

NORTH CENTRAL GOLDFIELDS PROJECT

**HISTORIC MINING SITES
IN THE
TARADALE
MINING DIVISION**

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page no.
PART ONE: PROJECT REPORT	
1. INTRODUCTION	3
1.1 Project aims	3
1.2 Background	3
2. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	4
3. HISTORICAL OVERVIEW	5
3.1 Introduction	5
3.2 Historical overview	6
4. SURVEY RESULTS	20
4.1 Introduction	20
4.2 Fieldwork results (Table 1)	20
5. INTERPRETATION OF PHYSICAL REMAINS	23
5.1 Methodology	23
5.2 Results (Table 2)	24
6. CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE	26
6.1 Criteria for assessment	26
6.2 Cultural significance of sites surveyed (Table 3)	26
7. RECOMMENDATIONS	29
7.1 Introduction and recommendations (Table 4 to 6)	29
BIBLIOGRAPHY	31
APPENDICES	32
Appendix A: Project brief	32
Appendix B: Site types and components	32
FIGURES:	
Figure 1 North Central Goldfields area (after Appendix B)	
Figure 2 Location of surveyed sites (after Appendix B)	

TABLES:

Table 1	Sites surveyed	20
Table 2	Dating of surveyed sites	24
Table 3	Significance of surveyed sites	26
Table 4	Key individual sites in the Taradale Mining Division	29
Table 5	Key networks of sites in the Taradale Mining Division	29
Table 6	Recommendations for immediate action	29

PART TWO: SITE GAZETTEER

PART ONE: PROJECT REPORT

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 PROJECT AIMS

This report aims to assess historic mining sites surviving in the Taradale Mining Division, an area designated, for purposes of administration, by the Mines Department last century. The whole of Victoria was sectioned into Mining Districts which, in turn, were divided into a number of Mining Divisions.

This report is the seventh in a series looking at historic mining sites in all Mining Divisions in the former Maryborough, Bendigo and Castlemaine Mining Districts, which together comprised the area now referred to as the Central Victorian Goldfields. (See Figure 1) The long-term goal of the North Central Goldfields Project is to assess sites over the entire region and to determine which should be conserved, and by what means. After producing an inventory of historic sites related to mining and other relevant industries in the region, the significance of individual sites will be assessed, and strategies recommended for their conservation and management. The main focus will be on sites within Land Conservation Council-designated Historic Reserves, but the project will encompass historic mining sites on other types of public land and might also refer, for purposes of comparison, to sites situated on private land.

A complete copy of the Project Brief is included as an appendix to this report.

1.2 BACKGROUND

The Taradale Mining Division embraces some 40 miles of the valley of the Coliban River, stretching north from Trentham to the junction of the Coliban with the Campaspe River. Unlike the neighbouring Mount Alexander (Castlemaine) goldfield, where extraordinarily rich yields of gold were being obtained in the early 1850s from dry, shallow ground, the first alluvial ground opened up in the Taradale Division proved to be generally unremunerative - the gold was patchy, and it tended to be buried quite deep in wet ground. As a result the Division, unlike its neighbours, never experienced any large alluvial goldrush.

Mining commenced in the Taradale Division in 1851 with the discovery of shallow alluvial gold along the Coliban River near Lauriston, followed shortly by discoveries along Back Creek at Taradale. The gold-bearing alluvial gold was, however, found to be quite poor and thus did not attract many diggers from surrounding goldfields. The Division's peak mining period appears to have been from the mid-1860s to the late-1880s with a series of rich discoveries. First were some rich alluvial discoveries by the Hiberian, London and Melbourne, Central, Lord Malmsbury and Ironstone Hill companies, followed by a series of rich finds from the quartz reefs by the United Kingdom, Energetic, Tommy Dodd, Queens Birthday and O'Connor's Freehold companies. By the turn of the century, the Division's mining had been reduced to very small scale quartz stuff. The Division's last serious mining took place at the North Phoenix mine in the late 1950s.

The majority of the successful quartz and deep lead mining took place within the triangle formed by towns of Taradale, Drummond and Lauriston. A distinctive feature of the Division's successful mining was that most of it was carried out on land that had already been taken up for pastoral purposes. Thus part of the history of the Division is tied up in the conflict between miners and landowners and the right to mine on private land. Another distinctive feature of the Division was speculation as men attempted to lure investment to a comparatively minor goldfield, either through fraudulent intent or a genuine concern to build a flourishing and permanent mining industry. Whereas names of rich producing reefs or successful companies on the more productive central Victorian goldfields were repeatedly adopted by successive mining operations as a talisman for success and investor confidence, the reverse occurred at Taradale, the names of failures being quickly expunged from the records to be replaced by new names. Presumably investors were to be lured (or fooled) into thinking the new name meant a new mine, not one already tainted by failure. The mining records of the Taradale Division are filled with a host of different company names, giving the casual reader the impression of a widespread industry. When analysed, however, the plethora of names distils down to a handful of actual mine sites. Nowhere is this better illustrated than in respect of Hughes or Achilles Reef at Taradale. The same area of this reef was mined and prospected from 1858 to the 1890s by at least six different companies with completely different names: Phoenix Quartz Crushing Co., Prince Albert Quartz Crushing Co., Achilles Co., Rothchild Co., Victoria Gold Mining Co., and Plutus Co.

2. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The methodology employed for the project closely follows the guidelines set out in the Department of Conservation and Environment (DCE) paper, Requirements for Assessment of Features of Significance in Historic Reserves. The first half (five weeks) of the project period was occupied in research of historical sources, and computer input of data collected. Among the sources consulted were: Mining Surveyors' Monthly, Quarterly and Annual Reports; Mines Department maps, plans and reports; photographs and illustrations; published local histories and other secondary sources; local newspapers; local knowledge; and existing conservation studies for the North Central Goldfields area. The following people provided assistance in the historical research: Clive Willman, Terry Mason, and Don Cherry (Department of Manufacturing, Industry and Development, Bendigo); Jim Allen, and Neale Watson (Department of Conservation and Environment)

All historical data collected was entered into a simple, chronologically organised, computerised database. A focus of the database is to document the main gullies, creeks, reefs, flats, leads or hills where gold mining occurred. For each gold mining locality, the database attempts to provide a chronology of activity, detailing gold discoveries, mining parties and machinery, settlement patterns, population levels, and gold production figures. The database enables the origins of surviving physical remains to be traced, according to their location, as an aid to precise interpretation and dating of sites. Conversely, the data can pinpoint the location of an important historic site, so that remains of that site can be located on the ground today. The historical database also provides a detailed overall picture of gold mining and other activities within the Taradale Mining Division, allowing an historical overview of the Division as a whole (its development, trends and characteristics) to be pieced together.

Once historical research was completed and the database compiled, fieldwork commenced. Areas and specific sites pinpointed as having been important mining localities were surveyed for surviving remains. If located, remains were described, measured and photographed. Constraints of time and budget necessitated that recording be of a fairly basic standard. It is envisaged that more detailed site recording, including scale plans and drawings, will be undertaken when particular sites are shown - after comparison with similar sites within the Division and elsewhere - to be culturally significant. Ideally, this detailed site recording, and, where necessary, further historical research, will be a component of the conservation policies to be devised for significant sites.

The results of site surveys were matched with relevant historical data and arranged to form a site gazetteer. The gazetteer entry for each site surveyed also includes details of precise location, site interpretation, an assessment of the integrity and condition of surviving remains, and, where appropriate, a statement of cultural significance and recommendations concerning the site's conservation. The gazetteer format is as follows:

The site gazetteer forms Part Two of this report

3. HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

3.1 INTRODUCTION

The locality-specific contents of the historical database, together with a wider reading of more general sources (see Bibliography), were used to compile an historical overview, highlighting the major periods of development and the special characteristics of the Taradale Mining Division. In all, three main mining periods were distinguished, each having quite different characteristics:

Period 1 - 1851 to 1887	Failure of shallow alluvial sinking, and the pioneering (through open cutting, shaft sinking and tunnelling) of quartz and deep lead mining. High gold production maintained by a string of rich gold discoveries made first by deep lead miners and then by quartz miners.
Period 3 - 1888 to 1930s	Demise of large scale gold mining in the Taradale Division.
Period 4 - 1930s to 1950s	Only small scale quartz mining in the Taradale Division.

3.2 HISTORICAL OVERVIEW OF TARADALE MINING DIVISION

Period 1: 1851 to 1887- Failure of shallow alluvial sinking, and the pioneering (through open cutting, shaft sinking and tunnelling) of quartz and deep lead mining. High gold production maintained by a string of rich gold discoveries made first by deep lead miners and then by quartz miners.

The first gold-bearing ground opened up in the Taradale Division was on small alluvial flats along the banks of the Coliban River and Back Creek, and the gutters of gullies that drained into these water courses. The main method of working the ground during the early days of alluvial mining comprised no more than simply sinking a shaft and washing the bottom gold-bearing gravel (called drift) with the aid of tub and cradle. According to James Flett's definitive work on Victoria's early gold discoveries¹, the Division's first goldfield was called the Coliban or Malmsbury diggings. This alluvial field was located three miles south of Malmsbury, on the Coliban River, just above Lauriston. Gold was obtained on these diggings as early as 1851. By the end of the following year, alluvial gold had also been found along Back Creek, immediately south of Taradale. This creek produced patchy, coarse gold and the occasional small nuggets. The depth of gold varied from five to twenty feet and the creek was worked for some three miles along its course.²

In 1856 there were some new auriferous discoveries along Back Creek which resulted in the opening up of deep leads (gold-bearing gutters of ancient streams) that were found to run in a easterly direction towards the Coliban River. At least four deep leads - Ironstone Hill, Scorpion Hill, Belltopper Hill and Talbot Hill leads - were discovered and traced from the creek until they disappeared under a thick layer of volcanic rock (basalt) that lay between Back Creek and the Coliban River. To chase the deep leads, the miners commenced to drive tunnels under the basalt from the eastern side of Back Creek.

Hand in hand with alluvial mining during the mid to late 1850s went the discovery and subsequent mining of quartz reefs. Often the reefs had been discovered during the course of alluvial mining. Such was the case on the Old Coliban or Malmsbury diggings where alluvial miners had uncovered a reef on land belonging to Jefferson. The working of this reef led to the installation of the Division's only water-powered crushing mill. One of the first reefs opened at the other end of the Division, at Taradale, was Hughes or Archilles Reef. By 1855 there were at least four claims working along the line of this reef and all were producing very high gold returns; viz., the first ton crushed from Mr. Russell's No. 4 claim yielding 33 ozs. of gold, and on another occasion Russell had 15 tons crushed for an average return of 84 ozs. per ton.³

¹ The History of Gold Discovery in Victoria, James Flett

² Mining Surveyors' Reports, April 1860

³ Taradale Mines - extracts from Mount Alexander Mail and other sources (Metcalf News 30/11/1889)

By the end of the 1850s most of the Division's major lines of reefs - Hughes/Archilles and Prince Albert Reefs, Quartz Blocks, Old Man Reef (later known as Fenton or United Kingdom line of reef), Victoria Reef, Humboldt Reef, Belltopper (later to become an extension of Queens Birthday line of reef), Frenchmans and Kangaroo Reefs, Burra Burra or Orr's Reef, Jefferson's Reef (later to become part of Energetic/Russells line of reef) and Barfold Ranges (Metcalf East) - had been discovered and opened up. On the whole, the quartz miners experienced rich returns from the surface stone, but found that the yield diminished dramatically the deeper they dug. By the time the water level was hit (usually around 90 to 100 ft level) the neighbouring claims had often been amalgamated into a single property. Such was the case in 1858 when Messrs W. Clarke and Co. (Melbourne gold brokers) brought up all the line of Hughes/Archilles Reef and formed it into the Phoenix Company, paying the claimholders either in company shares or cash.⁴ This company erected a new steam engine and crushing machinery which was described by the local Kyneton Observer as first rate and not surpassed in the Colony.⁵

By 1860, not only had the Taradale Division missed out on the glory days of the great alluvial rushes, but it was being by-passed by a second 'mining revolution': the emergence and dominance in mining matters by quartz reef mining. This phenomenon, based on the triumvirate of capital, technology and scientific mining principles, and which formed the backbone of the successful development of neighbouring mining divisions in the Central Goldfields such as Castlemaine, Maldon and Bendigo, hardly featured during the 1860s in the Taradale Division. This was not from want of trying, on the part of the local mining surveyor, to 'talk up' the Division's quartz mines:

The quartz reefs seem to be the prime feature in this gold field, on which will probably depend its prosperity as a mining district. At the Barfold Ranges there are ten mines being successfully worked, at the Victoria Reefs there are four, at the Humboldt two, at Belltopper Hill three, at Kangaroo Creek three, and at the Malmsbury diggings there is one.

All the above mentioned are yielding gold; besides there are four new reefs under trial, showing very encouraging indications, and there are five mines temporarily relinquished, being secured to their owners under the privilege of 'registration,' making in all 32 mines in this Taradale Division which promise well as lucrative investments of capital and labor, not only to their immediate proprietors, but also to the various trades thereby called into requisition and to the general community, all of whom indirectly reap a benefit from the prosperity of their neighbours.⁶

Despite the desire for quartz mining to leap ahead in the early 1860s, the Division's gold-bearing reefs were to produce nothing of note to attract the large investment considered necessary to make them payable below the water level. Matters were not made any easier by the failure of some of the more progressive attempts, such as that of the Phoenix Company at Taradale, which had spent some £30,000 of shareholders' money, giving little back in dividends.⁷

The lack of enterprise shown in quartz reefing during the first half of the 1860s is well illustrated in the Division's steam machinery statistics - in August 1860 four steam engines had been erected for quartz mining purpose, mainly for driving crushing batteries. In comparison, neighbouring goldfields, had massive numbers. eg, in March 1861 the Maldon Division had 36 steam engines for pumping, winding and crushing (total 765 h.p.); and in October 1861 the Castlemaine Division had 30 engines for pumping, winding and crushing (total 526 h.p.). By 1864 the number of steam engines employed in quartz mining in the Taradale Division had only risen to eight, four of which were also used for pumping. The eight engines (total 92 h.p) drove a total of 80 head of stampers.

Instead of quartz reefing, it was to be the 'despised' profession of alluvial mining would dominate the 1860s, through a combination of hard work (primarily by Chinese miners), new mining methods (mainly sluicing), and investment of labour and capital in proving the richness of the sub-basaltic deep leads. The strength of alluvial mining over quartz during this period is shown in the Division's mining population statistics for 1860 to 1865, which show that at all times, 6/7ths of the population were engaged in the former profession (total population averaging around 700 miners).

4 Taradale Mines - extracts from Mount Alexander Mail and other sources (Metcalf News 30/11/1889)

5 Taradale Mines - extracts from Mount Alexander Mail and other sources (Kyneton Observer 1/6/1858)

6 Mining Surveyors' Reports, November 1860

7 Taradale Mines - extracts from Mount Alexander Mail and other sources (Metcalf News 30/11/1889)

The Chinese alluvial miners were reported to be widely scattered over the division during the first half of the 1860s. They were only ever involved in alluvial mining. Their numbers appear to have peaked around the 400 mark in 1863⁸ when they comprised about one half of the population then engaged in alluvial mining. After 1863 the number of Chinese in the Division declined steadily. By March 1865, there were only 229 Chinese miners left in the Division⁹, and by the end of the year the Mining Surveyor reported:

a noticeable fact is the decrease in the Chinese population; they have, I presume, been driven to seek fresh fields¹⁰

Localities favoured by the Chinese during the first five years of the 1860s included the river flats along Back Creek; Yankee Point and environs; the Coliban River, east of Taradale, where the Chinese had opened up large spaces (called paddocks) in the old shallow sinkings; Campaspe at North Redesdale; Coliban River at Lauriston; Kangaroo Creek, to the north west of Malmsbury; and the Government Reserve at Metcalfe. Throughout this time, the Chinese miners tended to stick to the old alluvial mining ways (tub and cradle) and showed remarkable perseverance. For example, the mining surveyor, in September 1860 reported the Chinese very busy in Back Creek:

where they stand for hours together, up to their middles in water, scooping up the gravel from the bottom, which their mates wash in cradles on the bank.¹¹

Apart from the Chinese, a few European alluvial miners were persisting with the old ways. As the mining surveyor wrote in February 1861:

With respect to the ordinary mode of simply sinking a shaft, and washing the bottom drift with the aid of tub and cradle; this branch of mining was never perhaps more devoid of interest; a few miners only may be seen in most places wherever the ground has been worked for gold.

This circumstance gives a dull appearance to mining matters generally, because this class of miners are usually the most numerous; a return to old ground might seem to imply a scarcity of new fields sufficiently attractive; but the miners' enterprise is too often checked by want of means, and the old ground (as a last resource) affords a certain, though perhaps not a lucrative return to the labor expended.¹²

Puddling was the method most commonly employed by miners to retreat 'worked-out' or poor, shallow alluvial ground. This involved excavating the soil and treating in a horse-powered puddling machine. During the late 1850s, and early 1860s, puddling machines were prolific (usually many hundreds, sometimes up to a thousand or more) on all the goldfields - such as Castlemaine and Bendigo - which had experienced large alluvial gold rushes. With its poor auriferous river flats, puddling machines were not to be feature of the Taradale Division: the highest number ever recorded by the mining surveyor for shallow alluvial mining, was in December 1864, when there were thirteen in operation throughout the Division. The machines were expensive to buy, and operate, and few had stout enough hearts or pockets to take the gamble on the poor alluvial ground.

Instead of puddling, it was to be sluicing that was adopted in the Taradale Division as the most economical method of working the poor alluvial flats. This, however, was only practicable when an abundant supply of water existed and thus its employment was somewhat restricted. By February 1861 the mining surveyor reported four sluicing parties operating along the Coliban River, immediately north of Taradale; another party working 3 acres of ground at Back Creek; and two more parties having taken up ground on the newly discovered Piper's Creek goldfield, two miles eastward of Mr Mitchell's station on the Campaspe River. The Back Creek sluicing party were Italians, who had commenced work the previous year by:

cutting a wide and deep race, quarter of a mile in length, to carry off the tail water, as they propose to sluice-wash away the earth to obtain the gold.¹³

8 Mining Surveyors' Reports, July 1863

9 Mining Surveyors' Reports, March 1865

10 Mining Surveyors' Reports, September 1865

11 Mining Surveyors' Reports, September 1860

12 Mining Surveyors' Reports, February 1861

13 Mining Surveyors' Reports, September 1860

The tail-race constructed by the Italians ended up 600 yards long, eight feet deep in places, with the last 200 yards of its length lined with slabs of wood. After five months' work, the mining surveyor was somewhat uncertain as to the success of this party, as:

they do not express much satisfaction at the reward their exertions have met with, but miners too generally dislike to make known their success for fear of encouraging competition. ¹⁴

The mining of shallow alluvial ground continued throughout the 1860s. However, by the end of the decade, this type of mining was dying out. In 1868 many of the men engaged in this work had left for the Spring Creek or Greytown diggings. Those who stayed on did not fare well and in June 1870 the mining registrar wrote what turned out to be the epitaph for shallow alluvial mining in the Division:

shallow mining is almost exhausted here. In fact, there has been lately an entire cessation of that branch of alluvial mining denominated puddling and sluicing, more especially during the last month, in consequence of the heavy rain-fall swelling the creeks and rivers, and thus flooding the claims and washing away the races, dams, sluice-boxes, toms, &c. ¹⁵

The most prolific alluvial mining practice carried on during the early 1860s was the continuation of tunnelling (from the river banks) after the deep leads which run under the basalt country between the Coliban River and Back Creek. During the first two years of 1860s tunnelling activities were concentrated on chasing at least four distinct leads: the Scorpion lead, Ironstone Hill lead, Belltopper lead, and Star lead. The first three of these run under the basalt country between Taradale and Malmsbury, and the fourth under basalt north of Lauriston. Other productive deep leads, including Taradale Park Lead (near Taradale Government Reserve) and Bell's Lead (Talbot Hill), were opened up in 1863. ¹⁶ Most of the tunnelling work in the early 1860s appears to have been carried out by small companies or associations made up of working miners. These tunnelling ventures tended to be small concerns, with little machinery, other than a horse-driven puddling machine to treat the wash. Some, however, developed into relatively well organised and capitalised affairs, such as the Coliban Co., which, in April 1860, was working under Ironstone Hill (Back Creek). This company had erected a 12 horse-power engine which was driving three puddling machines. By the following year, another large company, the Liberty Flat Co., was also operating along Back Creek. In April 1861, the mining surveyor provided the following details of this company:

The Liberty Flat Company (holding a lease of ten acres immediately south of the township) are now in full working order. There are twenty-six men employed in the works, who are either shareholders or their substitutes. The mode of working pursued is wheeling out the whole of the earth, which averages ten feet in depth, and puddling through a revolving cylinder the bottom gravelly drift, which varies in thickness from a few inches up to two feet. The yield of gold from two months' work, i.e., since the 1st of March, has been 43 oz., which is a good yield considering the small area yet stripped. ¹⁷

Another relatively large tunnelling company, the Star Co. (or Messrs Gateskell & Co.), was also working the Star Lead at Lauriston. This company held ten acres of alluvial ground and by May 1861 had driven their tunnel 485 feet. ¹⁸

Despite being afforded every encouragement, development of the deep leads happened only slowly and the situation remained static until 1864. In this year the local mining registrar reported on moves towards prospecting for a deep lead in the interior country between Back Creek and the Coliban River. The company, called the Lord Malmsbury, was searching for the deep lead, at that point where, unitedly, the Park, Scorpion, and Belltopper Leads were supposed to cross beneath the Coliban River. As the deep leads were dipping downwards from Back Creek, the Lord Malmsbury were sinking a shaft. The mining registrar ended his report on the new company's endeavours confidently:

14 Mining Surveyors' Reports, February 1861

15 Mining Surveyors' Reports, June 1870

16 The History of Gold Discovery in Victoria, James Flett, p 204

17 Mining Surveyors' Reports, April 1861

18 Mining Surveyors' Reports, May 1861

This will be an expensive undertaking, but I entertain great expectations of its richness¹⁹

The expectations of richness from the confluence of the already discovered deep leads, and the conviction that this large deep lead continued on in the direction of Redesdale, instigated the Division's first mining boom. This boom had two faces: one of uncontrolled speculation and the other practical mining investment. The former, to the detriment of the Division's reputation, was to be the dominant.

In March 1865, the mining registrar reported that land - both private property and that belonging to the Crown - had been taken up by capitalists and speculators in great tracts. Speculation focused on the Coliban River valley, on mainly unworked ground running from Malmsbury to the junction of the Coliban and Campaspe Rivers. The mining registrar reckoned that of the 19 square miles of Coliban River country involved, only about 500 acres had been previously worked. The focus of the speculation was frontage (river-bank or tunnelling) claims and some 6,000 acres had quickly been taken up by this type of claim. This comprised all the available Crown land containing basaltic formations.²⁰

Although the country was now tied up by leases, there was little mining action. By June 1865, only seven tunnels had been driven on the whole of the 6,000 acres of frontage claims.²¹ Despite this blatant shepherding of claims, the mining registrar felt that things would eventually improve as he was of the view that there were:

sufficient indications to warrant the prevailing expectations; since the leads actually known trend beneath the basaltic formations, in the proximity of Taradale, Malmsbury, and Lauriston.²²

The registrar's following quarterly report (September 1865) shows the large frontage claims (each 2,500 feet long) still lay for the most part untouched. The registrar again defended the delay in the commencement of meaningful mining operations:

Although it may appear unfair to the individual miner to lock up these lands by protective registration under the by-laws of the Mining Board, yet it must be borne in mind that this description of mining requires a large bona fide capital and properly organised companies to successfully develop the auriferous wealth which unquestionably lies below.²³

The following six months saw little change to the shepherding of claims. There was however a change in mining registrar, with Robert Strickland being replaced by Thomas Orwin. The new registrar was not so supportive of the speculators as his predecessor has been. In June 1866, Orwin wrote:

The crisis arising from the late over-speculation in this subdivision is seemingly over. Henceforth mining will be conducted on a truer basis, and the mineral resources of this district will yet be developed, as many of the deep sinkings are being continued through the basalt.²⁴

Thomas Orwin's statement was somewhat premature as in his next quarterly report he was forced to acknowledge the:

evil effects of over speculation in this subdivision, which, I regret to say, is still operating injuriously on the mining interests here, as is obvious from the want of energy displayed by several companies on whose claims thousands of pounds have been expended; nevertheless there are a few claims which have been continued, and are bidding fair to be dividend paying claims.²⁵

19 Mining Surveyors' Reports, March 1864

20 Mining Surveyors' Reports, June 1865

21 Mining Surveyors' Reports, June 1865

22 Mining Surveyors' Reports, June 1865

23 Mining Surveyors' Reports, September 1865

24 Mining Surveyors' Reports, June 1866

25 Mining Surveyors' Reports, September 1866

Despite the speculation, a few claims eventually began restoring some credibility to alluvial mining in the Division. These claims were located on the proven country between Taradale and Malmsbury and around Lauriston. Most of this land was freehold land, requiring miners to either purchase or lease it from the landowners. In March 1865 the mining registrar reported that deep lead mining :

absorbs the labor of all persons who can leave other employment to seek for gold; and people of all conditions are eagerly entering into mining for deep leads.²⁶

The impetus of deep lead mining is also shown in the alluvial mining machinery statistics. In September 1864, prior to the boom, there were 2 steam engines for crushing gravels, 3 engines for pumping and driving puddling machines, 9 horse-powered puddling machines, and 5 horse whims and whips (used for haulage in shaft sinking). By February 1866 there had been a dramatic increase: the Division now had 15 steam engines for pumping and puddling, 11 horse puddling machines, 16 whims and 2 whips.

Deep lead mining in the proven country from 1864 onwards entailed both tunnelling and shaft sinking. Still carrying out tunnelling operations (at the Taradale end of the deep lead country) was the Hercynia Company, who were searching for Belltopper Lead, on Ironstone Hill. This company had been unsuccessfully prospecting for two years, driving a tunnel over 700 feet before finally striking gold-bearing drift. As a result of this discovery, the value of shares in the Hercynia Co. rose overnight from £12 to £40.²⁷

Despite the success of the Hercynia Co., most neighbouring companies were engaged in sinking shafts in the interior country between Back Creek and the Coliban. Apart from the Lord Malmsbury Co., other companies engaged in shaft sinking included the Ballarat Co., Cambrian Co. (who spent 4 months sinking a shaft 130 feet into the basalt), London Co., and the London and Melbourne Co. (who had taken over the Old Scorpion Mine). The London and Melbourne Co.'s shaft was down some 200 feet by March 1865 and at around this depth they struck good gold. The mining registrar reported in June 1865 that the:

prospects of the London and Melbourne are of highly encouraging character. They will shortly commence to block out ground where the wash-dirt is 4 feet thick, having the lead of gold one hundred feet wide by several hundred feet long; the company have enlarged their claim considerably.²⁸

New companies also commenced operations at the Malmsbury end of the field. To the north of Malmsbury township shaft sinking was being undertaken by Mill-Stream Company, near Ellis's flour mill and also by the Lone-Star Company, opposite Boundy's Hotel. To the west of town, a mile square government reserve had been taken up in leases and frontage claims. It was believed that several rich leads, such as the Belltopper and the Frenchman's Leads crossed this reserve. Another company, the Pemberley Quartz and Alluvial Co., started work at Kangaroo Creek, on private property about two miles south of Malmsbury. This company were prospecting both for alluvial (Frenchman's Lead) and quartz (Frenchman's Reef).²⁹ The Pemberley Co. was to be the first of many which would undertake both deep lead and quartz reefing operations.

It was the London and Melbourne which emerged as the Division's principal mine in 1867. The mining registrar supplied the following details on the size of this company's operations:

The London and Melbourne Co.'s claim joins the above ground, and is by far the most extensive in this division; viz. 98 acres, and is now enlarged by the company purchasing the adjoining claim called the Ballarat Freehold, consisting of 107 acres, a total of 205 acres. They have in constant employment about 80 men and 3 horses below, besides those at work above ground to facilitate the work. There are 10 faces open ... They have recently added to their former appliances a battery of 12 stampers to crush tailings; they are now operating on a heap of tailings consisting of 8 to 10 thousand tons, which returns average 2 dwt. to the ton. The whole of the works above and below are under the superintendence of Captain Lean ...³⁰

26 Mining Surveyors' Reports, March 1865
 27 Mining Surveyors' Reports, March 1865
 28 Mining Surveyors' Reports, September 1866
 29 Mining Surveyors' Reports, March 1865
 30 Mining Surveyors' Reports, June 1867

The Hiberian Company also continued mining successfully in 1867. This company's gold production was such that it was paying out good dividends to its shareholders every week.

Apart from the London and Melbourne and Hiberian companies, none of the other mines produced anything of note during 1867. The mining registrar in one of his last reports for the year concluded that 'on the whole mining is very dull in the division.'³¹

In the following year, the dullness in the Division's deep lead mining prevailed and was only interrupted occasionally by bright news. There was an injection of fresh capital when Mr. Kitto, on behalf of English interests, purchased and amalgamated four adjoining claims - Central, Lord Malmsbury, Cambrian and Lone Star - under the name of the United Australian Gold Mining Co. The London and Melbourne Co. also increased its size by taking up the Lady Darling Co.'s claim. As a result of these amalgamations, all the country between Malmsbury and Taradale was now in the possession of two wealthy companies. The two mega-companies had mixed success. The London and Melbourne continued to mine profitably through 1869, during which time the company gained the distinction of obtaining good payable gold from the 189-foot level. This constituted 'the deepest ground that has yet been worked and found payable in this goldfield.'³² On the other hand, the United Australian Co., working from the Lord Malmsbury shaft, although conducting extensive prospecting operations, was unsuccessful.

As the dullness prevailed in the Division's deep lead mining industry, quartz reefing began to regain some prominence. The mining registrar's June 1869 report contained the first hint of the Division's new mining direction:

Although there has not been any quartz crushed in this subdivision the last quarter, in consequence of the reefs being held by owners who did not work them, we may reasonably expect a more favourable report the next quarter, as several reefs have changed hands.³³

Within six months the mining registrar's prediction was proven correct. His March 1870 report commenced with the bright news of the discovery of rich quartz at Taradale on the United Kingdom or Fentons line of reef:

A few weeks since a very wide reef was opened out from the surface near Mr Martin's store on the main road, south of Taradale. It was taken up five years ago by a company and abandoned. The party working the claim are now obtaining stone at about 10 feet deep that will yield about 1 oz per ton. The same reef passes through Shrimpton's vineyard, through the Little London Gold Mining Company's, through the Taradale United Gold Mining Company's, thence south into the London and Melbourne Company's ground. This reef is from 30 to 40 feet wide; and gold has been obtained from it for nearly a quarter of a mile along the reef from Martins ... This discovery has given an impetus to reefing here; several claims have been granted by the borough council on the adjacent roads, so that a close search will be made for the reef supposed to be very near this rich leader.³⁴

The Division was now on the way towards its second major quartz mining period. Within a short space of time payable quartz was being obtained from a number of reefs throughout the Division, including Kangaroo and Frenchmans reefs (near Drummond); Energetic or Russell's line of reef (near Lauriston); Tommy Dodd or Brandenburg reef (near Malmsbury); Old Hughes or Archilles line of reef (North Taradale); and Old Man's Reef or Alpha reef (Taradale). The latter appears to have been a continuation of the United Kingdom Reef.

Like the previous deep lead mining boom, most of the Division's successful quartz mining in the early 1870s was being conducted on private land. The following story regarding the formation of the United Kingdom Extended Co., from the *Mount Alexander Mail* shows the miners were often forced to pay well for the privilege of mining on private land.

Encouraged by the success of their own mine, the United Kingdom men cast envious glances at a four acre block of alienated land that lay to the east and north of their claim

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- 31 Mining Surveyors' Reports, Sept 1867
 - 32 Mining Surveyors' Reports, September 1869
 - 33 Mining Surveyors' Reports, September 1869
 - 34 Mining Surveyors' Reports, March 1870

... The bit of land was found to belong to an old man, Fenton . who lived near Warmambool ... The owner then came to Taradale to attend to his affairs, and accepted an offer from the party now in possession of the land (he was to receive half the gross yield of gold from his land until he received £1,000, and after that 10% for ever. He has already received £2,800) ³⁵

By June 1870 the mining registrar was confidently writing that the Division was experiencing a quartz mining boom:

Capitalists have been inspired with confidence in the auriferous character of the reefs here, and are energetically prospecting for, and discovering, payable reefs. The most of the claims recently taken up are in private property, yet doubtless they will be traced into Crown lands, and thus open out a permanently rich goldfield. Even now, at this early stage of the movement, an excitement prevails at Lauriston, Kyneton, Malmesbury, and Taradale such as has not been experienced on the goldfields south of Sandhurst.³⁶

The Registrar's September report, contained production figures that backed up his views:

the gold obtained for the last three months is more than it ever was for any previous three months for the Taradale and Lauriston goldfields ... The yield of gold this last quarter is in excess of that obtained for the quarter ending 30th June last by 2568 oz 11 dwts; there is 3336 ozs 3 dwts more than there was for the corresponding quarter in 1869, and there is 3750 ozs more than there was for the corresponding quarter in 1868, and there is 4483 ozs more than their was for the corresponding quarter in 1867; and a greater increase still may be expected for next quarter, as nearly all the quartz reefs that are being worked are looking well, both at Lauriston and Taradale.³⁷

The next three month's gold production went into the records 'as the most successful one in the history of mining in this goldfield.' ³⁸ The record gold production from quartz reefs found the Division badly serviced by crushing machinery. The mining registrar estimated that there would soon be some 1,000 to 1,500 tons of stone raised weekly, and that the machinery available could only handle about half that amount. As a result the Division witnessed (from 1870 to 1872) a massive increase in mining machinery. Companies who erected new plant, mainly for crushing, included the United Mint Gold Mining Co. (Kangaroo Reef); Kyneton Co., Energetic Co., Central Energetic Co., and South Energetic (Energetic line of reef); Brandenburg claim (Tommy Dodd reef); Taradale or United Kingdom Co., Nelson Co., and Fenton Co. (United Kingdom reef); Devonshire Co. (Old Alpha reef); and Taradale and Ballarat Co., and Adventure Co. (Old Hughes of Archilles Reef).

Another feature of the early 1870s quartz boom was the operation of a Kitchenman's tailings retreatment works on Railway Hill at Taradale. This treatment works was designed to extract gold from heavily mineralised (usually pyrites) stone. Apart from treating tailings from some of the Taradale mines, such as the Adventure Co., Kitchenman's works also treated tailings from Bendigo, as the following information supplied by the mining registrar shows:

Kitchenman's patent amalgamating machine is about to resume work, the freight per rail of tailings being now reduced to 5s per ton, and they can obtain a large quantity from Sandhurst and other places. With numerous improvements, such as a new grinder and a flue running from the furnace to the top of the Railway hill to condense the vapour mercury, the sulphur, and arsenic, thus destroying all obnoxious fumes, they fully expect to be able to put through 40 tons of quartz tailings per week.³⁹

The mineralised nature of some of the ore being raised also saw quartz roasting carried out in the Division. This process, conducted prior to the crushing of the stone, was believed by some to result in a higher gold yield, than if the stone was crushed in its raw state. The Adventure Co. certainly found this to be the case. In March 1872 the company, whose ore carried a lot of pyrites had 35 tons burnt and put

35 Taradale Mines - extracts from Mount Alexander Mail and other sources
36 Mining Surveyors' Reports, June 1870
37 Mining Surveyors' Reports, September 1870
38 Mining Surveyors' Reports, December 1870
39 Mining Surveyors' Reports, December 1871

through the battery for 46 oz. of gold. They then crushed 115 tons of raw material for 64 ozs. On the basis of this, the company announced it would roast all its quartz prior to crushing.⁴⁰

In 1873 the Division's quartz reefing boom had stalled dramatically. The previous year had ended with gold production being in excess of that obtained for the four preceding quarters. The first report by the mining registrar in 1873 shows that situation had reversed itself, all the easily won gold had been extracted and the companies were being forced into unremunerative prospecting work:

So small a quantity of gold has not been obtained within the same period of time for quarters past, but it is greatly to be attributed to the large amount of unproductive (or dead) work necessary preparatory to successful mining operations - such as sinking new shafts, deepening old ones, erecting suitable machinery for pumping, winding, or crushing purposes - which has been so generally carried on here since my last report.⁴¹

With quartz reefing entering into a prospecting stage, the Division required some spectacular results to maintain its recently won reputation as a good mining field. Without this, investors would loose interest and send their money elsewhere. The first news to brighten the horizon came at the end of 1872 when the mining registrar reporting that the:

most prominent mining event of the past year has been the satisfactory discovery of a deep alluvial lead between Taradale and Malmsbury⁴²

This apparent discovery had been achieved by the United Australian and Lord Malmsbury companies who had been quietly prospecting throughout the early 1870s quartz boom. Both were now yielding the type of results which in the words of the mining registrar would 'inspire capitalists with confidence in the mineral resources of the district'. Inspirational news also came from quartz mining. This was the discovery in 1873 by the United Kingdom Co. of a very rich western reef. The discovery of this reef energised the adjoining claimholders (the Fenton, the Nelson and United Kingdom Extended).

The good news was however counteracted by some negative stuff. There was the collapse of the Devonshire Co. who had expended in prospecting and erection of machinery over £16,000 without obtaining any payable gold. Probably even more disastrous was the collapse of the United Australian Co. in September 1873 which resulted in 100 hands thrown out of employment.⁴³

The next few years saw little change in the uncertainty which dogged the industry. There was the occasional bright news, such as the working of the defunct Devonshire Co's property by a party of three men (McAllister and party). Within three weeks of starting this small party had struck rich gold at a depth of 30 feet, and obtained and crushed quartz yielding 7 ozs. per ton. This discovery led to the formation of the McAllister Co. Another success story, was the Malmsbury Reservoir Co. This company was mining on the west side of the reservoir, and transporting their ore by boat across the water to be crushed at the North Energetic Co.'s battery. Probably the most outstanding results obtained by any company during this depressed period was by the Tommy Dodd Co. This company had amalgamated with the adjoining Brandenburg Claim, and throughout 1874 continually turned out the largest yields in the Division. The year also saw some improvements in deep lead mining. The collapsed United Australian property, now being worked as the Central, was reported as paying well. So to, was the Lord Malmsbury, and a revitalised Ironstone Hill Co.

Despite the bright news, investors were beginning to lose faith in the Division and were not supporting the costly, and unremunerative, business of prospecting. At the end of 1874 the mining registrar wrote:

Quartz mining in the Division continues extremely dull. There never was less attention paid to development of our mineral resources here since 1854 than at present. Several reefs have proved tolerably rich near the surface, but at a depth of 200 or 300 ft are poor and discouraging, hence various companies from that cause, or their inability to contend with the water after sinking to the water-level, have abandoned their claims; it is

40 Taradale Mines - extracts from Mount Alexander Mail and other sources
 41 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - March 1873
 42 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Dec 1872
 43 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Sept 1873

to be regretted that the Lauriston goldfield (formerly giving employment to 400 or 500 men) is now almost totally deserted.⁴⁴

The collapse of the Lauriston quartz mining field during this time was dramatic evidence of the precarious nature of the mining industry in the Division. Where once there had been a host of working mines working along the Energetic line of reef, there were only two, viz. the Glengonner and the Bendigo Tunnelling Co. The mining registrar blamed the demise of leading mine, the Energetic Co., for the collapse:

An effort was recently made, in vain, by a few of the leading men of Kyneton to purchase and retain the powerful engines erected on the Energetic line of reef, which has a shaft sunk over 500 feet deep; this is the deepest in the district, and although on a rich reef which has yielded handsome dividends for years, as soon as calls are required the company collapses with every other company at Lauriston, except the Napier and Glengonner.⁴⁵

The removal of powerful machinery from the Lauriston not only signposted a lack of confidence in the gold deposits, but dealt a fatal blow to any revival of the field. With such machinery gone, it was impossible to instigate major prospecting operations cheaply. Large sums of money would have to be raised prior to any commencement of work: a difficult feat in a Division with a poor record for rewarding shareholders with golden dividends.

With the collapse of the Lauriston field, large scale mining operations, both quartz and deep lead, were confined to the Taradale goldfield. In the town itself, and to the south, there were a total of five working mines, viz. Adventure Co. (later re-organised as Comet), McAllister Co., Fenton Co., United Kingdom Co., and United Kingdom Extended. Of these mines, only the United Kingdom was paying its shareholders outstanding dividends. On the deep lead country, between Taradale and Malmsbury, the Lord Malmsbury and Ironstone Hill companies, were the only ones operating with some success. The Lord Malmsbury had by now mined the deep lead up to the western boundary of its lease. Finding the lead continuing, though dipping, the company had purchased the the next claim, which was owned by the Confluence Co. Although the Confluence Co. had not been able to make a profit from their claim, the extensive nature of the Lord Malmsbury mining appliance enabled the poor drift to be mined remuneratively. The other deep lead mine, the Ironstone Hill Co., were hedging their bets, by also doing a stint of quartz prospecting, searching for the United Kingdom line of reef which was believed to traverse their property.

During the last half of the 1870s the Taradale mines struggled on. Many of the companies, from time to time, were forced to close down their own operations and lease out sections of their ground to parties of working miners called tributors. A tributing party usually paid the mining company about 25% of the gold they obtained. This system, if the tributors were successful, meant that the company was able to build up its capital reserves and eventually resume mining.

The only new venture of any significance to feature in the mining records during the late 1870s was the formation of the Victoria Co. to work the Old Hughes or Archilles reef. This company was about the only one to erect substantial plant during this time. By 1879, mining affairs had also deteriorated badly at Taradale. The June report of the mining registrar shows that the rot of mine closures and mining machinery removal was beginning to set in:

There is very little doing in quartz mining in this division; the yields have been so small that parties have been compelled to give up for want of funds, in consequence of which two large plants of machinery are to be removed from the district. I also notice that there are three other mining plants idle for want of funds, viz. the Trafalgar, Victoria, and United Kingdom Extended.⁴⁶

The following year the mining registrar was even more fatalistic regarding the future of quartz mining:

Quartz mining appears to be dying out in this division, the yields being too small to allow of any great outlay and nothing can be done without powerful machinery, the

44 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Dec 1874

45 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Dec 1874

46 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - June 1879

stone being so poor at Barfold and Metcalfe, where prospecting has been carried on for some time past.⁴⁷

Luckily for the mining community the registrar's assessment of the Division's potential was proven wrong. During the first half of the 1880s there was a mining revival which saw both deep lead and quartz mining carried on with some vigor. It was to be deep lead mining that kicked off the 1880s mining boom. In June 1880 the mining registrar reported a considerable increase in the Division's gold production in:

consequence of which several large areas have been taken up for deep alluvial mining in and around South Taradale and Malmsbury. The Ironstone Hill Co. have considerably more than doubled their last quarter's yield, and the Confluence Co. have also obtained a large increase. The best ground of this Division appears to be South of Taradale, and is chiefly private land. The whole of the Malmsbury Reserve has been taken up for mining purposes, and good payable results have been obtained up to the present time from prospects taken out from new ground lately opened out.⁴⁸

By the following year the focus of deep lead mining had switched away from the Taradale end of the field. According to the mining registrar, by September 1881:

the attention of miners has chiefly been directed to the district between Malmsbury township and Lauriston. The Urquhart Estate Co. have lately struck payable wash at a depth of 130 ft. The Aroona, a new company, are erecting powerful machinery to work the land at Malmsbury Reserve adjacent to Little Wonder.⁴⁹

The focus of deep lead mining on, and around, the Malmsbury Reserve also directed quartz mining interests to the area. One of the first mentions of the renewal of quartz mining in this region comes in September 1882 when the mining registrar recorded that considerable attention was being given to the prospecting on the old Kangaroo Reef line of reef. Within three months of this came the discovery of a rich reef, immediately to the north of the Kangaroo line. Named the Queens Birthday Reef, the discoverers had obtained 308 ozs. of gold from 34 tons of stones.⁵⁰ During the rest of the 1880s it was to be yields from this mine, and others opened up along the line of reef - O'Connor's Freehold and Egyptian - which were to maintain the Division's high gold production against a background of declining yields from the deep lead mines. Indeed some of the yields from the various mines on this line of reef were to be spectacular, e.g., in December 1883 the Queens Birthday obtained 2,400 ozs. of gold from only 400 tons of gold.⁵¹

With the extraordinary yields coming from the Queens Birthday Reef mines, the Division's mining revival became more pronounced. Speculation was again rife, and as in all previous mining booms, most of the new mining was being carried out on freehold land. In June 1884, the mining registrar discussed this issue:

Nearly the whole of the auriferous (quartz) land being held by private parties, prospecting is considerably retarded by the high prices charged for permission to break the soil, so much as £500 being demanded in one case ... Taking into consideration the vast extent of country untried, there is no doubt but within the next twelve months this will be one of the most important mining districts in the colony, more especially if the demands made by the landowners are moderate.⁵²

The problem of private land standing in the way of the continual development of the mining revival appears to have been partly resolved in 1886 with new legislation. In March 1886 the mining registrar mentions this new legislation in regards to the taking up of claims around two new successful deep lead mines - the Prince of Wales and the New Golden Gate - at Taradale:

several claims on the line have been taken up, which, if worked in accordance with the regulations, should employ a large number of miners and make the district again look

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- 47 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - March 1880
48 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - June 1880
49 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Sept 1881
50 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Dec 1882
51 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Dec 1883
52 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - June 1884

prosperous. The 51st section of The Mining on Private Property Act is now resorted to as the most expeditious way of taking up land, owners accepting terms offered rather than risk proceedings at law. Complaints are frequently made of the large area of land held in this division, the holders of which will not work, but hold for speculation only.⁵³

The new regulations may have helped resolve differences between the land owner and miners, but it did not stop the speculation or shepherding of claims. Even as late as 1888, when the revival was in its death throws, the mining registrar was reporting that speculation was rife:

There are complaints that, although the private land, known to be auriferous, has been taken up on lease. no work has been done or is being done, and it is locked from other hands, who, possibly, would work it.⁵⁴

The Division's 1880s mining revival appears have to ended dramatically, catching people, including the mining registrar, by surprise. In Dec 1887 the mining registrar report was short and to the point - the mining revival was here to stay:

It may be fairly said that a mining revival has set in, for, notwithstanding the decrease in returns from the Queen's Birthday, the yield of gold is 500 oz. over the last quarter. Confidence appears to have been quite restored The O'Connor's Freehold have exceeded last quarter in their gold return by 800 oz, the total for the tem being 3,019 ozs. Other claims on the Queen's Birthday and O'Connor's lines have been promoted; and prospecting has been carried on, and in a few cases successfully, at Lauriston. Payable stone has been found in Young's Paddock, near to the old Energetic claim. About 4,000 feet on the line of reef have been taken up under 51st section Mining on Private Property Act.

In alluvial, the Golden Gate and Prince of Wales are obtaining better returns. The former will, in a few weeks, be amongst the dividend-paying mines.

Many of the co-operative parties have, after long and expensive labour, succeeded in obtaining fair wages. In fact, the district is now more prosperous than for the past five or six years.⁵⁵

In his next report in March 1888 the mining registrar admitted that his assessment had been faulty:

Mining matters in this division do not show the improvement that was anticipated in my last return; on the contrary it will be seen that there is a decrease in the yield of gold by 2,000 oz. ⁵⁶

Period 2: 1888 to 1930s - Demise of large scale gold mining in the Taradale Division.

From the late 1880s the fortunes of the Division were on a roller coaster ride between revival and depression, the former promoted by high gold yields (usually obtained by a single company) and the latter on the collapse of that company. During the late 1880s it was the yields from the O'Connor's Freehold mine who propped up the Division's gold production figures. This mine was now about the only mine, out of all the alluvial and quartz mines operating, that was paying out handsome dividends to its shareholders, eg. , in 1888 the company managed to pay out a grand total of £15,600. ⁵⁷

By 1889, the O'Connor's Freehold had run out of steam and was not able to maintain the Division's gold production any longer. It was also reported that miners in the Division were no longer obtaining full time employment.⁵⁸ Hot on the heels of the collapse of the O'Connor's Freehold Co.'s came news of the success of the Russell's Reef Company at Lauriston. In December 1889 the mining registrar reported that mining:

53 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - March 1886

54 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Sept 1888

55 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Dec 1887

56 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - March 1888

57 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Dec 1888

58 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports, March 1889

during the past quarter has undoubtedly improved in this division, chiefly in consequence of the rich yield from Russell's, at Lauriston, yielding alone 3,280oz. , which has been the cause of a large area of ground (private property) being taken up on lease.⁵⁹

At Taradale, at the other end of the Division, diamond drilling operations had been responsible for the discovery of promising new auriferous ground. In consequence of this, the old Archilles and United Kingdom claims had been taken up. Prospecting on the former was the Plutus Company. This company also worked the old Adventure or Comet claim under a subsidiary company called the Scottish Chief. The new operations at Taradale were unsuccessful: for instance, the Plutus Company spent upwards of £10,000 without meeting with any payable gold.⁶⁰

The Russell's Reef Company continued to prop up the Division during 1890, paying £7,200 of the £9,000 paid out in dividends for all mines during the year. The year 1890 also appears to have seen the last of the large deep lead mines, the New Golden Gate, enter its death throws. After the demise of the Golden Gate the mining history of the Taradale Division mainly documented the lingering death of quartz reefing.

By the middle months of 1891, the Division's two principal mines ceased mining operations and engaged themselves in prospecting work. Gold production was, as a consequence, now very low and unlike the past, no new rich bodies of stone were uncovered to foster investment. About the only new discovery was by the Annie Lawry Co. at Taradale. However, the ore body turned out to be quite small, and the gold contained in very mineralised stone. The Division by this time had lost the facilities to treat this type of ore, and the company was forced to send the ore to Maldon to be treated at Oswald's North British mine. This was not likely to inspire mining in the area.

Mining during the rest of the 1890s was depressed. Most of what investment that did take place was directed to working the Old Hughes or Archilles Reef. In 1894, the Plutus lease and plant were taken up by an English Company after the workings had been inspected by :

Mr. Chancellor (the Queensland representative) of the London shareholders and Mr. Spargo (the Victorian representative) of the London and Liverpool syndicate.⁶¹

The company formed, the New Plutus Gold Mining Co., was hailed by the Local Press as 'the hope of Taradale in the mining world'.⁶² Apart from conducting some underground operations (mainly driving) the New Plutus Co. achieved very little, and by 1903 had ceased work completely. In the same year, the focus of mining switched to the Belltopper Co., who, after some time in prospecting ground on Belltopper Hill, struck it lucky. The Department of Mines Annual Report for the year supplied some information regarding this company's operations:

The Belltopper Company's mine is the only one in the Division that has made any material progress during the year. This company during the nine months ending 30th September 1903, crushed 183 tons for 790oz. The greater portion of this stone was worked from a tunnel driven into the south face of the Belltopper Hill. While the stopes from the tunnel level upwards were being worked, the management wisely sank a main shaft, which is now about 150 feet below the tunnel level ... a winding and crushing plant has been purchased and erected.⁶³

Apart from the successful, though brief, mining operations on Belltopper Hill, there was also a fair amount of prospecting going on some of the Division's more famous lines of reefs. There were a number of private co-operative parties of miners working on the O'Connor's Freehold and Queen's Birthday line, and also on the United Kingdom line near Taradale. A larger prospecting operations was also being conducted at Lauriston, where a number of claims had been joined under the banner of the Russell's Reef Amalgamated Gold Mining Co.. The bulk of the latter company's operations was being conducted at the Russell's Reef No. 1 shaft at a depth of over 1,000 feet.⁶⁴

59 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports, Dec 1889

60 Taradale Mines - extracts from Mount Alexander Mail and other sources (Kyneton Guardian 24/10/1891)

61 Taradale Mines - extracts from Mount Alexander Mail and other sources

62 Taradale Mines - extracts from Mount Alexander Mail and other sources

63 Mines Department Annual Report, 1903

64 Mines Department Annual Report, 1903

Within a year the Belltopper Co. had ceased work and a new company, the Panama Co., took over its operations. This company did not achieve much and its successor, the Russell's Reef Amalgamated Co., gained the unenviable distinction of being the only public company in the Division who was turning up anything like encouraging results. In 1905 this was employing a workforce of around thirty men - twenty below ground and ten on the surface. Some of the surface hands were employed cyaniding the tailings. The company continued to work until 1911 when it suspended operations through lack of funds.

Quartz prospecting, and some mining, also took place on some of the lesser-known areas of the Division during the first decade of the 20th century. One of these largest companies working in the backwaters of the Division was the Sugar Loaf Tunnel Co. The Department of Mines 1905 Annual Report supplied the following details on this company:

Some eight or ten miles further south, in the vicinity of Little Hampton, the Sugar Loaf Tunnel Company has done a good deal of work in developing a well defined lode formerly worked from a tunnel. This company sunk a good main shaft to a depth of 175 feet, from which the lode has been worked below the tunnel level, with, nearly payable results. 32 men are employed. The mine is equipped with a 10-head battery and a good winding winch.⁶⁵

The success of the Sugar Loaf Co. inspired others to work the reefs in the area. The stone raised by these co-operative parties of miners was crushed at a 5-head battery erected by the Mines Department. A similar situation was also occurring at East Metcalfe. In June 1905, the Eliza Hill Gold Mining Co. commenced operations on a well defined line of reef. The Department of Mines Annual Report of 1905 also provides some details on this company's operations:

Since commencing operations the company has put two of the old shafts in safe working order, baled out a large quantity of accumulated, as well as coming, water, sunk one shaft a little depth, and erected a 10-head battery and winding winch, with the necessary smiths' shop, storeroom and manager's office. A quantity of stone has been broken and crushed, with, I understand, payable results. An average of 21 men has been employed, six of whom work on the surface.⁶⁶

The Eliza Co. appears to have only had a brief life, but others continued to work on the reefs at East Metcalfe. In 1908 the Department of Mines Annual Report records four parties working reefs at Green Hill: S.Keith and party (operating a 5-head battery), Froome and party, Searson and Ryan, Gamble Brothers, and the Swainson Brothers.⁶⁷ All these parties were only obtaining very small crushings. Another small mine was also working near Tylden in the same year. This mine was worked by Mr. B. Beer (Premier Co.) and he had sunk a shaft to a depth of 150 feet and erected a 5-head battery.

The pre World War One years of the twentieth century also saw a small revival in alluvial mining. The largest venture during this time was undertaken by a hydraulic sluicing company, named the Malmsbury Gold Sluicing Co. This was a public company, formed in 1905, had mainly South Australian shareholders. The company sluiced ground along Back Creek, on the east side of Belltopper Hill. In 1906, this company was employing some 30 men, and appears to have worked until 1907 before closing down due to unremunerative wash. Another large company to operate during this time was the Malmsbury Alluvial Co. This company unsuccessfully prospected for a deep lead near Malmsbury in 1911, erecting winding and pumping machinery and sinking a main shaft to a depth of 288 feet. On a smaller scale, but also successful for several years, were the tunnelling efforts of Conlon and party who were working the alluvial leads beneath the basalt along Back Creek near Taradale.

The government also played their part in trying to revive the Division's gold mining industry. In 1914 they removed a small government battery from Little Hampton and installed it at Lauriston.⁶⁸ The Lauriston battery treated small parcels of ore for prospectors until the end of the Second World War.

Period 3: Small scale quartz mining only in the Taradale Division

- 65 Mines Department Annual Report, 1905
- 66 Mines Department Annual Report, 1905
- 67 Mines Department Annual Report, 1912
- 68 Mines Department Annual Report, 1914

The advent of World War One quickly closed down any mining in the Taradale Division. Not even the mighty Bendigo goldfield could escape the constraints on labour and materials wrought by the war. After the war, mining struggled to get started in the Taradale Division and it was not until the late 1930s, when the price of gold rose as a consequence of the Great Depression that mining of any note took place. The Division's late 1930s mining industry was focused almost entirely at Taradale, on the northern end of the Old Hughes or Archilles line of reef. Mining was first undertaken by the Victoria May Co. who were working in the old Phoenix shaft. In 1939, the Victoria May appears to have been re-organised into the Phoenix Co., under the management of Mr L. Picken. A report in the July 1939 issue of the Mining and Geological Journal shows that this mine was equipped with:

a compact ten-head mill complete with amalgamation and concentrating tables and cyanide plant. ⁶⁹

The Phoenix continued to work obtaining payable, but small crushings, until operations were suspended during the Second World War. The Phoenix commenced work in 1946 and continued successfully until operations were ceased in 1951. Three years later, another company, the North Phoenix (under the management of Verne Hooper) re-opened the mine. In early 1955 the North Phoenix Company commenced sinking a new shaft and by 1956 had erected a new head frame, haulage and air compressor plant, and a larger crushing plant. The mine closed in 1957, and the company's plant was sold off. This was the last serious mining to take place in the Taradale Division.

⁶⁹ Mining and Geological Journal, July 1939

4. SURVEY RESULTS

4.1 INTRODUCTION

As the North Central Goldfields Project is a broad-ranging and ongoing one, it is unrealistic to expect that each Mining Division in the region can be exhaustively surveyed. What can be realistically aimed for at this stage is a strong representative sampling of sites. The historical database is the tool used to achieve a balanced sample. Not only does its locality-linked historical references indicate which sites were the most important, but also those which are most likely to yield surviving remains. These are the sites primarily targetted for surveying. The historical database still stands as a guide to other localities where historic mining sites might be found, and, ideally, will be used as the basis for further surveying, research and assessment towards the end of the North Central Goldfields Project, when sites in all other Mining Divisions have been similarly sampled and an overall management strategy is being drawn up.

The survey of mining-related and other industrial sites in the Taradale Mining Division was carried out over a period of 4 weeks in August 1992. The project officer received assistance in the field from Neale Watson, Ray Supple. In the course of fieldwork, 54 sites were surveyed, which together document four main types of mining, viz. shallow alluvial, deep lead mining, quartz reefing, and tailings retreatment.

4.2 FIELDWORK RESULTS

The following table gives a summary of sites surveyed, outlining geological location and the components of each site. For further details of sites surveyed, see the site gazetteer that forms Part Two of this report.

◇ Table 1: Sites surveyed

Site No	Name	Status	Location	Description
1A	Mia Mia mine	PPR	Nth Redesdale, Campaspe River	Reef workings - Open (fenced) shaft with intact heap and some open cutting. Battery site - Collapsed wooden framework of 10-head battery, loading ramp, ship's tank and some tailings. House site - Stone fireplace and stone footings.
1B	Adit	FHL	Redesdale, Campaspe River	Mine site - Adit and large mullock heap
2A	Mining machinery site	FHL	Barfold Ranges	Mine site - Remains of small stone and concrete engine bed, boiler setting depression, fenced open shaft and small mullock heap
2B	Reef workings	UCL/ MFR	Barfold Ranges	Reef workings - Working platform with stone forge and small house site which is associated with collapsed adit, open shaft and small intact mullock heap.
2C	Quartz Roasting Kiln	FHL	Barfold Ranges	Reef workings - Working platform with stone fireplace, small quartz roasting kiln, filled shaft and small mullock heap.
3A	Victoria Reef Workings	SF	Taradale East	Line of poorly defined shallow reef workings
4A	Burra Burra Reef Workings	FHL	Coliban River, Malmsbury	Badly obscured (by vegetation) small mullock heaps
4B	Annie Laurie Co.	FHL	Coliban River, Taradale	Battery - Small concrete engine bed and decaying stamper stumps (5-head) Mining machinery site - Small intact mullock heap, concrete machinery foundations (obscured by gorse), and stone forge. Adit - collapsed adit and intact mullock heap.
5A	North Phoenix Co.	FHL	Taradale North	Mine site - Galvanised iron sheds and large mullock heap.
5B	Dornan and Picken (Phoenix Co) battery	UCL	Taradale North	Battery - Galvanised iron/timber-framed shed containing an intact stamping battery (nine-head of stamps). All the other machinery (eg. battery engine) has been removed. Near the shed is an intact sludge pond.
5C	Comet Co.	UCL & ROAD	Quartz Blocks, Taradale North	Mine site - Large mullock heap cut by Old Drummond Road.

6A	McAllister Co.	UCL & ROA	Taradale South	Mine site - Buried shaft
6B	Commonwealth Co.	FHL	Taradale South	Mine site - Small mullock heap
6C	Fentons Co.	FHL	Taradale South	Mine site - Small mullock heap
6D	Nelson/Trafalgar Co.	FHL	Taradale South	Mine site - Small mullock heap
6E	United Kingdom Co.	FHL	Taradale South	Mine site - Extensive tailings and some mullock
6F	United Kingdom Extended Co.	FHL	Taradale South	Mine site - Mullock heap
7A	Conlon and party	FHL	Back Creek	Mine site - adit and small mullock heap
7B	Yankee Point	FHL	Back Creek	Alluvial workings - Western bank of Back Creek pock-marked by collapsed adits and shafts.
7C	Liberty Flat	FHL	Back Creek	Alluvial workings - Western bank of Back Creek pock-marked by collapsed adits and shafts.
7D	Scorpion Hill	FHL	Back Creek	Alluvial workings - Western bank of Back Creek pock-marked by collapsed adits and shafts.
7E	Ironstone Hill	FHL	Back Creek	Alluvial workings - Working platform and collapsed adit.
7F	Belltopper Lead Gully	SF/FRFR	Back Creek	Alluvial workings - Sluiced gully with some shallow sinkings.
8A	Belltopper Co.	SF/FRFR	Belltopper Hill	Pump shaft - Filled but collapsing shaft associated with an arrangement of decaying beds logs. Mine site - Filled but collapsing shaft associated with small intact mullock heap. Battery - Large intact stone engine bed still retaining wooden bedplates, line of decaying stamper stumps (10-heads), intact stone-faced loading ramp, intact stone boiler setting, flue depression and stack site. Tailings - Largely quarried treated tailings dump.
8B	Line of Reef Workings	SF/FRFR	Belltopper Hill	Reef workings - Line of partly bulldozed workings which include five small mullock heaps, filled shafts, trenching, costeaning and shallow open cutting.
8C	Adit	SF/FRFR	Belltopper Hill	Collapsed adit with intact mullock heap.
8D	Hanover Co.	SF/FRFR	Belltopper Hill	Mine site - Large intact mullock heap and open shaft. Machinery - Two working platforms. The lower platform has shaft and arrangement of decaying bedlogs. Upper platform also has bedlogs and a demolished brick boiler setting, short flue and stack site. Near the mine is a small open cut.
8E	Missing Link Co.	SF/FRFR	Belltopper Hill	Adits - Collapsed adit with small mullock heap and large open adit with intact mullock heap with two dumping lines.
8F	Quartz kiln and reef workings	SF/FRFR	Belltopper Hill	Reef workings - Long section of shallow open cutting, small mullock heaps/filled shafts and some costeaning. Associated with the open cut is a small, below ground, quartz roasting kiln.
8G	Humboldt Reef workings	SF/FRFR	Belltopper	Reef workings - Bulldozed mullock heaps and filled shafts.
9A	O'Connor's Freehold	FHL	Queens Birthday Reef, North Drummond	Mine site - Three large mullock heaps and large concrete machinery foundations. Tailings - Extensive dump of tailings.
9B	Egyptian Co.	FHL	Queens Birthday Reef, North Drummond	Mine site - Large mullock heap and two small water dams.
9C	Queens Birthday Co.	FHL	Queens Birthday Reef, North Drummond	Mine site - Large mullock heap and water dam Machinery - Large circular stone structure (Use undetermined) and some largely buried foundations.
9D	South Queens Co	FHL	Queens Birthday Reef, North Drummond	Mine site - Small mullock heap, shaft visible and possibly some machinery foundations.

NORTH CENTRAL GOLDFIELDS PROJECT: Taradale Mining Division

9E	Extended South Queens	FHL	Queens Birthday Reef, North Drummond	Mine site - Small mullock heap.
10A	Prince of Wales Co.	FHL	Taradale/ Malmsbury Lead	Mine site - Low, but extensive mullock heap
10B	New Golden Gate Co.	FHL	Taradale/ Malmsbury Lead	Mine site - Large, raised mullock heap
10C	Central Co.	FHL	Taradale/ Malmsbury Lead	Mine site - Large, raised mullock heap
10D	Lord Malmsbury Co.	FHL	Taradale/ Malmsbury Lead	Mine site - Large, raised mullock heap
10E	Lone Star Gold Mining Co.	FHL	Taradale/ Malmsbury Lead	Mine site - Low mullock heap
10F	London and Melbourne Co.	FHL	Taradale/ Malmsbury Lead	Mine site - Low, partly quarried mullock heap and an intact tailings dump.
10G	Confluence Co.	FHL	Taradale/ Malmsbury Lead	Mine site - Large, raised mullock heap
10H	Malmsbury Alluvial Co.	FHL	Taradale/ Malmsbury Lead	Mine and machinery site - Large mullock heap associated with some small concrete machinery foundations.
11A	Good Friday	FHL	Kangaroo Creek	Mine site - Small mullock heap
11B	Aroona Co.	FHL	Kangaroo Creek	Mine site - Large, partly quarried mullock heap.
11C	Kangaroo Reef workings	FHL	Kangaroo Creek	Reef workings - Several filled shafts associated with bulldozed mullock heaps, at least one open shaft, some open cutting, and two sizeable mullock heaps.
12A	No 1 South Russell's	FHL	Lauriston	Mine site - Bulldozed mullock heap.
12B	Russell's Reef No 1	FHL	Lauriston	Mining machinery - Large U-shaped concrete and brick engine bed, remains of two large brick engine bed and bluestone wall. Adit - Collapsed adit. Tailings - Small dump.
12C	Lauriston Govt. battery	WR	Lauriston	Battery - Remains of small loading ramp, well preserved small concrete mounting beds, stamper blocks (5-heads) and a small portable steam boiler.
12D	Russell's Reef Amalgamated - No 2 shaft	WR	Lauriston	Mine site - Bulldozed large mullock heap and base of brick chimney stack (obscured by blackberry bushes)
12E	Perseverance Lead	FHL	Lauriston	Mine site - Collapsed adits and mullock heap with three dumping lines.
12F	North Russell's	FHL	Lauriston	Mine site - Small intact mullock heap.
12G	Reef workings	FHL	Lauriston	Reef workings - Line of five small mullock heaps.
12H	Mammoth Co.	FHL	Lauriston	Mine site - Group of several small mullock heaps.
13A	Tommy Dodd	FHL	Malmsbury	Mine site - Tailings dumps
14A	Premier Co.	FHL	Tylden	Battery - Intact 5-head of stamps manufactured by Renshaw & Co., Engineers, South Melbourne. Also square brick chimney base, section of iron stack, partly quarried mullock heap and intact small sludge pond.

Abbreviation: FHL = Freehold Land, UCL = Unreserved Crown Land, SF = State Forest, WF = Water Frontage and ROAD = Road Reserve; SF/FRFR = Proposed Fryer's Ridge Flora Reserve; UCL/MFR = Proposed Metcalfe Flora Reserve; WR = Malmsbury Reservoir (?); and PPR = Public Purpose Reserve.

5. INTERPRETATION OF PHYSICAL REMAINS

5.1 METHODOLOGY

The interpretation of the physical remains of historic mining sites requires a balanced approach. Ideally, it calls for the skills of an historian, to select and sift through historical sources, and the eye of an archaeologist or geographer, to 'read' the meaning of the surviving landscape and physical remains.

Central to the approach of the project officer is the belief that accurate identification and interpretation of mining sites in the North Central Goldfields region involves investigation of historical sources covering as broad as possible a time period. Historical research that is too narrowly focused - for instance, concentrating only on a site's most renowned period of activity - predetermines its own conclusion, i.e. physical remains are automatically attributed to that period, whilst their possible connection with a later (or earlier) period of activity is ignored. This is the 'wishful' approach to site interpretation. To automatically assume a connection between what is historically significant and what remains on the ground today overlooks an obvious trend in gold mining where an alluvial field or quartz reef, once proved to be auriferous, was subject to successive re-workings. As a rule, the greater the gold yield of a place, the more intensive and repeated the re-workings. The surviving remains on such a site are therefore likely to represent bits and pieces from a number of different time periods, with those of the most recent phase of activity dominating and in the best state of preservation. The remains pertaining to early periods of operations are usually the most obscure, having been either removed, buried, eroded, or somehow incorporated into the matrix of a successive stage of working.

By tracing a mining site right through the historical record, rather than targetting only historical sources of a given period, it is possible to find out whether that site was worked only fleetingly or on a number of occasions over a long period. If the latter is the case, a chronology of events and the changing scale of activities can be established for the site.

During site surveying, the surviving physical remains can be deciphered with the assistance of the historical data collected. Often the task is an easy one; for example, if a site has been reworked on several different occasions, then the bulk of what survives can generally be taken to represent the latest period of mining. Sites which have had only one main period of working are not so easy to date. The main tool for dealing with this type of site, and one that is also very useful in interpreting multi-period sites, is a technique called relative dating. This involves the development of a range of artefact types or landscape features which are characteristic, or diagnostic, of a particular period of mining. In examining a site, the diagnostic elements belonging to the most recent period effectively give the date of the site's last period of operation.

Some of the main examples of diagnostic elements which have so far been found to assist in the relative dating of sites in the North Central Goldfields region are:

- Stone and mud mortar engine beds not associated with brickwork or brick rubble, suggest an early machine site, probably dating from the late 1850s to early 1860s. Stone and concrete mortar engine beds appear to be a later manifestation.
- Hand-made red bricks found in association with engine beds or footings suggest a machinery date of mid-1860s to 1880s.
- The presence of machine-made bricks indicate a machinery site dating to the mid-1880s onwards.
- The use of concrete for engine beds indicates a site dating to the 1890s or twentieth century.
- Tailing dumps which contain stratified layers of battery sand and sludge indicate that they have been deposited direct from a battery following successive crushings, rather than having been deposited as a mass after cyanide re-treatment or relocation.
- Cyanide vats date no earlier than 1895. The vats used to treat the tailings and slums were either constructed of galvanised iron or brick. As the sides of galvanised vats rusted they were repaired with concrete.
- Large mullock heaps containing 'blue' mullock (from below water level) cannot date prior to the introduction of steam-powered pumping machinery (c. 1859).
- Puddlers with a very weathered appearance and covered with large trees, often located away from tracks, tend to date to the nineteenth century; puddlers with well-defined outlines, scant vegetation, raised mounds of washdirt, and found very close to tracks tend to date to the twentieth century (up to 1940s).
- Dredging dams and dredged landscapes post-date 1898.

- Alluvial sinkings associated with rusty tin cans, decaying radio batteries, boot fragments, etc., and often with small brick fireplaces or floors (tent-sites) suggest a 1920s or '30s site.

One of the aims of the North Central Goldfields Project is to expand and refine this listing, and to eventually produce a comprehensive table of dating and identification markers for the mining heritage of the region.

5.2 RESULTS

On the basis of information derived from the historical database, and the survival and recognition of diagnostic dating features, physical remains on the sites surveyed have been organised into their respective time-periods, as summarised in Table 2, below (X indicates that physical remains survive from this phase, and ? indicates possible dating). For further details of sites surveyed, see the site gazetteer that forms Part Two of this report.

♦ Table 2: Dating of surveyed sites

No.	Name	1851 - 1887	1890s/1930s	1930s/1950s
1A	Mia Mia mine		X	
1B	Adit	?	?	
2A	Mine and machinery site		X	
2B	Reef workings	X		
2C	Quartz roasting kiln	X		
3A	Victoria Reef Workings	X		
4A	Burra Burra Reef Workings	X		
4B	Annie Laurie Co.		X	
5A	North Phoenix Co.			X
5B	Dorman and Picken (Phoenix Co) battery			X
5C	Comet Co.	X		
6A	McAllister Co.	X		
6B	Commonwealth Co.	X		
6C	Fentons Co.	X		
6D	Trafalgar Co.	X		
6E	United Kingdom Co.	X		
6F	United Kingdom Extended Co.	X		
7A	Conlon and party		X	
7B	Yankee Point	X		
7C	Liberty Flat	X		
7D	Scorpion Hill	X		
7E	Ironstone Hill	X		
7F	Belltopper Lead Gully		X	
8A	Belltopper Co.		X	
8B	Line of Reef Workings	X	?	
8C	Adit	?	?	
8D	Hanover Co.		X	
8E	Missing Link Co.	X		
8F	Quartz kiln and reef workings	X		
8G	Humboldt Reef workings	X	X	
9A	O'Connor's Freehold	X	X	
9B	Egyptian Co.	X		
9C	Queens Birthday Co.	X		
9D	South Queens Co	X		
9E	Extended South Queens		X	
10A	Prince of Wales Co.	X		
10B	New Golden Gate Co.	X		
10C	Central Co.	X		
10D	Lord Malmsbury Co.	X		
10E	Lone Star Gold Mining Co.	X		
10F	London and Melbourne Co.	X		
10G	Confluence Co.	X		

10H	Malmsbury Alluvial Co.		X	
11A	Good Friday	X		
11B	Aroona Co.	X		
11C	Kangaroo Reef Workings	X		
12A	No 1 South Russell's		X	
12B	Russell's Reef No 1		X	
12C	Lauriston Govt. battery		X	
12D	Russell's Reef Amalgamated - No 2 shaft		X	
12E	Perseverance Lead	X		
12F	North Russell's		X	X
12G	Reef workings	X		
12H	Mammoth Co.	X		
13A	Tommy Dodd	X		
14	Premier Co		X	

6. CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

6.1 CRITERIA FOR ASSESSMENT

In accordance with the DCE's Requirements for Assessment of Features of Significance in Historic Reserves, the following guidelines were used in assessing the cultural significance of sites.

Historic Value encompasses the history of aesthetics, science and society. For any given place significance will be greater where evidence of an association or event survives in situ. It should be assessed against the following criteria:

- Represents a sequence of uses or functions over time.
- Part of a group or network of sites, the totality of which is considered to be significant.
- Be of considerable age in circumstances where precise historical significance of the site is not at present known.
- Associated with an important event(s), person(s) or cultural group.
- Success or failure as a mine in terms of its production levels, yields and as a business enterprise. Influence on the economic development of town/area/ region/state.

Scientific Value depends upon the importance of the data represented in the features of a place and upon the degree to which the place may contribute further substantial information. It should be assessed against the following criteria:

- Represents a particular type of process, e.g. special process developed for the reserve or region to overcome water problems, or an accessibility problem; an inventive or innovative process; response to site.
- Represent an important mining technology
- Ability of the site to answer timely and specific archaeological research question.
- balance between historical integrity and historical representativeness (See Dunolly Division Report for discussion on this point)

Social Value is a measure of the spiritual, political, national or other cultural sentiment attached to a place by the community, and is assessed against the following criteria:

- Importance of the site to the local or wider community.

6.2 CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE OF SITES SURVEYED

On the basis of historical and archaeological research carried out within this project, the sites set out in Tables 3 below, are those which have been assessed as having cultural significance. As this is a progress report, these assessments are conditional on an overview to be made at the end of the project, when consideration will also be given to sites identified in the other Mining Divisions that comprise the North Central Goldfields region. There is also the possibility of new historic mining sites being discovered in the Taradale area which may cause some revision to the table.

Details of the assessments summarised below in Tables 3 are to be found in the listings for their respective sites in the site gazetteer, which forms Part Two of this report.

♦ Table 3: Sites of cultural significance, Taradale Mining Division

No.	Name	Status	Historical	Scientific	Social	Ranking
1A	Battery site	PPR		X		Regional

1B	Adit	FHL				None
2A	Mining machinery site	FHL				None
2B	Reef workings	UCL/ MFR		X		Regional
2C	Quartz Roasting Kiln	FHL		X		Regional
3A	Victoria Reef Workings	SF				None
4A	Burra Burra Reef	FHL				None
4B	Annie Laurie Co.	FHL		X		Local
5A	North Phoenix Co.	FHL		X		Local
5B	Dorman and Picken (Phoenix Co) battery	UCL		X	X	Regional
5C	Comet Co.	UCL & ROAD				None
6A	McAllister Co.	UCL & ROA	X			Local
6B	Commonwealth Co.	FHL	X			Local
6C	Pentons Co.	FHL	X			Local
6D	Nelson/Trafalgar Co.	FHL	X			Local
6E	United Kingdom Co.	FHL	X			Local
6F	United Kingdom Extended Co.	FHL	X			Local
7A	Conlon and party	FHL	X			Local
7B	Yankee Point	FHL	X			Local
7C	Liberty Flat	FHL	X			Local
7D	Scorpion Hill	FHL	X			Local
7E	Ironstone Hill	FHL	X			Local
7F	Belltopper Lead Gully	SF/ FRFR				None
8A	Belltopper Co.	SF/ FRFR		X		State/NE
8B	Reef Workings	SF/ FRFR		X		Regional
8C	Adit	SF/ FRFR				Local
8D	Hanover Co.	SF/ FRFR		X		Regional
8E	Missing Link Co.	SF/ FRFR		X		Regional
8F	Quartz kiln and open cut	SF/ FRFR		X		Regional
8G	Humboldt Reef workings	SF/ FRFR				None
9A	O'Connor's Freehold	FHL		X	X	Regional
9B	Egyptian Co.	FHL			X	Regional
9C	Queens Birthday Co.	FHL		X	X	State/NE
9D	South Queens Co.	FHL			X	Regional
9E	Extended South Queens	FHL				None
10A	Prince of Wales Co.	FHL	X		X	Local
10B	New Golden Gate Co.	FHL	X		X	Local
10C	Central Co.	FHL	X		X	Local
10D	Lord Malmsbury Co.	FHL	X		X	Local
10E	Lone Star G M Co.	FHL			X	Local
10F	London and Melbourne Co.	FHL	X		X	Local
10G	Confluence Co.	FHL			X	Local
10H	Malmsbury Alluvial Co.	FHL		X	X	Local
11A	Good Friday	FHL				None
11B	Aroona Co.	FHL				None
11C	Kangaroo Reef workings	FHL				None
12A	No 1 South Russell's	FHL				None
12B	Russell's Reef No 1	FHL		X		Local
12C	Lauriston Govt. Battery	WR		X		Regional
12D	Russell's Reef Amalgamated - No 2	WR				None

NORTH CENTRAL GOLDFIELDS PROJECT: Taradale Mining Division

12E	Perseverance Lead	FHL			X	Local
12F	North Russell's	FHL			X	Local
12G	Reef workings	FHL			X	Local
12H	Mammoth Co.	FHL			X	Local
13A	Tommy Dodd	FHL				None
14A	Premier Co.	FHL		X		Regional

Abbreviations: FHL = Freehold Land, SF = State Forest, UCL = Unreserved Crown Land and ROAD = Road Reserve; UCL/SFSF = Proposed Fryer's Ridge Flora Reserve; UCL/MFR = Proposed Metcalfe Flora Reserve; WR = Malinsbury Reservoir (?); PPR = Public Purposes Reserve.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 INTRODUCTION AND RECOMMENDATIONS (Tables 4, 5 and 6)

As stated in the Introduction this is a progress report, conditional upon the achievement of a North Central Goldfields overview for heritage assessment. It is recommended that all sites assessed in this report as having significance beyond the local level (regional and State/National Estate classification) be protected from further preventable damage until such time as their broader cultural significance can be assessed. At that time, some sites might be recommended for visitor interpretation and tourist development; other sites will be judged too sensitive for such development, and further recommendations will be made as to their protection and conservation. The significance of some sites may be diminished by future findings.

Table 4 lists key individual sites, Table 5 lists networks of sites, and Table 6 provides a summary of immediate actions required to conserve sites that have been ranked as having regional and National Estate significance. For further details, see the site gazetteer that forms Part Two of this report.

◇ Table 4: Key individual sites for the Taradale Mining Division

Dating	Site No. and name
Individual sites - Period 1 (1851 to 1888)	2C: Quartz roasting kiln 8F: Quartz roasting kiln and open cut 9C: Queens Birthday Co.
Individual sites - Period 2 (1890s to 1930s)	1A: Mia Mia mine 8A: Belltopper Co. 14A: Premier Co.
Individual sites - Period 3 (1930s to 1950s)	5B: Dorman and Picken's battery 12C: Lauriston Govt battery

◇ Table 5: Key networks of sites for the Taradale Mining Division

Networks	Site No. and name
Barfold Ranges network	Sites 2B and 2C (Reefworkings and quartz roasting kiln)
Belltopper Hill network	Sites 8A to 8F (Belltopper Co., Reefworkings, Adit, Hanover Co., Missing Link Co., and Quartz kiln/open cut)
Queens Birthday Reef network	Sites 9A to 9D (O'Connor's Freehold, Egyptian Co., Queens Birthday Co. and Extended South Queens.)

◇ Table 6: Recommendations

Sites listed below have been assessed as having regional or State/National Estate significance. For further information see the Site Gazetteer. **Highlighted sites** have been assessed as possessing qualities which make them worthy for nomination to the Register of the National Estate.

1A	Mia Mia mine	PPR	Site to be protected [Reef workings, battery and house site]
2B	Reef workings	UCL/ MFR	Site to be protected [Working platform with stone forge, small house, collapsed adit, open shaft and small intact mullock heap]
2C	Quartz Roasting Kiln	FHL	Site to be protected [Working platform with stone fireplace, small quartz roasting kiln, filled shaft and small mullock heap]
5B	Dorman and Picken (Phoenix Co) battery	UCL	Site to be protected [Galvanised iron/timber-framed shed containing an intact stamping battery (nine-head of stamps) and sludge pond]
8A	Belltopper Co.	SF/ FRFR	Site to be protected [Shafts, mullock heap, pump bedlogs, battery engine bed, stamper stumps, stone-faced loading ramp, stone boiler setting, flue depression and stack site. .
8B	Line of Reef Workings	SF/ FRFR	Site to be protected [Partly bulldozed workings]
8C	Adit	SF/ FRFR	Site to be protected [Collapsed adit with intact mullock heap]

8D	Hanover Co.	SF/ FRFR	Site to be protected [Mullock heap/ open shaft and working platforms with decaying bedlogs, demolished brick boiler setting, short flue and stack site]
8E	Missing Link Co.	SF/ FRFR	Site to be protected [Collapsed adit with small mullock heap and large open adit with intact mullock heap with two dumping lines]
8F	Quartz kiln and reef workings	SF/ FRFR	Site to be protected [Shallow open cutting, small mullock heaps/filled shafts, costeaning and a small, below ground quartz roasting kiln]
9A	O'Connor's Freehold	FHL	Site to be protected [Large mullock heaps]
9B	Egyptian Co.	FHL	Site to be protected [Large mullock heap and two small water dams]
9C	Queens Birthday Co.	FHL	Site to be protected [Large mullock heap, water dam, large circular stone structure and some largely buried foundations]
9D	South Queens Co	FHL	Site to be protected [Mullock heap, shaft and possibly some machinery foundations]
12C	Lauriston Govt battery	WR	Site to be protected [Loading ramp, concrete mounting beds, stamper blocks (5-heads) and portable steam boiler]
14A	Premier Co.	FHL	Site to be protected [Shed, intact 5-head of stamps, square brick chimney base, section of iron stack, partly quarried mullock heap and intact small sludge pond]

Abbreviations: FHL = Freehold Land, UCL = Unreserved Crown Land, SF = State Forest, WF = Water frontage; UCL/MFR = Proposed Metcalfe Flora Reserve; UCL/PRFR = Proposed Fryer's Ridge Flora Reserve; WR = Malmsbury Reservoir (?); PPR = Public Purposes Reserve.

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- Records of the Geological Survey of Victoria

APPENDIX A : PROJECT BRIEF (1991)

The Department of Conservation and Environment wants to employ a person or persons to identify and recommend on the Significance of and prepare a strategy for the conservation and mangement of historic mining sites on public land in North Central Victoria. It is intended that htis will focus on the Land Conservation Council's Historic Reserves but will also include historic mining sites on the other categories of public land and may also require comparison with historic mining sites on private land.

Tasks

A person or persons will be engaged to undertake the following:

- 1) Indetify all the historic mining sites and area, ie. where mining commenced before 1940, and identify the reports about those places which will assist in determining their significance according to the guidelines of the Burra Charter of Australia ICOMOS as applied by the Historic Mining Sites Assessment Committee.
- 2) Undertake historical and archaeological research required for the assessment of the significance of the historic mining sites and areas in North Central Victoria using

- x DIEP records, maps and plans
- x relevant newspapers
- x local historical records, conservation studies
- x State libraries
- x other known sources
- x field surveys

Information about these sites will be stored on a computer data base to facilitate the use of the information for assessment and management purposes.

- 3) Carry out field surveys at sites selected on the basis of (1) and (2) above, recording the:
 - x location of each site
 - x components (features and artefacts) at each site
 - x condition of each site and its features
 - x details of the operation of the site, ie. an attempt should be made to interpret the site and its features
 - x relationship between individual sites as well as between the sites and their environment.
- 4) Assign relative significance to these historic places and submit these recommendations to the Department of Conservation and Environment and the Historic Mining Sites Assessment Committee for their consideration.
- 5) Prepare a strategy for the conservation and management of these historic mining sites and areas, based on present government policies and stategies, with particular emphasis on how historic sites can be interpreted to the public and linked with existing goldfields tourism promotions.
- 6) Prepare site specific works plans and projects for in the ground works necessary for the protection and interpretation of key historic sites identified in the strategy, so that such on the grounds work can be commenced in the 1991/92 financial year.
- 7) Make recommendations about areas that require further detailed site recording and investigation.

Qualifications

Applicants would need to have some of the following skills/qualifications:

- x experience of qualifications in historical research
- x computing/compilation of data bases
- x knowledge of mining history
- x experience or qualifications in historical archaeology with experience in recording historic mining sites

Experience or qualifications in natural resource management would be desirable.

APPENDIX B: Site types and components recorded for the Taradale Mining Division. **Highlighted** are individual components which have a high degree of integrity.

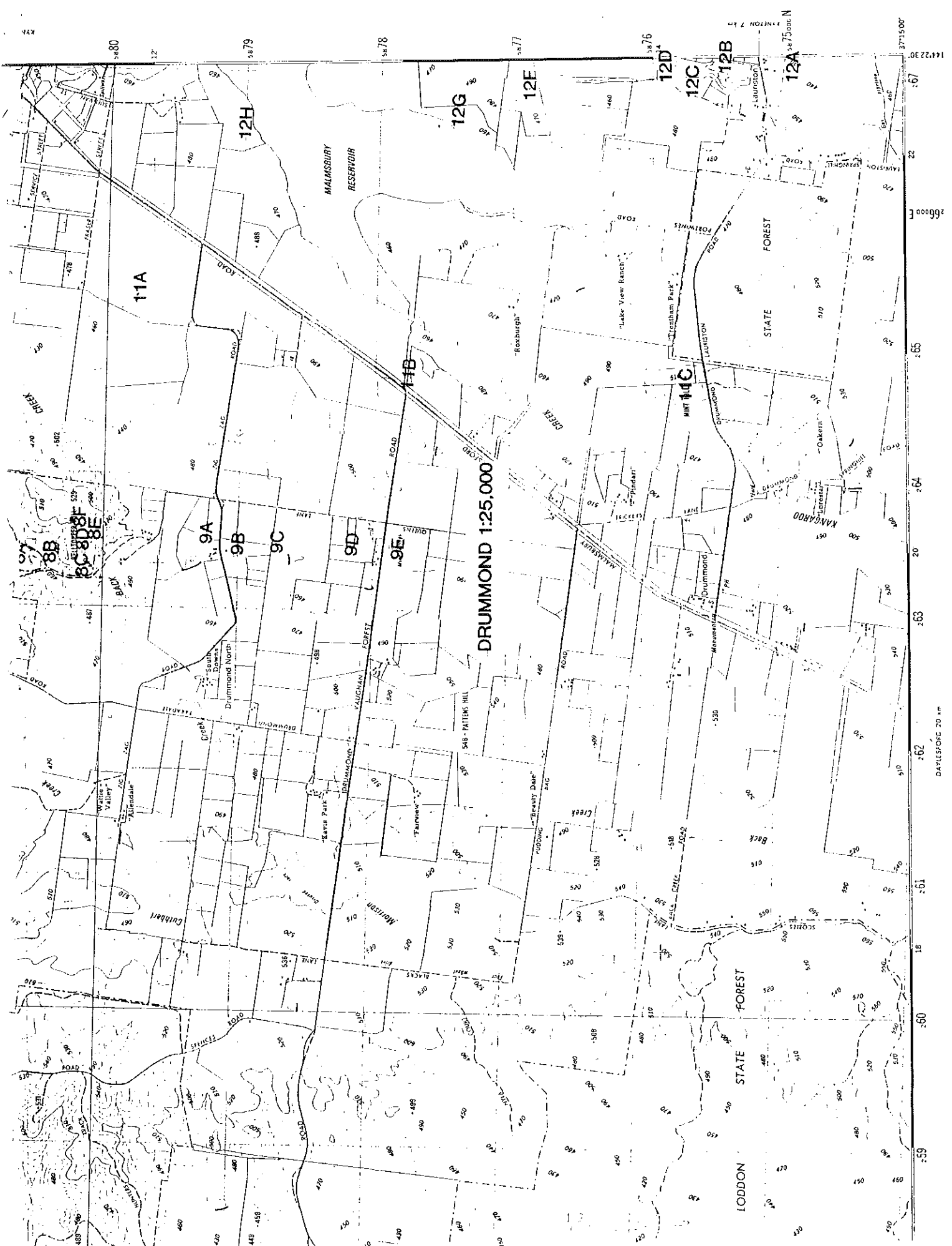
<u>Shallow Alluvial</u>		
Sluicing	7F: Belltopper Lead Gully	Sluiced gully
<u>Deep Lead</u>		
Mullock heaps	9E: Extended Sth Queens 10A: Prince of Wales Co. 10B: New Golden Gate 10C: Central Co. 10D: Lord Malmsbury Co. 10E: Lone Star Co. 10F: London & Melbourne Co. 10G Confluence Co. 10H: Malmsbury Alluvial Co. 11A: Good Friday Co. 11B: Aroona Co.	Small mullock heap Low extensive mullock heap Large raised mullock heap Large mullock heap Large raised mullock heap Low extensive mullock heap Low partially quarried heaps Large raised mullock heap Small intact mullock heap Small mullock heap Partly quarried mullock heap
Machinery foundations	10H: Malmsbury Alluvial Co.	Small concrete machinery beds
<u>Quartz mining</u>		
Adits	1B: Redesdale 2B: Barfold Ranges workings 4B: Annie Laurie Co. 7A: Conlon and Party 7E: Ironstone Hill 8C: Belltopper Hill 8E: Missing Link Co. 8E: Missing Link Co. 8F: Belltopper Hill 12B: Russell's Reef No 1 12E: Perseverance Lead	Collapsed adit Collapsed adit Collapsed adit with small heap Adit and small mullock heap Collapsed adit/working platform Open adit with small mullock heap Collapsed adit with small heap Large open adit with large heap Open adit with small heap Collapsed adit Collapsed adits
Open cuts	2B: Barfold Ranges 8F: Belltopper Hill 11C: Kangaroo Reef	Shallow open cutting Long narrow open cut Shallow open cutting
Shallow reef workings	1A: Mia Mia mine 2B: Barfold Ranges 3A: Victoria Reef 4A: Burra Burra Reef 8B: Belltopper Hill 8F: Belltopper Hill 8G: Humboldt Reef 11C: Kangaroo Reef 12G: Malmsbury Reservoir	Shaft, mullock heap and some open cutting Shafts, heaps and open cutting Bulldozed heaps and filled shafts Small heaps obscured by gorse Small mullock heaps, costeaning and shallow open cutting Filled shafts, open cutting and some costeaning Bulldozed workings/mullock heaps Filled shafts, shallow open cutting and some small mullock heaps Line of small mullock heaps
Costeaning	8B: Belltopper Hill 8F: Belltopper Co.	Limited costeaning Limited costeaning
Mullock heap	1A: Mia Mia mine 1B: Redesdale 2A: Green Hill mine site 4B: Annie Laurie Co.	Small intact heap Large intact heap/2 dumping lines Small intact heap Small intact heap

	5A: North Phoenix Co. 5C: Comet Co. 6B: Commonwealth Co. 6C: Nelson/Trafalgar Co. 6F: United Kingdom Extended 7E: Ironstone Hill 8A: Belltopper Co. 8D: Hanover Co. 9A: O'Connor's Freehold 9B: Egyptian Co. 9C: Queens Birthday Co. 9D: South Queens No 1 12A: No 1 Sth Russell's 12D: Russell's Reef Amal 12F: North Russell's Co. 12H: Mammoth Co. 14A: Premier Co.	Large raised mullock heap Large low heap cut by road Small low mullock heap Small low mullock heaps Remnant of mullock heap Large low mullock heap Small mullock heap Large intact mullock heap Large partly quarried heaps Large raised mullock heap Large raised mullock heap Small mullock heap Bulldozed heap Bulldozed heap Large intact heap Several small mullock heaps Partly quarried small heap
Shafts	1A: Mia Mia mine 2A: Green Hill mine site 2B: Barfold Ranges workings 6A: McAllister Co. 8A: Belltopper Co. 8D: Hanover Co.	Open (fenced) shaft Open (fenced) shaft Open shaft Capped shaft Filled but collapsing shaft Open shaft
Mining engine footings	2A: Green Hill mine site 4B: Annie Laurie Co. 8A: Belltopper Co. 8D: Hanover Co. 9A: O'Connors Freehold 9C: Queens Birthday Co. 9D: Sth Queens Co. 12B: Russell's Reef No 1	Small stone/concrete mortar bed Small concrete beds Arrangement of decaying bedlogs Arrangement of decaying bedlogs Large concrete beds Large raised circular stone bed Largely buried foundations Machinery foundations? Large U-shaped concrete bed and set of large brick beds
Boiler setting	2A: Green Hill mine site 8A: Belltopper Co. 8D: Hanover Co. 12C: Lauriston Govt battery	Boiler setting depression Intact stone boiler setting Demolished brick boiler setting Portable steam boiler
Flue	8A: Belltopper Co. 8D: Hanover Co.	Flue depression Small intact brick flue
Chimney stack	8A: Belltopper Co. 8D: Hanover Co. 12D: Russell's Reef Amal 12A: Premier Co.	Stack site Small brick chimney stack base. Brick chimney stack base Brick chimney stack base and section of iron stack
Mine buildings	1A: Mia Mia mine 2B: Barfold Ranges 2C: Barfold Ranges 4B: Annie Laurie Co. 5A: North Phoenix Co. 5B: Dorman and Picken	Stone fireplace and outbuilding Working platform with stone forge and fireplace Working platform with stone fireplace Stone blacksmith's forge Galvanised iron sheds Galvanised iron battery house
Carting	2B: Barfold Ranges	Well constructed carting track
Battery engine	4B: Annie Laurie Co.	Small concrete engine bed

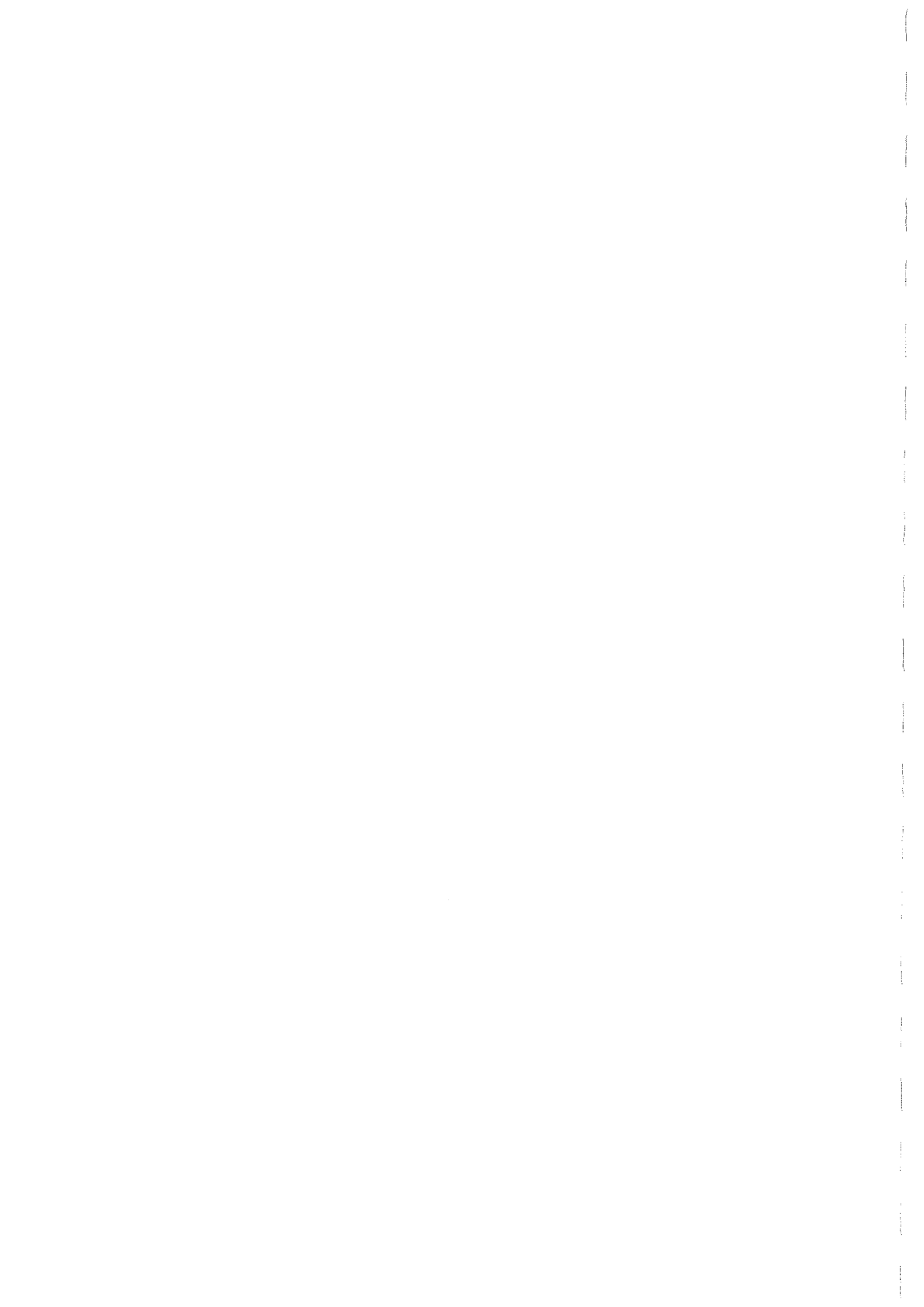
	5B: Dorman and Picken 8A: Belltopper Co. 12C: Lauriston Govt battery	Small concrete beds Large intact stone engine bed Small concrete beds
Stamper footings	1A: Mia Mia mine 4B: Annie Laurie Co. 5B: Dorman and Picken 8A: Belltopper Co. 12C: Lauriston Govt battery 14A: Premier Co.	Collapsed wooden framework and tie bolts Decaying stamper stumps Intact stamping battery (9-head) minus engine Stamper stumps, concrete footings and tie bolts (10-head) Stamper stumps/bedlogs (5-head) Intact stamping battery (5-head) minus engine
Loading ramp	1A: Mia Mia mine 8A: Belltopper Co. 12C: Lauriston Govt battery	Small timber-retained ramp Small stone faced ramp Remains of small ramp
Roasting kilns	2C: Barfold Ranges 8F: Belltopper Co.	Small quartz roasting kiln Small below ground roasting kiln
Sludge ponds	1A: Mia Mia mine 5B: Messrs Dorman and Picken 12C: Lauriston Govt battery 14A: Premier Co.	Traces of tailings Intact sludge pond Small sludge pond Small sludge pond
Water dams	8A: Belltopper Co. 9A: O'Connors Freehold 9B: Egyptian Co. 9C: Queens Birthday Co. 14A: Premier Co.	Small water dam Water dams Two small water dams Large water dam Small water dam
<u>Tailings retreatment</u>		
Treated tailings	6E: United Kingdom 8A: Belltopper Co. 9A: O'Connor's Freehold 12B: Russell's Reef No 1 13A: Tommy Dodd	Extensive dumps Partly quarried dump Extensive tailings dumps Traces of tailings Tailings dumps

AND DIVISIONS

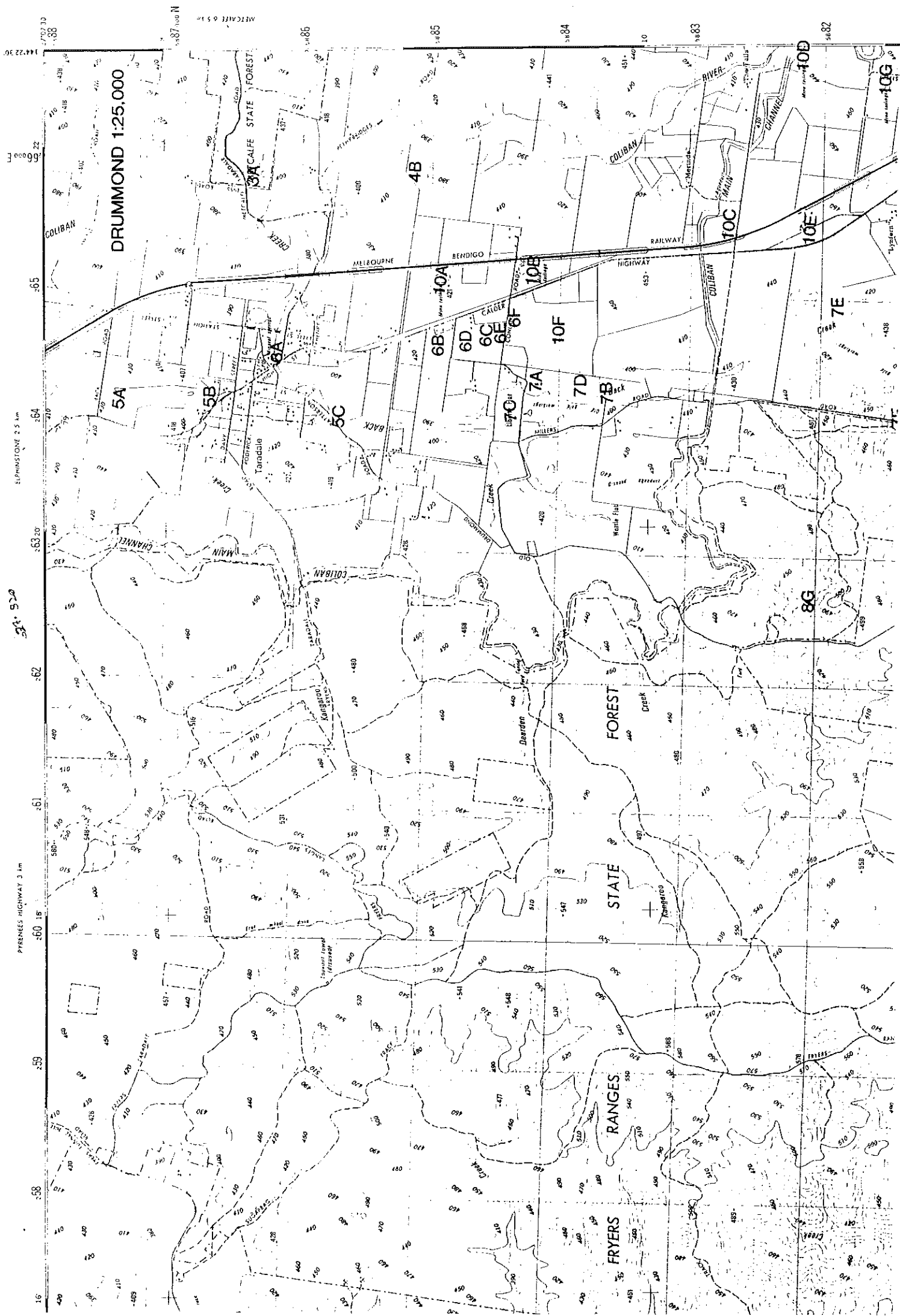




DAVIESFORD 20 m











EDGECOMBE 1:25,000

13A

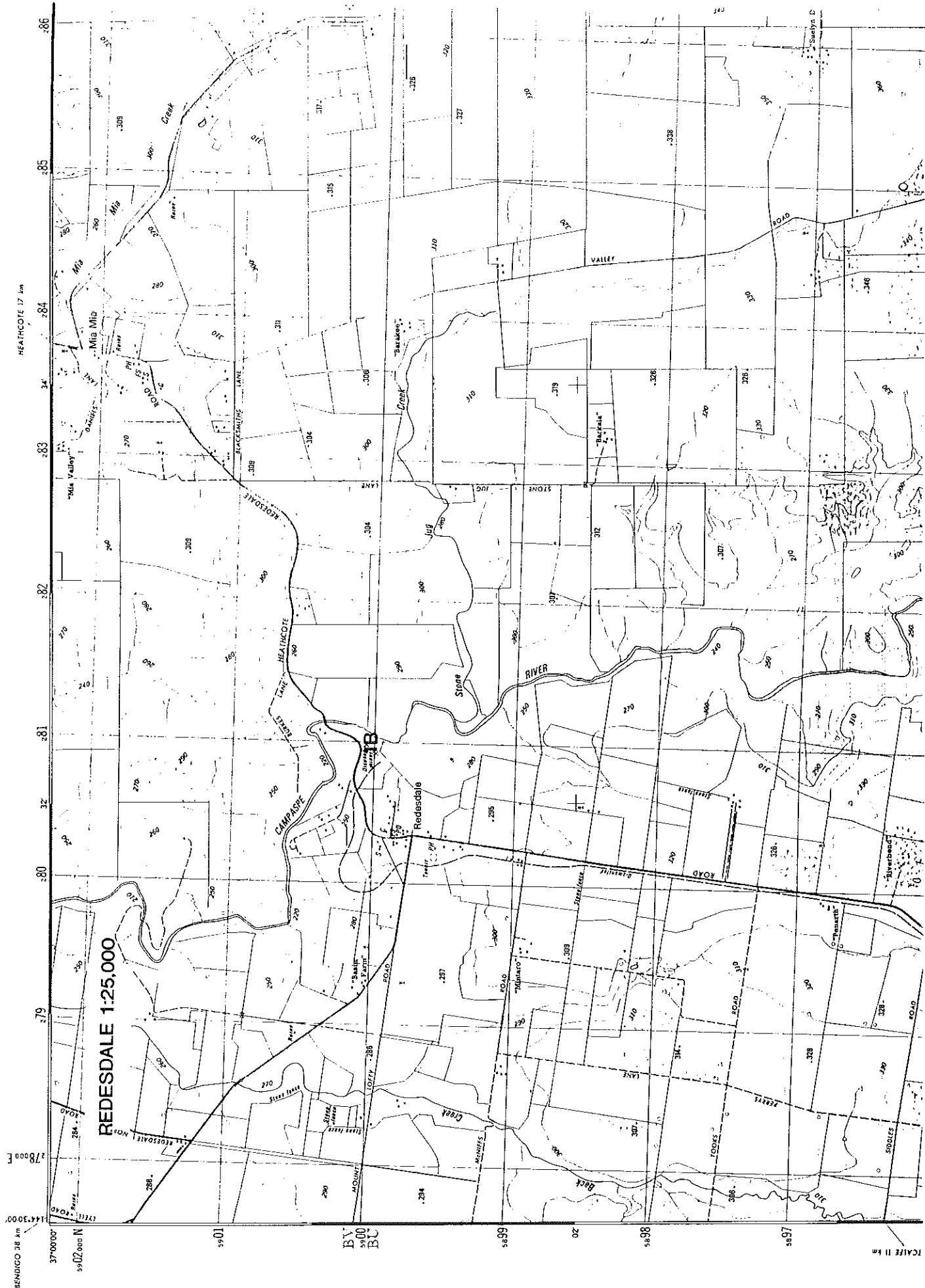
12E

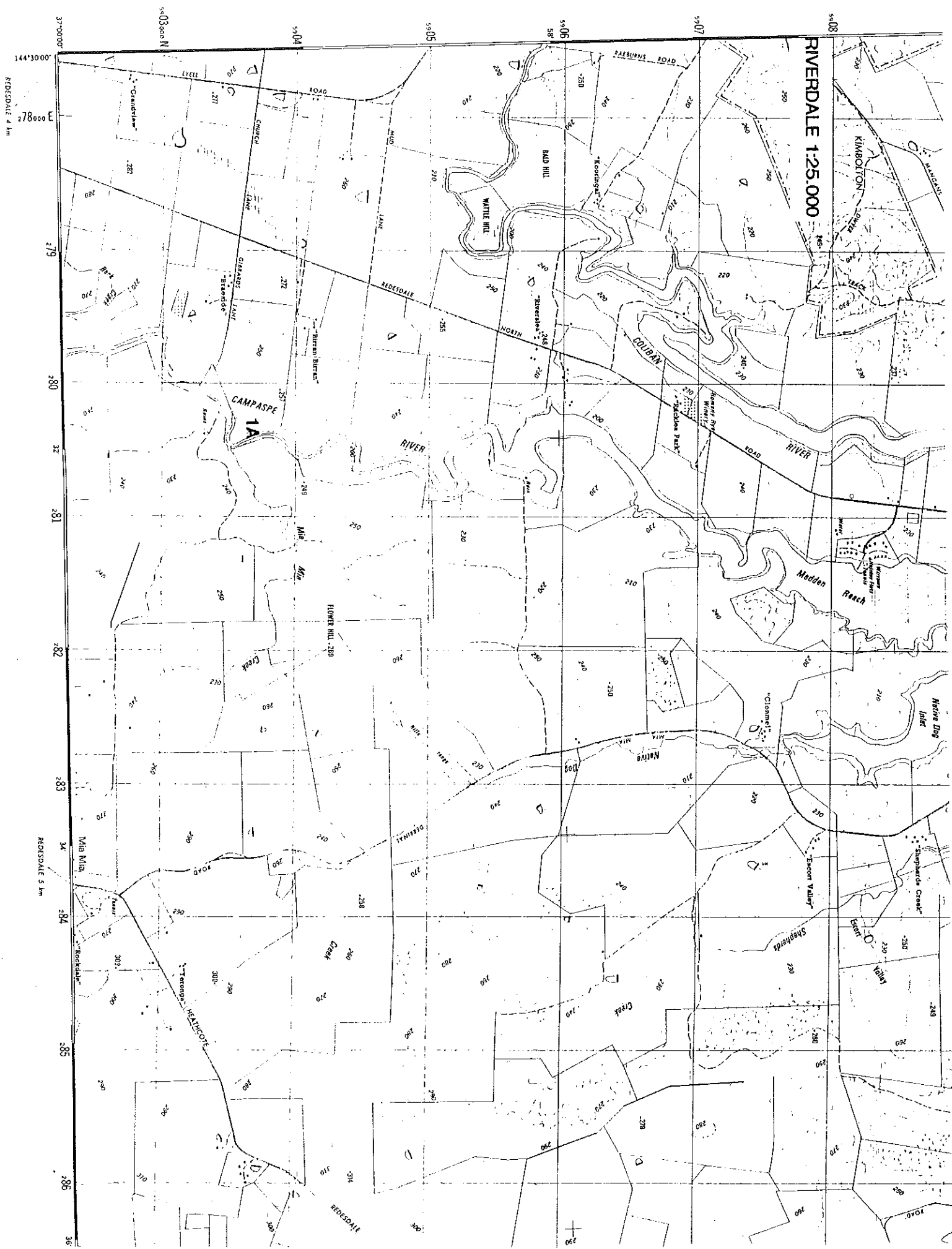
FAIRDALE 6.5 km

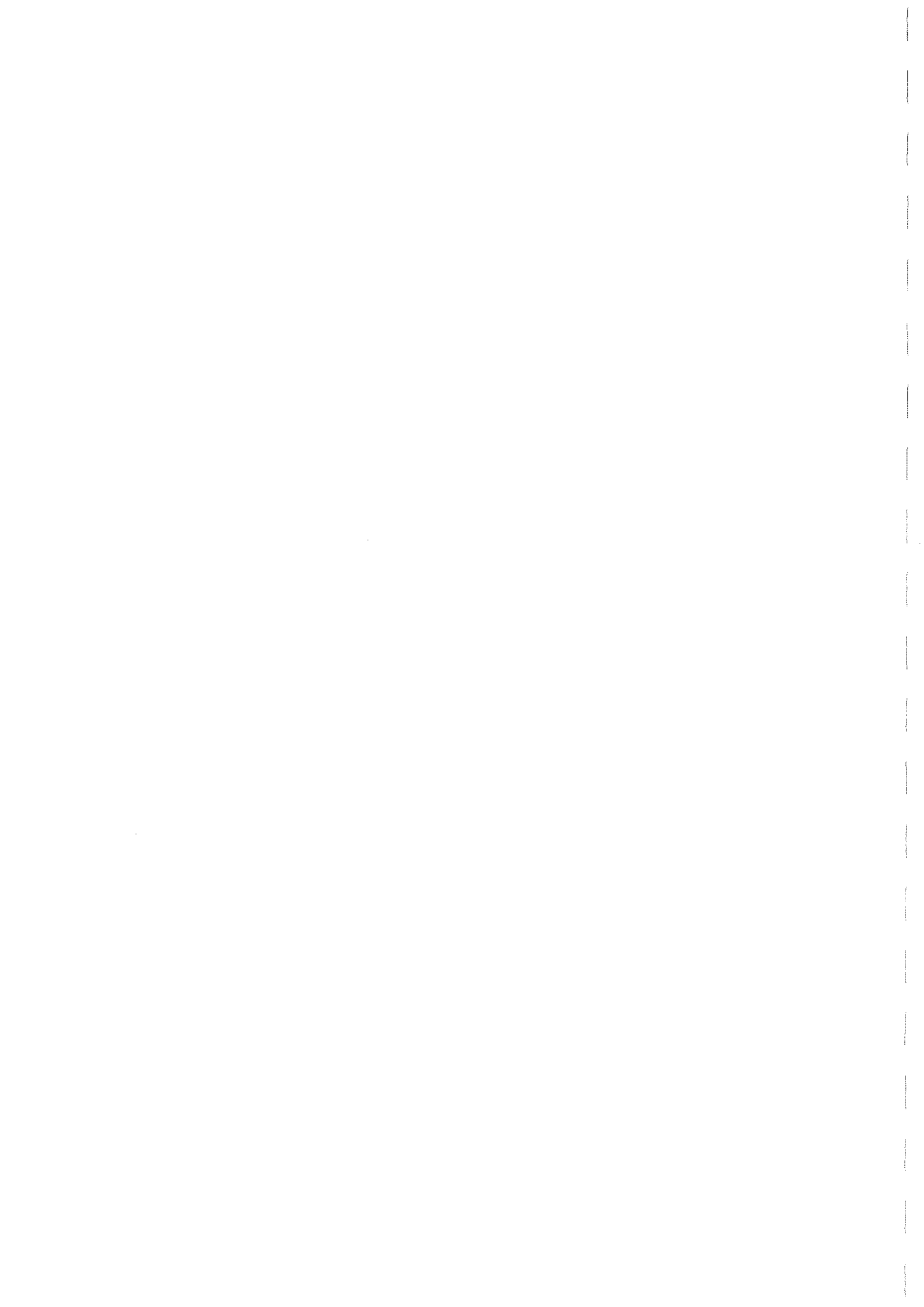
1:50,000











37°15'00" N
58°14'00" W

144°22'30" E
268000 E

KYNETON 1:25,000



NORTH CENTRAL GOLDFIELDS PROJECT

**HISTORIC MINING SITES
IN THE
TARADALE
MINING DIVISION**

PART TWO: SITE GAZETTEER

David Bannear

**Department of Conservation and Natural Resources,
North West Area**

December 1993

INDEX TO MINING LOCATIONS - TARADALE DIVISION'S SITE GAZETTEER

1.	REDESDALE
2.	EAST METCALFE/BARFOLD RANGES
3.	TARADALE EAST
4.	COLIBAN RIVER - TARADALE AND MALMSBURY
5.	TARADALE NORTH
6.	TARADALE SOUTH
7.	BACK CREEK
8.	TARADALE WEST
9.	NORTH DRUMMOND
10.	TARADALE AND MALMSBURY DEE LEAD
11.	KANGAROO CREEK/MALMSBURY RESERVE
12.	LAURISTON/MALMSBURY RESERVOIR
13.	TOMMY DODD/BRANDENBURG REEFS
14.	MARGINAL SITES [CLOWES FOREST, TYLDEN, TRENTAM, AND LITTLE HAMPTON]

Site No	Name	Grid reference	Page No.
1A	Mia Mia mine	Riverdale - 804.037	4
1B	Adit	Redesdale - 810.000	4
2A	Mining machinery site	Edgecombe - 728.862	7
2B	Reef workings	Edgecombe - 728.869	7
2C	Quartz Roasting kiln	Edgecombe - 726.868	7
3A	Victoria Reef Workings	Drummond - 658.862	12
4A	Burra Burra Reef Workings	Edgecombe - 823.815	15
4B	Annie Laurie Co.	Drummond - 659.851	15
5A	North Phoenix Co.	Drummond - 641.873	19
5B	Dorman and Picken (Phoenix Co)	Drummond - 642.866	19
5C	Comet Co.	Drummond - 966.416	19
6A	McAllister Co.	Drummond - 645.861	29
6B	Commonwealth Co.	Drummond - 646.849	29
6C	Fentons Co.	Drummond - 646.846	29
6D	Trafalgar Co.	Drummond - 645.847	29
6E	United Kingdom Co.	Drummond - 647.845	29
6F	United Kingdom Extended Co.	Drummond - 648.844	29
7A	Conlon and party	Drummond - 643.841	39
7B	Yankee Point	Drummond - 643.836	39
7C	Liberty Flat	Drummond - 640.843	39
7D	Scorpion Hill	Drummond - 643.838	39
7E	Ironstone Hill	Drummond - 650.819	39
7F	Belltopper Lead Gully	Drummond - 641.813	39
8A	Belltopper Co.	Drummond - 633.806	47
8B	Line of Reef Workings	Drummond - 634.804	47
8C	Adit	Drummond - 632.802	47
8D	Hanover Co.	Drummond - 634.802	47
8E	Missing Link Co.	Drummond - 635.804	47
8F	Quartz kiln and reef workings	Drummond - 635.803	47
8G	Humboldt Reef workings	Drummond - 626.820	47
9A	O'Connor's Freehold	Drummond - 635.793	54
9B	Egyptian Co.	Drummond - 635.790	54
9C	Queens Birthday Co.	Drummond - 635.787	54
9D	South Queens Co	Drummond - 635.783	54
9E	Extended South Queens	Drummond - 635.779	54
10A	Prince of Wales Co.	Drummond - 651.849	59
10B	New Golden Gate Co.	Drummond - 652.842	59
10C	Central Co. (later Ellis's Freehold)	Drummond - 655.827	59
10D	Lord Malmsbury Co.	Drummond - 668.822	59
10E	Lone Star Gold Mining Co.	Drummond - 655.821	59
10F	London and Melbourne Co.	Drummond - 647.840	59
10G	Confluence Co.	Drummond - 666.815	59
10H	Malmsbury Alluvial Co.	Drummond - 664.812	59
11A	Good Friday	Drummond - 653.797	69
11B	Aroona Co.	Drummond - 646.777	69
11C	Kangaroo Reef Workings	Drummond - 648.757	69

Taradale Mining Division

12A	No 1 South Russell's	Drummond - 671.751	73
12B	Russell's Reef No 1	Drummond - 671.755	73
12C	Lauriston Govt. battery?	Drummond - 669.758	73
12D	Russell's Reef Amalgamated - No 2 shaft	Drummond - 670.759	73
12E	Perseverance Lead	Drummond - 678.761	73
12F	North Russell's	Drummond - 669.769	73
12G	Line of Mullock heaps	Drummond - 667.775	73
12H	Mammoth Co.	Drummond - 666.790	73
13A	Tommy Dodd	Edgecombe - 697.815	83
14	Premier Co.	Kyneton - 711.702	85

SITE NO. & NAME : 1A MIA MIA MINE
1B ADIT

LOCATION : CAMPASPE RIVER DIGGINGS, REDESDALE

LOCATION/DIRECTIONS: Site 1A: 4.0km north of Redesdale, end of end of Gibbards Lane, Campaspe River.
Site 1B: Redesdale, south side of Heathcote- Redesdale Road, west bank of Campaspe River.

MAP/GRID REFERENCE: Site 1A: Riverdale 1:25,000- 804.037
Site 1B: Redesdale 1:25,000- 810.000

PARCEL NUMBER: Site 1A - P123614

MUNICIPALITY Metcalfe

LAND STATUS: Site 1A - Public Purpose Reserve
Site 1B - Freehold Land

EXISTING HERITAGE CLASSIFICATION: None

PRESENT MANAGEMENT/USE: Site 1A - Water Frontage
Site 1B - Pastoral

HISTORY:

1857: ...throughout that year there were new discoveries on the Coliban about two miles above the Campaspe junction, and between Metcalfe and Taradale. There were 650 diggers in this area in 1857.¹

1860: ...in August George B. Antagnini discovered Italian Diggings, on the east bank of the Campaspe about a mile above Piper's Creek junction. The rush there was known at the time as Falls Digging Rush.²

July 1860: Campaspe River - It is reported that parties are mining at two localities on this river, one at a place 1-1/2 mile north from Mitchell's Station, and the other at two miles further down the river.³

September 1860: Campaspe River Diggings - The chief place of attraction to the miners during the month of September has been a spot on the Campaspe River, about three miles north of Mr Mitchell's station. Gold was discovered there in August as I mentioned in my last report. The place is situated 15 miles from Kyneton in a direct line, and 12 miles north-east from Taradale. As many as 200 miners had assembled there at one time, but at present there are not above 100 remaining, by reason of the hard nature of the sinking (the stratum being trap-rock) which discouraged many from risking the chances of success under a necessarily expensive process.

On the 8th September Geo. B. Antagnini obtained a privilege of 300 feet square on the left bank of the river, as a reward for his enterprise in prospecting the district. He and his party having washed out an ounce of the precious metal from a ton of earth taken from some drift which they had found at the foot of a high and steep hill of trap-rock formation, and having traced the auriferous drift lying under the trap rock, were induced to drive a tunnel into the hill side; but unfortunately they have not found the diluvial deposit equally rich in gold, which circumstance has greatly checked the ardor of many. However, enterprising spirits are not wanting there, for two other tunnels are being excavated a few yards further north, and two more on the western side of the same hill; also ten shafts are being sunk from the summit, one of which is not forty-five feet in depth, yet none but the prospecting party have hit upon any auriferous deposit.

Many persons are waiting to see the results of a few shafts' bottoming, in order to lessen the dubious prospects of success, before they expend the necessary labor. In diggers' parlance they are said to be shepherding their claims. Some 2-1/2 miles further down the river a party has applied to the warden for a grant to work an ordinary sluicing claim in some ground that had been tested before, but apparently without sufficient inducement to encourage perseverance, as the ground had been abandoned. Sluicing seems to be the most economical method of working poor soil, but is only practicable where an abundant supply of water exists...⁴

November 1860: the late rush to the Campaspe River, three miles below Mr Mitchell's station, has declined to about thirty miners...⁵

March 1861: The most interesting sphere of alluvial mining which obtains in this division is sluicing. There are four parties sluicing successfully in different places along the Coliban River, immediately north of Taradale, and another party is on the Back Creek; two more have taken up positions in a new field situated at Piper's Creek, two miles eastward of Mr Mitchell's station on the Campaspe River.

With respect to the gold discovery made on the Campaspe, north of Mitchell's in July last, very little is doing, but a few miners are working at two places in that quarter.⁶

April 1861: Campaspe River - A few miners are scattered up and down the Campaspe, between Mr Mitchell's station and its junction with the Coliban. They must be regarded rather as prospecting parties, no settled workings having yet been established.⁷

March 1864: The most remarkable occurrence of the last quarter has been the movements of the Chinese. They have been leaving continually since Christmas the river workings at North Redesdale, and flocking to the old worked grounds on the Coliban River at Lauriston, where are now congregated about 450 of them. At North Redesdale there remain about 250.

The Chinese have been greatly disappointed in the result of their summer workings in the beds of the Coliban and Campaspe rivers at North Redesdale, particularly with respect to the latter locality. However, some parties have done well on the Coliban river.

A party of four Italians, who have been for several months tunnelling on the west bank of the Campaspe river, near its junction with the Coliban, have lately struck an extensive deposit of auriferous drift, at a point 600 feet from the river; but the value of the discovery is not yet proved.

With the exception of the Chinese, the miners are much scattered throughout the division.⁸

December 1864: Chinese - They are now widely scattered over the division. The Kangaroos Creek is the resort of numbers of small parties. The vicinity of Taradale is another resort of many, invariably working old ground. The Government Reserve, Metcalf, is a third chief place of resort; and the Coliban River, North Redesdale, is the fourth locality that engages their labors. In these two last named localities, their workings are confined to the bed of the river.⁹

March 1865: Land, both private property and belonging to the Crown, is being taken up in great quantity and in all directions: (e.g.) on the western banks of the Campaspe River, nine large frontage claims have been taken up by capitalists and speculators, there being a general belief that a very rich lead traverses that locality.¹⁰

June 1865: Of the 19 square miles I mention in my report [as being auriferous ground], I estimate the portions of all the leads, gullies, and creek beds, which have been and are being worked, at an area not exceeding 500 acres; on the reefs the worked area is under 200 acres.

About 6,000 acres have lately been occupied as frontage claims, on unworked ground, reaching from Malmsbury to the junction of the Coliban and Campaspe Rivers, being all of the available Crown land of basaltic formation.

Very little of this ground is being worked; the number of tunnels that have been commenced is only seven on the whole 6,000 acres.

The total number of claims held, as above, is 68, and the number being worked is 35...

Much enterprise is being displayed, under assumption of the auriferous character of the sub-basaltic deposits of this district. Every available piece of Crown land, and also much of private lands, are being appropriated to mining, but time must elapse for forming companies and for preliminaries before much actual work can be done. There appears to me sufficient indications to warrant the prevailing expectations; since the leads actually known trend beneath the basaltic formations, in the proximity of Taradale, Malmsbury, and Lauriston.

As regards the discovery at Redesdale, which has caused such a 'rush' for large frontage claims in that locality, I must mention that the prospectors, Brown and Co., have hitherto washed up only five or six loads of earth, and that the produce averaged about 8 dwts per load. They seem to have a great quantity of wash dirt on their claim, which at one part is 8 feet deep.

Another proof of the auriferous nature of this district of Redesdale is found in the fact of the bed of the Coliban River having, for years past, yielded rich returns from many of its pools; and the gold thus met with must have been washed into the river beds by streams cutting their courses through the basaltic rock, as is very evident on the spot.¹¹

September 1865: The large frontage claims of 2,500 feet each, taken up some time ago on the basaltic plains from Malmsbury and Taradale to the junction of the Coliban and Campaspe rivers at Redesdale, about twenty-five miles from this township, are for the most part untouched by the miner. Although it may appear unfair to the individual miner to lock up these lands by protective registration under the by-laws of the Mining Board, yet it must be borne in mind that this description of mining requires a large bona fide capital and properly organised companies to successfully develop the auriferous wealth which unquestionably lies below.¹²

June 1866: The crisis arising from the late over-speculation in this subdivision is seemingly over. Henceforth mining will be conducted on a truer basis, and the mineral resources of this district will yet be developed, as many of the deep sinkings are being continued through the basalt...¹³

March 1878: Many years ago a claim was commenced below the falls on the River Campaspe, and called the Barfold Estate Company. The shaft, though deep, was never bottomed, owing to the company ceasing to pay calls and collapsing... This deep ground has not yet been proved. The Italians' tunnel, now near 1,000 feet in the hill, on the banks of the Coliban, and worked considerable expense, continues poorly.¹⁴

Sept 1879: Mining matters in this division during the past quarter have slightly improved. The yield of gold shows an increase over the past quarter of 170 ozs., chiefly obtained from deep alluvial mines. I report, also, that several claims have been taken up on the line of reef at Barfold Ranges. Gold has been obtained, and can be seen in the stone.¹⁵

Dec 1879: I also notice that some parties have taken up land at Redesdale (near the junction of two rivers) for a tunnelling claim; very good prospects have been obtained.¹⁶

Dec 1884 : At Redesdale several parties are out prospecting.¹⁷

Nov 1907: The Mia Mia Mine, Redesdale, by H.S. Whitelaw

The Mia Mia mine is situated on the western bank of the Campaspe River, about 3 miles north of the Redesdale township. Reef gold was first discovered in this locality about four years ago by a party of prospectors, who found a rich specimen in the river valley. By loaming the hillside the gold was traced to its source - quartz deposits about 40 feet above the riverbed. A claim was pegged out and a crushing broken which averaged 1/2oz. of gold per ton, a return not quite payable under the then existing conditions. Without further prospecting, the claim was abandoned. Two years later Mr. J Day visited the locality, sampled the surface quartz, and formed the Mia Mia Gold Mining Company, which erected an 8-head battery capable of crushing 20 tons of quartz per shift, and has since profitably worked the quartz bodies referred to.

The company's workings were first conducted from an open cut near the centre of the lease. Here it was found that the gold shoot pitched northward, and to meet the downward continuation of it, a main shaft 7 feet x 4 feet was sunk to a depth of 30 feet. As sinking was somewhat impeded by water, a tunnel about 70 feet in length was driven from about river level to drain the workings. Subsequently a pump was installed underground, and the shaft continued to 80 feet from the surface ...

Statistics of the ore crushed and gold obtained from the stopes were not obtained at the mine, but the manager informs me that the average yield has been about 14 dwt. per ton, which is just payable.¹⁸

October 1992: Journey into History up the Campaspe River: Author John Linder.

Gold Mining and the Taafe Brothers.

The next feature of interest is a group of very deep gold mine shafts, on the steep slope of the west bank. It is very rare to find the remains of any wooden parts of such mines, but there is a part of a stamping battery, which in 1990 still had the curved lifting rods of the camshaft. Although they may not have been the first, this site was occupied at one time by the Taafe brothers, Nicholas and George, who lived further up the hill at what is now "Birran Birran". Early in the century, the Taafe brothers also held the licence for the Mia Mia hotel, before the licence finally expired.¹⁹ [Much of the historical information presented here was gleaned from Mr. Jack Ross (a brother of our club member Maisie Ross), a long time resident and local historian of the Mia Mia area, who very kindly gave me his time to recount what he knew]

DESCRIPTION & INTERPRETATION:

Site 1A: Mia Mia mine (Reef discovered in 1905, Mia Mia Gold Mining Company formed in 1907. This company erected an 8-head battery)

Reef workings - Some reef workings run along the western side of the Campaspe River. Workings include one open (fenced) shaft with small intact mullock heap and some shallow open cutting.

Battery - Collapsed wooden framework for a 8-head battery. No machinery or engine parts present on the site. Stamper tie bolts still survive but stamper stumps have rotted. Sites also has the remains of timber-retained loading ramp and a iron ship's tank. Traces of tailings near the battery.

Buildings - South of the battery site is a small stone fireplace and the stone foundations of a small rectangular building.

Site 1B: Adit and mullock heap (Difficult to date, probably late 19th/early 20th century)

Large mullock heap with two dumping lines associated with a collapsed adit. There are some small mullock heaps on the ridge above the adit. No machinery foundations associated with the adit.

PHOTOS:

- 1 to 3 Battery
- 4 Stone fire place
- 5 Stone footings of small rectangular building

ARTEFACTS:

None visible

INTEGRITY/CONDITION:

Battery has some integrity, adit has none

THREATS:

CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE:

Site 1A has:

Scientific Significance, because of the undisturbed state of the reef workings and battery. Has some archaeological potential.

Site 1B has little integrity and hence low cultural significance.

Significance Ranking	Site 1A Site 1B	Regional None
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CONSERVATION POLICY:

The significance of Site 1A comes from its undisturbed state (the survival of mine workings, battery and house site)

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

Site 1A be protected (Reef workings, battery and house site)

Assessor: David Bannear

Date: December 1993

- 1 The History of Gold Discovery in Victoria, James Flett, p 204
- 2 The History of Gold Discovery in Victoria, James Flett, p 204
- 3 Mining Surveyors' Reports, July 1860
- 4 Mining Surveyors' Reports, September 1860
- 5 Mining Surveyors' Reports, November 1860
- 6 Mining Surveyors' Reports, March 1861
- 7 Mining Surveyors' Reports, April 1861
- 8 Mining Surveyors' Reports, March 1864
- 9 Mining Surveyors' Reports, December 1864
- 10 Mining Surveyors' Reports, March 1865
- 11 Mining Surveyors' Reports, June 1865
- 12 Mining Surveyors' Reports, September 1865
- 13 Mining Surveyors' Reports, June 1866
- 14 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - March 1878
- 15 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Sept 1879
- 16 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Dec 1879
- 17 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Dec 1884
- 18 Geological Survey of Victoria, Records, Vol 3, Part 2, pp 175 - 177
- 19 Whirrake, Oct 1992, Vol. 13 No. 9, p14

SITE NO. & NAME	2A	MINE SITE
	2B	REEF WORKINGS
	2C	MINE WORKINGS AND QUARTZ ROASTING KILN

LOCATION : EAST METCALFE/BARFOLD RANGES

LOCATION/DIRECTIONS: Site 2A - 4.5km south-east of Metcalfe. Located on Freehold Land, 300m north from the junction of Kyneton-Metcalfe Road, 300m west of the road.
 Sites 2B and 2C are situated 3.8km south-east of Metcalfe. Site 2B is located on Crown Land, north side of Kyneton-Metcalfe Road, 2-1/2km north west of Metcalfe East.
 Site 2C is located on Freehold Land, 200m east along the road from Site 2B

MAP/GRID REFERENCE: Site 2A Edgcombe 1:25,000- 728.862
 Site 2B Edgcombe 1:25,000- 728.869
 Site 2C Edgcombe 1:25,000- 726.868

PARCEL NUMBER: Site 2B - P120657

MUNICIPALITY Metcalfe

LAND STATUS: Site 2A and 2C - Freehold Land
 Site 2B - Unreserved Crown Land

EXISTING HERITAGE CLASSIFICATION: None

PRESENT MANAGEMENT/USE: Site 2B - NCH16

HISTORY:

1860: ...Barfold Reefs and alluvial diggings, about six miles east-north-east of Taradale in March 1860¹

April 1860: About seven miles from the town in an east and north direction, rise some very steep range of shale and sandstone whose smooth slopes and rounded summits... These eastward ridges have been named Barfold Ranges. There have not been any alluvial diggings in that locality; but seven reefs have been struck, all gold-bearing, and three of them giving handsome returns. A steam engine of 12 horse-power has been erected at the place, with a battery of eight stampers, and a pair of Chilian wheels.

The proprietor furnished me with some statements of crushings, viz.: - 90 tons yielded 125 oz 16 dwt of gold; 15-1/2 tons yielded 20 oz 5 dwt; 16 tons yielded 36 oz 10 dwt; and 5 tons of quartz yielded 3 oz 3 dwt of gold.²

May 1860: The Barfold Ranges - On Stead's Reef affairs seem prosperous, but on the other reefs of which there are six, ten parties have taken the advantage afforded under registration of abandoning their claims for a time, to enable themselves to procure more funds, by occupations that will give speedier returns, as the proceeds from their mines did not pay expenses.³

July 1860: Barfold Ranges - There are 10 shafts working on the different reefs, several claims have been temporarily relinquished for want of funds, the yields not paying expenses.

A breakage of machinery stopped the crushing operations, only 20 tons were reduced during July...⁴

August 1860: Barfold Ranges - Operations here are progressing satisfactorily. The workings are wholly confined to quartz reefs, which mainly lie along the highest ridge of a series of schist ranges which stretches north and south. A new vein was lately opened on the prospectors' claim on Stead's Reef, which presented coarser gold than any other vein yet opened at these mines...⁵

November 1860: At the Barfold Ranges there are ten mines being successfully worked, at the Victoria Reefs there are four, at the Humboldt two, at Belltopper Hill three, at Kangaroo Creek three, and at the Malmsbury diggings there is one.⁶

February 1861: Barfold Ranges - I am informed that there are only three mines being worked on the reefs at the Barfold. The last crushings of stone from them turned out as follows, viz:-

From Stead's workings, 6-3/4 tons gave 10-1/2 oz of gold; 6-1/4 tons from Phillip, George and Company's produced 13-1/2 oz; and 20 tons from Holywell and Company's yielded 27-1/2 oz.

Although the Barfold district is nearly deserted there has been good proof exhibited to establish its auriferous character; no less than eight reefs have been opened up, all producing good indications, but they have turned out to be only surface offshoots, all running out at a small depth, no shaft being 100 feet deep... To capitalists it might prove a good field for speculation⁷

March 1861: Barfold Ranges - There are but two claims being worked on the old reefs in this locality. Twenty tons of stone crushed from here lately yielded 27 oz 17 dwt of gold.

A new auriferous reef has been opened up at a place two miles further north than any of the old workings, but it being simply under trial, the advantage likely to accrue from it as a new field is but problematical.⁸

April 1861: Barfold Reefs - Operations are somewhat reviving in this quarter; working has been resumed on Gibbons's Reef; and a second claim resumed on Steed's Reef. The prospectors' claim on Steed's Reef has always held good, yielding an average of 4 oz to the ton..⁹

May 1861: Barfold Ranges - There has been quite a revival of mining affairs in this quarter, about twenty miners being now at that gold field and eight or more claims are being worked. A crushing machine is in course of erection on private ground in Snodgrass Gully, at a spot about half a mile westward from Steed's mine, which is the nearest worked ground.¹⁰

Sept 1864: Barfold Ranges. The Hit-or-Mis Reef has been completely worked out. At 230 feet depth the reef entirely disappeared. It has been worked for a length of about 300 feet with good results.

Steed's Reef has been reoccupied, and some stone crushed therefrom, yielding 1 oz 6 dwts of gold per ton.

Middleton's Reef has been again abandoned, and whilst the yield was 8 dwts per ton.¹¹

September 1866: The Green Hill (the Old Hit-or-Miss Quartz Company) have not crushed for three months, having just completed their registration under Fraser's Act, under the name of the English and Scottish Gold Mining Company. They have 100 tons of good looking stone ready for crushing.¹²

March 1867: The English and Scottish Company's Reef, at Barfold Ranges, which bids fair to be permanently remunerative, has been idle during the quarter, in order that the company may erect efficient machinery.¹³

June 1868: A new reef was discovered about a month ago in the parish of Emberton, about 9 miles north-east of Taradale, approaching the Barfold Ranges. Several claims have been marked off and taken up, 3 of which have got gold.¹⁴

March 1871: Several pleasing results tending to further develop the auriferous character of the district have recently been realized, which has given a fresh impetus to prospecting, especially in the neighbourhood of Green Hills and the Barfold Ranges.

Douglass and Party lately took up an old and abandoned reef, formerly known as Jemmy Johnson's Reef, on the Barfold Ranges. They have formed a company to be called the Duke of Buccleugh Quartz Gold Mining Company. The holders have taken out 11 tons of stone, and had it crushed at Mr Binnie's battery, Lauriston, which yielded nearly 28 ozs of gold - over 2-1/2 ozs per ton.¹⁵

June 1871: The Duke of Buccleugh Company, Barfold (whose trial crushing I reported last quarter to have yielded 2 ozs per ton), have struck the reef in the No. 2 shaft, at a depth of 70 feet. The stone is about 3 feet wide, and gold visible.¹⁶

December 1871: Quartz reefs here have, for several years past, attracted the attention of capitalists and mining speculators, whose confidence in the district continues to increase as they trace the rich reefs of Sandhurst to within a few miles of the Barfold Ranges (where there are several really rich gold-bearing reefs that have yielded over 2 ozs to the ton), and the equally rich reefs at Lauriston to within a few miles south of the same locality.

The Duke of Buccleugh Quartz Gold Mining Company have ceased to work for a while, and are trying to raise more capital. The other claims on the Barfold Ranges are nearly all suspended for the same reason.¹⁷

March 1880: The yield of gold continues to show a decrease, owing to the largest claims not having got properly to work until the quarter had far advanced ... Quartz mining appears to be dying out in this division, the yields being too small to allow of any great outlay and nothing can be done without powerful machinery, the stone being so poor at Barfold and Metcalfe, where prospecting has been carried on for some time past.¹⁸

March 1881: At Metcalfe, the All Nations Quartz Co. have struck a reef, showing a little gold.¹⁹

Sept 1884: The companies which have, during the quarter, struck gold are, in quartz - Paton and party, Metcalfe.²⁰

Dec 1885: At Barfold also, golden stone has been taken out, 50 tons of which is now on the top ready for crushing.²¹

July 1892: (at Metcalfe) The locality is at the head of Snodgrass Gully, near Rory Gray's old workings, and about 2-1/2 miles from Mr. James Muir's Hotel. The owner has applied for a lease of the whole paddock.²²

1905: In June 1905, the Eliza Hill Gold Mining Co. commenced operations at east Metcalfe on a well defined and promising-looking line of reef on which a considerable amount of work from the surface, where the reef outcropped, to a depth of over 200 feet had been done, it is said, about 40 years ago. Since commencing operations the company has put two of the old shafts in safe working order, baled out a large quantity of accumulated, as well as coming,

water, sunk one shaft a little depth, and erected a 10-head battery and winding winch, with the necessary smiths' shop, storeroom and manager's office. A quantity of stone has been broken and crushed, with, I understand, payable results. An average of 21 men has been employed, six of whom work on the surface.²³

1912: S. Keith and party, near Green Hill, Metcalfe, have had a successful year, their last crushing yielding 15 dwt to the ton from a formation varying from 2 to 5 feet in width, nearly all of which was sent to the mill. This party has a 5-head battery on the mine. Froome and party, in the neighbourhood of Keath and party's claim, in December crushed 19 tons for a yield of 88 oz. This party's reef is very small. Searson and Ryan, in the same locality, crushed 10 tons for 26-1/2 ozs. ... Gamble Brothers, of Green Hill (in the same neighbourhood) crushed 12 tons for 18-1/2 ozs. ... Swainson Brothers, who are working about 3/4 miles west of the Gamble Brothers, crushed 5 tons for 7 ozs.²⁴

1913: S. Keith and party (Metcalfe) have completed the sinking of the main shaft to a depth of 250 feet ... This party has erected a steam-winding plant on the main shaft and they have a 5-head crushing mill on the mine will be in a position to make low grade ore pay. About 1/2 dozen co-operative parties have continued work during the year at shallow levels in the ranges west of Snodgrass Gully on comparatively small reefs of good quality. The crushings put through by these parties have yielded from 1-1/2 ozs. to 7 oz. per ton, which has given them good ranges for the work done.²⁵

1914: S. Keith and party, of Metcalfe, have not yet met with success in their new shaft. The half-dozen other co-operative parties, who have carried on mining operations in the ranges between Taradale and Metcalfe have not been so successful this year as they were in 1913.²⁶

July 1939: Keath's Reward, Taradale (mine owner R.G. Keith) - work has been carried on continuously with satisfactory returns. A steam haulage plant has been installed.²⁷

March 1941: Keath's Reward, Taradale (mine owner R. G. Keith) - Recent crushings totalling 25 tons have yielded 60 oz.²⁸

March 1942: Keath's reward - Work has continued on the reef to a depth of 20 feet. 15 tons of stone were crushed for a yield of 23 oz. of gold.²⁹

DESCRIPTION & INTERPRETATION:

Site 2A: Mining machinery site (Difficult to name the mine, but probably dates to the first decade of the twentieth century)

Machinery site - Fragmented remains of stone (volcanic boulders) and concrete engine bed with 1-1/2 inch iron mounting bolts. The bed measures approx. 4m x 2-1/4m and stands 1-1/4m high. Several metres from the rear of the engine bed is a linear depression indicating a buried boiler setting. 12m from the front of the engine bed is a fenced, open shaft and the remains of a small mullock heap.

No battery remains or tailings visible.

Site 2B: Reef workings (Difficult to date but probably mid to late nineteenth century workings)

Reef workings - Line of reef workings run north from the Kyneton-Metcalfe Road. The workings commence at the base of a steep ridge and run over the ridge into the next gully.

Adit and house site - The workings found at the northern end of the line are the most extensive. At the base of the ridge is a levelled working platform which is approx 15m wide. At the interface between the working platform and ridge is a collapsed adit and an open shaft. On the east side of the working platform is a stone blacksmith's forge, and on the opposite side of the platform, is a small house site (measuring approx. 3-1/2m x 2-1/2m) which has a relatively well preserved stone fireplace. The front of the platform has a couple of short dumping lines of mullock. Half way up the ridge is a second level of workings consisting of a levelled platform, 2 filled shafts and some shallow open cutting. A well constructed track runs west from this upper level of workings, down the ridge and terminates at a small water dam in the gully.

Site 2C: Workings and quartz roasting kiln (Quartz roasting was an integral part of the pioneering years (mid 1850s/early 1860s) of quartz mining.

Reef workings - 200m to the east of Site 2B is another line of workings. At the base of the ridge near the main road is a levelled working platform, a filled shaft and some mullock. The working platform also has the remains of a stone fireplace.

Quartz roasting kiln - A few metres to the west of the workings is a small quartz roasting kiln. The quartz roasting kiln has a diameter of approx 2.8m and is partly almost buried by leaf litter. The front of the kiln has been demolished, but the flue or portal is still intact.

PHOTOS:

1. Site 2A - shaft and engine bed
2. Site 2A - engine bed
3. Site 2A - engine bed and mullock
4. Site 2B - forge
5. Site 2B - House site
6. Site 2B - shaft and collapsed adit

7. Site 2C - quartz roasting kiln

ARTEFACTS: None visible

INTEGRITY/CONDITION: Site 2A (Mining machinery site) in poor condition. Sites 2B (Reef workings) and 2C (Reef workings and quartz roasting kiln) are relatively undisturbed and thus have good integrity

THREATS:

CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE:

Site 2A has poor integrity and little historical importance and hence low cultural significance

Site 2B has:

- Scientific significance, because of the survival of relatively undisturbed shallow reef workings and associated house site.

Site 2C has:

- Scientific significance - Rare type of quartz mining site. Quartz roasting was an integral part of the pioneering years (mid 1850s/early 1860s) of quartz mining.

Sites 2B and 2C have:

- Cumulative significance - adjoining sites which together help illustrate different aspects of small scale quartz mining.

Significance ranking:	Site 2A	No significance
	Site 2B	Regional significance
	Site 2C	Regional significance

CONSERVATION POLICY:

The significance of Sites 2B and 2C comes from their rarity and association with the pioneering years of quartz mining.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

Site 2B (working platform, collapsed adit/open shaft, blacksmith's forge, house site, and mullock heap) and 2C (working platform, house site and small roasting kiln) be protected.

Assessor: David Bannear

Date: December 1993

- 1 The History of Gold Discovery in Victoria, James Flett, p 204
- 2 Mining Surveyors' Reports, April 1860
- 3 Mining Surveyors' Reports, May 1860
- 4 Mining Surveyors' Reports, July 1860
- 5 Mining Surveyors' Reports, August 1860
- 6 Mining Surveyors' Reports, November 1860
- 7 Mining Surveyors' Reports, February 1861
- 8 Mining Surveyors' Reports, March 1861
- 9 Mining Surveyors' Reports, April 1861
- 10 Mining Surveyors' Reports, May 1861
- 11 Mining Surveyors' Reports, September 1864
- 12 Mining Surveyors' Reports, September 1866
- 13 Mining Surveyors' Reports, March 1867
- 14 Mining Surveyors' Reports, June 1868
- 15 Mining Surveyors' Reports, March 1871
- 16 Mining Surveyors' Reports, June 1871
- 17 Mining Surveyors' Reports, December 1871
- 18 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - March 1880
- 19 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - March 1881
- 20 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Sept 1884
- 21 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Dec 1885
- 22 Mount Alexander Mail, 6/6/1892
- 23 Mines Department Annual Report, 1905
- 24 Mines Department Annual Report, 1912
- 25 Mines Department Annual Report, 1913
- 26 Mines Department Annual Report, 1914

- 27 Mining and Geological Journal, July 1939
- 28 Mining and Geological Journal, March 1941
- 29 Mining and Geological Journal, March 1942

SITE NO. & NAME: 3A VICTORIA REEF WORKINGS

SITE LOCATION: TARADALE EAST

LOCATION/DIRECTIONS: 1.4km north of Taradale. The site is located 50m southeast from the junction of Metcalfe-Taradale Road and Diss Road.

MAP/GRID REFERENCE: Drummond 1:25,000- 658. 862

PARCEL NUMBER: P124693

MUNICIPALITY: Shire of Metcalfe

LAND STATUS: State Forest, but workings continue onto Private Land

EXISTING HERITAGE CLASSIFICATION: None

PRESENT MANAGEMENT/USE: NCI163

HISTORY:

April 1860: About a quarter of a mile up the stream from Taradale bridge the Albion Company have a 6 horse-power steam engine turning a cylinder on the principle of Hart's patent.

A steam engine of 12 horse-power has also been erected immediately below the bridge, with a Hart's patent puddling machine, but the work at present is at a standstill.¹

June 1860: A new field has been opened on the east side of the Coliban River, about half a mile from it, and opposite the township of Taradale.

The spot is in a narrow gully, perhaps three-quarters of a mile in length, running north and south, between schistose ranges. The depth of sinking varies from 4 to 20 feet, through a yellow clay deposit.

About two hundred miners have congregated there. The gold is coarse; a small lump was found which weighed 2-1/4 oz.²

July 1860: The discovery of an auriferous gully about a mile to the eastward of the township, and which I mentioned in my last report, has been the chief field of operation during the month of July. About 300 miners had congregated there at one time.

The worked part of the gully, which runs north and south, extends perhaps half a mile, its width in no part exceeding the extent of three claims. It is admitted by all that this little gold field is the richest spot ever opened up at Taradale. The discoverer was awarded an extended claim of 250 feet square.

The gully has been named Victoria.

The character of the gold is very pure; it is mostly found in lumps of several ounces weight, and unmixed with quartz.

Quartzose drift, which is so commonly found at the bottom of alluvial deposits yielding gold, is almost wanting in this gully. The bed-rock is sandstone, with a non-auriferous quartz vein crossing the southern end of the gully.

Nuggets of the following weights have been found, viz.: 33 oz, 22 oz, 15 oz, 13 oz, 11 oz, and numbers of all sizes below these weights.

An auriferous quartz reef has been discovered a quarter of a mile eastward of, and running parallel to, this Victoria Gully. The rightful ownership to the prospectors' claim is the subject of litigation...

Gold in alluvium has also been struck by the miners in a gully about a mile to the eastward of Victoria Gully ... Puddling Machines - There are four horse puddling machines at work on this field. The Albion Company's steam puddling machine has been removed to a new spot near at hand, and the Taradale Company's steam engine has been taken away altogether from this field.³

August 1860: Taradale to the Eastward - Victoria Gully, which lies a mile east of the township, it seems is nearly worked out, as not above 50 miners are employed there at present.

Two other small gullies have been opened, situate between Victoria Gully and the river, the depth of sinking being from 8 to 15 feet. About 50 men are occupied here...

The reefs lately discovered on this eastern side of the Coliban River, and which I mentioned in my last report, are in four claims, yielding well. The richest vein, which is in the prospectors' claim, is diminishing as it descends, and in no part does it exceed 10 inches in thickness. This reef has been named the Victoria. Its strike bears north and south, it dips to the east at an angle of 22-1/2 degrees from the perpendicular. The other reef, contiguous to the former, has its strike north 73 degrees east, with a considerable dip to the south. This has been named the Ashtonian. Besides these two lodes others have been struck bearing in different directions, leading us to suppose that the main reef (to which these converge) has not yet been reached.⁴

September 1860: Another new spot has been opened up nearer Taradale, about 2-1/2 miles from the township in an easterly direction. The discoverers, who were a party employed by the local prospecting association, have been awarded an extended claim of 250 feet square. The place however has not attracted much notice as yet, there being not more than thirty miners at the spot. Some claims are said to yield 4 dwt of gold from the tub of earth. The

sinking is shallow, not exceeding fifteen feet. With respect to the old ground where mining has been some time pursued, Victoria Gully and the adjoining ones still employ about fifty miners, but nothing remarkable has transpired of late.

The Victoria and Ashtonia Reefs, in five of the claims, give very encouraging prospects to their owners.⁵

November 1860: At the Barfold Ranges there are ten mines being successfully worked, at the Victoria Reefs there are four, at the Humboldt two, at Belltopper Hill three, at Kangaroo Creek three, and at the Malmsbury diggings there is one.⁶

January 1861: An application has been put in for an acre of ground at the mouth of Victoria Gully, part being old worked ground, and other part new surfacing at the side of the gully; the applicants purpose putting up a horse puddling machine to wash the soil ... Quartz Mining - Two new reefs have been struck in that attractive field to quartz miners situate eastward of Taradale. One, named the Bonaria, is half a mile northward of Victoria Reef, the other is half a mile westward of the Victoria, being half way between it and the township, and is known as Danker's Reef...⁷

February 1861: Taradale, eastward - Sluice-washing on the Coliban River, which was stopped by the floods in January, has only been resumed in two instances as yet, but a third party has applied for ground whereon to cut a new race, extending half a mile in length to obtain greater force of water.

The alluvial workings in the gullies have much declined; there are but few tub and cradle workers to be seen ... That very remarkable feature of the Victoria and Ashtonia Reefs - which is that the two lodes bear in directions across each other - is now more fully established... From the Victoria during January, 36-1/2 tons of stone gave 18-3/4 oz of gold.

From the Ashtonia, 13-1/2 tons gave 5-3/4 oz, 1 ton gave 1-1/2 oz, and 110 tons gave 53-1/2 oz of gold...

A crushing of one ton from a new reef named the Musquito yielded 1 oz 6 dwt...

There have been three applications submitted this month for prospectors' privileges of extended claims on new reefs in this vicinity; one is situate a quarter of a mile eastward of the Victoria; a second, a quarter of a mile northward of the same; and a third, half a mile westward of it; making in all eight distinct auriferous veins, discovered within an area of three-quarters of a mile square.

A party has taken up an acre of ground at the mouth of Victoria Gully, part being old worked ground and other part new surfacing. They are constructing a puddling machine to be worked by horse-power.⁸

March 1861: Victoria Field, or Taradale East - The alluvial workings in this vicinity are nearly abandoned, but the development of the quartz reefs seems satisfactorily progressing. From the Victoria Reef the quartz crushed during the month. a total of 153 tons, producing 150 oz of the precious metal.⁹

April 1861: Taradale to the Eastward. - Quartz Workings - Two claims on the Victoria and two on the Ashtonia are yielding good results. The New years Reef promises well, and parties are working energetically on the Prince of Wales's. A new reef is being opened up in this locality farther north of all the other workings. The other quartz mines situate hereabouts are relinquished, though two of them only temporarily, being protected by registration.

A reef, called the Bonaria, was abandoned the other day, although a ton of stone yielded 5 dwt of gold, and that was obtained at a depth not exceeding 8 feet. It was not sufficiently rich to pay the expenses involved in raising, carting, and crushing. Want of capital is the great drawback to the development of our reefs; many of them known to be auriferous are left, because the proprietors have not means to prosecute the search further...

Since the rainy weather has set in three new puddling machines have been set to work. - one at Yankee point, a second at Charcoal-burner's Gully, and a third at Victoria Gully.¹⁰

May 1861: Victoria Gold Field - Very little is doing here in alluvial ground. A horse machine is puddling some surfacing at the mouth of Victoria Gully, the returns from which have been very poor...

Only one claim is being worked on the Victoria Reef, that is the prospectors' claim, and but one on the Ashtonia, one on New Year's Reef, and one on the Prince of Wales's - which sums up only four claims now being worked on ground where, three months ago, twenty claims were held.

I am fully impressed with the conviction that want of capital alone retards the development of these auriferous lodes; their auriferous character is very apparent, but not being sufficiently rich where struck, to pay immediately the expenses incurred, they are soon abandoned.

Two shafts are being sunk on that new reef called the Argyle, which discovery I mentioned in my last report, and which is situate further north than any of those mentioned above, but no crushings have yet taken place...

202-1/2 tons of quartz which were crushed lately at Mr Hollywell's yielded 144 oz 9 dwt of gold. The quartz came from No. 1 claim on Ashtonia Reef.¹¹

April 1861: Since the rainy weather has set in three new puddling machines have been set to work. - one at Yankee point, a second at Charcoal-burner's Gully, and a third at Victoria Gully.¹²

September 1866: The Victoria Reef is also again being worked after having been deserted for over four years. Thus miners are at last devoting their attention to the numerous quartz reefs in this subdivision.¹³

March 1867: The Leviathan, Belltopper, and Victoria Reefs are idle for want of funds to work the mines.¹⁴

June 1888: On the Victoria line, Taradale, some claims are prospecting ¹⁵

Sept 1888: At Victoria Reef, Taradale, a trial crushing has been sent to the battery. ¹⁶

Sept 1888: Report on the Principal Gold-Bearing Reefs of the Taradale Division.

Victoria Reef - The reef is situated Crownlands, in the parish of Metcalfe, near Taradale... The reef has been traced for 140 feet in patches. The main shaft is 160 feet deep, and the water level is at 150 feet. ... The small co-operative party (Julius Thureau and Co.) who worked the mine, abandoned it, as the shoot of auriferous stone was too deep to work profitably without the aid of machinery, which they were unable to procure. ¹⁷

DESCRIPTION & INTERPRETATION:

Site 3A: Victoria Reef Workings (Reef first worked in 1860, last reports of mining are from the 1880s)

Shallow reef workings - Line of poorly defined shallow workings. At the southern end of the workings, near a boundary fence between State Forest and Private Land is a small intact mullock heap. The line of workings continues onto the Private Land No machinery foundations were discovered.

PHOTOS: None taken

ARTEFACTS: None visible

INTEGRITY/CONDITION: Poor

THREATS:

CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE:

The site has poor integrity and little historical importance and hence low cultural significance

Significance ranking: No Significance

CONSERVATION POLICY:

None required

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

None

Assessor: David Bannear

Date: December 1993

- 1 Mining Surveyors' Reports, April 1860
- 2 Mining Surveyors' Reports, June 1860
- 3 Mining Surveyors' Reports, July 1860
- 4 Mining Surveyors' Reports, August 1860
- 5 Mining Surveyors' Reports, September 1860
- 6 Mining Surveyors' Reports, November 1860
- 7 Mining Surveyors' Reports, January 1861
- 8 Mining Surveyors' Reports, February 1861
- 9 Mining Surveyors' Reports, March 1861
- 10 Mining Surveyors' Reports, April 1861
- 11 Mining Surveyors' Reports, May 1861
- 12 Mining Surveyors' Reports, April 1861
- 13 Mining Surveyors' Reports, September 1866
- 14 Mining Surveyors' Reports, March 1867
- 15 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - June 1888
- 16 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Sept 1888
- 17 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Sept 1888 (by Henry Archdale, Mining Surveyor)

SITE NO. & NAME: 4A BURRA BURRA REEF WORKINGS
4B ANNIE LAURIE MINE

LOCATION: COLIBAN RIVER, TARADALE TO MALMSBURY

LOCATION/DIRECTIONS: Site 4A: Malmsbury. The site is located 600 metres northwest from the junction of Raleigh and Malmsbury Post Office Streets, Malmsbury.
Site 4B: 1.9km south-east of Taradale. The site is located south from the second bridge along Pethybridges Road from its junction with Metcalfe Road.

MAP/GRID REFERENCE: Site 4A: Edgecombe 1:25,000- 823.815
Site 4B: Drummond 1:25,000- 659.851

PARCEL NUMBER:

MUNICIPALITY Site 4A - Kyneton
Site 4B - Metcalfe

LAND STATUS: Freehold Land

EXISTING HERITAGE CLASSIFICATION: None

PRESENT MANAGEMENT/USE: Pastoral

HISTORY:

Coliban River - Taradale end

1855: In 1855 new places were opened at Kangaroo Flat in July, along the creek in the Taradale Town Survey, at Charcoal Burners Gully, east of Hughes (Taradale) Reef, and on the south side of the creek opposite the Survey Paddock (a new rush in December 1855) just west of the Coliban.¹

1856: German Gully was opened in April, and Talbot Hill in May. McMillan's Flat and the Brunswick, Ironstone and Talbot Hill leads were rushed in August. Belltopper lead, then called the Ironstone lead, was also discovered at this time and rushed.²

April 1860: Coliban River itself... From its junction with the Campaspe up to the town of Taradale it has been searched nearly through the whole length of its channel for gold, and many a good yield has its pools afforded when emptied during the summer months. One party is said to have taken as much gold out of the one pool as gave a dividend of £800 to each man engaged.

The small alluvial flats along the river's banks in many places, have been wrought out and yielded well, yet no breadth of country on either side has been worked.

Many Chinese and also Europeans, are still busily employed in these flats.³

May 1860: Very little change has taken place in the general aspect of mining operations during the month. The various favorite localities of the lower part of Coliban River, of the Back Creek, the Talbot Hill, and the Reefs, still employ about the average number of miners, that for the last twelve months have contented themselves on these gold fields. It is about a year since the great emigration from these parts to the Amherst district took place.

...a few diggers are persevering at a place called the Milkman's Flat, which is about a mile to the westward of the township of Taradale, and in a part of the country but little tried before... A party that lately was out prospecting in that quarter has discovered a quartz reef, with good indications of its being auriferous. It is situated a short distance from this Milkman's Flat diggings...⁴

June 1860: Numbers of Chinese are busily employed along the creek's banks within the township, also at Yankee Point, half a mile south of the town, and along the banks of the Coliban River, north of Taradale.⁵

July 1860: The Chinese - These are mostly employed along the banks of the Coliban River, to the eastward of Taradale; their common mode of operation there is opening large spaces in shallow sinking, designated paddocks. Some are still engaged in the township and its suburbs, where they usually sink shafts in new ground.⁶

August 1860: A few miners are still busy along the western slope of the Talbot Hill ...

There are two miles of old-worked ground in this valley available for sluicing claims, and, if worked on a large scale, could scarcely fail to be remunerative, as the creek usually affords plenty of water.⁷

November 1860: Three privileges have been taken up this last month for sluice-washing parts of the banks of the Coliban River near Taradale...⁸

September 1860: Taradale Home-field - The workings in the Survey Paddock, also those on the banks of the Coliban, and on the Back Creek, have been greatly retarded by the occurrence of floods, yet many are persevering in

these fields. Other miners are engaged on the western slope of the Talbot Hill, some at the back of the National Hotel, and several in different places within the precincts of the township.⁹

January 1861: A party of twelve miners are making preparations to empty a waterhole in the bed of the Coliban, some six miles northward of Taradale. Having scooped up some of the bottom to test it, they found good indications of richness. The place being private property, they have made arrangements with the proprietors, and obtained permission to work it.¹⁰

March 1861: The most interesting sphere of alluvial mining which obtains in this division is sluicing. There are four parties sluicing successfully in different places along the Coliban River, immediately north of Taradale, and another party is on the Back Creek; two more have taken up positions in a new field situated at Piper's Creek, two miles eastward of Mr Mitchell's station on the Campaspe River.¹¹

April 1861: Two other sluicing privileges are being successfully worked on the Coliban River to the north of Taradale.¹²

May 1861: Taradale Western Goldfield - In the vicinity of the township of Taradale a few miners are busily employed about the Talbot Hill, sinking on private properties. Although the sinking is on high ground, the auriferous drift is found not deeper than 20 feet, and is often much nearer the surface, but is upwards of 100 feet higher in level than the bed of the Back Creek, which is in close proximity.¹³

September 1864: Taradale Park Lead - Operations are going on here as usual, without any increase or diminution, except that one of the two steam engines used for crushing and puddling auriferous earth has been taken away; it is being erected at the Belltopper Reef. This old worked reef is again occupied.

Talbot Hill Lead - Bill's party is the only one that has yet struck gold, and it continues to do well. Five other parties are sinking for this (sub-basaltic) lead.¹⁴

December 1864: At the Park Lead, Taradale, the same extent is being worked, and with the usual good results, and in one claim with a marked improvement, wherein late washings have averaged an ounce per load.

At the Talbot Hill Lead - Bell and party (the prospectors) are getting as good returns as ever, averaging two ounces per load.

A second party on this lead has just struck the auriferous earth.¹⁵

June 1868: Alluvial mining - Nothing new has occurred in the shallow workings here ... except the opening of the Botanical Gardens, and the adjacent ground in the proximity of the Taradale Viaduct.¹⁶

December 1871: Kitchenman's patent amalgamating machine is about to resume work, the freight per rail of tailings being now reduced to 5s per ton, and they can obtain a large quantity from Sandhurst and other places. With numerous improvements, such as a new grinder and a flue running from the furnace to the top of the Railway hill to condense the vapour mercury, the sulphur, and arsenic, thus destroying all obnoxious fumes, they fully expect to be able to put through 40 tons of quartz tailings per week.¹⁷

Dec 1877: The Chinamens' tunnel, in the Police Paddock, is also protected, in consequence of a misunderstanding amongst owners.

The various tunnels in the Railway Hill are being worked, but are yielding poor returns.¹⁸

1879: Extracts from Mount Alexander Mail and other sources re Rose and Shamrock

26/4/1879 - Russell and party have taken up the Police Paddock intending to put in a tunnel on the west side of the viaduct.

4/10/1879 - 3 tunnels being put in north and south of viaduct. Rose and Shamrock (Russell and party) are in close on 430 ft ... Brood and Co are in 400 ft on wash and making wages ... Further north in Urquhart's paddock is the Last Chance. They are in 380 feet and expect to drive 320 ft more before reaching the gutter.

13/4/1881 - Rose and Shamrock tunnel is in 1,000 ft and expect to be in alluvial wash soon, which is the Park Lead.¹⁹

March 1882: The Rose and Shamrock and Ham's party by tunnelling are making fair wages. ; Brown and party, at Well's paddock, are still driving for Bell's lead; and Bellott and party are preparing for taking out wash dirt.²⁰

Dec 1882: The Rose and Shamrock, Ham's, and other co-operative parties are obtaining above usual wages.²¹

Sept 1886: In shallow workings and tunnels very poor returns are made, except in a few instances on the banks of the River Coliban.²²

April 1892: Newly discovered Annie Lawry Reef at Taradale ... Messrs Lawry and Moir are taking out a crushing which, owing to its highly mineralised character, they intend taking to Mr. Oswald's Mills, Maldon, for treatment.²³

May 1892: The trial crushing of 6 tons from the newly-discovered Annie Laurie line of reef at Taradale gave the return of 26 oz. 11dwt. of smelted gold, or 3 oz. 8-1/2dwt per ton ... The prospectors picked out in specimens about 39 oz., which they dollied.²⁴

1907: In the Annie Laurie Gold Mining Co's mine a very favourable development was met with during the year in a saddle reef on which prospecting work had been carried out for some time from an inclined tunnel ... average of 4 men employed²⁵

1908: The Annie Laurie Co. commenced the year well; but yielded so poorly towards the end of the year as to cause operations to be suspended.²⁶

Nov 1908: Annie Laurie Mine - mine is situated about 1-1/4 miles in a south-easterly direction from the Taradale Railway Station, and on the west bank of the Coliban River ... From the south face of a slope a tunnel has been driven and at 134 feet in the saddle reef is cut which showed on the surface above the tunnel mouth on the slope. From the end of the tunnel a winze has been sunk on the east leg, which is 4ft thick and another winze is sunk upon the pitch of the saddle ... small whip shaft sunk from the top of the hill.. There is a 5 head battery etc. driven by steam.²⁷

Coliban River - Malmsbury end

25 April 1863: Burra Burra Reef - The stone from this claim (Messrs French) is expected to go from 7 to 10 ozs. to the ton.²⁸

22 July 1863: Burra Burra Reef - The immense hill overhanging the Coliban bend below the bridge is looked upon as containing a vast amount of gold, to get at which additional tunnels and shafts are being proceeded with. It is into this hill the Burra Burra Reef is dipping. Another Co. the Great Extended has been formed to work an extension of this hill.²⁹

July 1863: Some very rich quartz has lately been raised and crushed from the prospectors' claim on the Burra-burra.³⁰

June 1871: The Burra Burra claim is again at work, and likely to be well tried..³¹

December 1871: The Burra-Burra Quartz Gold Mining Company have lately struck very good stone at about 40 feet deep.³²

DESCRIPTION & INTERPRETATION:

Description of Site 4A (Burra Reef workings. Main period of working was 1860s/70s)

Reef workings - Area heavily overgrown with gorse and high grass. No machinery footings visible, just some small mullock dumps. Workings visible on both sides of the Coliban River.

Description of Site 4B (Annie Laurie Co which worked from c. 1892 to 1908)

Battery - Concrete engine bed measuring 4.4m x 1.10m, standing 80cm. The bed has 1 inch mounting bolts. Running parallel to this bed is a second, much narrower concrete footing (75cm x 50cm). In front of the concrete footings, slightly to the north, are three decaying stamper blocks (5-head battery).

Mining machinery - Above the battery, 25m to the northwest, is a small intact mullock heap. On the north side of the mullock are some concrete winding engine footings. The concrete footings are in poor condition and are mainly obscured by thick gorse bushes. The shaft is also obscured by gorse.

Blacksmith's forge - On the south side of the mullock heap is a stone blacksmith's forge.

Adit - 200m north of the battery is a collapsed adit which is associated with an intact mullock heap.

PHOTOS:

1. Site 4B - Battery
2. Site 4B - Battery and mullock heap
3. Site 4B - Winding engine footings.

ARTEFACTS:

None visible

INTEGRITY/CONDITION:

Concrete foundations are in poor condition but the mine still retains a range of features that illustrate what took place on the site.

THREATS:

CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE:

Site 4A has little integrity or historical importance- low cultural significance.

Site 4B has:

Scientific significance, because of the survival of a range of features which help demonstrate the operation of a small scale quartz mine.

Significance ranking:	Site 4A	No Significance
	Site 4B	Local Significance

CONSERVATION POLICY:

None required

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

None

Assessor: David Bannear

Date: December 1993

- 1 The History of Gold Discovery in Victoria, James Flett, p 203
- 2 The History of Gold Discovery in Victoria, James Flett, p 203
- 3 Mining Surveyors' Reports, April 1860
- 4 Mining Surveyors' Reports, May 1860
- 5 Mining Surveyors' Reports, June 1860
- 6 Mining Surveyors' Reports, July 1860
- 7 Mining Surveyors' Reports, August 1860
- 8 Mining Surveyors' Reports, November 1860
- 9 Mining Surveyors' Reports, September 1860
- 10 Mining Surveyors' Reports, January 1861
- 11 Mining Surveyors' Reports, March 1861
- 12 Mining Surveyors' Reports, April 1861
- 13 Mining Surveyors' Reports, May 1861
- 14 Mining Surveyors' Reports, September 1864
- 15 Mining Surveyors' Reports, December 1864
- 16 Mining Surveyors' Reports, June 1868
- 17 Mining Surveyors' Reports, December 1871
- 18 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Dec 1877
- 19 Taradale Mines - extracts from Mount Alexander Mail and other sources
- 20 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - March 1882
- 21 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Dec 1882
- 22 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Sept 1886
- 23 Mount Alexander Mail, 11/4/1892
- 24 Mount Alexander Mail, 9/5/1892
- 25 Mines Department Annual Report, 1907
- 26 Mines Department Annual Report, 1908
- 27 Taradale Mines - Extracts from Mount Alexander Mail and other sources, MAM 14/11/1908
- 28 Taradale Mines - extracts from Mount Alexander Mail and other sources
- 29 Taradale Mines - extracts from Mount Alexander Mail and other sources
- 30 Mining Surveyors' Reports, July 1863
- 31 Mining Surveyors' Reports, June 1871
- 32 Mining Surveyors' Reports, December 1871

SITE NO. & NAME : 5A NORTH PHOENIX CO.
 5B MESSRS DORMAN AND PICKEN'S BATTERY (PHOENIX
 CO.)
 5C COMET CO.

LOCATION : TARADALE NORTH

LOCATION/DIRECTIONS: Site 5A: 1.2km north of Taradale. The site is located 250m southeast of the junction of Calder Highway and Back Road.
 Site 5B: Located 150m north from the junction of Davy Street and Calder Highway, Taradale.
 Site 5C: Located 675m along Old Drummond Road from its junction with Calder Highway, Taradale. Mullock heap cut by road.

MAP/GRID REFERENCE: Site 5A: Drummond 1:25,000 - 641.873
 Site 5B: Drummond 1:25,000 - 642.866
 Site 5C: Drummond 1:25,000 - 966.416

PARCEL NUMBER: Site 5B - P131134

MUNICIPALITY Shire of Metcalfe

LAND STATUS: Sites 5A and 5C - Freehold Land
 Site 5B - Unreserved Crown Land. Battery reputedly purchased by the City of Castlemaine

EXISTING HERITAGE CLASSIFICATION: None

PRESENT MANAGEMENT/USE: Site 5B is looked after by the Taradale Historical Society.

HISTORY:

March 1855: [Information supplied by Mr. Russell, one of the original claimholders]... In March 1855 the first ton of quartz taken from the No 4 claim (Old Hughes or Archilles Reef) was crushed the yield being 33 ozs. of gold. This yield gave so much satisfaction that no further stone was crushed until a battery was erected at Taradale, where we crushed 20 tons from the eastern side of the lode which gave the handsome return of 37 ozs per ton. The next crushing of 15 tons was taken from the western reef and this gave the grand return of 84 ozs, being the highest average obtained from this claim. At this period heavy rains set in swamping the reef and washing away all landmarks and pegs of claim holders, causing a great deal of trouble and annoyance through parties trying to better themselves by shifting the boundary pegs.

Messrs W. Clarke and Co. (Melbourne gold brokers), at a later date, bought up all the line of reef and formed it into the Phoenix Co., the claimholders having the option of either shares or cash for their claims. This claim paid the shareholders some handsome dividends and for some time the richest stone being that from Llewellyn's small claim which had only been partially worked.

After a time, through some cause or other best known to the management, the Co. got into difficulties and was remodelled into the Archilles Co., which Co., after spending something like £30,000 of the shareholders money with only very slight dividends, determined to let the mine on tribute.

Myself and several others decided to take the tribute at the high percentage of 25% on the gross yield of gold with the distinct understanding that the Co's manager was to supervise and see that the mine was properly worked which supervision let the tribute party into some £1300 of debts and 13 months waste of their time developing the mine for the benefit of the Archilles Co. The tributers feeling disheartened at their loss of time and money, held a meeting and decided to change their underground manager, which was done, the management being given to one of their own party who knew the reef and runs of gold therein... soon struck a rich run of gold and one weeks crushing cleared the tribute of debt and gave the Co's shareholders a dividend. Upon the run of gold the tributers continued to work till the end of their lease, with satisfaction to themselves and to the shareholders, although labouring under the great disadvantage of having to be continually repairing and putting in new plant at their own expense, the Archilles Co. doing nothing but receiving their 25%.

The Co. declined to renew the tribute wanting to get into the reef again with their own hands and after spending a lot of money suspended operations.¹

c.1855: The Quartz Block has been taken up by three parties and will be thoroughly prospected. I am told that some 15 years back (1855) a shaft was sunk right through the reef which was in the centre of Back Creek by W. Clarke and Sons; also that the quartz yielded 1-1/2 ozs to the ton, but that the reef was abandoned on account of the water.²

June 1858: A new steam engine is being erected on Hughes Reef. Arrangements are being made to make it haul up the blocks of quartz from a depth of 150 feet and convey the rich portion to the stampers and rollers and thence to the amalgamation. The machinery is first rate and not to be surpassed in the Colony.³

June 1858: The Phoenix Quartz Crushing Co. will soon be in active operation. Water is fairly heavy but prospects very bright..⁴

August 1859: Prince Albert Quartz Crushing Co. has arisen from the ashes to the Phoenix Company and with a capital of £10,000 invite the old shareholders to join up. Mining has been a bit more brisk lately.⁵

April 1860: (Thomas Turner, Mining Surveyor) ... Immediately north from the township of Taradale there is a rock quartz reef, known formerly as Hughes' Reef, which has been worked for gold for the last five years. At present it is the property of the Prince Albert Company, who have extensive buildings, with machinery erected. They have a 12 horse-power engine driving a battery of eight wet stampers, and a pair of Chilian wheels. The shaft is now 220 feet deep, and the quartz vein 26 feet thick. On account of the works having changed hands, the machinery lay idle for several months, and having only lately been resumed, the crushings have been refuse stuff..⁶

January 1861: The Prince of Wales Company, who are the proprietors of the mine on Hughes's Reef, situate immediately north of the township of Taradale, and whose works have been idle for the last two months, have applied for a lease of seven acres of the ground upon which their works stand, purposing to resume the operations with increased appliances.

Further research in this quarter will be very interesting, as Hughes's Reef is the largest yet opened up in this division of the gold field. Formerly it was very productive, yielding once as high a rate as 40 oz per ton of picked stone, but lately it has only given about 7 dwt; the lode increased in thickness as the workmen descended, and now measures twenty-six feet at a depth of 220.⁷

September 1866: The Achilles has not been able to obtain stone, as they were swamped by a flood in winter; they have almost got the water down.⁸

March 1867: The Achilles Company, who have been contending with the water, and pumping almost night and day for about nine months, have at last conquered their difficulties, and are now working at a level of 250 feet deep, with good gold-bearing stone 4 feet wide, from whence they are likely to obtain an abundance of quartz.

The Prince Albert Reef continues to improve; they have got up a large quantity of good stone ready for crushing.⁹

June 1867: The Archilles have suspended their works for a while in order that they may call up a little more of their capital and pay of the liabilities of the company. Their new shaft is sunk to a depth of 142 feet, and they intend to sink 100 feet deeper, as the reef improves in richness the lower they get.

The Prince Albert Reef is now attracting great attention, and claims are being taken up on this reef, southward especially. The prospectors' claim has changed hands; the new proprietors have purchased a steam engine with stampers, which they are now erecting on the claim, whereby they will save the excessive expense of carriage over bad bush road, a distance of nearly 2 miles.¹⁰

Sept 1867: In quartz reefing but little has been done here this quarter, except by the Prince Albert Co. They have just erected an engine with 8 stampers on their claim, and are crushing all the stone they obtain. Much of this would not pay for carting 3 miles to crush, yields good returns when cheaply crushed by their own engine on the spot. They are now raising stone giving 2 ozs. per ton. A reef east of the Coliban, called the Prince Alfred, promises to be payable. Reynolds and party are sinking a new shaft.¹¹

March 1868: The Archilles have completed their new shaft, and are taking out stone from a depth of 250 feet ... The Prince Albert Co. have put in a long drive northwards..¹²

June 1868: The Archilles Company are still sinking their shaft deeper, so that water may be discharged from the workings into the well-hole ... The lack of application of scientific skill in working this mine in former years has entailed numerous difficulties and an unnecessary outlay of a large amount of capital.¹³

December 1868: Quartz reefing in this subdivision has not been carried on with much spirit ... The Archilles, Belltopper, Victoria, and the Prince Albert Companies have suspended operations, although all good gold-bearing reefs..¹⁴

March 1869: Operations are still continued at the Central (the claim recently taken up by Mr Kitto), and the miners generally are sanguine of their success.

In quartz reefing very little has been done this quarter. The Achilles, Victoria, Belltopper, Charcoal Gully, and the Alpha are still idle.¹⁵

1869/1879 : Extracts from the Mount Alexander mail and other sources re Ballarat and Taradale Quartz Co (Hughes/Archilles Reef at Taradale)

25/8/1869:- Site selected for a shaft. The first sod was turned by Mr. John Garden of Taradale. The claim worked by this gentleman 13 years ago and which is included in the boundary of this company's lease yielded 3 ozs. to 30 ozs. per ton with a reef 13 ft wide. The reef when last worked gave 3 ozs. per ton but did not pay. Carting and crushing alone cost £12 per ton.

8/12/1869 - Shaft down 139 ft. Water not increased

19/1/1870 - Still striking quartz in the shaft ...work has been suspended on account of heavy water. Tenders for machinery called.

9/4/1870 - progressing with machinery. The prospects that they have is promising, their claim being situated a little more than 1000 yards in a northerly line from the Beehive and joining the Archilles

5/10/1870 - On the other side of Taradale (from the United Kingdom) directly north of the Archilles is the Ballarat and Taradale Co. in search of Hughes Reef. They found it at 140 ft. The lode was about 2ft thick.¹⁶

1870 - late 1874: Extracts from Mount Alexander Mail and other sources re Adventure Gold Mining Co.

5/10/1870 - A claim at Back Creek near the western boundary of the township (of Taradale) has produced stone that will give good yields. It is called the Adventure and is believed to be a continuation of the Archilles Reef.

22/4/1871 - The company is down 70 feet but will not open out until they have reached a depth of 90 to 100 ft, when they expect to strike the reef a short distance from the shaft.

6/11/1871 - Operations were commenced ... The shaft has been raised and backed up. Derricks have been erected and as soon as some iron wheels are to land will commence baling the shaft

11/3/1872 - The quartz from this claim carries a lot of pyrites. The directors have had 35 tons burnt and put through the battery for 46 oz. of gold. Crushed 115 tons of raw material for 64 ozs. It is intended in the future to burn all quartz.

7/1/1873 - A kiln of 50 tons was fired this morning and will be crushed afterwards.

27/1/1874 - Shaft is now 304 feet deep

28/1/1874 - directors resolved to sink the shaft a further depth of 60 ft, this has been done and also timbered at the bottom. In carrying out the work a great amount of difficulty arose from bad air, to overcome this obstacle 4 inch pipes were put down the shaft...

21/1/1874 - Directors resolved to suspend mining operations in consequence of the large amount of liabilities ... All the dead work is now done and ready for opening out, and a small expenditure will be sufficient.

20/6/1874 - Good stone in south drive at 300 ft level ... This should make shareholders pay calls.¹⁷

June 1870: The quartz reefs in the immediate vicinity of Taradale also are looking well, and yielding satisfactory results.

Messrs Pearson and Co., holders of the Achilles Claim (formerly Hughes' Old Reef), are sinking a new shaft about 150 feet south-east of the main shaft, and have struck the reef 15 feet from the surface, 12 inches wide, and making wider as they go deeper.

The Taradale and Ballarat Company's shaft is 151 feet deep. They have opened their main level at 143 feet, and are driving to the west in hard sandstone and slate. In driving, they meet with numerous small quartz leaders. They have erected a 14 horse-power engine for winding and pumping...

In addition to the Achilles crushing machine, a party is erecting an engine and small battery to crush for the public; but even this power, when available, will be utterly insufficient to meet the present demand, inasmuch as there is at the present time in Taradale over 1,000 tons of quartz ready to be crushed; and from the reef lately discovered, and the ease with which the stone can be obtained, it is not at all improbable that for some time there will be from 1,000 to 1,500 tons raised weekly, whilst the capability of the machines already named is only equal to about half that quantity.¹⁸

Nov 1871: Hughes or Archilles Reef - For some years no work was done on the mine except by tribute companies, who tried it from time to time but the proprietors kept up their rent payments and so held possession. Recently a public Company "The Rothchild" has been formed to work the mine and it is hoped they will succeed.¹⁹

Oct 1871: We are glad to hear that the well known Hughes' Reef (Achilles) is again likely to be worked. The mine has fallen into the hands of a proprietary who intend doing justice to the mine. The name chosen is the Rothchild Gold Mining Co.²⁰

December 1871: The Adventure Quartz Gold Mining Company have put in a drive north from their shaft, and got stone which report says, 'looks brilliant' ...

Kitchenman's patent amalgamating machine is about to resume work, the freight per rail of tailings being now reduced to 5s per ton, and they can obtain a large quantity from Sandhurst and other places. With numerous improvements, such as a new grinder and a flue running from the furnace to the top of the Railway hill to condense the vapour mercury, the sulphur, and arsenic, thus destroying all obnoxious fumes, they fully expect to be able to put through 40 tons of quartz tailings per week.²¹

December 1871: The Metcalf Extended Quartz Gold Mining Company are still sinking in hard rock, amid much water, and consequently make slow progress; their shaft is 50 feet deep.²²

June 1872: The Adventure claim is still yielding good looking stone, which has been stacked and burned during the last 2 months; the company are about commencing to crush at the Devonshire battery. The stone is obtained from the 130-ft level..

The Metcalfe Extended Co. are sinking in hard rock on the Prince Albert Reef; their shaft is now down 103 feet. Alluvial - The Great Success are sinking a new shaft.²³

Sept 1872: The Metcalfe Extended Co., east of the Coliban, are persevering, and driving for the old Prince Albert Reef at 160-ft level.

The Adventure claim at Taradale is suspended during the erection of an engine; the prospects of this claim is very cheering, and if the claim be properly managed, it will greatly advance the mining interests in this locality, by causing other claims on the same line of reef to be taken up.²⁴

Oct 1872: We are informed that there is a possibility of an amalgamation between the Devonshire (Taradale) and the Rothchild (late Archilles) Gold Mining Co. The plant of the Devonshire to be removed to the Rothchild claim.²⁵

Dec 1872: The Adventure Quartz claim in the township of Taradale is now in full operation, with fair prospects, having a good winding, pumping and crushing engine, and good stone.²⁶

March 1873: The Adventure Co., Taradale, have been sinking their shaft deeper. The Metcalfe Extended, formerly the Prince Alfred Reef, have only recently ceased sinking and are now erecting a crushing plant.²⁷

June 1873: The Metcalfe Extended claim is looking well, and has exceeded the expectations of the shareholders. The Adventure continues remunerative, and in some districts the results of the yield of this claim would cause the investment of very large capital, and tend to open up the goldfield.²⁸

Dec 1873: The Adventure Co. have struck their shaft 294 feet deep, and are on stone highly charged with mundic, but are greatly obstructed by foul air.

The Metcalfe Extended are borrowing a further sum of money to prospect their drive.²⁹

August 1874 - 1879 : Extracts from Mount Alexander Mail re Comet Co (late Adventure Co)

31/8/1874 - The new Comet Co. is getting out a crushing this week to test the value of the new reef discovered there

10/5/1875 - The Comet Co. found their western reef, does not carry stone at the 190 ft level ... have determined to sink the main shaft from its present depth of 300 ft.

16/8/1875 - Have commenced sinking the winze from the 330 ft level to 350 ft, so as to obtain a current of air, and will crush the stone taken out.

13/12/1875 - The company continues to drive north at the 300 ft level.

14/10/1876 Comet Gold Mining Tribute Co. - This week will make very effort to drain the mine to the 350 ft level

16/7/1879 - Mr. Hannibal Rowe has purchased the plant of the Comet Co.

March 1875: Another effort is being made to float the Adventure on the Back Creek, west of the township of Taradale; it was formerly known as the Sailor's Reef, then the Adventure; it is now called the Comet (probably Comet). The shaft is 330 feet deep, and there is a good winding and crushing plant on the claim.³⁰

June 1875: The Comet Co. discovered the reef 5 ft thick, at 300 ft depth, showing gold; they are still sinking their shaft, which is now 305 ft deep.³¹

Sept 1875: The deepest quartz claim if the Comet being 305 ft.³²

1876: Extracts from Mount Alexander Mail re Hughes/Archilles Reef - mined by Victoria Co. from 1876 to c. 1878

21/8/1876 - Messrs Dumore and Bolding have taken up the lease of the ground formerly worked by the Archilles Co.

13/11/1876 - Victoria Co. have men at work, clearing out the old winding shaft. Tenders for machinery are to be taken by Wednesday next.

18/12/1876 - Victoria Co. have purchased the plant of the Great Southern Co., Maldon and will have same removed and re-erected on claim at once.

19/2/1877 - The Victoria Co. have most of their machinery on the ground and are proceeding with the erection of the engine, boiler, stack etc.

18/2/1878 - All work has stopped in the mine pending the erection of a battery which the company has decided to procure

20/5/1878 - The contractors for removing and re-erecting the Victoria battery have placed the same on the ground and are now digging out the foundations. In a week or two we expect to hear stampers going. 4/11/1878 - The Victoria Company is still engaged in driving along the reef to the north ... There is a good quantity of stone to be worked ... the tributaries feel confident of being able to soon show a good take of gold.³³

June 1878: The Comet, the Leviathan, and the McAllister have each suspended operations for a time.³⁴

March 1879: The tributaries at Trafalgar, Victoria, and Comet mines have given up; the claims are at present idle.³⁵

Sept 1888: Report on the Principal Gold-Bearing Reefs of the Taradale Division ... Archilles Reef - The greatest depth to which the reef has been traced is 260 feet. The depth of the shaft is 234 feet, but it is continued along the strike of the reef southerly to a depth of 260 feet ... The reef was abandoned on account of the impossibility of working profitably a very wet mine, and having to contend with the water in the underlay.³⁶

June 1877: The Victorian Quartz Mining Co. (formerly Hughes' Reef) have erected good machinery, and cleaned out and repaired the old shaft to a depth of 350 ft. They are now exploring the old workings...

The Leviathan Co's claim have commenced crushing stone that will pay, though the owner refuses to state the returns, for private reasons.³⁷

June 1877: The Victorian Quartz Mining Co. (formerly Hughes' Reef) have erected good machinery, and cleaned out and repaired the old shaft to a depth of 350 ft. They are now exploring the old workings...

The Leviathan Co's claim have commenced crushing stone that will pay, though the owner refuses to state the returns, for private reasons.³⁸

March 1878: The Victoria claim is to be worked on tribute.³⁹

June 1878: The Victoria Company (who hold the Archilles Reef, or as it was formerly called, Hughes Reef, of great celebrity) have not raised any stone during the quarter. They have just completed the erection of a crushing plant, and are about letting the claim on tribute.

The Comet, the Leviathan, and the McAllister have each suspended operations for a time.⁴⁰

Sept 1878: The Victoria Company are taking out stone and crushing.⁴¹

Dec 1878: The Victoria and Comet tribute party have done very little during the past quarter; it is expected they will stop in a few weeks hence.⁴²

March 1879: The tributers at Trafalgar, Victoria, and Comet mines have given up; the claims are at present idle.⁴³

1881: Extracts from Mount Alexander Mail and other sources

1/10/1881 - The Achilles (late Victoria) is about to have another trial.

15/10/1881 - The Achilles is applying to the Shire Council for permission to mine on and under some of the streets leading from High Street to what is known as the Quartz Block. Work will commence in sinking a shaft at the junction of Davey and High Street North immediately permission is given.⁴⁴

Sept 1889: At Taradale the old Archilles and United Kingdom claims have been taken up, and shortly will be opened out, and a large number of men put on.⁴⁵

1889 to 1891: Extracts from Mount Alexander Mail re Plutus Co (Hughes/Archilles Reef)

1/7/1889 - A Melbourne party represented by Mr. G.G. Woinarski have purchased the lease of the Archilles quartz mine from Messrs Lawry, Hadwin and party... I am informed that the new proprietors propose sinking a new shaft to 600 feet.

30/9/1889 - The Hon. P. Wallace marked out a site for the shaft and operations are shortly to be commenced. The mine is not to go on the market but will be worked by a private venture. The party hold a lease of about 70 acres on the Archilles line of reef.

24/3/1890 - Crushing plant now arrived

20/8/1890 - Plutus Co's shaft sunk to 312 feet, being closely timbered throughout... The shaft is now 60 ft. deeper than any of the old workings, the greatest depth attained by the Old Archilles and the Victoria Co. being from 240 to 250 feet so that the present company is in maiden country.

18/10/1890 - Work has been suspended in the mine owing to bad air, but has again been resumed. The shaft is now down 340 ft.

15/11/1890 - Shaft down 380 feet... the Plutus Co have secured 56 acres near the site of the old Comet and intend to start operations shortly under the name of Scottish Chief Gold Mining Co.

24/10/1891 - After expenditure of upwards of £10,000, the Plutus Co. have suspended operations. The men are trying to get the mine on tribute. Mr. Wislon will put their case before the directors in Melbourne.⁴⁶

Sept 1889: The district is without doubt a quartz mining district, considering the almost fabulous results that have been obtained at the Old Achilles, Fenton's Reef, United Kingdom, North O'Connor's, Queen's Birthday, and Russell's reef South.⁴⁷

Dec 1889: Through the discovery of deep ground by diamond drill, and the discovery of new auriferous ground near to Taradale town, the number of miners employed is increasing. The increase in yield of gold over last quarter is 1,501 oz. ... New ventures starting viz:- The Plutus, Scottish Chief, and two others at Taradale.⁴⁸

Feb 1891: Plutus Co., Taradale... The ripple tables (supplied by Thompsons Castlemaine Foundry) are in position... The crushing plant may now be regarded as ready for work.⁴⁹

March 1891: Payable quartz has been discovered on what is apparently the same line of reef as that struck by the Plutus Company, and prospecting work is being carried out by several companies.⁵⁰

April 1891: The nine tons of stone from the Olga Claim crushed at the Plutus battery yielded payable gold.⁵¹

May 1892/Jan 1893 - : Extracts from Mount Alexander Mail and other sources - refloating and working of Archilles Co (late Plutus)

30/5/1892 - Mr. B Spargo is making an effort to refloat the Plutus mine under its original name "The Archilles".
 30/7/1892 - The Archilles (late Plutus) about to commence operations
 20/8/1892 - All water pumped out of the Archilles Reef. Have fixed 300 ft. of ladders in the shaft and are cleaning out below.
 10/9/1892 - Have crushed. Results not known, bad air is giving trouble
 20/12/1892 - Water heavy, every indications of nearing stone. Have let portion of mine on tribute.
 20/1/1893 - Extended crosscut 22ft west, total 42 ft.⁵²

1894 Extracts from Mount Alexander Mail and other sources re New Plutus Gold Mining Co.
 29/10/1894 The Plutus lease and plant are under offer to an English Company, on whose behalf two mining experts visited the property last week. The Plutus is the property of Mr. J Wallace M.L.C. and the plant, which is one of the best in the colony, has been idle since the underground works were discontinued about 18 months ago.
 4/3/1895 - New Plutus - Took charge of the mine and plant on Monday and hoped to commence baling operations
 18/3/1895 - The hope of Taradale in the mining world, the Plutus, is being slowly cleaned of its accumulated water.
 15/4/1895 - The mine was inspected by Mr. Chancellor (the Queensland representative of the London shareholders and Mr. Spargo (the Victorian representative) of the London and Liverpool syndicate.
 1896 [Press reports show that the New Plutus mined (mainly by driving or opening out, not sinking) without much success through 1896.]⁵³

1896 - 1899: Extracts from Mount Alexander Mail and other sources re New Plutus Consolidated
 1896: The property is now owned by the Sam's Wealth Mines Development Co., London Mr. Venning being now the only representative in the Colony.
 1897: After years of indomitable perseverance and an expenditure of not less than £20,000 a nicely laminated reef, carrying mundic and payable gold, has been cut at the deepest level (400 ft) of the Plutus, 300 ft south of the engine shaft.
 13/8/1898 - Mining at Taradale has been in a very depressed condition, and work, we are informed, will soon be recommenced at the (Plutus) mine. What is required to successfully develop the mine is deepening considerably before opening out.
 12/1/1899 - Have just announced the intention of disposing of their plant and leases by tender, when they struck a rich make of stone in the winze below the bottom level. The stone was estimated at 2-3 ozs. per ton, and the full width of the reef is not known. There can be no doubt that if the company persevered in shaft sinking, and opening up the lower levels, they would be well repaid for their expenditure, for which however, they can hardly expect any return from the shallow ground.⁵⁴

1898 to 1950: Survey of information on Government batteries obtained from the Department of Mines Annual Reports. [This information suggests that the Taradale battery was never operated as a government facility]
 The first government battery was erected in 1897. The number of state operated batteries appears to have peaked by early 1930s when there were thirty three batteries - 29 under departmental and four under Trust control - erected to treat ore for prospecting. These batteries were located at Amherst, Avoca, Blakeville, Chewton (removed from Amphitheatre), Chiltern, Clydesdale, Corindhap, Creswick, Dunolly, Egerton, Glen Wills, Grant, Granya, Inglewood, Jamieson, Koetong, Lauriston, Maldon, Maryborough, Moonambel, Rutherglen, Sandy Creek (via Huon), Stawell, Steiglitz, Sunnyside, Talbot, Tarnagulla, Waanyarra, Walhalla, Warrandyte, Wedderburn, Wangan River, and Wombat).⁵⁵

1902 Extracts from Mount Alexander Mail and other sources re Archilles Syndicate
 29/4/1902: A company known as the Archilles Syndicate has been formed to develop the mining lease known as the Quartz Block a continuation of the well known Plutus reef. The block is situated close to the police station
 4/6/1902 - Last week the Archilles Reef Co. put a crushing from the reef known as the Quartz Blocks on the southern boundary of their lease, through the McAllister battery. The result was not satisfactory
 3/3/1903 - Operations have been suspended.⁵⁶

April 1907: Mr. J.B. Shepherdson, the veteran mining promoter, has been successful in the floatation of a new company known as the Premier Operations and Development Company, No Liability. The company in which all shares are colonially held has been formed for the purpose of working and developing at greater depth the Plutus lease at Taradale. All arrangements have been completed and work will be commenced on the lease almost immediately.⁵⁷

c.1912: Survey, Township of Taradale, Parish of Elphinstone, County of Talbot. Area 1 acre. 0 roods. 6 perches - Beer Brothers Mine.
 The survey shows: Battery (B.H. Beer) - Iron building, and a brick stack near the south-west corner of the shed, and road to battery; and to the east of the battery shed, track leading to Beer Bros. mine - water hole, poppet legs, Plutus shaft, and mullock heap.⁵⁸

July 1937: Victoria May Queen, Taradale - Driving, stoping and prospecting above the 125-ft intermediate level of the old Phoenix shaft.⁵⁹

Jan 1938: Victoria May Queen, Taradale (mine manager P. McKenna)
 Carrying out prospecting work and crushing from stopes in prospecting drives for returns of 5 to 11 dwts.

No 5 prospecting shaft has been cleaned and timbered
No. 4 shaft - south and north drive connected
Winze sunk below the 153 feet level at the main Phoenix shaft has reached 35 and 24 feet. At the North Phoenix shaft a crosscut west at 58 feet struck the west wall...⁶⁰

July 1938: Quartz Blocks, Taradale - The main shaft has been deepened to 178 feet and a plat cut at 165 feet...
Victoria May Queen, Taradale - ceased operations.⁶¹

Jan 1939: Quartz Blocks, Taradale (mine manager, C. Neiwand) - Carrying on developmental work at the 165-ft level. A level is being driven to connect with the south shaft working for better ventilation; this will also prospect a reef known to exist here.⁶²

July 1938: Victoria May Queen, Taradale - ceased operations.⁶³

July 1939: Phoenix, Taradale (mine manager, L. Picken)
A saddle reef formation is being worked by Messrs Dorman and Picken at a depth of from 50 to 60 feet. Equipment includes a compact ten-head mill complete with amalgamation and concentrating tables and cyanide plant.⁶⁴

1941: Taradale Division - Phoenix Gold Mine, 80 tons for 49 oz. (300 tons for 143 oz.)⁶⁵

March 1942: Phoenix, Taradale (mine owner and manager, L. Picken) - From reef workings at a depth of 80 feet 100 tons of stone have been extracted and will be crushed shortly.⁶⁶

1946: Prospecting work commenced at the North Phoenix mine, Taradale.⁶⁷

March 1947: Work resumed underground at the North Phoenix mine, Taradale. Mine manager L. Picken. Work has been resumed underground, and the 75 ft level is being cleaned up prior to stoping the east side of the saddle. Crushing has not yet been resumed.⁶⁸

June 1947: North Phoenix (mine manager L. Picken) - The breaking of ore on the eastern side of the saddle has been continued during the period. The ore is being stacked at grass until road repairs are effected, when it will be carted to the battery. At about 120 feet from the shaft the reef has pitched underfoot to the north, and working conditions have become more difficult.⁶⁹

1948: Taradale Division - J. Bennie and Son, Lauriston, 30 tons for 19 oz; North Phoenix (Messrs Dorman and Picken), Taradale, 100 tons for 86 oz. (480 tons for 342 oz.).⁷⁰

March 1948: North Phoenix - Development work was continued on the saddle reef pitching north at the 75-ft level.⁷¹

Sept 1948: Work comprised the prospecting and development of the saddle reef... 100 tons yielded 86 oz.⁷²

March 1949: North Phoenix - Operations confined to prospecting the eastern leg of the saddle reef at the 85-ft level.⁷³

1950: Phoenix, Taradale 175 tons for 168 oz.⁷⁴

March 1951: Phoenix (mine manager L. Binns) - Operations were commenced during the period and returns submitted disclose that 175 tons were crushed for a return of 168 oz. of gold. Operations ceased at latter end of this period.⁷⁵

1954: At the Phoenix gold mine operations have been carried out by a party on a saddle reef formation to a point 196 feet north of a prospecting shaft. A trial crushing of 40 tons yielded 77 oz. of gold. A new three compartment shaft was started 270 feet north of the old shaft.⁷⁶

Sept 1954/March 1955: Phoenix (mine manager V. Hooper) This mine which has been idle for some time has recently been re-opened. By driving on the western leg of a saddle formation approx. 40 tons of ore was broken, which yielded 77 oz. Because of the pitch of the reef and the difficulty of working the lode from the old shaft work has been started on a new three-compartment timbered shaft.⁷⁷

Sept 1955: North Phoenix (mine manager V. Hooper) The sinking of the new shaft was completed, and haulage and air compressor plant installed. Small tonnages were treated from the north and south levels on the eastern side of the formation at a depth of approximately 160 feet. These crushings were payable. A yield of 143 fine oz. of gold was recorded.⁷⁸

1956: North Phoenix (mine manager V. Hooper) New items of plant, including a new head frame and a larger crushing plant were installed. Underground operations were confined to driving and stoping the legs on the small

saddle reef. Yields were payable but towards the close of the year there was a marked falling off in values. A return of 668 fine oz. of gold was obtained during the year from 868 tons of ore.⁷⁹

Jan 1956/June 1957: North Phoenix (mine manager V. Hooper) The inclined winze was extended on the eastern leg of the saddle reef. Ore of satisfactory grade was extracted in limited quantities from the stopes above the 160-ft level before operations were terminated towards the end of the first half of 1956. For this period the output was 516 tons treated yielding 241 oz. of gold and 240 oz. of silver. The plant is to be sold.⁸⁰

DESCRIPTION & INTERPRETATION:

Site 5A: North Phoenix Co. (Mine buildings appear to belong to the lease's last mining period which commenced c. 1937 and ended in June 1957)

Mine site - Visible from the Calder Highway is a large mullock heaps and galvanised iron building (s). According to local information all the machinery, including the battery, has been removed from the site

Site 5B: Messrs Dorman and Picken's battery (10-head battery complete with amalgamation and concentrating tables and cyanide plant reported on the site in 1939. The battery was altered during the 1950s by Verne Hooper. A 1912 survey by W. Archdall shows B.H. Beer 's battery more-or-less on the same location. The 1912 battery building is much smaller and had a brick stack on its south-west corner. The building surviving today is either a modification of the 1912 battery or a new structure. A survey of information of Government batteries from 1898 to 1950 shows that, contrary to some local information, the Taradale battery never operated as a government crushing facility)

Battery shed - Galvanised iron, timber framed, shed which has an overall measurement of 75ft x 28ft. The building contains four distinct sections - battery/amalgamation area, engine room, office and furnace house. The furnace house has a small brick stack.

Stampers - Intact stamp battery with two battery boxes. One battery box has 4-head of stamps and was manufactured by A. Roberts & Sons, Engineers, Bendigo, the other box has 5-head of stamps. The second lot of stampers was manufactured by Horwood's Foundry, Bendigo. Wooden framework and fly wheels in good condition.

Machinery - Engine and amalgamation equipment have been removed from the shed.

Sludge pond - A 40 metre x 80 metre sludge pond lies to the north of the battery shed.

Site 5C: Comet Co. (The Comet company operated between 1874 and 1878. The lease first worked by Adventure Co. in 1870)

Mine site - Large mullock heap which has been cut by the Old Drummond Road. No machinery foundations.

PHOTOS:

- | | |
|---------|--------------------|
| 1. | General |
| 2 to 9 | Stampers |
| 10 | Engine foundations |
| 11 & 12 | Name plates |
| 13 | Sludge pond |

ARTEFACTS:

Scattering of stuff inside the shed.

INTEGRITY/CONDITION:

The battery shed is in reasonable condition with most of the galvanised iron sheeting and timber framing sound. There are at least 30 galvanised iron sheets missing from the roof above the battery and the sheets covering the office and amalgamation floor are very rusty. The building is not very secure but is looked after by the Taradale Historical Society.

THREATS:

Vandalism

CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE:

Site 5A has:

- Scientific Significance, because of the survival of insitu 1930s/40s mine buildings.

Site 5B has:

- Scientific Significance, because of the intactness of the battery shed and stampers.
- Social Value, because of the battery's location (adjacent to the Calder Highway) and protection /signposting by the local historical society.

Site 5C has little integrity and hence low cultural significance.

Significance ranking:

Site 5A	Local Significance
Site 5B	Regional Significance
Site 5C	No Significance

CONSERVATION POLICY:

The significance of Site 5B comes from its intactness and location.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

Site 5B to be protected [Battery shed, stamping battery and associated foundations and sludge pond]

Assessor: David Bannear

Date: December 1993

- 1 Taradale Mines - extracts from Mount Alexander Mail and other sources (Metcalf News 30/11/1889)
- 2 Taradale Mines - extracts from Mount Alexander Mail and other sources (Kyneton Observer 20/10/1870)
- 3 Taradale Mines - extracts from Mount Alexander Mail and other sources (Kyneton Observer 1/6/1858)
- 4 Taradale Mines - extracts from Mount Alexander Mail and other sources (Kyneton Observer 22/6/1858)
- 5 Taradale Mines - extracts from Mount Alexander Mail and other sources (MAM 4/8/1859)
- 6 Mining Surveyors' Reports, April 1860
- 7 Mining Surveyors' Reports, January 1861
- 8 Mining Surveyors' Reports, September 1866
- 9 Mining Surveyors' Reports, March 1867
- 10 Mining Surveyors' Reports, June 1867
- 11 Mining Surveyors' Reports, Sept 1867
- 12 Mining Surveyors' Reports, March 1868
- 13 Mining Surveyors' Reports, June 1868
- 14 Mining Surveyors' Reports, December 1868
- 15 Mining Surveyors' Reports, March 1869
- 16 Taradale Mines - extracts from Mount Alexander Mail and other sources
- 17 Taradale Mines - extracts from Mount Alexander Mail and other sources
- 18 Mining Surveyors' Reports, June 1870
- 19 Taradale Mines - extracts from Mount Alexander Mail and other sources (Argus, 21/11/1871)
- 20 Taradale Mines - extracts from Mount Alexander Mail and other sources (Kyneton Observer 17/10/1871)
- 21 Mining Surveyors' Reports, December 1871
- 22 Mining Surveyors' Reports, December 1871
- 23 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - June 1872
- 24 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Sept 1872
- 25 Taradale Mines - extracts from Mount Alexander Mail and other sources (MAM 28/10/1872)
- 26 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Dec 1872
- 27 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - March 1873
- 28 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - June 1873
- 29 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Dec 1873
- 30 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - March 1875
- 31 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - June 1875
- 32 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Sept 1875
- 33 Taradale Mines - extracts from Mount Alexander Mail and other sources (MAM)
- 34 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - June 1878
- 35 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - March 1879
- 36 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Sept 1888 (by Henry Archdale, Mining Surveyor)
- 37 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - June 1877
- 38 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - June 1877
- 39 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - March 1878
- 40 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - June 1878
- 41 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Sept 1878
- 42 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Dec 1878
- 43 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - March 1879
- 44 Taradale Mines - extracts from Mount Alexander Mail and other sources (MAM)
- 45 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports, Sept 1889
- 46 Taradale Mines - extracts from Mount Alexander Mail and other sources (Kyneton Guardian 24/10/1891)
- 47 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports, Sept 1889
- 48 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports, Dec 1889
- 49 Mount Alexander Mail, 16/2/1891
- 50 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports, March 1891
- 51 Mount Alexander Mail, 7/4/1891
- 52 Taradale Mines - extracts from Mount Alexander Mail and other sources
- 53 Taradale Mines - extracts from Mount Alexander Mail and other sources
- 54 Taradale Mines - extracts from Mount Alexander Mail and other sources
- 55 Department of Mines, Annual Reports, 1899 to 1950
- 56 Taradale Mines - extracts from Mount Alexander Mail and other sources
- 57 Taradale Mines - extracts from Mount Alexander Mail and other sources (MAM 16/4/1907)
- 58 W. Archdall, Field Note Book, 1A, 1910-1913. Geological Survey, Bendigo Office
- 59 Mining and Geological Journal, July 1937

- 60 Mining and Geological Journal, Jan 1938
- 61 Mining and Geological Journal, July 1938
- 62 Mining and Geological Journal, Jan 1939
- 63 Mining and Geological Journal, July 1938
- 64 Mining and Geological Journal, July 1939
- 65 Mines Department Annual Report, 1941
- 66 Mining and Geological Journal, March 1942
- 67 Mines Department Annual Report, 1946
- 68 Mining and Geological Journal, March 1947
- 69 Mining and Geological Journal, June 1947
- 70 Mines Department Annual Report, 1948
- 71 Mining and Geological Journal, March 1948
- 72 Mining and Geological Journal, Sept 1948
- 73 Mining and Geological Journal, March 1949
- 74 Mines Department Annual Report, 1950
- 75 Mining and Geological Journal, March 1951
- 76 Mines Department Annual Report, 1954
- 77 Mining and Geological Journal, Sept 1954/March 1955
- 78 Mining and Geological Journal, Sept 1955
- 79 Mines Department Annual Report, 1956
- 80 Mining and Geological Journal, Jan 1956/June 1957

SITE NO. & NAME: 6A MCALLISTER CO.
 6B COMMONWEALTH CO.
 6C FENTONS CO.
 6D TRAFALGAR CO.
 6E UNITED KINGDOM CO.
 6F UNITED KINGDOM EXTENDED CO.

LOCATION: TARADALE SOUTH

LOCATION/DIRECTIONS: Site 6A: The McAllister Co.'s shaft is located on the road verge, opposite the Taradale Town Hall., Taradale.
 Site 6B: 1.4km south of Taradale, west side of Calder Highway.
 Site 6C: 1.7km south of Taradale, west side of Calder Highway.
 Site 6D: 1.6km south of Taradale, west side of Calder Highway.
 Site 6E: 1.8km south of Taradale, west side of Calder Highway, north side of Conlon Road.
 Site 6F: 1.9km south of Taradale, west side of Calder Highway, south side of Conlon Road.

MAP/GRID REFERENCE: Site 6A Drummond 1:25,000- 645.861
 Site 6B Drummond 1:25,000- 646.849
 Site 6C Drummond 1:25,000- 646.846
 Site 6D Drummond 1:25,000- 645.847
 Site 6E Drummond 1:25,000- 647.845
 Site 6F Drummond 1:25,000- 648.844

PARCEL NUMBER: Site 6A - P131124

MUNICIPALITY Metcalfe

LAND STATUS: Site 6A - Unreserved Crown Land/Road Reserve
 Sites 6B to 6F - Freehold Land

EXISTING HERITAGE CLASSIFICATION: None

PRESENT MANAGEMENT/USE: 6A - Road
 6B to 6F - Pastoral

HISTORY:

July 1860: Taradale, to the westward of the Coliban River - the quartz reef known as the Castle Rock is again being tried. It was once abandoned, but a company has applied for a lease of 9 acres of ground there.¹

August 1860: Taradale to the Southward - Nothing of exciting interest has transpired from these quarters during the month. The ordinary workings at the reefs are steadily pursued - to wit, two claims on the Humboldt, three on the Bell-topper, two on the Frenchman's at Kangaroo Creek, also the Leviathan and Castle Rock.²

March 1865: The Alpha Company, Taradale, who occupy the lease taken up by G.E.P. Vickery, have been actively engaged for the last three months prospecting their ground, with remunerative returns; they are now crushing quartz which will probably yield well. What they have hitherto crushed, and which now appears in the report, was collected in the progress of prospecting throughout their leasehold.³

1866: United Kingdom Co. - Co-operative company of 16 members started by G. McHendry and Party, from a registered company which had sunk a shaft, opened out and put on plant and then came to grief. Between Sept 1866 and 1867, the Co-operative Co. obtained from alluvial 2,940 oz.⁴

September 1866: The Alpha are waiting to commence sinking a new shaft on their claim.⁵

June 1867: The United Kingdom, with 17 men, are obtaining, on average, 3-1/2 machines per week, yielding 7 oz. of gold to the machine. They have 7 faces open besides the main drive, and are realising a good dividend every 14 days.⁶

March 1868: The Taradale Co. are still doing well; have cleared £1,700 over paying wages this last 12 months. In quartz mining but little has lately been done further than preparing for the future.⁷

29 January 1868: United Kingdom Co. - Washed out 3 machines for the past week.⁸

Sept 1868: Alluvial mining - the only claim of any magnitude that is yielding well is the United Kingdom.⁹

December 1868: The old Apha Reef has recently been taken up again by Brown and party, who have proved payable stone down to 14 feet.¹⁰

March 1869: In quartzreefing very little has been done this quarter. The Achilles, Victoria, Belltopper, Charcoal Gully, and the Alpha are still idle.¹¹

March 1870: During the quarter, signs of vitality have been revived in this division. The attention of the miners being now directed to the discovery of quartz reefs is likely to prove the auriferous character of this goldfield. A few weeks since a very wide reef was opened out from the surface near Mr Martin's store on the main road, south of Taradale. It was taken up five years ago by a company and abandoned. The party working the claim are now obtaining stone at about 10 feet deep that will yield about 1 oz per ton. The same reef passes through Shrimpton's vineyard, through the Little London Gold Mining Company's, through the Taradale United Gold Mining Company's, thence south into the London and Melbourne Company's ground. This reef is from 30 to 40 feet wide; and gold has been obtained from it for nearly a quarter of a mile along the reef from Martins. A rich spur or quartz leader was discovered last week in Roderick Street, above the Wesleyan Church. The surface continues to yield from 1 to 3 dwts per load, chiefly reef gold, and not unfrequently specimens. I saw taken out of this leader some rich stone. This discovery has given an impetus to reefing here; several claims have been granted by the borough council on the adjacent roads, so that a close search will be made for the reef supposed to be very near this rich leader. The claimholders working on the Kangaroo Reef are obtaining payable stone. The Grand United Gold Mining Company have sunk a shaft 110 feet deep, the deepest shaft on the reef. At that level they have stone that will yield from 15 dwts to 1 oz per ton, with the reef 3 feet wide. The Band of Hope Company are working at a 70-foot level on good stone.¹²

15 June 1870 - United Kingdom Quartz Co., 139 oz. from 45 tons of stone last week's crushing.¹³

June 1870: During the quarter there has been a very great improvement in quartz mining in this division. Capitalists have been inspired with confidence in the auriferous character of the reefs here, and are energetically prospecting for, and discovering, payable reefs. The most of the claims recently taken up are in private property, yet doubtless they will be traced into Crown lands, and thus open out a permanently rich goldfield. Even now, at this early stage of the movement, an excitement prevails at Lauriston, Kyneton, Malmsbury, and Taradale such as has not been experienced on the goldfields south of Sandhurst....

The quartz reefs in the immediate vicinity of Taradale also are looking well, and yielding satisfactory results.

The Taradale Company have crushed during the last month 180 tons of stone and obtained 401 ozs. They have nearly 100 tons of stone on the surface, got at 54-foot level, with the reef 5 feet wide; seemingly will yield 2-1/2 ozs per ton. They have an engine, and are connecting with it three good batteries, with four stamp-heads each, at a cost of about £1,000. They are also making an extensive dam to store water for summer.

Fenton's Claim, north of the above claim, are working at a 54-foot level, with quartz 5 feet wide. They have been crushing this last ten days at the Achilles, but will clean up in time for my present report. They have over 100 tons of stone on the top that will go about 2 ozs per ton.

The Nelson Company are sinking for the same reef.

Further north is the Pioneer Claim, with a great width of quartz that yielded last crushing 10 dwts per ton.

North of that is Martin's, whose shaft is 80 feet deep, with the reef about 2 feet 6 inches wide. Here the stone is not quite so rich as it is further south. This is the line of reef alluded to in my last quarterly report as being on the main road, south of the township.¹⁴

5 October 1870: United Kingdom Co. - The alluvial lead is the Cambrian and the quartz is the United Kingdom and Old Man's lode, which is in this company's lease. The United Kingdom is working the alluvial under the name of Taradale Co. The claim on the quartz is the Fenton. Six months ago a shaft was sunk to cut the lode in their ground (London and Melbourne). United Kingdom whose claim abutts onto the north, a chain road intervening. Some good stone got in shaft at depth of 70 ft. Battery on ground for crushing rubble from wash dirt.¹⁵

December 1870: I have the honor to report the past quarter as the most successful one in the history of mining in this goldfield ... The quartz claims that are being properly worked, and have had a reasonable amount of capital expended on them, are continuing to yield satisfactory results, which will cause other quartz claims to be opened up in this division ... The Taradale United Company continues to yield well, although they have crushed many tons of poor stone - the average yield is nearly 15 dwts. They have ceased to work for a few days to add improvements to their machinery.

The Fenton Claim is also yielding richly; their average for quarter is 18 dwts.

The Nelson Company have struck a large body of stone, and no doubt this claim will be a dividend-paying claim when properly opened out. No. 2 shaft is down to the depth of 108 feet.¹⁶

December 1870: The Devonshire Company, who held under lease the old Alpha claim, have just completed the erection of a very powerful winding and crushing plant, which will supply a want that has long been experienced here, and thus afford an opportunity of testing several untried reefs here, besides giving employment to a number of hands.¹⁷

1870: Extracts from Mount Alexander Mail and other source re Pioneer Quartz Mining Co.

6/7/1870 - The claim is situated on the line of reef now being worked by the United Kingdom and "Old Man" claims and adjoins the Nelson G. M. Co. on the north side extending about 1200 feet along the line of reef.

27/7/1870 - Tenders called for sinking main shaft adjoining the road. This shaft will be put down to a depth of 160 ft.

3/6/1871 - The Pioneer Co. have ceased operations for some time and this has caused the adjoining claim, the Dublin Co., to stop further operations as they consider they were proving the Pioneer's ground without receiving any equivalent from that company for doing so.¹⁸

1870: Extracts from the Mount Alexander Mail re Fenton Co.

15/7/1870 - The Fenton or Old Man Reef Co. are at present occupying the Archilles battery and crushed about 14 tons daily

7/10/1872 - Fenton and Nelson United Co. have in prospecting the claim of the latter Co. met with some very promising stone

4/11/1872 - The Fenton Co. in their Nelson Tribute for the last fortnight's crushing obtained 158 ozs. of gold.

1/1/1873 - Yield for 1872 was 1307 oz. of gold

13/2/1875 - Fenton Co. crushing stone from the 200 ft level ... At the new main shaft in the Nelson ground the contractors are down 390 feet. They are sinking through hard ground.¹⁹

1870: Extracts from Mount Alexander Mail and other sources re Nelson Co

15/6/1870 - Nelson Quartz Mining Co. to be registered.

2/8/1870 - The lode of reef passing through this Co's ground is a solid, well defined reef of 17 ft width, with very little underlay east, showing gold throughout, with 6 ft in width on the eastern side that will yield from 2 to 3 ozs. per ton. This is at a level of 73 ft from the surface being the same depth as the adjoining claims, the United Kingdom and the Fenton Co. ... The Nelson Co. is now sinking the shaft for a second level, pending the erection of machinery...

4/1/1871 - Crushing will be commenced at the Devonshire Co's battery

25/10/1871 - It has been decided to call a meeting to consider re-organising the Company. In the meantime all work has stopped except pumping

18/1/1873 - Nelson Co's claim is being worked on tribute by Fenton Co.

25/1/1879 - The Trafalgar cleaned up last Saturday a very poor crushing which only gave the tributers a few shillings per man.

20/8/1881 - A meeting is to be held between the United Kingdom Q. M. Co and the Trafalgar (late Nelson) Q M Co in order to see if there is a possibility of coming to some understanding to sink conjointly the shaft of the latter to 700 ft.

27/5/1882 - After a long delay there is very chance of this company resuming operations ... They have a splendid plant on the lease with a shaft to 400 ft from which they will be able to work the Nelson, Fenton and United Kingdom claims. The present sole proprietors are Mrs. Nelson and Messrs Graham, McHendry and McAllister but eventually it will be put into a company.

29/9/1883 - An influential company is being formed here for the purpose of again working the United Kingdom line of reef from the Trafalgar shaft which is down 400 ft. (United Kingdom Consolidated working the United Kingdom, Fenton and Nelson leases from the latter shaft)

16-2/1884 - United Kingdom Consolidated: The Trafalgar is in a fair way to being floated into a company ... no time should be lost in our once hearing the welcome sound of the Trafalgar battery of 18 heads going ahead again.

23/7/1884 - An influential company of Ballarat and Sandhurst mining mine have purchased the plant of the Trafalgar (late Nelson) Co.

13/9/1884 - United Kingdom Consolidated has commenced pumping

10/11/1884 - Battery in good working order and ready to crush directly the lode is reached.

17/6/1885 - Attendant on the absence of satisfactory response to May call, progress has been arrested and the works temporarily held in abeyance.

20/2/1886 - United Kingdom's plant sold by auction

21/7/1888 - R. Thurling, Melbourne has applied for lease in Taradale South, including the well known United Kingdom, Fenton, Taradale and Trafalgar. It is intended to float the company on the English market.

28/6/1890 - United Kingdom (Trafalgar) is about to be restarted. Machinery has been inspected.

6/12/1890 - Waiting for machinery to arrive

1/9/1891 - Crosscutting at 400 and 260 ft levels.

5/12/1891 - Mr. Gard, proprietor of this mine intends to sink the shaft which is already 400 ft deep a further 200 ft and so the work for time will be progressive.

19/9/1892 - Sinking of shaft concluded. Driving to cut the lode will be commenced at once. 600ft

21/3/1893 - At United Kingdom shaft (Nelson shaft) is likely to be taken on tribute.²⁰

1870: Extracts from Mount Alexander Mail re Alpha (later Devonshire, then McAllister)

2/8/1870 - The lease of this company's ground was purchased some two or three weeks ago to work a well known reef that yielded fabulous quantities of gold when being fossicked about in the primitive days of quartz reefing ... Independent of this reef, the company intends erecting a large battery on the most improved principles to commence crushing for the public

16/8/1870 - Preliminary meeting of Devonshire G M Co. was held for the purpose of adopting deed of association and appointing a manager and directors.

21/11/1870 - Manager reports that the contractors have made excellent progress with the erection of the machinery. All the heavy framework is up and the engine and boiler in position.

14/1/1871 - The engine and battery made a permanent start on Tuesday, beginning with 2000 tons for the Nelson Co.

20/11/1871 - This company has one of the most efficient plants in the district consisting of an engine at about 45hp, 20 inch cylinder. There are 3 6-head batteries of revolving stamps with all the latest improvements. Copper plates and blanketings are used in the amalgamating process. The gratings used in the machine have 120 holes to the square inch. A new spur wheel has been lately attached to the one formerly used to work the pump and it is intended to work the pump in the main shaft by connecting rods. ... It is intended to sink the new shaft to a depth of 100 ft.

21/11/1871 - A little to the east of the Archilles Reef is another, which has been called the Alpha, the Old Man's Reef and Fenton Reef ... Prominent in the foreground of the picture which the Taradale township presents by rail, is a mining claim with red poppet heads, which was formerly worked by the Alpha, but is now the Devonshire Claim ... A great deal of excellent gold has been put into it at one time and another (in the form of materials and labour) and at present it yields scarcely anything in return except carbonic acid. Like the Archilles claim it had its run of luck in the early days. Worked from the surface by small parties it yielded exceedingly well, as much as 20 to 30 ozs. to the ton sometimes, but here, too, the stone got poorer as the workings got deeper and when the water subsequently appeared the miners drew their pegs and made off. Subsequently eight or nine years since, the Alpha Co. with a Melbourne Proprietary, was formed to work the mine and erected a good battery etc. but it never did much work in the claim. There was much water in the mine and there was not a little foul air; but the chief problem was that the stone was poor ... In the beginning of last year, the Devonshire Co. was formed to try what it could make of the mine.²¹

1871: United Kingdom Co. - In 1871 the reef was discovered partly on United Kingdom and Fenton properties each having only 330 ft of land running north and south, and neither claim had been worked lower than 220 ft. From the eastern reef they obtained 5,206 oz and from the western reef 8,623 ozs. One year after paying all expenses, they paid approx. £600 each 1/16th share. The value of the gross gold taken from this small piece of ground was £84,219.²²

4 January 1871: United Kingdom Co. - Have completed their chimney stack, Tailings, pump etc. Stone looks well.²³

March 1871: The Pioneer Company, at Taradale, has, within the last few days, struck very promising looking stone. The lode is about 2 feet 6 inches wide. They will try a crushing of 50 tons at once.

The Nelson, the Fenton, and the Taradale United continue to do well. Each of those claims has a great width of payable stone. The Fenton Company are about to erect a crushing plant on the claim, which will save the expense of trucking the quartz to the London and Melbourne battery.²⁴

1871: Extracts from Mount Alexander mail and other sources re Marquis of Lorne Co.

3/6/1871 - The Marquis of Lorne Co. on the Fenton line of reef, but nearer the township is still sinking...

2/12/1871 - The claim is situated on the celebrated Fenton Reef adjoining the United Kingdom's claim which has during the 14 months paid dividends equalling £16,000 and is near the Fenton Claim which has yielded 6500 ozs. of gold in last 16 months.²⁵

June 1871: The Taradale United, the Fenton ... claims continue to yield good results.

The Nelson claim is stopped for a short time. The company continued sinking their new shaft until, at a depth of 200 feet, they were conquered by the water. They are now erecting an engine for winding and pumping, by which the mine will be more efficiently worked.

The Devonshire Quartz Gold Mining Company (which is the old Alpha Reef formerly held by Messrs Clark and Co., in the Taradale township) are cross-cutting the reef to the eastward to ascertain its width. It is proved to be over 15 feet wide. A few days ago they obtained a splendid prospect. We saw rich stone, such as would create a sensation and cause a rush to any other place but Taradale.²⁶

21 November 1871 - A mile south of the Devonshire mine, is a little group of 3 quartz mines - the Nelson, United Kingdom and the Fenton's.

The United Kingdom is a co-operative company of 17 men, with a claim of 800 ft, on which there is a good engine and battery. At first its stone yielded an average of 15 dwt to the ton, but subsequently the yield fell off. The mine is still paying splendidly ... Encouraged by the success of their own mine, the United Kingdom men cast envious glances at a four acre block of alienated land that lay to the east and north of their claim ... The bit of land was found to belong to an old man, Fenton ... who lived near Warrnambol ... The owner then came to Taradale to attend to his affairs, and accepted an offer from the party now in possession of the land (was to receive half the gross yield of gold from his land until he received £1,000, and after that 10% for ever. He has already received £2,800) = formation of United Kingdom Extended.²⁷

December 1871: the Fenton and the Taradale Claims, which continue to yield good dividends, and are working with praiseworthy energy. The Taradale United are now crushing very poor stone from the surface, but they have a great width of stone; they have purchased an engine for pumping and winding; their shaft is now 175 feet deep, which they intend to sink deeper on the erection of the engine.²⁸

December 1871: The Devonshire Quartz Gold Mining Company are indefatigably overcoming every difficulty (such as bad air, a great influx of water) in their efforts to obtain payable stone; they have sunk their shaft, which is well and substantially timbered, 70 feet; the crushing plant, the pumps, the poppet-heads, and every work is of the best description.²⁹

1872: Extracts from the Mount Alexander Mail and other sources re United Kingdom Extended

1/4/1872 - Contractors for the shaft are down 80 ft. They have cut several quartz leaders and are getting into hard country.

22/4/1872 - shaft 140 ft ... The shaft is the largest that has been sunk in the district, being 9 ft x 3-1/2 ft, within timbers, divided into 3 compartments and it is intended to sink to a depth of at least 350 ft.

7/10/1872 - Pending the purchase of machinery, two men have been put on to sink a small prospect shaft 200 ft west of the main one

3/2/1873 - Contractors have the poppet heads almost fixed. The boiler is in and the engine nearly completed. The house and stack are consequently the only things to be erected.

17/5/1873 - Reef cut in shaft at 340 ft. Reef 2 ft wide and gets thicker going south. Water so heavy sinking cannot be gone on with.

21/8/1873 - Contractors have finished putting in pumps from surface to cisterns. Now waiting for the remainder of the pumps from the foundry.

20/8/1873 - contract for sinking of a shaft 350 ft to the west of the engine shaft for the purpose of cutting the newly discovered western reef.

8/12/1873 - Purchased battery now being taken down and tenders invited for carriage and re-erection

23/3/1874 - have finished erection of the battery and are now waiting to connect steam pipes with the boiler as it is thought that it will be large enough to generate steam for both engines.

5/1/1875 - The dam has been finished and is now full of water and the carpenters are making good progress in the erection of the tailings pumps.

23/3/1875 - The new boiler has been placed beside the other one and the masons are now building it in... will start to crush with 12 heads.

12/4/1875 - The tailings pump and battery of 12 heads were started yesterday and everything looks well. The new boiler steams splendidly easily driving two engines, battery of 12 heads, clean water and tailings pumps, also lifting an 8 inch column of water 400 ft. from the mine, as well as doing all the winding.

23/6/1880 - In mining it is rumoured that it is the intention of Mr. Lansell who has purchased the plant of the late United Kingdom Extended from the National Bank to work the same.

3/11/1880 - Mr Lansell having taken possession of the U.K. Extended plant is removing same.³⁰

2 February 1872 - The Fenton and the United Kingdom both declared fortnightly dividends and this led to another company being formed chiefly by shareholders of the United Kingdom Co. to prospect further south on the line by sinking a shaft to 300 ft.³¹

June 1872: The Taradale United, or United Kingdom Co., ... find the reef enlarging; it is now nearly 4 feet thick, and improving in appearance.

The new company called the Fenton Extended have got their shaft down 184 feet.

The Nelson, on the same line, is now on tribute.

The Adventure claim is still yielding good looking stone, which has been stacked and burned during the last 2 months; the company are about commencing to crush at the Devonshire battery. The stone is obtained from the 130-ft level.

The Devonshire Co., under skilful management, still continue to prospect their ground.³²

Sept 1872: The United Kingdom Extended Company at Taradale have sunk their shaft to a depth of 273 feet; but as their operations are obstructed by a large quantity of water, they have decided on the erection of an engine, in order to sink deeper; they intend to open out at the 400-ft level.

The Fenton has temporarily suspended operations.

The United Kingdom claim is still vigorously worked, with paying results ... The Nelson tributaries are determined to give this claim a good trial once more.³³

Oct 1872: We are informed that there is a possibility of an amalgamation between the Devonshire (Taradale) and the Rothchild (late Archilles) Gold Mining Co. The plant of the Devonshire to be removed to the Rothchild claim.³⁴

Dec 1872: The Fenton Tribute Company continue to break out good paying stone from the Nelson Claim near the surface.³⁵

27 January 1873: United Kingdom Co. - Waiting the arrival of a new rope for their winding engine.³⁶

March 1873: The United Kingdom Company are and have been sinking their shaft deeper

The United Kingdom Extended are still sinking, have completed the erection of a steam engine

The Fenton and Nelson Tribute Companies are about resuming work³⁷

June 1873: The United Kingdom ... have recently struck the western reef ... with their facilities for winding, pumping, tramping, and crushing, will pay well. The discovery has energised the adjoining claimholders (the Fenton, the Nelson, and the United Kingdom Extended)...³⁸

17 July 1873: United Kingdom Co. - Cut the western reef at 100 ft in their No 1 shaft and through it proving it to be 6 ft in thickness showing gold freely. This will improve the value of the mines on the north and south particularly the United Kingdom Extended as the United Kingdom is more than 50 ft under the road which divided the two properties.³⁹

Sept 1873: The United Kingdom are paying a good dividend every fourteen days. ⁴⁰

Dec 1873: During the quarter we have had in this division another demonstration of the existing necessity of the establishment of school of mines, where practical mining may be taught on scientific principals, enabling mining managers and those who have control of labor and capital invested in mining pursuits to so direct the mining operations and expend the capital as to develop the mines in the shortest possible period, and at the smallest cost to the shareholders. About 3 years ago a company possessing capital floated a claim on Back Creek in the Taradale Township, where was expended in prospecting and the erection of machinery - crushing plant etc - over £16,000, without obtaining any payable gold. A few months ago shareholders ceased to pay calls, the works were suspended, the plant sold, miners thrown out of employment, and the lease declared void. Three working miners applied for 180 feet of the ground, and with the aid of a windlass, within 3 weeks, struck stone at a depth of 30 ft, obtained and crushed 10 tons last week, which yielded 7 ozs. per ton. [McAllister and Party]

The United Kingdom Co. have struck good stone

The Fenton claim yields fairly

The United Kingdom Extended Co. have to contend with a large body of water, but their powerful engine is capable of draining the mine ...the company are erecting a crushing plant ⁴¹

March 1874: The United Kingdom Co's claim continues to yield well, and is paying handsome dividends; this claim, the Fenton, The United Extended, are the only quartz claims at work in the Taradale district, except the Adventure and McAllister.

The Extended Napier is turning out better than heretofore. ⁴²

June 1874: The Fenton Co. are erecting efficient machinery ...being encouraged by the adjoining shareholders, whose perseverance has tended to uphold this district.

The United Kingdom Extended have just completed an important improvement in their machinery ... This claim is south of and adjoining the Taradale United, who obtained for the quarter over 709 ozs.

The claim taken by McAllister and party ... is so wet they are obliged to cease sinking their shaft, and are now erecting an engine for pumping and winding. ⁴³

Sept 1874: The United Kingdom, as usual, continues to yield well; the gold obtained for the quarter is 503 ozs.

The Fenton Co. got 719 ozs. ⁴⁴

Dec 1874: The Taradale United Claim keeps up its character as a dividend paying claim; last week the result of 14 day's crushing was a dividend of £55 to each 1/16th share.

The Fenton Co are obliged to temporarily suspend operations in consequence of want of water to crush with. The McAllister Claim on the Back Creek are still driving and getting out stone, not as rich as that formerly obtained. ⁴⁵

June 1875: The United Extended claim has greatly improved during the quarter. The stone is not very rich, but the appliances of the company are so complete that they can put through the mill a large quantity; thus the claim may very soon be a dividend-paying claim; the reef is about 15 ft thick.

The United Kingdom Co. yield about as usual, paying good dividends every second week.

The Fenton Co. have struck the reef in the Nelson Tribute, 240 ft from surface, 4-1/2 ft thick, showing payable gold.

The McAllister Co. are again raising and crushing stone. ⁴⁶

Sept 1875: The United Kingdom Co. have obtained the largest amount of gold for the quarter, and continue to pay dividends...

The McAllister, another claim on Back Creek, in the township (formerly held by the Devonshire Co., who expended about £15,000 on the claim, without payable results) is looking well; they have a large quantity of stone, yielding 5 dwts per ton, which will pay, as the claim is worked cheaply. ⁴⁷

Dec 1875: The Fenton Reef is let on tribute

The United Kingdom are, as usual, paying dividends.

The Extended United Kingdom is also looking better. ⁴⁸

March 1876: The Fenton claim has been let on tribute and is paying well.. The United Kingdom Extended is also improving. The Taradale United (United Kingdom Co.) is still yielding dividends of £10 or £11 per share per week. The Comet claim is idle. The McAllister claim is looking better, and will doubtless soon enrich the 6 shareholders. ⁴⁹

March 1877: The United Kingdom Co's claim continues to improve. The company have declared and paid a dividend of £70 to each of the 16 shareholders.

The United Extended are still driving for the same reef.

The Fenton, a claim that was so rich 5 years ago, has of late become very poor, and in consequence thereof has suspended work ⁵⁰

June 1877: The Extended, after working years prospecting for the reef worked by the adjoining claimholders named United Kingdom Quartz Mining Co., have now begun to search for the alluvial gutter. This company have paid the 42nd call.⁵¹

Sept 1877: The United Kingdom Co have struck a new shoot of gold that will take them a year to work out. The Extended United Co. are still driving for the gutter known to run through their claim.⁵²

26 November 1877 - The famous old reef, the United Kingdom, is gain yielding stone literally hanging together with gold.⁵³

Dec 1877: The Ironstone Hill as an alluvial claim, and the United Kingdom as a quartz claim, are the only two claims really giving dividends.⁵⁴

March 1878: The United Kingdom Quartz claim has not been yielding quite so well lately.

The United Extended Co. adjoining continue to drive in search of an alluvial deposit of gold ... They have now got their drive in 725 feet at the 180 ft level.

The Fenton Co's claim has lately changed hands, and now is to be the Trafalgar Claim, and worked on Tribute.⁵⁵

June 1878: The United Extended are on good wash ... They will also be able to give employment to a great number of men soon.

Quartz - The United Kingdom Company have been engaged the greater portion of the quarter in repairing the damage done to the mine by the late heavy rains; also putting a level through the reef.

The Trafalgar Company, on the Fenton Reef, are now crushing stone obtained by the tributers, from which they expect fair returns.

...the McAllister have each suspended operations for a time.⁵⁶

Sept 1878: The United Kingdom Extended Company have stopped working for some weeks.

Quartz - The United Kingdom Co's claim has been let on tribute, and, to the present time, has paid good wages. The stone is poor, but easily obtained in large quantities.

The Trafalgar tribute have not to the present time succeeded in obtaining payable stone. They are still prospecting and keep the battery going, which enables them to pay expenses and give small dividends to working shareholders.⁵⁷

27 January 1879: United Kindom Co. mine - Now being worked by United Kingdom Tribute.⁵⁸

June 1879: There is very little doing in quartz mining in this division; the yields have been so small that parties have been compelled to give up for want of funds, in consequence of which two large plants of machinery are to be removed from the district. I also notice that there are three other mining plants idle for want of funds, viz. the Trafalgar, Victoria, and United Kingdom Extended.⁵⁹

June 1879: Increase of gold over the preceeding quarter by 30 ozs., the larger portion of which was obtained from the alluvial mines. There is very little doing in quartz mining in this division; the yields have been so small that parties have been compelled to give up for want of funds, in consequence of which two large plants of machinery are to be removed from the district. I also notice that there are three other mining plants idle for want of funds, viz. the Trafalgar, Victoria, and United Kingdom Extended.

There appears however, greater activity in alluvial mining, especially near Malmsbury. I also notice that the private land of Mr. Urquhart is being taken up for alluvial mining, and I am informed the terms are easy for *bona fide* miners. This, no doubt, will be a great help to the district, as there is a large quantity of land known to be payable held by him. The average earnings of the small parties working in the gullies and hillside are not more than 15s. to 20s. per week per man.⁶⁰

3 June 1880 - United Kingdom Tributers only obtained 13 ozs but have a great deal to contend with. Erecting poppet legs and have purchased 600 ft of wire rope as to enable them to raise the wash dirt with their winding engine as formerly when it was a quartz claim.⁶¹

14 July 1880: United Kingdom Co. - returns 110 ozs. from 910 tons of dirt.⁶²

28 July 1880: United Kingdom Co. - crushed over 100 tons of stone from a leader.⁶³

March 1881: The United Kingdom Quartz Co have been prospecting during the whole of the quarter; they commence crushing on the 1st April. There is a slight decrease in the numbers of miners employed ... owing to the principal mines reducing their staff of workmen, and also in consequence of some Chinese miners having taken to other work.⁶⁴

Dec 1881: The Humboldt and the Aroona Quartz Companies are erecting machinery; also the Ironstone Junction (Crawford's paddock) purchased from the United Kingdom Company.⁶⁵

6 June 1883: United Kingdom Co. - A step in the right direction took place...It was unanimously agreed to allow the Trafalgar Co. to work the mine on the terms agreed to. I trust no time will be lost in forming a company to work the mine. Trafalgar shaft is 400 ft deep, whereas the Fenton and United Kingdom mine has only been worked to 210 ft. United Kingdom Consolidated).⁶⁶

13 June 1883: United Kingdom Co. - let on a 10% tribute the surface on their land to their late manager, Mr. Bolding. It is known to be auriferous. Mr Bolding's intention is to use the Coliban water, and sluice it, save the cement and quartz which will be left in the race for crushing at the Trafalgar battery.⁶⁷

Sept 1883: The Trafalgar Co., Taradale, are about to recommence work. ⁶⁸

Sept 1884: A company, the "United Kingdom Consolidated" have taken over the mining plant of the Trafalgar Company, and the claims known as "Trafalgar", "Fenton's", and "United Kingdom"., at Taradale, and have commenced work.⁶⁹

1884: Extracts from Mount Alexander Mail and other sources re North Fenton

24/12/1884- The North Fenton has let a tender for sinking a shaft 100 ft.

3/1/1885- The contractors of the North Fenton Co. belonging to the Sandhurst Syndicate have commenced sinking a shaft on the main road South Taradale.

18/3/1885 - Shaft down 160 ft. Site for machinery selected.

11/5/1885 - Shaft finished at 200 ft ...will open out to cut the reef

23/4/1887 - Have let a contract to Hugh Hughes and party to sink a new prospecting shaft on the main road south 100 ft in depth.⁷⁰

June 1885: The North Fenton Co. have struck the reef, but are still driving for another make of stone ... The United Kingdom Co. is still idle. ⁷¹

Sept 1885: A company, the "United Kingdom Consolidated", have taken over the mining plant of the Trafalgar Company, and the claims known as "Trafalgar", "Fentons", and "United Kingdom". at Taradale, and have commenced work. ⁷²

June 1886: Fenton Extended and United Kingdom Companies' claims are idle.⁷³

Sept 1888: Report on the Principal Gold-Bearing Reefs of the Taradale Division.

United Kingdom Reef - The reef is situate on private property, in the parish of Elphinstone ... The west leg has been worked to 330 feet deep the whole length of the United Kingdom Company's claim, and the east leg has been worked 290 feet south from the north boundary. Stoping has been carried on at the western leg, from 220 feet to the surface, and on the eastern leg from 160 feet to the surface. The depth of the shaft is 22 feet, and the water level is 90 ft. ⁷⁴

June 1889: . Barry's party are erecting a small plant on Talbot Hill to work a reef, formerly known as McAllister's. ⁷⁵

Sept 1889: A considerable amount of activity is observed by mining men, in consequence of the yields lately obtained at Lauriston and Drummond. At Taradale the old Archilles and United Kingdom claims have been taken up, and shortly will be opened out, and a large number of men put on. ⁷⁶

1903: Extracts from Mount Alexander Mail re Taradale Reef (late Commonwealth mine) at Taradale

13/1/1903 - Work has resumed at the Commonwealth mine, which has recently been acquired by a new company, the principal shareholders of which are residents of Bendigo.

28/1/1903 - It will be remembered that the original company before suspending operations, sunk the shaft to a depth of 214 feet and put in crosscuts at 100 ft and 200 ft

17/2/1903 - shaft at the Taradale Reef (late Commonwealth) has been extended an additional 39 ft in depth (total now 275 feet) ... Last week the company let a contract for the sinking of a shaft on the southern boundary of the lease near the site of the operations of Bolding's party, who are successfully working what is known as the Vineyard Reef. The northern continuation of this reef will be worked by the Taradale Reef Co. from the new shaft.⁷⁷

DESCRIPTION & INTERPRETATION:

Site 6A: McAllister Co. (commenced operations c. 1874. Also worked by Alpha Co. and Devonshire Co.)

Shaft site - Buried concrete slab

Site 6B: Commonwealth Co. (Operated around the turn of the century. Also known as Taradale Reef)

Mine site - Small mullock heap. No machinery footings visible

Site 6C - Fentons Co. (Company appears to have commenced work in 1870. Most productive period was the 1870s. Became part of United Kingdom Consolidated - taking in the claims known as the Trafalgar, Fentons, United Kingdom and United Kingdom Extended - in 1884)

Mine site - Small mullock heap. No machinery footings visible

Site 6D: Nelson/ Trafalgar Co. (Nelson Company formed in 1870, re-named Trafalgar Co in 1879. Became part of United Kingdom Consolidated - taking in the claims known as the Trafalgar, Fentons, United Kingdom and United Kingdom Extended - in 1884)

Mine site - Small mullock heap. No machinery footings visible.

Site 6E: United Kingdom Co. (Commenced operations in 1866, most productive period was in the 1870s. Became part of United Kingdom Consolidated - taking in the claims known as the Trafalgar, Fentons, United Kingdom and United Kingdom Extended - in 1884)

Mine site - Extensive tailings dump that has been partly quarried and bulldozed. No machinery footings visible.

Site 6F: United Kingdom Extended (Commenced 1872, plant removed in 1880. Became part of United Kingdom Consolidated - taking in the claims known as the Trafalgar, Fentons, United Kingdom and United Kingdom Extended - in 1884)

Mine site - Remnant of mullock heap. Nothing else visible.

PHOTOS:

1. Site 6F - United Kingdom Extended
2. Site 6E - United Kingdom Co.
3. Site 6C - Fentons
4. Site 6D - Nelson Co.

ARTEFACTS: None visible

INTEGRITY/CONDITION: Poor

THREATS:

CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE:

All sites have some local historical significance as locations of more-or-less successful gold mines but none of the sites have any integrity.

Significance ranking	Sites 6A Sites 6B to 6F	No Significance Local significance
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CONSERVATION POLICY:

None required

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

None

Assessor: David Bannear

Date: December 1993

- 1 Mining Surveyors' Reports, July 1860
- 2 Mining Surveyors' Reports, August 1860
- 3 Mining Surveyors' Reports, March 1865
- 4 Taradale Mines - extracts from Mount Alexander Mail and other sources
- 5 Mining Surveyors' Reports, September 1866
- 6 Mining Surveyors' Reports, June 1867
- 7 Mining Surveyors' Reports, March 1868
- 8 Taradale Mines - extracts from Mount Alexander Mail and other sources
- 9 Mining Surveyors' Reports, Sept 1868
- 10 Mining Surveyors' Reports, December 1868
- 11 Mining Surveyors' Reports, March 1869
- 12 Mining Surveyors' Reports, March 1870
- 13 Taradale Mines - extracts from Mount Alexander Mail and other sources
- 14 Mining Surveyors' Reports, June 1870
- 15 Taradale Mines - extracts from Mount Alexander Mail and other sources
- 16 Mining Surveyors' Reports, December 1870
- 17 Mining Surveyors' Reports, December 1870
- 18 Taradale Mines - extracts from Mount Alexander Mail and other sources

- 19 Taradale Mines - extracts from Mount Alexander Mail and other sources
- 20 Taradale Mines - extracts from Mount Alexander Mail and other sources
- 21 Taradale Mines - extracts from Mount Alexander Mail and other sources
- 22 Taradale Mines - extracts from Mount Alexander Mail and other sources
- 23 Taradale Mines - extracts from Mount Alexander Mail and other sources
- 24 Mining Surveyors' Reports, March 1871
- 25 Taradale Mines - extracts from Mount Alexander Mail and other sources
- 26 Mining Surveyors' Reports, June 1871
- 27 Taradale Mines - extracts from Mount Alexander Mail and other sources
- 28 Mining Surveyors' Reports, December 1871
- 29 Mining Surveyors' Reports, December 1871
- 30 Taradale Mines - extracts from Mount Alexander Mail and other sources
- 31 Taradale Mines - extracts from Mount Alexander Mail and other sources
- 32 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - June 1872
- 33 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Sept 1872
- 34 Taradale Mines - extracts from Mount Alexander Mail and other sources (MAM 28/10/1872)
- 35 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Dec 1872
- 36 Taradale Mines - extracts from Mount Alexander Mail and other sources
- 37 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - March 1873
- 38 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - June 1873
- 39 Taradale Mines - extracts from Mount Alexander Mail and other sources
- 40 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Sept 1873
- 41 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Dec 1873
- 42 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - March 1874
- 43 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - June 1874
- 44 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Sept 1874
- 45 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Dec 1874
- 46 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - June 1875
- 47 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Sept 1875
- 48 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Dec 1875
- 49 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - March 1876
- 50 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - March 1877
- 51 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - June 1877
- 52 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Sept 1877
- 53 Taradale Mines - extracts from Mount Alexander Mail and other sources
- 54 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Dec 1877
- 55 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - March 1878
- 56 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - June 1878
- 57 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Sept 1878
- 58 Taradale Mines - extracts from Mount Alexander Mail and other sources
- 59 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - June 1879
- 60 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - June 1879
- 61 Taradale Mines - extracts from Mount Alexander Mail and other sources
- 62 Taradale Mines - extracts from Mount Alexander Mail and other sources
- 63 Taradale Mines - extracts from Mount Alexander Mail and other sources
- 64 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - March 1881
- 65 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Dec 1881
- 66 Taradale Mines - extracts from Mount Alexander Mail and other sources
- 67 Taradale Mines - extracts from Mount Alexander Mail and other sources
- 68 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Sept 1883
- 69 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Sept 1884
- 70 Taradale Mines - extracts from Mount Alexander Mail and other sources
- 71 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - June 1885
- 72 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports, Sept 1885
- 73 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - June 1886
- 74 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Sept 1888 (by Henry Archdale, Mining Surveyor)
- 75 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports, June 1889
- 76 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports, Sept 1889
- 77 Taradale Mines - extracts from Mount Alexander Mail and other sources

SITE NO. & NAME: 7A CONLON AND PARTY
 7B YANKEE POINT
 7C LIBERTY FLAT
 7D SCORPION HILL
 7E IRONSTONE HILL
 7F BELLTOPPER GULLY LEAD

LOCATION: BACK CREEK

LOCATION/DIRECTIONS: Site 7A: 2.1km south of Taradale, Back Creek, south side of Conlon Road.
 Site 7B: 2.6km south of Taradale, Back Creek, east side of Millers Road.
 Site 7C: 1.9km south of Taradale, Back Creek, north of Conlon Road
 Site 7D: 2.5km south of Taradale, Back Creek, east side of Millers Road
 Site 7E: 4.5km south of Taradale, Back Creek, east side of Millers Road.
 Site 7F: 4.8km south of Taradale, west side of Millers Road, Belltopper Hill.

MAP/GRID REFERENCE: Site 7A: Drummond 1:25,000- 643.841
 Site 7B: Drummond 1:25,000- 643.836
 Site 7C: Drummond 1:25,000- 640.843
 Site 7D: Drummond 1:25,000- 643.838
 Site 7E: Drummond 1:25,000- 650.819
 Site 7F: Drummond 1:25,000- 641.813

PARCEL NUMBER: Site 7F - Geelong Region

MUNICIPALITY Sites 7A to 7D - Metcalfe
 Sites 7E & 7F - Daylesford and Glenlyon

LAND STATUS: Sites 7A to 7E - Freehold Land
 Site 7F - State Forest

EXISTING HERITAGE CLASSIFICATION: None

PRESENT MANAGEMENT/USE: Site 7A to 7F- Pastoral
 Site 7F - M1G15

HISTORY:

1852: R. Brough Smyth gave the date of the discovery of gold at Back Creek (Taradale) as July 1852, and Commissioner Armstrong said that gold had been found when he was attending the police station there in the latter end of 1852. As evidence before the Rewards Board in 1864 he said:

247. Do you know anything about the discovery of gold at Taradale? - I consider that belongs to Castlemaine, I had a police station there, and I used to attend there once or twice a week.

248. That was when you were in Castlemaine? - Yes; gold had then been found at Taradale, but not in any great quantities; it had not been rushed.

249. At what time was that - In the latter end of 1852.

250. Gold had been found there in small quantities? - Yes, in small quantities.

251. But not remuneratively - There was no great rush, it was wet deep sinking.

252. Not remunerative? - Not remunerative.

253. Supposing the place had been rushed, you would have considered it an independent goldfield? - I would not... Armstrong's evidence was given in reference to two applications for rewards before the 1864 board by Daniel Brophy and Alexander Wilson. Each of these were unsuccessful because the board considered Taradale a part of Mt Alexander... Brophy's alleged discovery of the first payable gold at Taradale is open to question. ... It is a fact that rich gold was reported discovered at Back Creek (Taradale) in January 1853.

There was no separate information on Alexander Wilson and party, but in January 1853 there were 300 men in the area known as Liberty Flat, south of the later town. Only a little digging went on in 1854.¹

1856: A large rush began at Taradale in 1856, and in February gold was discovered up the Back Creek, west of Malmsbury.²

1857: Late in 1857 Scorpion Hill diggings were discovered ...³

1859: Later discoveries in Taradale area were the Frenchman's and Star leads in 1859.⁴

June 1860: Numbers of Chinese are busily employed along the creek's banks within the township, also at Yankee Point, half a mile south of the town, and along the banks of the Coliban River, north of Taradale.⁵

April 1860: (Thomas Turner, Mining Surveyor) The Taradale Gold Field embraces the valley of the Coliban River, which rivertakes its rise about twelve miles west of the township of Woodend in the Great Dividing Range.

The above river pursues a course of about north by east, for a distance of probably forty miles, when it falls into the Campaspe at a point about ten miles east of Mount Alexander...

At a point midway of the Coliban's length it receives a tributary stream from the westward, called the Back Creek, and at half a mile from the junction, where the Melbourne main roads crosses this creek, stands the town of Taradale, where late in the year 1853 the first gold workings began.

Further up the creek, about three miles from Taradale, the Coliban Company have their works at a place which is designated the Ironstone Hill. At this place the miners traced a lead of gold under an arm of the trap-rock formations (which is locally called ironstone), and the Coliban Company have taken up the position, and driven two tunnels under the hills, one on each side of the creek. The same parties have erected commodious premises on the spot, with also a 12 horse-power engine which turns three puddling machines.

Several horse-puddling machines have been erected in the valley of the creek, but the want of water last summer stopped all such operations, and only two instances exist of these works having been resumed.⁶

May 1860: The Leviathan Company, which is an association of miners, and the same that emptied the large water pool on the Back Creek in Mr Gibbs' paddock last summer, out of which they took much gold. This company has been reorganized for the purpose of mining a quartz reef, which they have discovered in the same paddock.

They have raised a lot of stone and had some crushed, 10 tons of it yielded 10 oz 12 dwt of gold. It was surface gold.⁷

June 1860: The Leviathan Quartz Mining Company's works, on the Back Creek, are situate a quarter of a mile south of Taradale. Their operations have been retarded by a flood, which swamped the working shaft, but they have now better secured another shaft, and are again pursuing their work with vigor.

Numbers of Chinese are busily employed along the creek's banks within the township, also at Yankee Point, half a mile south of the town, and along the banks of the Coliban River, north of Taradale.⁸

July 1860: Some two years since six tunnels were driven into the hills along the Back Creek Valley between the township and Yankee Point, but abandoned. They are again attracting notice; operations have been recommenced at one, at Yankee Point, and another close to the township is about to be reopened. A conviction is ever recurring to the miners that rich deposits of gold exist under the trap rock, of which these hills are composed.

A new tunnel is being opened at the Scorpion Hill a mile south of the township. This is a spot where the gold was traced under the trap rock formations, but the lead was lost.⁹

August 1860: A few miners are still busy along the western slope of the Talbot Hill, and the two tunnels at Yankee Point and Scorpion Hill are scenes of activity; but otherwise the valley of the Back Creek is nearly deserted.

There are two miles of old-worked ground in this valley available for sluicing claims, and, if worked on a large scale, could scarcely fail to be remunerative, as the creek usually affords plenty of water.¹⁰

September 1860: Two tunnels are being worked at Yankee Point and one at Scorpion Hill; there are also three horse puddling machines at work in the vicinity of the township.

Of late the Chinese have been very busy in the bed of the creek, where they stand for hours together, up to their middles in water, scooping up the gravel from the bottom, which their mates wash in cradles on the bank.

An application has been sent in to the Government by a mining company for a lease of 9 acres of old worked ground, situate on the Back creek, immediately adjoining the township on the south. There is an auriferous quartz reef cropping out close to the creek known as Castle Rock, which although not very rich in gold, is thought would pay for working under the advantages of efficient machinery...

Another application has been made for a lease of 10 acres of old worked ground higher up the creek, a mile from the township. This block has been taken up for the purpose of puddling away the soil with the aid of steam power.

A party of Italians have taken up three acres of this old worked ground contiguous to the last mentioned piece. They are cutting a wide and deep race, quarter of a mile in length, to carry off the tail water, as they purpose to sluice-wash away the earth to obtain the gold.¹¹

September 1860: A patch of auriferous quartz was found about three weeks ago, in Charcoal-burner's Gully, half a mile west of Taradale; 2 tons of it yielded 2 oz 7 dwt of gold..¹²

November 1860: At Charcoal Burners Gully, there are only about fifty men employed, and at the Survey Paddock not more than twenty..¹³

February 1861: A site for a horse puddling machine has been taken up in Charcoal-burners' Gully, together with an acre of ground which has partly been worked before by the ordinary process of tub and cradle, but the greater portion of the acre is new surfacing..¹⁴

February 1861: Taradale, southward - Sluicing on the Back Creek. The Liberty Flat Company have got up their steam engine and are making great preparations by erecting convenient buildings to suit all requirements; also their excavations show a systematic method pursued; it is an economy consistent with expense which embraces the greatest chance of a successful issue.

The company of Italians who have been working the adjoining ground for the last five months are still persevering. Their method is the opening up a wide channel, but only washing the bottom drift for gold. They do not express much satisfaction at the reward their exertions have met with, but miners too generally dislike to make known their success for fear of encouraging competition. The tail-race which these Italians have made, at considerable cost of labor, is 600 yards long, and in the deepest part eight feet deep; for about 200 yards of its length it is lined with slabs of wood, and further sustained by traverse pieces.

Another party of Italians who have been prospecting a quartz reef in this locality, having found gold, applied the other day for the prospectors' privilege of a double claim.

This reef is situate a mile and a quarter south from the township of Taradale, and half a mile westward of the boundary line of the sold lands on the Back Creek, and is about a mile and a quarter north-north-east from the Humboldt Reef...

Scorpion Hill - A new tunnel has been commenced under this hill, the object being to rework the old ground. The old tunnel which was commenced some four months back, and runs under private property, is now 350 feet into the hill, but has not yet hit upon the lead of gold...

...half a mile further north of that last mentioned... a party of miners have sunk a shaft 70 feet deep, and found some auriferous drift. They purpose washing the earth with a horsepuddling machine which they have constructed in Milkman's Gully. ¹⁵

March 1861: The most interesting sphere of alluvial mining which obtains in this division is sluicing. There are four parties sluicing successfully in different places along the Coliban River, immediately north of Taradale, and another party is on the Back Creek; two more have taken up positions in a new field situate at Piper's Creek, two miles eastward of Mr Mitchell's station on the Campaspe River. ¹⁶

April 1861: Since the rainy weather has set in three new puddling machines have been set to work. - one at Yankee point

The Liberty Flat Company (holding a lease of ten acres immediately south of the township) are now in full working order. There are twenty-six men employed in the works, who are either shareholders or their substitutes. The mode of working pursued is wheeling out the whole of the earth, which averages ten feet in depth, and puddling through a revolving cylinder the bottom gravelly drift, which varies in thickness from a few inches up to two feet. The yield of gold from two months' work, i.e., since the 1st of March, has been 43 oz., which is a good yield considering the small area yet stripped.

The Italians, who are sluicing ground just above the occupied by the above-named company, are working vigorously, and seem well satisfied with the results. They hold a privilege of three acres. ¹⁷

April 1861: Since the rainy weather has set in three new puddling machines have been set to work. - one at Yankee point, a second at Charcoal-burner's Gully, and a third at Victoria Gully. ¹⁸

May 1861: A few miners are also engaged on the old worked grounds within the precincts of the township; and for a mile southward of it, along the valley of the Back Creek

The Liberty Flat Gold Mining Company have now 30 men employed, and have stripped nearly half an acre of the bottom, from which they have taken, since the 1st of March, 66 oz 4 dwt of gold...

The tunnelling party at the Scorpion Hill, about three weeks ago hit upon the lost lead which was worked there some four years ago. They have washed out, on an average, 1 oz from the lead, through a horse puddling machine. Another party who are working the old ground adjoining, area also doing satisfactorily, they also having a horse puddling machine.

The Thistle Company (which is an association of sixteen miners who have taken the Coliban Company's works, situate on private property two miles south of Taradale) are working energetically, but without any great results; they are getting a little gold, and are prospecting further with the expectation of hitting the lost lead of the Ironstone Hill. ¹⁹

July 1863: The various tunnel workings in the vicinity of Taradale are being worked satisfactorily. In the Park Lead, it is proved that there are small runs of gold deposit, extending along the side of, and at some places crossing the railway line. The length at present opened up is nearly half a mile. The Chinese workings, which are confined to the one locality of Yankee point and its environs, are rather on the decline, several parties having left for other gold districts. In a general view it may be said that the division is prosperous, although it remains without any exciting alteration since last report. ²⁰

March 1864: Several parties are out prospecting; but no good discovery has been made of late, although expectation was raised in two instances as I reported lately, yet the sequels have been but disappointments.

The established deep leads of the Park, at Taradale, of the Scorpion Hill, and of the Star Lead at Lauriston, afford every encouragement, although they have been but slowly developed. ²¹

September 1864: Scorpion Lead - A third party have commenced sinking on this lead, named the Cambrian Company. Indeed they are now 60 feet deep in the basaltic rock, and must go about 200 feet before they can expect to 'bottom'. The Scorpion Company is the only one that has yet reached, and is working on the auriferous deposit.

Belltopper Lead - the Hercynia Company are persevering with their tunnel, which is now 630 feet in length. ²²

December 1864: The Hercynia Company, at the old Belltopper Lead, Ironstone Hill, have not yet reached the auriferous deposit. They have extended the tunnel now over 700 feet.²³

March 1865: The Hercynia Company, on the Back Creek, about one and a half miles W by N of Malmsbury, who are searching for the Ironstone Hill Lead, have struck gold, and the shares have risen from £12 to £40 perscrip of 1-1120th. This company have been prospecting for the lead about two years, without heretofore seeing gold.²⁴

September 1866: The Leviathan has been sold to a new proprietary, who are going to work with vigor.²⁵

March 1867: The Leviathan, Belltopper, and Victoria Reefs are idle for want of funds to work the mines.²⁶

Sept 1868: The Hercynia, after being idle for 3 years, is again taken up.²⁷

December 1868: The Hercynia and the Try-again, under the trap formation, are yielding well.²⁸

March 1869: The Hercynia Company are putting a tunnel into the Waterloo Hill, under the trap-rock.

The Happy-go-Lucky Company have been obliged to put in a new tunnel at a considerably lower level than their former one, to run the water from the works; they are in under the trap formation 165 feet.

A party has taken up and crushed from a reef on Liberty Flat 50 tons that yielded 5 dwts per ton.²⁹

1871: Extracts from the Mount Alexander Mail and other sources re the Great Success Co., Taradale

9/10/1871 - Shaft down 170 feet and that they bottomed on the reef at 145 ft. Engine and poppet legs will be completed by Saturday next and they will as soon as the engine is ready begin to drive for the gutter ... The gutter has already been worked 1200 ft. in the tunnel from the Back Creek and proved remunerative.

8/12/1871 - Work in the mine is at present stopped pending the erection of a puddling machine. The wash as far as proved is 5 ft. deep and 25 ft in width

20/5/1872 - Gutter still dipping but not so fast, width about 6 ft., opening out on Wednesday for about 12 ft. with a slope of wash dirt about 1 ft.³⁰

June 1872: The Hercynia Co., on the old Ironstone Hill, are tunnelling from Back Creek 700 feet in the hill; they have about 2 ft. of washdirt.³¹

Sept 1872: The Great Success Co. is about to be reorganised under a peculiarly novel but financially safe scheme....³²

June 1873: The Ironstone Hill claim adjoining are now through the basalt, and will in a few days prove the deep ground in their claim.³³

Sept 1873: The Lord Malmsbury and Ironstone Hill Companies (adjoining the above) are still prospecting, and doubtless will soon be on the same deep lead as the Central had.³⁴

Dec 1873: Alluvial mining - The Ironstone Hill Co. have sunk their shaft to a depth of 293 feet and opened out at the 284 feet ... they have purchased and are erecting two iron puddling machines.³⁵

March 1874: There is an evident improvement in alluvial mining here: the Central, the Lord Malmsbury, and the Ironstone Hill claims are proving the deep lead that passes through this district between Taradale and Malmsbury.³⁶

Dec 1874: The Ironstone Hill and Lord Malmsbury Claims are being worked under good management, with paying prospects.³⁷

March 1875: The Ironstone Hill Co., in sinking their shaft 77 ft in a soft reef, have struck two quartz leaders. The company are in search of the United Kingdom Reef.³⁸

June 1875: The Iron Stonehill Co. have obtained 838 ozs., a little more than last quarter; the company has recently added a large area of auriferous land to their claim.³⁹

Sept 1875: The Ironstone Hill Co's claim is yielding better. This mine is worked with such economy, care and ability as secures success.

The Old Hercynia claim, at the Ironstone Hill, has been taken up by a few miners.⁴⁰

March 1876: The Lord Malmsbury and Ironstone Hill claims, and several others, have been idle..
The Comet claim is idle.⁴¹

Dec 1877: Alluvial - Little has been done this quarter, except by the Ironstone Hill Co.
The Ironstone Hill as an alluvial claim, and the United Kingdom as a quartz claim, are the only two claims really giving dividends.⁴²

March 1878: The Leviathan Co. have suspended work for a while.⁴³

June 1878: The Ironstone Hill Company are still obtaining large yields of gold ...dividend paying claim. The Comet, the Leviathan, and the McAllister have each suspended operations for a time.⁴⁴

Sept 1878: The Ironstone Hill Company are obtaining really good payable dirt from their claim. ⁴⁵

March 1879: There has been an increase during the quarter in the amount of gold obtained of more than 600 ozs., chiefly from alluvial - The Ironstone Hill claim contributing the large yield of 1,347 ozs.⁴⁶

1880: Little Wonder (lead) struck in 1880 and the Royal Standard in 1881 and the Perseverance soon after that year.⁴⁷

1880: Extracts from the Mount Alexander Mail and other sources re the Great Wonder

28/4/1880 - A new claim the "Big? Wonder" alongside the Little Wonder has been started. It is on the ground between the Little Wonder and the Hercynia, a very rich country that has not been prospected hitherto.

9/10/1880 - Great Wonder down 100 ft.

23/10/1880 - The Great Wonder are through the rock at a little over 100 ft. Water very light. The Ironstone evidently drains their mine.

16/3/1881 - The Great Wonder Co. is in Golden Country having the Hercynia, Waterloo, Little Success G.M. Co's ground.⁴⁸

June 1880: The Ironstone Hill Co. have considerably more than doubled their last quarter's yield .. The best ground of this Division appears to be South of Taradale, and is chiefly private land. ⁴⁹

Sept 1881: Bolding and Co. are driving at Yankee Point, for Scorpion Reef.⁵⁰

March 1882: The Great Wonder Company are sinking.⁵¹

Sept 1883: The Ironstone Junction Company, in putting up a rise, discovered golden dirt. The Ironstone Hill Co. are driving for the Scorpion gutter.⁵²

1884: Extracts from Mount Alexander Mail and other source re Ironstone Hill Quartz Mining Co.

17/9/1884 - This company is being formed by the parent Co. (Ironstone Hill Lead Company) to work the eastern portion of their freehold area 153 acres 20 perches, having 2770 feet along the supposed course of the celebrated Federal Reef, Traceable on the surface by various outcrops of reef. ⁵³

1885: Extracts from the Mount Alexander Mail and other sources re Leviathan Co.

29/8/1885 - The late claim of the Leviathan Co. now called Manie after the noted bridge and locality in Wales. Hughes and party are down 50 ft. and now intend to drive for reef.

3/10/1885 - Manie Co. have come to grief having broken into old workings.⁵⁴

Dec 1886: Piezzi and party opened up on payable stone at North Drummond, the trial giving an average of 1 oz. per ton. The New Charcoal Gully claim have also obtained good gold-bearing quartz. ⁵⁵

March 1887: The same is said of Charcoal Gully, Lawry Bros. The depth prospected is about 75 feet. ⁵⁶

March 1888: There are several co-operative parties engaged tunnelling the old ground ("Railway Hill") but they have not met with ground that will give miners' wages. The success of the diamond-drill in striking or discovering deep ground will undoubtedly materially improve mining in this division; but the outlay in sinking will be heavy, being a great depth of rock to bore through.⁵⁷

Dec 1888: McKenna and party, have been prospecting, and occasionally rewarded by coming upon good ground. At the other tunnelling claims, bare wages have been obtained.⁵⁸

March 1891: Yield from alluvial shows a slight increase ...but a considerable decrease is reported from quartz. New discoveries, however, have been made in the old workings at Yankee Point ...Some alluvial parties with good prospects have been delayed until the erection of more powerful machinery.⁵⁹

1905: Several co-operative parties at South Taradale and other parts of the division are making a living by working the alluvial leads, some by tunnels, and others by shafts.⁶⁰

1906: There is one hydraulic sluicing plant - Malmsbury Gold Sluicing Co. - at work in the division ...this company's operations have not been so profitable as the shareholders, who are principally, I understand, residents of South Australia, could wish. ...The plant is a first class one ...the average number of men employed is 30.

William Diss and party of four men, and Thomas Conlon and party of six men, have continued working the alluvial leads beneath the basalt at South Taradale, during the year with moderately satisfactory results.⁶¹

1907: Alluvial mining - Malmsbury Gold Sluicing Co. has continued work during the year with an average of 22 men with about payable results.

A few co-operative parties have been engaged in working the deep alluvial leads at South Taradale.⁶²

1907: The O'Connor's United Co. has employed four men in driving a tunnel across the strata from west to east, from the bed of Back Creek.⁶³

1908: Alluvial mining - The one dredge that was engaged treating the alluvia in this division ...owing to the lack of sufficient gold, suspended operations.⁶⁴

1911: The alluvial parties working in this division have, so far as I can ascertain, dwindled down to one party, viz., Conlon and party, who are working from a tunnel under the basalt at South Taradale.⁶⁵

1912: Conlon and party have continued to work the alluvial leads with payable results.⁶⁶

1914: J. Longton and party, of South Taradale, spent the greater part of the year in trying to find a continuation of the payable lead of wash that they worked in the past, but, so far, have been unsuccessful.⁶⁷

DESCRIPTION & INTERPRETATION:

Site 7A: Conlon and party (Conlon and Party reported in 1906 working the alluvial leads beneath the basalt at South Taradale.

Mine site - Small mullock heap and adit

Site 7B: Yankee Point (Gold was discovered along Back Creek in late 1852. Yankee Point was one of the richest of the alluvial diggings along the creek. Gold was also chased by tunnelling under the basalt.)

Shallow alluvial and lead mining - No alluvial workings visible. The western bank pock-marked with collapsed adits.

Site 7C: Liberty Flat (Gold was discovered along Back Creek in late 1852. Liberty Flat was one of the richest of the alluvial diggings along the creek. Gold was also chased by tunnelling under the basalt. At least one large company worked the site, ie. Liberty Flat Co. in 1861)

Shallow alluvial and lead mining. No alluvial workings visible. The western bank pock-marked with collapsed adits.

Site 7D: Scorpion Hill (Scorpion Hill diggings were opened in 1857. It became a favoured tunnelling/puddling location by 1860.)

Lead mining - Mine workings located west bank of Back Creek. The western bank is pock-marked with collapsed adits.

Site 7E: Ironstone Hill (Was a favoured tunnelling/puddling location by 1860 and became a focus for several large mining operations, including Coliban Co. (1860), Hereynia Co. (1864/1869) , and Ironstone Hill Co. (c.1873 to c.1883)

Mine site - Workings located on west bank of Back Creek. Collapsed adit, associated with a large levelled working bench. No machinery footings visible.

Site 7F: Belltopper Lead Gully (The alluvial lead worked by Malmsbury Sluicing Co. 1906/1907)

Sluicing - Sluiced gully. Occasional shallow alluvial hole preserved on the unsluiced sides of the gully.

PHOTOS:

1. Ironstone Hill
2. Looking north along Back Creek, showing Scorpion Hill and Liberty Flat

ARTEFACTS:

None visible

INTEGRITY/CONDITION:

Poor

THREATS:

CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE:

Although the sites along Back Creek have some local historical importance none have much integrity.

Significance ranking	Sites 7A to 7E Site 7F	Local Significance No Significance
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CONSERVATION POLICY:

None required

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

None

Assessor: David Bannear

Date: December 1993

- 1 The History of Gold Discovery in Victoria, James Flett, p 202
- 2 The History of Gold Discovery in Victoria, James Flett, p 203
- 3 The History of Gold Discovery in Victoria, James Flett, p 204
- 4 The History of Gold Discovery in Victoria, James Flett, p 204
- 5 Mining Surveyors' Reports, June 1860
- 6 Mining Surveyors' Reports, April 1860
- 7 Mining Surveyors' Reports, May 1860
- 8 Mining Surveyors' Reports, June 1860
- 9 Mining Surveyors' Reports, July 1860
- 10 Mining Surveyors' Reports, August 1860
- 11 Mining Surveyors' Reports, September 1860
- 12 Mining Surveyors' Reports, September 1860
- 13 Mining Surveyors' Reports, November 1860
- 14 Mining Surveyors' Reports, February 1861
- 15 Mining Surveyors' Reports, February 1861
- 16 Mining Surveyors' Reports, March 1861
- 17 Mining Surveyors' Reports, April 1861
- 18 Mining Surveyors' Reports, April 1861
- 19 Mining Surveyors' Reports, May 1861
- 20 Mining Surveyors' Reports, July 1863
- 21 Mining Surveyors' Reports, March 1864
- 22 Mining Surveyors' Reports, September 1864
- 23 Mining Surveyors' Reports, December 1864
- 24 Mining Surveyors' Reports, March 1865
- 25 Mining Surveyors' Reports, September 1866
- 26 Mining Surveyors' Reports, March 1867
- 27 Mining Surveyors' Reports, Sept 1868
- 28 Mining Surveyors' Reports, December 1868
- 29 Mining Surveyors' Reports, March 1869
- 30 Taradale Mines - extracts from Mount Alexander Mail and other sources
- 31 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - June 1872
- 32 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Sept 1872
- 33 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - June 1873
- 34 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Sept 1873
- 35 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Dec 1873
- 36 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - March 1874
- 37 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Dec 1874
- 38 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - March 1875
- 39 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - June 1875
- 40 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Sept 1875
- 41 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - March 1876
- 42 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Dec 1877
- 43 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - March 1878
- 44 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - June 1878
- 45 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Sept 1878
- 46 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - March 1879
- 47 The History of Gold Discovery in Victoria, James Flett, p 204
- 48 Taradale Mines - extracts from Mount Alexander Mail and other sources
- 49 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - June 1880
- 50 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Sept 1881
- 51 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - March 1882
- 52 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Sept 1883
- 53 Taradale Mines - extracts from Mount Alexander Mail and other sources
- 54 Taradale Mines - extracts from Mount Alexander Mail and other sources
- 55 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Dec 1886
- 56 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - March 1887
- 57 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - March 1888
- 58 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Dec 1888

59	Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports, March 1891
60	Mines Department Annual Report, 1905
61	Mines Department Annual Report, 1906
62	Mines Department Annual Report, 1907
63	Mines Department Annual Report, 1907
64	Mines Department Annual Report, 1908
65	Mines Department Annual Report, 1911
66	Mines Department Annual Report, 1912
67	Mines Department Annual Report, 1914

SITE NO. & NAME :

8A	BELLTOPPER CO.
8B	REEF WORKINGS
8C	ADIT
8D	HANOVER CO.
8E	MISSING LINK CO.
8F	QUARTZ ROASTING KILN AND OPEN CUT
8G	HUMBOLDT REEF WORKINGS

LOCATION : TARADALE WEST [BELLTOPPER AND HUMBOLDT REEFS]

LOCATION/DIRECTIONS: Site 8A: 3.5km west of Malmesbury. The site is located 1.5km northwest of the junction of Zig Zag Road and Queens Lane.
 Site 8B: 3.5km west of Malmesbury. The site is located 100m south of the battery site.
 Site 8C: 3.6km west of Malmesbury. The site is located approximately 150m along the track after crossing Back Creek.
 Site 8D: 3.4km west of Malmesbury. The site is located 170m east along Back Creek from point where the track crosses the creek.
 Site 8E: 3.4km west of Malmesbury. The site is located 100m east of Hanover Co.'s mine site.
 Site 8F: 3.3km west of Malmesbury. The site is located 170m north of Missing Link adit
 Site 8G: 4.5km north-west of Malmesbury, east side of Taradale-Drummond Road.

MAP/GRID REFERENCE: Site 8A: Drummond 1:25,000- 633.806
 Site 8B: Drummond 1:25,000- 634.804
 Site 8C: Drummond 1:25,000- 632.802
 Site 8D: Drummond 1:25,000- 634.802
 Site 8E: Drummond 1:25,000- 635.804
 Site 8F: Drummond 1:25,000- 635.803
 Site 8G: Drummond 1:25,000- 626.820

PARCEL NUMBER: Geelong Region

MUNICIPALITY Daylesford and Glenlyon

LAND STATUS: State Forest

EXISTING HERITAGE CLASSIFICATION: None

PRESENT MANAGEMENT/USE: M1G15

HISTORY:

April 1860: Following up the line of gold mining operations in a southerly course from Taradale, about four miles distant from the township, we come to the Bell-topper Hill, where a quartz reef seems to exist, but from the broken nature of the leaders (as the miners term the small veins of quartz) no great results have arisen; still a few miners are fossicking about, i.e., perseveringly exploring the abandoned shafts, in hopes of discovering some new indication of a rich deposit of the precious metal.¹

May 1860: Belltopper Hill - At this place Mr Regamy is about to erect a steam engine to crush quartz.

Three claims are held on that reef, but two of them are temporarily abandoned under the privilege afforded by registration, which secures the proprietorship although the owners be absent. The parties being short of funds are necessitated to leave their mines for a time to procure more means.

Humboldt Reef - There have been ten claims taken up and worked on this reef, but four of them have been temporarily left for want of funds, and are held under registration...²

June 1860: The Humboldt Reef - Two more claims on this reef have been temporarily relinquished under registration, on account of the parties being short of funds...

Belltopper Hill - Another extended claim of 320 feet has been taken up on this once abandoned reef, which makes the fourth claim now held there.³

July 1860: Humboldt Reef - The company of the prospectors' claim is doing well, but they have not had any quartz crushed during this month...

Bell-topper Hill Reef - M. Berges and Co. have got up a six horse-power engine, but have had no returns as yet. Three shafts are being worked on the reef..⁴

August 1860: Taradale to the Southward - Nothing of exciting interest has transpired from these quarters during the month. The ordinary workings at the reefs are steadily pursued - to wit, two claims on the Humboldt, three on the Bell-topper, two on the Frenchman's at Kangaroo Creek, also the Leviathan and Castle Rock.⁵

November 1860: The quartz reefs seem to be the prime feature in this gold field, on which will probably depend its prosperity as a mining district. At the Barfold Ranges there are ten mines being successfully worked, at the Victoria Reefs there are four, at the Humboldt two, at Belltopper Hill three, at Kangaroo Creek three, and at the Malmsbury diggings there is one.⁶

February 1861: Humboldt Reef - Four claims are now being worked on this reef, 20-1/2 tons of quartz from the prospectors' claim, which was lately crushed, yielded 120-1/2 oz of gold.

Bell-topper Reef - Two claims are being worked on this reef, but the third claim held there is temporarily relinquished, under registration. The miners now at the Bell-topper are all Italians; they have a small engine and crush their own quartz, and they invariably state that the yield of gold is under an ounce from a ton.⁷

March 1861: Humboldt Reef - Twenty-one tons of quartz crushed, taken from the prospectors' claim, gave 120 oz 8 dwt of gold.⁸

May 1861: Humboldt Reef - There are but two claims being worked on this reef, and the prospectors are the only party getting gold. They have not had any crushings of late, but have 50 tons of good looking stone about to be carted to the crushing mill. The lode in their claim has increased in thickness as they descended, and is now 2 feet thick at a depth of 90 feet.⁹

July 1863: In the beginning of the month, there was a discovery of alluvial gold made between McMillan's Flat and the Hanover Reef. There are only about 50 working there at present. The Prospectors' Claim at Hanover Reef is giving good returns...¹⁰

September 1866: The Old Belltopper is again taken up and is yielding well.¹¹

March 1868: At the Belltopper reef the miners are obtaining good stone from a depth of 160 feet, are erecting a battery, and will shortly be crushing.¹²

June 1868: The Lord Newry or Old Belltopper Co. have let their mine on tribute, the tributors are obtaining stone yielding 9 to 10 dwts. per ton, with an engine and battery on the claim, that pays them, although the stone is very hard, and the reef but narrow.¹³

December 1868: Quartz reefing in this subdivision has not been carried on with much spirit ... The Archilles, Belltopper, Victoria, and the Prince Albert Companies have suspended operations, although all good gold-bearing reefs.¹⁴

Sept 1872: The Corner claim, near Belltopper, is yielding very fair results; the company have put down their shaft to a depth of 80 feet, and have driven 220 feet; are now on good washdirt.¹⁵

March 1877: A claim on the Belltopper ranges has been recently taken up by a few local miners, and payable gold has been struck. The last crushing yielded 2 ozs. 5 dwt. per ton.¹⁶

June 1877: The Humboldt, a reef on the Belltopper Ranges, bids fair to be a good paying reef.¹⁷

Sept 1877: On the Belltopper Ranges, a claim called the Humboldt, taken by Messrs. Thureau and others, is yielding over 2 ozs. per ton.¹⁸

Dec 1877: Quartz Mining - Messrs Thureau's claim, on Humboldt Reef, yielded 4-1/2 ozs. per ton; Ogg's claim on Belltopper Ranges yielded 2 ozs. per ton.¹⁹

June 1878: Messrs Thureau and Company are still working on the Humboldt Reef. This reef is on the Belltopper Ranges...²⁰

Sept 1878: At the Humboldt two parties are prospecting.²¹

1880: Mount Alexander Mail and other sources re Humboldt Co.

1/12/1880 - Humboldt Co. are down 170 ft. in tight country with little water. They intend going about 30 ft deeper.
17/9/1881 - Raising some of the richest stone ever seen in the mine and there is no doubt from the heavy stream of water they will be soon on the reef.

11/4/1883 - A meeting to empower the Humboldt Co. to borrow money on Plant etc., lapsed for want of quorum. It was decided to call another meeting either to wind up the company or take any other action decided upon.

2/5/1883 - decided to let the mine on tribute.²²

Sept 1880: Quartz reefing at Belltopper has again been started, and apparently with success as good rich quartz veins have been discovered.²³

Sept 1881: In quartz, the Humboldt Company have struck a rich vein of stone, yielding 4-3/4 ozs. to the ton. ²⁴

Dec 1881: The Humboldt ... erecting machinery ²⁵

June 1882: The batteries of the Humboldt and Rising Sun companies being near completion, there will probably be a fair return from quartz during the ensuing quarter. ²⁶

Dec 1882: The Humboldt Co. are sinking a shaft at the south of their claim, consequently crushing has been discontinued by them for a time. ²⁷

June 1883: Notwithstanding the decreased yields, mining matters throughout the subdivision are looking far healthier and improving. Several new finds of stone have been reported and a large number of new claims have been started, more especially in the vicinity of the Queen's Birthday, Humboldt, and Hubber's Reef. The O'Connor's Freehold, north of the Queens Birthday mine, have struck payable stone. The Belltopper Tunnelling Company, the Egyptian Company, the holders of a claim south of the Humboldt Company, and Bolding and party anticipate to be in full work, with a number of extra hands employed. ²⁸

Sept 1883: The Humboldt tributers have not yet been successful; they crushed 100 tons for 20 ozs. At Hustler's Hanover, and the Belltopper reefs, many parties are prospecting by drive and sinking. ²⁹

Sept 1884: The companies which have, during the quarter, struck gold are, in quartz - the "Premier" (late Hanover, "Masonic", Belltopper Hill. ³⁰

March 1885: The quartz claims situate at and around Belltopper and Ironstone Hill, are being prospected ... ³¹

June 1885: A number of claims taken up under lease at Belltopper. ³²

Sept 1888: Report on the Principal Gold-Bearing Reefs of the Taradale Division.
Humboldt Reef - Situate on Crown Lands, near Taradale, in the parish of Drummond ... The reef has been traced to a depth of 150 feet and a length of 160 feet. The depth of the main shaft is 450 feet, and the water level is 150 feet The mine was abandoned, as the machinery was burnt down, and there were no available funds to erect a new plant. ³³

March 1888: The Queen's Birthday are reported to be working on payable stone, but to the present their returns are low. The South Queen's, North O'Connor's, "Missing Link" are prospecting their claims, but no stone worthy of report has been brought to the surface. ³⁴

June 1888: The yield of gold shows a decrease of 600 oz., the O'Connor's alone being 450 ozs. below last quarter; and the stoppage of the Golden Gate, through breakage of machinery, will account for the remainder. The Prince of Wales has 50 oz. above last quarter, and the claim appears to be still improving. The Queen's Birthday Co. has not yet discovered O'Connor's Reef ... Prospecting is, however, being carried on also at the Missing Link, the North, and No 1 O'Connor's. ³⁵

Sept 1888: In quartz, the Queen's Birthday, South Queen's, No 1 O'Connor's, Missing Link, and other claims, prospecting is being carried on; but up to the present no satisfactory results have been reported. ³⁶

March 1891: Malsbury ... The Never Despair Co. Have crushed 29 tons of stone at the Missing Link battery for 21-1/2 oz. of gold. ³⁷

1903: The Belltopper Company's mine is the only one in the Division that has made any material progress during the year. This company during the nine months ending 30th September 1903, crushed 183 tons for 790 oz. The greater portion of this stone was worked from a tunnel driven into the south face of the Belltopper Hill. While the stopes from the tunnel level upwards were being worked, the management wisely sank a main shaft, which is now about 150 feet below the tunnel level ... a winding and crushing plant has been purchased and erected. The crushing plant was officially started on the 14th of November last, but really did not start crushing until a week or so later. ³⁸

1904: The Belltopper Gold Mining Company, at North Drummond, whose prospects at the beginning of 1904 appeared very bright, did not realize expectations, and I regret to state have suspended, or almost suspended, operations. ³⁹

1905: The Panama (late Belltopper) Company has apparently been lingering between life and death during the greater part of the year. ⁴⁰

1906: Hubber and Sons have continued working throughout the year on the small reefs on which they had worked for a number of years past in the Belltopper Hill, and out of which they have made small wages.

A few other co-operative parties have worked on the quartz reefs in the locality with vary success.⁴¹

1907: J. Hubber and Sons have continued working their mine in the Belltopper Hill with about payable results. They have crushed 58 tons of stone for a yield of 120oz. of smelted gold. Four men have been employed.⁴²

1908: J. Hubber and Sons, on the Belltopper Hill, has had a fairly successful year - the small lode worked returning them wages.⁴³

1910: Amongst the several co-operative parties in this division working the quartz lodes and veins, J. Hubber and Sons continue to put through an occasional crushing which yields 1 to 3 or 4 ozs. per ton⁴⁴

1911: The Hanover Company has completed the erection of a winding and pumping plant, and is now engaged in sinking the shaft. Hubber and Sons have continued working ...⁴⁵

1912: The Hanover Company having sunk the main shaft to 180 feet, opened out, cut the reef, and drove 100 feet south on it.

The Panama Company having been floated during the year to develop lodes known as the Fairy Streak and Antimony sunk a main shaft to 60 feet, when the water became troublesome as to necessitate the erection of machinery. A small winding plant has been erected.

Hubber Brothers have worked throughout the year on their small reef with barley payable results.⁴⁶

1913: The Hanover Company, after suspending operations during the early part of 1913, resumed operations by driving north...⁴⁷

1914: The Hanover Company sunk the main shaft another lift of 80 feet, making the total depth 260 feet⁴⁸

1915: The Hanover Company has carried on work on a limited scale with unsatisfactory results.⁴⁹

DESCRIPTION & INTERPRETATION:

Site 8A: Belltopper Co. (Battery was being operated by the Belltopper Co in 1903)

Water dam - Located near the west side of the track is a small water dam, which has an earthen embankment

Shaft and pump footings - On the gully slope above the dam (to the northwest) is a filled, but slightly collapsed, shaft. On the western side of the shaft are two parallel, one foot thick, wooden bedlogs. The bedlogs are approximately 12ft long and rest on 6ft long, 1-1/2ft thick, bearers. The wood is badly decayed.

Shaft and small mullock heap - 30m south of the above shaft is a 15m diameter mullock heap. The mullock heap stands approx. 8m high and is associated with a slightly collapsed shaft.

Battery and engine site - 3m from the western end of the wooden bedlogs (pump footings) is a well preserved stone engine bed. This bed has a base measurement of 33ft x 12ft and stands approx. 11ft high. The upper section of the engine bed is not solid, but is divided into two parallel footings which are separated by a 2-1/2ft wide gap. The upper surfaces of the footings have 1-1/4 inch iron mounting bolts, which are associated with the traces of wooden bearers. The north side of the engine bed has collapsed slightly, exposing loose interior fill

Running from the north side of the stone engine bed is a line of decaying battery stamps, stamp slots and protruding 2 inch iron bolts. The visible stamper footings suggests 10-head of stampers.

Loading ramp - Running along the rear of the stamper footings is the remains of a 16ft long, 11ft high, stone loading ramp.

Boiler setting, flue and stack site - Running south from the southwest corner of the engine bed is a largely intact stone boiler setting. The boiler setting, which is partly obscured by blackberry bushes, measures approx 30ft long; has 2-1/2 thick and 4ft high, stone walls; and a 7-1/2ft wide internal cavity. The rear (south end) of the boiler setting has been demolished. A flue depression runs from the rear end of the boiler setting for a distance of approx. 25m and terminates at a 5-3/4ft square stack depression. A brick chimney collapse (red, hand-made, set in soft mortar) runs from the stack base for a distance of approx. 15m.

Tailings dump - In the gully below the dam (to the south) is a largely quarried tailings dump.

Open shaft - 15m NNE from the pump shaft is a small open shaft - approx. 18m to water level.

Site 8B: Reef workings (Reefs on Belltopper Hill being worked by 1860. Last period of extensive mining took place in the first decade of the 20th century.

Reef workings - Line of reef workings run down a ridge, (in a north westerly direction) from the Hanover shaft (Site 8C). The workings, which have been partly bulldozed as a result of shaft filling work, are dominated by a line of five small circular mullock heaps. These heaps become progressively larger the further you go down the ridge. The largest heap abuts the eastern side of the vehicular track that runs passed the battery site. There is some trenching, costeaning and narrow open cutting associated with the line of mullock heaps..

Site 8C: Adit (Difficult to date, presumably nineteenth century)

Open adit associated with small mullock heap. The adit is located on the eastern side of Back Creek.

Site 8D: Hanover Co. (Hanover mine operated from c. 1911 to 1915)

Adits - 90m along (east) the Hanover mine site track, north side is what appears to be a collapsed adit. 55m further on, same side, is a second adit, which is still partially open.

Shaft and machinery site - At the 165 metre point along the Hanover mine track, the track diverges away from Back Creek and climbs steadily uphill to the Hanover mine site. Remains at this mine site include an open shaft associated with a large intact mullock heap. Located above the shaft are two working platforms. The lower platform, which is approx. 5m square, contains an arrangement of decayed wooden bedlogs. There appear to be four bedlogs, set 2-1/2ft apart, resting on bearers. The bedlogs are approx. 12ft long, and contain 1 inch iron mounting bolts.

The upper platform also contains an arrangement of decaying bedlogs. There is also a largely demolished brick boiler setting located on the western side of the upper platform. Only a small section of the rear end of the boiler setting survives. The surviving brickwork of the boiler setting contains a damper plate from which runs a short (3-1/2ft long) intact brick flue. The flue, which is 3ft wide, ends at a 4ft square brick chimney base. The bricks are red, hand-made, and are set in a soft mortar.

Open cut - 30m west of the Hanover's open shaft is a small open cut.

Site 8E: Missing Link Co (This company operated during the late 1880s.)

Adits - 80 metres southeast of the Hanover's shaft, at the base of the hill, is a partially collapsed adit. 20 metres further on is the Missing Link Co.'s adit. The latter adit is open, 6ft high, and associated with an intact mullock heap which has two dumping lines.

Site 8F: Quartz roasting kiln and reef workings (Reefs on Belltopper Hill being worked by 1860. Last period of extensive mining took place in the first decade of the 20th century. The small roasting kiln would most probably date to the early days of quartz mining (late 1850s/early 1860s))

Reef workings - 170m north of the Missing Link adit, on the crest of the ridge, is a line of reef workings. The best way to approach the site is by following a track which runs to the workings from the rear of the Hanover mine. Where the track crosses the workings there is a long section of shallow open cutting. To the southeast of the open cutting the workings are made up of some costeaning and trenching, several small mullock heaps/filled shafts and one open adit.

Quartz roasting kiln - A small quartz roasting kiln is located on the north side of the open cut, approx. 55m south east from the point where the track from the Hanover Mine site crosses the line of workings. The kiln is one of the below ground type, and has a diameter of 12ft. and is six feet deep. The kiln's portal is intact, but partly buried by rubble.

Site 8G: Humboldt Reef workings (Reef being worked by 1860, appears to have lost favour as a mining locality by 1880s)

Reef workings - Bulldozed workings including some shallow open cutting and mullock heaps.

- PHOTOS:**
1. Site 8A - pump footings and stone engine bed
 2. Site 8A - battery stumps
 3. Site 8A - loading ramp and boiler setting
 4. Site 8A - boiler setting
 5. Site 8A - flue depression
 6. Site 8C - adit and mullock dump
 7. Site 8D - boiler setting and flue
 8. Site 8D - working platforms
 9. Site 8D - bedlogs on lower platform
 10. Site 8D - mullock dump
 11. Site 8F - small roasting kiln

ARTEFACTS: None visible

INTEGRITY/CONDITION: Good

THREATS:

CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE:

Site 8A has:

- Scientific Significance, because of the survival of a comprehensive set of features which illustrates the operation of a small scale, turn-of-the-century quartz mine.

Site 8B has:

- Scientific Significance, due to the survival of a relatively undisturbed line of shallow reef workings. The remains of the Hanover Co. mine (Site 8D) occur at the northern end of the line and those of the Belltopper Co. (Site 8A) at the southern end.

Site 8D has:

- Scientific Significance, because of the survival of a range of features which illustrates the operations of a small scale, early twentieth century quartz mine.

Site 8E has:

Scientific Significance, because of the intactness and size of the adit.

Site 8F has:

Scientific Significance because of the age and rarity of the quartz roasting kiln. The site's significance is enhanced by the undisturbed nature of the adjoining reef workings.

Sites 8A to 8F have:

Cumulative Significance - The sites surviving on Belltopper Hill have considerable scientific value because they contain well preserved relics documenting aspects of the mining operations which took place over a period of some sixty years. The focal point of the Belltopper Hill sites are the foundations belonging to the Belltopper Company. These remains, have the distinction of being the most complete set of quartz mining relics yet discovered in the Taradale Division. The Belltopper Hill sites possess other important values, in that (a) it is the only one of two mining localities in the Taradale Division where remains of a quartz roasting kiln have been discovered. This adds to the small list of such sites for the Central Victorian Goldfields, and (b) the sites occur in an rugged, attractive bush setting.

Sites 8B and 8G has poor integrity and little historical importance and hence low cultural significance.

Significance ranking	Site 8A: Belltopper Co.	National Estate
	Site 8B: Reef workings	Regional Significance
	Site 8C: Adit	Local Significance
	Site 8D: Hanover Co.	Regional Significance
	Site 8E: Missing Link Co.	Regional Significance
	Site 8F: Kiln and reef workings	Regional Significance
	Site 8G: Humboldt Reef workings	Local Significance

CONSERVATION POLICY:

The significance of the Belltopper Hill mining sites (Sites 8A, 8B, 8D, 8E and 8F) comes from their intactness and isolation, and from the rarity of two sites, namely, the well preserved mining relics belong to the Belltopper Company (Site 8A) and to the small quartz roasting kiln (Site 8F)

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

Sites 8A (Water dam, shaft and pump footings, mullock heap and battery foundations); 8B (Line of shallow reef workings); 8D (Adit, shaft and machinery site, and small open cut; 8E (open adit and large mullock heap); and 8F (Small roasting kiln and shallow open cutting) to be protected.

Assessor: David Bannear

Date: December 1993

- 1 Mining Surveyors' Reports, April 1860
- 2 Mining Surveyors' Reports, May 1860
- 3 Mining Surveyors' Reports, June 1860
- 4 Mining Surveyors' Reports, July 1860
- 5 Mining Surveyors' Reports, August 1860
- 6 Mining Surveyors' Reports, November 1860
- 7 Mining Surveyors' Reports, February 1861
- 8 Mining Surveyors' Reports, March 1861
- 9 Mining Surveyors' Reports, May 1861
- 10 Mining Surveyors' Reports, July 1863
- 11 Mining Surveyors' Reports, September 1866
- 12 Mining Surveyors' Reports, March 1868
- 13 Mining Surveyors' Reports, June 1868
- 14 Mining Surveyors' Reports, December 1868
- 15 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Sept 1872
- 16 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - March 1877
- 17 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - June 1877
- 18 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Sept 1877
- 19 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Dec 1877
- 20 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - June 1878
- 21 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Sept 1878
- 22 Taradale Mines - extracts from Mount Alexander Mail and other sources
- 23 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Dec 1880
- 24 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Sept 1881
- 25 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Dec 1881
- 26 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - June 1882
- 27 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Dec 1882
- 28 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - June 1883

29	Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Sept 1883
30	Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Sept 1884
31	Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - March 1885
32	Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - June 1885
33	Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Sept 1888 (by Henry Archdale, Mining Surveyor)
34	Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - March 1888
35	Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - June 1888
36	Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Sept 1888
37	Mount Alexander Mail, 10/3/1891
38	Mines Department Annual Report, 1903
39	Mines Department Annual Report, 1904
40	Mines Department Annual Report, 1905
41	Mines Department Annual Report, 1906
42	Mines Department Annual Report, 1907
43	Mines Department Annual Report, 1908
44	Mines Department Annual Report, 1910
45	Mines Department Annual Report, 1911
46	Mines Department Annual Report, 1912
47	Mines Department Annual Report, 1913
48	Mines Department Annual Report, 1914
49	Mines Department Annual Report, 1915

SITE NO. & NAME: 9A O'CONNOR'S FREEHOLD
 9B EGYPTIAN CO
 9C QUEENS BIRTHDAY CO.
 9D SOUTH QUEENS NO. 1
 9E EXTENDED SOUTH QUEENS

LOCATION: DRUMMOND NORTH [QUEENS BIRTHDAY LINE OF REEF]

LOCATION/DIRECTIONS: Site 9A: 3.6km south-west of Malmesbury. The site is located north-west of the junction of Zigzag Road and Queens Lane.
 Site 9B: 3.8km south-west of Malmesbury. The site is located 400m southwest of the junction of Zigzag Road and Queens Lane.
 Site 9C: 3.9km south-west of Malmesbury. Next mullock heap south of Site 9B (Egyptian Co.)
 Site 9D: 4.2km south-west of Malmesbury. Next mullock heap south of Site 9C (Queens Birthday Co.)
 Site 9E: 4.5km south-west of Malmesbury. The site is located 175m southwest of the junction of Vaughan Forest Road and Queens Lane.

MAP/GRID REFERENCE: Site 9A: Drummond 1:25,000- 635.793
 Site 9B: Drummond 1:25,000- 635.790
 Site 9C: Drummond 1:25,000- 635.787
 Site 9D: Drummond 1:25,000- 635.783
 Site 9E: Drummond 1:25,000- 635.779

PARCEL NUMBER:

MUNICIPALITY Daylesford and Glenlyon

LAND STATUS: Freehold Land

EXISTING HERITAGE CLASSIFICATION: None

PRESENT MANAGEMENT/USE: Pastoral

HISTORY:

March 1883: Mining matters generally during the past quarter have been dull and the yield of gold from alluviums considerably less than that for the previous quarter which, however, has been partly made up by the very rich returns from the Queens Birthday Co. (quartz claim), whose success has given a great impetus to speculation in the locality of the mine.¹

June 1883: I have to report a great falling off in the yield of gold ... caused by the fact that no quartz has been crushed. The Queen's Birthday Co. who returned 586 ozs. last quarter have stacked their quartz until their new machinery is erected.

There is also a decrease of 250 ozs. from alluvial mines.

Notwithstanding the decreased yields, mining matters throughout the subdivision are looking far healthier and improving. Several new finds of stone have been reported and a large number of new claims have been started, more especially in the vicinity of the Queen's Birthday, Humboldt, and Hubber's Reef. The O'Connor's Freehold, north of the Queens Birthday mine, have struck payable stone. The Belltopper Tunnelling Company, the Egyptian Company, the holders of a claim south of the Humboldt Company, and Bolding and party anticipate to be in full work, with a number of extra hands employed.²

Sept 1883: I have to report an increase in the yield of gold, 1629 Ozs. having been obtained by the Queens Birthday Company during two months. A continuation of their lode has been discovered in O'Connor's paddock, the reef there being 15 inches wide.³

Dec 1883: An increase in the yield of gold ... 1,111 ozs., principally from the Queen's Birthday claim, which alone yielded 2,400 ozs. from 400 tons of stone ... The Egyptian and O'Connor's Freehold, having struck the reef on the Birthday line, took out crushings, which gave 1-1/2 ozs. and 2 ozs. respectively.⁴

June 1884: I have to report an increase in yield of gold of 1,759 ozs. obtained chiefly from the Queens Birthday, Egyptian and Aroona companies. 150 additional miners are employed in the Division as compared with last quarter, and by the reports more could be taken on. Mining in this Division has not been in so prosperous a state as at present for many years past. There is a large extent of country yet to be opened up, the run of quartz being traced north towards Taradale, south by Lauriston towards Kyneton, and south-west towards Trentham. Three of the quartz claims have obtained payable stone, viz: North Queens, O'Connor's and South Queens ... Nearly the whole of the auriferous (quartz) land being held by private parties, prospecting is considerably retarded by the high prices charged for permission to break the soil, so much as £500 being demanded in one case.⁵

Sept 1884: I have again to report an increase in the yield of gold for the quarter of 1,371 ozs., chiefly from the Queen's Birthday and Egyptian Companies' quartz claims. There was also an increase in the number of miners employed and in the number of crushing and pumping engines erected, or in the course of erection, within this division. ... The companies which have, during the quarter, struck gold are, in quartz - Paton and party, Metcalfe; and in alluvial - the "Prince of Wales". on Lady Darling line, South Taradale. In dividends, the Queen's Birthday Company paid 20s., the Ellis's Freehold 6s. 6d., and the Egyptian 2s., since formation of those companies.⁶

Dec 1884: I have to report a decrease for the quarter in the number of men employed, also in the yield of gold in consequence of the stoppage of the Egyptian Co. to erect machinery, and the falling off in the yields from the Queen's Birthday and other claims ... The Egyptian Co. will crush at their new battery, and the Aroona Co. will also be in full work.⁷

June 1885: Decrease in the yield of gold for the quarter of near 2,000 ozs., caused chiefly by the falling off in the Queen's Birthday and South Queen's companies, both of which are sinking, driving, and doing other dead work. The South Queen's are driving for the gutter supposed to run through their ground.⁸

Dec 1885: Increase in the yield of gold of 930 ozs., principally caused by the improved returns of the Prince of Wales (alluvial) and Egyptian (quartz) mines; at the same time the number of miners employed is 100 short of last quarter ... The Queen's Birthday are working the 300 ft level with satisfactory results. The Egyptian Co. also at the 360 ft level is improving.⁹

June 1886: Beyond stating that the yield from the Queen's Birthday Co is nearly 500 oz. in excess of previous returns, there has not been any material alteration in mining in this division.¹⁰

Sept 1886: Mining was dull for the first two months, but in consequence of the discovery of golden stone by Lawry Bros., it revived slightly ... The stone crushed by the party named gave 52 oz. from 15-1/2 tons. The reef is the Queen's Birthday line, which has now been traced north of the township. The total yield from the Queen's Birthday Co. is 700 oz. less than last quarter, and the average per ton is slightly less. They have now opened out at the 500-ft level, where good stone has been discovered. Russell's Co. - This claim is now being worked profitably, the average is good and likely to continue. The Egyptian Co. are opening up their claim...¹¹

Dec 1886: The Queen's Birthday Co have struck payable stone at 500 ft.¹²

March 1887: Quartz - The O'Connor's (Queen's Birthday line) are now getting out payable stone, averaging about once to the ton.

At South Queen's prospecting is being carried on by driving and sinking (a depth of 520 feet has been attained).¹³

June 1887: The report for the quarter ending 30th June shows a large increase in the yield of gold, the O'Connor's having 1,00 ozs. and the Queen's Birthday 800 ozs., more than last quarter, making the increase in quartz alone 1,700 ozs.¹⁴

Sept 1887: Mining appears to be again reviving in this division. The rich yields from O'Connor's Freehold, and striking the reef at a deeper level, also finding that the line is continuing north towards the old claims at Belltopper, which, if proved payable, will cause a length of the line of reef to be opened up very soon. Several claims have already been taken up, and sinking commenced.¹⁵

Dec 1887: It may be fairly said that a mining revival has set in, for, notwithstanding the decrease in returns from the Queen's Birthday, the yield of gold is 500 oz. over the last quarter. Confidence appears to have been quite restored ... The O'Connor's Freehold have exceeded last quarter in their gold return by 800 oz, the total for the term being 3,019 ozs. Other claims on the Queen's Birthday and O'Connor's lines have been promoted.¹⁶

March 1888: Mining matters in this division do not show the improvement that was anticipated in my last return; on the contrary it will be seen that there is a decrease in the yield of gold by 2,000 oz. - the "O'Connor's alone being 800 oz. less than last quarter ...

The Queen's Birthday are reported to be working on payable stone, but to the present their returns are low. The South Queen's, North O'Connor's, "Missing Link" are prospecting their claims, but no stone worthy of report has been brought to the surface.¹⁷

June 1888: The yield of gold shows a decrease of 600 oz., the O'Connor's alone being 450 ozs. below last quarter; and the stoppage of the Golden Gate, through breakage of machinery, will account for the remainder. The Prince of Wales has 50 oz. above last quarter, and the claim appears to be still improving. The Queen's Birthday Co. has not yet discovered O'Connor's Reef ... Prospecting is, however, being carried on also at the Missing Link, the North, and No 1 O'Connor's.¹⁸

Sept 1888: In quartz, the Queen's Birthday, South Queen's, No 1 O'Connor's, Missing Link, and other claims, prospecting is being carried on; but up to the present no satisfactory results have been reported.¹⁹

Sept 1888: Report on the Principal Gold-Bearing Reefs of the Taradale Division.

O'Connor's Reef - This reef is situate on private property, near Malmsbury, in the parish of Drummond ... The reef has been traced to a depth of 263 feet. The depth of the shaft is 270 feet and the water level is 100 feet ... The mine is still in operation under the title of the O'Connor's Freehold Company.

Queen's Birthday Reef - The reef has been traced to a depth of 575 feet, and along the lode 500 feet south and 400 feet north, at the 500-foot level. The depth of the shaft is 583 feet, and of the water level 200 feet ... The mine is still being worked by the Queen's Birthday Company.²⁰

Dec 1888: The yield of gold is 737 oz. above last quarter. The O'Connor's Freehold still maintains its supremacy, having declared dividends to the amount of 2s. 6d. per share for the quarter, and for the year paid £15,600 to the shareholders.

The Queen's Birthday are also slowly working again ... The Egyptian Co., also, are getting into better country, stone showing gold.²¹

March 1889: The returns of gold obtained show a decrease in 500 oz. in comparison with the quarter ended December, 1888, caused by the falling off in the principal claim, O'Connor's Freehold Co. ... The Extended South Queens' Co. have been Successful in striking payable alluvial ground, prospects from which have been most encouraging.²²

June 1889: With the exception of the Extended South Queen, all the alluvial claims are barely making expenses.²³

June 1889: With the exception of the Extended South Queen, all the alluvial claims are barely making expenses.²⁴

Sept 1889: A considerable amount of activity is observed by mining men, in consequence of the yields lately obtained at Lauriston and Drummond ... The Extended South Queen's have obtained fair results from small quantities put through the machines. The district is without doubt a quartz mining district, considering the almost fabulous results that have been obtained at the Old Achilles, Fenton's Reef, United Kingdom, North O'Connor's, Queen's Birthday, and Russell's reef South..²⁵

April 1891: In the Drummond mines, the O'Connor's Freehold did not take the amalgam off, as they had been so short a time crushing, owing to the Easter holidays. In the Queen's Birthday good stone has been met with ... The quantity of water met with in the North O'Connor's indicates a change.²⁶

June 1891: A decrease is shown in the yield for the past quarter ... in consequence of two of the the gold producing mines (the O'Connor's Freehold and Russell's Reef Companies being engaged in progressive work; and although mining matters were very quiet during the earlier portion of the quarter, a slight reaction was noticeable towards its close, consequent upon the discovery of a rich vein in the Humboldt mine and the striking of payable quartz by Messrs McKenna Brothers.²⁷

Sept 1891: With the exception of a crushing by the South Russell's Company of 20 tons which yielded 64 oz., and the striking of a strong lode showing gold by the O'Connor's Freehold Company at the 525-ft level, nothing worthy of particular mention has come under notice.²⁸

1903: A number of co-operative parties have worked on the O'Connor's Freehold and Queen's Birthday lines of reef during the year with payable results.

The Queen's Lead Gold Mining Company (at North Drummond) has done a good deal of work during the year in trying to pick up an alluvial lead which is said to run through its lease. Up to the end of the year payable wash had not been obtained.²⁹

1904: A fresh start was made on the O'Connor's Freehold mine during the year, but little or no prospecting work had been done up to the 31 December 1904, owing to the fact that the great difficulties to be overcome in getting the water out greatly delayed the commencing of mining operations below ground.³⁰

1905: The O'Connor's United Company has spent the greater part of the year in pottering around with a few men ... Late in the year it erected a winding winch on the Old Queen's Birthday Co's shaft, under agreement with McKenna and party, who hold the shaft and surrounding ground.³¹

1906: No work has been done by the O'Connor's United Co. during the year, except for a few men during the last quarter, who were employed treating the old tailings by cyanide.³²

1907: The O'Connor's United Co. has employed four men in driving a tunnel across the strata from west to east, from the bed of Back Creek.³³

1908: The O'Connor's United Co. has, during the year, been working, sometimes with 2 or 3 wages men, and at other times with a few tributers. Several co-operative parties around Taradale have opened up new quartz lodes, from which highly-payable crushings have been taken.³⁴

1909: The O'Connor G. M. Company has sunk a new shaft to a depth of about 200 feet, and erected a winding plant thereon.³⁵

1910: The O'Connors Co. suspended operations after crushing one small parcel of stone from the new shaft, with the newly erected crushing plant.³⁶

1911: The O'Connors Company resumed work early in 1911, and shortly afterwards cut payable stone from which regular crushings have been taken ... Beer Brothers have discovered a reef about 3 miles south of Lauriston, from which it is reported they have obtained yields up to 5 ozs. to the ton. The Madame Melba Company is engaged in sinking a main shaft about 1/2 mile north of O'Connors Co.³⁷

DESCRIPTION & INTERPRETATION:

Site 9A: O'Connor's Freehold (Company operated from c.1883 to 1911)

Mine site - Site dominated by three large mullock heaps. The most northern dump has been quarried through the middle.

Machinery site - Associated with the southern most (largest) of the mullock heaps are a set of substantial concrete winding engine footings.

Tailings - Located between the southernmost and middle mullock dumps is an extensive tailings dump.

Site 9B: Egyptian Co. (Company operated during the 1880s.)

Mine site - Large mullock heap. No machinery footings visible. On the north west side of the mullock heap are two small water dams.

Site 9C: Queens Birthday Co. (Company operated during the 1880s. The function of the stone structure is unknown, most probably as mounting bed for sort of machinery)

Mine site - Large mullock heap associated with a water dam.

Machinery site - Some iron mounting bolts protrude from the mullock, on the southern end (west side) of the mullock heap. The shaft has been filled.

Stone structure - Near the mullock heap, western side, is a raised circular stone structure which is approximately 10 metres wide and 3.5 metres high. The structure is solid (earthen fill) and its upper surface has a circular depression which is lipped with traces of thin concrete. The ground around the structure is obscured by high gorse.

Site 9D: South Queens No 1 (Company operated during the 1880s)

Mine site - Small intact mullock heap. Shaft visible and possibility of some machinery footings.

Site 9E: Extended South Queens (An alluvial mine which operated c.1889)

Mine site - Small mullock heap. No machinery footings visible.

PHOTOS:

1. Site 9A - mullock heap and machinery footings.
2. Site 9A - tailings dump
3. Site 9B - mullock heap
4. Site 9C - mullock heap and stone structure
- 5 and 6 Site 9C - circular stone structure
7. Site 9D - mullock heap
8. Site 9E - mullock heap

ARTEFACTS:

None visible

INTEGRITY/CONDITION:

Sites 9A and 9C are the only two mines along the Queens Birthday Reef which still retain some machinery foundations.

THREATS:

CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE:

Site 9A has:

- Scientific Significance, because of the survival of a range of features documenting the operations of the O'Connor's Freehold Co.

Site 9C has:

- Scientific Significance, because of the survival of a circular stone structure whose function, at the present time, is unknown.

Sites 9A to 9D have:

Cumulative Significance, because of survival of a line of large mullock heaps (representing five different mines) along Queens Birthday Reef. A rare type of landscape feature.

Significance ranking	Sites 9A, 9B and 9D Site 9C Site 9C	Regional Significance National Estate (Provisional on interpretation of function) No Significance
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CONSERVATION POLICY:

The mullock heaps of the adjoining mine sites form a rare landscape feature which shows how quartz mining usually took place along a line of reef. Site 9C has a provisional National Estate nomination subsequent to a functional interpretation of the circular stone structure.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

Site 9A to 9C be protected (Line of large mullock heaps and circular stone structure)

Assessor: David Bannear

Date: December 1993

- 1 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - March 1883
- 2 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - June 1883
- 3 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Sept 1883
- 4 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Dec 1883
- 5 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - June 1884
- 6 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Sept 1884
- 7 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Dec 1884
- 8 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - June 1885
- 9 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Dec 1885
- 10 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - June 1886
- 11 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Sept 1886
- 12 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Dec 1886
- 13 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - March 1887
- 14 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - June 1887
- 15 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Sept 1887
- 16 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Dec 1887
- 17 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - March 1888
- 18 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - June 1888
- 19 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Sept 1888
- 20 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Sept 1888 (by Henry Archdale, Mining Surveyor)
- 21 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Dec 1888
- 22 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports, March 1889
- 23 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports, June 1889
- 24 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports, June 1889
- 25 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports, Sept 1889
- 26 Mount Alexander Mail, 7/4/1891
- 27 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports, June 1891
- 28 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports, Sept 1891
- 29 Mines Department Annual Report, 1903
- 30 Mines Department Annual Report, 1904
- 31 Mines Department Annual Report, 1905
- 32 Mines Department Annual Report, 1906
- 33 Mines Department Annual Report, 1907
- 34 Mines Department Annual Report, 1908
- 35 Mines Department Annual Report, 1909
- 36 Mines Department Annual Report, 1910
- 37 Mines Department Annual Report, 1911

SITE NO. & NAME:	10A	PRINCE OF WALES CO.
	10B	NEW GOLDEN GATE CO.
	10C	CENTRAL CO.
	10D	LORD MALMSBURY CO.
	10E	LONE STAR CO.
	10F	LONDON AND MELBOURNE CO.
	10G	CONFLUENCE CO.
	10H	MALMSBURY ALLUVIAL CO.

LOCATION: TARADALE/MALMSBURY DEEP LEAD

LOCATION/DIRECTIONS: Site 10A : 1.5km south-east of Taradale. The site is located west of the Highway, 1/2km north of Conlons Road.
 Site 10B: 2.3km south-south-east of Taradale. The site is located 200m along Conlons Road from the road's junction with the Highway. The mine is located on the south side of Conlons Road.
 Site 10C: Located 200m along road leading to Lord Malmsbury mine from the road's junction with Highway. The mine is located on the north side of the road.
 Site 10D: Located 1.3kms north of the junction of Mollison and Adamson Streets, Malmsbury.
 Site 10E: Located 600 metres south along Highway from the junction with road that runs to Lord Malmsbury mine.
 Site 10F:
 Site 10G: Located 600m north along Adamson Street from its junction with Mollison Street, Malmsbury.
 Site 10H: Located 400m northwest of junction of Highway and Adamson Street, Malmsbury.

MAP/GRID REFERENCE: Site 10A: Drummond 1:25,000- 651.849
 Site 10B: Drummond 1:25,000- 652.842
 Site 10C: Drummond 1:25,000- 655.827
 Site 10D: Drummond 1:25,000- 668.822
 Site 10E: Drummond 1:25,000- 655.821
 Site 10F: Drummond 1:25,000- 647.840
 Site 10G: Drummond 1:25,000- 666.815
 Site 10H: Drummond 1:25,000- 664.812

PARCEL NUMBER:

MUNICIPALITY Sites 10A to 10C - Metcalfe
 Sites 10D to 10F - Daylesford and Glenlyon
 Sites 10G and 10H - Kyneton

LAND STATUS: All sites are on Freehold Land

EXISTING HERITAGE CLASSIFICATION: None

PRESENT MANAGEMENT/USE: Pastoral

HISTORY:

1856: German Gully was opened in April, and Talbot Hill in May. McMillan's Flat and the Brunswick, Ironstone and Talbot Hill leads were rushed in August. Belltopper lead, then called the Ironstone lead, was also discovered at this time and rushed.¹

March 1864: The established deep leads of the Park, at Taradale, of the Scorpion Hill, and of the Star Lead at Lauriston, afford every encouragement, although they have been but slowly developed.

A company is being organized to prospect for the deep lead, at that point where, unitedly, the Park, the Scorpion, and the Belltopper Leads are supposed to cross beneath the Coliban River, between Taradale and Malmsbury. This will be an expensive undertaking, but I entertain great expectations of its richness...²

December 1864: The Scorpion Lead - At the Old Scorpion Mine, which now goes under the name of the London and Melbourne Company, the new proprietors are but making preparations for working the mine on a better system. They are excavating new and larger drives below; and above ground, are erecting new and more powerful machinery.

The Ballarat Company on this lead, have not yet struck the auriferous earth, or at least so as to work it, but are persevering against many difficulties.

The Cambrian Company, who have been the last four months sinking a shaft for the same lead, are still in the basaltic rock, at a depth of 130 feet.³

March 1865: The increasing activity in this subdivision absorbs the labor of all persons who can leave other employment to seek for gold; and people of all conditions are eagerly entering into mining for deep leads.

The London Company, at Taradale, have very recently struck a lead, supposed to be the continuation of Bell's, which has hitherto proved to be very rich in gold, with a first-rate prospect; and the Ballarat Company, about a quarter of a mile more to the south, have met with a lead, supposed to be identical with the famous Scorpion Lead, notw being so efficiently worked, with a prospect of 1 dwt to the bucket. The lead appears to run about east. The London and Melbourne Company, to the westward of the former, have completed their extensive arrangements of machinery and plant, and have constructed a pump to a depth of 200 feet or upwards, having deepened their shaft by at least 65 feet, and opened out at that level. There was some delay occasioned by a partial break-down of the puddling machinery, some minor parts thereof having been made disproportionately weak.

During the last quarter, the Lord Malmsbury Company (north of the Paragon Company) and the Mill-Stream Company, on the Coliban River, near Mr Ellis's flour mill, have commenced operations with considerable energy; and the Lone-Star Company, opposite Boundy's Hotel, may also be mentioned as having begun work about a month. The Cambrian Company, who are sinking for the lead about half a mile south of the London and Melbourne Company, have temporarily suspended operations, in order to erect machinery for pumping out the water, to which they are at present unequal.⁴

September 1865: In the column giving four (4) steam engines for puddling and pumping as 'idle', three are in course of erection on an extensive scale (the machinery being on the ground), viz., the Countess of Malmsbury, the Lord Malmsbury, and the Lauriston Gold Mining Company.⁵

June 1866: [Thomas Orwin, Mining Registrar] The London and Melbourne Co., of Taradale, yielded gold from crushings of quartz tailings and/or cement.⁶

September 1866: In my last report I alluded to the evil effects of over speculation in this subdivision, which, I regret to say, is still operating injuriously on the mining interests here, as is obvious from the want of energy displayed by several companies on whose claims thousands of pounds have been expended; nevertheless there are a few claims which have been continued, and are bidding fair to be dividend paying claims. The prospects of the London and Melbourne are of highly encouraging character. They will shortly commence to block out ground where the wash-dirt is 4 feet thick, having the lead of gold one hundred feet wide by several hundred feet long; the company have enlarged their claim considerably.

The Nil Desperandum Company have let the claim to tribuots, who are doing well; last week they obtained over 30 ozs of gold from two machines. The London have good prospects. The Union claim is also let to tributors and yielding well. The Cambrian have suspended operations for a while, in order that the manager may communicate with the shareholders of the company, and have their opinion, concerning a sudden dip in their main drive, supposed to be in close proximity to the lead now worked by the London and Melbourne Company. The Lord Malmsbury are regarded with great interest; having gone an unexpected depth, they will shortly bottom, and thus prove the ground between Taradale and Malmsbury.⁷

13 October 1866 - Lord Malmsbury G.M Co. struck gold on Wednesday last. Yield from 1 to 2 dwt per bucket. Ground deepest in locality - shaft being 220 ft and the drive in which the gutter was struck is 86 ft.⁸

December 1866: The Lord Malmsbury Company are still persevering in search of the deep ground, and have at a depth of 282 feet obtained payable ground, still dipping. The Cambrian have suspended their works to arrange for making a lower level, the ground continuing to dip. In quartz reefing there is an improvement, as my returns show nearly double the quantity of stone this quarter.⁹

March 1867: The London & Melbourne, with appliances of a first-class character, are making their claim pay well.¹⁰

June 1867: The London and Melbourne Co's claim joins the above ground, and is by far the most extensive in this division; viz. 98 acres, and is now enlarged by the company purchasing the adjoining claim called the Ballarat Freehold, consisting of 107 acres, a total of 205 acres. They have in constant employment about 80 men and 3 horses below, besides those at work above ground to facilitate the work. There are 10 faces open ... They have recently added to their former appliances a battery of 12 stampers to crush tailings; they are now operating on a heap of tailings consisting of 8 to 10 thousand tons, which returns average 2 dwt. to the ton. The whole of the works above and below are under the superintendence of Captain Lean ... The Lord Malmsbury claim is being worked by tributors.¹¹

Sept 1867: The London Company, adjoining the above, is also doing well in deep ground, with washdirt 6ft thick, yielding 7 ozs. to the machine. The Taradale Co., the Lord Malmsbury, and a few other claims that are working, are looking well; but upon the whole mining is very dull in the division.¹²

March 1868: In alluvial mining, the claim registered under Fraser's Act two years ago by the Cambrian Gold Mining Co., and then abandoned by them as not payable, has been taken up by Tibb and party, who have proved a rich lead in the claim, and are obtaining very coarse gold. South-east of this claim is the Great Central claim, recently taken up by English capitalists. Adjoining is the Rising Sun claim, with a shaft bottomed in deep ground, and then abandoned; it is now taken up by a number of working miners.

The London and Melbourne have ceased operations during the erection of new boilers.¹³

1868: Extracts from Mount Alexander Mail and other sources re London & Melbourne Co.

29/1/1868 - London and Melbourne have increased their battery stamps

24/11/1869 - The London and Melbourne have arranged with Mr. Urquhart for the taking up and working the Lady Darling Co's claim.¹⁴

1868: Extracts from Mount Alexander Mail and other sources re Cambrian (later Sir James McCulloch Co.)

6/5/1868 - Cambrian's Co's ground between Malmsbury and Taradale close to central's ground. Nuggets 4-1'2 ozs. also coarse gold found by private party working the ground.

29/5/1869 - Trying to strike gutter by putting tunnel from creek at side of hill. Tunnel now in 396 feet ... It may be necessary to sink a shaft

22/6/1870 - Ground formerly held by Cambrian Co. has been taken up by Co. called Sir James McCulloch Co

9/7/1870 Area about 300 acres in allotment 54 and part of 55 Parish of Edgecombe ... both alluvial gutter and quartz reef being worked.¹⁵

1868: Extracts from Mount Alexander Mail and other sources re Central Co.

20/6/1868 - Mr Kitto visited Taradale re starting Old Central Co's claim on behalf of English interests. Claim is situated east end of No 1 tunnel mid-way between Malmsbury and Taradale. The Try Again Co being so close to Central that it can be said they are prospecting it for them.

13/11/69 - Central have driven through the second basalt in their shaft at 186 ft. Expect to bottom at 215 ft.

24/11/1869 - Excitement when Central struck drift ... Company taken up ground of Lord Malmsbury, Cambrian and Lone Star Co's; whilst the London and Melbourne have arranged with Mr. Urquhart for the taking up and working the Lady Darling Co's claim. Thus all the country between Malmsbury and Taradale is in the possession of two wealthy companies.

19/2/1870 - Central bottomed on good wash. Some portions of the shaft through the quicksand cost £1,000 a foot. ...

This Co. has two mines, Duke of Cornwall at Fryerstown and Central at Taradale.¹⁶

June 1868: South of the Great Central claim is the Lord Malmsbury claim, still idle, although there is a good shaft sunk to a depth of 235 feet, and a level opened out at 225 feet on the top of a gutter...

The party who took up the Rising Sun claim, now called the "Tyr Again", are energetically at work...¹⁷

Sept 1868: The Great Central and Lord Malmsbury have been secured by the United Australian Gold Mining Co., and will soon commence working on an extensive scale.¹⁸

December 1868: There has been an improvement in several of the alluvial claims. The Taradale, the London, and the Working Miner's continue to block out good payable ground. The London and Melbourne have not yet found the rich, deep gutter they have so long been in search of; although the mine continues to pay well, yielding, on average, £125 worth of gold per week, with appliances of the most complete character.

...the deep ground in this locality is to be proved by the claim formerly known as the Central, and now taken up by the United Australian Gold Mining Company and the Lord Malmsbury Company.¹⁹

March 1869: The London and Melbourne Company have proved a large extent of ground, in which are two distinct runs of gold that will yield remunerating returns for a long period; they are putting in an exploring drive nearly due east in search of a third run or lead of gold, of which the ground gives clear indications.

The Taradale Company hold the adjoining claim, and are working at the same level, and doing well; 17 men for the last two weeks' work obtained 73 ozs.

The London and Working Miners are both doing well, and paying good wages.

Operations are still continued at the Central (the claim recently taken up by Mr Kitto), and the miners generally are sanguine of their success.²⁰

June 1869: The London Company are working at 150-foot level, and are on good wash dirt. The Taradale United, the adjoining claim south, are working at 160-foot level, on a rich wash. Last week seventeen men obtained 36 ozs of gold, and this week the yield will be greater, from the appearance of the stuff.

The London and Melbourne Gold Mining Company's claim is south of and adjoining the Taradale United claim, and are in deeper ground still. The manager, after years of search, has at length proved that there is good payable deep ground in their claim: he is now working at 189-foot level, and obtaining satisfactory results. This is the deepest ground that has yet been worked and found payable in this goldfield.

The party who have for several months past been working the ground formerly held by the Cambrian Company (south of and next to the London and Melbourne Company) have struck the gutter in deep ground. I reported last quarter that they were obliged to put in a new tunnel at a lower level, to run the water from their works into the Back Creek. They have driven the tunnel over 400 feet into the hill under the trap-rock, and are now washing sometimes 8 ozs to the machine of heavy nuggety gold. The wash is rather shallow, but with proper appliances the ground will be fairly remunerative.²¹

June 1870: During the quarter there has been a very great improvement in quartz mining in this division. Capitalists have been inspired with confidence in the auriferous character of the reefs here, and are energetically prospecting for, and discovering, payable reefs. The most of the claims recently taken up are in private property, yet doubtless they

will be traced into Crown lands, and thus open out a permanently rich goldfield. Even now, at this early stage of the movement, an excitement prevails at Lauriston, Kyneton, Malmsbury, and Taradale such as has not been experienced on the goldfields south of Sandhurst.

The recent trial washings at the Central Claim, under the management of Messrs Kitto and Co., have been highly satisfactory, and have developed another rich discovery of vast importance to this district, demonstrating a fact that till now was speculative, viz., that an extensive rich deep lead trends through the district. This will open out a new and large discovery in the direction of Redesdale.²²

December 1870: The London and Melbourne Company continues to raise stone from the 65 and 90-foot levels. The reef is about 2 feet wide, and of a promising character. They are unable to crush, although they have 150 tons of stone on the surface.

The Anglo-Australian Gold Mining Company (the Central, near Taradale) continues to obtain grand results (so says report)...²³

1870: Extracts from the Mount Alexander Mail and other sources re London and Little London Co's.

2/11/1870 - The brow of the hill was worked some time ago for alluvial by two companies called the London Co. and the Little London Co. but, though they came across pockets now and then in the drift the claims gradually fell off and the mines were closed.

The land was purchased from Messrs. Shrimpton Bros. by Messrs Nelson and others from whom the company has leased the land for 21 years.²⁴

1870: Extracts from Mount Alexander Mail re Lady Canterbury

28/8/1870 - Meeting of promoters of Lady Canterbury M. Co. was held at Malmsbury ...it was decided to sink a shaft a further 50 ft. (Near Frenchman's Reef Alluvial).

29/10/1870 - Shaft down 156 ft.²⁵

March 1871: The Fenton Company are about to erect a crushing plant on the claim, which will save the expense of trucking the quartz to the London and Melbourne battery.²⁶

March 1871: In alluvial mining nothing new has taken place during the quarter. The Central Claim has been let on tribute to Mr Lean and others, and gives employment to about fifty men. Doubtless, under Mr Lean's management, this mine will now be properly worked, and thus give encouragement to the adjoining claimholders.²⁷

June 1871: The amount of gold obtained in this division during the quarter is 1654 ozs in excess of that obtained last quarter, notwithstanding the suspension of the Central claim for the last two months.²⁸

December 1871: The Australian United Gold Mining Company, formerly the Central, have commenced to work again, and it is to be hoped they will persevere until they prove this - on which so much depends the future of Taradale and Malmsbury - gold field with respect to alluvial mining. Should they demonstrate the theory held by many geologists and practical miners, that the old river beds underlying the basaltic plains, extending for many miles, reaching from Taradale to the junction of the Coliban and Campaspe, are rich deep leads, and can be worked, they will give an impetus to mining in this district such as we have not experienced.²⁹

June 1872: The Central claim is the only one here that puddles, and they will not disclose their yield.³⁰

Sept 1872: Alluvial - The Successful yields of the Australian United (or the Central Goldmine) tends to brighten the hopes of the adjoining claimholders.

Messrs Kitto and Co. are sinking a shaft on the Lord Malmsbury ground, next their Central claim.

The Lady Canterbury claim (on the Jim Crow Road) continues to work with prospects so encouraging that the company are about to erect an engine for winding and pumping.³¹

Dec 1872: The most prominent mining event of the past year has been the satisfactory discovery of a deep alluvial lead between Taradale and Malmsbury.

The Australian United (or Central) continues to yield richly and to inspire capitalists with confidence in the mineral resources of the district.

The claim south-east of the Central, called the Lord Malmsbury, has been taken up by a number of very wealthy gentlemen, whose character and capabilities insure the working of the same. Land east of these claims, through which the deep ground trends is inquired after; thus there is now a probability of this goldfield receiving the attention that it deserves. Great credit is due to the indomitable perseverance of Mr. Kitto for this discovery.³²

March 1873: The Lord Malmsbury Co. are erecting two engines for winding and pumping

The Australian United or Central continue to obtain large quantities of gold weekly...³³

June 1873: The Central continues to yield well.³⁴

Sept 1873: There has been no change of importance taken place in the division during the quarter just ended except the suspension of the Anglo-Australian claim, formerly the Central; the gentlemen to whom was entrusted the management of the works have left the colony for London; thus over 100 hands are thrown out of employment. The Lord Malmsbury ... still prospecting, and doubtless will soon be on the same deep lead as the Central had.³⁵

Sept 1873: Another company calling themselves the Golden Gate are endeavouring to enter the deep alluvial ground further north.³⁶

Sept 1873: The Lord Malmsbury and Ironstone Hill Companies (adjoining the above) are still prospecting, and doubtless will soon be on the same deep lead as the Central had. Another company calling themselves the Golden Gate are endeavouring to enter the deep alluvial ground further north.³⁷

Dec 1873: The Central Claim is about to start again. The Lord Malmsbury Claim is good and yielding heavy gold.³⁸

June 1874: The Lord Malmsbury Co. are also on the deep gutter. They have completed their balance shaft, constructed the chambers at the top, and are commencing to drive. The Central mine is let on tribute, and is paying well.³⁹

Sept 1874: The Lord Malmsbury G. M. Co. continues to open out new ground, with cheering prospects. The yield of gold for the quarter is 780 ozs.⁴⁰

Dec 1874: The Ironstone Hill and Lord Malmsbury Claims are being worked under good management, with paying prospects.⁴¹

March 1875: The Lord Malmsbury Co. expect soon to be able to fully employ their 4 puddling machines.⁴²

Sept 1875: The Lord Malmsbury have enlarged their claim considerably by taking up the adjoining ground formerly held by the Confluence Gold Mining Co; the completeness of the appliances of this company enables them to make very poor dirt pay.⁴³

13 October 1875 - Lord Malmsbury Co's operations suspended. Good ground is trending in a direction of old Confluence Co's claim for which a lease has been applied and as soon as this is obtained, operations will be resumed.⁴⁴

Dec 1875: Great attention is just now being paid to the deep alluvial gutter ... situate between Taradale and Malmsbury, and running east or north-eastward towards Redesdale. The Lord Malmsbury, Ironstone Hill, the Central and other companies, have proved the existence of the gutter in their different claims. At the present there is a good prospect of a large amount of capital being invested and profitably expended on this almost untried portion of the division.⁴⁵

March 1876: The Lord Malmsbury and Ironstone Hill claims, and several others, have been idle.⁴⁶

Dec 1877: The Lord Malmsbury Co. are still sinking their new shaft.⁴⁷

March 1878: The Confluence G. M. Co., who took up the land south of the Lord Malmsbury claim, have bottomed their shaft on the gutter, and are highly pleased with their prospects ... The adjoining claim, the Ironstone Hill Co's claim, still continues to yield satisfactory results.⁴⁸

1878: The Confluence lead was struck in 1878...⁴⁹

June 1878: The Confluence Company have opened out their level, and are driving on the gutter with really good prospects.⁵⁰

Sept 1878: The Confluence Company have, within the past few days only, struck the gutter ... It is reported that the old Central ground has been again taken up, also the land adjoining, for working the alluvial.⁵¹

Dec 1878: The Malmsbury Confluence is one of the best claims in the district; its depth is 260 feet; within a few days a large number of hands will be put on.⁵²

March 1879: The Confluence Co's mine is being well opened out; the average yield from dirt washed is good.⁵³

June 1880: The Ironstone Hill Co. have considerably more than doubled their last quarter's yield, and the Confluence Co. have also obtained a large increase.⁵⁴

Sept 1880: The Lady Darling ground is again taken up ... At Well's paddock gold in quartz has been discovered.⁵⁵

March 1881: The Confluence yield is 280 ozs. less, owing to the men having been chiefly employed driving and preparing to block out.⁵⁶

Sept 1881: The yield of gold is not up to that of last quarter, owing to the falling off in returns from the Confluence and Good Friday companies.⁵⁷

Sept 1881: The Rising Sun are on quartz, but have not yet crushed..⁵⁸

Dec 1881: Notwithstanding that several of the claims have been idle, and others short-handed, the yield of gold is in excess of that for the previous quarter by about 100 ozs., and the number of miners actually employed shows an increase of 50. The increase of gold is made up by the Ellis's Freehold Co., who are obtaining good dirt from a gutter from 80 to 100 feet wide.⁵⁹

March 1882: Mining matters ... have been unusually dull. There has been a falling-off in the yield of gold and the number of miners employed. This is partly due to the Humboldt and Rising Sun companies having stopped in order to erect machinery, and the Ironstone Hill Company having ceased working.⁶⁰

June 1882: I notice that by far the largest proportion of gold is taken from claims on private land. The Ellis's Extended Co. will shortly become a good paying claim; it is situate west of Ellis's Freehold. The lead or gutter appears to be running towards Barfold. The batteries of the Humboldt and Rising Sun companies being near completion, there will probably be a fair return from quartz during the ensuing quarter.⁶¹

Sept 1882: There is an increase in the return of gold of nearly 200 ozs, 100 of which have been obtained from the Humboldt and Rising Sun quartz claims that commenced crushing only recently. In alluvial there is an increase in the return of the Royal Standard Co. of 200 ozs., and Ellis's Freehold of 25 ozs.⁶²

Dec 1882: In alluvial, the yield from Ellis's Freehold is much below the previous quarterly returns. The Royal Standard Co. obtained 364 ozs.⁶³

March 1883: In alluvial Ellis's Freehold Co. continues to give fair yields ... The Extended Ellis Co. are driving for the same gutter, and have washed a few machines of dirt with payable results. The Royal Standard Co. are also getting good dirt and paying large dividends. Ham and Party and the "Rose and Shamrock Company" have been putting in drives, consequently the yields are not so large. There is the probability of several new ventures being started in the ensuing quarter..⁶⁴

Sept 1883: In alluvial, Ellis's Freehold Co. obtained 17 ozs. of gold, and the Royal Standard Co. 50 ozs. more than the preceeding quarter.⁶⁵

Dec 1883: The Ellis's Freehold have opened out the gutter, which runs from 80 feet to 150 feet in width and is payable. There is a large tract of country held in the neighbourhood, both by lease and miner's rights, and prospecting is being carried on in a majority of the claims.⁶⁶

June 1884: In alluvial, except in Ellis's Freehold, nothing appears to be doing, quartz alone absorbing the attention of miners and speculators. Taking into consideration the vast extent of country untried, there is no doubt but within the next twelve months this will be one of the most important mining districts in the colony, more especially if the demands made by the landowners are moderate.⁶⁷

Sept 1884: The companies which have, during the quarter, struck gold are, in alluvial - the "Prince of Wales" on Lady Darling line, South Taradale.⁶⁸

Dec 1884: In alluvial mining nothing whatever is doing except by the Ellis's Freehold Co. (who employ a large number of men) and by the Chinese, who are paddocking and washing the beds and banks of the creeks.⁶⁹

June 1885: In alluvial, the Prince of Wales Co. are getting payable dirt, averaging about 12 oz. to the machine. The Golden Gate Co., Taradale, have arranged for machinery, will start in a few days to deepen their shaft.⁷⁰

Dec 1885: The Golden Gate Co. are through the rock and expect to strike the drift in a few days.⁷¹

Dec 1885: The success of the Prince of Wales Co. has caused the holders of adjoining land to commence mining operations. The land north and south on the line of lead being held on lease, it is anticipated that in a few months the number of miners employed will be considerably increased.⁷²

March 1886: An increase of gold of over 300 ounces, making 1,200 ounces for the half year. The Prince of Wales (alluvial) and Queen's Birthday (quartz) claims are maintaining the average of last quarter. The temporary stoppage of the New Golden Gate Co. put out a number of hands, but new machinery will be erected forthwith, when a far larger number will be employed, besides which several claims on the line have been taken up, which, if worked in accordance with the regulations, should employ a large number of miners and make the district again look prosperous. The 51st section of The Mining on Private Property Act is now resorted to as the most expeditious way of taking up land, owners accepting terms offered rather than risk proceedings at law. Complaints are frequently made of the large area of land held in this division, the holders of which will not work, but hold for speculation only.⁷³

June 1886: The Prince of Wales have obtained richer dirt in another level, and this has given greater confidence in the district. The New Golden Gate have completed their machinery, and will commence forthwith. At Lauriston, Drummond, and Trentham very little is doing, the stoppage of the Aroona Co. has been a great drawback to mining in the two former places.

In alluvial nothing is doing, except by the Prince of Wales Co., at Taradale.⁷⁴

Sept 1886: The Prince of Wales Co. (alluvial) have been engaged in sinking their shaft so as to work the deep ground. A portion of the claim has been let on tribute.

The Golden Gate (alluvial) are still driving and otherwise opening up their ground.⁷⁵

Dec 1886: In alluvial, the Golden Gate Co. have struck the gutter, and prospects highly satisfactory have been obtained. The Home Rule Co. have been washing payable dirt, 5 dwt to the load having been obtained. At the Prince of Wales Co. prospecting is being carried out.⁷⁶

March 1887: Alluvial - The returns of the Prince of Wales is a large increase upon the previous quarter. Dirt, is however, poor.

The Golden Gate has been idle for a considerable time - in consequence of the fire in the engine house machinery - have resumed work.

At the Home Rule, Last Chance, and other co-operative companies, poor wages only are obtained.⁷⁷

March 1888: the flooding of the Golden Gate stopped work for six or seven weeks, which also accounts for the decrease.

At the "Victoria", "Perseverance", and others, Taradale, two trial crushings have been made, the result being about 11 dwt..⁷⁸

June 1887: In alluvial there has been a slight decrease; the stoppage at the Golden Gate and Prince of Wales, being compelled to sink to enable them to follow the lead, has, no doubt, been the cause of the falling-off in yield.⁷⁹

Sept 1887: In alluvial little can be said. The Golden Gate are, after encountering great difficulties, now in full work ... the same may be said of the Prince of Wales, the heavy rains and floods considerably retarding progress. There does not appear, however, any inclination on the part of holders of adjoining claims in the Private Property to make a start ...⁸⁰

Dec 1887: In alluvial, the Golden Gate and Prince of Wales are obtaining better returns. The former will, in a few weeks, be amongst the dividend-paying mines.⁸¹

March 1888: Mining matters in this division do not show the improvement that was anticipated in my last return; on the contrary it will be seen that there is a decrease in the yield of gold by 2,000 oz. - the "O'Connor's" alone being 800 oz. less than last quarter, and the flooring of the Golden Gate stopped work for six or seven weeks, which also accounts for the decrease.

In alluvial, the only claims employing a number of hands are the "New Golden Gate" and "Prince of Wales", the returns from both claims have increased, and more hands are employed.⁸²

Sept 1888: The yield of gold has not diminished, notwithstanding the Golden Gate and Prince of Wales have been compelled to shorten hands recently.⁸³

Dec 1888: In alluvial, the Prince of Wales Co. have obtained far better results, and are in a much better position, than at any time since starting.

The Golden Gate Co. have been singularly unfortunate in having three heavy bursts of water, which put the working of the mine back, and considerably reduced yield of gold.⁸⁴

Sept 1889: In alluvial mining very little is doing. The Prince of Wales discharged all their men the beginning of the quarter. The Golden Gate have been putting in lower levels and prospecting.⁸⁵

Dec 1890: A great improvement is also noticeable in alluvial mining, and the yield from this class of mining would have been higher had not the Golden Gate mine been flooded.⁸⁶

Dec 1889: The discovery of rich alluvial deposits on the Urquhart Estate land, about one mile and a half from the township, west of Coliban, is likely to give work for years ... supposed to be continuation of either the Ironstone or Central leads.⁸⁷

April 1891: New Golden Gate, Taradale - Main drive south west extended 25 feet for week; wash very loose. Gold for fortnight 30oz.⁸⁸

Sept 1891: Increased yields have been obtained in alluvial mining by the Golden Gate Company, which enabled them to pay a dividend. In consequence of the success of the diamond drill in discovering deep ground a large area of ground has been taken up east of the Coliban River.⁸⁹

1911: It is reported that a strong company has been floated with the object of testing the deep alluvial lead at Malmsbury, but up to the present no evidence of active operations is apparent.⁹⁰

1912: There is a slight improvement in the prospects of this division owing to a strong company having been formed to test the alluvial deposits in and around Malmsbury, and to a few smaller companies and co-operative parties carrying on operations on the quartz lodes. The Malmsbury Alluvial Company (above referred to) has sunk a main shaft 14 feet x 7 ft 6 inches to a depth of 288 feet, and erected winding and pumping machinery.⁹¹

1913: The Malmsbury Alluvial Company, from which a good deal has been expected during the year, is still in the developmental stage.⁹²

DESCRIPTION & INTERPRETATION:

Site 10A: Prince of Wales Company (Company commenced mining c.1884 and stopped in 1889. The company's success in 1885 caused a minor mining boom)
Mine site - Extensive, but relatively low, mullock heap. No visible machinery footings

Site 10B: New Golden Gate (Company commenced mining in 1873, was re-formed as the New Golden Gate c.1884 and closed down c.1891)
Mine site - Large, partly quarried mullock heap which abuts a private residence. No visible machinery footings.

Site 10C: Central Co. (This claim, along with the adjoining Lord Malmsbury lease, was taken up by a group of English capitalists in 1868. The United Australian Gold Mining Co. (who worked the two properties) mounted what was probably the most ambitious (albeit unsuccessful) deep lead operation in the history of the Taradale Mining Division)
Mine site - Relatively large mullock heap. No machinery footings visible

Site 10D: Lord Malmsbury Co. (This claim, along with the adjoining Central lease, was taken up by a group of English capitalists in 1868. The United Australian Gold Mining Co. (who worked the two properties) mounted what was probably the most ambitious (albeit unsuccessful) deep lead operation in the history of the Taradale Mining Division. The Lord Malmsbury claim became briefly successful in the late 1870s)
Mine site - This mine has the largest mullock heap surviving on the Taradale/Malmsbury Deep Lead.

Site 10E: Lone Star Gold Mining Co. (Company appears to have been working the claim during the late 1860s)
Mine site - Extensive, but relatively low, mullock heap. No visible machinery footings.

Site 10F: London and Melbourne Co. (The London and Melbourne Co. was operating by 1864 and in 1867 was reported as having the most extensive plant in the Taradale Division. Company appears to have stopped operating c.1870)
Mine site - Low, partly quarried mullock heap. To the north of the mullock heap is an intact tailings dump. No machinery footings visible.

Site 10G : Confluence Co. (The company appears to have worked from 1878 to c.1881)
Mine site - Large intact mullock heap. No visible machinery footings.

Site 10H: Malmsbury Alluvial Co. (The company was operating c.1912)
Mining machinery site - Small intact mullock heap associated with some concrete machinery footings. The footings are quite small, and obscured by high grass.

PHOTOS:

1. Site 10C - mullock heap
2. Site 10E - mullock heap
3. Site 10H - mullock heap and concrete machinery footings
4. Site 10G - mullock heap
6. Site 10A - mullock heap
7. Site 10B - mullock heap
5. Site 10F - mullock heap and tailings

ARTEFACTS: None visible

INTEGRITY/CONDITION: Poor

THREATS:

CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE:

Sites 10E and 10G have poor integrity and little historical importance and hence low cultural significance.

Sites 10A, 10B, 10C 10D, and 10F have:

Some local historical importance due to their significance as deep lead mining sites.
However, like Sites 10E and 10G, they have poor integrity.

Site 10H has:

Limited scientific significance, due to the survival of some concrete foundations.

Sites 10A to 10H have:

Cumulative value - landscape features which are visible from the Calder Highway.

Significance ranking All sites have Local Significance

CONSERVATION POLICY:

None required

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

None

Assessor: David Bannear

Date: December 1993

- 1 The History of Gold Discovery in Victoria, James Flett, p 203
- 2 Mining Surveyors' Reports, March 1864
- 3 Mining Surveyors' Reports, December 1864
- 4 Mining Surveyors' Reports, March 1865
- 5 Mining Surveyors' Reports, September 1865
- 6 Mining Surveyors' Reports, June 1866
- 7 Mining Surveyors' Reports, September 1866
- 8 Taradale Mines - extracts from Mount Alexander Mail and other sources
- 9 Mining Surveyors' Reports, December 1866
- 10 Mining Surveyors' Reports, March 1867
- 11 Mining Surveyors' Reports, June 1867
- 12 Mining Surveyors' Reports, Sept 1867
- 13 Mining Surveyors' Reports, March 1868
- 14 Taradale Mines - extracts from Mount Alexander Mail and other sources
- 15 Taradale Mines - extracts from Mount Alexander Mail and other sources
- 16 Taradale Mines - extracts from Mount Alexander Mail and other sources
- 17 Mining Surveyors' Reports, June 1868
- 18 Mining Surveyors' Reports, Sept 1868
- 19 Mining Surveyors' Reports, December 1868
- 20 Mining Surveyors' Reports, March 1869
- 21 Mining Surveyors' Reports, September 1869
- 22 Mining Surveyors' Reports, June 1870
- 23 Mining Surveyors' Reports, December 1870
- 24 Taradale Mines - extracts from Mount Alexander Mail and other sources
- 25 Taradale Mines - extracts from Mount Alexander Mail and other sources
- 26 Mining Surveyors' Reports, March 1871
- 27 Mining Surveyors' Reports, March 1871
- 28 Mining Surveyors' Reports, June 1871
- 29 Mining Surveyors' Reports, December 1871
- 30 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - June 1872
- 31 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Sept 1872
- 32 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Dec 1872
- 33 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - March 1873
- 34 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - June 1873
- 35 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Sept 1873

36	Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Sept 1873
37	Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Sept 1873
38	Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Dec 1873
39	Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - June 1874
40	Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Sept 1874
41	Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Dec 1874
42	Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - March 1875
43	Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Sept 1875
44	Taradale Mines - extracts from Mount Alexander Mail and other sources
45	Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Dec 1875
46	Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - March 1876
47	Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Dec 1877
48	Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - March 1878
49	The History of Gold Discovery in Victoria, James Flett, p 204
50	Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - June 1878
51	Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Sept 1878
52	Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Dec 1878
53	Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - March 1879
54	Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - June 1880
55	Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Dec 1880
56	Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - March 1881
57	Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Sept 1881
58	Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Sept 1881
59	Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Dec 1881
60	Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - March 1882
61	Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - June 1882
62	Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Sept 1882
63	Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Dec 1882
64	Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - March 1883
65	Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Sept 1883
66	Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Dec 1883
67	Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - June 1884
68	Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Sept 1884
69	Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Dec 1884
70	Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - June 1885
71	Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Dec 1885
72	Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Dec 1885
73	Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - March 1886
74	Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - June 1886
75	Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Sept 1886
76	Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Dec 1886
77	Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - March 1887
78	Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - March 1888
79	Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - June 1887
80	Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Sept 1887
81	Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Dec 1887
82	Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - March 1888
83	Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Sept 1888
84	Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Dec 1888
85	Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports, Sept 1889
86	Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports, Dec 1890
87	Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports, Dec 1889
88	Mount Alexander Mail, 13/4/1891
89	Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports, Sept 1891
90	Mines Department Annual Report, 1911
91	Mines Department Annual Report, 1912
92	Mines Department Annual Report, 1913

SITE NO. & NAME: 11A GOOD FRIDAY CO.
 11B AROONA CO.
 11C KANGAROO REEF WORKINGS

LOCATION : KANGAROO CREEK/MALMSBURY RESERVE

LOCATION/DIRECTIONS: Site 11A: 1.8km south-west of Malmsbury. The site is located approx. 1/2km northwest of junction of Zigzag Road and Malmsbury-Daylesford Road.
 Site 11B: 3.7km south-west of Malmsbury. The site is located opposite the junction of Vaughan Forest Road and Malmsbury-Daylesford Road.
 Site 11C: 5.5km south-west of Malmsbury, north side of Trumble Road, off main Drummond to Lauriston Road.

MAP/GRID REFERENCE: Site 11A: Drummond 1:25,000- 653.797
 Site 11B: Drummond 1:25,000- 646.777
 Site 11C: Drummond 1:25,000- 648.757

PARCEL NUMBER:

MUNICIPALITY Daylesford and Glenlyon

LAND STATUS: Freehold Land

EXISTING HERITAGE CLASSIFICATION: None

PRESENT MANAGEMENT/USE: Pastoral

HISTORY:

April 1860: About three miles further south brings one to a small stream, another tributary of the Coliban, which joins that river near the town of Malmsbury. It is called the Kangaroo Creek; where there is a rich quartz reef, known as the Frenchman's. This reef was abandoned some time ago, when three ounces of gold from the ton of quartz would not pay...

Two companies have taken up extended claims on this abandoned reef, and have tunnelled far into the hill, one of them 260 feet to the reef. One company has a steam engine already crushing quartz, and the other is about to erect one.

A quarter of a mile higher up the Kangaroo Creek there is another gold producing reef where two parties are working most sanguinely. Their workings are called the Old South Hill in contradistinction to the old Kangaroo Hill, which is further north. This hill is abandoned, although it gave good signs of a gold-bearing reef being at hand.¹

June 1860: Kangaroo Creek, near Malmsbury, Frenchman's Reef - Another extended claim of 320 feet has also been taken up on this reef, making three held there. Messrs Greshard and Co. are getting, on an average, an ounce of gold from the ton of quartz.²

August 1860: Taradale to the Southward - Nothing of exciting interest has transpired from these quarters during the month. The ordinary workings at the reefs are steadily pursued - to wit, two claims on the Humboldt, three on the Bell-topper, two on the Frenchman's at Kangaroo Creek, also the Leviathan and Castle Rock.³

November 1860: Two applications have lately been sent in to lease ground on an abandoned quartz reef situate at Kangaroo Hill, which is 3-1/2 miles (south by west) from the township of Malmsbury. One application is for six acres, and the other for four. This reef was extensively worked for a length of 500 yards some two years ago...

The resumption of work on these poor auriferous lodes is a remarkable instance of the necessity of capital to render the resources of the mines profitable, and proves the superior power of machinery over that of merely manual labor in developing the mineral riches of the country.

The reef just now alluded to is known as the Frenchman's, and is situate 2-1/2 miles (south south-west) from Malmsbury. Two extended claims had been granted to different parties some time back. The lode has not been extensively worked, twelve tunnels having been driven under the hill side varying in length from 200 to 350 feet. One of the two parties has just applied for an additional 320 feet along the lode adjoining his former claim, and purposes excavating a new tunnel at a lower level, and which will require a length of 700 feet to reach the lode...⁴

September 1864: Kangaroo Creek - This is becoming greatly the resort of Chinese, upwards of 50 being here now. The Kangaroo Reef is again deserted. The last yield of gold from it averaged 5 dwts 15 grs per ton.⁵

December 1864: A claim of 50 mens' ground (under miner's right), has been taken at Snowdon Hill, Kangaroo Creek; also a wide extent of private land at the Kangaroo Hill, in the same vicinity; another claim for 50 men, near the Frenchman's Reef, and 40 mens' ground, just north of the township of Malmsbury; besides a wide extent of private grounds near the Boundary Hotel, situate one and a half mile north of Malmsbury.

The Kangaroo Reef, situate three miles southwards of Malmsbury, has been again appropriated by two parties.⁶

December 1864: Chinese - They are now widely scattered over the division. The Kangaroos Creek is the resort of numbers of small parties. The vicinity of Taradale is another resort of many, invariably working old ground. The Government Reserve, Metcalf, is a third chief place of resort; and the Coliban River, North Redesdale, is the fourth locality that engages their labors. In these two last named localities, their workings are confined to the bed of the river.⁷

March 1865: A reserve of about a square mile, westward of Malmsbury, is nearly all taken up in leases and frontage claims - the leases absorbing about 180 acres. Several rich leads, such as the Belltopper, the Frenchman's Lead, &c., are supposed to cross the reserve.⁸

March 1865: The Pemberly Quartz and Alluvial Company, about two miles south of Malmsbury, Kangaroo Creek, on Mr Orr's private property, are prospecting for the Frenchman's Lead, which they expect to fall in with near the Jim Crow Road, and also, for the Frenchman's Reef, which, in all probability, they are sure to find within their limits. The old Kangaroo Reef, in that vicinity, is now being taken up by capitalists, who are determined to give it a fair trial: the yields, at the first working of this reef, were extraordinary, but falling off, the speculation was, as it is now thought, too hastily abandoned.⁹

June 1870: Operations on the Kangaroo Reef have almost been suspended for want of crushing power.

The United Mint Gold Mining Company have struck good stone this week at 75-foot level; they have the reef 3 feet wide. They are in treaty for an engine and stampers. Baird and Marshall's continue to raise stone from the adjoining claim that will yield about 2 ozs per ton.¹⁰

December 1870: At the Kangaroo Reef the United Mint Gold Mining Company has about 500 tons of stone ready for crushing, which is likely to yield about 2 ounces per ton. Two distinct reefs run through this claim. There are two shafts on the claim; one is 100 feet, and the other is 120 feet deep. They have driven both north and south about 145 feet. The quartz is coated thickly with oxide of iron. The company is erecting a winding and crushing machine of a superior kind, so that shortly they will be crushing.¹¹

March 1871: The United Mint, on the Kangaroo Reef, continues to yield rich stone. The company have lately evinced their confidence in the claim by erecting an efficient crushing machine on the claim. They have an abundance of quartz that, I think, will yield half an ounce per ton. The arrangements for working the mine are very complete; they are crushing, and the battery works well.¹²

December 1871: The United Mint Quartz Gold Mining Company are still at work by tributaries, who have struck the reef with gold appearing at 150-foot level.¹³

June 1872: The Lady Canterbury Co., are sinking for the Frenchman's Reef ... are down with their shaft 209 feet; their No 2 shaft is down 245 feet; from this shaft they mean to work the alluvial. The same company have cleared out the old Pemberly tunnel for a distance of 440 feet.¹⁴

1879: ...the Good Friday (lead) struck in 1879 ...¹⁵

March 1879: The ground referred to in my previous report, at Malmsbury Reserve, is turning out well. Several shafts have been sunk, but the parties are unable to wash on account of want of water.¹⁶

June 1879: There appears however, greater activity in alluvial mining, especially near Malmsbury. I also notice that the private land of Mr. Urquhart is being taken up for alluvial mining, and I am informed the terms are easy for *bona fide* miners. This, no doubt, will be a great help to the district, as there is a large quantity of land known to be payable held by him. The average earnings of the small parties working in the gullies and hillside are not more than 15s. to 20s. per week per man.¹⁷

Sept 1879: The success of the Good Friday claim has been the cause of a large portion of the Pemberley Estate being taken up, and a company formed to work the same.¹⁸

June 1880: The whole of the Malmsbury Reserve has been taken up for mining purposes, and good payable results have been obtained up to the present time from prospects taken out from new ground lately opened out.¹⁹

Sept 1880: The whole of the Reserve at Malmsbury has been taken up by lease, and companies are being formed to work the ground. As stated in my previous report, the improvement during the quarter is marked, and the activity and enterprise shown latterly is such as has not been seen for years in the district.²⁰

Dec 1880: Several new ventures have been started on private lands of Ellis, Tucker, and Urquhart. The Tucker's Freehold Co. has already yielded a quarter of an ounce to the load, with a large quantity of dirt to operate on. The Lady Darling mine is to be worked by a registered company. Some parties on Urquhart's land are said to be doing well ...²¹

Sept 1881: There is still great activity shown in mining matters ... The yield of gold is not up to that of last quarter, owing to the falling off in returns from the Confluence and Good Friday companies; it is, however, made up very considerably by the yields from smaller claims. The Sampson Company, near Malmsbury, having struck a payable gutter, a quantity of land has been taken up in the vicinity of the mine.²²

Sept 1881: The attention of miners has chiefly been directed to the district between Malmsbury township and Lauriston. The Urquhart Estate Co. have lately struck payable wash at a depth of 130 ft. The Aroona, a new company, are erecting powerful machinery to work the land at Malmsbury Reserve adjacent to Little Wonder.²³

Dec 1881: the Aroona Quartz Company is erecting machinery²⁴

March 1882: The Aroona and Sampson companies are putting in prospecting drives.²⁵

Sept 1882: The Aroona Co. are still driving for the gutter and Frenchman's Reef. Considerable attention appears to be now given to Lauriston, where several claims have been taken up lately, particularly on the Kangaroo Reef line.²⁶

Dec 1882: The Aroona Co. are continuing their drive to the gutter, working towards Frenchman's Reef.²⁷

Sept 1883: The Aroona Co., Drummond, cut good payable stone when driving for the gutter, gold showing freely throughout the stone ... The Aroona Co have driven to the gutter and obtained payable dirt; they are erecting crushing and puddling machinery.²⁸

Dec 1883: The Aroona Co. had a trial washing which proved very satisfactory...²⁹

June 1884: I have to report an increase in yield of gold of 1,759 ozs. obtained chiefly from the Queen's Birthday, Egyptian and Aroona companies. 150 additional miners are employed in the Division as compared with last quarter, and by the reports more could be taken on. Mining in this Division has not been in so prosperous a state as at present for many years past.³⁰

Dec 1884: The lines of reef most looked after are the Queen's Birthday, the Federal, and the Frenchman's. The Confederate Co., on the Federal line, are taking out golden stone and will crush in a few days. The returns from the Aroona Federal Co. are improving each successive crushing, and this has caused greater activity to be shown at Lauriston on the Frenchman's line of reef.³¹

March 1885: As the Aroona Company are now in good working order, returns will, it is expected, be more regular and considerably increased. A new find of golden stone has been reported at Frenchman's reef, being a continuation of the reef running through the Aroona Co's claim.³²

June 1885: The Federal and Federal Extended companies have ceased work for a time.³³

June 1886: At Lauriston, Drummond, and Trentham very little is doing, the stoppage of the Aroona Co. has been a great drawback to mining in the two former places.³⁴

Dec 1885: The Aroona have suspended operations pending the result of diamond drill borings. The Federal ... is in the hands of the tributers.³⁵

DESCRIPTION & INTERPRETATION:

Site 11A: Good Friday Co. (Company operated during the late 1870s)

Mine site - Small intact mullock heap. No visible machinery footings.

Site 11B: Aroona Co. (Company operated from c.1881 to 1885)

Mine site - Sizeable mullock heap, about half of which has been quarried. No sign of any machinery footings or shaft.

Site 11C: Kangaroo Reef Workings. (Main period of mining late 1850s to 1870s)

Reef workings - Line of reef workings consisting of several filled shafts, at least one open shaft, some open cutting, and two sizeable mullock heaps.

A large mullock heap located at the southern end of the line of workings has been flattened and a tin shed erected upon it. Another large dump, located at the northern end of the workings, is associated with a deep open shaft. In the gully below the northern dump is a large water dam and a private residence.

PHOTOS: 1. Site 11B - mullock heap

ARTEFACTS: None visible

INTEGRITY/CONDITION: Poor

THREATS:

CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE:

Sites 11A, 1B and 11C have poor integrity/little historical importance and hence low cultural significance

Significance ranking	Sites 11A, 11B and 11C	No Significance
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CONSERVATION POLICY:

None required

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

None

Assessor: David Bannear

Date: December 1993

- 1 Mining Surveyors' Reports, April 1860
- 2 Mining Surveyors' Reports, June 1860
- 3 Mining Surveyors' Reports, August 1860
- 4 Mining Surveyors' Reports, November 1860
- 5 Mining Surveyors' Reports, September 1864
- 6 Mining Surveyors' Reports, December 1864
- 7 Mining Surveyors' Reports, December 1864
- 8 Mining Surveyors' Reports, March 1865
- 9 Mining Surveyors' Reports, March 1865
- 10 Mining Surveyors' Reports, June 1870
- 11 Mining Surveyors' Reports, December 1870
- 12 Mining Surveyors' Reports, March 1871
- 13 Mining Surveyors' Reports, December 1871
- 14 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - June 1872
- 15 The History of Gold Discovery in Victoria, James Flett, p 204
- 16 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - March 1879
- 17 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - June 1879
- 18 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Sept 1879
- 19 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - June 1880
- 20 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Dec 1880
- 21 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Dec 1880
- 22 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Sept 1881
- 23 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Sept 1881
- 24 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Dec 1881
- 25 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - March 1882
- 26 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Sept 1882
- 27 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Dec 1882
- 28 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Sept 1883
- 29 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Dec 1883
- 30 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - June 1884
- 31 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Dec 1884
- 32 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - March 1885
- 33 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - June 1885
- 34 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - June 1886
- 35 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Dec 1885

SITE NO. & NAME:	12A	NO 1 SOUTH RUSSELL'S No 1
	12B	RUSSELL'S REEF CO. NO 1 SHAFT
	12C	GOVERNMENT BATTERY?
	12D	RUSSELL'S REEF AMALGAMATED NO 2 SHAFT
	12E	PERSEVERANCE LEAD WORKINGS
	12F	NORTH RUSSELL'S
	12G	LINE OF MULLOCK HEAPS
	12H	MAMMOTH CO.

LOCATION : LAURISTON

LOCATION/DIRECTIONS: 12A: Lauriston. The site is located at the end of lane that runs south off Lauriston-Kyneton road. Lane located 375m along the road (west) from Lauriston town bridge.
 12B: Lauriston. The site is located 500m down lane that runs north off Lauriston-Kyneton road. Lane located 375m along the road (west) from Lauriston town bridge. Mine site located west side of the lane.
 12C: 0.6km north of Lauriston. The site is located 650m along Lauriston Recreation Reserve Track, 45m east of road.
 12D: 0.75km north of Lauriston. The site is located 850m along Lauriston Recreation Reserve Track.
 12E: 1.3km north-east of Lauriston. Site is located approximately 1km along Lauriston Recreation Reserve Track, east bank of Reservoir
 12F: 1.7km north of Lauriston. The site is located 1.35km along Lauriston Recreation Reserve Track, north bank of Reservoir
 12G: 2.3km north of Lauriston. The site is located 2.1km northeast from junction of Drummond-Lauriston and Portwines Roads, near Lauriston. Workings on west bank of Reservoir
 12H: 3.8km north of Lauriston. The site is located 1km south from the junction of Sullivan and Fraser Streets, Malmsbury. Workings are on the north bank of the Reservoir.

MAP/GRID REFERENCE: 12A: Drummond 1:25,000- 671.751
 12B: Drummond 1:25,000- 671.755
 12C: Drummond 1:25,000- 669.758
 12D: Drummond 1:25,000- 670.759
 12E: Drummond 1:25,000- 678.761
 12F: Drummond 1:25,000- 669.769
 12G Drummond 1:25,000- 667.775
 12H Drummond 1:25,000- 666.790

PARCEL NUMBER: Geelong Region

MUNICIPALITY Kyneton

LAND STATUS: Sites 12C and 12D - Water Reserve?
 Sites 12A, 12B, 12E to 12H - Freehold Land

EXISTING HERITAGE CLASSIFICATION: None

PRESENT MANAGEMENT/USE: Sites 12A, 12B, 12E to 12H - Pastoral
 Sites 12C, 12D - M1D32?

HISTORY:

Nov 1851 TO 1854: The first recorded gold discovery in this area was at what was later called the 'Old Coliban Diggings'. The locality was just above the present Coliban Reservoir at Lauriston, and the time was Nov 1851. ¹

1856: Henry Orr's Paddock were opened in June...²

April 1860: Two miles or thereabouts bring the traveller to the Coliban River Diggings, situated about three miles south-west of Malmsbury, but little is doing there now, though once a busy spot. From specimens of quartz bearing gold which have been picked up in the bed of the river, there can be little doubt but that a rich vein exists in the neighborhood. There is a water-power mill erected at the place for crushing quartz. ³

July 1860: Malmsbury Diggings - Messrs Gateshill and Co. have applied for a lease of 10 acres more ground, they have wrought out a privilege of 4 acres, their mode of operation being tunnelling under a high bank of diluvial formation and puddling the auriferous drift through a horse machine. Messrs Russell and Co. are trying a quartz reef on Mr Jefferson's land, crushing the stone by a water-power mill.

Both the above operations are carried on on the Coliban River, about 3 miles south of Malmsbury. ⁴

September 1860: Malmsbury Diggings - The party who took up a lease of 10 acres of ground at a place three miles south of Malmsbury, in July are doing well. Their system of tunnelling under the bank, and puddling the auriferous earth with a horse machine, proves a profitable speculation. ⁵

March 1861: Malmsbury Diggings - At the Kangaroo Reef, where five different parties held privileges, there has been an amalgamation of interests, they having applied for a lease of 16 acres, which although it does not embrace all the ground held before, yet it includes what is deemed the best portion of this once abandoned reef. These miners conclude that by united means they can have the advantage of more powerful machinery, and, consequently, work more economically. ⁶

April 1861: Malmsbury Diggings - The old Coliban Reef, which has been so long abandoned, has been again taken up. McClure and party, who are the owners of the water-power crushing machine, having taken up 240 feet on the lode. It adjoins the ground on which stands their machine.

Messrs Gateskell and Company, who hold a lease of ten acres, are carrying on operations with earnestness. Seven men are engaged on the works, but rather unfortunately they lately lost the run of the auriferous drift, a bar of sandstone lying across the lead has cut off further connection. They are endeavoring however to recover the lead by driving the excavations further into the hill. ⁷

May 1861: Malmsbury Gold Field - At the Coliban River two claims have been taken up on that once abandoned reef, known as the Coliban Reef; there has been no crushing of stone as yet, but both parties seem sanguine of great success, and by reason that quartz can be crushed now-a-days at a much less cost than when this reef was worked before, and in fact every expense is now at a lower rate.

The workings on Jefferson's Reef has been stopped by reason that it did not pay expenses.

The Star Company - A designation lately given to Messrs Gateskell and Company's association, who hold 10 acres of alluvial ground on lease. They lost the run of auriferous drift about six weeks ago, but have since excavated the tunnel 55 feet further under the hill in a NNE direction... The entire length of their tunnel is 485 feet. Although the earth is dry yet a great part of the tunnel has to be supported by slabs and props on account of large flakes of earth slipping off in many places...

Another party of two miners are sinking a shaft higher up the hill than where the Star Company's tunnel has yet reached, and at a much higher level find a deal of water. ⁸

10 June 1863: The reef in Orr's paddock are eclipsing everything. A vein of quartz in Binnie and Co claim was struck today of surprising richness the quartz and gold being of equal richness. Such stone will at least yield 200 ozs. to ton. ⁹

March 1864: The established deep leads of the Park, at Taradale, of the Scorpion Hill, and of the Star Lead at Lauriston, afford every encouragement, although they have been but slowly developed. ¹⁰

September 1864: Orr's Reef is a locality of great attraction from the extent of auriferous reef lately opened up; and as Mr Holliwell's steam-crushing mill erected on the spot is now in full operation, mining is likely to be pursued very profitably in this quarter. ¹¹

September 1864: The miners on the Star Lead find it more advantageous to reduce their wash dirt in a steam crushing mill, than in a horse puddling machine, cartage being the same in both cases. ¹²

September 1864: At Lauriston, there has been a discovery of a new quartz reef, situated in Mr McCracken's paddock. The first crushing has yielded over 2-1/2 ozs per ton. ¹³

December 1864: Orr's Reef, a mile south of Malmsbury, is the chief scene of quartz operations. Ten parties are working here. There is abundance of quartz in disunited reefs; and four of the claims are yielding well. ¹⁴

December 1864: Star Lead, Lauriston - The workings here are progressing most energetically.

On claim No. 4, the party have just completed the erection of a steam plant of 10 horse-power. They have not, however, yet struck the lead.

In claim No. 3, which is the farthest point to which the lead has been worked, the yield has given lately an ounce of gold per ton of wash-dirt, which is much above former averages ¹⁵

March 1865: Orr's Reef, at Malmsbury, continues to be very productive... ¹⁶

March 1865: The Star Lead, Lauriston - three claims on which are getting gold in payable quantities, and several other claims are being worked in search of the lead. There is another lead suspected to cross the Star Lead, and on which two claims have been taken up, and sinking is in progress. ¹⁷

September 1865: In the column giving four (4) steam engines for puddling and pumping as 'idle', three are in course of erection on an extensive scale (the machinery being on the ground), viz., the Countess of Malmsbury, the Lord Malmsbury, and the Lauriston Gold Mining Company. ¹⁸

1867: the Glengonner lead was worked in 1867...¹⁹

March 1870: The Kyneton Gold Mining Company have about 200 tons of stone lying on the surface ready to be crushed, and likely to yield 1-1/2 oz to the ton, obtained at 194-foot level. The company are sinking a new shaft south of the old one, and are about to erect a 16 horse-power crushing plant with 8 stamp-heads.

The Energetic last week obtained from fourteen days' crushing over 600 ozs of gold, and declared a dividend of £1 on each of their 1,600 shares. They are now working at 183-foot level; they have about 100 tons of good stone on the top ready for crushing.

The Central Energetic, at 160-foot level, with stone 3 feet wide, and looks well; they have about 150 tons on the surface.

The North Star, at 150-foot level, are obtaining quartz likely to yield 1-1/2 oz per ton. They have 150 tons of quartz on the surface.

The North Energetic have the reef at 80-foot level.

The Napier have a shaft down 185 feet. They are putting in a drive east and west; have cut the reef in the eastern drive at 70 feet, but the stone is poor.

A company styled the 'Union Jack' are sinking for Russell's Reef at Lauriston.

The Frosty Morning Reef is again taken up and is being worked. ²⁰

June 1870: During the quarter there has been a very great improvement in quartz mining in this division. Capitalists have been inspired with confidence in the auriferous character of the reefs here, and are energetically prospecting for, and discovering, payable reefs. The most of the claims recently taken up are in private property, yet doubtless they will be traced into Crown lands, and thus open out a permanently rich goldfield. Even now, at this early stage of the movement, an excitement prevails at Lauriston, Kyneton, Malmsbury, and Taradale such as has not been experienced on the goldfields south of Sandhurst.

The claims at Lauriston and Malmsbury have for a long period been depending alone on Mr Binnie's crushing machine, which has lately been quite inadequate to the requirements. He has erected an engine of increased power and more stampers. His efforts are being supplemented by others to meet the demand.

The Kyneton Company - consisting of but seven shareholders - have carried out their works in a highly creditable manner, and will soon be richly remunerated by good returns. They have erected an engine and stampers, with a shoot or passes 50 feet long, capable of holding one week's crushing of stone. They have about 200 tons of 1-oz stuff on the surface ready for crushing.

The Energetic and the Central Energetic are also erecting a crushing plant.

The South Energetic shaft is down about 60 feet.

The North Star have stone from 4 to 6 feet wide at the 150-foot level, and nearly 20 feet wide at the 122-foot level. The stone is yielding well.

The North Energetic are down with their shaft 101 feet deep; they are through the reef, but intend to sink 60 feet deeper before opening out.

The All Nations Company have gold-bearing stone at 100 feet deep. In a drive 20 feet to the eastward the reef is 15 inches wide.

The Prince of Wales Company, on Russell's old claim, are sinking a shaft to strike the reef; being on low ground, and in close proximity to the River Coliban, the surface water is impeding their progress.

The Gold Mines Company are down 80 feet, and are driving for the reef, with good indications. In addition to the claims named, a large quantity of stone may be expected from the Eureka, Frosty Morning, and Sunday Morning Reefs.

Mr Govett has struck a good reef near Malmsbury, east of the Energetic line of reef. The reef is 2 feet wide, and gold appears. ²¹

Dec 1870: I have the honor to report the past quarter as the most successful one in the history of mining in this goldfield ... with the increased crushing power recently erected by Mr Binnie, the Central Energetic, the Kyneton, the Devonshire, and the Crown Prince Companies, I anticipate a great increase in the yield of gold next quarter...

The Energetic claim, at Lauriston, continues to yield rich stone and good dividends. Last week a dividend of 15s per share was declared...

The Central Energetic Company, with a great width of stone at 150 and 195 foot levels, yielded an average this quarter of nearly 1 oz per ton.

The average yield of gold by the North Star this quarter is not quite so high as it was last.

The Kyneton Company's claim continues to improve; last week they obtained 123 ozs of gold from 150 tons, from 180-foot level.

South Energetic have recently struck payable stone, and intend to erect an engine.

The Gold Mines Company, with a shaft 86 feet deep, at 18-foot level, have cut the reef 4 feet wide, with gold clearly seen in the stone. This discovery has tended to set a high value on the claim.

The Eureka Reef has again found favor with the miners, and is again being worked. Stone is obtained at 50-foot level, and is nearly 2 feet wide, and will yield 5 dwts per ton. The inconvenient distance from available crushing power retards mining operations here.

The Lauriston Extended Gold Mining Company, at Lauriston, have at length struck the gutter in their claim. They put up a jump-up from the drive, and after much expense and commendable perseverance, have obtained a good prospect of coarse nuggety gold.²²

March 1871: The Energetic Company, at Lauriston, is still raising good stone from the reef in the 130-foot level, and are sinking their shaft deeper.

The Central Energetic, the North Star, the All Nations, the Gold Mines, and the Maggie Lauder, are all looking well, and the price of shares in each firm.

The Unity Company are driving for the reef, but are oppressed with water.

The Prince of Wales are about to erect an engine on Russell's old reef, at Lauriston.

In the Kyneton Company's claim the reef has run out, but they have struck a very good alluvial gutter, which yields 5 or 6 dwts per load.

The Lauriston Extended Company have stopped the works, although the gutter is improving and getting wider. The last machine washed yielded 13 ozs of gold.²³

June 1871: The Energetic, the Central Energetic, and the North Star claims continue to yield good results.

The Unity Company, Lauriston, has discovered the reef about 2 feet thick 14 feet east of their shaft, with promising stone, but it will be necessary that the company sink deeper.

The Eureka Gold Mining Company have begun to cart stone to the machine for crushing, but it will be a few days before the results are known. This reef was worked several years ago and abandoned. The stone was very poor.²⁴

December 1871: The Energetic and the Central Energetic Quartz Gold Mining Companies continue to maintain their character as good dividend paying claims; the two companies have unitedly purchased and erected a first-class engine for pumping and winding, and intend to apply it to a shaft north and another south; thus they will be enabled to keep down the water and sink their shaft 700 feet if need be. The Energetic shaft is now down to a depth of 230 feet, with chambers opened ready to cross-cut the reef at that level.

The North Star Quartz Gold Mining Company are not working below at present; they intend to erect machinery and to sink a further depth of 100 feet; the reef in this claim is nearly 16 feet thick.

The United Mint Quartz Gold Mining Company are still at work by tributaries, who have struck the reef with gold appearing at 150-foot level.

The Eureka Company have stopped work, and are trying to increase their capital.

Baynes Brothers, in Johnstone paddock, close to the Eureka, have sunk a shaft 100 feet, and intend to sink 50 feet more before they open out.²⁵

June 1872: The Glengonner claim at Lauriston continues to prosper, and has obtained during the quarter more gold than all the other claims in this division ... They obtain by far more stone than can be crushed at their own battery, and are obliged to engage the battery of Mr. Binnie for 3 months, and expect to supply him with 100 tons per week. The Energetic Co. have ceased to crush for the last 2 months, and are sinking their main shaft, which is now 283 feet.

The Central Energetic have also ceased to crush, and are sinking their shaft deeper.

The North Star Co. are still crushing, and have improved prospects.²⁶

Sept 1872: The Glengonner, from the nature of the stone and their complete appliances, are capable of raising an enormous quantity of stone, more than they can crush at their own battery and Mr. Binnie's also ... A new company is in the formation to work the eastern portion of the claim, or the old General Wyndham line of reef.

The Energetic Co. are about opening out at a depth of 380 feet.

The North Energetic claim looks well

The South Glengonner Co. are working at the 110-ft level, with the reef 15 inches thick, walls well defined...

The North Star claim, at the 200-ft level, have the reef widening and showing gold.

The Napier Co., Lauriston, have started work again.

The Adventure Co., Lauriston, are about to start the Kangaroo claim again, and to sink their shaft 200 ft deeper.²⁷

Dec 1872: The North Star, North Energetic, South Glengonner, and the Glengonner, are the only claims that are at work and paying at Lauriston; in fact there are but few claims besides at work, and some of these are in private property. I have very carefully enumerated the miners employed in and about Lauriston, South of Malmsbury, and find there are but 75, and several of this number are working at claims that are not on Crown lands.²⁸

March 1873: The Glengonner, at Lauriston, is still yielding rich stone.

The South Glengonner Co. are resuming work, being encouraged by the results of the adjoining mine (the Glengonner)

The North Star are raising stone from 3 levels.

The Malmsbury Reservoir's claim is looking well. The cap of what seems a payable reef was lately cut at a depth of 70 ft.²⁹

June 1873: The Frosty Morning Co. have suspended sinking their shaft in consequence of a heavy influx of water at a depth of 180 feet.

The Energetic, Lauriston - The shaft is now 404 feet deep. The company is still persevering, and have let a contract for sinking deeper.³⁰

Sept 1873: The Malmsbury Reservoir Co. report they have struck stone that will yield 2 oz. per ton.³¹

Dec 1873: The Malmsbury Reservoir is reaching the expectations of the shareholders; they have an abundance of stone which is yielding 10 dwts. per ton, and avail themselves of both land and water carriage to convey the quartz to the North Energetic Battery. The distance is short, but the appliance has been expensive, consisting of a tramroad at the terminus, a jetty on the reservoir with a shoot conveying the quartz into a lighter, capable of carrying 6 tons each trip, and can make 4 trips a day in fine weather, at a cost of 1s. 9d. per ton, as against 4s. 6d. per ton formerly paid for carting.

The Energetic Company, Lauriston, have their shaft down to 110 feet below the 375-foot level, and struck a lode averaging 9 inches thick ... Unfortunately they have struck a heavy flow of water, which requires the engine to be kept going constantly as hard as they can drive to keep the water down.

The Central Energetic - are still prospecting.

The North Energetic have resumed operations.³²

March 1874: The Extended Napier is turning out better than heretofore.³³

June 1874: The Extended Napier ... is looking better. The company are raising a large quantity of stone ... Mining at Lauriston is extremely dull; several good mining managers have left the place, and but a few miners at work.³⁴

Sept 1874: The Tommy Dodd Co 485 ozs ... The Extended Napier 206 ozs.

The above are the only quartz claims that are making any show in this division at the present time.³⁵

Dec 1874: Quartz mining in the Division continues extremely dull. There never was less attention paid to development of our mineral resources here since 1854 than at present.

Several reefs have proved tolerably rich near the surface, but at a depth of 200 or 300 ft are poor and discouraging, hence various companies from that cause, or their inability to contend with the water after sinking to the water-level, have abandoned their claims; it is to be regretted that the Lauriston goldfield (formerly giving employment to 400 or 500 men) is now almost totally deserted...

An effort was recently made, in vain, by a few of the leading men of Kyneton to purchase and retain the powerful engines erected on the Energetic line of reef, which has a shaft sunk over 500 feet deep; this is the deepest in the district, and although on a rich reef which has yielded handsome dividends for years, as soon as calls are required the company collapses with every other company at Lauriston, except the Napier and Glengonner.³⁶

March 1875: The Extended Napier is looking better.³⁷

June 1875: The Glengonner at Lauriston, has vastly improved during the quarter, over 100 ozs. of gold were obtained this quarter than the last.

The Long Tunnel claim is likely to yield good results. This claim is surrounded by old diggings, which were formerly very rich.³⁸

Sept 1875: The tunnelling claim at Lauriston are still persevering; the drive will most likely prospect the ground east of the River Coliban for about 12,000 ft.³⁹

Dec 1875: Strenuous efforts are being made to resuscitate mining on the Lauriston goldfield. The Glengonner claim is let on tribute with cheering results. The Sandhurst miners' tunnel is still being worked with energy.⁴⁰

March 1877: The Tommy Dodd and the Glengonner have also ceased to work. Each are, however, contemplating letting the mines on tribute.⁴¹

March 1878: The Bendigo Co., which for nearly 2 years have been tunnelling a hill at Lauriston, and prospecting for quartz and alluvial, have recently been rewarded by striking a good alluvial gutter, which they expect will remunerate them for a time and money expended by them.⁴²

June 1878: At Lauriston the mines are idle, except for the Bendigo Tunnelling Co, who have driven 3,000 feet in search of Russell's old reef. They are obtaining a little alluvial gold.⁴³

Sept 1878: At Lauriston very little is doing, except in shallow ground, which is poor.⁴⁴

March 1879: At present, mining at Lauriston and Belltopper has ceased for want of water.⁴⁵

Sept 1879: At Lauriston and Glenlyon very few miners are working, the ground being too poor to obtain even small wages, consequently the place is almost entirely abandoned.⁴⁶

March 1881: The good yields from the Royal Standard, at Lauriston, has drawn attention lately to the locality. ⁴⁷

June 1881: The success of the Royal Standard Co., at Lauriston, has caused a quantity of land adjacent to their property to be taken up for mining purposes. ⁴⁸

1881: Extracts from Mount Alexander Mail and other sources re Reservoir (later Mammoth) Co.

5/11/1881 - Old Reservoir's Co's claim to be restarted and to be called the Mammoth.

12/11/1881 - Mammoth Co. have cut a leader near Galatea Co's ground 18 ft from surface showing good gold. ⁴⁹

March 1882: the Mammoth Company, Malmsbury Reservoir reserve, are sinking... ⁵⁰

June 1882: At Lauriston the yields are improving, Young's Freehold and the Perseverance companies being on payable dirt. ⁵¹

Dec 1882: The Mammoth Quartz Co., Malmsbury Reservoir, have 200 tons of stone on the surface ready to crush. ⁵²

Dec 1885: At Russell's Reef, Lauriston, payable stone has been struck at 70 feet. ⁵³

March 1887: The Russell's Reef Co. have also had good payable crushings, averaging 25 dwt. to the ton. ⁵⁴

June 1887: At Lauriston also, ground is being opened up for quartz mining with favourable prospects. ⁵⁵

Dec 1887: prospecting has been carried on, and in a few cases successfully, at Lauriston. Payable stone has been found in Young's Paddock, near to the old Energetic claim. About 4,000 feet on the line of reef have been taken up under 51st section Mining on Private Property Act. ⁵⁶

Sept 1888: Report on the Principal Gold-Bearing Reefs of the Taradale Division.

Energetic Reef - This reef is situate on private property, in the parish of Lauriston. ... The depth of the shaft is 513 feet, and of the water level 100 feet The mine was abandoned through an error in judgment of the mining manager, in cross-cutting east instead of west, thus missing the western leg, which carried all the gold.

Wyndham Reef - situated on private property, in the parish of Lauriston ... The reef has been traced to a depth of 100 feet, and for a distance of 1,500 feet along the lode. The depth of the shaft is 400 feet, and of the water level 100 feet ... The mine was abandoned through disagreement among the directors.

Russell's Reef - This reef is situate on Crown Lands, in the parish of Lauriston. ... The reef has been traced for 500 feet north and 300 feet south along the lode, at the 190-foot level. The depth of the shaft is 193 feet, and of water level 50 feet ... The mine is still being worked by the Russell's Reef Company. ⁵⁷

March 1889: The chief points of interest are at Lauriston and Russell's Creek ... ⁵⁸

Sept 1889: A considerable amount of activity is observed by mining men, in consequence of the yields lately obtained at Lauriston and Drummond. ⁵⁹

Dec 1889: Mining during the past quarter has undoubtedly improved in this division, chiefly in consequence of the rich yield from Russell's, at Lauriston, yielding alone 3,280oz., which has been the cause of a large area of ground (private property) being taken up on lease ... ⁶⁰

Dec 1890: ... division is now in a more prosperous condition than it has been for years past. A very satisfactory yield was recorded during the past quarter, which was 1,407oz. above the amount returned from the preceeding period; and £9,000 was paid in dividends; whilst there was an increase of 50 in the number of miners employed. Splendid returns are still being received by the Russell's Reef Company, who, during the quarter, paid £7,200 in dividends. ⁶¹

Feb 1891: The Russell's Amalgamated, Lauriston ... crushing 220 tons of stone ... including 44 oz. from 13 tons of sand in the Chilian Mill. ⁶²

June 1891: A decrease is shown in the yield for the past quarter ... in consequence of two of the the gold producing mines (the O'Connor's Freehold and Russell's Reef Companies being engaged in progressive work ⁶³

Sept 1891: With the exception of a crushing by the South Russell's Company of 20 tons which yielded 64 oz., and the striking of a strong lode showing gold by the O'Connor's Freehold Company at the 525-ft level, nothing worthy of particular mention has come under notice ... ⁶⁴

April 1892: The New Wyndham cleared off the battery for a return of 16 oz. from 11 shifts' crushing. ⁶⁵

1903: During the whole of 1903 prospecting work was vigorously carried on by the Russell's Reef Amalgamated Gold Mining Company, at Lauriston, and was carried on during the same period, with as much vigor as the funds would allow, by the Russell's Reef No 1 Company.

Very little work of any kind was done during the year by the Russell's Reef South Gold Mining Company.

The Russell's Reef Gold Mining Company's No. 1 shaft was deepened to about 1050 feet during the year, and at the 1040 level a plat was cut, and crosscuts driven and rises put up, without, any payable stone being found ... Had other companies in the Castlemaine district followed the example set them by the Russell's Reef Amalgamated Company, I am satisfied that the mining industry therein would be in a much more prosperous state than it is. ⁶⁶

1904: In this division, with the exception of the Russell's Reef amalgamated, none of the quartz mines owned by public companies have improved their prospects. Russell's Reef Amalgamated Company, at Lauriston, struck a synclinal saddle reef at 1040 feet, which proved payable, and from which some dividends have been since paid. The No 1 South Russell's Reef Gold Mining Company has continued prospecting work, with an average of about four men below ground. Nothing payable has yet been discovered. The South Russell's Company, which adjoins the Russell's Reef Amalgamated Company, immediately on the south, has done a little prospecting at shallow levels during the year, without finding anything payable. ⁶⁷

1905: The Russell's Reef Amalgamated Company, at Lauriston - nothing payable ... Thirty men, on average, have been employed - 20 below ground, and 10 on the surface. Of the surface hands, 4 have been employed cyaniding the sand.

Russell's Reef No 1 Company has employed a few hands only, and these have been engaged principally in prospecting work in a small shaft...

The South Russell's Company - has been practically dead as regards work during the whole year ⁶⁸

1906: The Russell's Reef Amalgamated is the only company in the division that has carried on work continuously. With the aid of a loan of £1500 from the Government, the main shaft has been sunk a further distance of 200 feet, making the total depth 1,260 feet.

The Russell's Reef No 1 resumed work in December last, after a lengthened suspension. It intends sinking the main shaft, the present depth of which is 590 feet.

The Lauriston Gold Mines Company (late Energetic and Glengower Co.) recommenced work late in the year ... intends to prospect the deeper ground. ⁶⁹

1907: The Russell's Reef Amalgamated Company spent the early part of 1907 in developing the saddle reef defects found to exist in the winding gear... Consequently the directors decided to obtain a new gear of the first-class type. This has been obtained and placed in position. Advantage was taken by the management of the suspension of underground operations to give the whole of the machinery and boilers at the No 1 shaft a thorough overhaul. It was found that the two boilers that had been in use required some slight repairs ... a new high-pressure boiler which had been purchased some time previously has been built in and put into commission ... The shaft is 1,260 feet deep, and an average of 30 men were employed.

The No 1 South Russell's obtained a loan of £500 from the Government to assist in sinking its shaft - sunk an extra 116 feet, making its present depth 695 feet ... An average of 16 men employed. ⁷⁰

1908: The Russell's Reef Amalgamated Co's mine has failed to return to dividend paying, and the No 1 South Russell's Co. has, I understand, suspended operations. ⁷¹

1909: The Russell's Reef Amalgamated Co. has sunk the main shaft from 1,260 to 1,488 feet without, so far, meeting with the saddle expected. ⁷²

1910: The Russell's Reef Amalgamated continued its prospecting work ⁷³

1910: The Galatea Company, and the Tommy Dodd Company, at Malmsbury commenced and ceased work during the year. Both companies had very short lives. ⁷⁴

1911: The principal mine in the Division, viz. The Russells Amalgamated Co. suspended operations late in September owing to want of funds. ⁷⁵

1913: The New Galatea and Energetic Company is driving from the main shaft at the 150 ft level ⁷⁶

1914: The New Galatea and Energetic Company has carried on developmental work throughout the year without anything payable.

The Standard Glengonna Company, at Lauriston, after cutting down the shaft, has been engaged in driving a reef drive and putting up bores for the purposes of locating the lead of wash the company was floated to exploit. ⁷⁷

1914: Department of Mines Annual Report - Government batteries.

Operation of the Lauriston battery.

Twenty-seven batteries have been erected to treat small parcels of ore for prospectors. During 1914 2,218 tons were crushed for 1,321 ozs., or 12-1/2 dwts to the ton.

One battery was removed from Little Hampton to Lauriston, where it has been kept busy.

1944: Department of Mines Annual Report- Government batteries.

Lauriston battery Steam: 5-head Tons crushed 12⁷⁸

[The 1944 reference to the Lauriston battery appears to be the last for this site in the Annual Reports. The government crushing facility at Lauriston appears to have operated for thirty years, from 1914 to 1944]

1915: The Expeditionary Company (late Galatea and Energetic Company) has continued work, but nothing payable has yet been found.

The Standard Glengonna Company, after doing a considerable amount of prospecting work with unsatisfactory results, decided to sink a new main shaft about a half mile east of the original shaft.⁷⁹

July 1939: New North Russells Mine, Lauriston - This mine is situated on the north bank of the Coliban River about one mile downstream from Lauriston and a little to the east of the North Russell's shaft ... A shallow shaft lies south of the present shaft, which is 72 feet deep, and the two shafts are connected by workings which are now inaccessible.⁸⁰

1944: Department of Mines Annual Report- Government batteries.

Lauriston battery Steam: 5-head Tons crushed 12⁸¹

1948: Taradale Division - J. Bennie and Son, Lauriston, 30 tons for 19 oz; North Phoenix (Messrs Dorman and Picken), Taradale, 100 tons for 86 oz. (480 tons for 342 oz.).⁸²

DESCRIPTION & INTERPRETATION:

Site 12A: No 1 South Russell's (Company operating by 1891 and appears to have finally closed down in 1908)
Mine site - Bulldozed mullock heap. No machinery footings visible.

Site 12B: Russell's Reef No 1 Co. (Turn-of-the century mine, appears to have finally suspended operations c.1906)
Mining machinery site - Large U-shaped engine bed whose fabric suggests several different construction dates: side arms constructed of concrete, front (connecting) wall (hand-made) red bricks. The front of the engine bed has also been extended by the addition of a foundation block made up of a mixture of mortar and red brick bats. The modified engine bed measures 19ft x 11ft and stands at least 5ft high. All the engine bolts have been ripped out. of the main part of the bed. There are some 1-1/2 inch bolts protruding from the addition to the front of the bed.
Running parallel to the U-shaped engine bed, 2ft to the south, is a small section of blue stone wall.
Running parallel to the U-shaped engine bed, 3ft to the north, are the fragmented remains of a brick engine bed which measures 18ft x 4-1/2ft, and stands approx. 5ft high. The engine bed has 1 inch mounting bolts. The bricks are hand-made and set in a concrete mortar. Running parallel to this bed, 7ft further to the north, is another similar sized brick engine bed. This bed, although badly obscured by vegetation, appears to be constructed of machine-made red bricks.
Tailings Dump - Below the machinery site, 30m to the south, is a tailings dump. Area surrounding the machinery site is so obscured by vegetation that it is impossible to locate any battery footings.
Adit - 5m from the southeast corner of the U-shaped engine bed is a collapsed adit.

Site 12C: 5-head battery (Most probably the remains of the Lauriston Government Battery which operated from 1914 to c.1944)

Battery - Remains of a small loading ramp, below which are three well preserved wooden stamper blocks and some bedlogs. Below the stamper footings are a series of well preserved small concrete machinery beds. Associated with the machinery foundations, almost totally obscured by gorse bushes, is a small portable steam boiler.

Tailings - In the gully below the battery site is a small tailings dump.

Site 12D: Russells Reef Amalgamated - No 2 shaf (Company was formed c.1891 and appears to have mined more-or-less continuously until 1911)

Machinery site - Bulldozed remains of a once large mullock heap, and a filled, but slightly collapsed, shaft. This shaft appears to be on Crown Land, next to a boundary fence belonging to a block of private land. Just inside the boundary fence, is a large clump of mature blackberries. Protruding from the southeast corner of the blackberries is what appears to be the base of a brick chimney stack. The brickwork is approximately 5ft square and stands around 6ft. The bricks are machine-made and are set in concrete mortar.

Tailings Dump and cyanide vats - On the opposite side of the Coliban River, to the No 2 shaft, is a dump of tailings and the remains of some cyanide vats.

Site 12E: Perseverance Lead (Difficult to date, but there was a Perseverance Company working at Lauriston in 1882)

Mine site - Three parallel lines of mullock dumping located below the ruins of a house. At the base of the ridge are what appear to be two collapsed adits. No machinery footings are visible.

Site 12F: North Russell's Co. (Mine last worked by New North Russell's Co c.1939)

Mine site - Small inact mullock dump. situated on the northern bank of Malmsbury Reservoir. No machinery footings are visible.

Site 12G: Reef workings (Difficult to date, but most probably date to the Lauriston's busiest mining period, the 1870s)

Reef workings - Line of five small mullock heaps running down the northern bank of Malmsbury Reservoir.

Site 12H: Mammoth Co. (Company operated during the early 1880s)

Mine site - Several small mullock heaps located on the south bank of Malmsbury Reservoir.

PHOTOS:

1. Site 12B - U-shaped engine bed
2. Site 12B - collapsed adit
3. Site 12B - tailings Dump
4. Site 12C - battery
5. Site 12C - portable steam engine
6. Site 12C - battery site
7. Site 12D - chimney stack base
8. Site 12E - mullock heaps and collapsed adits
9. Site 12F - mullock heap
10. Site 12G - line of mullock heaps.

ARTEFACTS:

None visible

INTEGRITY/CONDITION:

Only Sites 12B and 12C have substantial foundations. Site 12C is quite rare due to the survival of an insitu portable steam boiler

THREATS:

CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE:

Sites 12A and 12D have poor integrity/little historical importance and hence low cultural significance.

Site 12B has:

Scientific Significance, because of the survival of mining machinery foundations and the possibility for buried remains. The relics are the last surviving record of deep quartz mining at Lauriston.

Site 12C has:

Scientific Significance, because of the intactness of the foundations and the presence of an insitu portable steam boiler. The survival of the latter is extremely rare in Central Victoria.

Sites 12E, 12F, 12G and 12H have:

Social Significance, because the mullock heaps form an interesting backdrop to Malmsbury Reservoir.

Significance ranking

Sites 12A and 12D

Sites 12B, 12E, 12F, 12G and 12H

Sites 12C

No Significance

Local Significance

Regional Significance

CONSERVATION POLICY:

The significance of Site 12C comes mainly from its intactness and rarity.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

Sites 12C (Small loading ramp, stamper foundations and small portable steam boiler) to be protected

Assessor: David Bannear

Date: December 1993

- 1 The History of Gold Discovery in Victoria, James Flett, p 202
- 2 The History of Gold Discovery in Victoria, James Flett, p 203
- 3 Mining Surveyors' Reports, April 1860
- 4 Mining Surveyors' Reports, July 1860
- 5 Mining Surveyors' Reports, September 1860
- 6 Mining Surveyors' Reports, March 1861
- 7 Mining Surveyors' Reports, April 1861
- 8 Mining Surveyors' Reports, May 1861
- 9 Taradale Mines - extracts from Mount Alexander Mail and other sources
- 10 Mining Surveyors' Reports, March 1864
- 11 Mining Surveyors' Reports, September 1864
- 12 Mining Surveyors' Reports, September 1864
- 13 Mining Surveyors' Reports, September 1864

- 14 Mining Surveyors' Reports, December 1864
- 15 Mining Surveyors' Reports, December 1864
- 16 Mining Surveyors' Reports, March 1865
- 17 Mining Surveyors' Reports, March 1865
- 18 Mining Surveyors' Reports, September 1865
- 19 The History of Gold Discovery in Victoria, James Flett, p 204
- 20 Mining Surveyors' Reports, March 1870
- 21 Mining Surveyors' Reports, June 1870
- 22 Mining Surveyors' Reports, December 1870
- 23 Mining Surveyors' Reports, March 1871
- 24 Mining Surveyors' Reports, June 1871
- 25 Mining Surveyors' Reports, December 1871
- 26 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - June 1872
- 27 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Sept 1872
- 28 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Dec 1872
- 29 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - March 1873
- 30 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - June 1873
- 31 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Sept 1873
- 32 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Dec 1873
- 33 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - March 1874
- 34 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - June 1874
- 35 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Sept 1874
- 36 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Dec 1874
- 37 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - March 1875
- 38 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - June 1875
- 39 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Sept 1875
- 40 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Dec 1875
- 41 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - March 1877
- 42 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - March 1878
- 43 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - June 1878
- 44 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Sept 1878
- 45 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - March 1879
- 46 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Sept 1879
- 47 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - March 1881
- 48 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - June 1881
- 49 Taradale Mines - extracts from Mount Alexander Mail and other sources
- 50 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - March 1882
- 51 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - June 1882
- 52 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Dec 1882
- 53 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Dec 1885
- 54 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - March 1887
- 55 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - June 1887
- 56 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Dec 1887
- 57 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Sept 1888 (by Henry Archdale, Mining Surveyor)
- 58 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports, March 1889
- 59 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports, Sept 1889
- 60 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports, Dec 1889
- 61 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports, Dec 1890
- 62 Mount Alexander Mail, 23/2/1891
- 63 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports, June 1891
- 64 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports, Sept 1891
- 65 Mount Alexander Mail, 5/4/1892
- 66 Mines Department Annual Report, 1903
- 67 Mines Department Annual Report, 1904
- 68 Mines Department Annual Report, 1905
- 69 Mines Department Annual Report, 1906
- 70 Mines Department Annual Report, 1907
- 71 Mines Department Annual Report, 1908
- 72 Mines Department Annual Report, 1909
- 73 Mines Department Annual Report, 1910
- 74 Mines Department Annual Report, 1910
- 75 Mines Department Annual Report, 1911
- 76 Mines Department Annual Report, 1913
- 77 Mines Department Annual Report, 1914
- 78 Department of Mines, Annual Report, 1914, p.8 and 1944, p6.
- 79 Mines Department Annual Report, 1915
- 80 Mining and Geological Journal, July 1939
- 81 Department of Mines, Annual Report, 1944, p.6

82 Mines Department Annual Report, 1948

SITE NO. & NAME : 13A TOMMY DODD
LOCATION : BRANDENBURG REEF, MALMSBURY

LOCATION/DIRECTIONS: 3.0km north-east of Malmsbury, east of Malmsbury-Metcalf Raod

MAP/GRID REFERENCE: Edgecombe 1:25,000- 697,815

PARCEL NUMBER:

MUNICIPALITY Kyneton

LAND STATUS: Freehold Land

EXISTING HERITAGE CLASSIFICATION: None

PRESENT MANAGEMENT/USE: Pastoral

HISTORY:

June 1870: The Brandenburg Claim, held by Messrs. Daniells and Dietrici, in Milvain's paddock, Malmsbury, is looking well. They have a large quantity of stone on the top. They have erected an engine and a 6-head revolving battery, and will commence crushing in a few days. They have stone 8 feet wide that will apparently yield 3 ozs or more per ton...¹

December 1870: The Forest claim have the reef on the surface. Their shaft is 106 feet deep; they intend to open out at 110 feet. Many years ago stone was obtained from this reef which yielded nearly 2 ozs per ton, but the distance from any crushing mill precludes the possibility of their having a trial crushing, except at a great expense.

The shareholders in Crawford's paddock have got a lease of ten years for their claim. Their prospects are so cheering that they have been at the expense of erecting a crushing machine near the claim.²

March 1871: In Sterling's Paddock, on the Coliban, a reef has been struck, supposed to be the same as that being worked by Messrs Guthrie and Party, in Crawford's Paddock, who continue to raise good looking stone, but have not crushed during the quarter.

A few miles south of this is the Brandenburg, which we hear continues to do well, but the owners still decline to give any definite information.³

June 1871: The Brandenburg Reef, Malmsbury (owned by Messrs Daniell and Dietrici), continues to pay. They are crushing from the upper levels very good-looking stone. They recently put in a drive from the 100-foot level, and struck the reef, but the quality of the stone is not yet known.⁴

1871: Extracts from Mount Alexander Mail and other sources re Tommy Dodd Co.

16/12/1871 - Intend to sink another shaft to work deep ground.

14/2/1874 - Tommy Dodd and Brondenburg Co. amalgamated.⁵

December 1871: The Tommy Dodd Claim, adjoining the Brandenburg at Malmsbury, is turning out well, and has given the highest average in the district the last quarter, viz., 1 oz 5 dwts 18 grs.⁶

June 1872: The Tommy Dodd ... have let a contract to drive 600 feet to cut the western lode.⁷

Sept 1872: The Tommy Dodd Co's claim is looking well, and would yield surprising results if they had convenient and efficient crushing power; at present the stone is crushed at a small battery on the Brandenburg claim.⁸

Dec 1872: The Tommy Dodd Claim gives a high average, and bids fair to maintain its character as a good paying claim. The companies on each side of the claim (v.z., the Caledonia and Brandenburg) are sinking their shafts deeper.⁹

March 1873: The Brandenburg, the Tommy Dodd, and the Caledonian Companies' claims are likely to yield well¹⁰

June 1873: The Tommy Dodd ... has yielded, on average, for the last 12 months, 10 dwts. per ton.¹¹

Sept 1873: The Tommy Dodd keeps up its yield ... The company have paid £1000 in dividends during the quarter.¹²

Dec 1873: The Tommy Dodd ... maintains its character as a good claim, and has yielded the largest amount of gold in my division.

The Brandenburg Co. are still sinking, and little water to obstruct them.

The Caledonian Co. continue to drive for the reef.¹³

March 1874: The Tommy Dodd and the Brandenburg Companies were each wound up ...a new company is formed out of the two, called the Tommy Dodd United Gold Mining Co. The prospects of this company are good. ¹⁴

June 1874: The Tommy Dodd ...continuing to obtain payable results, and have again the largest yield in the division. ¹⁵

Dec 1874: The Tommy Dodd Co. are persevering ¹⁶

March 1877: The Tommy Dodd and the Glengonner have also ceased to work. Each are, however, contemplating letting the mines on tribute. ¹⁷

1910: The Galatea Company, and the Tommy Dodd Company, at Malmsbury commenced and ceased work during the year. Both companies had very short lives. ¹⁸

DESCRIPTION & INTERPRETATION:

Tommy Dodd Co. (Main mining period on the reef was early/mid 1870s)

Mine site - Site not surveyed but according to Clive Willman (Senior Geologist, Geological Survey, Dept. of Energy and Minerals) only a few tailings dumps survive from the mining operations along Brandenburg Reef.

PHOTOS: None taken

ARTEFACTS: None visible

INTEGRITY/CONDITION: Poor

THREATS:

CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE:

Despite having some historical significance as one of the Division's major quartz reefing fields in the 1870s, the site today has very little integrity.

Significance ranking No Significance

CONSERVATION POLICY:

None required

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

None

Assessor: David Bannear

Date: December 1993

- 1 Mining Surveyors' Reports, June 1870
- 2 Mining Surveyors' Reports, December 1870
- 3 Mining Surveyors' Reports, March 1871
- 4 Mining Surveyors' Reports, June 1871
- 5 Taradale Mines - extracts from Mount Alexander Mail and other sources
- 6 Mining Surveyors' Reports, December 1871
- 7 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - June 1872
- 8 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Sept 1872
- 9 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Dec 1872
- 10 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - March 1873
- 11 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - June 1873
- 12 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Sept 1873
- 13 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Dec 1873
- 14 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - March 1874
- 15 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - June 1874
- 16 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Dec 1874
- 17 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - March 1877
- 18 Mines Department Annual Report, 1910

SITE NO. & NAME: 14A PREMIER CO.

LOCATION: TYLDEN

LOCATION/DIRECTIONS: 5.5km south-west of Kyneton. The site is located 1/2km down Premier Mine Track from its junction with Trentham Road

MAP/GRID REFERENCE: Kyneton 1:25,000- 711.702

PARCEL NUMBER:

MUNICIPALITY Kyneton

LAND STATUS: Freehold Land

EXISTING HERITAGE CLASSIFICATION: None

PRESENT MANAGEMENT/USE: Pastoral

HISTORY:

Dec 1873: In the Tylden Forest a claim formerly held under lease, but abandoned, has been taken up by 8 working miners, and is yielding payable stone.¹

1911: Beer Brothers have discovered a reef about 3 miles south of Lauriston, from which it is reported they have obtained yields up to 5 ozs. to the ton.²

1912: Mr. B. Beer erected a small winding plant on his mine, known as the Rainbow, situated near Tylden, sunk the shaft a further depth of about 70 feet (total now 170 feet) and opened out and cut the lode, which is reported highly payable.³

1913: The Rainbow mine at Tylden, owned by Mr. B. Beer, has recently been floated into a company.⁴

1914: The Premier Company, after erecting a 5-head battery, and winding winch, resumed work. Two payable crushings have been put through their battery, and the main shaft is being sunk.

The Sunny South Company, at south-west Kyneton, sunk a shaft 60 feet, cross-cut east over 100 feet, and drove some distance on a lode channel without finding anything of any value.

Watson's Syndicate, in the same locality, as the Sunny South Company, sunk a main shaft 150 feet, and cross cut to the lode, from which a crushing was taken that proved so disappointing that they suspended operations in the shaft, and commenced prospecting work near the shaft.⁵

1915: The Premier Company completed the sinking of the main shaft to about 250 feet, crosscut to the lode, which was from 2 to 4 feet wide and well defined. Unfortunately the yields from the stone crushed were disappointing.⁶

DESCRIPTION & INTERPRETATION:

Premier Co. (Company formed in 1914)

Battery site - Intact 5-head of stampers manufactured by Renshaw & Co., Engineers etc., South Melbourne. The battery shed has been demolished, leaving only a few post stubs. The stamper blocks are in good condition (total length 1.5m) and the battery is bolted unto two parallel wooden bearers. The bearers are both 5.6m long and 30cm thick.

8m east of the battery is a 1.85m square brick chimney stack base. The base stands 65cm high and lying near it is a 6m long section of the iron chimney stack (1.1m diameter).

Mullock heap - To the south of the battery is a partly quarried mullock dump. No obvious sign of the shaft.

Dam and tailings pond - Located in the gully to the west of the battery is a small water dam. Below the water dam is an intact tailings pond.

Line of workings - Running north from the battery is a line of shallow workings containing among other things, two filled shafts and small mullock heaps, a collapsed adit and some trenching.

PHOTOS:

1. Battery
2. Battery
3. Battery
4. Iron chimney stack
5. Tailings pond

ARTEFACTS:

Scraps of iron and wood

INTEGRITY/CONDITION: Good

THREATS:

CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE:

The site has:

Scientific Significance, because of the intactness of the foundations and plant. The stamping battery may also be the only one left in Victoria that was manufactured by Renshaw & Co., of South Melbourne.

Significance ranking

Regional Significance

CONSERVATION POLICY:

The significance of the site comes from its intactness and rarity.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

Site be protected (5-head of stampers, stamper foundations, brick chimney stack base, dam and small sludge pond)

Assessor: David Bannear

Date: December 1993

- 1 Mine Registrar Quarterly Reports - Dec 1873
- 2 Mines Department Annual Report, 1911
- 3 Mines Department Annual Report, 1912
- 4 Mines Department Annual Report, 1913
- 5 Mines Department Annual Report, 1914
- 6 Mines Department Annual Report, 1915

