
GRASSES TRACK ARTEFACT SCATTER

Location

GRASSES TRACK AND RIVER TRACK, BENWELL FOREST, MYALL

Municipality

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7726-0011

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - January 3, 2023

What is significant?

The Grasses Track Artefact Scatter is an archaeological site located immediately east of Grasses Track within Benwell Forest, Myall. The site extends across an area of approximately 15 m diameter and consists of an excavated depression containing potentially desugared refuse from the late 19th to the mid-20th century.

How is it significant?

Grasses Track Artefact Scatter is of local archaeological significance.

Why is it significant?

Archaeological excavation may identify further articles whose diagnostic features may provide information on consumerism, trade and aspects of forestry practices and life in the region. The excavated depression and presence of modern refuse amongst late nineteenth to mid-twentieth century items suggest the site has been utilised over a long period of time and likely constitutes a secondary dumping location created by either local forestry workers or members of the local farming community. Archaeological excavation may identify further articles whose diagnostic features may provide information on consumerism, trade and aspects of forestry practices and life in the region.

Interpretation of Site	The Grasses Track Artefact Scatter contains artefacts that relate to activity within the Benwell Forest. It is located within an excavated depression which on the surface contains articles that can be dated between the late nineteenth and mid-twentieth centuries. It is likely that further diagnostic material is located within the excavated depression. There is currently no documented or anecdotal evidence available for the site, however the site has potential to provide information regarding past activity related to activities in the Benwell State Forest such as forestry, recreational activity and farming. Dumping appears to have occurred from the late-1800s into modern times. One ceramic fragment was stamped with the date 1853. Glassware identified at the site is be dated between 1934 and 1954, with one bottle dated between c.1934-1948. Modern refuse includes rubber tyres and discarded rubber-soled shoes. The Grasses Track Artefact Scatter contains artefacts that relate to activity within the Benwell Forest. It is located within an excavated depression which on the surface contain articles that can be dated between the late nineteenth and mid-twentieth centuries. It is likely that further diagnostic material is located within the excavated depression. Therefore, the Grasses Track Artefact Scatter site meets Threshold A (archaeology). There is currently no documented or anecdotal evidence available for the site, however the site has potential to provide information regarding past activity related to activities in the Benwell State Forest such as forestry, recreational activity and farming. The Grasses Track Artefact Scatter site thus meets the Threshold B (place history).
Hermes Number	209339
Property Number	

History

There is no specific information regarding the site in general histories of Benwell Forest and/or any Parish Plans. Domestic/pastoral sites from the early to mid-twentieth century are not uncommon throughout Victoria, however there are fewer attributed to forestry activity. The history of the Benwell and Guttrum forests and the nearby town of Koondrook is heavily tied to forestry activities and the production of timber. Forestry activity including minor structures and features which recur throughout the forests which contribute to the historic landscape, including tree stumps from sawlog harvesting, slot stumps, waste offcuts from sleeper cutting, and ringbarked trees. Parish mapping from 1923 does not show any features at this place, which is situated outside the noted rifle range. Nothing is visible in aerial imagery dating to 1945, as the area is thickly wooded in the photograph. However, the Grasses Track Artefact Scatter may therefore be linked to these forestry activities, comprising material used and discarded by forestry workers (or by other local community members) from the late nineteenth century through to the mid-twentieth century.

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/>