
MOORABOOL RAILWAY ARTEFACT SCATTER

Location

RAILWAY RESERVE ADJACENT TO MOORABOOL VIADUCT, BATESFORD, GOLDEN PLAINS SHIRE

Municipality

GOLDEN PLAINS SHIRE

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7721-0455

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Interpretation of Site

The site is likely to represent a temporary location for working bluestone used in construction of the Moorabool Viaduct. The assemblage (including domestic ceramics) indicates there may have been some camping or habitation of the area, or that it may have been a rubbish disposal area for nearby residences. No evidence was noted of structural architectural remains. There are also several small piles of spalled bluestone, possibly the result of discarded material during bluestone preparation and detailing. The site and surrounding area have been disturbed by erosion on an access road through the site and by stockpiling of waste ballast and other soil.

Archaeological Significance

The site has moderate archaeological significance. The site contains a small quantity and range of cultural material with no evidence of stratification. The integrity of the site is affected by the deteriorated condition and level of disturbance. The site may be an example of a workers camp site - which is rare in this region. However further investigation is needed. The scatter consists of more than 30 fragments of domestic pottery and glass, and various metal artefacts such as railway pins hooks and other discarded metal. Much of the metal deposit is slightly buried and its exact nature is not known (presence was confirmed by a metal detector). Indigenous artefacts also exist on the site.

Historical Significance	The site has significance for its association with the Moorabool Viaduct, one of Victoria's oldest bridges. It represents a significant period of transport and infrastructure development.
Hermes Number	125097
Property Number	

History

Early land owners in the area included Thomas Learmonth (1783-1869), a member of the Port Phillip Association. The association was a large group of settlers looking to establish a large tract of pastoral land in the area west of Melbourne.

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/>