

O'HERNS ROAD FORD

Location

OHERNS ROAD SOMERTON AND OHERNS ROAD EPPING, HUME CITY, WHITTLESEA CITY

Municipality

HUME CITY
WHITTLESEA CITY

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7822-2292

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Interpretation of Site	<p>The ford crossing Merri creek comprises a roadway approximately 25 metres long and 10 metres wide, constructed of weathered boulders up to one metre in diameter. The remains are very fragmentary and degraded. Originally broken rock would have filled the interstices, but most of this is now washed away. A small approach of hand-laid stone survives on the north-west bank of the creek.</p> <p>A few metres downstream (south) is a culverted concrete causeway that currently provides access over the ford.</p>
Archaeological Significance	<p>The site may contain artefactual deposits associated with its use. It requires further historical investigation and comparative analysis be undertaken to ascertain its date, purpose and local comparative significance.</p>
Historical Significance	<p>The O'Herns Road ford is of historical significance as a surviving example of the early form of road communication in the rural fringes of Melbourne. It demonstrates the way early settlers made use of local materials to provide better communications on difficult terrain.</p>

Hermes Number 124599

Property Number

History

European settlement in the district occurred within the first few years of the arrival of Batman and Fawkner's pioneering parties. D McLachlan was originally granted the 855 acres of Portion 15 Parish of Yuroke in the 1840s. He was still recorded as occupant in the 1892 County of Bourke Atlas. As the Merri Creek comes reasonably close to Sydney Road at this point, the site may have assisted travellers both by providing a crossing point and for watering stock, although this was on private land. Its primary function was most likely to provide access across the stream.

(Taken from Maloney 1993)

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/>