

3.1 CASTLEMAINE DIGGINGS NATIONAL HERITAGE PARK

Significant Landscape

Character Type 3 Goldfields

Character Areas 3.2 Goldfields Forests

Castlemaine Diggings National Heritage Park is located to the north of Daylesford.

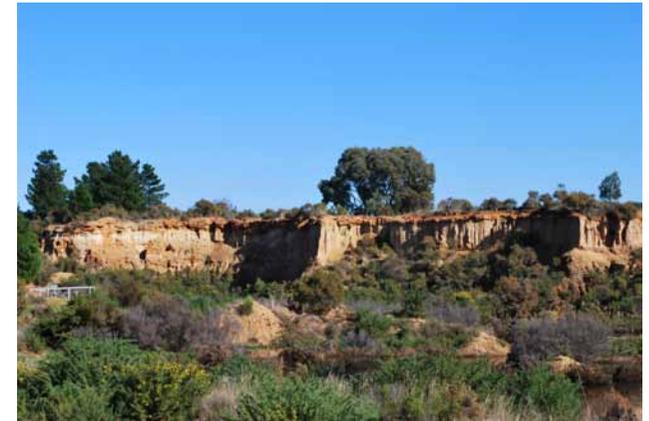
The main viewing corridor through the Park is the Vaughton - Chewton Road

Overall Significance Rating: Regional

A detailed significance assessment is provided over the following pages.



Mining relics within the Park

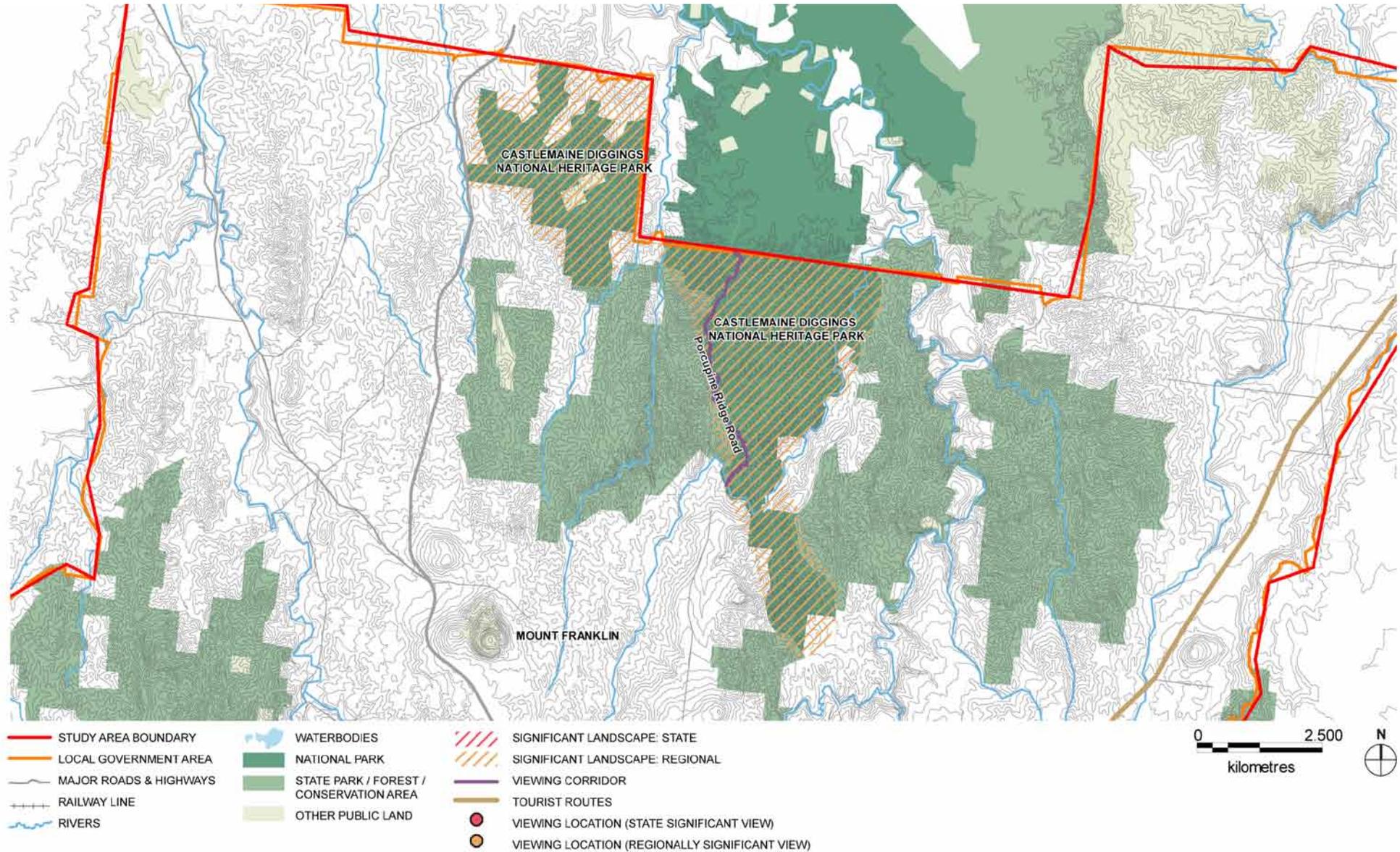


Forrest Creek diggings, part of the Castlemaine Diggings National Heritage Park



The Castlemaine National Park contrasts against the surrounding cleared paddocks

Landscape Significance Map



Aesthetic Values

AESTHETIC VALUES				
	Source	Description	Aesthetic Values Rating Considerations (i.e. exemplary, iconic, scarce)	Level of Significance
LANDSCAPE FEATURES	Survey	Australia’s first national heritage park displays a landscape of hills, ridges, gullies, creeks and rivers. The Park retains numerous visual reminders of Victoria’s gold mining history including miners’ huts, Chinese market gardens, stone footings, shallow shafts and the Garfield Water Wheel in a bush environment. Castlemaine Diggings possesses sites and landscapes which reflect the whole period of gold mining in Australia.	The historic remnants which have altered the natural landscapes of this area are scarce in the context of the Victorian goldfields.	High (Regional)
EDGES OR CONTRASTS	Survey	The thick vegetated cover of the Park contrasts with the cleared surrounding paddocks creating a textural contrast in the landscape.	There is an interesting and distinctive contrast between heavily cleared areas and the forested park.	Moderate (Local)
COMPOSITION	Survey	The Park generally forms the wooded background to views, with the foreground and midground being composed of undulating cleared pastoral land with scattered remnant vegetation. Situated within regenerating box-ironbark forest, the mining remains and habitation sites immediately convey to the visitor a feeling of passed ways of working and living. The degree of alteration of, and intervention in, the natural landscape makes a strong impression on visitors.	The vegetated hills provide visual interest to the viewer.	Moderate (Local)
OVERALL AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE RATING				Regional

Other Cultural Landscape Values

HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE	
Source	Description
Desktop Research	Aboriginal artefact scatters, earth mounds and scarred trees occur throughout the area.
Register of the National Estate	Castlemaine Diggings Heritage Park is listed on the National Heritage List and included within the Heritage Overlay (HO981).
Hepburn Planning Scheme	The Park is one of the most authentic and intact gold rush-era sites in Australia. It is historically significant as an authentic and intact early 1850s goldfield with a rich collection of mining sites and landscapes. This includes miner's huts, Chinese market gardens, stone footings, shallow shafts and the Garfield Water Wheel. It is particularly important as it relates to the early phase of the great Australian gold rushes. The Park is also deemed to be a place of strong aesthetic significance.
SIGNIFICANCE RATING	State, or higher

ENVIRONMENTAL / SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE	
Source	Description
Parks Victoria	Gold mining infrastructure displayed a high level of scientific and engineering ingenuity for its time.
Parks Victoria	While the natural environment was irrevocably changed during the gold rush era, the regrown Box-Ironbark forest is home to a range of flora and fauna species.
SIGNIFICANCE RATING	State, or higher

SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE	
Source	Description
Aboriginal Affairs Victoria	This area is the traditional country of the Dja Dja wurrung and people to whom it holds social, cultural and spiritual significance. The waterbodies, distinctive natural features and places of ecological value within this area are likely to have high Aboriginal cultural heritage sensitivity.
Parks Victoria Tourist Information	The Park is located along the Great Dividing Trail and the Goldfields Touring Route, between Castlemaine and Daylesford. The Park offers a wealth of interpretive information about the gold rush. There are also many other activities on offer, including bushwalking, camping and picnicking. The Park still offers the opportunity for prospecting.
SIGNIFICANCE RATING	State, or higher

3.2 ARARAT HILLS & RIDGES

Significant Landscape

Character Type	3	Goldfields
Character Areas	3.4	Ararat Hills

The Ararat Hills and Ridges lie to the immediate west of Ararat providing a backdrop to the town.

Viewing locations within this landscape include:

Pioneer Lookout on One Tree Hill Road offers panoramic views of the Grampians, Mount Lang Ghiran, Mount Buangor and Mount Cole. This view is of State Significance and described in detail in a separate paper.

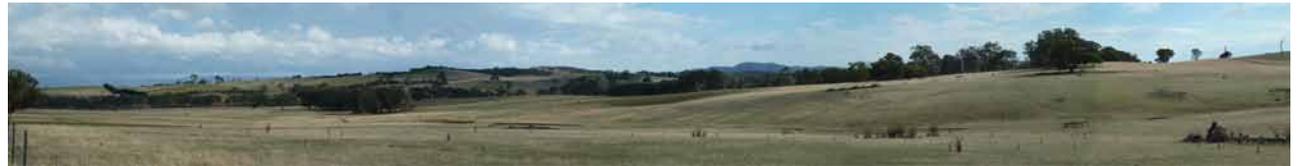
Robertson Hill is an informal viewing location at the southern tip of the

Major viewing corridors:

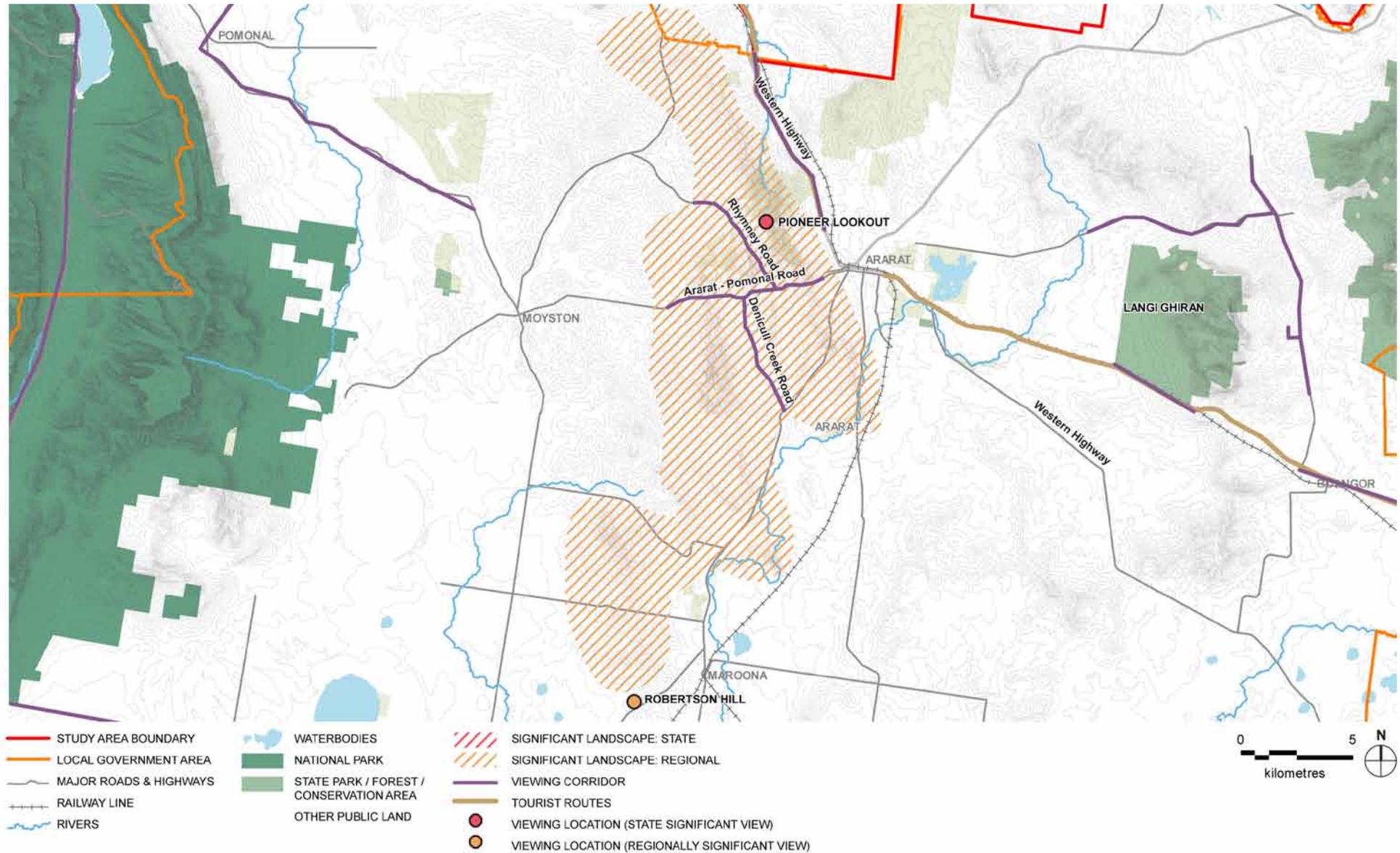
- Western Highway
- Ararat - Halls Gap Rd
- Rhymney Road

Overall Significance Rating: Regional

A detailed significance assessment is provided over the following pages.



Landscape Significance Map



Aesthetic Values

AESTHETIC VALUES				
	Source	Description	Aesthetic Values Rating Considerations (i.e. exemplary, iconic, scarce)	Level of Significance
LANDSCAPE FEATURES	Survey	Dramatic, high ridge landforms rise from the undulating paddocks. These landforms create four parallel linear ridges that extend across the landscape from near Great Western to Mount Chalambar. The highest peaks are Mount Ararat (618 m) and One Tree Hill (579 m). Exposed granitic boulders are occasionally visible on the cleared hillslopes.	The parallel ridges create an iconic feature in the landscape within the regional setting.	High (Regional)
EDGES OR CONTRASTS	Survey	The sharp topographical rise of the Ararat Hills contrasts strongly with the surrounding undulating agricultural paddocks. Single trees pepper the hillslopes with patches of remnant vegetation creating a dark green textural contrast at the base of the cleared hills and ridges. Occasional exposed bedrock creates colour and textural contrast against the grassy slopes.	The sharp rise of the ridges and textural contrast with remnant native vegetation creates interest in the landscape.	Moderate (Local)
COMPOSITION	Survey	The ability to view the Ararat Hills from a number of angles, including from Pioneer / One Tree Hill Lookout, unifies the feature with the surrounding landscape. The hills and ridges create a scenic backdrop to Ararat and visual interest within the cleared, undulating surrounding landscape. Grassy pastoral textures, occasional agricultural structures and patches of native vegetation feature in the foreground, with the partially cleared rises of the hills and ridges dominating the midground of views.	The silhouettes of the Ararat Hills and ridges create a pleasing viewing experience in the local context.	Moderate (Local)
OVERALL AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE RATING				Regional

Other Cultural Landscape Values

HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE	
Source	Description
Desktop Research	Aboriginal artefact scatters, earth mounds and scarred trees occur throughout the area.
Ararat Planning Scheme	A number of sites relating to early pastoral activity and gold mining are included within the Heritage Overlay.
Parks Victoria	The Ararat Hills have a rich gold mining history.
SIGNIFICANCE RATING	Regional

ENVIRONMENTAL / SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE	
Source	Description
Desktop Research	The Ararat Hills Regional Park is an important habitat for a range of flora and fauna.
Ararat Planning Scheme	Locally significant watercourses, waterbodies and wetlands within the area are protected under the Environmental Significance Overlay (ESO2).
Ararat Planning Scheme	Areas of significant vegetation are included within the Vegetation Protection Overlay (VPO1 & 2): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Ararat Hills remnant vegetation (Emerald-lip Greenhood, Hairy Tails, Yellow Gum / Red Stringybark Woodland, Yellow Gum Woodland, Yellow Gum Grassy Woodland) – Armstrong West remnants (Heathy Woodland, Plains Grassy Woodland) – Armstrong South remnants (Red Gum / Yellow Gum Grassy Woodland).
SIGNIFICANCE RATING	Regional

SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE	
Source	
Aboriginal Affairs Victoria	The Ararat Hills are the traditional country of the Djab warring people to whom it holds social, cultural and spiritual significance. The waterbodies, distinctive natural features and places of ecological value within this area are likely to have high Aboriginal cultural heritage sensitivity.
Tourist Information	Ararat Hills Regional Park is a popular destination for bushwalking and picnicking. The viewing point at Pioneer Lookout is a significant viewing point. The area forms part of the Grampians winery region, which is a regional tourist attraction.
SIGNIFICANCE RATING	Regional