
BRIDAL HILL MINING LANDSCAPE

Location

SOUTH OF MAIN DIVIDE ROAD AND WEST OF WESTERN HIGHWAY. TO THE NORTH OF MCDONALD PARK RECREATION AREA, ARARAT HILLS BLOCK, ARARAT REGIONAL PARK ARARAT, ARARAT RURAL CITY

Municipality

ARARAT RURAL CITY

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7423-0091

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - July 13, 2022

What is significant?

The site is an alluvial mining landscape. Gold was first discovered in the Ararat Region in 1854, with the first workings consisting of alluvial gold sites. After the initial Ararat Rush, shallow alluvial mining in the area slowed and the majority of gold resources were coming from reworked gullies and creek beds by sluicing or puddling parties, or alternatively by shallow shafts.

The alluvial mining landscape of the site is multi-layered, with evidence of ground sluicing, possible quartz mining and deep alluvial shafts. The latter are associated with extracting gold from cement beds. Some of the shafts have been filled, while others remain open. The ground sluicing was done with water supplied by the Snake Hill Track race that delivered water to a dam located on the south side of the road. Water from this race was also diverted to sluice parts of Alfred Gully. Based on this, the site has moderate archaeological potential to provide an understanding of the Ararat Goldfields during the Victorian Gold Rush era.

The site is historically significant as a shallow alluvial mining landscape in the Ararat goldfields, with the evidence of possible quartz mining making it unique to the Ararat region. Additionally, the site is significant for illustrating sluicing and shaft mining technology and techniques associated with different periods of alluvial gold mining.

How is it significant?

Why is it significant?

Hermes Number 208976

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/>