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# PLUMPTON HARE ENCLOSURE RUINS

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## Location

847-1071 BLACKHILL ROAD TOOLERN VALE, MELTON CITY

## Municipality

MELTON CITY

## Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

## Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7822-0146

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO40

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

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### Interpretation of Site

Remains of one of Sir WJ Clarke's hare enclosures built in the Diggers Rest area. The walls were constructed by a professional stone wallers. The enclosure previously constained 3 sides, the east wall no longer remains extant although piles of stone are located on the surface.

### Archaeological Significance

The site maintains a high level of integrity and a medium level of intactness. The enclosure previously contained 3 sides, only 2 remain extant although boulders are located in piles along the east side indicating the location of a former wall. The site has remained as it is for at least the last 70 years, although the north wall has been punctured to allow access to the area for new water tanks.

Historical Significance	The site is of historical significance for its relationship to prominent pastoralist, WJ Clarke and for its association with the English sport of greyhound coursing. It is a rare surviving element of the plumpton in the region. No other fabric associated with the recreational pursuit is known to exist except for one other enclosure located to the east of John Beatty's property. However, it may have been destroyed recently.
Other Names	HARE COURSING RUN 1,
Hermes Number	8792
Property Number	

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## History

Greyhound coursing was established in the Melton Shire by WJ Clarke, a prominent pastoralist, during the 1870s. Originally there were no tracks or enclosures and greyhounds chased hares across the open plains. This enclosure is one of two with surviving evidence known in the Shire. The property on which it is located is owned by John Beatty, a 3rd generation farmer on the land. The site has not changed in his lifetime(c.70 years). The Beattys have important historical ties to the area. Beatty Road in Rockbank is named after them.

*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/>*