
CRESWICK CHINESE CAMP ARCHAEOLOGICAL AREA

Location

CRUSHING AVENUE CRESWICK, HEPBURN SHIRE

Municipality

HEPBURN SHIRE

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7623-0341

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - April 7, 2021

What is significant?

Creswick Chinese Camp Archaeological Area is the site of the former Chinese village, initially one of a number of informal camps but developed into a series of streets with small allotments. It today comprises part of the Calembeen Park, School plantation reserve, Old Creswick Cemetery, four private residential allotments, and road reserves. Part of the area was mined for shallow alluvial gold between the early 1850s and the early 1860s. This area was worked over a number of times by Chinese miners, and it later became the site of a Chinese settlement which was occupied up until the late nineteenth century. In the late 1890s, the Black Lead Hydraulic Sluicing Company mined the black lead deposits which extend under the site, creating the large excavations which subsequently became ponds in Calembeen Park

How is it significant?

Creswick Chinese Camp Archaeological Area is of historical, and scientific (Archaeological) significance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

Creswick Chinese Camp Archaeological Area is of historical significance as a rare example of a formalized Chinese settlement on the Victorian Goldfields, which was well documented and considered of sufficient importance to become the subject of several paintings by prominent Victorian artists. It represents a distinctive component in the story of Chinese settlement in Victoria and the relationship between immigrant Chinese miners

and white communities on the goldfields.

Creswick Chinese Camp Archaeological Area is of archaeological significance for its potential to reveal artefacts and features related to the occupation of land by the Chinese community, in a setting that can isolate material culture to a specific group. While parts of the area may have been disturbed by later mining activity, there is potential for intact, stratified deposits and structural or landscape features.

Interpretation of Site	Presence of historical archaeological remains may have been impacted by disturbance from mining and sluicing. However, there may be some historical archaeological potential in the north east of the subject site as mapping shows the Chinese camp covered this area. Therefore this area warrants protection through inclusion on the Victorian Heritage Inventory. If highly significant remains can be identified there is some potential for the site to meet local significance thresholds, which may warrant protection under a Heritage Overlay in the future. However this is highly unlikely.
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Hermes Number	205932
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Property Number	
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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/>