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# KIRBY FLAT SLUICE

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## Location

BELLS FLAT ROAD YACKANDANDAH, INDIGO SHIRE

## Municipality

INDIGO SHIRE

## Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

## Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H8225-0026

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO209

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - July 5, 2005

What is significant?

The Kirby Flat Gold Mining Diversion Sluice consists of a 30 metre long stone embankment, pebble dumps and quarried bank. The sluice was probably built in the mid to late nineteenth century when the flat was extensively worked by alluvial miners. The embankment was used to divert the waters of Yackandandah Creek through sluice boxes, with the eastern bank of the creek being mined for its alluvial gold.

How is it significant?

The Kirby Flat Gold Mining Diversion Sluice is of historical, archaeological and scientific importance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

The Kirby Flat Gold Mining Diversion Sluice is historically and scientifically important 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. Water diversion and sluicing are important key ingredients in an understanding of gold mining technology as it was employed in mountainous country where water was plentiful and perennial.

The Kirby Flat Gold Mining Diversion Sluice 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.

[Source: Victorian Heritage Register]

Hermes Number 10940

Property Number

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## History

Heritage Inventory History of Site:

Kirby's Flat, south of Yackandandah, was first worked in 1853-4. By 1860, miners had shifted the course of Yackandandah Creek eastward to facilitate the working of its bed. The local mining surveyor wrote of Kirby's Flat: 'This flat has been worked and re-worked. The gold is too much diffused in small quantities through the soil to be remunerative to the dry-sinker, while it amply repays the sluicer, although he may have to incur an enormous expense in cutting head and tail-races to work the ground in a proper manner.' A party of Chinese that year paid more than £200 for a tailrace and proven alluvial claim on Kirby's Flat. Thirty-odd miners worked the Flat during the 1860s. No records of later sluicing operations have been located.

*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/>*