

- Routes 1-3 and 4-6 traverse a Vegetation Protection Overlay – Significant Vegetation. This protected area is also known as a site of Geological Interest.
- With the exception of Route 1, all routes will require the construction of new creek crossings which may impact on riparian vegetation.

4.7.2 Cultural Heritage/Archaeology

The following relevant reports were reviewed as part of the cultural heritage desktop study:

- East Bendigo Linking Road Study – Cultural Heritage Desktop Assessment (Tardis Enterprises Ltd 2000)
- East Bendigo Linking Road Study – Pratt Road Option Supplementary Cultural Heritage Desktop Assessment (Tardis Enterprises Ltd 2001)

A search of the online Victorian Heritage Register, National Trust Register and Register of National Estate was also conducted. Discussions were also held with Mr David Bannear of Heritage Victoria.

European Heritage

The study area is well known as a former gold mining region, with gold having been first discovered in the area in 1851. The study area was extensively mined in the late 1850s and early 1900s resulting in a number of changes to the topography of the area. These changes occurred as a result of extensive vegetation clearance and surface sluicing activities.

A search of the Victorian Heritage Register, National Trust Register and Register of National Estate indicates that there are two sites of heritage significance within the study area: White Hills Reserve; and White Hills Chinese Diggings. These sites are located at the corner of Murphy Street and Heywood Street as indicated in Figure 10.

Details of the two historic sites are provided in Tables 13 and 14. The two sites have been assessed as being of regional significance in the East Bendigo Linking Road Study (PPK 2002). The East Bendigo Linking Road Study recommended that no disturbance to these two sites should be permitted.

Table 11: White Hills Chinese Diggings Site

HV Number	H7724-0247
Heritage Act Category	Heritage Inventory Site
Location	Corner of Murphy Street and Heywood Street, White Hills
Description	Gold mining site worked from 1850s-1930s. Historic reserve, approx 150x130m, containing 14 identified round shafts & 17 rectangular shafts.
Condition	Fair
Integrity	Partially excavated
Significance	Historic, Social and Scientific Significance on a Regional level
Source: East Bendigo Linking Road Study – Cultural Heritage Desktop Assessment (PPK 2002), and Victorian Heritage Register.	

Table 12: White Hills Reserve Site

HV Number	H 7724-0001
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Heritage Act Category	Heritage Inventory Site
Location	No address included in registration. Suggested as same location as H0247.
Description	Chinese and European mine shafts (round and rectangular), shallow mine diggings over an area of about 80x110m.
Condition	Good
Integrity	Intact
Significance	Not specifically assessed. Considered as 'best remaining examples of early Chinese and European mine shafts in Bendigo area'.

Source: East Bendigo Linking Road Study – Cultural Heritage Desktop Assessment (PPK 2002), and Victorian Heritage Register.

Aboriginal Heritage

A review of recorded Aboriginal archaeological sites surrounding the study area (5km) conducted as part of the East Bendigo Linking Road Study indicated that there are nine Aboriginal archaeological sites and two historic Aboriginal sites in the Bendigo region. However, no previously recorded Aboriginal archaeological or post-contact sites have been located within the study area. The extensive past land use activities predominately associated with vegetation clearance and gold mining activities within the study area are expected to have destroyed any evidence of Aboriginal archaeology. As such no opportunities or constraints have been identified in relation to the East Bendigo Local Structural Plan in terms of Aboriginal heritage. However, it is suggested that the relevant Aboriginal community (Bendigo & District Aboriginal Co-operative) be consulted in relation to the study. This would occur during the next phase of the project as Aboriginal Affairs Victoria would be notified through the formal public exhibition process.

4.7.3 Native Title

Crown Land (including Crown Land reserved for roads) within the study area is subject to a Native Title Claim that covers a large part of the City of Bendigo. The boundary of the Native Title Claim is presented in Appendix 2. The Native Title Claim was registered on 15 August 2000 by the Bendigo Aboriginal Co-operative's (Claim No V6001/2000 (VC00/1)). The claim covers the whole of the study area.

Notification and procedural requirements may be required for works, such as the proposed linking road, within the study area under the *Native Title Act 1993*. Further investigation is required to confirm the correct process to be applied. Consultation with the Bendigo & District Aboriginal Co-operative in relation to the study will also be required.

4.7.4 Landscape

The northern portion of the study area is characterised by relatively flat land vegetated with scrubby vegetation. A golf course and Bendigo Racecourse are located in the north-western corner of the study area. Two lakes surrounded by scrubby vegetation are situated to the south of the racecourse.

The central area of the study area is characterised by low density rural residential development (eg along Rohs Road) and open pasture in a relatively flat landscape. To the west, the area has been considerably modified by mining and quarrying activities. Ongoing quarrying activities and industrial development characterise the