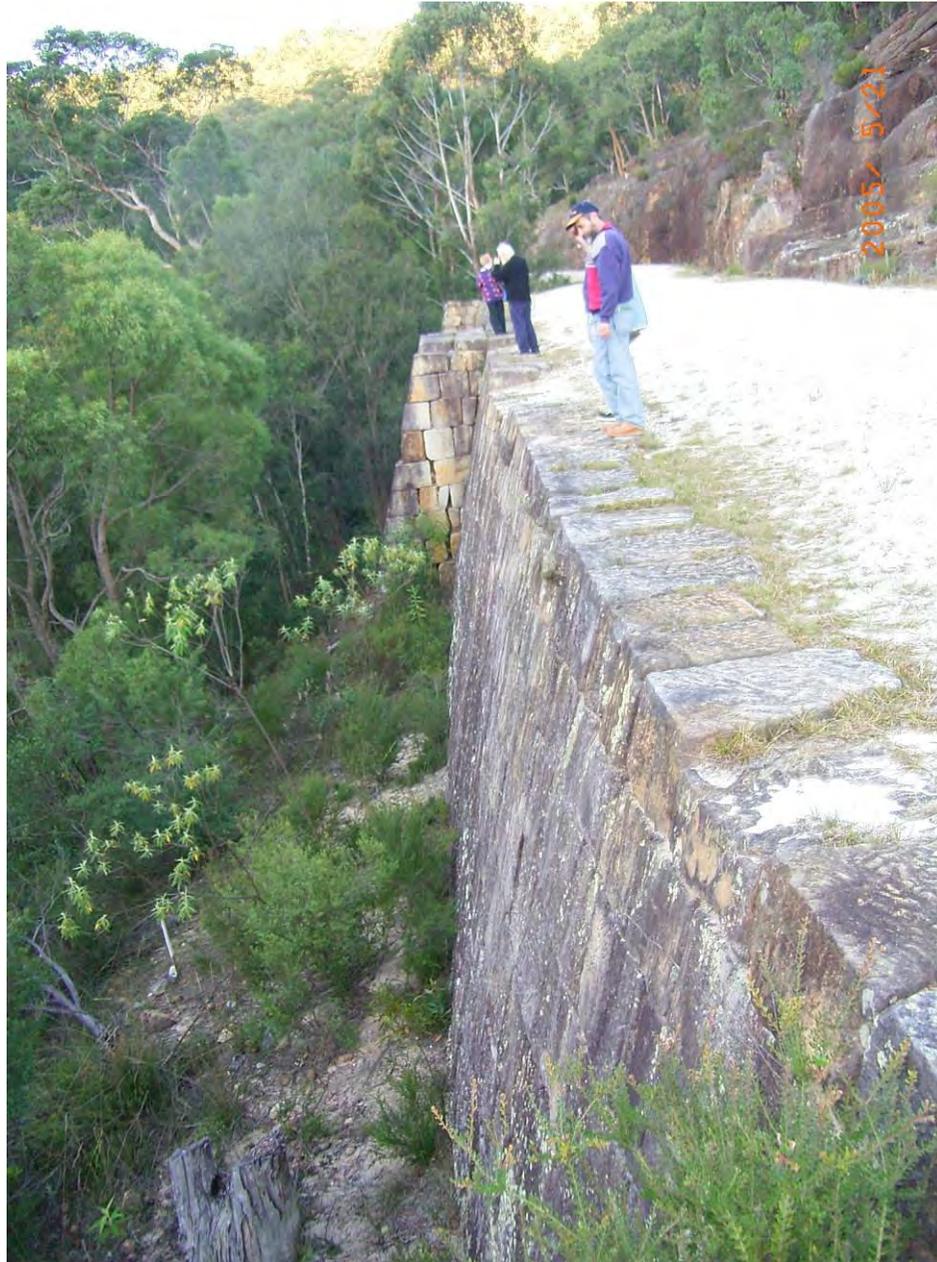


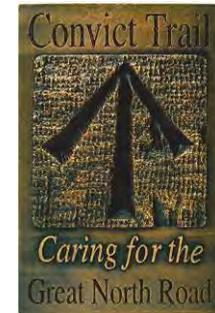


Top: butterss, Devines Hill, viewed from below, was built as a **culvert** to keep water away from road.

Above: the same butterss in a rain storm seen from the road



Main picture. Road up Devines Hill supported by high dry stone wall, showing two "butterss" culverts and the cut away hill side. Note the pick dressing on the stones of the wall.



The Great North Road *The Convict Trail* What are you looking at?

The Great North Road is a 240km convict built masterpiece constructed between 1826 and 1836 to provide an overland route from Sydney to Newcastle and the Hunter Valley. Much of the original convict built road remains in use today, although a lot of the original surface is well buried beneath bitumen.

You can see convict built remains, such as stone retaining walls, pick dressed cuttings, culverts, bridges and stone cut drains, when you drive along the road, or when you walk in Dharug and Yengo National Parks.

What are you looking at?

This brochure is designed to be used with the other brochures and not as a stand alone brochure. Use it to find the items described elsewhere.

Using the newest engineering technology for the 1820s an elaborate drainage system was built to take water away from the road edges.

Culverts could be elaborate or simple.



To get the water to the culverts there were hand cut **drains** some



quite large. Drains could be cut into the bed rock or paved. The **drains**



were very important they kept the road dry

and prevented damage.

It was only when the **drains** were neglected that the road surfaces failed. The cliffs were cut away and walls were built to support the road.

It was important to keep the



gradient as level as possible and many different quality walls were built.

To have enough stone as well as using that cut from the cliff face some was quarried.

Several of these **quarries** can be found near the road. Some were for stone and others



for road fill.

As shown below some stones and cliff faces were



dressed with **pickmarking**.



The convicts also hand drilled the rock then blew it apart with gun powder, leaving part of the **drilled holes** behind. Many of there were slightly

triangular in shape. Occasionally the hole remains. Another way of splitting rock was with wedges, see Wedge Pits below.



THE CONVICT TRAIL

The Convict Trail is the name for The Great North Road, the surrounding land, and historic buildings. The Convict Trail Project Inc. (CTP) is a community based organisation devoted to the protection and promotion of the Great North Road

To achieve its objectives the CTP works with many partners, including the NSW Department of Planning Heritage Branch, councils, Dept. of Corrective Services, NPWS, RTA & local tourism associations. The Project brings together community groups, individual members, tourism groups, State Government agencies and local councils . For more information, including “conservation partners” visit the CTP website.

This brochure accompanies a series of area specific electronic brochures available from the Convict Trail website. The content of this brochure has been compiled in good faith but is published without responsibility in law or otherwise for its accuracy and without any assumption of duty of care by the Convict Trail Project. The sites are listed allow you to recognize what you are looking at and to appreciate how much evidence remains and what is supporting the road you are driving on.

Remember: do not trespass on private property. Many of the convict relics noted in this guide are used for traffic. You should only view them from safe locations.

For more information purchase an “Explore the Convict Trail” booklet or visit the Convict Trail Website www.convicttrail.org.

New members welcome.
Write to: CTP, 7 Coolabah Close,
Thornleigh NSW 2120



Much **graffiti** can be found along the Great North Road some can be dated to the convicts, such as the 25th R. Party on Finches line, drawing below, whilst other graffiti is assumed to be by the convicts and others is from the 20th century. All shown is thought to be by Convicts



The convicts lived in **stockades** and campsites and some of these remain. Visible to those who know what they are looking for. The person is standing in the remains of a gum power magazine dug into the hill side. The circle of stones is the remains of a well.