
SCHICER GULLY PUDDLING MACHINE SITE

Location

CAHILLS ROAD WEDDERBURN, LODDON SHIRE

Municipality

LODDON SHIRE

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7625-0007

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

SiteCard data copied on 03/07/2024:

What is significant?

Remains of a nineteenth century puddling machine - imprint of a puddling machine (all timber elements gone) associated with wash dump and dam.

How is it significant?

This puddling machine site is poorly preserved and has been significantly disturbed (excavated) by fossickers.

Why is it significant?

Puddling machines are considered to be an Australian gold mining invention and is one of the signature relics of the Victorian gold rush.

Interpretation of Site	Site of a puddling machine. These machines were being used as early as 1853. These machines could be used after gold rush diggings had been deemed to be worked-out. A puddling machine comprised a circular wood-lined trough, one metre in width and usually 6.7 metres in diameter. On the central mound formed by the trough stood a wooden pivot post to which was attached a horizontal wooden pole, with a horse harnessed at the other end. The horse trudged repeatedly around the outer edge of the trough, dragging the iron rakes, which hung from the pole, through the wash dirt in the trough, breaking it up and loosening the gold. Water was fed to the puddling machine from a dam, sometimes via a water race.
Hermes Number	7569
Property Number	

History

Alluvial gold was first discovered at Wedderburn in 1852. All the gullies in the area were opened during the time of the first gold rush. After being 'worked-out' the gullies became the preserve of puddlers and lonely fossickers. *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/>