



Heritage Inventory No: **H 7 5 2 3 - 0 0 8 4**

# Heritage Inventory Site Card

Site Card must be completed in conjunction with the *Guidelines for Conducting Historical Archaeological Surveys* at [www.heritage.vic.gov.au](http://www.heritage.vic.gov.au).

## 1. Place

Name **Amazon Mine, Trawalla**

Other/former names

Current site description

The site consists of two adjacent mine shafts with the lower sections of the mine-heads still intact above ground, formed by thick wooden beams. Machinery has been forced into the shafts to block them up. Iron machinery lies in the vicinity including the drum of a boiler, and a small brick feature is to the west. Mullock heaps of spoil lie to the south.

## 2. Current statutory listing

Victorian Heritage Register Number

Heritage Overlay Number

## 3. Suggested protection

Victorian Heritage Register

Heritage Overlay, Local Planning Scheme

## 4. Archaeological description

Surface cultural material

Features

Artefacts / Artefact scatter

Sub-surface cultural deposits

Disturbance

Archaeological potential

## 5. Archaeological significance

High

Medium

Low

None

Unknown

## 6. Location

Site location (where known)

Street number **58** Street **Church Road**

Suburb **Trawalla** State **VIC** Postcode **3373**

Local Government Area **Pyrenees**

Full AMG co-ordinates (must be AGD 66) Easting **717130** Northing **5853758**

Mapsheets name and number (1:100,000 only) **Beaufort South, 7523-2-S**

## 7. Cadastral location

County Parish **Trawalla** Township **Trawalla**

Section Allotment **14A1** SPI **14A1\PP3648**

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**8. Indigenous values**

Site has known Indigenous values      Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register Number .....

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**9. Associated sites** (Inventory, VHR, HO or other)

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**10. Keywords**

- |  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> early 19 <sup>th</sup> century            | <input type="checkbox"/> urban                    | <input type="checkbox"/> pastoral          | <input type="checkbox"/> domestic                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> mid 19 <sup>th</sup> century              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> outside urban | <input type="checkbox"/> agricultural      | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> late 19 <sup>th</sup> century             |   | <input type="checkbox"/> timber            | <input type="checkbox"/> commercial              |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> early 20 <sup>th</sup> century |   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> mining | <input type="checkbox"/> religious               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> mid 20 <sup>th</sup> century              |   | <input type="checkbox"/> transport         | <input type="checkbox"/> maritime infrastructure |
| <input type="checkbox"/> mid-late 20 <sup>th</sup> century         |   | <input type="checkbox"/> communication     | <input type="checkbox"/> civic                   |
|  |   | <input type="checkbox"/> recreation        | <input type="checkbox"/> military                |

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**11. Plan of site**      **Please attach separate plan.** All features on the plan must be labelled and scale noted (eg 1:100,000).

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**12. Place history** (attach sheet if necessary)

The site lies in the centre of the Mount Emu Creek floodplain west of Trawalla, an area of gold mining activity during the first half of the 20th century. The present site can be identified as the Amazon mine, a reef mine that operated in 1937-8 (Cayley and McDonald 1995, 95). The mine was not particularly successful, and only remained operational thanks to government support (Nunan 1971, 12). After the initial gold rushes of the 1850s, there followed further phases of mining activity in the 1880s; the period 1913-1918; and to a limited extent in the 1930s, during the depression (Nunan 1971, 11). Most mining activity in the region occurred north-east of Beaufort, though there were also operations close to Trawalla (Nunan 1971, 11). Four alluvial mines dating from the first half of the 20th century are depicted on a map of mines in the Trawalla area: Unity, Trawalla Leads, Amazon and Southern Hope (Cayley and McDonald 1995, 97, fig. 53, Appendix 2).

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**13. Interpretation of site** (Include phases in the development of the site, functions and activities represented)

Historical records indicate that the Amazon mine was in operation from 1937-8. The remains of the mine shafts and associated equipment probably date from these years. They are indicative of the mining work that took place at the site, which is the main function represented. At a broader spatial scale, the site can be related with two other mines on the Mount Emu Creek plain: Trawalla Leads, which is 300 m to the southwest and Unity Mine, 550 m to the southwest. A fourth mine - Southern Hope - is 875 m to the southeast. It is unlikely that there were further activities at the site after the mine's closure at the end of the 1930s.

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**14. Assessment of archaeological significance**

The main archaeological features are situated above ground, and there may be few subsurface features or artefacts. Test holes excavated in the vicinity as part of CHMP no 11481 did not locate any artefacts. The site's significance is that it is a relic of the latest phase of gold mining that occurred in the region, and so has significance from an industrial archaeology perspective. The site therefore has moderate archaeological significance, though the potential for investigation might be limited.

**15. Assessment of cultural heritage significance**

Historical significance

Statement of Significance attached

The site's historical significance is its association with the latest phase of gold mining that occurred in the region, almost a century after the first discovery of gold.

Scientific significance

There is some scientific significance in that it is an example of gold mining technology in the first half of the 20th century.

Aesthetic significance

There is little aesthetic value to the site, other than its position on the Mount Emu Creek floodplain at Trawalla, which does have aesthetic value.

Social or spiritual significance

The social significance of the site is its association with mining operations that occurred in the Trawalla region during the first half of the 20th century.

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**16. Present use**

The field is presently untended and used as pasture for grazing horses.

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**17. Threats**

There are not known threats to the site, which is located to the south of the proposed Western Highway duplication.

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**18 References/ Informants**

Anderson, H. 1969: The Flowers of the Field: A History of Ripon Shire. Hill of Content, Melbourne

Anderson, W., Kiddell, H. and Watson, B. 2011: Western Highway Project. Burrumbeet to Beaufort duplication. CHMP 11481. Dr Vincent Clark & Associates, Coburg.

Cayley, R.A. and McDonald, P.A. 1995: Beaufort 1:100 000 Map Geological Report. Geological Survey Report 104.

Nunan, J. 1971: Squatters and Soldiers: Trawalla 1839-1971. Back to Trawalla Committee, Ballarat.

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**19. Photographs of site**

Please attach as separate sheet.

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**20. Map showing location of site**

Please attach separate plan.

Map must clearly identify assessed area and include any street addresses (eg excerpt from Melway and its reference numbers.)

**Describe in detail directions to locate the site in the future**

From Beaufort town centre, follow the Western Highway in an easterly direction for 7 km. Turn south down Church Road, and the site is located 500 m to the west, to the south of the Western Highway.

**21. Owner & Occupier Details**

Agency .....

Owner's name **B.M. Hocking** .....

Contact name .....

Postal address **12 McCrae Street, Bacchus Marsh, Victoria 3340** .....

Telephone **0353671460** ..... Facsimile .....

Email address .....

Occupier's name .....

Postal address .....

Telephone ..... Facsimile .....

Email address .....

Recording Archaeologist **Will Anderson** .....

Company name **Dr. Vincent Clark & Associates** Date recorded **14/9/2011** .....  
(Day/Month/Year)

Other Comments:

**Return completed Site Cards to Heritage Victoria via email at [archaeology.admin@dpcd.vic.gov.au](mailto:archaeology.admin@dpcd.vic.gov.au) or Heritage Victoria, PO Box 2392, Melbourne 3001**

**Office Use Only**

Report Numbers ..... Associated Consent numbers .....

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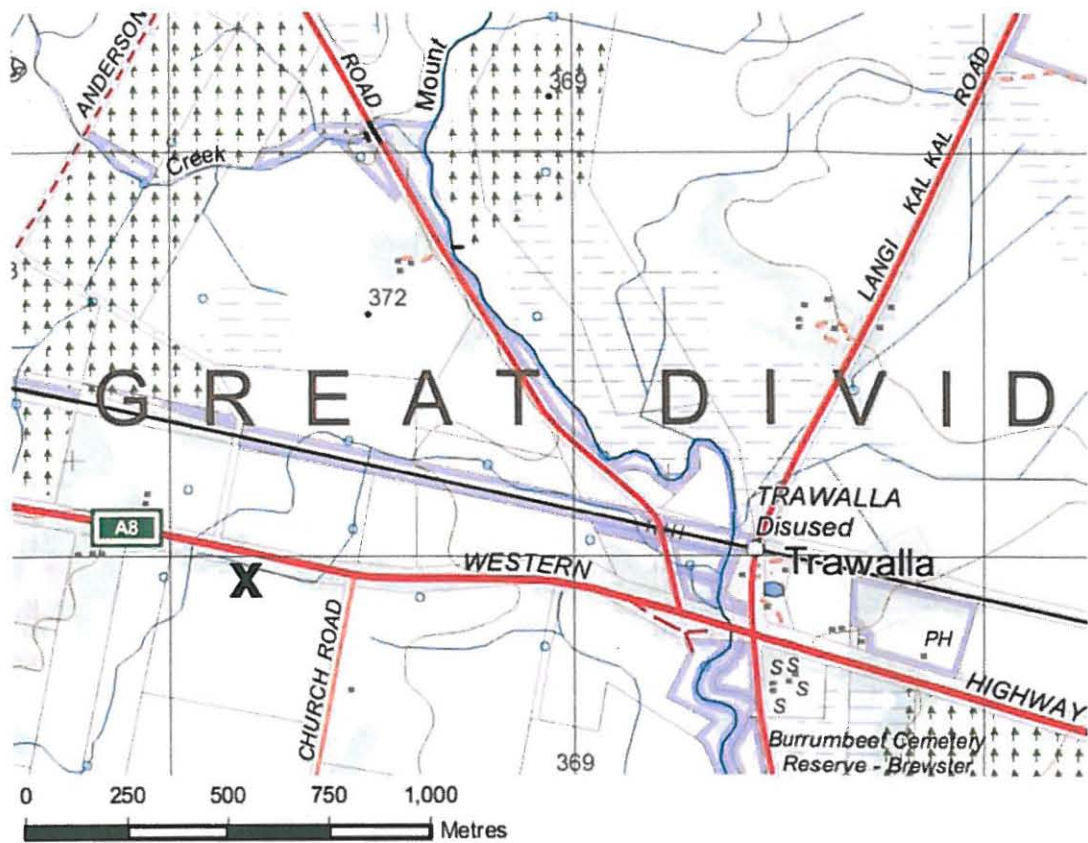


Fig. 1: Location of Amazon Mine (marked with 'x') on Victorian topographic map (1:30,000), sheet number 7523-2-2-1 (2010)

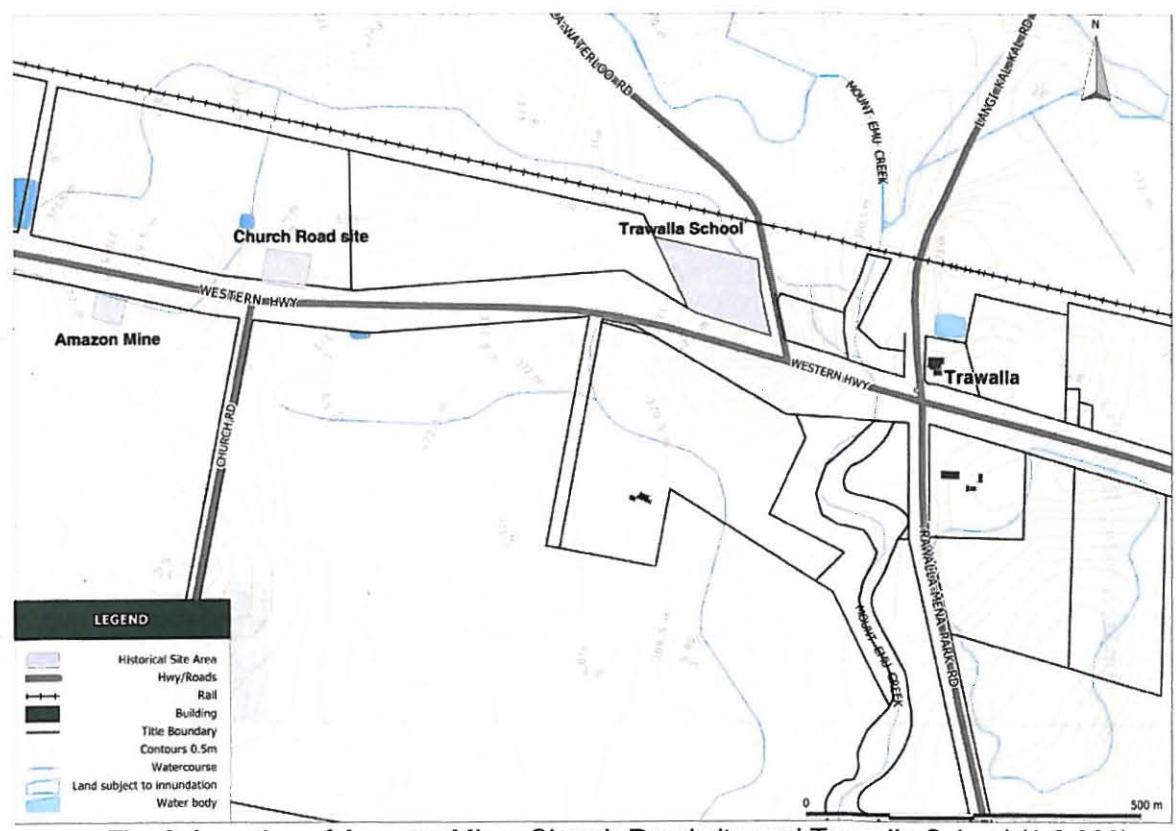


Fig. 2: Location of Amazon Mine, Church Road site and Trawalla School (1:6,000)

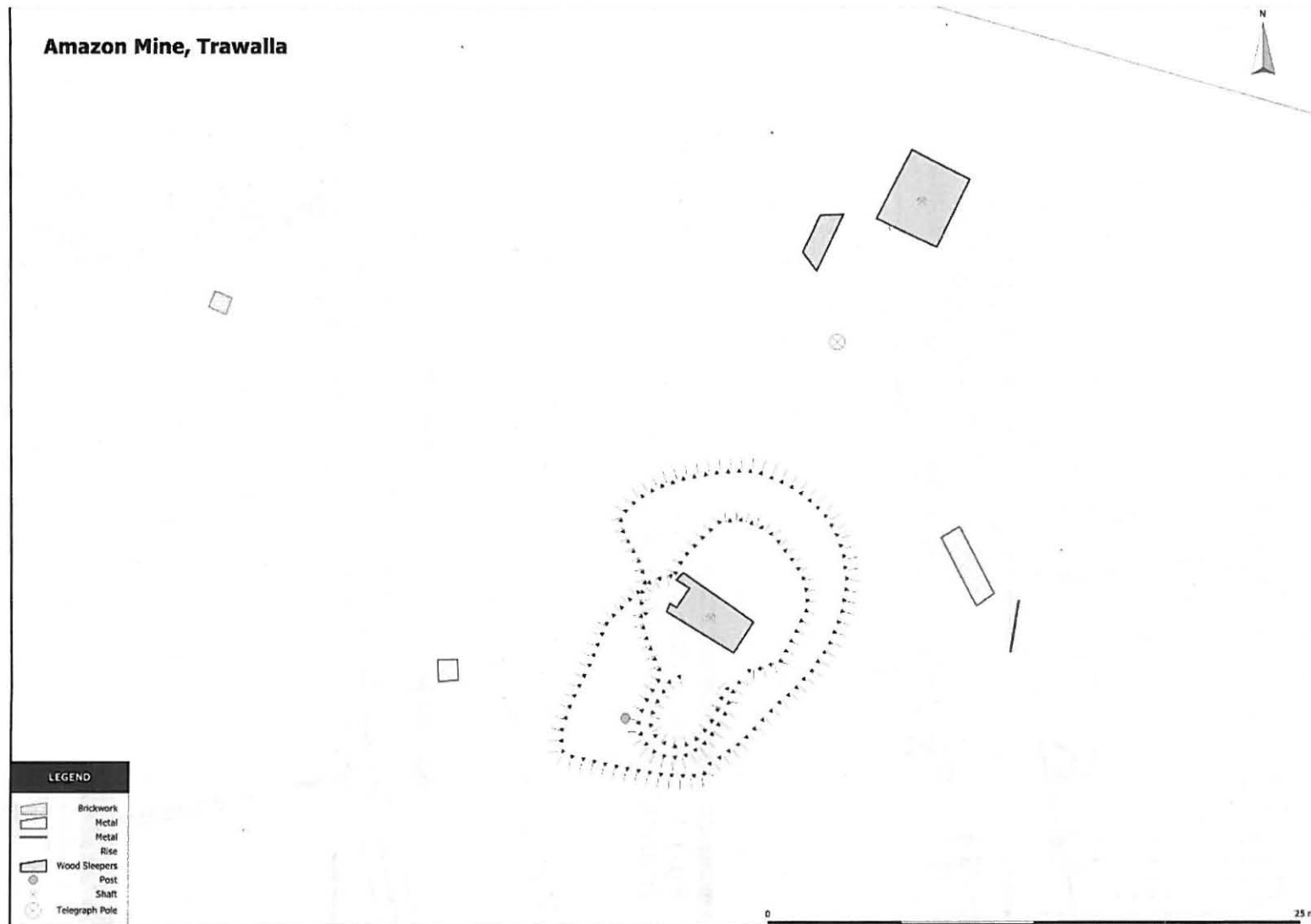


Fig. 3: Plan of Amazon Mine surface features, drawn by K. Flemming , P. Kucera, A. Noble and C. Thürmer (scale = 1:150)



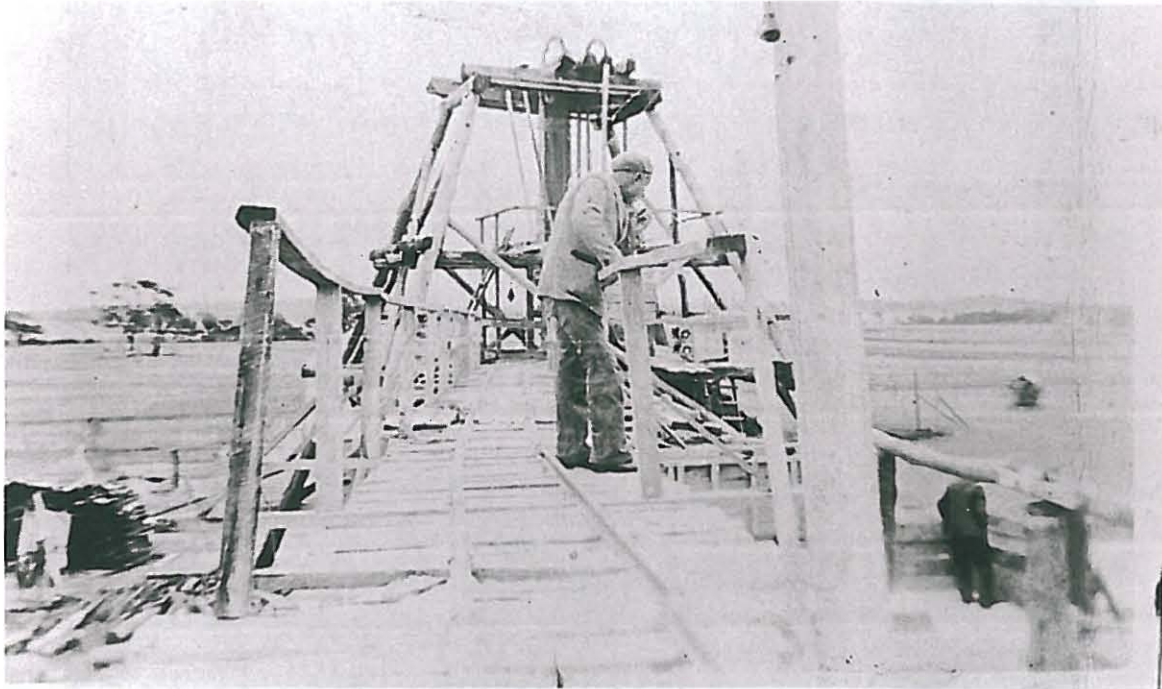


Fig. 4: Man on the walkway leading to the Poppet Head of the Amazon mine, Trawalla, Victoria, 1937 (Photograph taken by G. Mulcahy; Museum Victoria, reg. no. MM 000701)



Fig. 5: View of Amazon Mine, facing northeast (W. Anderson, 2/2/2011)



Fig. 6: View of mine shaft to the south, facing southeast (W. Anderson, 8/4/2011)



Fig. 7: View of mine shaft to the south, facing northeast (W. Anderson, 8/4/2011)



Fig. 8: View of mine shaft to the north, facing northeast (W. Anderson, 8/4/2011)



Fig. 9: Metal casing of a boiler (?) (W. Anderson, 8/4/2011)



Fig. 10: Details of mine shafts, Amazon Mine (M. Negus Cleary, 2/2/2011)