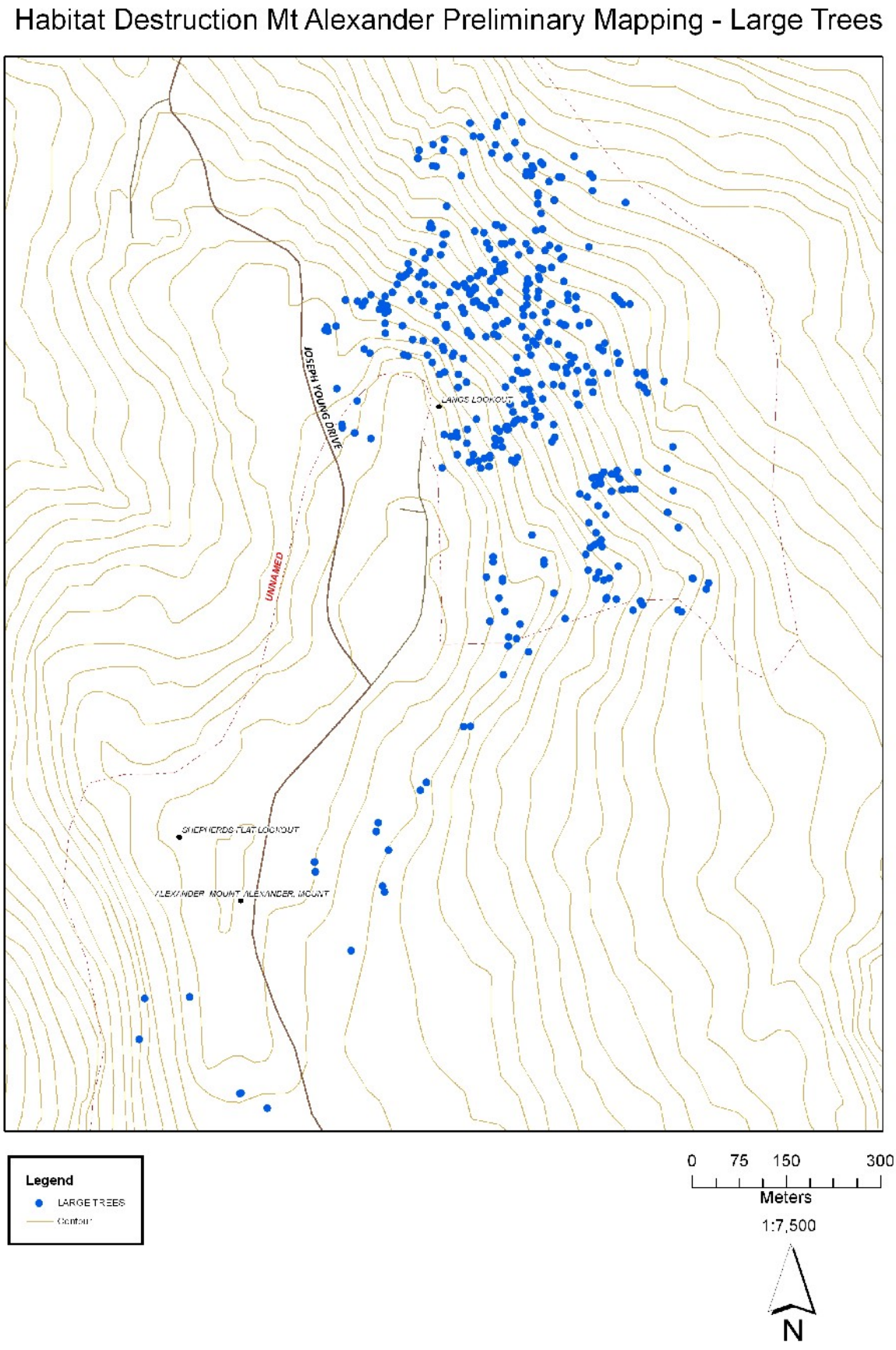
Graph 4: Estimated Density of Hollows Removed p/ha (60ha initial survey)



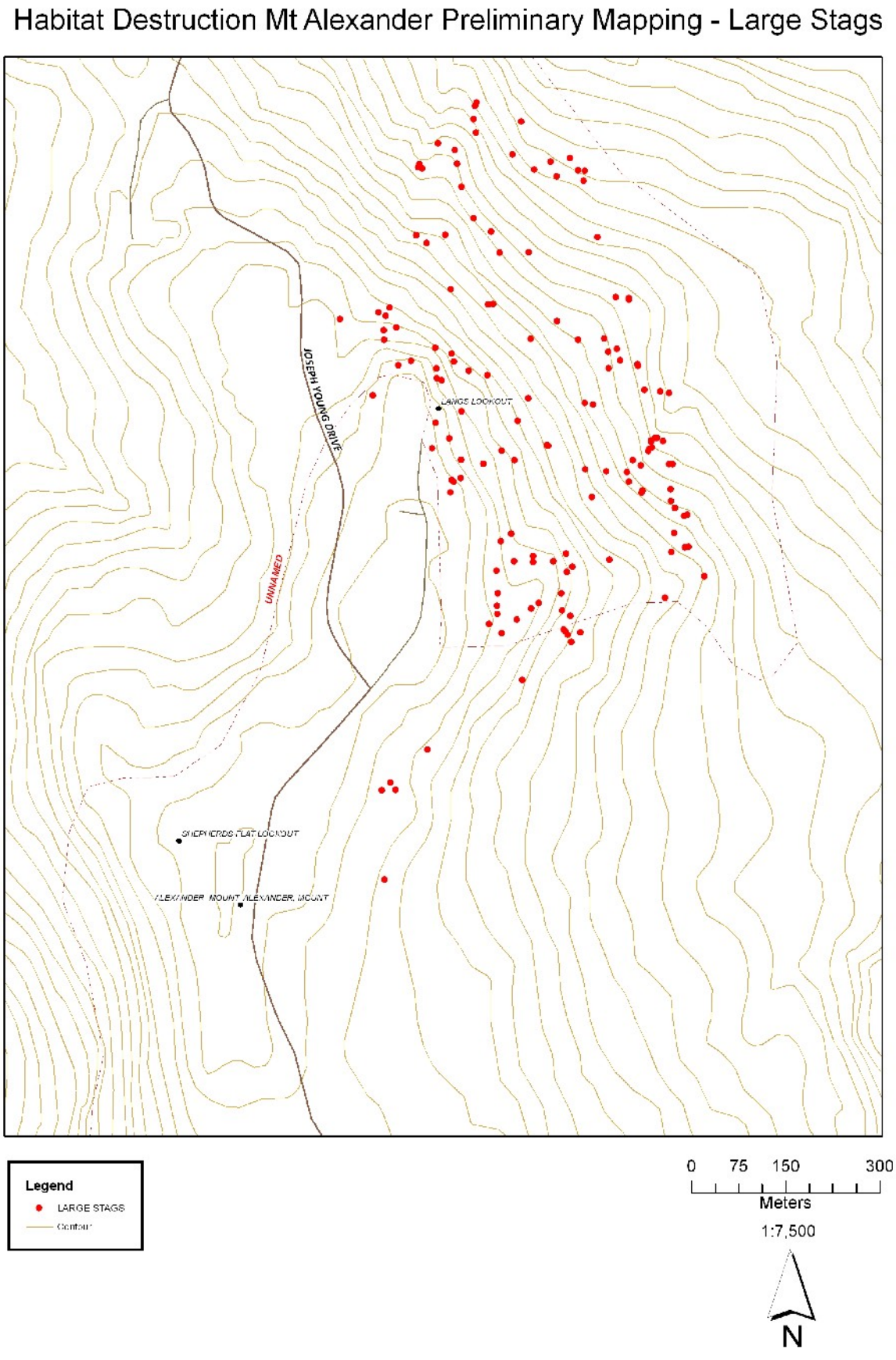
Map3: Spatial Distribution of Very Large Trees Destroyed



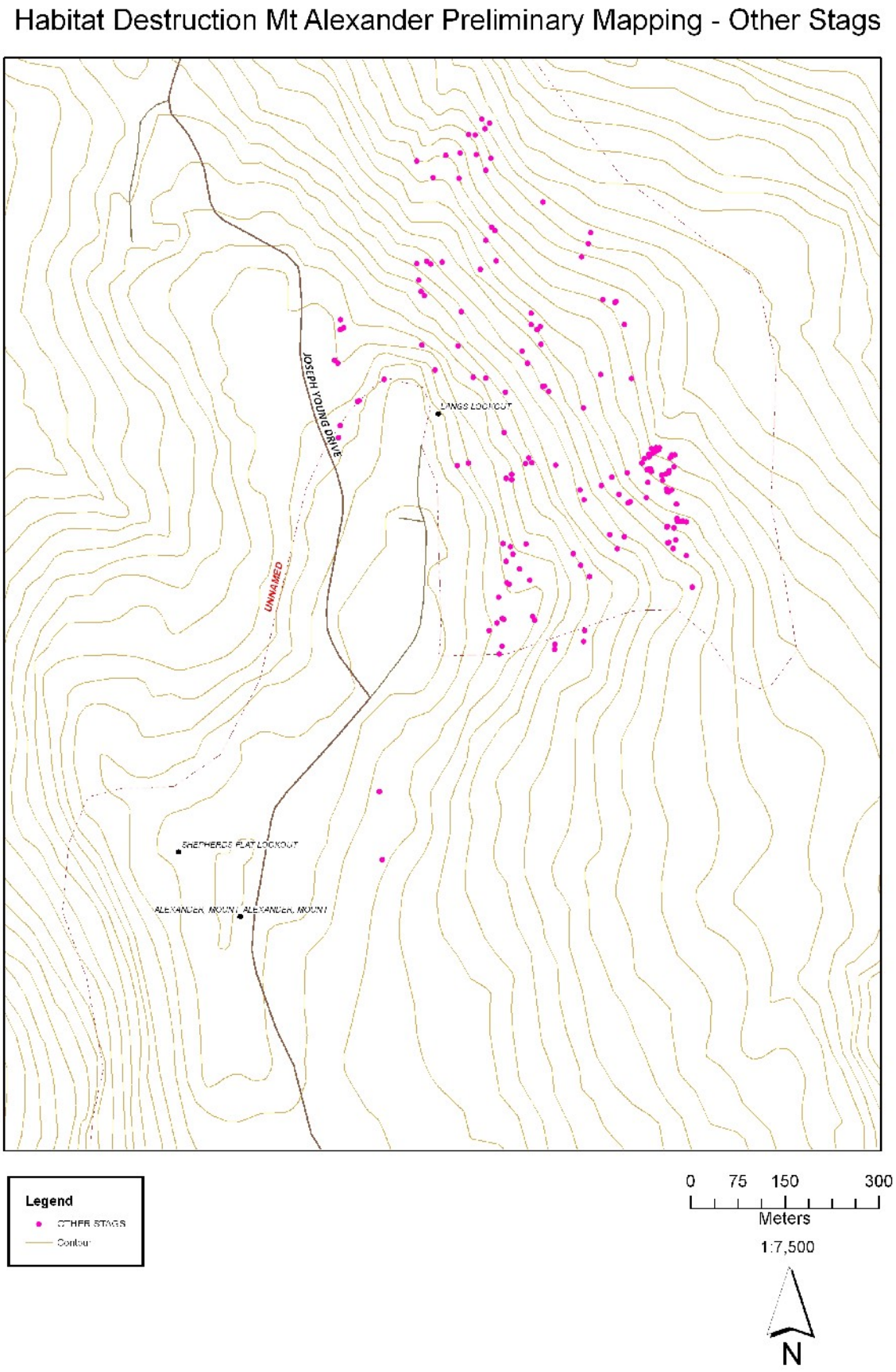
Map 4: Spatial Distribution of Large Trees Destroyed



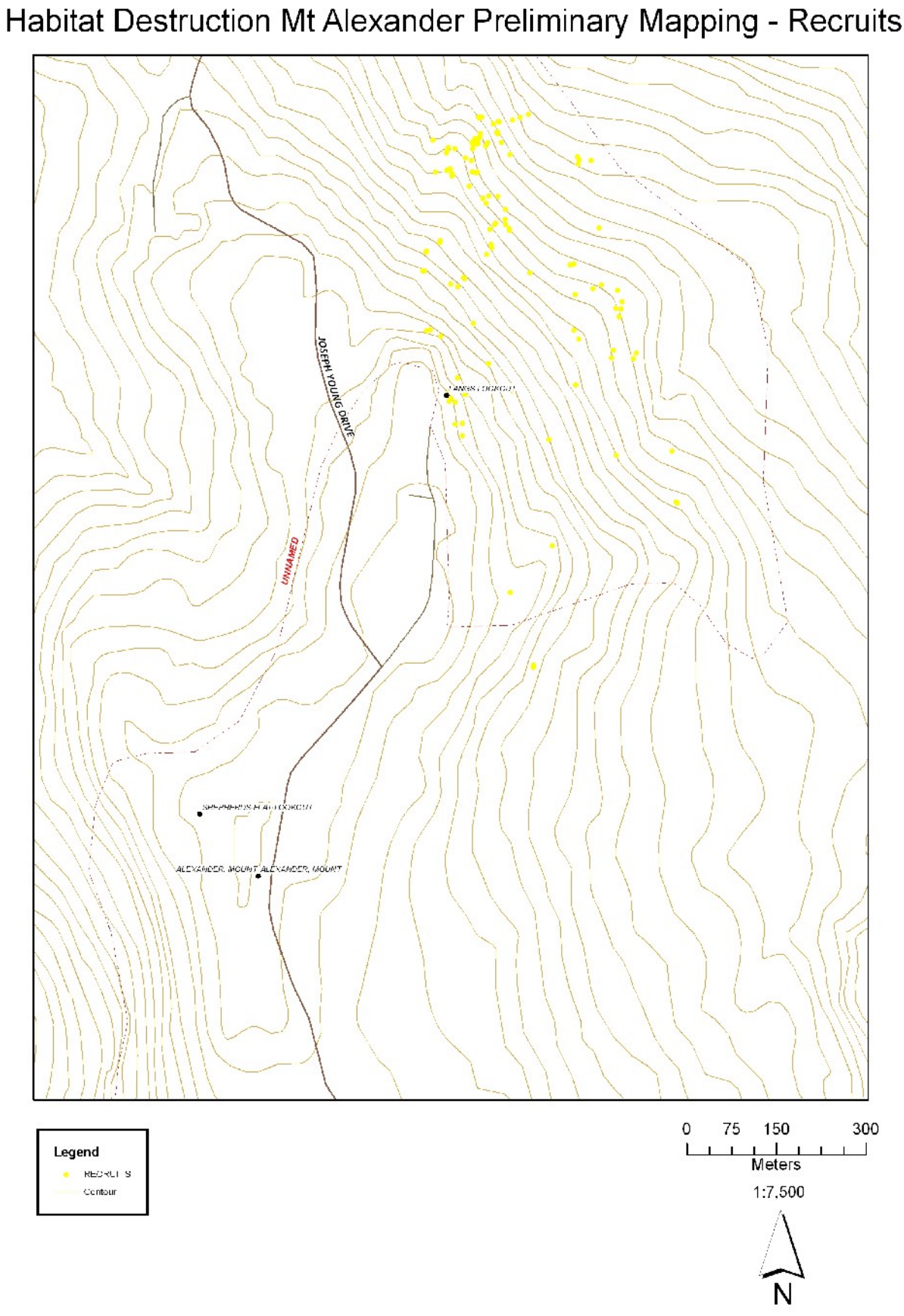
Map 5: Spatial Distribution of Large Stags Destroyed



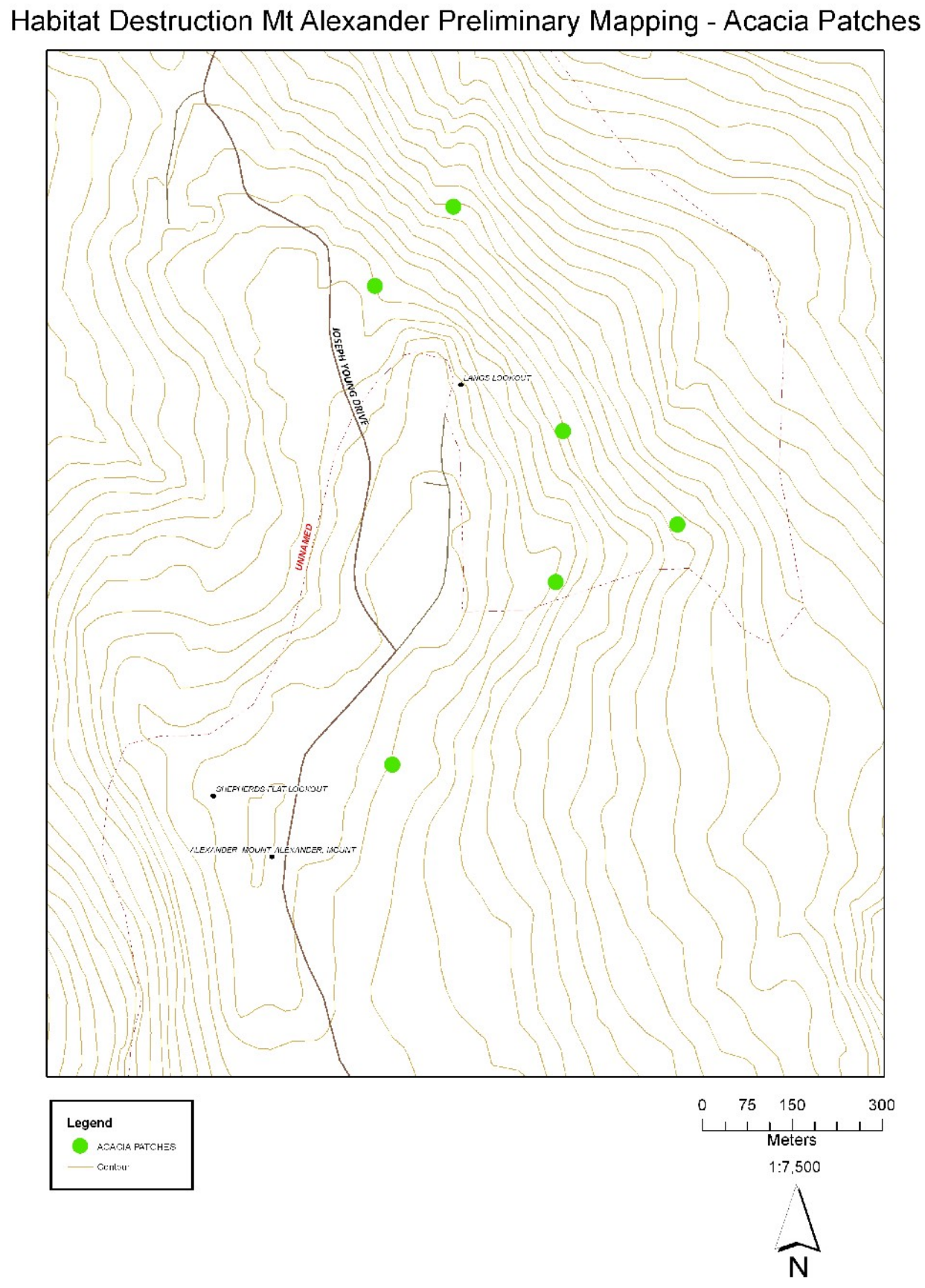
Map 6: Spatial Distribution of Other Stags Destroyed



Map 7: Spatial Distribution of Recruits Killed



Map 8: Spatial Distribution of *Acacia dealbata* patches removed/partly removed



Map 9: Spatial Distribution of Structurally Compromised Large Trees