
PHOENIX DREDGE MINING LANDSCAPE

Location

BUCKLAND RIVER ROAD, BUCKLAND VALLEY STATE FOREST BUCKLAND, ALPINE SHIRE

Municipality

ALPINE SHIRE

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H8224-0073

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - September 9, 2022

What is significant?

The Phoenix Dredge Mining Landscape contains the near complete representation of dredge mining operations, from a 16-year period of operation of a steam-powered bucket dredge between 1903 to 1919.

Archaeological features relating to the Phoenix Dredge include a commencement pond and extensive river-bed workings. The extant levee wall is a key technological element of dredge technology, and the site also contains a rare surviving mining ruin, lower flat tailings, a wood-fuel network, a water race, and a dismantling pit. Upper terrace workings, and alluvial drive, riverbed and bank workings also became evident in recently obtained LIDAR results. Other sites are likely to be present in this landscape including ground and hydraulic sluicing claims, occupation sites, road and water race networks.

How is it significant?

The site is of historical and archaeological significance.

Why is it significant?

The Phoenix dredge workings contain an almost complete timeline of events that led to the installation of the Phoenix Dredge, from construction in 1903 to dismantling in 1919. The landscape contains a variety of dredged areas and the Levee Wall is an excellent example of bucket dredge mining, specifically the raising of water levels to facilitate the working of elevated alluvial gold deposits.

The site is also of scientific significance as a rare example of a dredged landscape type. The site has the archaeological potential to contain features associated with the repairs and dismantling of the Phoenix dredge and has potential to contain artefacts and features associated with this steam-powered bucket dredging.

The alluvial mining camp has potential to contain artefacts and features that will provide information about the nature of temporary alluvial mining camps, their inhabitants and material culture

Hermes Number 209247

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/>