

HILLSBOROUGH FORMER TOWNSHIP SITE

Location

OFF HILLSBOROUGH ROAD BRUARONG, INDIGO SHIRE

Municipality

INDIGO SHIRE

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H8225-0125

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Interpretation of Site	Hillsborough was not inspected, and is not possible to confirm the presence of surface features. However the degree of preservation of native forest in both locations would suggest that both townships are preserved sufficiently to retain the potential for archaeological remains of domestic and industrial structures dating to the goldrush in this area and later. Subsequent oral information from Indigo Shire Council Planner (Kath Oswald) is that local knowledge confirms that the subdivision is visible.
Archaeological Significance	The township of Hillsborough is of medium significance as more remote and marginal places settled as a result of the goldrush to Yackandanah that continue to retain the potential for cultural heritage dating to the 19th century. Further assessment, through survey and excavation has the potential to reveal 19th century artefact assemblages and remnants of domestic and industrial structures that may allow for a better understanding of the social and working life locally and more broadly within the region and in Victoria in general.
Historical Significance	Hillsborough is an example of remote goldrush towns, most which disappeared after the demise of quartz mining at the beginning of the 20th century.
Hermes Number	162350

History

See Freeman 1999:39 Heritage study STAN026

Along with the neighbouring Bruarong, one of two towns formed north of Stanley as a result of the goldrush to Beechworth and Yackandandah around 1853. Both townships are poorly documented and had a relatively short life span. Bannear's 1990s historical survey of mining in Yackandandah saw Hillsborough as one of the places where miners turned to quartz mining (1862-64):

For want of capital to develop and equip the mines, quartz mining was faltering at the end of 1862. By 1864, the quartz mining industry was on a firmer footing. Three water-wheels and two steam engines drove batteries and new reefs were discovered near Wodonga, at Kinchington's Creek, Hillsborough, Sutton, and Back Creek, as well as at Clear and Twist's creeks. From that point, quartz mining activity continued on an upward trajectory throughout the 1860s. Twist's Creek was the centre of activity, with at least seventeen companies or parties at work on reefs there in 1868.

(<http://www.heritage.vic.gov.au/admin/file/content2/c7/Yackandandah.pdf>)

Hillsborough appeared to contain both housing and some civic buildings and the undated Township of Hillsborough plan (?/119. sourced Beechworth Museum) depicts housing and a reserve for a school (see attached). As mining diminished in the early 20th century most of the town blocks would have been abandoned.

Today the Hillsborough subdivisions form a part of the Stanley State Forest and appear to have been at least partly protected from logging and plantation. It seems that Hillsborough most of the former building areas have been preserved.

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/>