
SNAKE HILL TRACK WATER RACE

Location

SNAKE HILL TRACK TO BRIDAL HILLS, ARARAT HILLS BLOCK, ARARAT REGIONAL PARK ARARAT, ARARAT RURAL CITY

Municipality

ARARAT RURAL CITY

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7423-0086

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - July 13, 2022

What is significant?

The Snake Hill Track Water Race was likely constructed and operated in the 1850s/early 1860s. Water races are linear earth-cut channels constructed to divert water from streams and, by force of gravity, convey it to the site of gold mining operations, often for ground sluicing. The earth banks of water races can be retained by dry stone, especially if the terrain is sloping.

This water race ran from a now-dry top dam (35-metre-long, with a 1.5-metre-high earth embankment) on the west side of Snake Hill Track. The race is approximately 1km long and is traceable for its whole length. It feeds two dams, one near Bridal Hill and the other in Alfred Gully. The water race is associated with three areas of ground sluicing: the first immediately east of Snake Hill Track; the second near Bridal Hill; and the third in Alfred Gully.

The site is historically significant as one of the main water races within the Ararat Goldfield. It demonstrates how engineering solutions brought water to mining sites and emphasises the value of water to gold mining processes.

How is it significant?

Why is it significant?

Hermes Number 208971

Property Number

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/>