
GOULBURN RIVER ALLUVIAL WORKINGS

Location

A1 TRACK GAFFNEYS CREEK, MANSFIELD SHIRE

Municipality

MANSFIELD SHIRE

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H8123-0021

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Hermes Number 10818

Property Number

History

Heritage Inventory History of Site:

In August 1859, the Kilmore mining registrar wrote: "Reports have reached me of some few parties doing well in alluvial mining at the Upper Goulburn and the Big River; but from what I can learn great difficulties have to be encountered, both from the sudden flooding of the river claims, as well as from the difficulty of obtaining stores, provision, &c"

Early alluvial mining on the Goulburn River was largely confined to bank-sluicing claims, worked by both Europeans and Chinese. Until 1866, the bed of Goulburn River was only partially worked, by means of 'wing dams' from its banks ('Chinamen being the principal adventurers hitherto'). At that time, the first organised attempt to work the river bed was made at Tunnel Bend, south of Ten Mile (see foregoing site). 'The success of one attempt,' the mining surveyor wrote, 'would lead to the working of the bed of the river for many miles of its

tortuous course.' Severe flooding stymied that attempt and appears to have continued to retard alluvial mining along the upper Goulburn. In 1868, the mining registrar was of the opinion that 'there is still remunerative employment for alluvial miners, if they would turn their attention to the banks and spurs of the Goulburn river'. But did they? Perhaps eventually, when Gaffney's, Raspberry and the other creeks were exhausted. In 1891, alluvial mining on the Gaffney's Creek field was confined to the Goulburn River.

References:

Lloyd & Combes

Mining Surveyors' Reports (Kilmore Division), August 1859; (Gaffney's Creek Subdivision), December 1865, September & December 1866, June & September 1867, December 1868

This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.

For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>