

City of Greater Bendigo: Marong Heritage Study Mining Sites

ELLIOTT'S REEF MINE

Other Names

Location Parcel No. P127167, State Forest, along Elliot Track, Elliott Reef, Whipstick

Map Reference Epsom 1:25,000 - BV570.390

Victorian Heritage Register No

National Estate Register No

Planning Scheme No



Description Machinery site

North of Elliot Track is a small, partially quarried mullock heap, approximately 15 metres in diameter and 5 metres high. The heap has two dumping lines radiating from a collapsed shaft. 20 metres east of the shaft is a scatter of building stone, hand-made brick, and mortar. A line of reef workings runs south, downhill towards Elliot Track.

Battery site

On the south edge of Elliot Track is a large dam, with a large stopcock valve on its outlet. On the opposite side of the track to the dam is a battery site. A section of a stone boiler setting survives, associated with a scatter of hand-made red bricks. East of the boiler setting is a mound of earth and building rubble, from which runs a line of protruding iron bolts, probably all that survives of a battery's wooden framework. The length of the line of bolts indicates the site of a 20-head battery. Traces of battery sand lie in the gully below the battery site.

History Period of activity: 1858-1859, 1885–1889. Dams erected by 1887 and battery erected in 1888.

Line of reef: Elliott Reef

Maximum recorded annual production: unknown

Total production: unknown

Deepest working level: 260 feet

Deepest shaft: 260 feet (below water level)

Thematic Context Mining

Comparative Examples The site is one of a number of representative shallow-level low-production mines in the study area, namely: Christoff (1856-1898), Wallace (1856-1906), Black Rock (1857-1879), Sandfly (1857-1890), Barkly (1857-1951), Unfortunate Bolle's (1862-1865), Shamrock (1862-1881), and Apollo Hill (1864-1887).

Statement of Significance The site is representative of small-scale mining in the Whipstick area undertaken with assistance from the prospecting vote during the 1880s and contains relatively undisturbed early quartz mining relics from that period which has potential for education and interpretation (criterion A and criterion C).

Level of Significance Local

Recommendation The site should be protected by inclusion in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay Table in the City of Greater Bendigo Planning Scheme and in

accordance with the general principles of the conservation policy for mining sites.

Heritage Boundaries The site is approximately rectangular, about 150 metres wide from east to west and 300 metres from north to south, located about 400 metres west of Loeser Road on both sides of Elliot Road and includes all open cuts, shafts, mullock heaps, dams and battery and other machinery sites.

- References**
1. "Bendigo mining intelligence. Whipstick." The Bendigo Advertiser, Tuesday, 28 December 1858.
 2. Mining Surveyors' Reports, Sandhurst mining district, Eaglehawk division.
 3. "The Eaglehawk Prospecting Association." The Bendigo Advertiser, Friday, 8 May 1885, p2, cols.4/5.
 4. "Eaglehawk Prospecting Committee." The Bendigo Advertiser, Friday, 29 May 1885, p4, col.2.
 5. "Eaglehawk Prospecting Committee." The Bendigo Advertiser, Friday, 18 September 1885, p3, col.3.
 6. Reports of the Mining Surveyors and Mining Registrars, Sandhurst mining district, Eaglehawk division.
 7. "Mining intelligence." The Bendigo Advertiser, Monday, 15 February 1886, p2, col.5.
 8. "Mining intelligence." The Bendigo Advertiser, Friday, 9 April 1886, p3, col.3.
 9. "Mining intelligence." The Bendigo Advertiser, Friday, 9 July 1886, p4, col.1.
 10. "Mining intelligence." The Bendigo Advertiser, Friday, 6 August 1886, p4, col.1.
 11. "Mining intelligence. Eaglehawk Prospecting Committee." The Bendigo Advertiser, Friday, 3 September 1886, p3, col.3.
 12. "Eaglehawk Prospecting Vote." The Bendigo Advertiser, Saturday, 9 October 1886, p6, col.2.
 13. "The Sandhurst Prospecting Board. The Whipstick tour." The Bendigo Advertiser, Wednesday, 19 January 1887, p3, cols.3/4.
 14. The Bendigo Advertiser, 19 March 1888.
 15. "Mining intelligence. Elliott's Reef." The Bendigo Advertiser, Monday, 17 October 1887, p4, col.3.
 16. "Mining intelligence. Elliott's Reef." The Bendigo Advertiser, Monday, 31 October 1887, p4, col.4.
 17. "Mining intelligence. Elliott's Reef." The Bendigo Advertiser, Monday, 11 November 1887, p4, col.3.
 18. "Mining intelligence. Elliott's Reef." The Bendigo Advertiser, Monday, 28 November 1887, p4, col.3.
 19. "Mining intelligence. Elliott's Reef (Whipstick)." The Bendigo Advertiser, Monday, 19 December 1887, p4, col.3.
 20. "Mining intelligence. Elliott's Reef (Whipstick)." The Bendigo Advertiser, Monday, 26 December 1887, p4, col.4.
 21. "Mining intelligence. Elliott's Reef." The Bendigo Advertiser, Monday, 9 January 1888, p4, col.3.
 22. "Mining intelligence. Elliott's Reef." The Bendigo Advertiser, Monday, 23 January 1888, p4, col.2.
 23. "Elliott's Reef Company." The Bendigo Advertiser, Monday, 19 March 1888, p4, col.4.
 24. "Mining intelligence. The Elliott's Reef Company, Whipstick." The Bendigo Advertiser, Wednesday, 21 March 1888, p5, col.6.
 25. "Mining intelligence. Elliott's Reef." The Bendigo Advertiser, Monday, 2 April 1888, p4, col.3.
 26. "Mining intelligence. Elliott's Reef (Whipstick)." The Bendigo Advertiser, Monday, 25 June 1888, p4, col.4.
 27. "Mining intelligence. Elliott's Reef." The Bendigo Advertiser, Monday, 9 July 1888, p4, col.4.
 28. "Mining intelligence. Elliott's Reef." The Bendigo Advertiser, Monday, 23 July 1888, p4, col.4.
 29. "Mining intelligence. Elliott's Reef." The Bendigo Advertiser, Monday, 6 August 1888, p4, col.3.

30. "Mining intelligence. Elliott's Reef." The Bendigo Advertiser, Monday, 20 August 1888, p.4, col.4.
31. "Mining intelligence. Elliott's Reef." The Bendigo Advertiser, Monday, 3 September 1888, p4, col.2.
32. "Mining intelligence. Elliott's Reef." The Bendigo Advertiser, Monday, 17 September 1888, p.4, col.3.
33. "Mining intelligence. Elliott's Reef." The Bendigo Advertiser, Saturday, 29 September 1888, p3, col.3.
34. "Mining reports. Elliott's Reef." The Bendigo Advertiser, Monday, 1 October 1888, p3, col.3.
35. "Mining intelligence. Elliott's Reef." The Bendigo Advertiser, Monday, 15 October 1888, p4, col.3.
36. "Mining intelligence. Elliott's Reef." The Bendigo Advertiser, Monday, 12 November 1888, p4, col.3.
37. The Bendigo Advertiser, 21 May 1889.
38. "Gold in the Whipstick - a lucky find. A schoolboy gets a £40 specimen." The Bendigo Advertiser, Friday, 13 April 1894, p2, col.6.
39. "Mining reports." The Bendigo Advertiser, Monday, 19 September 1887, p3, col.3.

Notes The reef workings in the 1880s appear to have been undertaken principally by Italians.

Assessed by David Bannear in February 1992 and reviewed by Peter Milner in June 1998

Chronology 12.1858□At the Old Whipstick things are much as usual, with the exception that reefing is now the whole go, and surface gold has been got in various localities from the head of Scotchman's Gully and within the 'triangle running from that point and Brandy Gully Reef and the Flagstaff Hill, and simple by cracking quartz boulders and surface placers with a hammer. A new kiln of stone is almost ready for the mill at the Pilot Hole, at Elliott's Reef, and I have been informed that two of the adjoining claims have struck the reef, at considerably deeper sinking. ... [1]

□11.1859□I have the honor to lay before the Board of Science a description and plans of the Wallace Reef. The reef is situate about six miles from Sandhurst, and may be considered, perhaps, the most extensive of the detached reefs now being worked, of which, as I have remarked, there are several in this division. The Wallace Reef has now been opened about three years, and has been more or less worked during the whole time. [Here follows a minute description of the workings on the reef, the underlay of the veins etc.] The portion of the reef that I have been able to examine bears N 11 degrees 340 minutes west, and has no perceptible dip in that direction, and in thickness varies between 8 feet and 10 feet throughout. At a distance of nearly half a mile from the Wallace, in a line bearing north-east, lies the Elliot Reef which, although of less importance at present than the former, has been opened for some time. It is now nearly abandoned, only two men being employed on it. The depths of the shafts, the distances between them, their relative positions, together with the height of the ground close to Bally's shaft, above the level of the sea, are correctly given on the plan. [2.11-12]

□08.05.1885□Eaglehawk Prospecting Association: Our Melbourne correspondent writes: In answer to departmental enquiries, the Minister of Mines has received a report from the Government mining surveyor in reference to the Eaglehawk Prospecting Association. This association has set two parties to work, one at Elliott's Reef, and one at Jacob's Reef, and proposed visiting them on the 29th, ... at Elliott's Reef, there had been two men working on the ground for 3 weeks; that they had sunk a shaft 5 feet 6 inches by 2 feet 9 inches, to a depth of 45 feet. [3]

29.□05.1885□Mr Hay Kirkwood and Mr William Wood (town clerk) and Mr O'Dwyer, surveyor, made their usual monthly inspection of the mines being worked under the prospecting vote in the Whipstick yesterday. The following is a report of the work done in the respective mines:-

Elliott's Reef - this reef at 50 foot level has been driven west 31 feet. They have also driven a crosscut east 14 feet without finding anything payable. A blacksmith's shop has also been erected. At a distance of 10 feet in the east crosscut the stone has been cut, and they are now 4 feet in the reef, but no gold has been seen. [4]

□18.09.1885□Elliott Reef: The crosscut west has been driven 4 feet, total 14 feet, and driven south 5 feet on stone which is on the west side of the reef. They have also sunk a winze on the back of the reef 10 feet. At the bottom a little stone was broken out of the reef, which showed several nice rough specks of gold. To work this lower down they have again commenced to sink the shaft a further depth of 50 feet, and then open out on the stone. 10 tons of stone have been crushed from the west side of the reef, yielding 5½dwt to the ton. 10 ton have also been crushed from the reef in the shaft, yielding a little over 3dwt to the ton, total 5ozs 4dwt. [5]

□09.1885□Prospecting claims subsidized by Eaglehawk Prospecting Committee.

Elliott's Reef Company have cut a reef 8 feet wide at 100 feet from the surface, with a lava of 9 to 15 inches on each side of the reef. On the west side of the reef as quantity of spurs were gone through, showing gold, 10 tons of which yielded 5½dwt per ton and 10 tons from the reef yielded 3dwts to the ton. [6.20-21]

□02.1886□The Elliott Reef Company at Whipstick, one of the claims subsidized by the Eaglehawk Prospecting Association, have a fair yield from a reef 8 to 10 feet thick, which is thought will prove payable. [7]

□09.04.1886□Our Melbourne correspondent writes - The Mining Department has received from Mining Surveyor O'Dwyer a report for the month of the operations of the Eaglehawk Prospecting Association. ... Carter and Company, Elliott's Reef, ... were engaged in taking out stone found to be payable. ... [8]

□07.1886□The Borough Prospecting Committee ... paid their usual monthly visit to the claims in the vicinity of the Whipstick today. ... The Elliott's Reef Company at 130 feet have extended the east crosscut 21 feet several spurs have been passed through showing a little gold, and they expect to get the reef in about 30 feet further driving east. In the western crosscut the north level has been driven 23 feet. Several small spurs have been cut. [9]

□08.1886□... members of the Prospecting Committee visited the various claims at the Whipstick today. ... In the Elliott's Company reef the east drive has been extended 28 feet through a number of spurs at the 130 foot level. They have not yet cut through the eastern reef. On the western wall the level north has been extended 27 feet, total 68 feet; it is nice soft country with spurs, occasionally dipping north. [10]

□09.1886□The Eaglehawk Prospecting Committee ... paid their usual monthly visit of inspection to the Whipstick yesterday. ... The Elliott's Reef Company have driven the east crosscut 17 feet through slate country principally with small spurs, but they have not yet cut the reef. The total distance from the shaft is 113 feet. In the western crosscut they have driven north with the wall 19 feet, total depth 96 feet from the crosscut. They have come across several small spurs, but nothing of any consequence. [11]

□10.1886□Elliott's Reef, Ballisim and Carter. The company commenced operations on 1 April 1885, sunk shaft 130 feet. At 50 feet down drove crosscut east 31 feet and west 40 feet. At 103 feet drove crosscut to the west 14 feet and drove on the stone at the end of the crosscut 24 feet. At 130 foot drove crosscut west 20 feet, and drove south of stone at the end of the crosscut 18 feet. Sunk winze from level at 103 feet to level at 130 feet, 27 feet; took out 75 loads of quartz, which yielded 85ozs of gold. This was sufficient to pay all expenses, and the subsidy ceased for a time, but subsequently they were again placed on the assistance list when they drove 100 foot level 90 feet to get to the east leg of the reef, and drove south on west reef, 95 feet; saw a little gold on reef. They have been subsidized to the amount of £117 11 shillings and 4 pence. [12]

□01.1887□Two miles further on was Elliott's Reef claim for which Bellizini and party ask £400 to further prospect the ground. They had received £90 as

subsidy from the Eaglehawk Board last year. The shaft was down 136 feet. At 100 feet the reef showed a little gold, and crushings averaged 3 to 7dwt. They now propose to sink to water level - 170 feet - and if they got any encouragement to put on machinery and sink further. [13]

□03.1888□Elliott's Reef Company - a month ago a mine manager was appointed and during the last fortnight has been making preparations to commence work in the main shaft at an early date. We would recommend that immediately the water out of the shaft it is to be sunk 80 feet at least deeper. When this is done we have no doubt that their will be an excellent prospect in opening out the reef on payable stone. The crushing machine will be erected during the ensuing six months. Believe will be on payable stone in 3 months time. [14]

□09.1887□Elliott's Reef - The main shaft has now been timbered up to the surface, and all ready to go to work. The directors visited the mine on Tuesday last, and selected a site for the machinery. Other shareholders accompanied them; who expressed themselves highly pleased with the prospects of the company. [39]

□10.1887□Elliott's Reef - During the fortnight the crosscut has been driven east 13 feet, making a total from the level of 29 feet. Judging from the strata of the ground, the crosscut will have to be extended another 6 feet before cutting the reef; ground at present sandstone and slate. The contractor for the dam is making fair progress. [15]

□10.1887□Elliott's Reef - The crosscut during the fortnight has been driven 15 feet, total from the level 44 feet; ground, slate and sandstone with two spurs in the face, which it is thought, will lead on to the reef. The contractor has completed the repairs to the dams. A winding machine has been purchased; the erection of which will be proceeded with at once. Mr Delbridge is appointed engineer to superintend the erection. [16]

□11.1887□Elliott's Reef - During the fortnight the crosscut has been driven 10 feet. Ground principally spurs, with quartz at present in the face, in which a little gold has been seen. The lava has not yet been cut, consequently we cannot have reached the main reef. A contract has been let to Mr William Emmett for the removal and re-erection of the winding machinery on the mine. [17]

□11.1887□Elliott's Reef - During the fortnight the crosscut has been extended 8 feet; total 62 feet. Ground quartz and lava. A level has been extended north on the western side of the reef 7 feet. The quartz in going north shows signs of improvement. The machinery is now on the ground, and the contractor is pushing on the work as rapidly as possible. [18]

□12.1887□Elliott's Reef - The manager (Mr. R. McNair) reports:- since my last report the timbering in the engine shaft has been overhauled and 100 feet of centres put in. At the last meeting the directors decided to discontinue the work in the mine until the erection of machinery is completed, and which the contractor is pushing forward most rapidly. [19]

□12.1887□Elliott's Reef - At the last meeting of the board it was decided to stop work at the main shaft until the completion of the erection of the machinery, which is being pushed on very rapidly. About 4 weeks more will complete the work. [20]

□01.1888□Elliott's Reef - The contractors is making fair progress with the erection of the machinery which the engineer reports will be completed within the next month. [21]

□01.1888□Elliott's Reef - The erection of machinery will be completed during the next fortnight, after which a fair start will be made to prospect the ground. [22]

□03.1888□Elliott's Reef Company - The first half-yearly meeting of this company was held ... yesterday.

Directors' report - At the date of our last meeting we were engaged prospecting in the south shaft. On the shareholders deciding that machinery be erected, work on this part of the mine was stopped. We then purchased a winding plant, and called for tenders to erect same. Since which the whole plant has been erected at a cost of £294. The machinery was purchased at £350 on fair terms, two payments of which have been made, the balance to be paid in due course.

A month ago Mr William Vinton was appointed mine manager, and has been at work on the mine during the last fortnight has been making preparations to commence work in the main shaft at an early date. We would recommend that immediately the water out of the shaft it be sunk 80 feet at least deeper. When this is done we have no doubt that there will be an excellent prospect in opening out the reef on payable stone. Since the above was written the mining manager, Mr Vinton, reports having on Friday started the engine which works satisfactorily. Mr Kirkwood complimented the directors who, he thought, had carried on the work well. Some shareholders were complaining they had not erected a crushing machine, but he thought it was best to erect the winding plant first. However, the crushing machine would be erected during the next six months. He believed they would be on payable stone in 3 months' time. He moved that the formal opening of the plant take place on Tuesday next at 10 o'clock. ... [23]

□03.1888 □Elliott's Reef Company - The formal opening of the Elliott's Reef Company took place yesterday at the mine, Whipstick. Before proceeding further it may not be out of place to give a few particulars of the mine. The company's ground is situated on the Elliott's Reef close to the Adelaide Hill lead, and about a mile north of the Christoff Reef, where there are two claims, viz. Bachyths and Company and Siler and Company's several crushings, from which have yielded very satisfactory returns. Elliott's Reef was worked from the surface about 20 years ago, and very good results were obtained. At water level from half to two ounces were obtained, but as the water became too heavy and the appliances on the ground were not able to cope with it, the mine had to be abandoned. It is the intention of the company to erect a crushing machine as there are two dams on the lease, and it would cost very little to put them in order. The shareholders think that if sufficient quartz cannot be obtained from the mine at first to keep the machine going, that reefs close by would provide plenty of public crushings, as the plant would be centrally situated. The shaft is at present 200 feet and it is the intention of the company to sink another 80 feet and then drive a crosscut. In 1875 several tributaries obtained £305 worth of gold, and in 1876 the total amount of gold was £336 one shilling. The present company purchased the plant of the New Union Jack Company for £350 and had it erected by Mr. Emmett under the supervision of Mr J. Delbridge, engineer. Everything worked well yesterday and the engineer thinks the machinery is capable of hauling dirt down to 1000 feet. ...

Mr Sciallero, chairman of directors, opened the proceedings by stating that they had gathered there for the purpose of christening the engine and formally opening the plant. He suggested that they should call the engine "Success" and hoped that they would meet with the success they deserved. He had much pleasure in calling upon Miss Crameri to christen the engine. That young lady stepped forward and said: 'I have much pleasure in christening this engine "Success".' She then broke a bottle of champagne over the flywheel amid loud cheering.

The company then adjourned to the side of the engine house, where a first rate luncheon was provided by Mrs Crameri. ... [24]

□03.1888 □The Whipstick mines have not been turning out much gold lately, but the Elliott's Reef Company have erected machinery in order to prospect the locality to better advantage. [6.17-18]

□04.1888 □Elliott's Reef - During the past fortnight the water in shaft has been lowered 23 feet, and drained over 100 feet of crosscut, have also taken out 200 feet of runners in the shaft. The water drained every day is about 10,000 gallons. Water is now only one foot above the lower plat. [25]

□06.1888 □Elliott's Reef - during the fortnight the shaft has been sunk and timbered 22 feet, total 273 feet. At 260 feet a plat set has been put in. It is intended to sink another 8 feet, when plat will be cut. [26]

□06.1888 □The Elliott's Reef Company, having got their machinery completed, has now resumed active prospecting. [6.9]

□07.1888 □Elliott's Reef - Since last report the shaft has been sunk and timbered 10 feet, total from plat 83 feet, and from surface 283 feet. A plat has been cut, 10 feet by 9 feet, the timbering of which will be finished on Monday

9th. instant, when crosscutting will be commenced. There is nothing further to report. [27]

□07.1888□Elliott's Reef - during the fortnight the timbering of plat has been finished; and crosscut driven east 25 feet; the last 20 feet through lava and quartz, with water making much stronger. [28]

□08.1888□Elliott's Reef - during the fortnight the crosscut has been driven 23 feet; total from plat, 48 feet; also put in 600 feet of skids in the west shaft, and put on a new rope. [29]

□08.1888□Elliott's Reef - the crosscut at bottom has been driven 33 feet, total from shaft 81 feet; ground slate. A slide has been cut at 50 feet from the shaft, which has drained the water in top crosscut, where 20 feet of timber has been put in, and the hanging wall of the reef at top crosscut reached 55 feet from the shaft. [30]

□09.1888□Elliott's Reef - The manager, Mr R. McNair, reports:- during the past fortnight the 200 foot crosscut has been extended 10 feet, total east, 91 feet. At the 200 foot level south have repaired 20 feet of level. The reef here is about 15 feet wide. Have not broken much stone, but have seen a few specks of gold, in sinking. Will commence sinking winze next week, as well as continuing the crosscut. [31]

□09.1888□Elliott's Reef - the winze from the 200 foot level has been sunk 22 feet; the first 5 feet all in quartz, in which we see a little gold. In the lower crosscut we have cut another body of stone, which I think must be the same as in winze, but the water being so heavy we do not know what it is yet, have also timbered 12 feet of winze. [32]

□09.1888□Elliott's Reef Company - The half-yearly meeting of this company was held yesterday ...

Mining manager's report:- during the past six months the following work has been done. I started the engine and commenced baling the water, the week after your last meeting; got the water out of the bottom, 200 feet. Repaired the shaft and centred the same. Commenced to sink on the 12th of May, sunk 88 feet. Cut a plat at 60 feet; driven a crosscut east 91 feet; the first 30 feet in quartz and lava. Cleaned out and repaired the 200 foot crosscut. Now engaged sinking a winze on the reef which the last company worked, 15 feet wide. When I started the winze saw a little gold. 7 feet down a slide cut the reef and heaved the same, which way I cannot tell until the winze is through to the bottom crosscut. Now down 42 feet. I would recommend the shaft to be sunk as soon as convenient. [33]

□10.1888□Elliott's Reef - below 200 foot level winze has been sunk 20 feet; total 48 feet. When winze is through the lower crosscut will take out a crushing from the reef below the 200 foot level. [34]

□10.1888□Elliott's Reef - during the fortnight a rise has been extended 12 feet from the bottom level, and holed through to winze; have also timbered 20 feet, and are now engaged opening out levels from winze. [35]

□11.1888□During the past fortnight drive south at 220 foot level has been extended 10 feet, total 20 feet; stone about 4 feet thick; are now taking out a crushing. [36]

□05.1889□Elliott's Reef Company - The manager reports that during the fortnight the drive at the 200 foot level has been extended 9 feet; total 42 feet from winze. Have timbered same. The ground is very hard with the stone looking better in the face. The drive at the 260 foot has been extended 12 feet, total 33 feet. Ground full of spurs carrying a little gold. [37]

13.04.1894□Many mining investors will remember the Elliott's Reef Company, which some years was at work on the reef known by the name. Want of capital however caused a suspension of operations. ... [38]