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# LANDSDOWNE LANE SITE

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## Location

2 KING STREET TALBOT, CENTRAL GOLDFIELDS SHIRE

## Municipality

CENTRAL GOLDFIELDS SHIRE

## Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

## Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7623-0350

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - February 16, 2022

### What is significant?

The site is of local historical significance due to its likely association with late 1850s gold rush occupation and blacksmithing. Its archaeological nature adds a further dimension to the cultural heritage of Talbot. Despite its gold rush history, Talbot is extremely light on in respect to archaeology, currently possessing only two listed archaeological site – Talbot Gas Works and Scandinavian Lead Gold Diggings.

### How is it significant?

### Why is it significant?

Interpretation of Site	The archaeological material discovered on the laneway is most likely associated with the ad hoc development of Talbot during the late 1850s. Perhaps evidence of an early residence or blacksmith shop built on vacant land. From the extant evidence and oral history, the site does qualify as an archaeological site, because it: • contains 19th-century archaeological material, • provides information on the Victorian Gold Rush, • will require archaeological methods to reveal more information about the place, and • is not associated only Aboriginal occupation. On applying Heritage Victoria's Policy for determining low archaeological value the site has archaeological value as it addresses both thresholds: Threshold A (archaeology): • It meets the definition of archaeological site under the Act; and • contains archaeological material; and • there is oral history evidence/visible site fabric indicating the site contains archaeological remains; and • has intactness and integrity. Threshold B (place history): • contains archaeological material associated with the Talbot Gold Rush, and • the site history is of significance within a local heritage framework.
Heritage Act Categories	Registered archaeological place,
Hermes Number	208513
Property Number	

## History

### Talbot township

Talbot is a gold mining town. It was once part of the Amherst Goldfield, which was officially recognised in December 1852. The nearby Back Creek or Talbot goldfield was discovered in 1854. On the easterly edge of the Back Creek gold diggings an ad hoc township (first known as Back Creek, then Talbot) developed. The town boomed in early 1859, when rich gold was found along the Scandinavian Lead by prospectors Adolph and Carl Olsen. This led to Talbot being surveyed in late 1859. The town's main street was called Scandinavian Crescent and initially occupied by typical gold rush business (hotels, shops, eating places etc) operating from buildings of timber, iron and canvas. While the surveying of the township was going on, gold digging was still being done within the township, such as at the end of Ballarat Nth Street. Once the survey had been finalised, many of the existing buildings were not on surveyed allotments. For example, the City of London Hotel was located in the middle of the junction of two streets - Ballarat Nth Street and new street named King Street.(Figure 15, Attachment) New owners of illegal buildings were given twelve months to rebuild to conform to the surveyed street pattern. For example, the City of London Hotel was moved to a corner block.

### Landsdowne Lane, adjoining 2 King Street

No historical information was found - historic plans, newspaper accounts or records of Talbot historical society – that shed any light on the use of the laneway. This section of laneway was created when allotment 29A/11 was established 1937. The laneway is not very visible on a 1964 aerial photograph suggesting that it was formalised after this time. The 1964 aerial photograph also shows no buildings existing on the adjoining allotment (29A/11).

*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/>