
CHILTERN VALLEY CHINESE CAMP

Location

250 MARENGOS ROAD CHILTERN VALLEY, INDIGO SHIRE

Municipality

INDIGO SHIRE

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H8225-0141

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Interpretation of Site	<p>Despite the lack of evidence of surface features, ceramic remnants and brick have been collected from the area and the site has further archaeological potential.</p> <p>The location of the camp at Chiltern Valley is of local importance, a Chinese camp in a region where these types of sites are relatively common. Despite the lack of evidence of surface features, ceramic remnants and brick have been collected from the area and the site has further archaeological potential.</p>
Archaeological Significance	<p>The site is of regional significance as one of a number of Chinese settlements associated with the 19th century mining of the Indigo goldfield. A detailed survey and excavation of the Chiltern Valley Camp Land may allow an opportunity for further analysis of the material culture and structural remains associated with one of the most significant ethnic groups (said loosely) on the Victorian goldfields, little of which has been written about within this area of the north east. The association with a specific group means that it therefore may be of additional significance to members of that group.</p>
Historical Significance	<p>The site is significant through its association with 19th century mining in the north-east and more broadly with the history of non-European groups in Australia.</p>

Hermes
Number 162344

Property
Number

History

As part of the Indigo Mining Division, encompassing Chiltern, Indigo and Rutherglen, settlement west of Chiltern Valley did not commence until the gold rush finally reached the north-east part of Victoria. Here Woolshed diggings were worked first, as early as 1853. As the first easy alluvial diggings were exhausted, new fields were opened up at Indigo at Chiltern in 1858, followed by the rush to Rutherglen in 1860.

By the end of 1860, seven deep leads and seven reefs were being worked. Thomas Thornely reported that the population of the Indigo Mining Division in December 1860 was 12,905, including 1,925 Chinese (Lloyd and Kennedy 2007: 28 and 29). Parish and geological plans of the period (ie. Everett 1868) refer to mining settlements such as Durham, Indigo and Cornishtown, each separated by 12 kilometres or so. However, mining on the Indigo was mostly shallow alluvial mining and/or search for gold found in deep leads that was easily exhausted. Places such as Chiltern Valley quickly declined after the 1860s and the Chinese men who stayed in the region, diversified to work in the winery and other local industries (Lloyd and Kennedy 2007:155).

This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.

For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>