
Wales Quarry Site (former)

Location

Victoria Street, East Brunswick, Moreland City

Municipality

MERRI-BEK CITY

Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO2

Heritage Listing

Merri-bek City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - January 1, 2008

The old Wales Quarry Site is locally significant for the remnant built structures and vegetation from the early, post-contact use of the area. They directly represent a major industry that was active along the Merri Creek for many decades, and which was important to the local community, as well as to the built environment of Melbourne generally. The site also represents an unconventional form of quarrying, which proved to be successful for many years.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Moreland - City of Moreland Heritage Review, Allen Lovell and Associates, 1999; Moreland - Keeping Brunswick's heritage: A Report on the Review of the Brunswick Conservation Study, Context Pty Ltd, 1990; Moreland - Northern Suburbs Factory Study, Vines, G and M, Churchward, 1992;
Other Names	Kirkdale Street Park, Whelan's site,
Hermes Number	59178
Property Number	

Physical Description 1

Trees and structures associated with an old quarry site on the western bank of the Merri Creek. The area now forms part of a linear park system along the creek.

Alexander P Wales established the quarry in the 1860s, utilising the exposed basalt flows near the Merri Creek. The quarry was one of several operating along the creek in the 19th and early 20th centuries. The quarry was unusual in that it was very steep and deep, requiring a retaining wall along the creek frontage, but small in area. Aerial winches were used to haul skips up the steep slopes. The site was the largest stone producing quarry in Victoria from the 1920s until its closure in the late 1950s.

Potential Threats: Remnant Fabric (Man Made):The site features a prominent stone aerial winch tower adjacent to the Merri Creek. The remains of the retaining wall, in close proximity to the tower, form a creek viewing area in the current park. A restored 19th Century winch is located in the northern section of the site with an interpretation board. The winch does not appear to be associated with this particular site.

Remnant Fabric (Vegetation):A line of mature Pepper Trees (*Schinus molle* var *areira*) line the southern side of Victoria Street, adjoining the park. They appear to have been associated with the early history of the quarry.

Potential Threats:Removal of Pepper Trees (*Schinus molle* var *areira*) in favour of native species used elsewhere throughout the site. Vandalism to built structures, particularly the restored winch. Concealment of views to the creek from the old retaining wall through re-vegetation activities.

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/>