
Fiddlers Green Alluvial Workings



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Location

Rifle Range Road EAGLEHAWK NORTH, GREATER BENDIGO CITY

Municipality

GREATER BENDIGO CITY

Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO413

Heritage Listing

Greater Bendigo City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

The site contains two dams, at least one of which is known to have first been built by 1879, a puddling machine likely to be a rare and relatively intact nineteenth century puddling machine (criterion B and criterion D), traces of shallow alluvial workings and some evidence of hydraulic sluicing; many of the features of early alluvial mining (criterion D).

Heritage Study/Consultant	Greater Bendigo - Marong Heritage Study 1999, Andrew Ward and Associates, 1999;
Construction dates	1852,
Hermes Number	198806
Property Number	

Physical Description 1

At the junction of two branches of Fiddlers Green Gully there is an earthen dam with some dry stone walling on the downstream face. At the northern end there are some mounds of puddling wash, but no outline of any puddling machine could be found. Towards the southern end, however, there is a very weathered outline of a puddling machine. It is just possible to distinguish the inner mound. Four medium sized trees grow on this site. Further downstream, on the eastern edge of Rifle Range Road, there is a large earthen dam, partially filled with water. Below this the main gully deepens and there is evidence of shallow alluvial working along the northern edge which intensifies towards the point where the gully tumbles down into Deadman's Gully, the upper floor of which appears to have been hydraulically sluiced

Physical Description 2

The site is generally defined by the three main branches of Fiddlers Gully for a distance of 300 metres east of Rifle Range Road, by the westward extension of the main gully to its junction with Deadmans Gully and the southern end of that gully for a distance of 250 metres north of the junction between Fiddlers and Deadmans gullies, and extends for a distance of 75 metres on each side of the main lines of each of these gullies.

Physical Description 3

There appears to have been some form of mining activity in the area from 1852 until at least 1888.

Deadman's Gully to the west and for some distance downstream from its junction with Fiddler's Green/Gully has been extensively sluiced. Although sluicing began on Bendigo in 1874, when a secure supply of water became available from the Coliban system, it is quite unlikely that such operations began in this area before the construction of the Eaglehawk syphon and Blue Jacket Reservoir in 1885/1886. As there is little re-growth over the sluiced area, however, it seems more likely that the sluicing was undertaken in the period 1931-1936, when there were over a thousand alluvial miners reported to be at work in the Bendigo district, and there were reports of fossickers in the area.

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/>