
OAKLANDS ROAD RESERVE ARTEFACT SCATTER 1

Location

OAKLANDS ROAD GREENVALE, HUME CITY

Municipality

HUME CITY

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7822-2420

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - January 27, 2023

What is significant?

The place is of archaeological significance for its potential to provide information about post-contact occupation in the area around the outskirts of Melbourne in the mid-late 19th century.

How is it significant?

The artefact scatter is archaeologically significant and is significant for Aboriginal cultural heritage also.

Why is it significant?

The place is of archaeological significance for its potential to provide information about post-contact occupation in the area around the outskirts of Melbourne in the mid-late 19th century.

The Oaklands Road Artefact Scatter 1 observed during the site inspection in Oaklands Road reserve north-east, contained both historical and Aboriginal artefacts and confirms there is high potential for both Aboriginal and historical archaeology to be present in the eastern road reserve. Although large sections of the ground in Oaklands Reserve have been impacted by vehicle traffic and water runoff causing erosion, there is still moderate-high archaeological potential for Aboriginal cultural heritage in this reserve where a tributary of the Moonee Ponds Creek runs through and where there are old River Red Gums.

Interpretation of Site	No specific historical information about the location of the artefact scatter has been found. Prior to the establishment of Occupation/Oaklands Road and the establishment of Woodlands Homestead in the 1840s, this location was open bushland. The location has been part of the road reserve for Occupation/Oaklands Road since c.1848. The presence of Aboriginal artefacts and a possible post-contact scarred tree close to this tributary of the Moonee Ponds Creek suggests the possibility of the scatter being from a campsite. The artefactual material indicates a late 19th century or possibly early 20th century date, with the majority of the artefacts being from alcohol or beverage bottles and some ceramic tablewares. The other possibility is that the scatter could be from some rubbish disposal along the side of the road in the late 19th/early 20th century.
Hermes Number	209380
Property Number	

History

Hume and Hovell camped on the banks of Moonee Ponds Creek in 1824 during their explorations south and the presumed location of this campsite is close to the location of the Oaklands Road Artefact Scatter. This event and the location is marked by the Hume and Hovell Memorial (heritage overlay HO26). The reserve in which the artefact scatter was discovered would have been part of the original Oaklands Road alignment that was likely constructed pre-1860s, based on the alignment, the style of construction and the road alignment shown on the 1860 Victorian Geological Survey map of the Bulla area (Figure 4). The creation of the first non- 'main' road in the Bulla area was in 1848, being 'Occupation Road', later renamed Oaklands Road. The Colonial Secretary's Office advertised its creation in 1848 and described it as "leading from the Mt Macedon Road [later Sunbury Road] to Taylor and Green's purchases in Bulla Bulla Parish" (The Melbourne Argus, 13 April 1848: 1). A parish plan of Bulla from 1850 shows the road reserve for Occupation/Oaklands Road and Greene's and Taylor's properties in what is now Greenvale and Oaklands Junction (Figure 5). It seems apparent that the road was created to provide easier access to the early settlement areas on the east side of Bulla, mainly to Woodlands and Oaklands homesteads. The road had to cross a tributary of the Moonee Ponds Creek via a timber bridge (HO27 Oaklands Road Bridge) which was constructed at some date in the 19th century. The alignment of Oaklands Road around the Moonee Ponds Creek was changed in the early 1970s, but its original alignment can be seen in a 1968 aerial photo. The location of the Artefact Scatter is visible in the 1968 aerial as a cleared area and the drainage channel can be seen as a dark line (Figure 3). It appears that the road reserve in the location of the artefact scatter has remained unchanged since the 1960s except for the planting of gum trees along the western side of the drainage channel. There are several historical archaeological sites registered nearby that have mid-late 19th century phases, Woodlands Park (H7822-0018, and H1612), H7822-2310 Oaklands Road Cistern and Homestead being the closest.

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/>