

# HUMBUG HILL HYDRAULIC GOLD SLUICING SITE



Pebble Dumps (December 2019)



Water Race from Russels Reservoir (December 2019)



Pebble Dump (December 2019)



Pebble Dump (December 2019)



Pebble Dump (December 2019)



Pebble Dump (December 2019)



Sluice Pit (December 2019)



Water Race from Russels Reservoir (December 2019)



1 humbug hill sluicing creswick landscape

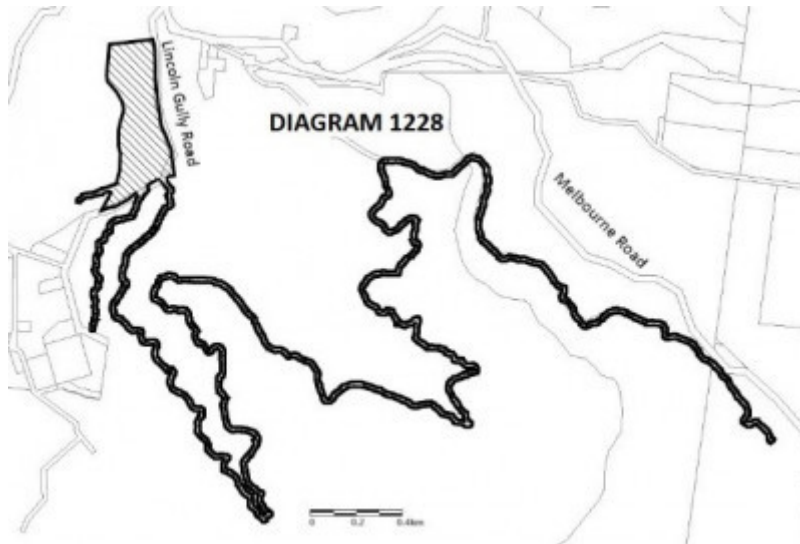


Diagram 1228

---

### **Location**

LINCOLN GULLY ROAD CRESWICK AND CABBAGE TREE, HEPBURN SHIRE

### **Municipality**

HEPBURN SHIRE

### **Level of significance**

Registered

### **Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number**

H1228

### **Heritage Overlay Numbers**

HO976

### **VHR Registration**

November 28, 1996

### **Amendment to Registration**

April 16, 2020

### **Heritage Listing**

Victorian Heritage Register

---

## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - May 11, 1999

The Humbug Hill Hydraulic Gold Sluicing Site consists of a large sluicing pit containing a network of pebble dumps and tail races. The slope below the pit has been extensively ground sluiced and the gully draining from the southern end of the pit has been deeply excavated by high pressure water. Water races brought water to Humbug Hill, including the well-preserved race running from Russells Reservoir and down Lincoln Gully.

The Humbug Hill Hydraulic Gold Sluicing Site is historically and archaeologically significant as a characteristic and well preserved example of an early form of gold mining.

Gold mining sites are of crucial importance for the pivotal role they have played since 1851 in the development of Victoria. The Humbug Hill Hydraulic Gold Sluicing Site was operational from 1854. Hydraulic sluicing of alluvial gold deposits is important for the understanding of gold mining technology as it was employed in country where water was plentiful and perennial. [Criterion A]

The Humbug Hill Hydraulic Gold Sluicing Site is archaeologically important for its potential to yield artefacts and evidence which will be able to provide significant information about the cultural history of gold mining and the gold seekers themselves. [Criterion C]

## Permit Exemptions

### General Exemptions:

General exemptions apply to all places and objects included in the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR). General exemptions have been designed to allow everyday activities, maintenance and changes to your property, which don't harm its cultural heritage significance, to proceed without the need to obtain approvals under the Heritage Act 2017.

Places of worship: In some circumstances, you can alter a place of worship to accommodate religious practices without a permit, but you must [notify](#) the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria before you start the works or activities at least 20 business days before the works or activities are to commence.

Subdivision/consolidation: Permit exemptions exist for some subdivisions and consolidations. If the subdivision or consolidation is in accordance with a planning permit granted under Part 4 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and the application for the planning permit was referred to the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria as a determining referral authority, a permit is not required.

Specific exemptions may also apply to your registered place or object. If applicable, these are listed below. Specific exemptions are tailored to the conservation and management needs of an individual registered place or object and set out works and activities that are exempt from the requirements of a permit. Specific exemptions prevail if they conflict with general exemptions.

Find out more about heritage permit exemptions [here](#).

### Specific Exemptions:

General Conditions: 1. All exempted alterations are to be planned and carried out in a manner which prevents damage to the fabric of the registered place or object. General Conditions: 2. Should it become apparent during further inspection or the carrying out of works that original or previously hidden or inaccessible details of the place or object are revealed which relate to the significance of the place or object, then the exemption covering such works shall cease and Heritage Victoria shall be notified as soon as possible. Note: All archaeological places have

the potential to contain significant sub-surface artefacts and other remains. In most cases it will be necessary to obtain approval from the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria before the undertaking any works that have a significant sub-surface component. General Conditions: 3. All works should be informed by Conservation Management Plans prepared for the place.

The Executive Director is not bound by any Conservation Management Plan, and permits still must be obtained for works suggested in any Conservation Management Plan.

General Conditions: 4. Nothing in this determination prevents the Executive Director from amending or rescinding all or any of the permit exemptions. General Conditions: 5. Nothing in this determination exempts owners or their agents from the responsibility to seek relevant planning or building permits from the responsible authorities where applicable. Fire Suppression Duties : Fire suppression activities such as fuel reduction burns provided that they are done in a manner that do not alter the physical fabric of the place. Landscape: Management and maintenance of dead or dangerous trees to maintain public safety and to protect buildings and structures. Landscape: Removal and management of noxious weeds

**Public safety and security:** Works or activities, including emergency stabilisation, necessary to secure safety where part of the place has been irreparably damaged or destabilised and poses a safety risk to its users or the public. The Executive Director, Heritage Victoria must be notified within seven days of the commencement of these works or activities.

Construction dates 1851,  
Heritage Act Categories Registered place, Registered archaeological place,  
Hermes Number 5012  
Property Number

---

## History

Humbug Hill and the surrounding goldfields were rushed in 1854. The workings are primarily associated with the mining of high terrace tertiary gravels which were deposited up to 40 million years ago. There was up to thirty feet (nine metres) of gold bearing gravels in this goldfield. Water was required to work these deposits, and it was bought in by water races from Russells Reservoir. The sluicing of Humbug Hill was seasonal, dependant on water availability. In the winter of 1859, when water was particularly abundant, 1,500 cubic yards of deposit was sluiced, returning 245 ounces of gold. By 1866 drought had deterred most miners, and only Chinese miners remained to continue shallow alluvial mining.

## Extent of Registration

Heritage Act 2017

### NOTICE OF REGISTRATION

As Executive Director for the purpose of the **Heritage Act 2017**, I give notice under section 53 that the Victorian Heritage Register is amended by modifying a place in the Heritage Register:

Number: H1228

Category: Registered Place

Place: Humbug Hill Hydraulic Gold Sluicing Site

Location: Lincoln Gully Road Creswick And Cabbage Tree,

Municipality: Hepburn Shire

All of the place shown hatched on Diagram 1228 encompassing parts of Crown Allotments 2044, 2045, 2048, 2049 and Y16 Parish of Creswick, parts of Crown Allotments 9A and 15D, Section U, Parish of Creswick, and part of the road reserves for Humbug Road and D Blake Road.

16 April 2020

STEVEN AVERY

Executive Director

*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/>*