

Draft Heritage Data Form

Blue Mountains Heritage 2016

ITEM DETAILS					
Name of Item	Asgard Mine and Coke Oven (Local ID: MV088)				
Other Name/s Former Name/s	Asgard Swamp Mine Site and Roasting Kiln				
Item type (if known)	Built				
Item group (if known)	Mining and Mineral Processing				
Item category (if known)	Coke Oven				
Area, Group, or Collection Name					
Street number					
Street name	Access via Victoria Falls Road (Asgard Swamp Track)				
Suburb/town	Mount Victoria		Postcode	2786	
Local Government Area/s	Blue Mountains				
Property description					
Location description	Head of track is 34°34'04.6"S 150°17'04.7"E on Victoria Falls Road (on Google Maps); then a 3km walk along the track to Asgard Swamp 5.5km NE of Mount Victoria Railway Station Grid Ref: 492-837 Mount Wilson Topographical Map 8930-1-N 1:25,000				
Location - Lat/long	Latitude		Longitude		
Location – head of track	Zone		Easting		Northing
Owner	Blue Mountains National Park (NPWS)				
Current use	Historic site				
Former Use	Mine, coke oven				
Statement of significance	The mine and single coke oven comprise the only industrial relic of this kind in the state. They represent the enormous effort of prospectors large and small over the periods 1860-1920 looking for coal along the hazardous rock faces of the Blue Mountains valleys, an effort largely unrecorded and forgotten.				
Level of Significance	State (assessed only)			Local	

DESCRIPTION	
Designer	
Builder/ maker	
Physical Description	The mine is a short prospecting tunnel (approx. 20 metres) driven horizontally into the coal seam (known as the Katoomba Seam) located at the base of the low sandstone vertical cliff which forms this

Draft Heritage Data Form

Blue Mountains Heritage 2016

	<p>section of the western face of the Grose River Valley.</p> <p>The coke oven, of typical design, is located 20-30 metres north of the mine adit. The oven is a small square structure approx 3.8 metres long and 2.0 metres high of dressed sandstone walls. It has a beehive shaped interior and flat floor constructed with fire bricks. An arched entrance, also of fire bricks, is 920mm high and 760mm wide facing east.</p> <p>A seam of coal measuring 1.54 m was found in the tunnel but contemporary frominate analysis revealed that it would not provide coke. The coal is of "tolerable commercial quality" though the shale is very limited in occurrence and of unacceptable commercial quality. The mine reaches a depth of 36metres and is dry underfoot. The site is remote but accessible.</p> <p>The site has been the subject of a detailed report – see References.</p> <p>The boundaries of the area are as follows: The access walking, 'packhouse' track from the roadway to the mine is in the centre of a strip 20 metres wide and approximately 200m long running roughly east-west. The area containing the adit and the oven is the horizontal earth/rock shelf, approximately 70 metres long and 105-115 metres wide.</p> <p>LOCATION OF MINE "To locate the mine - travelling along the highway from Blackheath towards Mt Victoria turn off onto Victoria Falls Rd (MW460791) and follow this dirt road for approximately 4km, keeping an eye out on your left side for a couple of old dirt roads. Park at the second one (MW478822) which has had 4WD access blocked by NPWS with a bar gate. Head down the track for 2km till you come to the lovely wide Asgard Swamp. Continue along the track for a few hundred metres and there will be a signposted foot track which takes you down to the old coal mine (circa 1881) and brick retort (MW491836). [Extract from Walks Around Mt Victoria (http://www.pnc.com.au/~wells/Mt.Victoria.html)</p> <p>From the car park with the 'Asgard Swamp 3km' sign, this walk passes the closed gate and heads down the hill. After a short distance, the track tends left, more steeply down the hill, to then follow the spur for approximately 500m. The walk then comes to a creek crossing in a swampy area, after which the trail heads up the hill and tends right, continuing for a few hundred metres to an area between two rock outcrops, the larger one on the right. (http://www.wildwalks.com/bushwalking-and-hiking-in-nsw/blue-mountains-blackheath/asgard-kiln-and-mine.html#tn)</p>				
Physical condition and Archaeological potential					
Construction years	Start year	1881?	Finish year		Circa <input type="checkbox"/>
Modifications and dates					
Further comments	The site has been the subject of a detailed report - "Australian Archaeology No.15", December 1982 by E.Higginbotham and R.I. Jack				

HISTORY	
Historical notes	It appears that the oven was never fired. There is no definitive, continuous historical account of ownership and/or working of mine and oven but the tunnel was opened by Dr W F Mackenzie and Thomas Garret in 1881 with gaps in ownership records up to E Deely 1920-25. There is no record of commercial use of the mine, the original purpose was that of a test adit.

Draft Heritage Data Form

Blue Mountains Heritage 2016

THEMES		
National historical theme	State historical theme	Local theme
3. Economy	Mining	(none)

APPLICATION OF CRITERIA	
Historical significance SHR criteria (a)	The Asgard Mine and single coke oven have high historic significance as they comprise the only industrial relic of this kind in the state. They represent the enormous effort of prospectors large and small over the periods 1860-1920 looking for coal along the hazardous rock faces of the Blue Mountains valleys, an effort largely unrecorded and forgotten.
Historical association significance SHR criteria (b)	
Aesthetic significance SHR criteria (c)	
Social significance SHR criteria (d)	
Technical/Research significance SHR criteria (e)	The site has some potential archaeological and technical significance as may reveal information about former mining and related technological practices.
Rarity SHR criteria (f)	The site is rare as the only industrial relic of this kind in the state.
Representativeness SHR criteria (g)	
Integrity	Fair.

HERITAGE LISTINGS	
Heritage listing/s	National Trust (non-statutory) listing, 16 March 1992

INFORMATION SOURCES				
Include conservation and/or management plans and other heritage studies.				
Type	Author/Client	Title	Year	Repository
Written	E Higginbotham & RI Jack	Australian Archaeology No. 15	1982	
Written	Blue Mountains National Trust Branch, B. Forbes, A. Wulf, I. Beveridge.	National Trust Listing Card - Asgard Mine and Coke Oven	1992	

Draft Heritage Data Form

Blue Mountains Heritage 2016

Webpage	Wild Walks	http://www.wildwalks.com/bush-walking-and-hiking-in-nsw/blue-mountains-blackheath-/asgard-kiln-and-mine.html		
Webpage	A. Wells?	http://www.pnc.com.au/~wells/Mt.Victoria.html		

ABORIGINAL HERITAGE

Acknowledgement	<p>The Blue Mountains Local Government Area is within the Country of the Darug and Gundungurra peoples and Blue Mountains City Council respects their cultural heritage and deep ongoing connection to this Country.</p> <p>This inventory sheet documents the European occupation of the site only, and the heritage significance of the place in this context (assessed against the heritage criteria set by the NSW Heritage Council).</p> <p>This does not therefore, represent a complete history of the place, or represent the perspectives of Darug and Gundungurra Traditional Owners in relation to the colonial impacts on this site. Consultation with Traditional Owners and other Aboriginal stakeholders is required, before Aboriginal Cultural Heritage that may be associated with this place, can be recorded.</p>
------------------------	---

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations	List on Blue Mountains Local Environment Plan 2015.
------------------------	---

SOURCE OF THIS INFORMATION

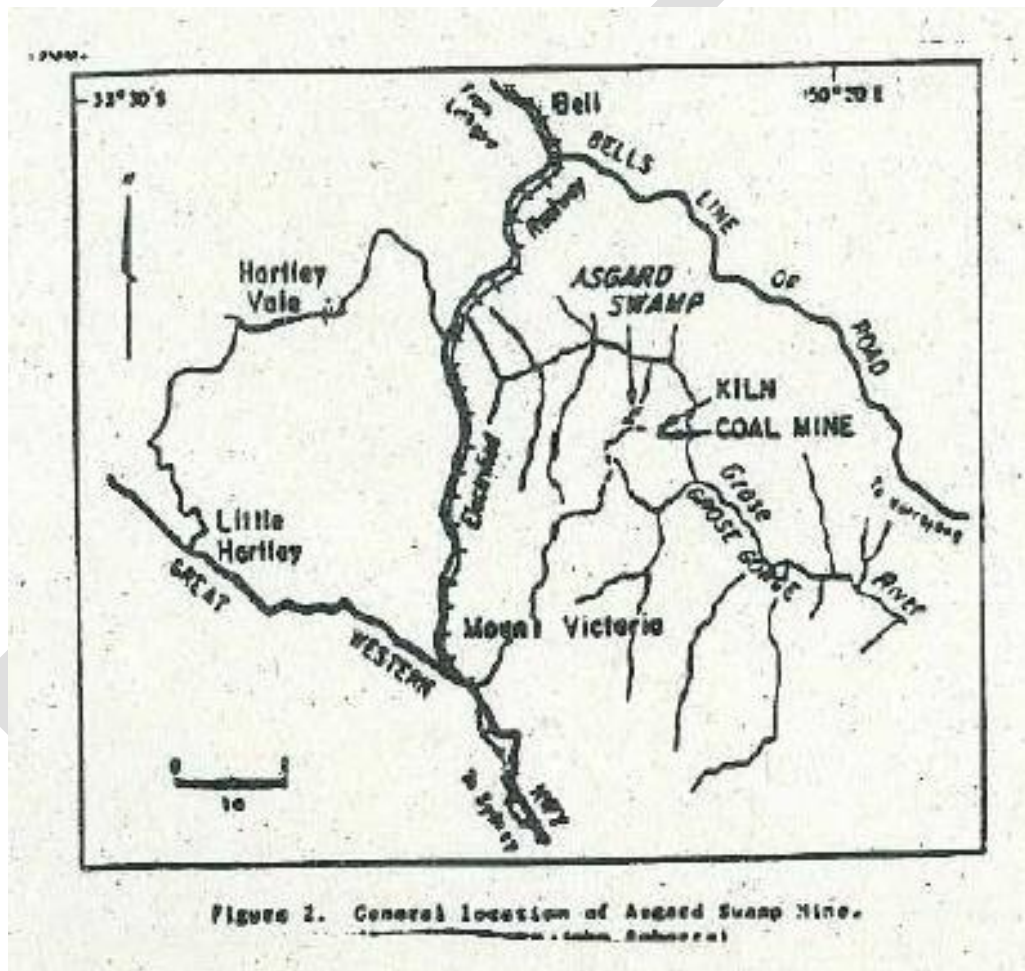
Name of study or report	Heritage Review 2016-2017	Year of study or report	2016
Item number in study or report			
Author of study or report			
Inspected by			
NSW Heritage Manual guidelines used?		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
This form completed by	Sara Reilly, Senior Planner, Blue Mountains City Council, for the Blue Mountains City Council Heritage Review 2016-2017	Date	March 2016

Draft Heritage Data Form

Blue Mountains Heritage 2016

IMAGES

Image caption	General location of Asgard Swamp Mine				
Image year	1992	Image by	National Trust	Image copyright holder	National Trust

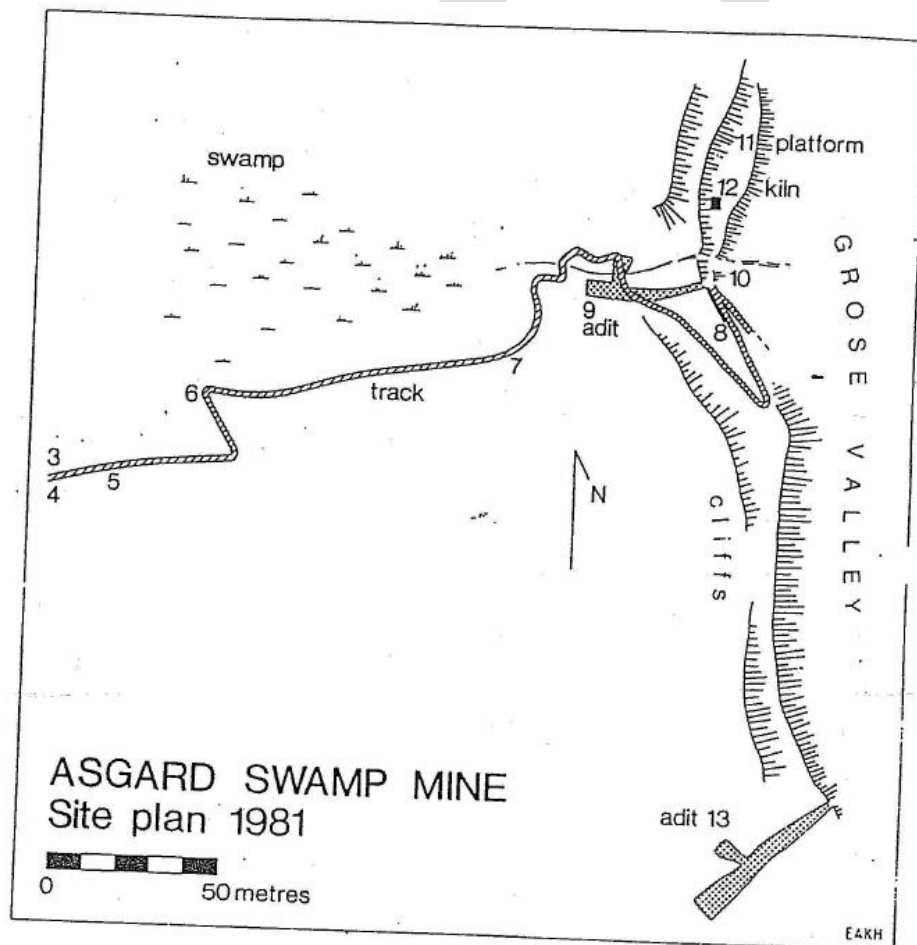


Draft Heritage Data Form

Blue Mountains Heritage 2016

IMAGES

Image caption	Site plan of Asgard Swamp mining site.				
Image year	1993	Image by	Blue Mountains Heritage Study Review 1993, Tropman & Tropman Map 62 (E. Higginbotham and R.I. Jack "The Asgard Swamp mine and kiln near Mt Victoria", NSW, Australian Archaeology, Vol. 15, 1982, p.58)	Image copyright holder	Blue Mountains City Council



Draft Heritage Data Form

Blue Mountains Heritage 2016

Image caption	Inside prospecting tunnel				
Image year		Image by	Wild Walks	Image copyright holder	Wild Walks



Draft Heritage Data Form

Blue Mountains Heritage 2016

Image caption	Entrance to Asgard Mine				
Image year		Image by	Wild Walks	Image copyright holder	Wild Walks



Draft Heritage Data Form

Blue Mountains Heritage 2016

Image caption	Inside Asgard Kiln				
Image year		Image by	Wild Walks	Image copyright holder	Wild Walks



Draft Heritage Data Form

Blue Mountains Heritage 2016

Image caption	Face of Asgard Kiln				
Image year		Image by	Wild Walks	Image copyright holder	Wild Walks

