

# City of Greater Bendigo: Marong Heritage Study Mining Sites

## BLACK FOREST MINE

### Other Names

**Location** Parcel No. P127987, State Forest, west of Whipstick Road, Hustler's/Lightning Hill, Eaglehawk

**Map Reference** Eaglehawk 1:10,000 - 545.345

Victorian Heritage Register No

National Estate Register No

Planning Scheme No



**Description** Line of reef workings, consisting of a partially filled open-cut and two small but intact mullock heaps.

**History** Period of activity: 1858-1892, 1898-1907  
Line of reef: Black Forest/Hustler's  
Maximum recorded annual production: unknown  
Total production: unknown  
Deepest working level: unknown  
Deepest shaft: 1068 feet (below water level)

**Thematic Context** Mining

**Comparative Examples** The site is one of a number of representative medium-level low-production mine sites in the study area, namely: Lightning Hill (1852-1907), Old Tom Reef (1857-1898), Frühling Reef (1860-1931), Lancashire Reef (1890-1908) and King of Prussia (1871-1885).

**Statement of Significance** The site displays a representative sequence of open cutting and shaft mining and is part of a group or network of sites, the totality of which is considered to be significant (criterion D).

**Level of Significance** Regional

**Recommendation** The site should be protected by inclusion in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay Table in the City of Greater Bendigo Planning Scheme, by registration with the Victorian Heritage Council, in accordance with the general principles of the conservation policy for mining sites, and should be included as a significant sub-area in the proposed Lightning Hill Mining Heritage Area.

**Heritage Boundaries** The Lightning Hill Mining Heritage Area is bounded on the south by Hodgson Street, on the east by the Raywood Channel as far as the junction between Whipstick Road and Rifle Range Road, on the north-west by a line 150 metres west of Whipstick Road (between Rifle Range Road and Mill Street and excluding all private property) and on the west by a line joining a point at the junction of Whipstick Road and the western access track to Lightning Hill and a point at the junction of Hodgson Street and the southern access street to Lightning Hill.

**References** 1. "Mining Intelligence. Elysian Flat." From our own Reporter, 6 February 1858, The Bendigo Advertiser, Tuesday, 9 February 1858.

2. W. Perry, "Tales of the Whipstick: a history of the Whipstick, Neilborough, Sebastian, Raywood and Myers Creek gold rushes, Victoria." Eaglehawk, Perry, 1975, 249pp.
3. Mining Surveyors' Reports, Sandhurst mining district, Eaglehawk division.
4. Mining Surveyors' Reports, Sandhurst mining district, Eaglehawk and Huntly division.
5. Dicker's Mining Record and Guide to the Gold Mines of Victoria.
6. A. V. Palmer, "The gold mines of Bendigo." volume 2, Hawthorn, Craftsman, 1979, 100.
7. Reports of the Mining Surveyors and Mining Registrars, Sandhurst mining district, Eaglehawk subdivision.
8. Reports of the Mining Surveyors and Mining Registrars.
9. "The Black Forest Company (registered)." The Bendigo Advertiser, Tuesday, 17 October 1865, p2, col.6.
10. "The Black Forest Company." The Bendigo Advertiser, Wednesday, 1 November 1865, p3, col.1.
11. Reports of the Mining Surveyors and Mining Registrars, Sandhurst mining district, Eaglehawk division.
12. Reports of the Mining Surveyors and Mining Registrars, Sandhurst mining district, Sandhurst division.
13. "Mining intelligence. Black Forest Company." The Bendigo Advertiser, Monday, 10 July 1871, p2, col.7.
14. "Black Forest Company." The Bendigo Advertiser, Monday, 31 July 1871, p3, col.2.
15. "Black Forest Company." The Bendigo Advertiser, Monday, 7 August 1871, p3, col.2.
16. "Black Forest Company." The Bendigo Advertiser, Monday, 4 September 1871, p3, col.1.
17. "Mining intelligence. Black Forest Company." The Bendigo Advertiser, Monday, 18 September 1871, p2, col.7.
18. "Mining intelligence. The Black Forest Company." The Bendigo Advertiser, Monday, 18 September 1871.
19. "Mining intelligence. Black Forest Company." The Bendigo Advertiser, Monday, 2 October 1871, p5, col.5.
20. "Mining intelligence. Black Forest Company." The Bendigo Advertiser, Monday, 30 October 1871, p5, col.7.
21. "Mining intelligence. Black Forest Company." The Bendigo Advertiser, Monday, 25 December 1871, p3, col.2.
22. "Mining intelligence. Black Forest." The Bendigo Advertiser, Friday, 2 July 1907, p2, col.3.
23. "South Black Forest Hustler's Reef Company." The Bendigo Advertiser, Monday, 14 August 1876, p3, cols.4/5.
24. "Mining intelligence. South Black Forest, Hustler's Reef." The Bendigo Advertiser, Monday, 10 December 1877, p3, col.3.
25. R. A. F. Murray, "Report on survey of extension of quartz reefs northwards from Eaglehawk, Sandhurst." Progress Report No.7, Geological Survey of Victoria, 1884, 4-8.
26. "Mining intelligence." The Bendigo Advertiser, Tuesday, 14 November 1882, p3, cols.3/4.
27. "Finance and mining. The Whipstick area. Visit by experts." The Bendigo Advertiser, Saturday, 12 September 1931, p2, col.3.
28. "Mining intelligence. Black Forest Company." The Bendigo Advertiser, Monday, 27 November 1882, p3, col.3.
29. "Mining intelligence. Black Forest Company." The Bendigo Advertiser, Monday, 18 December 1882, p3, col.5.
30. "Mining intelligence." The Bendigo Advertiser, Monday, 24 January 1898, p4, col.2.
31. "Our mines." The Bendigo Advertiser, Monday, 27 June 1898, p2, cols.7/8.
32. Annual Report of the Secretary for Mines and Water Supply, Victoria.
33. "Registration notices." The Bendigo Advertiser, Thursday, 23 November 1882, p4, col.3.

## Notes

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

**Chronology** 09.02.1858 □ New Quartz Reef. On Tuesday last a new reef was opened in Wellington Gully, near Blue Jacket Gully. It is 3 feet thick, and has been opened out to a depth of 10 feet. The stone raised is expected to yield six ounces per ton. It was discovered at a depth of 3 feet from the surface. The ground has been marked out for about a mile. What makes the holders of claims on the reef more sanguine, is the fact of the hill on which the reef has been found being one that has yielded some splendid surfacing - one puddler residing there having made as much as £16,000 from it. [1]

□ 1858 □ Lightning Hill - The reef continued approximately northward, entering the Whipstick ...at the foot of Lightning Hill. It was here in 1858 that a party of Germans began prospecting on their claim that extended for 200 yards long the line of reef. At first they were unsuccessful, but they persevered until in 1861 they struck rich stone which yielded 2½ozs of gold to the ton. A company consisting of 11 partners was formed, and as most of them came from the Black Forest region in Germany, they named their mine after this district of their homeland. On 18 November 1861 ...named the mine Black Forest Reef Company. ... from 1861 to 1867 some 2036ozs of gold were obtained. In 1899 the Black Forest was being worked by the J. R. Exploration Syndicate, when a shaft was sunk to 250 feet ...This syndicate erected a wooden poppet legs and installed a steam winch. Later the shaft was deepened to 1060 feet but with poor results, calls amounting to £8770 were paid during the years 1904 to 1907, and the mine proved a failure. [2.176-185]

□ 10.1861 □ Black Forest Company, Black Forest Reef: 172ozs 12dwt from 72 tons of stone. The claim on the Black Forest Reef, also therein mentioned, is a prospecting claim that has not very long opened; it is situated on the ranges to the north of Eaglehawk, and the whole length of the reef is now taken up, and the prospecting claim is making a good return to its owners. [3.440-441]

18. □ 11.1861 □ On 18 November 1861 . . . named the mine "Black Forest Reef Company .. from 1861 to 1867 some 2036ozs of gold were obtained. [2.176-185]

□ 11.1861 □ In quartz mining matters are comparatively dull; the lately discovered reef mentioned in my last report, the Black Forest Reef prospecting claim, is turning out very well, the breadth of the reef is five feet, and the quartz obtained therefrom looks exceedingly well and promises a handsome return. [4.491-492]

□ 12.1861 □ On the Black Forest Lead the holders of the prospecting claim are still raising tolerably good stone, and another claimholder to the south of the prospecting claim has cut the reef at a depth of 60 feet. [4.547-548]

□ 1861 □ Black Forest Reef - This reef, which has only come under the notice of the public within the last four or five months, affords another instance of well-earned success - the result of patient and systematic perseverance, on the part of the proprietary, extending over a period of nearly four years. The prospecting claim, of 200 yards extent, was taken up by the present Black Forest Company in the year of 1858, in a supposed line with Clough's Reef, but about two miles further north. It lies parallel with and about half a mile east of McNair's Specimen Hill, and is pleasantly situated on the summit of a ridge, from whence proceed Pennyweight Flat, leading into Eaglehawk Gully, and Napoleon Gully, opening out into Sailor's Gully. Two shaft were sunk close to the south boundary of the claim to the depth of 109 feet each, and 36 feet apart, situate east and west of each other. At the depth of 55 feet a crosscut, chiefly through slate, was put in from the east shaft to the west shaft. And, again, at 109 feet there is a similar crosscut, but extending 12 feet west of the west shaft, meeting at that joint with an east underlay lava streak. This lower crosscut, immediately after leaving the east shaft, passed through a hard bastard granite country the whole way. A blind shaft, following the lava streak, was sunk a depth of 95 feet along the underlay to water level, carrying with it the same hard granite on both sides. At 20 feet depth as long the underlay; a body of quartz was passed, but no trial made. Midway between the two shafts, in the crosscut at 55 feet, a small leader, containing gold, has been observed, but being only about the thickness

of a finger, it would not pay to work. It however induced the prospectors to sink a shaft further north about 80 yards. In this shaft a thin saddle was passed through at a depth of about 30 feet, and at 40 feet a crosscut 12 feet east cut the east leg, the lode now being wrought by the prospectors. The west leg was cut at a depth of 60 feet by a crosscut 25 feet west from the shaft.

The character of the reef is as follows:- Saddle-shape, separating into east and west underlies; the east only having been wrought. The most productive portion has been at about 30 feet below the saddle and towards the north, yielding rather better than 2½ozs to the ton. It has been wrought about 30 feet in height and for about 55 yards from north to south, to within about 75 yards of the prospectors' north boundary. Average thickness about 2 feet. Dip north, underlie slightly east. The upper part of the lode has been left standing for the present, only yielding from 5 to 10dwt to the ton. It has a sandstone foot wall on the west for some distance, but towards the north the lode carried slate on both sides. The hanging or east wall is slate the whole way. The gold was observed to be distributed chiefly over the west face of the lode for some distance, until the sandstone left it, when it appeared to have shifted to the east face.

In crosscutting for the western lode, a lava streak, about 1 foot wide and trending east, was passed through at about 20 feet from the shaft. A thick body of stone has been cut about 2 feet to the west of the east lode, at a depth of 55 feet, the miners having driven already 6 feet into it without reaching the west face. No trial has yet been made of it.

There are about six claims north of the prospectors', in which prospecting is being carried out, and about four claims south, but the ground has been marked out for a long distance beyond both ways:

The Charles Company - next south of Prospector's

Martha Company - Next north to the Black Forest Company

John's Company - next north to the Martha Company

Mesner and Company - next north to John's Company.

Black Forest Company

Owners - M. Mesner chairman, Joseph Ketterer, Manager; A. Hummell, F.

Gremelsbacher, A. Ketterer, J. Ketterer, J. W. Williams, W. Anderson, J.

Hummel, A. Ferenbach, K. Killian, D. Berender, holding 20 shares.

Area and title - 200 yards from north to south, a prospecting claim held under miner's right.

Workings - There are four shafts on this claim. No.1, the north shaft, 90 yards from the north boundary, 70 feet deep. No.2, south of No.1, 30 yards, 60 feet deep. Nos.3 and No.4, east and west of each other, and on the south boundary, each 109 feet deep. A description of the work done in the latter shafts is given in the foregoing account of The Black Forest Reef. In No.2 shaft there is a crosscut at the depth of 47 feet, 65 feet east, the present east lode being cut at 12 feet from the shaft. In the same shaft, at 60 feet, there is a crosscut 12 feet east, and another at the same level, 35 feet west. An easterly lava streak, 1 foot thick, was passed through in the latter, at 20 feet from the shaft, and the west underlie lode at 25 feet.

Reef and yield - The lode has been wrought from about 10 yards south of No.2 shaft, and north 15 yards of No.1 shaft, in all about 65 yards in extent, and for a height of 30 feet, and an average thickness of 2 feet. The upper portion of the lode has not been stripped, it is much thicker, but not so productive. The richest portion of the lode is towards the north. Dip north. Underlie slightly east, nearly perpendicular.

From 22 July last, the date of the first, to 6 December, the date of the last crushing, 374 tons of stone have been raised, yielding 642ozs 13dwt 9 grains, and realising £2450 shillings 11 pence, or an average of nearly 1oz 15dwt to the ton. The best crushings were 30 October - 45 tons, 116ozs 2dwt 12 grains and 16 November - 60 tons, 152ozs 15dwt.

Dividends - Since striking gold in July, the sum of £1586 10 shillings has been returned in dividends, or £79 6 shillings 6 pence per share, deducting the cost of prospecting, it would thus leave £827 6 shillings as the clear profit of the mine up to the present time. [5.11, 6]

□ 09.1864 □ Black Forest Reef: 16 reef miners at work. [7.37-40]

- 12.1864 □ Black Forest Reef: 13 reef miners at work. [7.39-42]
- 03.1865 □ Black Forest Reef: 9 reef miners at work. [7.42-44]
- 06.1865 □ Black Forest Reef: 7 reef miners at work. Many new reefs are being opened up, which afford satisfactory prospects to venture on them, among which I may mention the Black Forest Reef, 10 tons of stone yielding 50 ounces of gold. [7.43-44]
- 06.1865 □ Black Forest Reef: 50ozs obtained from 40 tons of stone. [8]
- 09.1865 □ Black Forest Reef: 8 reef miners at work. [7.47-49]
- 17.10.1865 □ Black Forest Company - this company holds a claim of about 15 acres of ground on the west side of the Lightning Reef, Eaglehawk. A large body of stone crops out on the surface but has not been worked much. At present the workings are chiefly on the cap of the reef, 40 feet from the surface, where it is about 10 feet thick. The last crushing yielded 8dwt of gold per ton. The reef is a saddle one and both legs have been worked to a depth of 80 feet, the yield of gold at that depth being 6dwt per ton. In a shaft north of the present workings a level is being put in to work the western leg which is one foot thick at this place, and yields 1ozs to the ton. There will be 40 feet of stone to rise upon. The company use a horse whip and windlass in working the mine. [9]
- 01.11.1865 □ Black Forest Company - A meeting of the shareholders of this company was held last night. ... The manager's (F. Gremelsbacher) report was read and adopted. It stated: during the 2 months the company have been in existence the main part of the work done has been breaking and raising quartz, 208 tons have been raised and crushed, yielding 45ozs 17dwt 2 grains, or an average of 4dwt 9½ grains to the ton; 131 tons of the stone were taken from a large body south of the main shaft, and yielded 21ozs 18dwt 17 grains, or an average of 3dwt 8 grains per ton; and the remaining 77 tons were taken from the 85 foot level and yielded 23ozs 18dwt, or an average of little over 6dwt per ton. At present I am putting in a drive from the Never Funk Company's shaft, alongside a flat spur which has been worked by that company and found payable. I put men on the western shaft near No.3 shaft, and directed them to rise on it for the purpose of getting a trial crushing out, and breaking through the large body when they reach a certain height. ... [10]
- 12.1865 □ Black Forest Reef: 8 reef miners at work. [7.45-46]
- 03.1866 □ Black Forest Reef: 10 reef miners at work. [7.44-45]
- 06.1866 □ Black Forest Reef: 12 reef miners at work. [11.41-43]
- 08.1866 □ Black Forest Reef Company: mine valued at £4616 5 shillings, mostly in uncalled capital, with no entry for the mine and machinery. [5.88]
- 09.1866 □ Black Forest Reef: 10 reef miners at work. [11.43-45]
- 12.1866 □ Black Forest Reef: 10 reef miners at work. [12.44-45]
- 03.1867 □ Black Forest Reef: 10 reef miners at work. [12.32-34]
- 10.07.1871 □ Black Forest Company: The shaft has been sunk 9 feet during the fortnight, total from plat 14 feet. A small spur has been cut in sinking; no visible increase in the water. [13]
- 31.07.1871 □ Black Forest Company. The shaft has been sunk a further depth of 14 feet, total from plat 28 feet. The spurs are becoming thicker as we sink, and the water increasing. [14]
- 07.08.1871 □ Black Forest Company. The shaft has been sunk a further depth of 11 feet, total from plat 39 feet. Ground still keeps pretty hard. No material increase of water. [15]
- 04.09.1871 □ Black Forest Company. The shaft has been sunk a further 8½ feet, making 58 feet from plat, or a total depth from surface of 224 feet; ground very tight. [16]
- 18.09.1871 □ Black Forest Company. A further depth of 11 feet has been sunk during the fortnight, making depth from plat 69 feet, or total from surface 235 feet. [17]
- 18.09.1871 □ Black Forest Company. A further depth of 11 feet has been sunk during the fortnight, making a depth from plat 60 feet, or total from surface 235 feet. [18]
- 02.10.1871 □ Black Forest Company. The shaft has been sunk a further depth of 9 feet, total 244 feet. The lava has been cut, underlying east, and we have has a slight increase in water. It is expected that stone will be met with shortly.

[19]

□30.10.1871□Black Forest Company. During the past fortnight we have sunk 11 feet, making total from plat 92 feet. In consequence of the lava coming through the shaft it has been found necessary to timber it about 20 feet. The water having become much heavier we have commenced to cut a plat. [20]

□25.12.1871□Black Forest Company. Since my last report 14 feet has been driven; total from shaft, 6\53 feet. There is a slight alteration in the nature of the ground. Water is troublesome. [21]

□ 1871□Poppet head and winding engine erected. [6]

□ 14.08.1876□South Black Forest Hustler's Reef Company - The half yearly general meeting was held ... on the 11th instant. ... It was resolved to accept the proposal to amalgamate with the adjoining claim on the south, and as soon as possible as this can be effected mining operations will be resumed. [23]

10.12.1877□South Black Forest Hustler's Reef Company - The tributors crushed 10 loads of stone for the fortnight taken from the western leg of the reef; yield 6ozs 18 grains of gold, or a little over 12dwt per ton; their last crushing yielded 7dwt per ton. There is a large quantity of stone; they are only breaking it about a foot thick at present. [14]

1879□Reef shown marked in Murray's map of the northwards extension of the quartz reefs at Eaglehawk. [25]

□14.11.1882□Black Forest Company.

A meeting of shareholders in the Black Forest Company was held at Eaglehawk on Saturday. It was agreed to register the company under the No Liability clause in 30,000 shares of 10 shillings each. The ground held by the new company is in two leases of 13 acres each, 26 acres in all, or about 800 yards on the line of reef. This ground includes the old Black Forest Company's ground, from which a deal of gold was obtained, and as the ground has only been worked down to the water level, about 180 feet from the surface, the company has been formed for the purpose of testing the ground below water level. It is the intention of the company to put up winding machinery at once, and get below the water level, where good payable gold was left untouched. ... [26]

□23.11.1882□Registration

I, the undersigned, hereby make application to register The Black Forest Reef Gold Mining Company as a no-liability company, under the provisions of the Mining Companies' Act 1871.

1. The name of the company is to be The Black Forest Reef Gold Mining Company (No Liability)

2. The place of operations is at Black Forest reef, Eaglehawk, ...

Hay Kirkwood, manager. [33]

□27.11.1882□Black Forest Company. A mining manager having been appointed work will be commenced on Monday to timber and cut down one of the shafts to about 150 feet, where gold was obtained some years ago, and left at 6dwt to the ton on account of the water. [28]

□18.12.1882□Black Forest Company. Commenced work on the 18th. The shaft has been timbered up round the collar, and divided and put in ladders down to a depth of 150 feet. 10 feet of mullock was taken out of bottom of shaft, and the drive also cleaned out for 16 feet into the winze. Have also secured the ground over head and now the winze will be sunk for a depth of 50 or 60 feet deeper to cut the eastern leg of reef. [29]

06.1883□On the Black Forest and Lightning Hill lines matters are very quiet. [7.34]

12.1883□But little work is being done on the Black Forest and Lightning Hill lines of reef. [7.36]

□08.1889□Lease No.5934 for 22 acres 2 roods and 38 perches and 11 men granted on 12 August to Charles Alcock on Black Forest Reef. [8]

□24.01.1898□English capital is doing valuable prospecting on the Black Forest ... line. [30]

□27.01.1898□The Black Forest Reef at Lightning Hill is being explored by an English Company, who have put up a first class plant, and are setting about the work systematically. The shaft is being enlarged to 11 feet 6 inches by 4 feet 6

inches in the clear. [31]

□ 1898 □ Black Forest Company: winch for winding. [32]

□ 1899 □ The Black Forest was being worked by the J.R. Exploration Syndicate, when a shaft was sunk to 250 feet ... This syndicate erected a wooden poppet legs and installed a steam winch. Later the shaft was deepened to 1060 feet but with poor results, a calls amounting to £8770 were paid during the years 1904 to 1907, and the mine proved a failure. [2.176-185]

□ 1905 □ The Black Forest Company has been doing developmental work by sinking a main shaft and cross-cutting at various levels, but, finding nothing payable, attention has again been paid to shaft sinking. The shaft had been put down to 944 feet from the surface. Sixteen men are continuously employed. [32.118]

□ 1906 □ The Black Forest Company's shaft has reached a depth of 1068 feet, and levels have been driven, but as yet no gold has been seen in the mine. [32.125]

02.07.1907 □ Black Forest - east crosscut at 420 feet out 226 feet. The ground being traversed consists of slate and sandstone, with strata underlying east. [22]

12.09.1931 □ In order to make a general survey of the Whipstick area, where a good deal of mining prospecting is at present being carried on, Mr H. W. Gepp, Dr Stillwell and Mr W. Baragwanath (Director of Geological Survey) visited that part of the Bendigo goldfields yesterday. They were accompanied by Mr R. V. Keane, M.H.R., the Mayor of Eaglehawk (Cr J. H. Stewart) and Messrs J. Enroe and W. F. Dennis. Among the mines visited were the Flagstaff and the Old Tom. Before returning to Bendigo the experts also inspected the old Black Forest and Lightning Hill, which were worked by the J. R. Exploration Syndicate about 30 years ago. An examination of the records affecting this part of the field was made later in the Bendigo Mines office. [27]