

City of Greater Bendigo: Marong Heritage Study Mining Sites

BLUE JACKET REEF (WHITE JACKET GULLY) MINE AND ALLUVIAL WORKINGS

Other Names

Location Parcel No. P125153, State Forest, 100 metres east of junction of Centipede Gully Track and Whipstick Road, White Jacket Gully, Whipstick

Map Reference Epsom 1:25,000 - BV554.367

Victorian Heritage Register No

National Estate Register No

Planning Scheme No



Description About 100 metres east of Whipstick Road and close to the Raywood Channel, there is a puddling machine. The inner mound of the puddling machine has been quarried out, and only sections of the outer mound has escaped being eroded away. About 100 metres further down the gully, and running across the gully in a roughly north-south direction there is a line of shallow reef working on the northern extension of Blue Jacket Reef.

History Period of activity: 1864 - 1866+

Thematic Context Mining

Comparative Examples This site is one of a number of shallow alluvial workings identified within the study area. Some of the other equally significant early sites are: Myers Flat (1852), Fiddler's Green (1852), One-Eye Gully (1852), Peter the Great (right hand branch)(1856) and Shallow Diggings (1858). Within the study area at least sixteen puddling machine sites have been identified. These are: Peter the Great Gully (right hand branch)(by 1856?), Iron's Dam (2)(1858), Fiddlers Green (by 1879), Marong Deep Lead (1905), Jib Horse Gully (22 feet)(after 1930?), Old Tom Reef (20 feet)(after 1930), Phillips Gully (2)(after 1930?), Peter the Great Gully (left hand branch)(4)(after 1930?), Splitter's Gully (2)(22 feet)(after 1930?) and White Jacket Gully. Nineteenth century puddling machines are extremely rare and their provenance cannot usually be confirmed from such documentary evidence as has normally survived about mining in Victoria. The only site within the study area where this has been possible is at Iron's Dam, but then only by a process of elimination. That is, from documentary evidence, it is known that there were two puddling machines in the vicinity of the dam in 1858. The remains of two, and only two, puddling machines were identified at the site in 1992, so these must be the original ones. Whilst there are puddling machines at other sites (for example, Peter the Great (by 1856), Old Tom Reef (by 1857) and Splitter's Gully (by 1865) these are either associated with later phases of mining (reef workings or hydraulic sluicing) and/or do not exhibit extensive weathering and therefore, on these grounds, they cannot be regarded unequivocally as nineteenth century artefacts.

Statement of Significance The site is representative of small-scale shallow alluvial and reef workings to be found in the Whipstick area (criterion D).

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 bounded on the west by the Raywood Channel and extends for 75 metres north and south on either side of the main line of the gully for a distance of 250 metres.

References 1. Reports of the Mining Surveyors and Mining Registrars, Sandhurst mining district, Eaglehawk subdivision.

Notes The provenance of the puddling machine is unknown. There is no firm evidence of the existence of a dam in the gully in the vicinity of the puddling machine, so it is possible that water for puddling was obtained from the Raywood Channel, in which case the machine was not in use before 1886. The site is unusual in being upstream from the reef workings, and therefore suggests that the alluvial and reef workings were unrelated.
The reef workings may be as early as 1865.

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

Chronology

- 09.1864 □ Gum Tree Flat: 20 miners at work. [1.37-40]
- 12.1864 □ Gum Tree Flat: 20 miners at work. [1.39-42]
- 03.1865 □ Gum Tree Flat: 30 miners at work. [1.42-44]
- 06.1865 □ Gum Tree Flat: 10 miners at work. [1.43-44]
- 09.1865 □ Blue Jacket Reef: 2 miners at work [1.47-49]
- 12.1865 □ Blue Jacket Reef: 4 miners at work [1.45-46]
- 03.1866 □ Blue Jacket Reef: 4 miners at work [1.44-45]