

*Conservation
Management Plan*

**CORNISH HILL
DAYLESFORD
VICTORIA**

A document prepared for:

Hepburn Shire Council

76 Vincent Street

Daylesford, Vic 3460

PREFACE

Acknowledgements and thanks go to the staff of Hepburn Shire Council, including Victor Szwed, Julie Redropp, Kevin Porter and Simon O'Keefe (who drafted the maps for the plan) for their invaluable assistance. Thanks also to members of the Cornish Hill Advisory Committee - David Hill (Chairman), Rod Kirby, David Endacott, Bill Taylor, Ivan Inderbitzin, Joan Endacott, Frank Carroll, Peter Arden and John Turbull, to members of the Friends of Cornish Hill group, and to the Daylesford Historical Society.

Additional advice was provided by David Bannear, DNRE Castlemaine, Greg Leece, DNRE Ballarat, and Ray Supple, Historic Places Section, Parks Victoria.

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10 July 1998

Adapted from

"Draft Management Plan - Cornish Hill, Daylesford, Vic", R J Kaufman, 10/4/1998,

with minor amendments recommended by the
Cornish Hill Advisory Committee (provisional - Hepburn Shire Council),
following public display & submission process.

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

PREFACE	ii
ACTION PLAN SUMMARY & WORKS PROGRAM	vii
1. INTRODUCTION	1.
2. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND	3.
2.1 HISTORICAL CONTEXT	3.
2.2 HISTORY OF CORNISH HILL	4.
2.3 THE CORNISH CONNECTION	8.
2.4 CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE	9.
3. SITE ANALYSIS	13.
3.1 SITE DESCRIPTION	14.
3.2 EXISTING PUBLIC USE	14.
3.3 INVENTORY OF RESOURCES ON-SITE	14.
3.4 KEY MINING HISTORICAL FEATURES	16.
3.5 OTHER HISTORICAL FEATURES	16.
3.6 SIGNIFICANT INTRODUCED TREES	16.
4. STATEMENT OF FUTURE LAND USE	17.
4.1 VISION STATEMENT	17.
4.2 STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES	17.
4.3 COMPATIBLE & INCOMPATIBLE USES	17.
5. ZONING	20.
5.1 PREAMBLE	20.
5.2 ZONES	20.
5.3 GUIDELINES FOR REVIEWING ZONES	21.
6. LANDSCAPE GUIDELINES & CONSTRAINTS	22.
6.1 ANALYSIS	22.
6.2 IDENTIFIED KEY ELEMENTS, DAYLESFORD	22.
6.3 MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES	23.
6.4 CONSTRAINTS	23.
6.5 VISUAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM	24.
7. NATURE AND LEVEL OF SERVICES	26.
7.1 ANALYSIS	26.
7.2 VISITOR INFRASTRUCTURE	26.
8. ANALYSIS & RECOMMENDATIONS ON KEY ASPECTS OF THE SITE	30.
8.1 HISTORICAL	30.
8.2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL	33.
8.3 VISUAL	34.
8.4 TOURISM	35.
8.5 LOCAL COMMUNITY USE	38.
9. FIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN	40.
9.1 MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES	40.
9.2 COMPONENTS OF RISK	40.
9.3 DETERMINATION OF RISK	40.
9.4 FIRE PREVENTION	41.
9.5 FIRE SUPPRESSION	42.
9.6 FIRE SUPPRESSION	42.
9.7 PRESCRIBED FIRE	43.
9.8 WORKS	44.

TABLE OF CONTENTS (cont'd):

10. PEST PLANT & ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PLAN	45.
10.1 MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES	45.
10.2 PEST ANIMALS	45.
10.3 INTRODUCED PLANTS	45.
10.4 PEST CONTROL METHODS AVAILABLE	46.
10.5 EFFECT OF WEED CONTROL PROGRAM	49.
10.6 RECOMMENDATIONS	50.
10.7 CO-OPERATIVE POLICY	51.
10.8 ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE	52.
10.9 NOTES ON FIG 2: WEED ERADICATION PLAN	52.
11. PUBLIC SAFETY PLAN	53.
11.1 OBJECT OF PUBLIC SAFETY PLAN	53.
11.2 MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES	53.
11.3 RISK MANAGEMENT APPROACH	53.
11.4 PRIORITY RISK ENVIRONMENTS	54.
11.5 DETERMINATION OF RISK	55.
11.6 RISK MINIMISATION STRATEGIES	56.
11.7 HAZARD INSPECTION CHECKLIST	59.
11.8 RELEVANT DOCUMENTS	59.
12. VEGETATION PROGRAM	60.
12.1 CHARACTER AND DIVERSITY OF VEGETATION	60.
12.2 RARE & ENDANGERED SPECIES	60.
12.3 MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES	60.
12.4 MODIFICATIONS	61.
12.5 SITE CONSTRAINTS	61.
12.6 REVEGETATION POLICY	61.
12.7 MANAGEMENT OF VEGETATION ZONES	64.
12.8 FLORA & FAUNA SURVEY	66.
13. MASTERPLAN - Roads & Walking Tracks	67.
13.1 ANALYSIS - EXISTING ROADS & TRACKS	67.
13.2 ROADS	67.
13.3 WALKING TRACKS	70.
14. MASTERPLAN - Signage & Interpretive Systems	73.
14.1 ANALYSIS	73.
14.2 MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES	73.
14.3 MAIN INFORMATION BOARD	73.
14.4 DIRECTIONAL SIGNAGE	74.
14.5 HAZARD AND OTHER SIGNS	75.
14.6 INTERPRETATIONS	75.
14.7 EDUCATION	77.
15. MANAGEMENT OPTIONS	78.
16. FUNDING OPTIONS	80.
16.1 CORE FUNDING	80.
16.2 GRANT FUNDING	80.
16.3 COMMUNITY RESOURCES	82.
16.4 SELF-FUNDING	82.
16.5 FUNDRAISING	83.
16.6 SPONSORSHIP	83.
16.7 GREEN INITIATIVES	83.
16.8 ADOPTION	84.
16.9 CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS	84.

TABLE OF CONTENTS (cont'd):

17. FUTURE DIRECTIONS	85.
18. PLAN IMPLEMENTATION	85.
19. COSTING	85.
APPENDIX I GLOSSARY	87.
APPENDIX II COMMUNITY INPUT	89.
APPENDIX III BIBLIOGRAPHY	93.

PHOTOGRAPHY**LOCALITY PLAN****MASTER PLAN - CORNISH HILL RESERVE****FIGURE 1 HISTORIC ZONE & INFRASTRUCTURE****FIGURE 2 WEEDS****FIGURE 3 VEGETATION MANAGEMENT****FIGURE 4 WALKING TRACKS****FIGURE 5 ROADS****DRAWING, SHEET 1 - MAIN INFORMATION BOARD SHELTER****DRAWING, SHEET 2 - MAIN INFORMATION BOARD DESIGN****DRAWING, SHEET 3 - SITE PLAN: BONNARD'S SHAFT****FEASIBILITY ANALYSIS**

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 GENERAL

Preparation of this Conservation Management Plan was initiated by the Hepburn Shire Council, and was funded by grant monies from the Department of Natural Resources & Environment. The recommendations of the plan will guide improvements and on-going management of Cornish Hill, a 38.5 hectare area of public land within the township of Daylesford.

The Brief for preparation of the Conservation Management Plan specified that low cost improvement and maintenance works were to be investigated. Budget considerations aside, Cornish Hill does not recommend itself to major capital works - there is not enough left of the historical fabric to institute a major mining interpretations area along the lines of the North British Mine, Maldon, and there are too many site constraints for a major revegetation program like Tower Hill, near Warrnambool. The community consultation phase of the project also identified a strong desire to exclude major or intrusive developments from the area.

1.2 BEST PRACTICE

Best-practice has been used in the formulation of the Conservation Management Plan, and it has been written to satisfy the Incorporated Plan guidelines contained in section 36.02-4 of the proposed Hepburn Planning Scheme, 6 June 1997. Each section of the plan is prefaced by the relevant compliances etc.

1.3 METHODOLOGY

This Conservation Management Plan has been written to provide guidance for the improvement and future management of the Cornish Hill reserve, Daylesford. Because these works are likely to be undertaken by a committee representing community interests, and the composition of that committee will vary over time, *this plan has been written as a comprehensive manual, with strong emphasis on analysis and the deductive processes which have led to the various recommendations.* This will ensure that the managers are fully conversant with the issues of best-practice management of public land. Resource folders for the information of the managers are supplied with the Conservation Management Plan.

1.4 PREVIOUS STUDIES, REPORTS

- Argus and Cornish Hill Goldfields, Draft Management Plan, R Cloonan, 1982;
- Argus/Cornish Hill Stage 1 Draft Development Plan, D A Endacott, 1983;
- Daylesford-Hepburn Springs, Mineral Springs Tourist Plan, Kinhill P/L, 1984: Action Plan 15, Argus Hill;

- Historic Sites, Melbourne Area, District 1 Review, D V Bick, LCC, 1985: Long Tunnel & Argus/Cornish Hill Mining Area, Daylesford, pp 207-209;
- Daylesford & Hepburn Springs Conservation Study, Mathieson & Ward, 1985: Mining Precinct, pp 72-73;
- Preliminary Feasibility of Argus Hill, Daylesford, Department of Finance, 1995;
- Report & Valuation on Crown Land at Daylesford, Countrywide Valuers, 1995;
- Hepburn Mining Division - Daylesford Goldfield (Draft), D Bannear, DNRE, 1996, pp 7-10, 36, 37.

2. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The cultural significance of an historic place needs to be established before management objectives, strategies and policies can be prepared. The Burra Charter, Australia's version of an international agreement relating to the care of places of cultural significance, is the acknowledged best-practice document, and requires that the history of the place be elaborated in order to determine the cultural significance.

2.1 HISTORICAL CONTEXT

The Djadjawurrung tribe of aboriginal people were the original inhabitants of the Daylesford district, but little evidence or record of their culture remains. They occupied a large area of south-central Victoria before the arrival of the Europeans, and nearby Mt Franklin, or Lal-gam-book to the Djadjawurrung, is believed to have been a ceremonial site. No information regarding the status or use of Daylesford or Wombat Hill by the tribe has been established, although the presence of permanent springs, sheltered gullies and commanding viewpoints would have been attractive features. With the arrival of Europeans, the aborigines were displaced from their land, and moved onto reserves administered by the Loddon Aboriginal Protectorate. The last of the local Djadjawurrung were moved to Corranderk Mission in 1864, and only one remained alive by 1876.

European settlement in the area began in 1837, shortly after Major Thomas Mitchell's glowing reports of rich pasture lands south of the Murray River. Among the early pastoralists were John Egan, who in 1845 took up the "Corinella" run to the west of the present site of Daylesford, and Lawrence Rostrom, who in 1844 took up the "Holcombe" run to the east. By the start of the 1850's, homesteads were established throughout the district.

In August 1851, the quiet world of the pastoralists was shattered forever when John Egan discovered gold on the banks of Wombat Creek, below the slopes of Cornish Hill. Subsequent discoveries along all the rivers and streams of the local area brought thousands of diggers to the district, and settlements developed at Wombat Flat, the site of Egan's original discovery, and Hepburn Springs.

Initially, workings were confined to the rivers and streams, but within a short space of time, the sources of that gold - the ancient, buried river streams under the basalt plains, and the quartz reefs - were discovered and being worked. Tunnelling under the basalt to work the deep leads flourished from the mid-1850's, and this method was pioneered by the Ticinese (Swiss/Italian) miners who came to the Jim Crow (Daylesford) diggings in large numbers. Reefing began in 1854, at the Mauritius Reef north of Daylesford, followed closely by the Cornish Hill reefs. Timber cutting and milling began, to supply timber for the mines and the settlements, as well as more intensive farming to supply the large local population, which had grown to 12,450 people in the Daylesford Shire by 1866.

The importance of the mineral springs which existed in the area was acknowledged in 1865, with the declaration of the Hepburn Springs reserve, and this heralded the development of a major tourism industry.

Reef, alluvial and deep lead mining continued to be valuable contributors to the local economy throughout the latter half of the 1800's, and well into the 1900's in certain instances. Cornish Hill, the Ajax & Nuggetty Ajax lines, Rising Star, Specimen Hill and Maxwell's were the major reefing areas, and recorded productions were substantial, the first two areas alone producing in the vicinity of half a million ounces of gold¹.

2.2 HISTORY OF CORNISH HILL

The mining history of Cornish Hill, particularly the early years, has had little authoritative research. Much of the accepted story derives from sections of Henry Maddicks' book, "100 Years of Daylesford Gold Mining History", which relies on selected historical records and the reminiscences of old-timers for its information. Historical research is not part of the brief for the Conservation Management Plan, but sufficient has been done to indicate that there may be many inaccuracies in the early history as told. Accordingly, some new elements of the story of the early years are presented here in detail, simply because there are no authoritative texts to refer to. The later years are presented as a brief summary.

2.2.1 The Name

Cornish Hill has had many names over the years since gold was found on its slopes and gullies. In 1854, it was called the Specimen Hill², or referred to as just the Wombat Hill. In the 1860's to 1890's, it was referred to as Wombat Hill or Wombat Hill South in the Mining Surveyors and Mining Surveyors & Registrars Reports³. In the early 1900's, it was known as St Just's Hill⁴. Cornish Hill makes its first appearance in 1923⁵, and it was later called Argus Hill, or simply "The Argie"⁶. Recent usage has swung back to Cornish Hill.

2.2.1 The Early Years - 1853 to 1860

The date of the first gold workings on Cornish Hill have not been established. A report in the Daylesford "Herald" in 1900⁷ put forward the claim that a ticket-of-leave man known

¹ Context derived principally from "Daylesford & Glenlyon Conservation Study Part II", Wendy Jacobs & Mary Grant, 1990, and "Hepburn Mining Division" (draft), David Bannear, DNRE, 1996.

² "Plan of Wombat Hill & Wombat Flat", Hugh Fraser, 19/4/1854; Mount Alexander Mail, 27/11/1854.

³ Called Wombat Hill until 1867, after which year it was regularly called Wombat Hill South

⁴ Daylesford Herald, 7/12/1900, in an article "Mining in Daylesford and District"; Official Souvenir & Programme, Back to Daylesford Celebrations, November 1936 - St Just refers to a district in Cornwall.

⁵ Bulletin 42, "The Daylesford Goldfield", GSV 1923; "100 Years of Daylesford Gold Mining History", H Maddicks & K Butler, DHS 1981

⁶ Still in common usage today.

⁷ Daylesford Herald, 7/12/1900, in an article "Mining in Daylesford and District"; Maddicks (1981) also mentions "Wombat Jack" Clarke, but this cannot be considered substantiation.

as "Wombat Jack" had been working gold in Johnson's Gully on Cornish Hill for some months prior to Egan's discovery on Wombat Flat in 1852, but this is not substantiated in any source material. Given that the reefs on Cornish Hill had been shedding gold down the gullies to Wombat Flat, it could not have been long before gold was traced up the hill by the early diggers. A specimen stone (gold in quartz) was reported to have been found on the hill in late 1853, and the finders were offered £70 sterling for it, indicating it contained over 20 ounces of gold⁸. Maps of the diggings drawn in April and June 1854 showed that Long Gully (below the Old Cornish shaft) and Johnson's Gully (below Bonnard's) had been sluiced⁹, but the workings had not been extended between these dates.

The main rush onto Cornish (Wombat) Hill occurred on the 12th of November 1854, and in the space of two days, two hundred diggers were camped in tents on the hill, working furiously with picks, shovels and crowbars in the shallow diggings. Some ground was yielding half an ounce to the tubful of dirt¹⁰. By the end of November, rich specimens of gold in quartz were being found, and the first quartz veins were opened up in early December¹¹. C Parsons and J Cocksley, two Cornish sluicers, were said to be the first to uncover a reef, below the present Mitchell's shaft¹².

The slopes of Wombat Hill, virtually deserted up till now, had been surveyed for the new township in June 1854, but there had been little interest in blocks released for sale in October. The focus of settlement was still on Wombat Flat (now Lake Daylesford), where stores and houses were established. But the new rush changed this focus, drawing settlement up onto the hill, and creating a market for the town lots.

The main reefs uncovered were, from east to west, the Crown, Wombat (Cornish), Sandstone and Colliers reefs. There was a call for erection of crushing machinery as early as 1854, but crude appliances were used for crushing in the early years. They included a single-stamp crusher, in which an iron-shod wooden pole was lifted by a lever arrangement and dropped onto the gold-bearing quartz, effectively little more than a large dolly-pot. In the mid-1850's, another crusher was built, in which iron-shod wooden wheels revolved in a lined circular trough, the apparatus being driven by one horse¹³. Rich stone was required, because of the slow rate of crushing. It was early in 1857 before the first engine-driven crushing machine was installed in Johnson's Gully by Robert Johnson. It consisted of a steam-driven Chilean mill, a more sophisticated version of the horse-driven unit¹⁴.

⁸ Mount Alexander Mail, 27/11/1854

⁹ "Plan of Wombat Hill & Wombat Flat", Hugh Fraser, 19/4/1854; original Town Survey, Hugh Fraser, 10/6/1854

¹⁰ Mount Alexander Mail, 17/11/1854, in article dated 13/11/1854

¹¹ Mount Alexander Mail, 11/12/1854 & 15/12/1854

¹² "100 Years of Daylesford Gold Mining History", H Maddicks & K Butler, DHS 1981; Mark Amos gives the credit to Parsons, in "History of the Daylesford Goldfield", Reports & Statistics of the Mining Registrar, June 1890.

¹³ "Short History of the Cornish Quartz Mining Company", H Nicholas, Appendix L, Mining Registrars Reports, March 1888

¹⁴ Mount Alexander Mail, 13/2/1857; The Argus, 29/12/1886

An attempt to form the first legal company on Cornish Hill, in March 1857, the Jim Crow Mining Association, ended in failure in July because of restrictions imposed by the Local Court¹⁵. But Wombat Reef was "one great hive of activity"¹⁶, and when Winter & company installed another Chilean mill in August, there were over 100 rough residences on the hill, where only one tent had been a little more than two-and-a-half years before¹⁷.

In October of that year, the Governor, Sir Henry Barkly, visited the Wombat Hill quartz reefs. At the Crown claim of Montgomery, Hope and Brown, he was presented with a specimen, "a very beautiful one", taken from the reef which had yielded 46 ounces of gold to the ton in a recent crushing. He also visited the claim of Trimble, Addis & company on the same reef¹⁸.

The first stamp battery was erected by a Mr Reed at the end of 1857, and in early 1858, the Cornish party, a group of 13 miners who had worked co-operatively on Cornish Hill since 1856, erected a 12-head stamp battery on Wombat Flat. It was the most powerful crusher yet seen in the district, and was connected to their mine by a 600m long tramway¹⁹.

Quartz mining was in full swing, with nearly 200 miners employed on the hill. But by the end of 1858, only two parties remained at work, including the 13 Cornishmen. Brown & party's rich patch had finished. Mining revived a little in 1859, with several tunnels put in to work Colliers Reef, and the Cornish company enjoyed a monopoly of public crushing for these groups²⁰.

Sluicing continued on Cornish Hill through the 1850's, using water brought to the hill in long race lines. Wardell's Race, which traversed the north-eastern end of the present reserve, brought water to the town from Kangaroo Creek, a distance of 17 miles, and was completed in 1860²¹. Several tunnels were started, principally by Swiss/Italian miners, to work the buried deep leads (ancient river beds) under the basalt capping of Wombat Hill. The largest of these within the reserve boundaries was Pozzi's Long Tunnel Mine, started in 1857²². Spillaci's tunnel ran from Cornish Hill under Queensberry Street.

For some time in 1860, the Cornish party were the only reef gold producers on Cornish Hill, and their success was attributed more to their superior working methods than the

¹⁵ Mount Alexander Mail, 20/3/1857, 10/4/1857, 10/7/1857

¹⁶ Mount Alexander Mail, 7/8/1857

¹⁷ Mount Alexander Mail, 28/8/1857

¹⁸ Mount Alexander Mail, 2/10/1857

¹⁹ Mount Alexander Mail, 27/11/1857, 26/3/1858, 9/4/1858; "Short History of the Cornish Quartz Mining Company", H Nicholas, Appendix L, Mining Registrars Reports, March 1888

²⁰ Mount Alexander Mail, 10/12/1858, 15/4/1859

²¹ Mining Surveyors' Reports, June & July 1860

²² "100 Years of Daylesford Gold Mining History", H Maddicks & K Butler, DHS 1981; commencement also attributed to Paganetti, 1860 (Bannear, 1996); Mining Surveyors Reports chronicle works by the Great Tunneling Co, commenced in 1869, and resumed as Long Tunnel Co in 1874 - an earlier tunnel may have existed, but this has not been researched

value of the stone²³. This party also took up other claims on the hill, gradually establishing their dominance in both production and area.

2.2.2 The Company Era

The Mining Partnerships Limited Liability Act of 1860 facilitated the formation of legal companies, and the early 1860's was a period of company floats and claim amalgamations. As on any quartz mining field, the costs of progressively deeper workings spiralled, and it was normally beyond the means of individual claimholders to purchase the necessary pumping and winding machinery. Among early floats on Cornish Hill were the Cornish Quartz Mining Company, undertaken by the original party of 13, the Crown Quartz Mining Company, the Daylesford Quartz Mining Company, and the Argus Company who purchased ground from the Daylesford QMC²⁴. The Argus Company originally worked in long tunnels put in north and south from Smith's Creek. One of these tunnels had reached a length of 700 feet by 1862. The mid to late 1860's was a complex period of company floats, re-structuring, renaming, amalgamations and takeovers, and the unravelling and recording of the sequence of events is beyond the scope of this project.

The Cornish Company was the most successful of the early companies, erecting a second battery in 1864 on Argus Spur, and producing about £50,000 worth of gold between 1857 and 1867. This company re-organised in 1867²⁵, and by the mid-1870's was the dominant company in the Daylesford reefing scene, employing up to 120 men²⁶. Between 1867 and 1888, a further 52,000 ounces of gold was produced from the Old Cornish shaft alone²⁷.

The North Cornish, with its shaft just inside the reserve on the Stanbridge Street end, became the major producer in the 1880's and 90's, but folded in 1895, and by the end of the 1890's, the No. 1 North Cornish Company was the only one left working the Cornish Hill reefs - there was no activity south of Stanbridge Street..

2.2.3 The New Century

In the early 1900's, Donald McLeod, a former Town Clerk of Daylesford, had a vision of amalgamating all the mines on Cornish Hill, and working them as one large-scale operation. In 1903, the Victorian Cornish Gold Mining Company was floated in London, and took over the workings. Freeman's battery, purchased by the North Cornish Company in 1886 and enlarged to 50-head in 1890, had been sold off in 1898. The Victorian Cornish company restored the battery to an eventual 50-head in 1906, and worked profitably for a number of years, using Field's (No. 1, or Fear Not), Bonnard's, Mitchell's and the Old Cornish shafts, which were deepened and enlarged. The first three were taken to depths of over 1000 feet. Newly-floated companies operating to the north and south of the lease used Freeman's battery for their crushings. The Victorian Cornish produced nearly 20,000 ounces of gold and employed up to 281 men (in 1906), before operations

²³ Mining Surveyors' Reports, October 1860

²⁴ eg Daylesford Express, 1/2/1862 (Argus); company details in Dickers Mining Record, Vol V, 26/9/1865, 10/10/1865, 5/12/1865,

²⁵ Mining Surveyors' Reports, June 1889

²⁶ Mining Surveyors' Reports, eg June & September 1874, and March 1874

²⁷ Mining Surveyors' Reports, March 1888

were suspended in 1909. Some development works were attempted after this time, with little success²⁸.

Mining continued intermittently on Cornish Hill by various companies and parties into the 1920's and 1930's, for no major results. The Long Tunnel mine, which closed in 1912 after reaching a length of about 5000 feet, was briefly re-opened in the 1940's, the last of the long deep lead tunnels to operate in the district. The last gold mining activity on the hill has not been established, but Range River Gold NL conducted exploratory drilling in the mid-1990's. Total production, based on departmental and company records, indicate that a minimum of about 250,000 ounces of gold (value about \$120 million at April 1998 prices) have been won from Cornish Hill, but the true figure will never be known.

Thomas' Lookout on Bonnard's mullock dump became a popular tourist venue in the 1940's, and grazing licences and permissive occupancies were held over the hill for much of the twentieth century.

2.3 THE CORNISH CONNECTION

2.3.1 Background

Cornwall is a peninsula in south-west England, and its history and culture has always been somewhat distinct from the rest of England. Its distinctive language, related to the Welsh and Breton tongues, lasted until the eighteenth century, and its religion has been predominantly Methodist since John Wesley's visits to Cornwall in the mid-1700's. Mining had been carried out in Cornwall since prehistoric times, and the Cornish miners became very skilled in all facets of the work.

By the 1840's, the famed copper lodes of Cornwall were showing signs of exhaustion. Hard times were experienced by the population - unemployment, famine and destitution increased. To escape the grinding poverty and the appalling conditions in the 'workhouses', many Cornish people migrated to South Australia, to mine the copper lodes which had been discovered at Burra and other places. At the end of the decade, many went to the goldfields of California, and the gold discoveries in the early 1850's in Australia brought thousands to this country. By 1866, the surplus mining population of Cornwall was being actively relocated by the British government, adding further inducement to migration²⁹.

As reefing began in the wake of the alluvial workings, the hard-rock mining skills of the Cornish came to the fore, and they played a major role in the development of a sophisticated quartz-mining industry throughout the colony and country.

2.3.2 The Cornish in Daylesford

Cornish miners were part of the early rush to Daylesford - some came directly from Cornwall, from mining areas such as the Crowns in the Parish of St Just, and others

²⁸ Refer Annual Reports, Department of Mines, 1903-1914

²⁹ Dickers Mining Record, Vol 7, p340, 14/12/1866

abandoned the copper fields of South Australia. The fledgling quartz reef mining industry which began in the district from 1854, was reliant on the knowledge and abilities of the "Cousin Jacks" to develop its potential, and the early Cornish Hill parties had a strong Cornish presence. The superiority of the Cornish mining methods was often acknowledged by the local Mining Surveyor, a superiority which enabled them to profitably work stone which would otherwise be abandoned. Many of the larger mines had Cornish managers (or Captains) - for example, Stephen Botheras for the Cornish Company, and Edmund Trembath for the Crown Company. The success of the early Cornishmen in Daylesford encouraged more of their compatriots to emigrate, contributing to the growth and prosperity of Daylesford and district.

2.4 CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Burra Charter defines Cultural Significance as "aesthetic, historic, scientific or social value for past, present or future generations".

2.4.1 Previous Studies:

Elements of the Argus/Cornish Hill mining area were identified in the *Land Conservation Council's Historic Sites, Melbourne Area, District 1 Review* (1985) as of either local historical significance meriting rigid controls to ensure preservation and conservation (Bonnard's Shaft mullock dump, and the Long Tunnel Company mine), or of lesser local significance where preservation and conservation is desirable (Mitchell's shaft).

Mitchell's Shaft (and its surrounding mining linkages, including Bonnard's) was assigned regional cultural heritage significance by the Historic Gold Mining Sites Assessment Project (refer draft *Hepburn Mining District: Daylesford Goldfield, D Bannear, DNRE, 1996*).

2.4.2 Assessment

Under the *Criteria for Assessment of Cultural Heritage Significance*, adopted by the Heritage Council in March 1997 pursuant to Sections 8(c) and 8(2) of the Heritage Act 1995, the significance of Cornish Hill lies principally with Criterion G, ie "The importance of a place or object in demonstrating social or cultural associations".

The historic quartz mining which took place on Cornish Hill was equivalent in scale and sophistication to any which took place in the region³⁰, but the site shows little evidence of that today. The fabric of the site has been severely degraded over time, and from a gold-mining point of view, now offers no evidence of any technical innovations which may have taken place there, no rare or unique features, and little potential to provide further scientific investigation into Victoria's gold mining history. As a site representative of this form of mining, the remaining fabric does not compare well with many other local and regional sites.

³⁰ Refer p4, draft *Hepburn Mining District: Daylesford Goldfield, D Bannear, DNRE, 1996*

But Cornish Hill can be used to demonstrate strong cultural and social associations, because of its role in the early development of Daylesford and the influence of the Cornish miners. It played an on-going role as a large and steady employment base within the town, as well as providing benefits to local goods and services suppliers and contractors, through the high production, scale of the operations, and in certain instances the introduction of outside capital into the district (eg £160,000 of English capital in the early 1900's). This was reinforced by the role played by various prominent local individuals associated with mines on Cornish Hill.

These included Donald McLeod, former Town Clerk of Daylesford, who re-organised the Cornish Hill mines using English capital in the early 1900's, and went on to become an MLA, and Minister for Mines in the Berry Government. Eddie Trembath, a son of Edmund Trembath who was an early manager of the Crown mine, originated the Lake Daylesford scheme, and opened the lake as Mayor of Daylesford in 1929³¹.

Thus Cornish Hill can be assigned **regional historic significance**, based on historic gold production, and **high local social significance**. The Cornish influence underpins the local social significance, but averred regional and state significance for the Cornish connection stand as claims which require verification (refer 2.4.4).

The features of the site are not well-suited to the elaboration of the regional historic significance, but are very well suited to the interpretation of the social significance. The commanding views over Lake Daylesford (Wombat Flat) and the township, and the sluiced gullies below the viewpoints, can be used to demonstrate the sequence of events leading up to the discovery of the quartz reefs, and the shifting focus of settlement based on those discoveries. The scale of the quartz mining which produced the major economic and social impacts on the adjacent township can be interpreted using the excellent historical photographic record.

2.4.3 Summary Statement of Significance:

Cornish Hill is important because the gold mining which took place there strongly influenced the early development of Daylesford by changing the focus of settlement from Wombat Flat to the slopes of Wombat Hill. The scale of the quartz mining undertaken in the following decades, underpinned by superior Cornish mining methods, provided major economic and social benefits for the adjacent township, and district.

2.4.4 Significance of the Cornish Connection:

This project has been unable, due to time and budget constraints, to definitively assess the significance of the Cornish miners on Cornish Hill, and to do so would involve a considerable amount of further research.

³¹ "100 Years of Daylesford Gold Mining History", H Maddicks & K Butler, DHS 1981;

The naming of the mines has varying significance. The success of the early Cornish Company resulted in a proliferation of parallel namings - North Cornish, No 1 North Cornish, South Cornish, Cornish & York, Cornish Extended etc. This commonly occurs when later companies are formed, in order to suggest some of the prestige of their predecessor, and does not necessarily imply Cornish origins. More significant are the Crown reef (named for the Crown mining area in Cornwall, where many of the Daylesford Cornish came from) and St Just's Hill (St Just was a parish in Cornwall).

There is no evidence of a Cornish enclave on or adjacent to Cornish Hill. Many of the miners lived close to the mines, as would be expected, but names shown on early Parish Plans indicate that the Cornish lived amongst people of other groups or nationalities.

Cornish Hill and Cornish Reef were later derivations (Wombat Reef was only referred to as Cornish Reef after 1869, and only rarely thereafter until later times; Cornish Hill appears to have been first used in 1923). However, the following can be categorically stated:

- There was a large but unquantified Cornish presence on Cornish Hill. This is evidenced by the number of Cornish names which appear in the historical record. Many groups or nationalities were also present, including English, Scots, Irish, Danish, Germans and Italians. For instance, all these, including Cornish, were represented in the shareholdings of the Argus Company in the mid-1860's³². There has been no evidence found of any Chinese working on Cornish Hill, although they were present in great numbers on Wombat Flat, below. Strong Cornish presence in quartz mining areas was not unusual throughout the state - this was because many Cornish were skilled underground miners before leaving Cornwall, and these skills were in short supply in the expanding goldfields;
- The Cornish miners had a strong influence on the development of company-scale quartz mining on Cornish Hill in the 1860's, developments which in turn had a strong influence on the adjacent township of Daylesford. Their superior working methods, based on hard-rock mining experience in Cornwall, enabled them to profit where others failed as the rich shallow deposits were worked out, and in the early part of that decade the Cornish Company stood as a shining example to developing companies in the appropriate approach to successful deep mining;
- The important contribution of the Cornish miners to Daylesford is acknowledged often in the historical record, nowhere better than this excerpt from the Mining Registrars' Reports, June 1888:

"The Cornish party (of) 13 men ... was regarded as capable and enterprising enough to revolutionize mining on Jim Crow, and, in fact, through the intelligent and skilful system of working their claim, they not only won gold in large quantities, but became famous throughout the district and colony, and even gave a name and character to more quartz mining centres than need now be mentioned, for scores of miners in Cornwall were speedily made acquainted with the success attending the labours of their relations and comrades on Jim Crow, and were easily induced to come here with their families, where some have remained more

³² "100 Years of Daylesford Gold Mining History", H Maddicks & K Butler, DHS 1981.

than thirty years, and to these early pioneers not a little of the growth and prosperity of Daylesford as a mining centre must be accredited."

- The Cornish Association of Victoria Inc regards Daylesford, including Cornish Hill, as a significant place in the history of Cornish migration to Australia³³;
- **Cornish Hill remains a suitable place to acknowledge the contribution of the Cornish miners to Daylesford, and to the Victorian goldfields in general.**

2.5 FUTURE RESEARCH DIRECTIONS

The history and significance of Cornish Hill have had little authoritative research, and several key connections are worthy of future investigation. These include:

- Relationship of early land sales on Wombat Hill to activities on Cornish Hill. This could include relating sales of blocks to names of contemporary Cornish Hill miners;
- Quantifying the Cornish presence on Cornish Hill;
- Establish the extent and significance of the migration from Cornwall to Daylesford that occurred during the early supremacy of the Cornish Company (say, late 1850's - early 1860's)³⁴;
- Verifying that techniques used by the Cornishmen on Cornish Hill directly influenced other developing reefing fields, as claimed³⁵;
- Establishing direct links between the Daylesford Cornish, and those who abandoned Burra, South Australia, for the Victorian gold rushes³⁶.

³³ Letter to N O'Keefe MHR from W Phillips, President Cornish Ass of Vic Inc (1995?) - copy from Rod Kirby, Hepburn Springs.

³⁴ This would verify that success on Cornish Hill led directly to Cornish migration to Daylesford.

³⁵ There has been no evidence found to support this - in fact, the historical record has an instance of the Cornish Company sending men to Ballarat to investigate crushing technology and appliances in use there in 1858, and bringing their first stamp battery back to Daylesford.

³⁶ Stephen Botheras, manager of the Cornish mine, came to Daylesford via Burra. Were there others?

3. SITE ANALYSIS

3.1 SITE DESCRIPTION:

- **Area:** 38.5 Hectares, estimated.
- **Location:** AMG 5862600N 247000E (Thomas' Lookout) approximate.
- **Description:** Unreserved Crown Land adjoining the Daylesford township on the south side, and situated east of Lake Daylesford. The boundaries of the reserve are irregular, reflecting adjacent freehold titles, and the area is bounded in part by Stanbridge Street on the north, Lake Road on the south, Stanhope Street on the east, and residential development above King Street on the west.
- **Topography:** Cornish Hill consists of deeply-incised foothill slopes at the base of Wombat Hill, Daylesford. Height varies from about 610 m above sea level (AHD) near Argus Street to the north, to about 540m at the Smith's Creek exit to the south. The land rises to the northern and eastern boundaries, and falls to the south and west. The most prominent topographical features are Argus Spur, a flat-topped ridge running to the south down the centre of the reserve, and the drainage basin of Smith's Creek, a tributary of Wombat Creek, at the south-west end of the reserve.
- **Geology:** The bedrock at Cornish Hill is composed of marine sandstones and slates of Lower Ordovician age, which have been intensely folded and faulted. The folds (anticlines and synclines) have a general north-north-westerly strike. West-dipping thrust (reverse) faults have cut these folds into numerous sections, and these faults form the main quartz reef channels on Cornish Hill. The surface soils are composed principally of the erosion products of the disintegration of the bedrock, and the area carries little evidence of the Pliocene basaltic rocks and their underlying auriferous deep leads which are a feature of so much of the Daylesford goldfield, including the adjacent Wombat Hill.
- **Imposed Features:** The land surface has been heavily altered by gold-mining, and ad hoc attempts at land rehabilitation. The most prominent imposed features are several large mullock (waste rock) dumps derived from underground quartz mining operations. Sluicing for gold in the gullies and on the slopes has removed significant amounts of topsoil from the site, and in places exposed large patches of the underlying bedrock. Mining infrastructure, including machinery sites, tracks, tramways and water races, has modified the land surface. Safety and weed control works, particularly the Mines Department's bulldozing of shafts in the 1940's, and the Lands Department's bulldozing for weed removal and shaft filling in the early 1980's, have also had an impact on the land.
- **Roads and Tracks:** A network of roads and walking tracks exist on Cornish Hill, some relating to previous mining activities (eg present road along line of Victoria Cornish tramway), some instituted during previous management regimes or recent mineral exploration activities, and some imposed by common usage or recent work by the Friends of Cornish Hill group (walking tracks).
- **Vegetation:** The existing vegetation is dominated in the northern and eastern sections by weed or pest plant infestations, principally furze (gorse), blackberry, cape broom, English broom and radiata pine. The south end has extensive areas of natural bush

regeneration, dominated by an overstorey of peppermint gums, a light understorey including blackwood, silver wattle, bracken etc, and areas of native grasses. Weed infestations vary within these regenerated areas - gullies, roadsides and areas disturbed by mining or rehabilitation exercises tend to have the denser weed covers.

- **Native fauna:** While no detailed survey of native fauna has been conducted on Cornish Hill, there have been observations carried out by several local people, providing some useful information. The black wallaby is known to inhabit the area, and there has been a reported sighting of a koala. Ring-tailed and brush-tailed possums are probably present. Status and species of small mammals, including bats, is not known. Birds are well-represented, and species observed include the Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo.

3.2 EXISTING PUBLIC USE

3.2.1 Zoning: Under the existing and proposed Hepburn Shire Planning Scheme, Cornish Hill is zoned PPR (Public Park and Recreation). The whole reserve is subject to the HO (Heritage Overlay) provisions of the scheme. Certain roads are subject to road closure overlays in the proposed scheme. This management plan assumes that these closures will be effected.

3.2.2 Existing Management: The area is Unreserved Crown Land under the management of the Department of Natural Resources & Environment. According to DNRE, management responsibilities were informally delegated to the Hepburn Shire Council in 1997, while awaiting the preparation of this Conservation Management Plan³⁷. The nature and level of responsibility in this arrangement have not been determined.

3.2.3 Existing Public Use: During the public consultation phase of the management plan formulation, a number of current uses of Cornish Hill were identified. These included exercise walks, nature walks, exploration of the mines, cycling, walking the dog, access or thoroughway, trail-bike riding, fruit-picking etc. These uses are detailed in APPENDIX II.

3.3 INVENTORY OF RESOURCES ON-SITE

3.3.1 Identified resources:

- **Mineral:** Cornish Hill survives as public land because of its gold resources, which were mined on various scales and by various means for at least 80 years. In that period, between eight and ten tonnes of gold were mined, valued at over \$100,000,000 at March 1998 prices. Alluvial gold resources in the gullies and hill slopes have been severely depleted by sluicing, and the quartz reefs have been mined to a depth of 1000 feet (over 300m) in places. That the area remains prospective is demonstrated by the continuing interest of exploration companies. Range River NL presently holds an Exploration Licence which includes the reserve, and have conducted detailed literature searches, geological investigation, and exploratory drilling. Informal discussions with that company have revealed the opinion that while no surface deposits amenable to

³⁷ Advice from G Leece, Property Manager, DNRE, Ballarat

modern-day open-cut mining have been delineated, there is potential for continuation of gold mineralization at depth. No economic deposits of minerals other than gold have been identified on Cornish Hill.

- **Stone:** The mullock dumps on Cornish Hill have been used as a source of crushed stone. No economic dimension stone deposits have been identified.
- **Water:** Water resources which rise in or traverse Cornish Hill include a number of small springs, and the major portion of Smith's Creek. All drainage is to Lake Daylesford, either directly from the western gullies, or via Wombat Creek to the south. This plan has not quantified the contribution of the watershed contained within Cornish Hill to the Wombat Creek/Lake Daylesford system.
- **Timber:** While native hardwood on Cornish Hill has been used historically as a source of timber for the mines and other purposes, the existing stands do not represent a resource. Pine trees were planted on the slopes below Bonnard's Shaft in 1925, to provide a funding source for the local primary school. These trees were last harvested in 1980, and not replanted. A small plantation still exists on a spur below Mitchell's Shaft. The feral pines which are invading the northern portion of the reserve derive from these plantations. This plan addresses the future of the pines, and those trees or areas targetted for removal may represent a one-off funding resource in the future management of Cornish Hill. Trees or areas targetted for retention for landscape or other reasons may represent a small sustainable softwood timber resource, but any value would only be derivative from the primary management considerations - that is, a salvage value.
- **Pastoral:** Cornish Hill has been subject to grazing licences until very recent times (1980's), but the withdrawal of grazing animals and the lack of adequate land management has seen the area deteriorate rapidly, with extensive weed infestation.
- **Cultural Heritage:** The site has cultural heritage resources in the remnants of gold-mining activity which took place on the area over a period of at least 80 years. These remnants - mullock dumps, engine beds, sluicing workings, shafts, tunnels etc - form the basis of a resource which can be used for educational and tourism purposes (refer section 8.1).
- **Natural Heritage:** The site has natural heritage resources which can be used for educational, tourism, and conservation purposes (refer section 12.).
- **Geological:** The geology of Cornish Hill provides an excellent educational resource, with good visual examples of folding, faulting, reef formation, and the general stratigraphy & petrology of the Ordovician bedrock. The numerous bedrock exposures have resulted from sluicing workings on the hillsides and gullies. The geological resource was identified as early as 1923, when photographs of a syncline and an anticline, west of Bonnard's Shaft, were included in Bulletin 42 of the GSV.
- **Scenic:** The scenic resources are a valuable feature of the reserve. These were recognised at an early period for the panoramic views offered over the township, and the Sun News-Pictorial of 22 November 1923, in a feature article on Daylesford, carried a photograph of the town viewed from Bonnard's mullock dump. In the 1940's, Thomas's Lookout was installed on this dump to take advantage of the views over Lake Daylesford and the town. This lookout was reconstructed at the end of 1997. The west-facing mullock dumps at Mitchell's and the Old Cornish shafts complete the major elements of the scenic resource.

- **Landscape:** The landscape resources are Cornish Hill's contribution to the Daylesford townscape as a conforming part of the pleasing mosaic of built-up areas and public land, and its green open-space role. These are elaborated in Section 6.
- **Tourism:** Cornish Hill has been a low-level tourism resource for most of the twentieth century, particularly for the scenic views available in close proximity to the centre of Daylesford. Its potential for tourism is elaborated in Section 8.
- **Recreational:** The existing network of roads and tracks forms a passive recreational resource which can be used for walking, cycling etc.

3.3.2 Effect of Conservation Management Plan on Resource Use:

The use of the pastoral, timber, and stone resources on Cornish Hill will generally be proscribed by this Conservation Management Plan. Future use of the mineral resources will be determined by the provisions of the Mineral Resources Development Act 1992, but local government planning permit conditions on Mining Licences should play a role in the protection of the remnant mining fabric. The value and use of the other resources will be enhanced by the recommendations of this plan.

3.4 KEY MINING HISTORICAL FEATURES *(Most significant features in bold)*.

- Bonnard's Shaft - **Engine beds, mullock dump, Thomas' Lookout**, outcrop, open cut (Victoria Cornish) - Line of tramway
- Mitchell's Shaft - **Engine beds, mullock dump**
- Old (Little) Cornish Shaft - **Mullock dump**
- Argus Shaft - **Mullock dump, open cut, reef outcrop**
- Gully between Bonnard's & Mitchell's shafts - **Old gully sluicing workings, syncline**
- Cocks' Reward - Mullock dump
- South Cornish Shaft - **Mullock dump**, open shaft, extensive ground-sluicing workings, water races (2)
- Smith's Creek south of Argus shaft, and gully east of Argus spur - Adits & mullock dumps (possibly 6 in total), possible battery site
- Possible remnants of Wardell's race at northern end of reserve

3.5 OTHER HISTORICAL FEATURES:

- Ransome's house site;
- Remnants of school pine plantation.

3.6 SIGNIFICANT INTRODUCED TREES (for retention)

- **Pines** - remnants of school pine plantation; important landscape elements. Designated areas for retention, identified during site investigation and community consultation re Cornish Hill: areas per attached Vegetation Plan contained in section 12..
- **Plum Tree & Pear Tree** - Ransome's house site.
- **Apple Trees** - designated area for retention, identified during community consultation re Cornish Hill: gully between Old Cornish mullock dump and line of tramway.
- **Elderberries** - designated area for retention, identified during community consultation re Cornish Hill: south-east of engine beds at Bonnard's Shaft.

4. STATEMENT OF FUTURE LAND USE

4.1 VISION STATEMENT

Cornish Hill will be maintained as an area of green open-space within the expanding township of Daylesford, and will be a place of quiet enjoyment that people can explore to gain an understanding of the early history of Daylesford and an appreciation of the natural environment. Its commanding views over the township and Lake Daylesford, and its proximity to the centre of town, will reinforce its value as a community, educational and tourism asset within the Hepburn Shire.

4.2 STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES

- To recognise and enhance the historic interpretation of Cornish Hill as it relates to the gold mining activities which influenced the early development of Daylesford, and to acknowledge the Cornish influence in that development;
- To ensure that Cornish Hill is maintained as a major element in the scenic and cultural environment, and the wider Daylesford landscape;
- To encourage and promote an appreciation, understanding and enjoyment of the reserve's natural, cultural and passive recreational features, and to establish the reserve as a widely-used and valuable community, educational and tourism asset within the Hepburn Shire;
- To protect, preserve and restore the natural environment;
- To undertake the eradication or control of pest plants and animals;
- To protect the reserve, its users, and surrounding properties from damage or injury by fire;
- To ensure that accessibility to the main attractions on Cornish Hill to the disabled, elderly or otherwise physically-disadvantaged, including the very young, is maintained;
- To take all reasonable steps to ensure a safe visitor experience.

4.3 COMPATIBLE & INCOMPATIBLE USES

4.3.1 Recreation Activities:

Cornish Hill is currently being used for a number of recreational activities. Improvements recommended herein are for the development of the site as an informal reserve for passive recreation and cultural & natural heritage appreciation. In general, the widest possible use of the reserve is to be promoted and encouraged, provided that these uses are consistent with the Vision Statement, do not impact negatively on adjacent landholders,

and protect visitor experiences and reserve values. The following table summarises recommended recreation activities.

ACTIVITY	EXISTING USE YES/NO	APPROPRIATE USE, YES/NO	COMMENTS
Walking	Yes	Yes	For exercise; natural and historical appreciation.
Cycling	Yes	Yes	Main vehicular tracks only.
Horse-riding	Yes	Yes	Can assist disabled access (eg "Riding for the Disabled" program). Limit to main vehicular tracks only; given potential for introduction of weeds, should not be encouraged for general use.
Trail bike riding	Yes	No	Inconsistent with quiet enjoyment of the site, and potentially damaging to reserve values.
Off-road vehicles	No	No	As above.
Picnicking	No	Yes	In designated area/s.
Camping	No	No	Refer APPENDIX II.
Dogs	Yes	Yes	Off-leash areas can be designated at discretion of committee, provided this is consistent with Hepburn Shire policy for Daylesford.
Firewood removal	Yes	No	Firewood collection allowed near designated picnic ground, for use in fireplaces provided.
Hunting	No	No	

4.3.2 Regulations for the Reserve:

Regulations are made by the Minister under Section 13 of the Crown Land (Reserves) Act. Within any discretionary regulations made, there is scope for the managers of Cornish Hill to establish a list of rules for the reserve. However, the regulations cannot be used to allow anything which would otherwise be contrary to the Crown Land (Reserves) Act or any other Act. Within this limitation, various headings under which regulations can be made are listed in the Act, and include the care, management and protection of the land, and the behaviour and safety of people using the land. It is an offence to contravene the regulations, and offenders can be prosecuted.

In general, the list of rules will be formulated to:

- Ensure the quiet enjoyment of users of the area;
- Protect the natural and cultural heritage assets of the area;
- Protect the developments and infrastructure from damage or undue wear-and-tear;
- Limit the public liability of the managers.

4.3.3 Events:

Events, including but not limited to historical commemorations or re-enactments, may be proposed from time to time. Appropriateness of such events should be considered in the following areas:

- Relationship to the historical fabric of Cornish Hill (Cornish connection, development of Daylesford, quartz mining etc) for historical events;
- Amenity of other users of the reserve, and adjoining property owners;
- Appropriateness of activities, according to above table;
- Adequate protection of natural and historical features of reserve;
- Involvement of local community.

4.3.4 Special Projects:

Special projects for development within the reserve, but outside the funding base and management responsibility of the managers of the Cornish Hill, are considered specifically and generally in **APPENDIX II**.

5. ZONING SYSTEM

5.1 PREAMBLE

Cornish Hill presents a complex cultural and natural landscape, and zoning has to take account of this complexity. A simple division of the site into management zones does not take account of the overlapping management considerations involved, and the size of the reserve does not allow for the separation of the various uses. A more constructive approach is to identify the different management regimes for each use, over the whole site.

5.2 ZONES

5.2.1 Historic Zone:

While the whole reserve contains historical features relating to early gold-mining activities, the boundaries of the historic zone, per attached plan, are drawn to define an area which contains all of the known or suspected historical features of high cultural heritage significance to the site. The following table summarizes recommended management practices within and without this zone:

Within Historic Zone	Outside Historic Zone
Use of heavy machinery proscribed, except as listed in section 8.2.2.	Use of heavy machinery should be closely supervised to minimise impact on unknown archaeological potential, and care should be taken to limit damage to historical fabric.
Key features are targeted for vegetation removal to restore visual prominence.	Historical features should be allowed to naturally revegetate.
Key features are recommended for provision with historical interpretations or signage.	Historical features not recommended for interpretations or signage.
Risk minimisation practices should be consistent with preservation of the historical fabric.	Priority risk category (3) mine shafts (<i>refer Public Safety Plan</i>) may be made safe by filling, where their retention as part of the historic fabric is not practical.

5.2.2 Vegetation Zones:

The approach taken is that restoration of natural bush is desirable over the whole reserve, but constraints relating to fire management, cultural heritage interpretation, landscape and scenic considerations require adaptations to this approach in certain areas. Vegetation management will be used as the means to achieve outcomes in relation to these constraints. The following table summarizes the various zones, per **Figure 3: Vegetation Management**:

Zone	Description/Management
Natural Regeneration	Broad areas of the reserve with existing natural vegetation cover, which have opportunities for weed removal according to the Bradley method of natural bush regeneration.

Zone	Description/Management
Active regeneration - Smith's Creek	This streamside zone follows the line of Smith's Creek, and requires weed removal, and revegetation for habitat enhancement and streamside conservation purposes.
Active regeneration - Other	Large area in the eastern portion of the reserve which currently hosts extensive weed infestations. Weed removal will require some revegetation, principally institution of an overstorey to encourage natural regeneration and control re-infestation.
Fire-management	This essentially follows the perimeter of the reserve, and requires that the vegetation be managed for fire protection purposes. This involves institution of a buffer zone, consisting of reduced understorey approaching the reserve boundary, and a strip of low-growth grasses and herbs along fire-management boundary tracks.
Other management	This covers the northern end of the reserve, which will sustain the most public use, and requires certain vegetation management regimes in relation to specific landscape and cultural heritage enhancement outcomes. Within this zone, and outside the specific areas which are designated for these treatments elsewhere in this document, management should be for essentially natural bushland.
Pine retention	Three small areas have been designated for retention of pines (or appropriate conifers - refer 12.7.6), relating to landscape outcomes. Restriction of pines to these areas will not be accomplished immediately.

5.3 GUIDELINES FOR REVIEWING ZONES

Zone boundaries may require review if:

- New species are discovered which require special management considerations (for instance, under the Fauna & Flora Guarantee Act, 1988);
- New historical sites are found which add significantly to the story of Cornish Hill;
- Minor changes are required for more practical boundaries;
- New information requires variation to management regime (eg new findings in relation to native vegetation fire regimes, changes in accepted standards of public land management, best-practice etc).

Any changes should be assessed on the basis of adequate conservation of the values in the zones.

6. LANDSCAPE GUIDELINES & CONSTRAINTS

Compliances:

Landscape management has been guided by the Visual Management System (Leonard & Hammond, 1983). Guidelines conform to the general principles laid out in Cultural Landscape Management Guidelines (J Lennon & Assoc, 1995 - Draft), and comply with relevant sections of the Hepburn Shire Council Municipal Strategic Statement (July 1997).

6.1 ANALYSIS

Cornish Hill presents a complex cultural landscape, with elements of natural and introduced vegetation existing in an environment highly modified by intensive mining for gold, and ad hoc attempts at land rehabilitation. In formulating landscape guidelines, it is necessary to consider the impact of proposed developments from both within and without the reserve.

Cornish Hill is a major visual feature viewed from Lake Daylesford (Central Springs Reserve), where it forms the eastern skyline leading up to the Wombat Hill Botanical Gardens in the north-east. Views from here, and from distant viewpoints such as Bald Hill Road, establish Cornish Hill as part of the townscape. Residents adjoining the reserve also value the view over Cornish Hill.

Historically, Cornish Hill was very much part of the town, and functioned for many years as Daylesford's major industrial area. The symbolism of its providing a large proportion of the Wombat Flat alluvial gold, which after discovery by John Egan led to the establishment of the town, and the contribution of the mines on the hill to the development of Daylesford, reinforce this connection. This is crucial in consideration of landscape management. Cornish Hill is not a window of the Wombat forest which somehow survived the urban development - it was and is part of the town, and the landscape still contains visual elements which reflect the hand of man, including non-native trees, mullock dumps, other mining remnants etc.

Key elements of the Daylesford landscape are included below, to assist in assessing the impact of modifications to the landscape of Cornish Hill.

6.2 IDENTIFIED KEY ELEMENTS OF THE DAYLESFORD TOWNSCAPE:

- Profusion of trees distributed throughout the town, softening and partially cloaking the town's urban development.
- Mature trees of various species exhibiting a range of foliage, colour and size - the range of deciduous species results in a marked seasonal variation;
- Skylines typically showing a stepped appearance resulting from size differences of various introduced tree species (eg tall pines, low elms etc);
- Mature pine trees, with their dark green foliage, height and cluster planting, are the visually dominant introduced trees within the townscape;

- From the Ballarat, Hepburn and Ballan approaches to Daylesford, Wombat Hill dominates the landscape, and presents a mosaic of tree types and urban development. Topped by the Botanical Gardens, its visual presence forms a strong contrast to the surrounding grassy farmlands and the regular paler-green monotone of the Wombat State Forest.

6.3 MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES:

- To retain Cornish Hill as a conforming visual landscape unit within the Daylesford townscape;
- To manage the pine trees as valid elements of the visual and cultural landscape, while isolating them to key locations on the hill, where containment strategies can limit their spread;
- To emphasise the authentic heritage features of the Cornish Hill, while ensuring that developments are sensitive to the broader visual qualities of the site, and the enjoyment of visitors;
- To minimise the visual impact of management activities in the reserve.

6.4 CONSTRAINTS:

6.4.1 Internal

Cornish Hill has many constraints which will affect the approach to landscape management.

These include:

- The fact that the present landscape is heavily influenced by weed infestations, including feral pines, which are threatening the historic fabric, natural vegetation, and scenic viewpoints within the reserve
- The need to re-establish key historical features (particularly Bonnard's and Mitchell's mullock dumps) as dominant features within the landscape;
- The need to establish fire management zones on the perimeter of the reserve, because of assessed fire risk to adjacent properties.

6.4.2 External

Adjacent Development - the managers of Cornish Hill have no direct control over developments on adjacent freehold or public land, but such developments have the potential to affect the visual quality of Cornish Hill. Examples may be multi-storey development on freehold land adjacent to the western boundary of the reserve, or infrastructure developments on the Public Reserve at the north-west corner of Cornish Hill. Some protection in certain areas is afforded under the Heritage Overlay provisions of the Hepburn Shire Planning Scheme, but the managers of Cornish Hill should consult with council over perceived impacts of any proposed developments.

6.5 VISUAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (VMS)

6.5.1 VMS Applied to Cornish Hill:

Landscapes management on public land is guided by the Visual Management System, which uses scenic quality, visitor sensitivity and distance to establish visual quality objectives for an area.

The distance class for virtually the whole reserve is Foreground (that is, views up to 500m from high-sensitivity travel routes, and residential development). Public sensitivity levels are also high for the whole reserve. Scenic quality is high for the western side of the reserve (that is, viewed from Lake Daylesford) and the northern point of the reserve (main entrance from town centre), to medium in some other parts of the reserve.

This management plan recommends alterations to the present landscape, according to the constraints listed below, which will improve the overall visual quality of the site. In essence, it will be taking the best and most important elements of the existing landscape, and combining them with the best and most important elements of the now-hidden cultural landscape, and enhancing them both with weed removal and revegetation. These changes will take place over several years, and are detailed in the relevant sections of this document.

The VMS will then operate to protect the instituted landscape values in regard to management activities or further developments within the reserve, according to the guidelines which follow.

6.5.2 Visual Quality Guidelines:

The essence of the landscape character should be maintained through careful restoration, revegetation and vegetation controls. The visual protection of historic elements such as mullock heaps, sluiced gullies and open areas of surface mining is a priority.

Alterations should respect these objectives. Additional elements in the landscape, such as recreational facilities and infrastructure, should be designed and sited discreetly to create minimal visual impact, particularly from key visual points such as Stanbridge Street, Ballan Road Town Entrance and parts of the Lake Daylesford Reserve.

General:

- Landscape alterations should be temporary, subtle, and not visible to the casual observer;
- Low visual impact changes which are carefully designed to enhance the special qualities of Cornish Hill are acceptable;
- Views into the reserve from Standbridge St (Bonnard's dump, and entrance to reserve) and from Lake Daylesford are the most sensitive to landscape alterations, and require the most care and planning.

Stage 1 & 2 Developments:

- Strategic areas of pines should be retained per Vegetation Plan, in order to preserve the broad present visual aspects of Cornish Hill, viewed from Lake Daylesford;
- Removal of designated pines on the western side of the reserve has the potential to seriously affect landscape values in the short term. Screening or other strategies should be developed to minimise these effects.
- Provision or construction of each item of recommended infrastructure should be accomplished as quickly as possible when funds or other resources are available, to minimise any disruption to the visual quality of the site.

7. NATURE AND LEVEL OF SERVICES

7.1 ANALYSIS

Cornish Hill is being retained as an informal reserve, and the Brief for the preparation of the Conservation Management Plan specified examination of low-cost improvements and maintenance. This Conservation Management Plan addresses these points, and recommends provision of low-level services consistent with these aims.

Cornish Hill recommends itself to such services. There is too little left of the historical fabric to initiate a major mining interpretations area like the nearby North British at Maldon, and there are too many site constraints for a major revegetation program like Tower Hill near Warrnambool.

The value of Cornish Hill is as an informal reserve, and low-cost improvements and maintenance are sufficient to realise its value and provide services to a level which enables people to discover, interpret and enjoy the reserve by themselves.

Low-level on-going maintenance is a cornerstone of the plan. Infrastructure is minimal - recommended constructions are designed for low maintenance (sturdy and simple constructions, vandalism-resistant interpretations boards etc), and roads and tracks are of basic design, needing intermittent maintenance only. Requirements for routine hazard inspections are low, in keeping with the management level, and vary from weekly for passive recreational developments, to monthly for such things as unsupervised carparks.

7.2 VISITOR INFRASTRUCTURE

7.2.1 Roads & Tracks

A basic through road using existing tracks will be provided during Stage 1 works, and minor modifications during Stage 2 will extend this track through to Patterson Street. This track will assist disabled access, as well as access to basic picnic facilities. Signposted short- and long-loop walking tracks using the existing road and track network will be instituted. Refer **Masterplan - Roads & Walking Tracks**.

7.2.2 Signage

Directional signage sufficient to enable location of the reserve, easy negotiation of the road and track network, and access to key features, will be installed. Refer **Masterplan - Signage & Interpretive Systems**.

7.2.3 Historical Interpretations

Simple interpretations, sufficient to enable understanding of the historical significance of Cornish Hill, will be installed at recommended locations within the reserve. Refer **Masterplan - Signage & Interpretive Systems**.

7.2.4 Information

Basic information, including a plan showing the track network, features and facilities of the reserve, will be posted in the main information board at Bonnard's Shaft. Rules of the reserve will also be posted, as well as safety notices, including emergency telephone numbers, fire prevention information, and general hazard warnings in regard to the historical mining fabric. Other hazard warnings and restrictions will be posted as required within the reserve. Refer **Masterplan - Signage & Interpretive Systems**.

7.2.5 Picnic Facilities:

Provision of basic picnic facilities is seen as a desirable development on Cornish Hill, but not a priority in terms of Stage 1 developments.

Several areas have been examined - Ransome's hut site commands an excellent panoramic view of Lake Daylesford, but is remote from services. It is also remote from the main access road through Cornish Hill, and parking options are limited. However, a small stone fireplace has already been installed by the Friends of Cornish Hill group, and construction of bench seating may encourage use of the site as a rest area, or informal picnic ground - this is not seen as a priority funding development, but should be left to evolve from the continuing interest of sections of the Friends group. Ransome's is also not suited to formal picnic ground development, because of the required intrusion into the historic fabric of the place.

Bonnard's mullock dump, which provides the main entrance to the reserve, is not suitable because of its open situation, and the strong westerly winds which funnel through this area.

Smith's Creek, immediately upstream of the present track crossing, offers a sheltered area in pleasant natural bushland, with the possibility of elements of the historic fabric (Argus Company adits and battery site) existing nearby. The site will become accessible to ordinary traffic as the road link to Patterson Street is strategically developed. On the downside, provision of services such as sewerage and reticulated water would be unrealistic, but this applies to anywhere but the margins of the reserve.

The Smith's Creek site is recommended for low-key picnic ground development, consisting of:

- Minimum earthworks required to establish vehicle access from road, and unmarked parking area initially to suit four cars (car parking should be reviewed as required over time);
- Installation of two tables with benches, of appropriate design;
- Installation of two small barbecue/fireplaces, of appropriate low, simple design, preferably local rock with cement mortar, and a hinged hotplate. Design should conform to CFA guidelines.
- Minimum of directional, identification and fire warning signage required (refer also,

14. MASTERPLAN - Signage)

Development is to occur after road link to Patterson Street has been established, and precise location and layout of the picnic area is to be determined after removal of heavy weed infestation and detailed examination of topography. Risk management in terms of seasonal stream flows, topography and the presence of any open mine workings should be considered at this stage.

7.2.6 Benches:

The community consultation phase of the project identified the wish to have seating installed at various locations on Cornish Hill, to provide rest and contemplative stops. This is consistent with the equity objectives of management of public land (ie catering to the needs of the less physically-fit, the elderly etc), and also consistent with the demographics outlined for tourism appeal of Cornish Hill (refer Section 8.4.5).

7.2.8 Parking

Parking will be provided at Bonnard's and Mitchell's shafts (refer Drawing No 3, Site Plan: Bonnard's Shaft), and at the picnic ground. Bonnard's will consist of two areas, marked externally by low post-and-rail. The first will be 12m x 5.5m, to suit four cars (minimum 2.6m x 4.9m per car, Hepburn Shire Planning Scheme, 52.06-2), and the second 16m x 5.5m to suit a bus, or six cars. Access width to ninety-degree parking is greater than 6.4m. Parking at Mitchell's and the picnic ground will be less formal, for about four cars each. Minimum monthly inspection of unsupervised carparks is recommended.

7.2.8 Optional tourism infrastructure:

Toilets:

Installation of basic toilet facilities for the Cornish Hill reserve is seen as a desirable but not essential development, and has not been included in the prioritised Stage 1 or 2 developments. **It should be emphasised that a toilet block would greatly increase the on-going maintenance burden of the reserve, requiring daily inspection and cleaning, and regular maintenance, as well as attracting servicing costs for water and sewerage.** Future options may emerge in any development which takes place on the adjacent Public Reserve at the north-west corner, and this probably represents the most realistic chance of securing toilet facilities in the vicinity of Cornish Hill. Nonetheless, the following discussion is presented for the information of the managers:

Possible siting of a toilet block has been examined, and the margins of the reserve represent the only cost-effective sites for the provision of water and sewerage. Internal locations are not suited to septic or pit-type toilets because of the shallow bedrock, and suffer from:

- High cost of running services to facility - not just because of distance, but trenching through solid rock because of the removal of topsoils during mining, and the site constraints of steep terrain etc.
- Low visibility and remoteness which encourages vandalism;
- Vulnerability to unplanned fire within the reserve.

Bonnard's, as the main entrance to the reserve, is a suitable location, but a toilet block would be intrusive in the open landscape.

The main thrust of Stage 1 and 2 works in this management plan is to provide the minimum basic works to ensure that sufficient facilities are available to interpret the historic landscape, provide coherent road and foot access, and to address the immediate issues of weed control, fire management and revegetation, within the funding and community resources which could reasonably be expected to be available to the project.

When Stage 1 and 2 works are completed, or instituted in the case of weed eradication, the managers have a basis on which to seek further funding for desirable and appropriate enhancements, such as toilet facilities. The nearest public toilets are presently at the Tourist Information Centre, Vincent St, some 500m distant from Bonnard's dump, and at Lake Daylesford.

8. ANALYSIS & RECOMMENDATIONS ON KEY ASPECTS OF THE SITE

8.1 HISTORICAL

8.1.1 Analysis

The cultural significance of the site derives from its key contribution to the development and permanence of the adjacent township of Daylesford, and the influence of the superior Cornish mining techniques which underpinned this contribution. The fabric of the place has been severely degraded over time, and shows only isolated remnant features which demonstrate the scale of mining which took place upon the hill. In spite of the strong Cornish influence contained within the historical record, the site has no features which can specifically be related to peculiarly Cornish techniques or technology.

8.1.2 Conservation Policy:

This section has been written in accordance with Guidelines to the Burra Charter (Aust ICOMOS, 1992), which is acknowledged as best-practice in cultural heritage conservation.

The following policy to guide conservation works is recommended:

- (i) **Preservation:** Because there is so little left in the fabric to provide evidence of the large-scale quartz workings on the hill, preservation of the remaining fabric is a priority. This may include works to stabilise mullock dumps (removal of large trees etc)
- (ii) **Restoration:** The remnants of the original mining fabric consist of large mullock dumps, surface workings, engine beds etc. Restoration is not an option, given that, to the best of our knowledge, the rest of the original fabric is irredeemable - ie the original machinery has long ago been broken up and sold, mullock dumps used for roadworks and fill, buildings demolished and removed etc.
- (iii) **Reconstruction:** The cultural significance derives from the intensive and large-scale quartz mining which took place over the whole site. With the fragmentary evidence available today to demonstrate this, **significant reconstruction at any mining site within the area is likely to reduce the cultural significance, by effectively diminishing the visual impact of other unreconstructed mining sites, and hence the network values.** Further, given that during the mining period the fabric of each mining site (machinery, poppet-heads, buildings etc) was constantly changing, it would be difficult and perhaps inappropriate to assign a reconstructed fabric of a particular era to a site. In contrast, the recently rebuilt Thomas' Lookout is an appropriate and desirable reconstruction, one that stands in its own context. As the project evolves, some further small, low visible-impact reconstruction works in peripheral areas may be appropriate, where they materially assist in interpreting the site if the photographic record is poor or absent, or where they visually enhance a cultural connection. Examples of this may be small-scale reconstruction of a sluicing operation in a gully for the former, and replanting of the round garden beds at Green's house site for the latter.
- (iv) **Adaptation:** The overall management objectives for the site impinge on the cultural heritage conservation, requiring accommodation and compromise in certain areas. However, conservation of the cultural heritage of the site is unlikely to be sustainable

without taking a broad view of the management of the site, taking into account all the assets - cultural, natural, scenic/landscape, tourism and passive recreation - which the site has to offer. The principal adaptations will be in the construction of basic interpretations (information board/s, signs etc), provision of visitor infrastructure (roads, tracks, picnic area, other facilities), and retention of visual amenity in relation to the town (scenic/landscape considerations). In determining the appropriateness of adaptations to the historic mining fabric, it is important to remember that other cultural associations and community uses within the area have evolved over the years, and are themselves valid contributors to the overall cultural significance of Cornish Hill. Other adaptations include those necessary for public safety - re-modelling of Mitchell's Shaft mullock dump, capping and/or fencing of open shafts etc -

8.1.4 Objectives of Conservation Works:

- To interpret the significance of Cornish Hill to the development of Daylesford, and to enhance the Cornish connection;
- To preserve and protect the remaining historical fabric from further deterioration, alteration, and inappropriate or unnecessary adaptation.

8.1.3 Recommendations:

In general, conservation works which maintain or enhance the cultural significance of the place are recommended.

- (i) **Inappropriate Works:** Works which provide mining interpretations are not recommended, except where they assist in interpreting the cultural significance of Cornish Hill. Excellent general mining interpretations are available nearby at Sovereign Hill, Ballarat, and the Central Deborah Mine, Bendigo, on a scale which is realistically unattainable at Cornish Hill. These will continue to provide the major regional focus for such interpretations. Given budget constraints, attempts at such works will always offer second-rate interpretations compared to these developments, and reduce the significance of the site by:
- Diminishing the network values of the mines on Cornish Hill, if the mines receive unequal attention;
 - Diminishing the scale of the mines, unless full-scale reconstruction occurs;
 - Creating confusion or misunderstanding as to the authentic fabric of the site.
- Other major quartz-mining sites around Daylesford have more complete fabric for mining interpretations (eg more complete engine beds at Maxwell's mine), but they do not have the special relationship to the early development of the town.

- (ii) **Interpretations:** Interpretations are required which convey the magnitude of the quartz-mining which took place on Cornish Hill, and emphasise the network of mines, while remaining sensitive to the visual aspect of the reserve. Fortunately, there is an excellent collection of historical photographs illustrating the various mines and their connections, and the erection of small photographic display boards at strategic locations are the key to interpreting the mining landscape to the visitor. The stark visual contrast

between the view today and the view in the peak of mining will display the magnitude of the network of quartz-mining operations and associated infrastructure, and capture the essence of the cultural significance of Cornish Hill in a way which is not possible or practical with mining reconstructions.

A strategically-located information board is also required, to display information about the reserve and its facilities, as well as an historical display elaborating the history of Cornish Hill, its role in focussing the development of Daylesford from the early Wombat Flat township to the surveyed area on the slopes of Wombat Hill, its economic importance to the developing town, and the contribution of the Cornish miners to the mines on Cornish Hill and to quartz-mining in general throughout the state.

Historical interpretations should be sensitive to the informal nature of the reserve, and the appreciation of the natural environment. Interpretations should be of low visible impact in the landscape, but sufficient to provide a basic understanding of the historical significance of the site. To achieve this, only the most important elements of the historic landscape will be recommended for fixed interpretations, and a guide book/pamphlet recommended to provide detail.

(iii) **Mullock dumps:** The large mullock dumps are the most visible elements of the historic mining fabric, and their prominence should be restored. This will involve clearing of vegetation from Bonnard's, Mitchell's, Old Cornish, Argus, and Cock's Reward mullock dumps only, and restoration or maintenance of lines of sight per 8.3.2 below. The South Cornish dump needs no clearing, other than that resulting from weed eradication, because it forms no part of lines of sight from either within or without the reserve.

(iv) **Engine beds:** The engine beds at Mitchell's and Bonnard's shafts are the only known physical remnants of the extensive quartz-mining mining infrastructure on Cornish Hill, and their preservation is essential. The beds should be kept clear of vegetation, particularly tree and shrub growth which has the potential to destabilise the structures. They are presently in sound condition, but will require monitoring in the longer term. Institution of interpretations at Bonnard's shaft is likely to inhibit theft of the bricks, which has seen many similar brick engine beds dismantled and removed. As the weed eradication program continues, the area should be monitored for the existence of other relics of mining infrastructure, and appropriate preservation techniques applied.

(v) **The Cornish connection:** Because the site offers no historical features which can be uniquely interpreted as Cornish, the only way to interpret the Cornish influence is by provision of textual information, and the only way to acknowledge or celebrate this influence is by erection of an appropriate monument. *An optional design is included in the Resource Folders, but input from the Cornish Association (Vic) is advisable.*

(vi) **Future directions:** As the weed eradication program continues, more elements of the historic landscape may become visible. While the most important historical features, relating to the cultural significance of the site and derived from the historical record, are known, any new elements should be assessed for their importance. To attempt to actively

conserve and provide interpretations for anything but the major historical features is not recommended, but new elements may have potential if:

- Their proximity to major features offers scope for amplification of the visual impact or appreciation of the major features; and
- They present easily-interpreted mining or processing technologies previously unknown or under-represented in the existing fabric (major adits, relic machinery, battery sites and puddler sites are examples of things which are missing or under-represented in the known historical fabric of Cornish Hill).

Detailed recommendations on interpretations, and other directional and historical signage, is discussed in MASTERPLAN - Signage & Interpretive System (Section 14.).

8.2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL

8.2.1 Analysis

The Historic Gold-mining Sites Assessment Project (1996 - Draft, D Bannear, DNRE) has identified archaeological potential at Mitchell's or Colliers Shaft, based on the visible engine foundations. The report suggests that the archaeological integrity at other mining sites has been compromised by bulldozing works, but does acknowledge that the extensive covering of weeds made it hard to make an accurate assessment of what survives. Since the area was assessed (July 1994), further engine foundations have been uncovered at Bonnard's Shaft. Similarly, the existence of a puddler and a dam with a brick causeway at the Long Tunnel Company mine was not recorded, owing to the site being overgrown. On this basis, it would be reasonable to assume that some archaeological potential may exist at any mining site within the project area, and that this potential will be revealed as the weed eradication program continues.

All archaeological sites in the state of Victoria older than 50 years, known or unknown, are protected under the Heritage Act 1995, and it is an offence to knowingly disturb, damage or excavate a site without first obtaining appropriate permission from the Executive Director of the Heritage Council.

8.2.2 Recommendations:

In order to preserve the archaeological potential of the area, it is recommended that:

- The use of heavy machinery generally be proscribed within the Historic Zone, and particularly around the major remaining mullock dumps, except as in (ii) below;
- Heavy machinery only be used where necessary within the Historic Zone, for road or track installation, in association with installation of interpretations or visitor facilities, for removal of designated pine trees or nominated areas of dense pine invasion, or for safety works;
- The use of heavy machinery in the Historic Zone be closely monitored to avoid destruction of any unearthed artefacts, and that machinery operators are adequately briefed on the need to proceed with due care and to report any finds which may require consents under the Heritage Act, 1995, with alteration to the work program;

8.2.2 Recommendations (cont'd):

- Regular inspections take place, particularly after controlled burns, to re-assess the archaeological potential of the affected area.

8.3 VISUAL:**8.3.1 Analysis**

The visual aspects of the site have three components:

- (i) The reserve viewed from outside (middle to long distance);
- (ii) The reserve viewed from within (short distance);
- (iii) Scenic views looking out from the reserve.

Part (i) of these components has been examined in section 6. **Landscape Guidelines & Constraints.**

The reserve viewed from within presents many different aspects to visitors, from the developing pine forests in the northern end and the dense weed invasions in the north-east, to the areas of natural bushland on the steep, timbered slopes to the south, and the hidden gully of Smith's Creek. The relatively bare, flat-topped Argus Spur forms a contrast to the deeply dissected gullies on its flanks, and visitors are often confused by the abrupt changes in scenery and landforms. And throughout the reserve, visible reminders of the gold-mining era can be discovered.

These diverse visual elements, as well as the green, open-space role, were identified during the public consultation phase of the project as important contributors to the special qualities of Cornish Hill.

Panoramic views over the town and Lake Daylesford from Cornish Hill have long been valued, and recent works have re-instituted Thomas' Lookout on Bonnard's mullock dump. Views from Mitchell's dump are now severely restricted by pine invasions in the gully below, and removal of gravel from one side of the dump has created an unsafe situation which requires attention.

8.3.2 Recommendations

- That the green, open-space role of Cornish Hill be emphasised through the re-institution of essentially-natural bushland over the majority of the reserve;
- That improvements are sympathetic to the diverse visual qualities of the reserve, and the appreciation and enjoyment of the natural environment;
- That the scenic views over Lake Daylesford from Bonnard's and Mitchell's mullock dumps be restored - this will also restore the prominence of the mullock dumps in the landscape when viewed from Lake Daylesford and King Street;
- That vegetation be managed to retain or create clear lines of sight between Thomas's Lookout and Mitchell's mullock dump, and between the bottom of Queensberry Street (start of Argus Spur) and both the Argus and Old Cornish mullock dumps.

8.4 TOURISM:

8.4.1 Analysis

Informal reserves such as Cornish Hill have limited potential to directly generate tourism revenue, or directly or substantially increase tourism visitation to Daylesford and the Hepburn Shire. Cornish Hill's tourism value is as an incremental addition to the inventory of attractions available within the Hepburn Shire, and in marketing terms represents improvements in customer service and product diversification.

While mining heritage forms an important part of a local network of walking tracks maintained by Parks Victoria, the mining features are presented in isolation, are largely uninterpreted, and offer none of the potential of Cornish Hill to provide:

- A strategic focus for the introduction of visitors to the gold-mining heritage of Daylesford;
- Demonstrated links to the historical development of the local community (ie social context);
- High visibility, easy accessibility, and proximity to services;
- A wider range of passive recreational, nature-based and educational activities to complement the mining heritage aspects;
- Strong ethnic and cultural links - eg the Cornish influence, and the Swiss/Italian tunnelling works represented by Pozzi's Long Tunnel mine - with the potential to appeal to limited sectors of the inbound tourist market.

The appeal for visitors will derive from these factors, and in keeping with the informal nature of the reserve, tourism infrastructure will be minimal and low-impact in the landscape. Cornish Hill's tourism value to the Hepburn Shire will be reinforced with linkages to local, regional and state heritage/tourism networks

8.4.2 Hepburn Shire Tourism Policy (1996)

The above policy document sees protection and conservation of historic sites as an important way of increasing services to visitors, as well as providing benefits to locals. It acknowledges that, through effective policies and planning, tourism can ensure that the environment, heritage and inherent character of an area is preserved.

This management plan is consistent with the enumerated policies, and addresses high standards in developments relating to environmental, historic and cultural areas.

8.4.3 Regional Tourism Development Plans

The Hepburn Shire straddles two tourism regions - Macedon Ranges & Spa Country, and Goldfields - and tourism development plans for both these regions have been drafted (1997).

The Macedon Ranges & Spa Country plan identifies a challenge for the region to reactivate its sense of history, to add a further dimension to its product strengths. It says that the region's history has become secondary, and largely undeveloped, resulting in limited or ad hoc interpretation of the area's history, and under-utilisation of the Goldfields Tourist Route to reinforce the region's historical context. It recommends that local government support plans to develop each town's individual character and heritage values, that linkages of historic precincts, sites and themes to heighten historical attributes within the region be developed, and that significant heritage assets be identified, preserved and promoted. This management plan is consistent with these recommendations.

The Goldfields plan recommends that encouragement be given to the development of historic tours linking township and public land historic attractions. It specifically recommends that the tourism industry be encouraged to develop a range of guided activities that complement the surrounding public land attractions at Daylesford. Cornish Hill, with its proximity to the township, Lake Daylesford and Jubilee Lake, could provide a pivotal strategic link in such developments, should commercial opportunities be identified by the local tourism industry.

The Goldfields plan also identifies the Great Dividing Trail as a developing attraction. The inclusion of Cornish Hill in the Great Dividing Trail linkage with Jubilee Lake, and the pro-active involvement of the Cornish Hill managers in the establishment of the link, will materially assist in the level of input to the trail, and help address concerns raised in the tourism plan about the risk of under-utilisation.

8.4.4 Kinhill: Daylesford-Hepburn Springs Tourist Plan, 1984, and others:

The Kinhill report proposed Cornish Hill as an historic gold mining precinct, and recommended development objectives along similar lines to those adopted by this management plan, but differing in one major aspect, in recommending substantial capital works around Bonnard's Shaft. Kinhill also stated that walking was most compatible with the health/lifestyle component of Daylesford tourism, and recommended that Cornish Hill be linked to a local walking tracks network.

Allan Wyatt's Redevelopment Plan for Central Springs Reserve, Daylesford (1986), recommended trail systems linking Central Springs to Cornish Hill and Jubilee Lake.

8.4.5 Demographics:

The Macedon Ranges & Spa Country Regional Tourism Development Plan (1997) identifies three major market segments - Socially Aware, Visible Achievement, and Traditional Family Life - for which the region has high appeal. Holiday activities which will be available at Cornish Hill and offer significant appeal to these segments (*source: Australian Leadership and Product Data Survey, 1995/1996, Roy Morgan Research*) include:

- Visits to historical places - above average participation in all three segments;
- Bushwalking - above average participation in Socially Aware and Visible Achievement;
- Nature experience - above average in Socially Aware.

Alternative segmentation is used in the Goldfields Tourism Development Plan (1997), which broadly identifies a number of market segments for which developments at Cornish Hill would have moderate to high appeal. These include the Family Focused, Social Relaxers, Home-based Seniors, Nature Made Easy, and Out & About Seniors segments.

8.4.6 Tourist Visitation

Establishment of quantitative data for visitor use of public reserves with open access is a difficult exercise. Indirect data derived from visitor centre enquiries, sales of booklet, leaflet usage, guided tour bookings, Great Dividing Trail usage estimations etc will only provide a proportion of tourist visitation numbers. However, changes to these figures are useful for monitoring proportional changes in the tourism usage of Cornish Hill over time.

What can be assumed for the present is that apart from the small numbers of visitors who find their way to, or are directed to, Thomas's Lookout, the reserve has little tourist usage. As Cornish Hill is progressively developed, conserved and promoted, a rise in visitor usage would be expected, and this rise should be monitored closely from the indirect data outlined above. These figures will relate development to use, and would be critical to establishing the necessary visitor-increase criteria in seeking tourism grant funding.

8.4.7 Recommendations:

Strategic:

- Link Cornish Hill to the Great Dividing Trail, by liaising with local GDT Committee to establish access through Cornish Hill on the loop trail to Jubilee Lake;
- Link Cornish Hill reserve to the Goldfields Tourist Route;
- Use Cornish Hill as a "gateway" to local mining heritage walking trails (eg Breakneck Gorge, Blowhole) and to the local Historical Society Museum, by promoting them on the main Information Board;
- Use for celebrations or special events relating to local history - eg 150th anniversary of gold discovery in Daylesford etc; Victorian 150th gold anniversary etc;
- Encourage the Cornish connection for tourism - promote through organisations such as the Cornish Association of Victoria;

Other:

- Publish booklet/pamphlet;
- Promote through Daylesford Tourist Information Centre & Daylesford Historical Society Museum. Make booklets available at commercial outlets; complimentary copies of booklets should be lodged at accommodation houses - hotels, motels, B&B, caravan parks - for the information of their guests;
- Encourage commercial tourism operators to use Cornish Hill;
- Encourage educational use of site - promote to schools etc;
- Managers to develop strategies to monitor visitor numbers and changing patterns of visitor use of Cornish Hill.

c/-

8.4.7 Recommendations:**Infrastructure:**

- Install basic directional & information signage. Refer 14. MASTERPLAN - Signage;
- Install basic picnic facilities (tables and benches). Refer section 7.2.5;
- Provide parking. Refer Site Plan: Bonnard's Shaft.

8.5 LOCAL COMMUNITY USE:**8.5.1 Analysis**

The reserve, while presently in poor condition, is used by the Daylesford community for a variety of activities (refer 3.2 Existing Public Use). In formulating this management plan according to the Vision Statement and Management Objectives, some of these uses may be enhanced, some proscribed, and some new ones offered.

The community consultation phase of the development of this plan delineated a number of community attitudes towards Cornish Hill. The prevailing and common thread was its importance as an area of green, open space within the township, and the need for any developments to be sensitive to that importance. Having been saved from residential development, the last thing residents wish to see on Cornish Hill is substantial or intrusive infrastructure for tourism or other purposes.

The local community should be offered every opportunity to participate in developments on Cornish Hill, in the future management of Cornish Hill, and in the use of the facilities and community resources contained within. Only by the continued involvement of the local community, and the development of a sense of community ownership, will Cornish Hill achieve its full potential.

8.5.2 Recommendations:

- That the managers ensure that working bees etc are advertised to the wider Daylesford community, and that participation by individuals, service clubs and other community groups be sought, encouraged and acknowledged;
- That regular progress reports are included in the local newspaper during the developmental phase;
- That at the completion of the core works, an on-site "official opening" is held for the local community, where committee members can personally introduce people to the facilities and the potential of the reserve;
- That the site be generally promoted to the wider community for its important local historical content, its valuable open space role in the township, and the opportunities it provides to them for a variety of passive recreational pursuits;
- That the reserve be promoted to the business community as a valuable addition to the inventory of tourism attractions in the area, one that complements rather than competes with other attractions, by providing, with its gold-mining heritage, a facet of the story of Daylesford which has previously been undeveloped;

c/-

8.5.2 Recommendations (cont'd):

- That local schools and other organised groups be encouraged to participate in passive learning activities (eg nature study, history, land management) in the reserve. Basic educational resource kits relevant to student age and curriculum, and prepared in consultation with teaching staff, would be desirable developments.

9. FIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Compliances:

This Fire Management Plan complies with the general objectives of the Midlands Fire Management Plan (DNRE, Revised 1997), the Municipal Fire Prevention Plan (Hepburn Shire, 1997), the Midlands Forest Management Plan - Chapter 6, Forest Protection: Fire (DNRE, 1996), and has been drawn up to conform to the Code of Practice for Fire Management on Public Land (DNRE, 1995), and using relevant principles contained within the Municipal Fire Prevention Planning Guidelines (CFA, 1997).

9.1 MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES:

- To protect the reserve and its users from unplanned fire;
- To protect surrounding properties from unplanned fire within the reserve;
- Adopt a risk management approach to unplanned fire, and prioritise works towards identified areas of high risk (see 9.3 below)
- To develop and maintain fire regimes appropriate to the conservation of native flora and fauna.

9.2 COMPONENTS OF RISK

(Adapted from Fire Protection Guidelines for Softwood and Hardwood Plantations, CFA)

There are four major components of fire risk:

- Risk of fire entry to the reserve from adjacent land;
- Risk of fire starting within the reserve;
- Risk of fire spreading within the reserve;
- Risk of fire within the reserve spreading to adjacent properties.

If these risks can be minimised, it will maximise the chance of successful suppression, and reduce the risk of damage by unplanned fire. The measures which are used to achieve this are fire prevention measures, and fire pre-suppression measures, including perimeter protection, internal access, and internal firebreaks.

9.3 DETERMINATION OF RISK

9.3.1 Local Risk of Fire Occurrence:

Fire hazard ratings contained in the Hepburn Shire Council Municipal Fire Prevention Plan (1997) indicate a moderate rating for township and thinly-forested areas, rising to high in heavily-forested areas, with points totals ranging from 32.0 average to 35.6 average. In the wider Midlands Forests Management Area, comprising 114,300 hectares of Crown Land, fire incidence in the period 1973-1993 was 62 fires per 100,000 hectares of public land per year (total fires 1414), establishing a high level of risk (> 50 fires/100,000 hectares/year). It is significant to note that 39% (545) of all wildfires were deliberately lit, 14% (201) resulted from burning-off on adjacent private land, and 8% (116) were from campfire/barbecue escapes.

9.3.2 Risk of Fire Entry from Adjacent Land:

Four variables are used in determining this risk - slope, aspect, orientation of boundary, and position of boundary on slope. The northern and eastern boundaries of the reserve have a low Boundary Risk Value. The southern boundary has a moderate value, and the western boundaries have a high value. However, this last value is reduced to low, because of adjacent residential development/King Street/Lake Daylesford, which effectively form a wide firebreak.

9.3.3 Risk of Fire Ignition Within the Reserve:

There are three categories of ignition sources - the incidence of fires (refer 9.3.1), potential ignition sources within the reserve, and long-distance spotting. The first category approximates a medium-high risk, the second exists (eg picnic facilities - barbecue) but can be brought to low risk by appropriate fire prevention safeguards, and the third is high because of vegetation with spotting potential (Wombat State Forest) existing between one and three kilometres distant of the western boundary. If these sections of the forest are fuel-reduced, the risk in the third category is low.

9.3.4 Risk of Fire Spreading Internally:

The deeply-dissected topography of Cornish Hill affords substantial amelioration from north-west to south-west winds, and the risk overall is consequently medium. Some steep slopes (eg east and south of Argus spur) are of low risk, while some steep west-facing slopes are high. This risk is minimised by protection works in place within the reserve.

9.3.5 Risk to Adjoining Property from Fire Within the Reserve:

The risks here can be calculated by substituting the reserve for the adjoining properties in 9.3.2 above. Therefore, the northern and eastern boundaries have high risk, the southern boundary medium, and the western boundary low. This risk is minimised by management of the perimeter of the reserve.

9.4 FIRE PREVENTION:

Public awareness of fire protection and the dangers of fire is the key to fire prevention, and public education programs are conducted by organisations such as the Country Fire Authority and the Department of Natural Resources & Environment.

It is beyond the responsibility of the managers to engage in widespread public education, but specific action can be taken to address fire prevention on Cornish Hill:

- Management should familiarise themselves with public awareness programs for fire protection and the dangers of fire, developed by the CFA and DNRE;
- Barbecue/fireplaces installed should be of CFA-approved design;
- Notices should be posted on the main information board, and any picnic ground developments, relating to safe fire practices etc.

9.5 FIRE PRESUPPRESSION:

9.5.1 Road Access:

Roads provide essential vehicle access for fire suppression, as well as conduits for the evacuation of visitors in the event of unplanned fire. Cornish Hill has an existing road network which can be improved, with minimal extensions or alterations, for fire protection purposes. The high-risk eastern boundary requires a bulldozed firebreak, with low fuel loadings on the reserve side. (Refer also 13. Masterplan - Roads & Walking Tracks, for details).

9.5.2 Water Points:

The nearest identified water supply points for fire suppression are:

- Fire Hydrants: Fire plug in Orford Street, just south of Stanbridge Street; Other positions available from Central Highlands Water.
- Bodies of Water: Jubilee Lake, via Patterson Street and Lake Road at southern end of reserve
Lake Daylesford, via Standbridge, Houston and McAdam Streets

9.5.3 Vegetation Management:

Vegetation management for fire protection purposes will form another essential element of fire protection on Cornish Hill. The topography of the reserve, on a hillside with deep gullies and steep slopes, and the encircling residential development which is likely to increase in density over time, dictates that fuel available to fires should be sharply reduced at the margins of the reserve, forming a buffer zone at the perimeter. Argus Spur is being managed to maintain low, open vegetation, and the low fuel loading here will reduce the intensity and spread of any fires passing through the reserve. Road- and track-sides are also being cleared of undergrowth. (Refer also 12. Vegetation Plan, for details).

9.6 FIRE SUPPRESSION:

9.6.1 Fire Suppression Forces:

The Country Fire Authority (CFA) are responsible for fire suppression on public land within township boundaries.

9.6.2 Control Methods:

Given that the mining landscape provides evidence of the cultural heritage significance, and also that the mining landscape may pose a risk to machinery operators, in general the use of earth-moving machinery to establish control lines within the reserve is not recommended. In an area as small as the Cornish Hill reserve, suppression is likely to be undertaken from the existing road and track network, and there is unlikely to be the need or the time to establish additional bulldozed control lines in the event of wildfire. The preferred suppression techniques are:

- Direct attack by ground-based crews using tankers and hand-tools;
- Use of aircraft to drop fire-retardant, foam or water.

In large fires which are imminently threatening lives or property in or near the reserve, any effective suppression methods which are available to control the fire should be used, including use of bulldozers.

9.6.3 Visitor Safety:

During wildfires, every effort should be made to assist in the evacuation of any visitors within the reserve, and the entry of persons not involved in suppression should be discouraged. The existence of a signposted through-road provides alternative exits for escape from wildfire.

9.7 PRESCRIBED FIRE

9.7.1 General:

Prescribed or controlled fire is a management tool which can be used to reduce fuel loads available to unplanned fire, or wildfire, to maximise the chances of suppression and to minimise damage. Regular fuel reduction burns were carried on at Cornish Hill over many years. Limited burns can be a part of the future management of Cornish Hill, but the following constraints should be considered:

- The current high fuel loadings on Cornish Hill, caused principally by extensive weed invasion, and the proximity of residential development, means that resumption of fuel reduction burning has to be carefully planned, rigorously controlled, and preferably targeted to small, high-priority areas.
- Controlled burns of low-medium intensity will germinate pest plant seeds, and follow-up treatment by spraying etc is required if benefits are to be gained;
- Preliminary findings by DNRE from monitoring of long term fuel reduction burning in the Wombat State Forest have indicated that the diversity of animal habitat and structure of plant populations were reduced in the short term, that nitrogen levels may be reduced if cycles less than 10-years are used, and that within two years of Spring burns and four years of Autumn burns, fuel loads reach the equivalent of areas which have been unburnt for 30 years (information from Midlands Forest Management Plan, DNRE, 1996);
- While the response of certain plant species to fire is known, little is known in regard to the response of plant and animal communities - flora & fauna implications of controlled burning should be carefully considered.

9.7.2 Guidelines

Controlled burning must be carried out according to the principles, operational standards and guidelines laid down in the Code of Practice for Fire Management on Public Lands (DNRE, 1997), Prescribed Burning section, pages 28-32.

9.7.3 Burning for Weed Control Purposes **Refer 10. Pest Plant & Animal Management Plan.**

9.7.4 Burning For Ecological Purposes

The absence of a comprehensive flora and fauna survey for Cornish Hill means that ecological responses to fire cannot be assessed at this stage. Results from on-going studies

being conducted by DNRE in the Wombat State Forest should be monitored. Preliminary findings indicate that ecosystem management can best be achieved by diverse fire regimes, rather than regular cyclic burnings (Midlands Forest Management Plan, DNRE 1996).

9.8 WORKS

- Consult with Hepburn Shire Council over bulldozing track to define Stanhope Street, to provide firebreak/weed control line on eastern boundary of reserve;
- Bulldoze present slashed boundary track from Queensberry St to north end of above track;
- Institute fuel reduction works (weed removal and perimeter vegetation management) per sections 10.6.3 and 12.7.3.

10. PEST PLANT & ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

Compliances: This Pest Plant & Animal Management Plan complies with the Pest Plant & Animal Program Objectives of the North Central Regional Catchment Strategies (NRE, 1997; North Central Catchment & Land Protection Board, 1996), and encompasses Guidelines for Control of Pest Plants contained in the Midlands Forest Management Plan (NRE, 1996)

10.1 MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES:

- To protect the ecological and cultural values of Cornish Hill from damage by pest plants and animals;
- To prevent the introduction of new pest species into Cornish Hill, and to limit the spread of pest species from Cornish Hill to adjacent land;
- To implement pest plant and animal control programs.

10.2 PEST ANIMALS:

Pest Animals identified within the reserve include rabbits, foxes and feral cats. The impact of these on the immediate environment has not been assessed, and further is difficult to assess given the overgrown nature of the site and the lack of any comprehensive native flora and fauna survey or monitoring program. As the weed eradication program continues this impact will become clearer, and appropriate eradication or control strategies, based on the Pest Animals section of the Midlands Forest Management Plan (DNRE, 1996), should be introduced.

As natural bushland is progressively regenerated on Cornish Hill and native fauna re-establishes itself within the area, control of introduced predators will become a more compelling issue.

10.3 INTRODUCED PLANTS:

Cornish Hill has a number of pest plant species which are aggressively invading the hill slopes and gullies. They are not only displacing native vegetation and providing a seed source for infestation of surrounding areas, but are adversely affecting landscape, heritage, public use and tourism values, and contributing to a fuel build-up with serious implications in fire management and consequent risk management. A provisional list of pest plants on Cornish Hill is included in 10.4.2. The main aggressive species are:

Regionally Controlled Weeds:

(Nth Central C&LP Region)

Regionally Controlled Weeds:

(adjacent C&LP Regions)

Significant Environmental Weeds:

(Midlands FMA)

Blackberry *Rubus fruticosus L agg.*

Furze (Gorse) *Ulex europaeus*

Cape Broom *Genista monspessulana*

English Broom *Cytisus scoparius*

Radiata Pine *Pinus radiata*

Spanish Heath *Erica lusitanica*

10.4 PEST PLANT CONTROL METHODS AVAILABLE:

10.4.1 Analysis of Methods:

- **Herbicide Spraying** - Along with grubbing, this is the only method which will kill pest plants, without causing germination of seed store, or suckered regrowth etc. It is useful in areas of heavy infestation, but loses cost-effectiveness when applied to high, dense growth, (eg extensive 2m+ furze thickets), which are better treated by other methods to reduce their volume, prior to spraying. This also reduces the fire hazard posed by large stands of high, thick, dead weed material. Use of herbicides close to residential areas is always likely to produce some adverse public reaction, and spraying of any weeds close to Smith's Creek must take account of downstream water-quality effects. **Herbicide spraying on public land can only be undertaken by licensed pest plant contractors**, and herbicide selection will rely on their recommendations - contractors engaged should be made aware of the need to assess the impact of spraying on the existing native flora, including orchids, to ensure that they are not inappropriately destroyed.
- **Hand Grubbing** - Hand grubbing of weeds is the most sensitive to the environment, and is ideal in areas of light infestation on Cornish Hill, to establish weed-free beachhead areas which can be expanded using the Bradley method of natural bush regeneration. This method essentially involves hand-removal of weeds with minimum disturbance to the soil, and letting the rate of natural bush regeneration dictate the rate of weed removal. Large areas of natural bush at the south end of the reserve, including the southern end of Argus Spur, are particularly amenable to this method. However, it is labour-intensive, and is unlikely to make significant inroads into the heavily infested areas within the appropriate time span.
- **Hand Slashing** - This is a useful method for dividing extensive infestations into manageable units, which can then be treated by other methods.
- **Machine Slashing** - This can be a useful short-term control measure, but regrowth of the major pest plants on Cornish Hill will occur. The topography of Cornish Hill is not generally suited to this method, because of the steep, uneven slopes and washed-out gullies. Machine slashing is presently used to maintain narrow firebreaks along sections of the northern and eastern boundaries of the reserve. It may be applicable to some roadside margins, and flatter, even-surfaced areas within the reserve.
- **Mulching** - Experiments using mulching of heavy weed infestations have been carried out at Ballarat, with reasonable success. The mulched material forms a barrier to further growth, and any light weed-regrowth can easily be controlled by grubbing or spraying. The method is not particularly well-adapted to Cornish Hill, because of the predominance of steep, uneven terrain (the method is recommended for slopes less than 5°), and the question of operator safety, given the potential for hidden mine workings underneath the heavy infestations.
- **Burning** - Fire is not generally recommended as a weed control method, unless used in combination with other methods such as spraying. Furze (gorse), the major pest plant problem on Cornish Hill, has hard-shelled seeds which can remain viable in soils for up to 25 years. Burning is only effective if the fire is extremely hot - this has proved effective in killing and germinating nearly all the seed store in the soil, and that which

germinates can be killed with follow-up spraying. Fires which are less than extremely hot do little to eliminate the seed store. On Cornish Hill, generating extremely hot fires is fraught with risk, because of the present high fuel load, and the proximity of residential development, particularly above the northern and eastern slopes of the reserve. Burning will have a place in the weed control program - burning of weed piles from slashing/grubbing exercises, and burning of slash from pine removal works are two examples. More general burning may apply, under appropriate conditions, and with appropriate notifications. This burning should only be carried out to reduce fuel load (or the bulk of the infestation), to minimize costs of subsequent treatment. Areas should be small, and adequate control lines should be put in (refer section 9.7). Burning, like spraying, is likely to produce adverse public reaction because of the proximity of residential development.

- **Bulldozing** - This is a recommended method for removal of heavy infestations, particularly on agricultural land. Bulldozing removes the bulk of the plant material, which is burnt in heaps, and the regrowth treated with herbicides at minimal cost. In some cases, ripping to remove rootstock is also recommended. Bulldozing of weeds on Cornish Hill will have limited application, because of the archaeological potential of the historic zone, the risk to operators of hidden shafts and mine workings, the soil disturbance which encourages new weed growth, and erosion problems on the steeper slopes, with the need for immediate and costly revegetation. There is some potential in flatter, peripheral areas to skim limited, thick roadside infestations with the bulldozer blade to reduce bulk. This could be done in conjunction with roadworks.

- **Grazing** - This is a useful interim control method, which limits weed growth until effective weed eradication resources can be directed at an area. Cornish Hill was grazed for many years, and it can be assumed that the existing native vegetation has been modified by grazing. Institution of grazing areas is generally inconsistent with the equal access objectives of public reserve management, but in certain instances grazing in defined areas can be a useful tool in addressing interim measures for weed control in large reserves such as Cornish Hill, and it is often recommended to committees of management by the Department. Because this plan is prioritised, and initial weed control resources will be directed to the margins of the reserve, roads, walking tracks, developments in the north-western end of the reserve, and lightly-infested areas to the south, an opportunity exists for the committee to institute a temporary grazing regime in the north western end of the reserve, west of Argus Spur. The temporary nature of the tenure would have to be made clear to the occupant/s, and the area might have to be flattened and lightly burned under appropriate conditions before the introduction of stock. Assistance with the preparation of the land for grazing could be made a prerequisite for free agistment for a set period. Sheep or cattle would be suitable grazing animals - goats, while much has been made of their weed control abilities, require fencing of a more substantial nature than is cost-effective for such a temporary exercise;

- **Biological control:** Applicability of biological control of pest plants, as they apply to Cornish Hill, are very limited. Blackberry rust has some potential to limit the competitiveness of blackberry. Further developments in biological control should be monitored;

- **Institution of an overstorey:** Forest overstorey inhibits weed growth and slows the rate of weed invasion. In terms of the overall program, institution of an overstorey will be a key part of **long-term maintenance of large sections of Cornish Hill** (refer 12. Vegetation Program), but the immediacy of the problem limits its usefulness in this exercise.

10.4.2 Problem Weeds: Cornish Hill - Provisional List

BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	ZONE	PRIORITY H = High M = Medium L = Low	TREATMENT C = Chemical M = Mechanical H = By Hand
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i> *	Spear Thistle	Track margins	L	C&H
<i>Conium maculatum</i> *	Hemlock	Track margins	L	H
<i>Cortaderia selloana</i>	Pampas Grass	Track margins - Northern area	L	H
<i>Crataegus sp.</i>	Hawthorn	Dotted throughout open areas	L	C&H
<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>	English Broom	Open areas	H	C&H&M
<i>Erica lusitanica</i>	Spanish Heath	Throughout open areas	M	H
<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i> *	Fennel	Track margins	M	C&H
<i>Genista monspessulana</i> *	Cape Broom	Open areas	H	C&H&M
<i>Ilex sp.</i>	Holly	Dotted throughout open areas	L	C&H
<i>Juncus acutus</i>	Spiny Rush	Track margins	L	H
<i>Pinus sp</i>	Pines	Northern areas	H	C&H&M
<i>Peridium esculentum</i>	Bracken fern	Eucalypt understorey	L	
<i>Rosa rubiginosa</i>	Sweet Briar	Track margins	L	C&H
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> *	Blackberry	Open areas	H	C&H&M
<i>Rumex sp.</i>	Dock	Track margins	L	C
<i>Sambucus sp.</i>	Elder	Track margins	L	C&H
<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	Ragwort	Track margins	L	H
<i>Ulex europaeus</i> *	Gorse/Furze	Open areas but establishing in understorey margins	H	C&H&M
<i>Verbascum virgatum</i>	Twiggy Mullein	Track margins	L	H
<i>Vinca major</i>	Blue Periwinkle	Track margins	L	C&H

* denotes Noxious Weed in Victoria

Robin Haylett, Garden Design & Horticultural Services, March 1998

10.5 EFFECT OF WEED CONTROL PROGRAM:

10.5.1 Native vegetation:

The control methods outlined in 10.4 above have varying impacts on the existing native vegetation. Ideally, all weed removal in the reserve, not just the lightly infested areas, would be effected using the Bradley method, but there are compelling reasons (eg fire risk to surrounding properties from present high fuel loadings on Cornish Hill) to institute more immediate control methods. Further, the Bradley method is one which because of its labour-intensiveness is suited to volunteer labour - the available small volunteer pool is unlikely to make serious inroads into the major infestations on Cornish Hill. The need for immediate visible results in certain areas which were used to justify the re-assessment of the surplus classification of the land is another reason to seek other methods.

The effect of the other methods varies. Because Cornish Hill was burnt regularly for many years, it can be assumed that the existing native vegetation is fire-adapted. However, hot fires such as pine slash burn-offs can have serious but very localised effects. In more general burning, damage to identified or important individual trees or understorey shrubs can be reduced by clearing around them, if volunteer resources are available. One-off machine slashing to reduce fuel loading, provided it is not used as a regime, has little impact on grasses and herbs, but high impact on regenerating shrubs and trees. With weed spraying, use of recommended selective herbicides is the key to limiting impact on native vegetation. All weed removal methods should be progressively monitored for their impact on native vegetation, because the need for active revegetation caused by unnecessary outcomes in weed removal will place greater strain on the human resources and/or funding available to the project as a whole.

10.5.2 Landscape/Scenic aspects:

The scenic aspects of the site will be enhanced by the weed removal (ie the outward views will be improved), but the landscape values within the reserve will be temporarily and variously compromised during the weed removal program. This will particularly apply to the removal of targetted areas of pine growth. Areas of burning, and dead weed growth after spraying, will also contribute to the temporary deterioration.

10.5.3 Cultural Heritage:

The cultural heritage aspects of the site will be progressively enhanced as the weed removal program continues. Previously-hidden aspects will be revealed, and the major historic features will assume greater visual prominence in the landscape.

10.5.4 Public Access/Tourism:

Public access to Cornish Hill will not be significantly interrupted by the weed removal program, except during removal of pines, when public access should be barred from the affected areas for safety purposes. The short-term reduction in landscape values identified in 10.5.2 above will have some impact on visitor appreciation of the reserve.

10.5.5 Local Residents:

The temporary loss of some of the visual qualities of the site will be offset by gains in fire safety for their properties. Some adverse reaction to burning-off and herbicide spraying can be expected.

10.5.6 Catchment Effects - Erosion:

The recent lack of adequate management at Cornish Hill, resulting in a proliferation in the abundance and type of weed infestations, already has a serious potential effect on the surrounding environment, as a burgeoning supplier of a variety of pest plant seed. Water-borne seed entering Lake Daylesford and the river system beyond, particularly during peak winter flow of Smith's Creek, is an important issue. While the watershed of Smith's Creek is small compared to the overall watershed of Wombat Creek, it is nonetheless one which can be cleaned up almost in its entirety by weed eradication on Cornish Hill. However, the eradication program can have short and medium-term consequences for Lake Daylesford. Some of the extensive areas of heavy weed infestations on Cornish Hill have resulted in their replacement of native grasses and other vegetation as the binding and stabilising agents in the soil. Removal of large areas of these weeds too quickly, by inappropriate methods such as bulldozing (especially ripping and blading of topsoil layers), and large hot burns, will destabilise the soils, and on steep slopes will greatly increase the erosion potential. Severe erosion in this watershed will not only increase the sediment-load flowing into Lake Daylesford, but also mobilise the pest plant seed store in the soil. These outcomes can be avoided by strategies outlined in 10.5 above, relating to analysis of control methods available.

10.6 RECOMMENDATIONS:

10.6.1 Priorities for control:

The Midlands Forest Management Plan (DNRE, 1996) sets priorities for pest plant control which are adopted in this document as guidelines. Modifications of these priorities in specific cases relating to core works will occur. In general, the recommended priorities for pest plant control, as they apply to Cornish Hill, are:

- New weed infestations of any classification which can be feasibly eradicated;
- Regionally controlled weeds;
- Environmental weeds which have a significant effect on ecosystem diversity.

10.6.2 General Recommendations:

- Weed control methods should be applied to Cornish Hill according to Section 10.4 above;
- Where possible, weed eradication should proceed systematically downhill from the top of spurs and gullies, to limit re-infestation by seed travelling down-slope from uncleared areas;
- Weed removal by hand or slashing should be undertaken at a time before the flowering of the particular pest plant, and in all cases strategies should be developed to limit seed dispersal during removal operations.

10.6.3 Immediate Works:

- Clearing of 20 metre weed-free buffer zone around perimeter of management area (land abutting freehold);
- Clearing of 2 metre weed-free buffer on each side of principal or sign-posted walking tracks;
- Clearing of 4 metre weed-free buffer on each side of designated roads within the management area;
- Clearing of weeds in association with heritage/tourism/scenic developments - this includes re-establishing the visual prominence of the large mullock dumps in the landscape, re-establishing clear lines of view from Bonnard's & Mitchell's dumps over Lake Daylesford and the township, re-establishing clear lines of sight between the large dumps, and clearing in conjunction with erection of signs, interpretations, and constructions such as picnic ground etc;
- Establishment of weed-free beachhead areas within lightly-infested native vegetation, using hand-grubbing methods in combination with the Bradley Method of natural bush regeneration;
- Investigation of feasibility of introducing a temporary grazing regime in the north-west corner of the reserve.

10.6.4 On-going Works:

- Continued weed removal away from roads, tracks, and weed-free areas;
- Division of extensive infestations into manageable units, by institution of slashed tracks - each unit can be cleared as funds or labour becomes available, using the General Guidelines outlined above;
- Clearing of streamside zone along Smith's Creek, working downstream from eastern end;
- Monitoring of cleared areas for re-infestation, and follow-up grubbing, spraying or other eradication techniques, as required.

10.6.5 Long Term Works:

- Complete eradication of identified pest plants.

10.7 CO-OPERATIVE POLICY FOR WEED REMOVAL ALONG BOUNDARIES:

Hepburn Shire Council have a statutory obligation for removal of noxious weeds along various roads adjoining the reserve boundaries, but these may not have priority in the council's weed eradication strategies. Council should be approached to provide co-operative support during perimeter weed eradication exercises, to optimise the effectiveness of the works, particularly on the high fire risk perimeters on the north-east and east of the reserve. The eastern boundary of the reserve, which is the western side of the Stanhope Street road reserve, needs to be defined and marked by council to delineate the limits of Cornish Hill management responsibilities.

The managers of the reserve should also work to establish co-operative weed eradication exercises with property owners adjacent to Cornish Hill.

10.8 ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE:

Funds and/or assistance for weed eradication may be available through Landcare and the Good Neighbour Program - refer **16. Funding Options**. Other possible assistance, such as Greencorps, is also examined in this section.

10.9 NOTES ON FIG 2: WEED ERADICATION PLAN

Figure 2 (appended) divides the reserve into management units, which provide guidelines as to priority works etc. This plan should be used as a **guide only**, and variations will occur. Removal in areas marked for Stage 1 and Stage 2 should be **initiated** in the respective stages, but completion within the 3-year development period is unlikely. Realistically, weed eradication on Cornish Hill is a 10-year program.

Within the area targeted for weed removal using the Bradley method, there are many dense weed infestations, particularly along roads and tracks, which will require more active intervention, through volume reduction (eg controlled burning) and follow-up spraying, to achieve short-term outcomes.

Areas which are left white (blank) represent the final stage of weed removal - however some work will be done in these areas during Stage 1 & 2, for trackside removal etc.

Available funding or resources (for instance, funds specifically for herbicide spraying, or resources dedicated to controlled burning for volume reduction purposes) may require variations in the sequence of planned works.

11. PUBLIC SAFETY PLAN

Compliances:

This Public Safety Plan complies with the policy objectives of the Hepburn Shire Council Risk Management Policy (1997), and the Australian/New Zealand Standard for Risk Management (AS/NZS 4360:1995). It takes into account the Public Safety section of A Handbook for Committees of Management of Crown Land Reserves (CF&L, 1988). This plan also uses risk minimisation strategies outlined in the Public Liability Risk Management Manual for managers of public reserves (DNRE, 1997), the Municipal Fire Prevention Planning Guidelines (CFA, 1997) and the Australian & New Zealand Guidelines for the Assessment & Management of Contaminated Sites (ANZECC & NRMHC, 1992)

11.1 OBJECT OF PUBLIC SAFETY PLAN:

- To indicate a level of responsibility, care and operational activity that the managers of Cornish Hill should exercise for the management of public risk exposures for the Crown Land Reserve under their control;
- To provide a source of information and procedures which can be used to establish a high standard of public safety and liability risk management;
- To establish a standard against which the managers of Cornish Hill can be assessed.

11.2 MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES:

- To provide a safe and enjoyable experience for users of the reserve;
- To ensure that adjoining property owners are not put at risk by the action or inaction of the managers of Cornish Hill.

11.3 RISK MANAGEMENT APPROACH

Risk management involves identifying risks and being prepared for what might happen. It involves taking action to avoid or reduce the exposure of the community to risks within the reserve, in being pro-active rather than reacting after an accident or injury has occurred.

There are two elements to the concept of risk - the possibility or likelihood of something occurring, and the consequences if it does occur. A range of strategies dealing with both these elements is required, and these may include risk avoidance mechanisms (eg proscribing certain uses within the reserve), risk modification mechanisms (eg using relevant Australian Standards in walking track construction etc), and managing the environment (eg fuel reduction, vegetation management etc).

The managers of Cornish Hill are service providers, and have a duty of care to users of the reserve. They are required to identify and assess risks, and take appropriate remedial or other action, including warning of that risk where appropriate.

11.4 PRIORITY RISK ENVIRONMENTS:

11.4.1 Analysis

Cornish Hill is a window of forested public land within the township of Daylesford, and contains evidence of intensive gold-mining activity. On the basis of its historical and natural features, it is being developed as a Public Reserve, with low-level visitor infrastructure, including road and walking tracks, lookouts, historical interpretations etc.

The priority risk environments are:

- Fire - within and adjacent to the reserve;
- The fabric of the historical mining activity (eg open shafts, contaminated sites, steep batters on dumps etc);
- Existing and proposed visitor infrastructure (grade of walks, signage, design of information shelter or picnic facilities etc);
- Inherent risks of the natural environment (eg falling trees or limbs, snakes etc);
- Site constraints (eg steep slopes or slippery slopes etc)

Public liability risks involved in the use of volunteer or contract labour for work programs on Cornish Hill should be handled according to guidelines laid down by the Department of Natural Resources & Environment (Public Liability Risk Management Manual, 1997).

11.4.2 Fire

Fire risk and appropriate risk management strategies are detailed in section 9. **Fire Management Plan.** Present high fuel loadings due to extensive weed invasion pose the main risk. Fire risk minimisation on Cornish Hill is a high priority, because the reserve is surrounded by residential development, and the steeply-rising hillsides at the northern and eastern boundaries of the reserve are the highest priority in perimeter protection.

11.4.3 Historical Fabric

The risks posed by the historical fabric have been considerably reduced because of rehabilitation works carried out during the 1940's and 1980's. Shafts have been capped or filled, and there has been extensive bulldozing of the ground surface. **Cornish Hill is at the lower end of assessed risk, compared to similar conserved historic mining areas with a more complete fabric.** The determination of the level of risk is detailed in 11.5, below.

At the beginning of this project, no deep open shafts were known within the reserve - however, an open shaft of about 12m depth has been located near the South Cornish Mine, and there is the potential for others to exist under the heavy weed cover. Information on capping procedures in the past is sketchy, so there is also potential for the major, deeper shaft collars to collapse. Risk minimisation strategies have to address these potentials.

An examination of the reserve has identified no deposits of battery sands which may potentially be contaminated because of historical gold-processing methods (eg use of mercury or cyanide), and indeed there is evidence in the historical record that such deposits

have been removed and re-treated off-site. However, the reserve should continue to be monitored during the weed eradication program.

11.4.4 Visitor Infrastructure

Provision of visitor infrastructure carries with it an obligation to ensure the safety of users of that infrastructure. Because little is recommended in this Plan in the way of constructions, the main risks derive from the roads and walking tracks, their design and use, and their interaction with other risk environments.

11.4.5 The Natural Environment

Certain risks are inherent in the natural environment, but minimisation strategies can nonetheless be applied. A large, leaning, rotting dead tree may pose little risk in a remote corner of the reserve, and indeed would be valuable as habitat, but the same tree may pose high risk if it leans over a car-park or picnic table. In providing a service, there is a duty of care to ensure the safety of the user of that service. Venomous snakes are part of the natural environment, and the risk of snakebite is a very small but inherent part of venturing into the Australian bush. Warning signs are inappropriate, unless the risk is demonstrably higher on Cornish Hill than in surrounding bushland.

11.4.6 Site Constraints

The topography of Cornish Hill presents some small risk with the presence of steep, rocky slopes. Strategies based on risk avoidance are an appropriate response.

11.5 DETERMINATION OF RISK:

Level of risk is determined by a number of factors. Fire risk has been determined in the Fire Management Plan (section 9.). Risk assessments and minimisation are implicit in various Australian Standards used for infrastructure.

Disused mine workings ratings are made according to two criteria, and **this method should be used for any mine workings which are uncovered during the weed eradication program**. The method is adopted from reports titled "Unsafe Disused Mines in the Port Phillip Region", D P Grace 1997, DNRE, and a revised version by Russell Costello (1997, DNRE). The criteria are:

Hazard Rating - the inherent ability of the feature to cause death or injury.

- **A** High probability that the hazard could cause death (eg fall into a deep mine shaft > 10m, or an adit with high risk of collapse and dangerous internal features);
- **B** Hazard could cause serious injury (or even death), probably requiring assisted rescue (eg shafts <10m, adits with potentially dangerous internal features);
- **C** The hazard could cause a significant injury, but unaided rescue is likely (eg shaft <2m, or long adits with no potentially fatal internal dangers);
- **D** Hazard could cause minor injuries ie sprains or bruising (eg shallow or stable pit less than 1m deep, or short, stable adit with no internal dangers);
- **E** Hazard would be unlikely to cause injury but its location should be recorded.

Accessibility Rating - the proximity of the hazard to popular areas.

- 1 In an often-visited place (township, picnic or camping areas etc) or by a popular walking track or road and is visible or often-visited (ie evidence of traffic);
- 2 In the general area of an often-visited place or track but away from normal traffic;
- 3 In an area used or visited only occasionally;
- 4 In remote areas that are unlikely to be visited.

All Accessibility Ratings on Cornish Hill are either 1 or 2.

These criteria produce an **Overall Rating** - this is given by the Hazard Rating followed by the Accessibility Rating. A1 is the highest risk category, and requires immediate action. A fall into an A4 mine shaft would be just as fatal, but the chance of it occurring is extremely remote. The Overall Rating is then assigned a priority for action rating:

Overall Rating	Priority	Action
A1 or B1	(1)	Should be dealt with immediately
A2, B2 or C1	(2)	Should be dealt with as soon as possible
A3, A4, B3, B4 or C2	(3)	Should be put on the program to make safe
Other sites	(4)	

Cornish Hill has no known priority (1) rating sites, but has a few priority (2) sites. These include the open shaft near the South Cornish (A2), which would increase to A1 as use of the southern end of the reserve is developed, and small open shafts on the Argus line of reef below Argus Spur (B2). However, there is an unknown potential for priority (1) sites to occur, if historical capping methods on the major deep shafts were inadequate.

Fencing and monitoring of these sites is sufficient to minimise risk. Fence as per Bonnard's Shaft with treated pine posts and plain wire - this will differentiate the fencing from other post-and-rail constructions on-site. In general, when open shafts require action, category A shafts should be provided with mesh capping, category B shafts should be mesh-capped or filled, and category C shafts should be filled or fenced.

The quarried section of Mitchell's dump, not a mining feature but derivative from later use, would be equivalent to a B1 site, or priority (1). Works are recommended per table, 11.5.

11.6 RISK MINIMISATION STRATEGIES:

RISK ENVIRONMENT	IDENTIFIED RISK	RISK MINIMISATION STRATEGIES
FIRE	Unplanned fire	Reduce fuel loadings both generally and strategically within the reserve; Retain existing vehicle access for fire suppression purposes; Manage vegetation for desirable fire management outcomes. (Refer 9. FIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN for full details).

RISK ENVIRONMENT	IDENTIFIED RISK	RISK MINIMISATION STRATEGIES
FIRE (cont'd)	Fireplaces	Use CFA-approved design for fireplaces; Post fire warnings.
HISTORICAL FABRIC	General	Post hazard warning at main entrance to reserve (Bonnard's) re possibility of dangerous open shafts & tunnels - standard black-on-yellow with appropriate graphic.
	Open shafts	Monitor weed eradication program for appearance of open shafts; Install appropriately-fixed mesh capping over collar of any deep shafts located; Small open shafts to 7m deep outside Historic Zone can be filled; Monitor filling or capping for slumping or changes to the shaft collar.
	Open tunnels	Monitor weed eradication program for appearance of open tunnels; Barricade tunnel portals to prevent access, using mesh barriers for clear entrances, or suitable in-fill for slumped entrances; Monitor integrity of barriers.
	Filled shafts	Identify positions of major filled shafts (Mitchells, Old Cornish, Argus, South Cornish), and provide fencing as installed at Bonnard's Shaft; Monitor ground surface for slumping.
	Mullock dumps	Keep walking tracks off mullock dumps, to discourage climbing (except Bonnard's & Mitchell's, as below);
	Bonnard's dump	Obliterate present foot-track up face of dump. Provision of low wooden railing to define car-parking, and confine vehicles within a safe area, away from the steep sides of the dump.
	Mitchell's dump	Provide access to top of dump from eastern end, using steps and railing - erect railing (scenic viewpoint) with downslope wings, to the east of the quarried section of the dump, to bar access to the point of the dump - fix hazard warning on railing; temporarily fence off base below quarried section - star pickets and 3 x plain wire. Longer term - remodel batter of mullock dump to about 40° maximum slope.
Deep cuttings, sluiced banks etc		In general, limit public accessibility by positioning of walking tracks; Where public access is invited, safety railings should be installed as required.

RISK ENVIRONMENT	IDENTIFIED RISK	RISK MINIMISATION STRATEGIES
HISTORICAL FABRIC (cont'd)	Contaminated sites (relating to gold recovery processes)	Monitor area for remnant battery sands as weed eradication program continues - apply Guidelines for Assessment & Management of Contaminated Sites (ANZECC/NHMRC, 1992)
INFRASTRUCTURE	(Uses) Reserve Rules	Prohibit high-risk activities such as trail-bike riding; Limit horse-riding and cycling to main vehicular tracks; Encourage passive use of the reserve.
	Vehicle tracks	Managed/signposted roads to be clearly distinguished from other roads; Gravel surfacing to be applied where necessary.
	Walking tracks	Managed/signposted walking tracks to conform to Australian Standards; Managed/signposted walking tracks to be clearly distinguished; Gravel surfacing to be applied where necessary.
	Dual walking/vehicle tracks	Institute 15kph speed limit inside reserve, for pedestrian and traffic safety; Ensure track margins are free from undergrowth.
	Constructions	Constructions (eg interpretations, picnic facilities etc) to be of solid construction, with no trap or catch points, and conform to Australian Standards where applicable; On-going monitoring of condition and integrity of constructions to be undertaken.
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT	Falling trees/limbs Pines	Monitor health and condition of trees near tracks, roads and other infrastructure. Monitor health and condition of larger pine trees; Prune branches off main trunk to about 2m above ground level, to avoid stabbing injuries and discourage climbing.
SITE CONSTRAINTS	Steep slopes	Public access to steep or slippery slopes should not be encouraged.
VARIOUS	New/previously unidentified risks	On-going monitoring and investigation of reserve to identify new risks; Adoption of appropriate strategies to minimise new risks; On-going review of risk management strategies, in light of new standards etc; Regular hazard inspections (see below).

RISK ENVIRONMENT	IDENTIFIED RISK	RISK MINIMISATION STRATEGIES
VARIOUS (cont'd)	Emergency numbers	Emergency contact numbers (police, CFA, ambulance etc) should be posted on the main information board.
LABOUR	Volunteer	Adopt guidelines in Handbook for Committees of Management of Crown Land Reserves (DCF&L, 1988), pp 33-39.
	Contractors	

11.7 HAZARD INSPECTION CHECKLIST:

Upon declaration of the reserve, the managers will be required to complete a Hazard Inspection Checklist, designed to address recommended assessable standards in Public Reserve public liability risk management. Sample checklists are available in the Public Liability Risk Management Manual - DNRE, 1997. Hazard inspections should be carried out as part of routine management functions, and regularity is addressed in the manual according to the nature and level of services provided.

11.8 RELEVANT DOCUMENTS:

The following represent a selected list of documents which will assist the managers of Cornish Hill in public liability risk management. It is not comprehensive.

- The Australian/New Zealand Standard for Risk Management (AS/NZS 4360:1995);
- Public Liability Risk Management Manual - Department of Natural Resources & Environment, August 1997;
- A Handbook for Committees of Management of Crown Land Reserves - Department of Conservation, Forests and Lands, 1988;
- Municipal Fire Prevention Planning Guidelines - CFA, May 1997;
- Code of Practice for Fire Management on Public Land - Department of Conservation & Natural Resources, 1995;
- Fire Protection Guidelines for Softwood and Hardwood Plantations - CFA;
- Hepburn Shire Council Risk Management Policy - Hepburn Shire Council, February 1997;
- "Unsafe Disused Mines in the Port Phillip Region", D P Grace 1997, DNRE;
- "Unsafe Disused Mines in the Port Phillip Region", Russell Costello 1997, DNRE.
- The Australian & New Zealand Guidelines for the Assessment & Management of Contaminated Sites (ANZECC & NRMHC, 1992);
- AS 1743-1992 Road signs specifications. Supp.. 1 update;
- AS 1744-1975 Forms of letters and numerals for road signs;
- AS 2899 Public information signs - various parts;
- AS 2156-1978 Code of practice for the design and use of markers and information signs for walking tracks (update scheduled 1998);
- AS 1924 Playground equipment for parks etc.

12. VEGETATION PROGRAM

Compliances: This Vegetation Program is consistent with the State Planning Policy contained in the Planning Guidelines for Native Vegetation Retention Controls (DCNR, 1996), and the relevant objectives of the Flora & Fauna Guarantee Strategy: Conservation of Victoria's Biodiversity (drafted 1992 by DCE under the Flora & Fauna Guarantee Act, 1988).

12.1 CHARACTER AND DIVERSITY OF VEGETATION*

The naturally occurring vegetation of Cornish Hill is a continuum of that of the Wombat State Forest. Before its most recent disturbance the area was part of a messmate-peppermint open forest formation, the dominant trees being *Eucalyptus obliqua* and *Eucalyptus radiata*, with *Eucalyptus viminalis* and *Eucalyptus dives* also present. Beneath these dominant trees was an understorey ranging from wattles like *Acacia dealbata* and *Acacia melanoxylon* through to smaller shrubs like Olearias and Pultanaeas, down to a range of grass species, herbs and sedges.

The land disturbance, documented elsewhere, has led to a huge depletion in the diversity of flora, particularly amongst the understorey species. Peppermints have now become the dominant trees, and grasses such as *Poa labillardieri* and *Poa sieberana*, along with hardy ground cover plants like *Dianella revoluta* and *Lomandra filiformis*, are some of the few that have survived the massive incursion of noxious weeds. The area was inspected during two of the drier months so a better indication of current flora would obviously be available in the Spring - particularly as far as orchids and lilies are concerned.

12.2 RARE & ENDANGERED VEGETATION SPECIES*

An initial survey has not brought to notice the presence of any rare or endangered species on Cornish Hill. A more comprehensive survey (outside the aims of this report) would need to be made to confirm whether this is actually the case. The Flora Research section of the Department of Natural Resources & Environment note that upwards of 50 rare or endangered species are to be found within a 15km radius of the site, but without detailed inspection it cannot be known whether any are present on Cornish Hill.

If some species were to be identified, their protection would have to be addressed in appropriate ways.

12.3 MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES:

- Maintain large areas of Cornish Hill as essentially natural bushland;
- Provide habitat to encourage occupation of Cornish Hill by native fauna;
- Maintain Cornish Hill as green open space within the Daylesford township;

* Text supplied by Robin Haylett, Garden Design & Horticultural Services, 35 Happy Valley Road, Castlemaine

- Manage vegetation in designated zones to ensure desirable outcomes in cultural heritage enhancement, landscape management and fire management.

12.4 MODIFICATIONS:

Modifications will be taken in the standard approach to native revegetation of public land, because Cornish Hill is a cultural landscape, with some introduced vegetation with historical significance, established community associations, or strong landscape [townscape] implications. Fire management and public amenity are other constraints.

12.5 SITE CONSTRAINTS:

Site constraints will alter the approach to native bush revegetation. The existing vegetation on Cornish Hill has been modified by a long-term fire regime, and regular grazing. But the major modifying effect has been the intensive historical mining activities. The photographic record of Cornish Hill shows clearly that at various stages in the historical past, the area has been almost completely denuded of vegetation, to assist with mining operations. It is possible that some native grasses and herbs are the only surviving remnants of the original (pre-mining) vegetation on Cornish Hill, although some revegetation may have occurred from the seed store in the soils, notwithstanding the considerable period of denudation. The soils have been severely depleted, and are virtually absent over considerable areas. In some cases, mullock from the quartz-mining operations has been spread over the ground surface by bulldozers. Existing soils in many gullies are the products of sluicing or other mining higher up - their characteristics in terms of nutrient content, composition, structure, permeability etc may be radically different to naturally-evolved gully soils. Similar modified soils will exist on many slopes, and along Smith's Creek. Soils around old treatment plant sites and mullock dumps may have higher concentrations of iron, lead, arsenic, mercury, sulphates etc, which have derived from leaching of the battery sands or mineralised stone.

12.6 REVEGETATION POLICY

12.6.1 General:

In re-introducing local native plant species, it is important to take account of modifications which have taken place. Species which are adapted to certain environments in nearby native bush may not thrive in the same environments on Cornish Hill. Accordingly, attempts to re-establish climax vegetation based on local models is not recommended. On the other hand, disturbances on Cornish Hill have also produced a variety of niche environments of limited extent.

Natural regeneration can be the cornerstone of revegetation on Cornish Hill, because this uses local species which have been naturally re-introduced into the modified environment over time, and survived.

Active revegetation is costly in financial and human resources terms, and during the development stage should be used only where needed, to ensure landscape outcomes (eg

institution of an overstorey in appropriate areas), to overcome any erosion problem resulting from weed removal after spray/burn programs, or after the use of heavy machinery. Because of the site constraints, particularly topsoil depletion, monitoring of the progress of plantings is particularly important on Cornish Hill. Follow-up treatments may be required, including regular clearing of competitive shrubs from around the base of replanted trees until they become well-established. Existing Cornish Hill species, or species listed in the tables below, should be used where short-term outcomes are required.

In the longer term, many other suitable local species are available, and should be considered, for example, in terms of their fire resistance, growth characteristics (eg avoid dense thickets or invasive species), attractiveness to birds or other native animals etc.

Active revegetation using re-introduced local species will be required, particularly in association with habitat enhancement (eg along Smith's Creek).

But in any active revegetation, it is important to remember the constraints imposed by retention of the cultural landscape, and the need for a generally open forest with sparse understorey (for fire safety).

12.6.2 Revegetation Options* :

Whilst the intention of the Conservation Management Plan is to allow natural regeneration to take place on Cornish Hill, there is still considerable reason to initiate areas of revegetation, for the purposes of providing more eventual overstorey, or for landscaping features like buffer planting and an extension to grassland areas. The tables below contain some suggested plant selections to fulfill these aims. *Additional species may be used.* With one or two exceptions, the plants chosen are indigenous to the area and able to be established quite easily. Plants were also selected to provide flowers and habitat for birds, shelter for animals and, where possible, are fire retardant.

RIPARIAN (Streamside) ZONE - SMITH'S CREEK:

Botanical Name	Common Name	Comments
<i>Acacia paradoxa</i>	Hedge Wattle	Bird shelter
<i>Acacia pycnantha</i>	Golden Wattle	Erosion controller
<i>Bursaria spinosa</i>	Sweet bursaria	Shrub understorey
<i>Carex appressa</i>	Tall sedge	Creek bank stabilizer
<i>Coprosma quadrifida</i>	Prickly Currant Bush	Shrub understorey
<i>Dianella revoluta</i>	Flax Lily	Present in good numbers
<i>Eucalyptus ovata</i>	Swamp Gum	Tree canopy
<i>Eucalyptus viminalis</i>	Manna Gum	Tree canopy
<i>Goodenia ovata</i>	Hop Goodenia	Colonizes well after disturbance
<i>Poa tenera</i>	Slender Tussock Grass	Good slope grass
<i>Pomaderris racemosa</i>	Cluster pomaderris	Bird attractor

Robin Haylett, Garden Design & Horticultural Services, Castlemaine, March 1998

* Text supplied by Robin Haylett, Garden Design & Horticultural Services, 35 Happy Valley Road, Castlemaine

OPEN FOREST:

Botanical Name	Common Name	Comments
<i>Eucalyptus cypellocarpa</i>	Mountain Grey Gum	
<i>Eucalyptus dives</i>	Broad-leaved Peppermint	Drier soils
<i>Eucalyptus obliqua</i>	Messmate	
<i>Eucalyptus polyanthemus</i>	Red Box	Drier soils
<i>Eucalyptus radiata</i>	Narrow-leaved peppermint	
<i>Eucalyptus rubida</i>	Candlebark	Drier soils

Robin Haylett, Garden Design & Horticultural Services, Castlemaine, March 1998

BUFFER ZONE & ARGUS SPUR:

Botanical Name	Common Name	Comments
<i>Acacia implexa</i>	Lightwood	Erosion controller & screen plant
<i>Acacia melanoxylon</i>	Blackwood	Fire retarder & screen plant
<i>Allocasuarina verticillata</i>	Drooping Sheoak	Fire retarder & screen plant
<i>Banksia marginata</i>	Silver Banksia	Fire retarder & screen plant
<i>Bursaria spinosa</i>	Sweet Bursaria	Fire retarder
<i>Chionocloa pallida</i>	Silver Top Wallaby Grass	Good on poor soils
<i>Danthonia pilosa</i>	Velvet Wallaby Grass	For moister positions
<i>Dodonea cuneata</i>	Wedge-leaf Hop-Bush	Screen plant. Very hardy.
<i>Hakea sericea</i>	Silky Hakea	Screen plant. Good animal shelter
<i>Lomandra filiformis</i>	Mat-rush	One of the significant surviving species
<i>Poa labillardieri</i>	Common Tussock Grass	Vigorous & adaptable

Robin Haylett, Garden Design & Horticultural Services, Castlemaine, March 1998

UNDERSTOREY FOR HILLSIDES & GULLIES:

Botanical Name	Common Name	Comments
<i>Acacia acinacea</i>	Gold-Dust Wattle	Bird attracting, good low screen
<i>Acacia dealbata</i>	Silver Wattle	Bird attracting, erosion control
<i>Correa reflexa</i>	Native Fuschia	Bird attracting
<i>Daviesia ulicifolia</i>	Gorse Bitter-pea	Bird & animal shelter
<i>Gahnia microstachya</i>	Saw-sedge	Bird attracting, erosion control
<i>Lomandra filiformis</i>	Wattle Mat-rush	Bird attracting
<i>Olearia lirata</i>	Snow Daisy-bush	Bird attracting in damp shade
<i>Poa sp.</i>	Tussock grasses	Bird attracting
<i>Pultenaea gunni</i>	Golden Bush-pea	Bird attracting

Robin Haylett, Garden Design & Horticultural Services, Castlemaine, March 1998

12.7 MANAGEMENT OF VEGETATION ZONES: (Refer 5.2 Vegetation Zones, and Figure 3: Vegetation Management.)

12.7.1 General

Figure 3: Vegetation Management (appended) divides Cornish Hill into a number of management zones. It is not intended that the zone boundaries as marked should indicate sudden changes in management - rather, they are somewhat arbitrary, and only indicate that within those boundaries there are certain constraints that may affect the approach to vegetation management, sometimes over specific small areas (eg lines-of-sight).

12.7.2 Essentially Natural Revegetation

This covers broad areas of the reserve with existing natural vegetation, which contain sections suited to weed removal according to the Bradley method of natural bush regeneration, using the existing or expanded pool of volunteer labour (refer Pest Plant & Animal Management Plan). While the diversity of native species appears to be limited, the need for planting programmes in this area is low in comparison to some other areas on Cornish Hill, and this should be considered when assessing distribution of revegetation funding over the reserve.

12.7.3 Some Active Revegetation

Smith's Creek: This streamside zone follows the line of Smith's Creek, and requires weed removal, and revegetation for habitat enhancement and streamside conservation purposes. A number of fern species (including tree ferns, *Dicksonia antarctica* and/or *Cyathea australis* - identification to be confirmed - and fishbone ferns, *Blechnum nudum*), have been identified along Smith's Creek³⁸, and these should be protected during weed removal/revegetation.

Other: Large area in the eastern portion of the reserve which currently hosts extensive weed infestations. Weed removal will require some revegetation, principally institution of an overstorey to encourage natural regeneration and control weed re-infestation.

12.7.4 Fire Management - Buffer Zone

This essentially follows the perimeter of the reserve, and requires that the vegetation be managed for fire protection purposes. This will involve institution of a buffer zone, consisting ideally of:

- (Cleared firebreak, track or road);
 - 10 metre-wide strip of low-growth grasses and herbs along reserve-side of fire-management boundary tracks;
 - Reduced intermediate understorey approaching the grassy strip (say, 10 - 15m width).
- Variations may occur according to localised constraints. Where an established native overstorey already exists adjacent to a boundary track, it need not be removed unless there is a compelling reason - the intermediate understorey should be removed or thinned for a further distance back from the track.

³⁸ Advice from David Endacott, Daylesford

12.7.5 Other Managed Areas

This covers the northern end of the reserve, which will sustain the most public use, and requires certain vegetation management regimes in relation to specific landscape and cultural heritage enhancement outcomes. Within this zone, and outside the specific areas which are designated for these treatments, **management should be for essentially natural bushland.** Specific management objectives are:

- **Area below and north of Bonnard's mullock dump:** Should be managed to maintain clear view from Thomas' Lookout, and clear views of the dump and lookout from Stanbridge Street. No overstorey should be instituted;
- **Line of sight between Bonnard's dump and Mitchell's dump:** Clear line of sight to be maintained after removal of strip of pines above line of tramway - no overstorey. Required for visual interpretations of photo boards to be erected;
- **Crown of Argus Spur:** Low understorey to be maintained after removal of weeds - low grasses, herbs and shrubs < 1m height. Pines to be removed north and east of Old Cornish mullock dump and low understorey to be maintained. Eucalypt overstorey on point of spur to be held at present northern limit. Required for visual interpretations of photo boards to be erected;
- **Sluicing Gully, Syncline:** Manage for overstorey and ground-cover vegetation (grasses), with limited intermediate understorey growth, for interpretation and visibility of sluiced landscape;
- **Section of gully below Old Cornish dump:** Apple trees to be retained;
- **Area south-east of Bonnard's engine beds:** Elderberries to be retained and controlled, as small, manageable thickets in the gully;
- **Ransome's House Site:** Refer **APPENDIX II.**

12.7.6 Pine Retention - Radiata Pines:

Pine trees are being retained for their contribution to the townscape of Daylesford. Preference for retention of some areas of pine forest to maintain a diversity of environments within the reserve was also indicated during the public consultation phase of this project, as was their use for feeding and roosting by flocks of Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos. The long-term control measures will result in their confinement to three small areas, per **Vegetation Plan** (attached). Restriction of pines to these areas will not be accomplished immediately.

Pines are the dominant visual introduced tree in Daylesford, but their management poses a number of issues, including:

- Their successful confinement to designated areas within the reserve, given their demonstrated invasive potential on Cornish Hill;
- Their safety, in relation to growth characteristics, falling branches and relatively short life spans.

The managers of Cornish Hill will be required initiate appropriate strategies to deal with these issues. Successful confinement will depend on regular monitoring, and grubbing of feral pines as they appear. Definition of margins of retained areas by low-level management tracks will assist with this. Their safety will involve regular monitoring, and active interventions such as pruning branches off main trunks to a height of 2 metres above ground level. This will limit the risk of stabbing-type injuries to visitors, discourage

climbing, and assist in fire management. Thinning (removal of trees to reduce tree density during various stages of growth) is another essential element of management of pines.

Total removal of radiata pines, and their replacement with safer and more manageable conifers, has been canvassed for other parts of the township (eg Central Springs - Wyatt 1986) - the managers of Cornish Hill should monitor developments in this regard.

In the longer term, the reserve managers may wish to consider the development of a staged (say, 30-year) programme to replace the pines with more appropriate conifer species which maintain the visual aspect of the site, while improving site management due to increased tree longevity and reduced public risk.

12.8 FLORA & FAUNA SURVEY

A detailed flora and fauna survey would be a desirable undertaking in the future management of Cornish Hill. This would enable the managers to more comprehensively discharge their responsibilities under the Flora & Fauna Guarantee Act (1988), and provide clearer revegetation goals for habitat enhancement and biodiversity objectives.

A flora and fauna survey should not be carried out with funds diverted from essential Stage 1 and Stage 2 developments, but should be commissioned using:

- Specialist skills and interests of local volunteers; or
- Groups such as Green Corps, as part of a wider program of works; or
- Future State or Federal grant funding sought for the specific purpose.

13. MASTERPLAN - Roads & Walking Tracks

13.1 EXISTING ROADS AND TRACKS:

Analysis

Existing vehicular tracks within Cornish Hill are a network which have evolved over time for a number purposes. Some, such as those along the western boundary, have been pushed as a firebreaks behind residential allotments. Others relate to historic uses (eg road along line of old tramway to Freeman's battery site), and traditional entry points to workings in the area (eg Orford St, Queensberry St, McAdam St W, Houston St W etc). Some (eg road crossing of Smith's Creek, and road east of Argus Spur) are of less obvious origin. Some tracks have been graded, others pushed with bulldozers - all are dirt tracks, with various degrees of surfacing, and their condition ranges from good 2WD all-weather tracks for the more-used, flatter tracks (eg Bonnard's Shaft to Argus Spur), to rough, steep 4WD tracks (crossing on Smith's Creek).

The walking tracks are generally of recent origin, hand-slashed through the weeds and undergrowth. There is evidence that these tracks receive regular usage from walkers. Many of the short tracks link historical mining features to the vehicular tracks, and some involve quite steep climbs. The community consultation phase of this project identified the value of these tracks in exploration of the reserve.

While the roads and tracks have developed over time for various purposes, they are generally sufficient to carry out the objectives of this plan, without imposing a new network which may have only incremental advantages over the existing network. Therefore the approach to signposted roads and tracks will be very much a realistic accommodation between the ideal and the available. This will ensure lower development costs, minimum additional impact on the natural and heritage values of the reserve, and avoid much costly rehabilitation of unrequired roads and tracks.

Most of the network presently used by walkers is along roads, and significant portions of the recommended signposted/marked roads and tracks will be dual-purpose, ie for pedestrian and vehicle use. Tracks will still have sections for pedestrian use only, and dual-purpose roads will be managed to limit the speed of vehicles, and provide verge-side use for pedestrians. This will address issues of public safety and visitor amenity.

13.2 ROADS

13.2.1 Management Objectives

- To provide reasonable two-wheel-drive vehicle access to the major features of the site to the disabled, elderly, infirm or otherwise physically disadvantaged, including the very young, under the equity objectives of public reserve management;
- To maintain adequate vehicle access to unplanned fires, for suppression purposes on land both within the reserve and adjacent to it;
- To allow for recreational use of the road network (cycling, walking, horse-riding etc);

- To ensure that the impact of the road network on the heritage, natural and landscape values of the reserve is kept to a minimum.

13.2.2 Roads Management:

Four public roads, currently maintained by the Hepburn Shire Council, will be incorporated into the recommended signposted road and track network on Cornish Hill. Three of these roads form sections of the boundaries of the reserve:

- Argus Street/Orford Street, from Stanbridge Street to Queensberry Street;
- Stanhope Street, on eastern edge of reserve - this boundary needs to be defined by council as a priority, and basic trackworks instituted;
- Surfaced gravel road running south from the entry point of McAdam Street West into the reserve, and providing access to residents adjoining Lake Road.

The other public road to be utilised is Patterson Street, which performs a zig-zag crossing of the southern end of the reserve. **As declared roads, their maintenance will continue to be carried out by council, and any desirable conditions (eg speed limits) for use of these roads as part of the Cornish Hill network requires consultation with and approval by council.**

Road or Track	Class	Comments/ Uses	Status Current	Status Proposed	Future Management
Stanhope St*	-	Road not defined or instituted	-	0	Council-managed; incorporate as part of long-loop walking track;
Patterson St*	1	Used as public road	0	0	Council-managed; use as access to Long Tunnel Mine, and exit for GDT loop.
Argus/Orford/ Grant Sts to Queensberry St*	1	Used as main access to reserve	0	0	Council-managed; use Argus Street as reserve entrance
Road running south of McAdam St West entrance to reserve*	1	Used for access to private property	0	0	Council-managed; incorporate as part of long-loop walking track, and Stage 2 through-road.
Track from Mitchell's Shaft to Ransome's	1	Not a through-road, little-used	0	MVO (Stage 1); 0 (Stage 2)	Incorporate in short loop walking track; Stage 2 extension to Duke Street via Public Reserve.
Road from base of Queensberry St to McAdam St via Mitchell's	1/2	Well-used track	0	0	Needs some work below Mitchell's shaft (lower grade) - incorporate in through road.

Road or Track	Class	Comments/ Uses	Status Current	Status Proposed	Future Management
Short link-track on north side of Mitchell's dump	3	Rough and steep	O	C	Barricade and revegetate.
Track off Argus Spur, to eastern boundary of reserve	2	Little-used	O	MVO	Incorporate into long-loop walking track; use for weed control and fire suppression
Track across Smith's Creek, to Patterson St via South Cornish Mine	3	Little-used	O	O	Re-route to provide 2WD access in and out of Smith's Creek, and incorporate as Stage 2 main through-road
Firebreaks, reserve entry points	2/3	Bulldozed tracks	O	MVO	Maintain firebreaks in clear condition; retain entry points (eg Houston St, Stanley St etc) for fire suppression purposes.

Class 1: All vehicle/all weather

2: All vehicle - dry weather only

3: 4WD

* = Outside reserve

Status

O: Open

MVO: Management vehicles only

C: Close and revegetate

13.2.3 Design & Maintenance

Roads should be designed for minimum impact in the landscape. The present condition of roads recommended for signposting and use in this plan is generally good, but require some modifications where steep grades exist. Surfacing with gravel in some sections should be carried out as required. Track extensions or alterations should conform with the general visual aspects of existing tracks - ie winding bush tracks with minimal definition and subdued batters. Street signage should encourage, but not restrict, one-way vehicle use of main through road, from north to south.

Maintenance of roads should be carried out by an experienced contractor properly informed of the maintenance standards required. These include:

- Grading should be done with a small machine or bob-cat;
- Minimum excavation or disturbance of the road surface or verges;
- Maintenance should be limited where possible to resurfacing with the application of gravel, rather than cutting-down or other disturbance of the road surface;
- Small cut-off drains and culverts should be placed in any low-lying areas subject to waterlogging or ponding. Otherwise, tracks should rely on cross-fall to disperse surface water;

- Track width should be limited to single-vehicle with pull-out areas and verges permitting two vehicle widths where appropriate.

13.2.4 Recommendations:

- Argus Road be adopted as the main entrance to the reserve from the township;
- One main vehicle track through the reserve be signposted for use - initially from Bonnard's shaft to McAdam Street West (Stage 1), extending in Stage 2 to Patterson Street via Smith's Creek, to encourage use and enjoyment of the southern part of the reserve, including picnic developments on Smith's Creek, and heritage features such as the Long Tunnel Mine and the South Cornish (refer **Figure 5: Roads**);
- Appropriate adjustments to steep grades of these roads be made adjacent to Mitchell's dump, and entering and exiting the Smith's Creek crossing, per Figure 5;
- Roads be managed per Roads Management table, **13.2.2**;
- Roadside be managed to reduce fuel available to fires, and allow for unimpeded and safe pedestrian use;
- The managers of Cornish Hill consult with the Hepburn Shire Council over maintenance and desirable conditions to be applied to incorporated roads under Council management, including institution of a **15kph speed limit** (except Patterson Street).

Roads will require the following works:

- **Alteration to position and grade of through-road beside Mitchell's dump;**
 - **Repair to McAdam Street West exit;**
 - **Grading or surfacing works as required, and installation of signage.**
- Stage 2:**
- **Alteration to position and grade of through-road across Smith's Creek;**
 - **Grading or surfacing works as required, and installation of signage.**

13.3 WALKING TRACKS

13.3.1 Management Objectives:

- To provide opportunities for a variety of walking experiences within the reserve;
- To ensure that walking tracks are maintained in a good and safe condition, relevant to their category;
- To provide a passive recreational facility for the enjoyment and benefit of the public.

13.3.2 Management of Walking Tracks:

Track	Category	Distance	Comments
Short Loop Track	T3	1.5 km	Signposted/marked - track designed to be relatively flat and easy. Brochure may be provided.
Long Loop Track	C	3 km	Signposted/marked
Great Dividing Trail exits	C	-	Signposted/marked
Grant Street exit to Lake Daylesford	C	-	Signposted/marked

Track	Category	Distance	Comments
Existing short-track network	D	-	Not marked

T3 Refer design standards below.

C Track defined through use; may be benched and drained in sections.

D Track defined through use; no basic construction.

13.3.3 Design: The following design specifications for the short-loop main track are derived from the Australian Standards - Classification and Signage (Walking Tracks) 1997 draft, being prepared by the Standards Australia Committee CS/29 to supersede AS 2156-1978. The specification will be Basic Track - T3 (replaces track category B - Well-defined track, benched and drained, to 1m wide).

The Standard requires that the following be adhered to:

- Track width 900mm, to 1200mm where needed;
- Gradient shall be no greater than 1-in-10 (ie 1 metre rise or fall in any 10 metre section, other than where steps are provided);
- Steps will be provided where required, and step-and-run may be used to construct the track within the maximum permissible gradient;
- Track will consist of modified ground-surface of naturally occurring materials, with graded/polished surface.

The long-loop walking track will allow for a variety of conditions, and a more complete experience of the site.

13.3.4 Track markers:

The two main walking tracks need markers to differentiate them from other tracks, and each other. Refer **14. Masterplan - Signage & Interpretive Systems**.

13.3.5 Recommendations:

- That two main walking tracks be marked, a short loop of relatively easy grade, and a long loop with grades varying from easy to moderate, according to **Figure 4: Walking Tracks**;
- That exits from Cornish Hill (Argus Street & line of railway) relating to the Great Dividing Trail loop be marked;
- That walking tracks be instituted and managed according to Management of Walking Tracks table, above
- The two main walking tracks should be drawn on the site plan on the main information board, and details included as to their length, difficulty, and type of marker.

The short-loop track will require the following works:

- Added definition to the edges of the track, around the point of Argus Spur;
- Institution of new zig-zag section of track to accomplish slope reduction, at the northern end of the track between the line of the Freeman's battery tramway and the base of Bonnard's mullock dump;

- Other minor definition, slope reduction or clearing works as required, and installation of markers.

The long-loop track will require the following works:

- Minor definition or clearing works as required, and installation of markers.

14. MASTERPLAN - Signage & Interpretive Systems

14.1 ANALYSIS

The services provided at Cornish Hill must be sufficient to enable visitors to enjoy the reserve by themselves, and this requires that the interpretive systems provide a level of information and understanding adequate to the unescorted-visitor experience.

Directional and interpretive signage is required to facilitate unescorted access, but this should be kept to a minimum to avoid cluttering the landscape with signage. There are various strategies which can be implemented to achieve this. Track definition is a good example - where an unmarked track meets a marked track, and confusion may exist, strong definition of the marked track is a more appropriate action than installation of a marker.

14.2 MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES:

- To enhance visitor enjoyment and understanding of Cornish Hill through interpretation and provision of information;
- To provide directional signage and information to a level sufficient to enable access to the reserve, and unescorted enjoyment of the main attractions and facilities of the reserve;
- To ensure that the signage and interpretive systems are sympathetic to the heritage, natural and landscape values of the reserve;
- To use information, including safety messages and regulations, to assist in minimising any adverse social or environmental impacts arising from visitor use of the reserve;
- To ensure that all interpretive and information facilities are well-maintained;
- To update site information and publications as required, and regularly evaluate signage and interpretive systems.

14.3 MAIN INFORMATION BOARD:

This board will be used to convey both information and interpretation, and there will be almost 3 sqm for display. The minimum information the board should contain is:

- Map of reserve, showing roads, tracks and main historical and natural features;
- Brief resume of flora & fauna components of reserve;
- Regulations or rules relating to appropriate use, restrictions etc;
- Acknowledgements of assistance as appropriate;
- Hazard warning on the possibility of open mine workings;
- Fire restrictions / fireplace code-of-conduct (DNRE)
- Cost and availability of Cornish Hill booklet;
- Reference to Daylesford Historical Society Museum & other local heritage features;
- Emergency numbers - 000, fire, ambulance, & management committee contact number.

The minimum historical information and interpretation on the board should be:

- Statement of the historical significance of the reserve;

- Brief resume of history of reserve, including mines, and production;
 - 4-5 historical photos emphasising scale of workings undertaken in reserve;
 - Stylised or schematic plan of underground linkages;
 - Brief statement on the Cornish connection and significance.
- All photos, text, maps and plans should be laminated. The display will deteriorate over time with exposure to sunlight and the elements, but various parts will need updating and replacement in any case, because of new information, and improvements to the reserve. The flexibility afforded by this sort of information board will enable the managers to vary the display, and cater to special events, or even include small advertisements. Replacement costs for items of display are very small, provided masters are held.

14.4 DIRECTIONAL SIGNAGE

Sign	Description	Location	Comments
Street, external	Fingerboard on galvanised pipe post; Standard "tourism", white-on-brown	Corner Vincent & Stanbridge Sts; Stanbridge St, opposite Argus St	Permit required from Hepburn Shire Council
Internal road signs	Routed timber sign mounted on 2 posts; height 0.8m	McAdam St exit	Install sign after Stage 2 road extension complete - to picnic ground, Long Tunnel & Jubilee Lake. Install after Stage 2.
Walking markers	0.8m long 90x45mm treated pine posts with routed arrow; routed letters "L" & "S" may serve to distinguish short and long loop tracks. See also Use/Features signs in 14.5 below.	Turn-off to Smith's Creek from track running SE from McAdam St W. Other locations	As required to define through-road - use minimum number possible. Co-ordinate with Great Dividing Trail Committee - description (left) is an option. Use as few as possible - greater definition of track at junctions with minor tracks is recommended.

14.5 HAZARD & OTHER SIGNS

Sign	Description	Location	Comments
Hazard	A.S. Mine-workings warning - black on yellow pictogram and text. Sheet-drop warning	On main information board; On speed-limit sign posts (2 in <i>Stage 1</i> , 1 in <i>Stage 2</i>); On Mitchell's dump railing.	
Speed restriction	A.S. 15 kph speed restriction sign	<i>Stage 1:</i> Orford St, at entrance to reserve; McAdam Street W, at entrance to reserve; <i>Stage 2:</i> Smith's Creek track, off Patterson St	
Use/features	150mm square plates, cream on green, pictograms (per Parks Victoria): - Viewpoints - Walkers, etc.....	As required	Use to mark short walking tracks to scenic lookouts; to mark walking track deviations from roads; etc.....
Restricted use	Red crossed circle graphic, 150mm diameter: No trail bikes	<i>Stage 1:</i> Orford St, at entrance to reserve; McAdam Street W, at entrance to reserve; <i>Stage 2:</i> Smith's Creek track, off Patterson St	3 signs in total; 2 extra may be required, for Queensberry St and Houston St W

14.6 INTERPRETATIONS

14.6.1 Details

The development of an appropriate system of interpretations is elaborated in detail in section 8.1.3 of this plan. The following table presents details as to the types of interpretations, description, locations etc. Refer also **Figure 1: Historic Zone & Facilities, and Design Drawings and Site Plan (Bonnard's)**, attached.

Item	Description	Location	Comments
Features signs	Routed, wooden signs, fixed to two wooden posts, height 0.8m.	Argus Mine; Sth Cornish Mine; Ransome's site; Old Cornish Mine; Argus open-cut.	Helvetica font, large letters 60mm height, small 45mm height.

Item	Description	Location	Comments
Numbered posts	As per Walking Track markers	As required	Option only, to refer to information in Cornish Hill booklet for uninterpreted sites.
Information board	Double-sided board in shelter - design per attached drawing	Bonnard's mullock dump, per Site Plan attached	Refer 14.3 above
Photographic boards	Vitreous-enamelled panels on pedestal stand - design per attached sketches Other options (2-part epoxy, forex etc) are available.	<i>Stage 1:</i> Corner Grant & Queensberry Sts- Bonnard's dump- Mitchell's dump- <i>Stage 2:</i> Grant St- Sluicing works in Long Gully- Long Tunnel Mine-	Text & photographs to show: Workings on Argus Spur; Freeman's battery; Connection between Mitchell's & Bonnard's (tramway) Text & photo (Old Cornish, Argus mines etc) Text & graphics Text & graphics

14.6.2 Booklet/Pamphlet

Published material about the reserve can increase public education and awareness of the reserve, reduce the amount of signage and interpretation required on-site, and establish a small on-going funding base for maintenance of the reserve.

A small low-cost booklet is the ideal vehicle to achieve this. A simple 12-16 page A5 sized stapled booklet with a light-card cover would suffice, in order to keep production costs down, and maximise both sales and consequent use of the reserve. Information to be included in the book should be:

- Locality map, and map of reserve (including roads, walking tracks & features);
- Short history of reserve;
- Brief statement of the historical significance of the site, and the Cornish connection;
- Selected historical photographs;
- Brief resume of flora & fauna components of reserve;
- Facilities and permitted recreational use of the reserve;
- Information relating to specific features, or numbered posts on tracks;
- Any local advertising which may defray production costs.

Provision of a single A4-sized pamphlet at the entrance to the reserve would assist visitors, but only basic information (small map, 200-word summary of reserve, cost and availability of booklet) should be included. Production of a pamphlet is only an option, and the managers may decide that the information included on the main board is sufficient.

14.7 EDUCATION

In general, and in terms of this management plan as it relates to Cornish Hill, **education is the provision of programmes and materials designed to assist formal education groups.** This is distinct from **information** - the provision of facts relating to facilities, rules, activities etc, and distinct from **interpretation**, which aims to increase visitor understanding of the reserve through the use of illustrative or other media.

Potential educational resources have been identified on Cornish Hill (eg cultural heritage, natural heritage, geology etc), but the interpretation and information facilities recommended in this section do not constitute educational facilities, even though they do address public education. This distinction is important, particularly when seeking grant funding which requires an educational component. Development of educational programmes and materials is seen as a desirable medium-term project.

15. MANAGEMENT OPTIONS

There are various options for management of Crown Land Reserves, principally under the Crown Land Reserves Act (1978). Management by the Department of Natural Resources & Environment directly is not considered to be an option in terms of this Conservation Management Plan. While direct management by DNRE would be the fallback position if a committee was unable to be formed, Cornish Hill would be a low departmental priority for the improvements recommended in this plan. This is because the promotion of Cornish Hill as a valuable community asset was driven and elaborated by the Hepburn Shire Council, representing community interests against the department's classification of the land as surplus, ie with no public value. While reversal of the classification carries with it an acknowledgement that the land has identifiable public value, this value is unlikely to be fully realised in direct management by the department.

Only two realistic options present themselves:

- (1) **COUNCILS AS COMMITTEES - COUNCIL ADVISORY COMMITTEE:**
 - Cornish Hill is placed under management of Hepburn Shire Council, who administer the reserve through an Advisory Committee.

This option was proposed in submissions put by Council to the Department of Finance during negotiations over the future of Cornish Hill, and a Media Release, "Cornish Hill Gold Mining Area to Stay in Public Ownership", by Hepburn Shire Council on 28 March 1996 stated that this would occur once responsibility for the site had been transferred to Council.

Advantages of this option would be:

- Implied council support for development & maintenance;
- Advantages in grant funding applications with the actual or implied backing of council;
- Facilitation of discharge of complementary management responsibilities along boundaries of reserve (eg co-ordinated weed removal or road maintenance exercises).

Some disadvantages would be:

- Level of support from council subject to changing local politics;
- Existing high level of financial commitment to other reserves within the shire may influence commitment to Cornish Hill;
- No security of tenure if Council withdraws support - would require direct community negotiation with DNRE to resume management of reserve as DNRE Committee of Management.

- (2) **LOCAL COMMITTEE - COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT UNDER DNRE:**
 - A local Committee of Management, consisting of 3 or more people nominated for appointment by the Minister, is constituted by DNRE.

This option would depend on successful negotiations between council, representing the particular community interests, and the department.

Advantages of this option would be:

- Security of tenure - committee would not need the on-going support of council to retain management of the site;
- Management divorced from local government political issues;
- Committee would have more direct line to departmental expertise and assistance.

Some disadvantages would be:

- Less competitive in grant-funding applications;
- Costs of Public Liability Insurance directly on committee (costs not large - premiums are subsidized by DNRE);
- Management not underpinned.

16. FUNDING OPTIONS

16.1 CORE FUNDING

Core funding for developments on Cornish Hill would consist of the balance of monies remaining from the allocation for the Conservation Management Plan, and funding from the Hepburn Shire Council, administered by the Recreation Advisory Committee.

16.2 GRANT FUNDING

16.2.1 Natural/Heritage/Tourism/Recreation

Natural Heritage Trust - The Cornish Hill managers would be eligible for Commonwealth grants funding for natural environment projects, at the Community Projects level. Available funding is substantial, and grants are made for projects ranging from under \$10,000 categories to major \$1,000,000 programs. Enhancement of the natural environment and public education are the important aspects of eligibility. Grants are extremely competitive, and because the natural environment is only one component of the improvements on Cornish Hill, the managers would have difficulty in being competitive unless their works could be integrated into a co-ordinated local or regional application. Such a joint-funding approach would have much wider benefits for the Hepburn Shire. The local Landcare facilitator could provide information as to possibilities in this regard. Generally, two rounds per year are conducted, and are advertised nationally. In 1998, applications closed on 6 March, and another round will be called in November-December, with new guidelines.

Community Environment Fund - Administered by Parks Victoria, this is a new statewide funding program to service projects involved in environment protection, heritage, recreation, publication & education, and increasing multicultural diversity in parks. Grants of up to \$6000 are available, or two or more incorporated groups may receive up to \$12,000. The Cornish Hill managers would be eligible to apply. They would have competitive advantages in being involved in all the above listed categories, and particularly if the cultural links (Cornish influence, the Ticinese tunnellers etc), and the links to state, regional and local heritage/tourism networks, can be emphasised.

Agency Grants - Larger grants are available from Parks Victoria, but have to be applied for by local government. They are able to apply whether the managers of Cornish Hill are a Council Advisory Committee or a DNRE Committee of Management, as long as the funded works are supported and assisted by the managers.

Landcare: The Cornish Hill managers will be eligible for weed-control/revegetation funding assistance under Landcare, provided that:

- They are an incorporated body;
- They can demonstrate equivalent or greater commitment from the "community", than the funding being applied for;

- They can provide a comprehensive, co-ordinated, realistic and scientifically-based plan for the long-term enhancement of the land under their control;
 - The works are on-going, not a one-off weed removal.
- The local Catchment Management Officer, DNRE, can provide advice. The scheme is administered by Land Victoria, and grants are made annually. Applications close in early March.

Good Neighbour: The Cornish Hill managers will be eligible for weed eradication assistance under the Good Neighbour Program. Resources are directed to nominated areas with specific problems - ie a particular need has to be demonstrated, as do the benefits.

Free Tree Scheme³⁹ - this is a scheme which involves the raising of seedlings by volunteers - seeds have to be supplied, and there is a nominal charge for pots and soil. This scheme could be adapted to provide low-cost plants for revegetation on Cornish Hill, and involve the wider Daylesford community as volunteers. Interest has been shown in organising such a Tree Project.

National Estate Grants Program (Heritage) - Cornish Hill is not eligible for this Commonwealth funding, firstly because the area is not included in the National Estate, and secondly because sites have to be of accepted national significance.

Community Support Fund - Administered through the Premier's Department, funds are distributed on a matching one-for-one basis, for development projects, particularly tourism. Cornish Hill's eligibility or competitiveness have not been assessed.

Tourism - general

Tourism grant funding at federal and state level generally applies to projects which:

- Can demonstrably increase tourism visitation to a region or area or town;
- Bring quantifiable, direct economic advantage to a community, through increased tourism, employment, sales etc.

In these terms, Cornish Hill would have difficulty sustaining an application. The mere provision of infrastructure for the use of tourists does not provide eligibility.

Recreation

Minor Capital Works grants are available from the Department of Youth, Sport and Recreation. The eligibility of Cornish Hill for these grants would depend on:

- The willingness of the Hepburn Shire to put forward the application, given that applications must come from the local government level, and that the Shire is responsible for assessing the priority of applications from its various community groups;
 - The managers of Cornish Hill strongly demonstrating the recreational component and benefits of any proposed works.
- Applications close 5th March annually.

³⁹ Details supplied as part of a submission to Hepburn Shire Council on the Draft Management Plan, by Maria Rulikowski, Daylesford, June 1998.

16.2.2 Joint Funding Initiatives

Competitiveness in grant funding applications can be increased with joint funding applications. For example, funding for walking track improvement and signage could be jointly applied for with the Great Dividing Trail Committee, for the Jubilee Lake loop through Cornish Hill. Natural Heritage Trust grants are another in which competitiveness is greatly increased with joint funding applications.

16.2.3 Summary

The most feasible sources of grant funding or assistance for Cornish Hill are Community Grants under the Community Environment Fund, and the Landcare and Good Neighbour programs. An adapted Free Tree Scheme operating in Daylesford would provide an ideal community solution to a funding problem.

16.3 COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Community resources can be expected to play a major role in future developments on Cornish Hill. The main resources as they apply to Cornish Hill are listed below:

Individual assistance: working bees - working bees are held regularly by the Friends of Cornish Hill group, and this is likely to be continued into the development phase. The community workshop held during the community consultation process also identified a pool of local residents who are willing to participate;

Specialist skills - people within the community who are willing to donate their special skills to the project on a voluntary basis (eg fabrication of information board, stands for interpretations boards etc). Some interest has been communicated in this area (refer also Free Tree Scheme, above).

Schools etc - In identifying community resources available to the project, two local schools were provided with information regarding opportunities for involvement with the project. Local students have already assisted with a special project on Cornish Hill, involving weed clearance and revegetation at Ransome's house site. Scouts involved in badge work have also been assisting in weed clearance projects recently.

Service Clubs - Rotary have already assisted in recent works at Cornish Hill (reconstruction of Thomas' Lookout), and the recommended developments will offer further opportunities for service club involvement.

16.4 SELF-FUNDING

The reserve has limited potential for self-funding. Booklet sales will provide the bulk of the funding, but there is potential for interested volunteers to conduct a limited number of escorted tours for gold coin donations, co-inciding with festivals or peak tourist times.

There is also potential to encourage commercial tour operators to include Cornish Hill in their itineraries (identified in Spa Country & Macedon Ranges Tourism Development Plan), but would be contingent upon the private sector assessing commercial possibilities - the fact that these sorts of tours are not presently available may reflect more on the demographics than any lack of scrutiny by the private sector. Any small commissions would depend on negotiations with the operators, and, for instance, provision of a basic package of resource information by the managers could provide the good-will necessary to effect a beneficial outcome.

The pine trees designated for removal, and those removed in on-going management of the reserve, may represent a long-term, though intermittent, source of funding. Whether any salvage value exists would depend on negotiations with the contractors engaged.

Disregarding commercial tourism and pines, the earning potential of the reserve is probably between \$1000 and \$1500 per annum (1998), and largely depends on action from the managers.

16.5 FUNDRAISING

Some interest in using fundraising as a means of supplementing funds has been communicated during the formulation of this plan. Fundraising is most effective when targetted at a particular goal (eg a purchase, or a special project), and can take various forms (eg raffles, tin-rattles, fundraising events etc). The success of fundraising in generation of funds towards the developments on Cornish Hill would depend on the level of commitment of the managers, and the level of support within the community.

16.6 SPONSORSHIP

Range River NL, which has been involved in recent mineral exploration on Cornish Hill, has made an in-principle commitment to assist in the developments, through a donation or other assistance. The mining industry in general is more aware of its public profile in the current climate, and is more responsive to community approaches for assistance, particularly with mining heritage projects.

Donation of goods & services etc - there is some potential for seeking donations of goods or services from local businesses for the project, because the recommended developments do not have a high materials cost. This could include small donations of construction materials (timber, fencing materials, paint etc.), or minor landscaping works involving limited use of heavy machinery (eg preparing carpark surface etc).

16.7 GREEN INITIATIVES

Special projects involving groups such as Green Corps are a feasible option on Cornish Hill. Green Corps is managed through the Australian Trust for Conservation volunteers (ACTV).

Projects typically include training, conservation project activities and assisting with community-based environment action programs, and could involve endangered species protection, flora and fauna surveys, revegetation and natural and cultural heritage restoration. Green Corps projects are of 26-week duration, consisting of a core project of 12-14 weeks, and the balance made up of a series of shorter projects such as working with local schools, assisting with community recycling programs or supporting local groups. Successful application to Green Corps would involve identification of sufficient challenging projects on a shire or regional basis to satisfy their requirements.

Cornish Hill would suit a shorter project within a larger program.

16.8 ADOPTION:

Adoption of areas within Cornish Hill is a constructive way to reduce the management burden of the reserve. There are a number of ways in which this could be achieved:

- Property owners adjacent to the reserve could be encouraged to look after a small piece of the reserve adjoining their properties, attending to weed control and revegetation. This would also serve to increase community involvement in the project, and foster "ownership" of the reserve. Monitoring by the managers would be essential to ensure that outcomes are consistent with the relevant recommendations of the management plan.
- Schools and other groups (eg scouts) could be encouraged to adopt small, complex areas which would provide on-going challenges and a variety of considerations to suit various curriculum or other requirements. Small sections of Smith's Creek, or areas involving native and introduced vegetation, combined with cultural heritage, may be recommended.
- Individual projects which evolve from the special interest of people in the community, and would not otherwise be accomplished by the managers, are another option, provided they are consistent with the vision statement, and the objectives and recommendations of the management plan. The proposal for sensitive developments at Ransome's house site (refer **APPENDIX II**) would be an ideal example of this.

While adoption would reduce reliance on funding, it would also place greater burden on the time of individual management members, in consultation and monitoring. It requires a strong commitment on the part of the managers to ensure that outcomes are appropriate.

16.9 CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS

Funding can be available for various natural/heritage/recreational works, but grants are competitive, and application of these sources to Cornish Hill has not been investigated in detail. The Utah Foundation, a major charitable institution, has indicated that it is already over-exposed in the south-central region, because of substantial assistance at Sovereign Hill, and is unlikely to commit further funds (*information from David Endacott, DHS*).

17. FUTURE DIRECTIONS

This plan recommends essential works prioritised into Stage 1 and Stage 2 developments, and sets management policy and objectives under which future works can be considered. The recommended works, and on-going maintenance, are costed to fall within the funding and community resources which could reasonably be expected to be available to the project.

At the completion of these works, there will remain a number of desirable enhancements or projects which will be left to evolve in the medium-term from the continuing interest of the managers or the community, and can be undertaken if spare or targeted funding or community resources become available. Some are identified in this plan, and include:

- Flora & fauna survey of Cornish Hill;
- Further revegetation for habitat enhancement, beautification and biodiversity objectives;
- Further historical research;
- Preparation of educational material relating to Cornish Hill;
- Remodelling of Mitchell's dump to remove steep batter, and possible realignment of road below dump;
- Road and walking track improvements (eg more surfacing etc);
- Examination of feasibility of provision of toilet block.

Other worthwhile projects may be suggested from time to time, and should be considered in terms of appropriateness, desirability, feasibility and level of on-going maintenance.

In the short-term, any spare funds or resources should be directed towards conclusion of the weed eradication program, and related revegetation requirements.

18. PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Details as to implementation and timing, including works program, are included in the Action Plan, which prefaces this document.

19. COSTING

Detailed costing of works is included in the Feasibility Analysis, which is appended to this document.

R J Kaufman, 10/7/1998

APPENDIX I - GLOSSARY

A. Definition of terms for the purpose of the Burra charter⁴⁰:

- Fabric:** means all the physical material of the place or site.
- Conservation:** means all the processes of looking after a place, or site, so as to retain its cultural significance.
- Maintenance:** means the continuous protective care of the fabric.
- Preservation:** means maintaining the fabric of a place or site in its existing condition and retarding deterioration.
- Restoration:** means returning the existing fabric of a place or site to a known earlier state, by reassembling components or removing accretions, without the introduction of new materials.
- Reconstruction:** means returning a place or site as nearly as possible to a known earlier state of the fabric, by the introduction of old or new materials.
- Adaptation:** means modifying a place or site to suit proposed compatible use.
- Compatible Use:** means a use which involves no change to the culturally-significant fabric, changes which are substantially reversible, or changes which require a minimal impact.

B. Definition of mining terms used in this plan:

- Audit:** Horizontal mine opening.
- Anticline:** A fold in bedded rock, with the apex pointing up.
- Auriferous:** Gold-bearing.
- Collar:** Portion of mine shaft adjacent to surface.
- Drive:** Horizontal tunnel within underground workings.
- Fault:** A break in the rock sequence, representing movement of one block against another in response to applied stress.
- Grade:** Value of gold-bearing ores, historically presented in ounces or pennyweights of gold per ton of rock.
- Mullock:** Waste rock produced as a by-product of mining ore.
- Ore:** Economic, mineral-containing rock.
- Ounce:** Troy ounce of 31.109 grams in reference to gold (= 20 pennyweights).
- Poppet-head:** Construction built over shaft to facilitate removal of rock from the mine, and transfer of men and materials. Usually framed as a truncated square pyramid, with large diameter wheels at top to guide and transmit cables from winch.
- Reef:** Sheets of quartz, of various thicknesses, which traverse the sedimentary rock, and may contain gold-enrichments.
- Shaft:** Vertical mine opening.

⁴⁰ From Australia ICOMOS, The Illustrated Burra Charter, Maquis-Kyle && Walker, 1992

B. Definition of mining terms used in this plan (cont'd):

- Sluicing:** Using water to strip auriferous soils or gravels to extract the gold content.
- Stamp battery:** Crushing mill consisting of heavy iron poles with cast heads (stamps) which are alternately raised and dropped in a cast-iron mortar box.
- Syncline:** A fold in bedded rock, with the apex pointing down.

C. Abbreviations:

- CFA:** Country Fire Authority
- DHS:** Daylesford Historical Society
- DNRE:** Department of Natural Resources & Environment (Vic)
- GSV:** Geological Survey of Victoria
- ICOMOS:** International Council on Monuments and Sites
- LCC:** Land Conservation Council

APPENDIX II - COMMUNITY INPUT

About 360 people signed petitions urging the government to review its decision to classify the land at Cornish Hill as surplus to requirements. These petitions were supported by Hepburn Shire Council, community groups such as the Daylesford Historical Society, and other interested groups such as the Cornish Society. The principal argument was based on the mining heritage of the site, backed up by its natural and scenic features, its valuable open space and landscape roles, and its tourism potential. The decision was reversed in 1996, and the Hepburn Shire appointed a provisional Advisory Committee, composed of representatives of the Shire council, Friends of Cornish Hill, Spa Chamber of Commerce & Tourism, Daylesford Historical Society and the community, to oversee the preparation of a management plan for the area. The terms of the Brief for the plan were formulated by this group in 1997.

PUBLIC WORKSHOP:

Questionnaires and work sheets were distributed during the Public Workshop held at the Daylesford Town Hall on 1st March 1998. Further copies were distributed via the Friends of Cornish Hill and Cornish Hill Advisory Committee networks. Results are tabulated below:

RESIDENCE	No.	%	ATTITUDES	YES	NO	% YES
Adjacent to Cornish Hill	6	33	Important for town to			
In view of Cornish Hill	2	11	acknowledge & preserve			
Elsewhere in Daylesford	3	17	origins?	16	0	89
Outside Daylesford	7	39	Important to retain as			
			public open space?	18	0	100
VISIT CORNISH HILL			Will it fulfill tourism role?	17	1	94
Regularly	9	50				
Occasionally	8	44	PRIORITIES	HIGH	MED	LOW
Have visited	1	6	Weed control	17	1	0
Never visited	0	0	Fire management	16	2	0
			Walking/cycling tracks	13	4	1
EXISTING USE			Enhance mining features	13	5	0
Exercise walks	8	44	Interpretations	12	6	0
Nature walks	11	61	Scenic viewpoints	8	8	2
Walking the dog	4	22	Picnic tables	1	11	7
Scenic views	9	50	Revegetation	12	5	1
Cycling	1	6	Other*	1		
Fruit picking	4	22	*Details:	Cornish Monument		
Exploring old mines	8	44				
Access/throughway	0	0				
Other*	6	33	FUTURE USE	No.	%	
*Details:			Visit site more often	14	78	
			Take visitors to site	15	83	
			Use walking/cycling tracks	14	78	
			Use picnic tables	5	28	

Questionnaires distributed: 30

Questionnaires returned: 18

Worksheets attached to the questionnaires asked for succinct vision statements for Cornish Hill. No respondents favoured large or intrusive developments for the site, and the green open-space role was stressed.

Many individual ideas for developments on Cornish Hill were brought forward during community consultation - some have been included in the management plan, and some are addressed below:

Camping area on Smith's Creek: Departmental policy is that camping development on public land should be discouraged, unless there is clear rationale and sustainable demand. These criteria would be difficult to establish. In addition, even an informal camping area would require basic services - water, rubbish collection etc. The provision of basic toilet facilities would impose a large capital cost on the management, because of the unsuitability of the site for septic or similar systems, and the high sewerage connection costs. Potential detrimental water quality effects on Lake Daylesford are another issue.

Large poppet-head on Bonnard's Shaft: While recognisable mining icons such as poppet-heads have value as eye-catchers, and even lookouts, policy and recommendations on historical reconstructions have been established in Section 8.1 of the Conservation Management Plan, and such a reconstruction would be deemed inappropriate. In feasibility terms, the cost of a large poppet-head would be well beyond what the committee of management could reasonably expect in the way of grants funding. The public risk posed by a large poppet-head would also substantially increase the public liability obligations of the managers.

Plantation Management: The management of Cornish Hill, or sections of Cornish Hill, as native hardwood plantations is not generally consistent with the management objectives of the reserve, and public reserves in general. Detrimental effects would include cyclical loss of visitor amenity, damage to the historical fabric caused by logging, interruption to landscape/scenic values of reserve, damage to native vegetation, fauna & habitat, etc. This aside, the altered landscape on Cornish Hill, with little topsoil over large areas, would generally limit the value of hardwood crops. The pines being retained on Cornish Hill are not being managed for their softwood timber value - however the long-term retention of the pines may offer limited scope for intermittent salvage.

Ransome's house site: Weed removal and revegetation have been carried out on this site over the last few years. Further developments here are a low priority in the broad sweep of the management plan, but interest has been shown by a group of residents, who have proposed a small work program for the site. In general, their proposal is consistent with the policies of this plan, and sensitive to the historic fabric of the site, so it is recommended that the managers allow the group to "adopt" the site, notwithstanding the following recommended modifications to the plan:

The basis of the plan is to:

- Replace introduced grasses with native grasses - *consistent with revegetation objectives;*

- Establish small, cottage-type garden in remaining concreted garden beds - *appropriate historical reconstruction, consistent with Conservation Policy - species need to be selected carefully to ensure a new generation of exotics do not escape into reserve;*
- Establish picnic facilities - *informal only (benches & existing fireplace), refer 7.2.5;*
- Toilet block - *not feasible at this site;*
- Parking area - *not recommended, as parking area, without major earthworks, would have to intrude on the historic fabric, and quiet appreciation of the site. Recommend walking access only, except for management vehicles, during Stage 1 developments - this track will eventually go through to the playing field, and parallel parking to the north could be installed at little extra cost, by limited widening of track extension during roadworks.*
- Cottage garden of suitable indigenous plants near remaining garden beds - *choice of species is the key - should be local species, and if not already present in reserve, should have low invasive potential; area should be defined, and kept small;*
- Area of Koorie edible plants - *not considered generally suited to area unless plants are local species - risk of escape into nearby naturally-regenerating areas. Better suited to intensively-managed facilities such as the Wombat Hill Botanical Gardens;*
- Signage - *acknowledgement of occupation of site is an appropriate development, but funds should not be diverted from high-priority Stage 1 developments.*

Reconstruction of a Cornish beam pump

Reconstruction of a Cornish beam pump on the brick beds at Bonnard's shaft would contribute nothing to the understanding of the Cornish influence on Daylesford - rather, it would simply acknowledge the contemporary superiority of engineers in Cornwall. Working Cornish beam pumps are already a feature at Sovereign Hill, which offers the major regional gold-mining interpretations.

PROPOSALS FOR DEVELOPMENT BY SEPARATELY-FUNDED GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS:

Several ideas for development have been canvassed, although not formally proposed, by groups or individuals seeking suitable locations for their projects. This document sets policies and objectives for the managers, and recommends various works to be undertaken by them in the development of Cornish Hill. It is beyond the scope of this plan to make specific recommendations to the managers on projects outside their funding base, and while the policies and objectives set a framework for consideration of any developments, it is appropriate to comment on some general aspects of these ideas:

- (i) **Story-telling Trail/Wombat Boardwalk:** Federal funding is currently being sought for this project. Extension of this trail to Cornish Hill would involve an imposition of a third layer on top of the authentic historical fabric, and the natural environment. The committee should consider that:
 - The incorporation of the story-telling trail would have to be consistent with the vision statement and management objectives of the reserve;
 - The elements of the trail require oral interpretation to establish context, and these elements may cause confusion for the casual visitor to Cornish Hill;

- Cornish Hill is an informal reserve, and this plan has been designed to incorporate low-level management of the area - vandalism and maintenance costs of sculptured elements may be significantly higher here than in intensively-managed areas such as Central Springs.

(ii) **Great Dividing Trail Shelter:** While proposed within the Friends of Cornish Hill group, the construction of an overnight shelter on the Great Dividing Trail loop through Cornish Hill could only be developed on a real need assessed by the local Great Dividing Trail Committee, and would properly be funded and constructed by them, or in a joint venture with the Cornish Hill management. Departmental policy is that accommodation development on public land should be discouraged, unless there is clear rationale and sustainable demand. While there is clear rationale, sustainable demand would have to be established before examining this option further. Level of services provided, vandalism or inappropriate use of the facility, management and maintenance would all have to be examined.

In all cases, formal agreements relating to management and maintenance of any outside-funded projects would have to be entered into, to ensure that costs would not eventually fall back onto the Cornish Hill managers.

IMPACTING EXTERNAL PROJECTS:

Skateboard Park: The Public Reserve at the north-west end of Cornish Hill has been short-listed as an option for installation of a public skateboard facility. This use is consistent with the zoning under the Hepburn Shire current and proposed planning schemes, and consistent with current and previous community use of the site, involving active recreation with provision of infrastructure (gazetted town swimming pool - primary school sporting field - informal football field). In consideration of any future proposal for this or similar developments (eg childrens' playground), the managers of Cornish Hill should consult with the Hepburn Shire Council (managers of the Reserve) in regard to the visual impact of developments on the area, and suitable design and screening strategies if required.

The managers should also consider that benefits may arise from additional community focus adjacent to Cornish Hill, and the joint-funding advantages for possible future capital works (eg toilet blocks), which might arise from developments here.

APPENDIX III - BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- Dickers Mining Record - random selections, 1860's

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- Daylesford & Hepburn Springs Conservation Study, Mathieson & Ward, 1985;
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- Draft Hepburn Shire Council Municipal Strategic Statement, July 1997;
- Hepburn Shire Tourism Policy, 1996;
- Macedon Ranges & Spa Country Tourism Development Plan, 1996;
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OTHER STUDIES USED (cont'd):

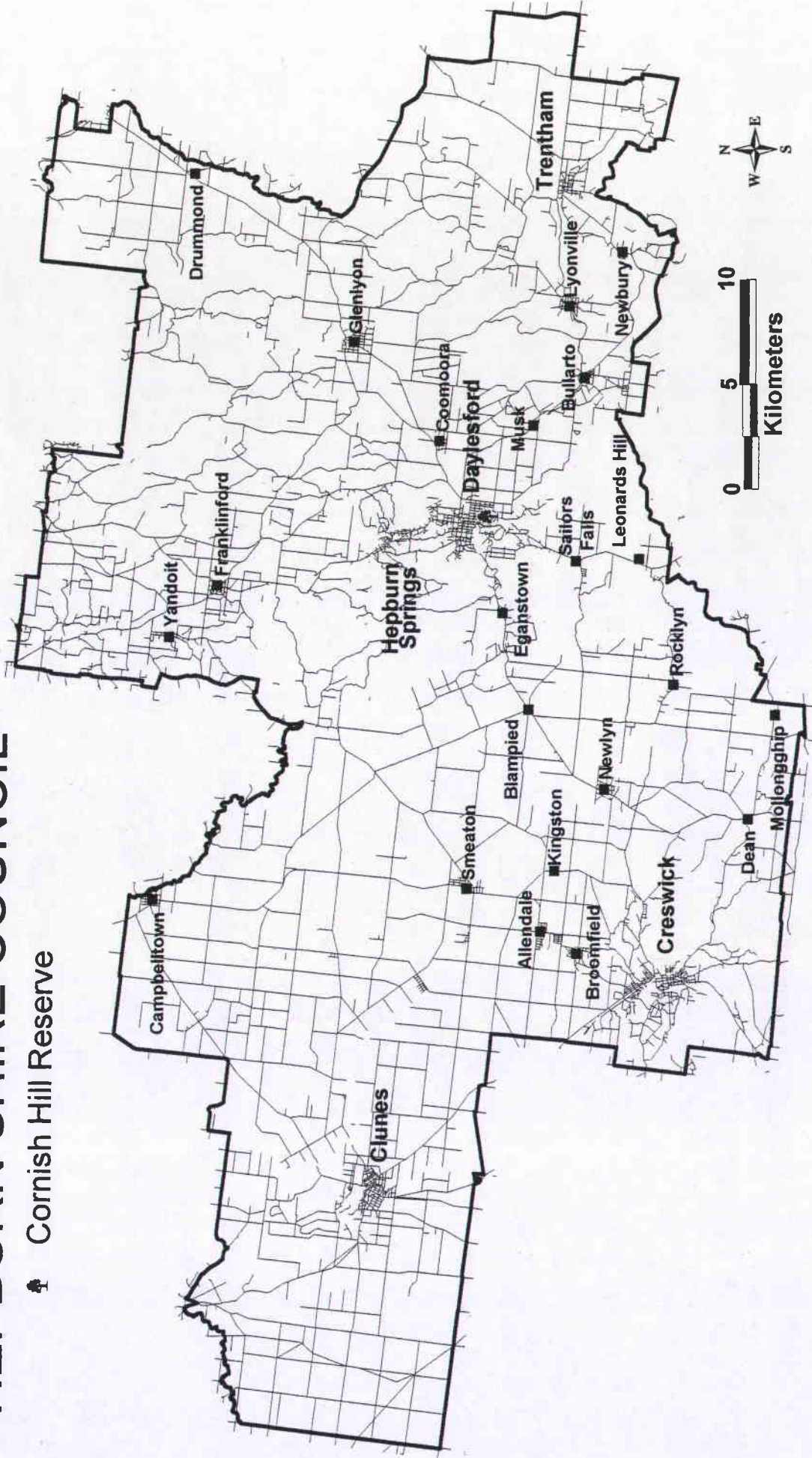
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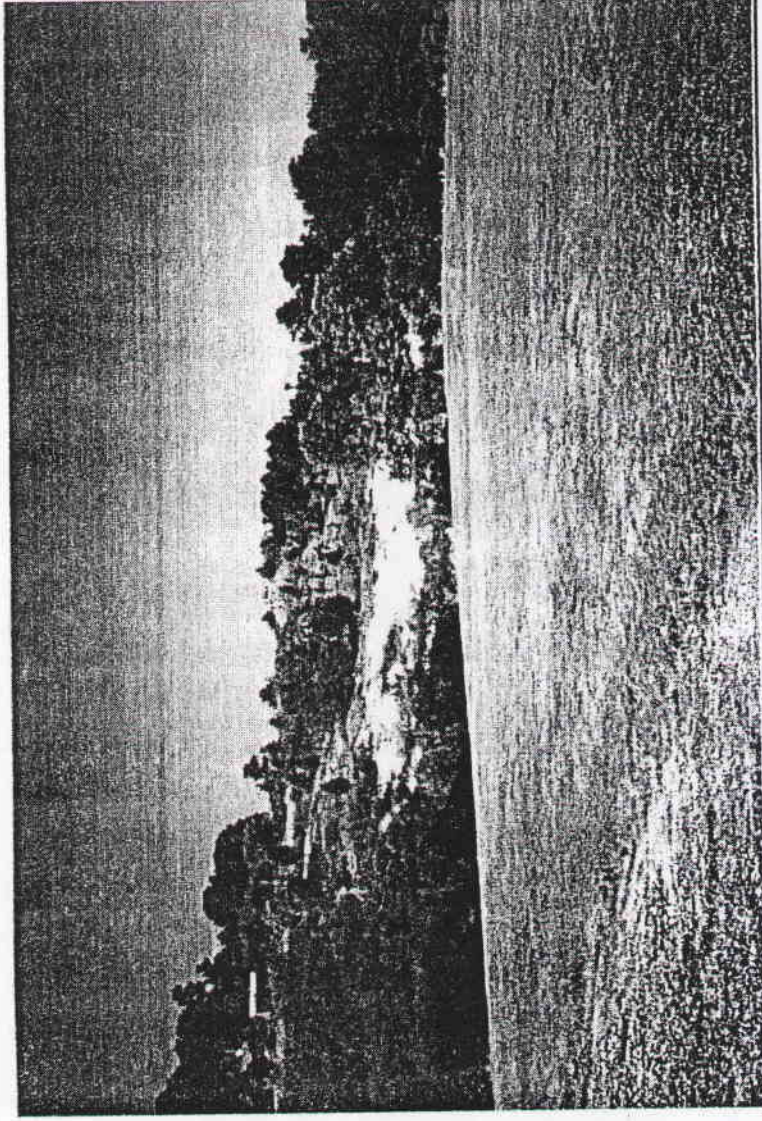
HEPBURN SHIRE COUNCIL

🌳 Cornish Hill Reserve



PHOTOGRAPHY

High Viewer Sensitivity Levels - Views Into Reserve



View from corner of Duke & Stanbridge Streets

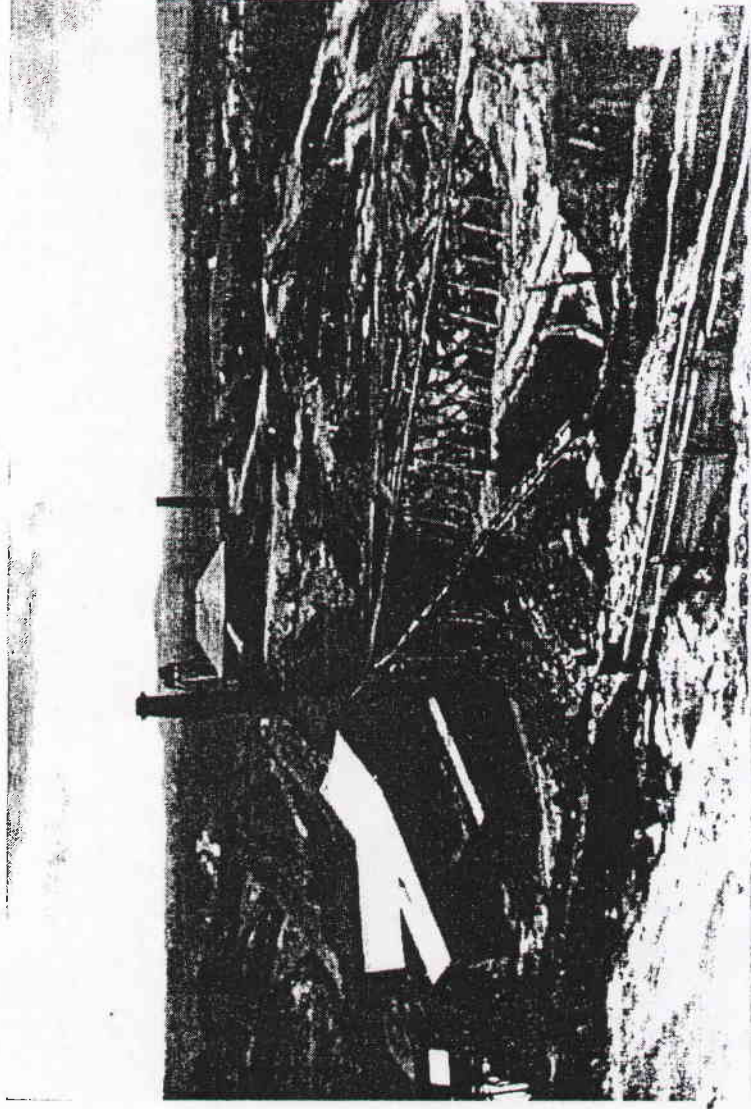
(Bonnard's dump centre-skyline - enhancement works will restore its visibility in the landscape).
(photo A Swift, February 1998)



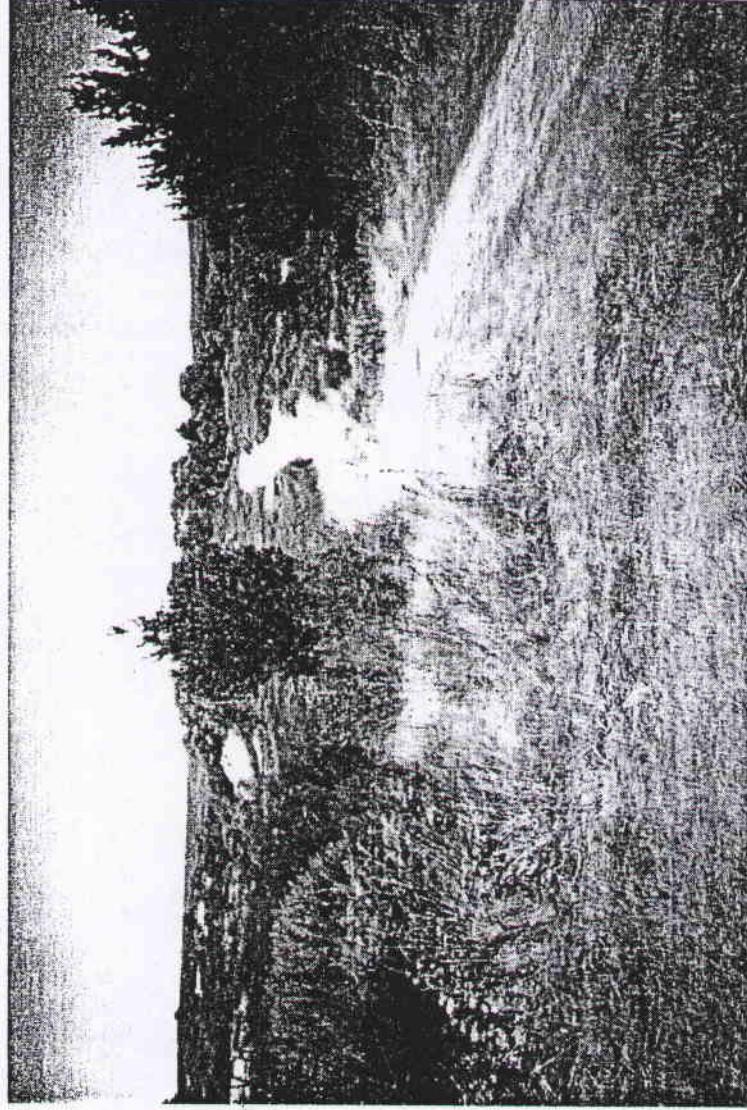
View from western edge of Lake Daylesford - Cornish Hill on skyline.

(photo R Kaufman, April 1998)

PHOTOGRAPHY

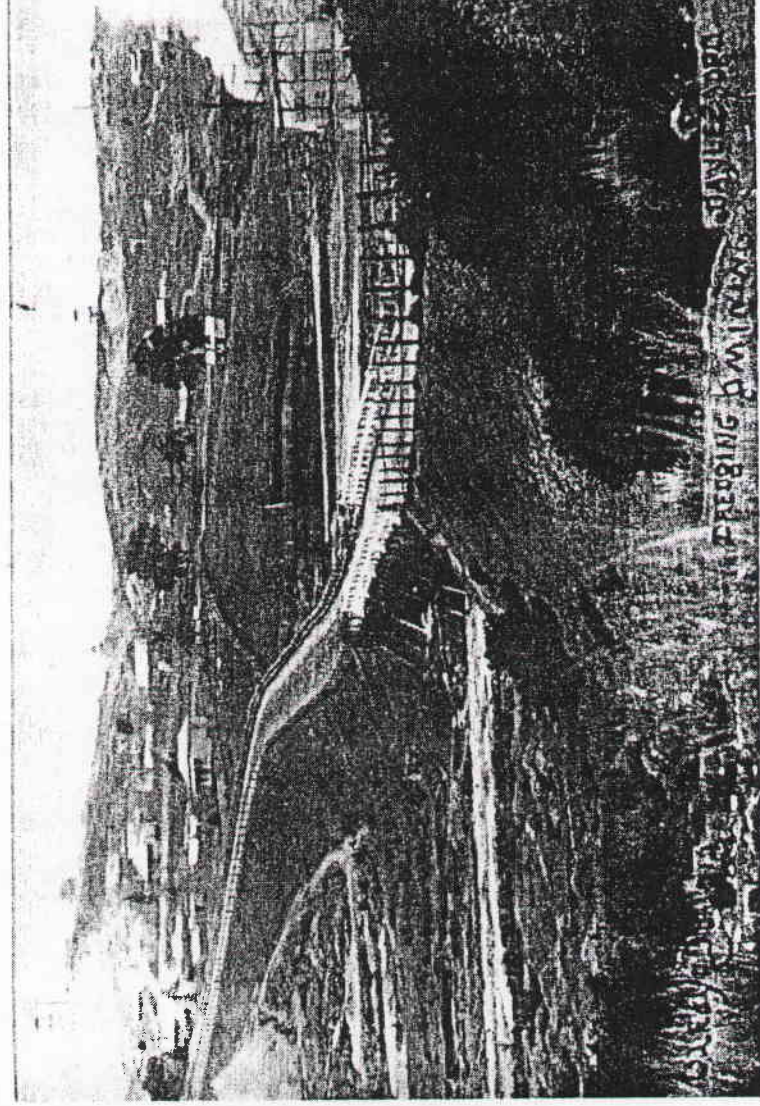


Workings on Argus Spur, 1860's
Cornish Company's battery in foreground, Argus mine at rear
(courtesy *Daylesford Historical Society*)

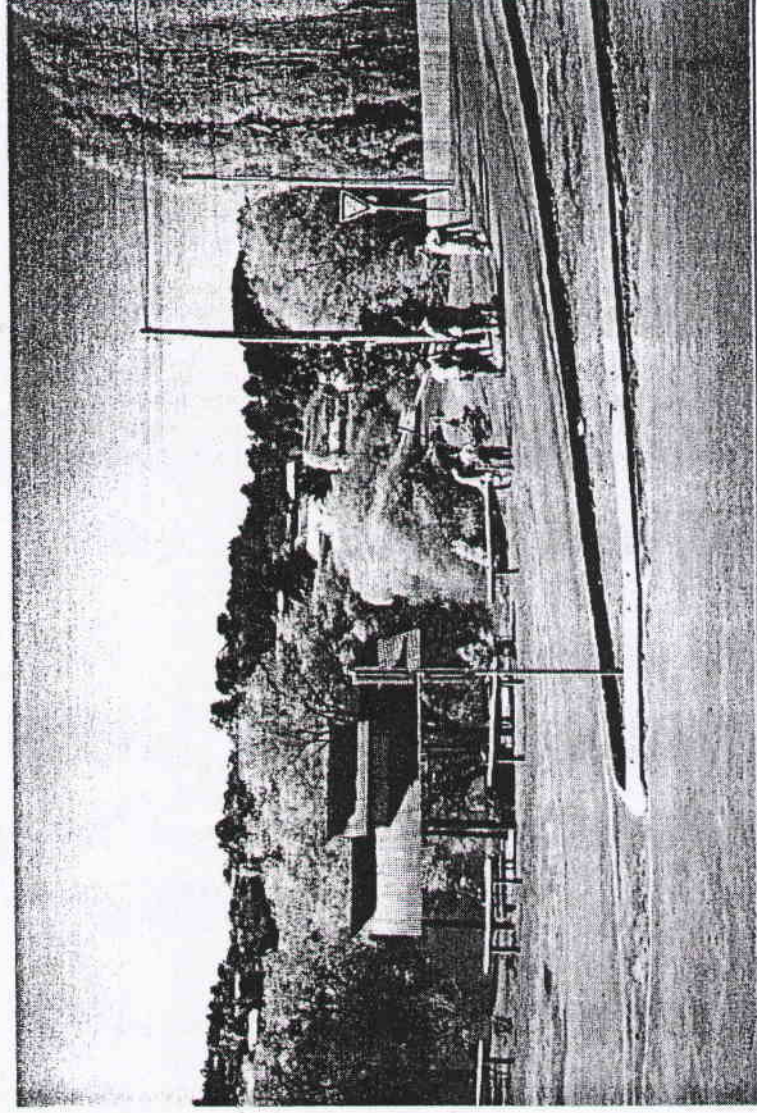


Similar view of Argus Spur.
(photo *R Kaufman, April 1998*)

PHOTOGRAPHY



View from far side of Wombat Creek (Lake Daylesford), early 1900's
Bonnard's Shaft, top left; Old Cornish, top centre; Mitchell's top centre-right.
(courtesy Daylesford Historical Society)

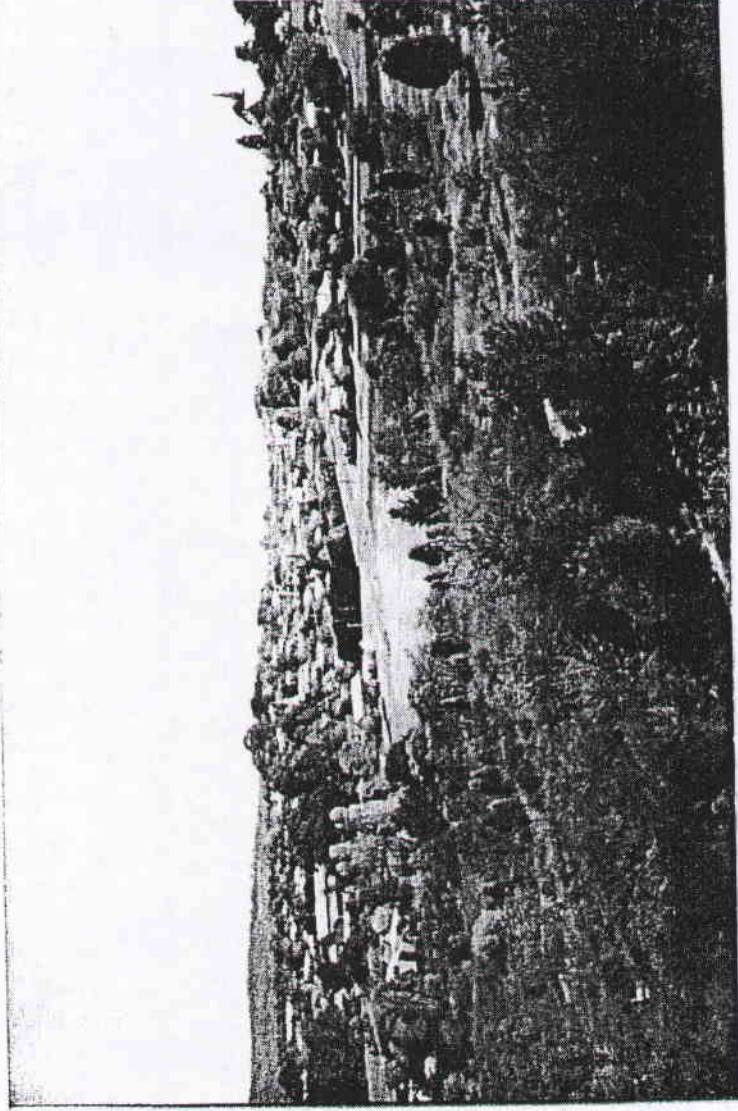


View across Lake Daylesford, with Cornish Hill on skyline.
(photo R Kaufman, April 1998)

PHOTOGRAPHY

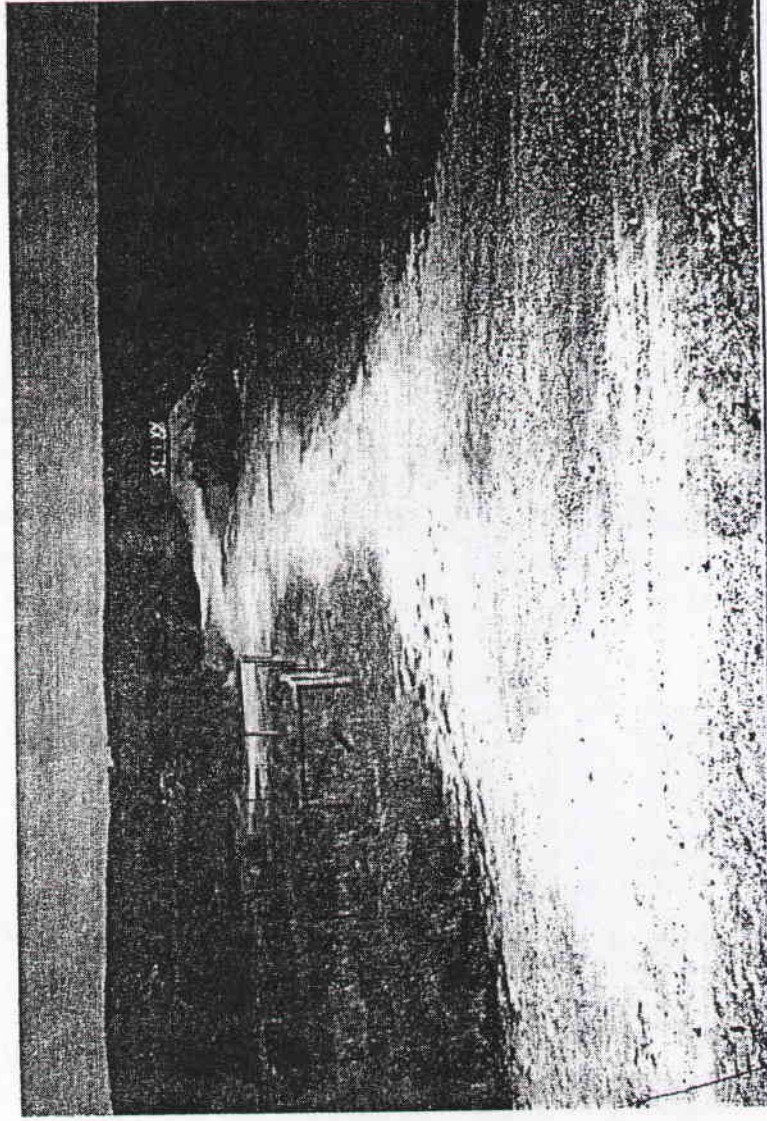


View of Freeman's battery (playing field - Public Reserve, 1998) from base of
Bonnard's mullock dump, late 1800's.
(courtesy Daylesford Historical Society)



View over Daylesford from Thomas' Lookout.
(photo R Kaufman, April 1998)

PHOTOGRAPHY



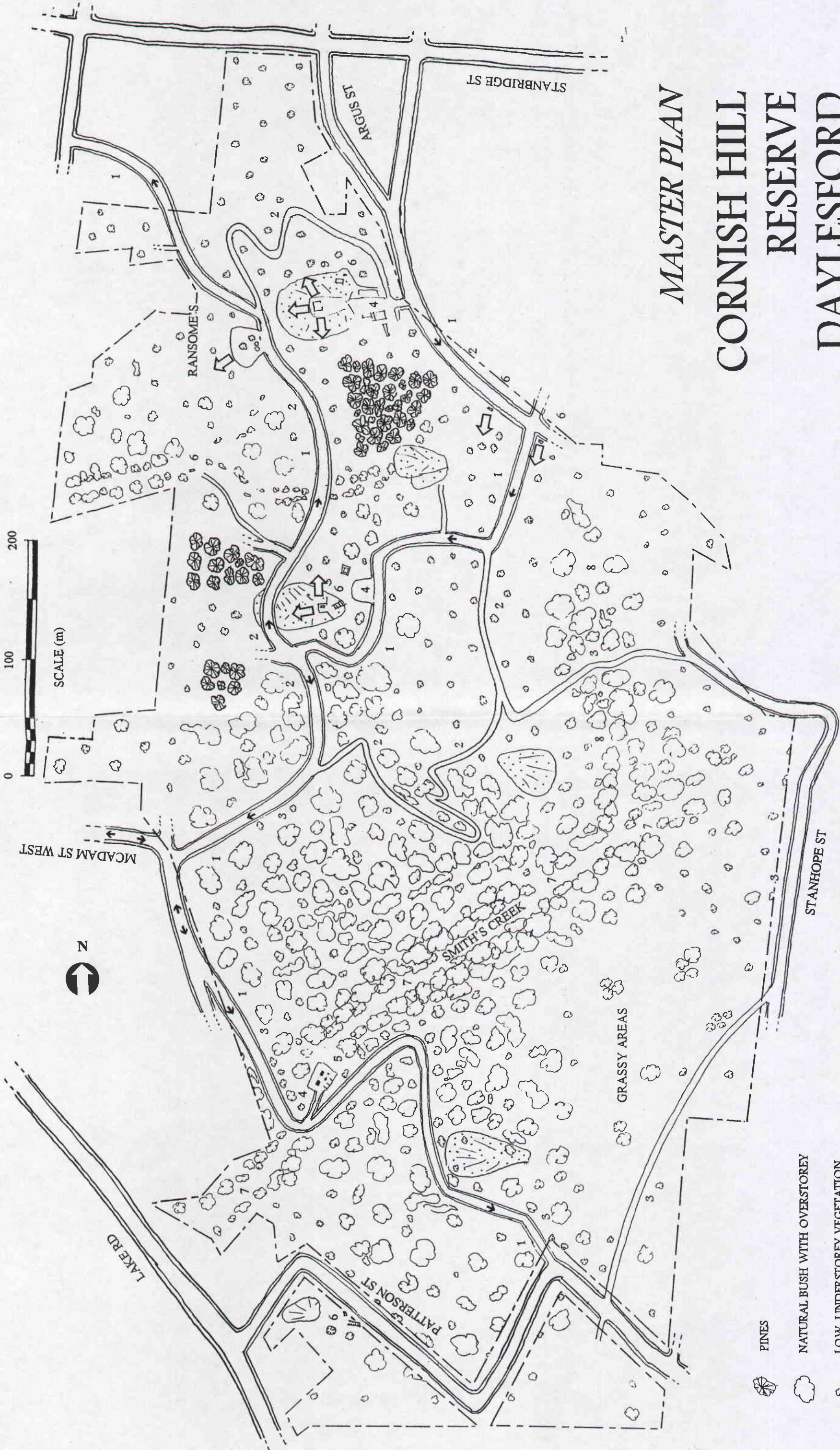
Top of Bonnard's mullock dump - Thomas' Lookout at rear, shaft marked by fencing at left (taken from Orford Street).
(photo A Swift February 1998)



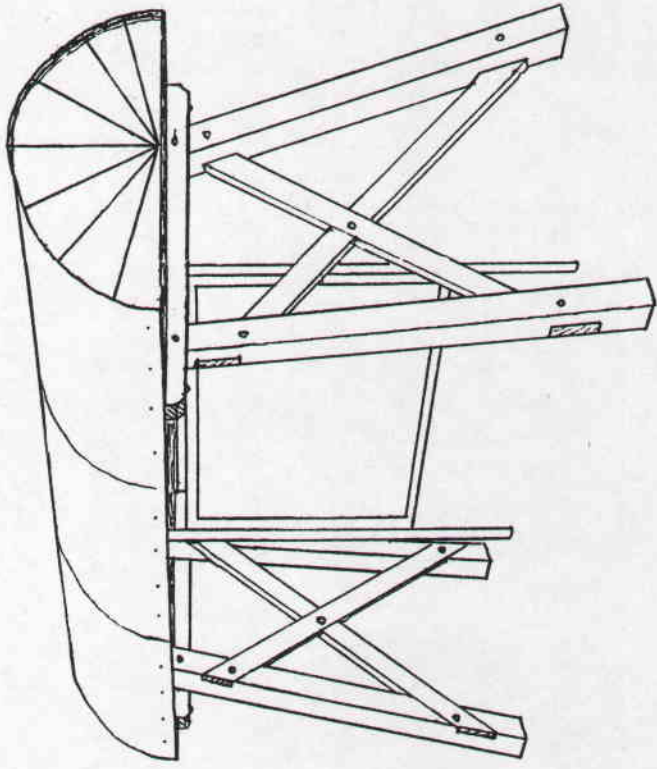
Brick engine-beds at Bonnard's Shaft.
(photo R Kaufman, April 1998)

MASTER PLAN CORNISH HILL RESERVE DAYLESFORD

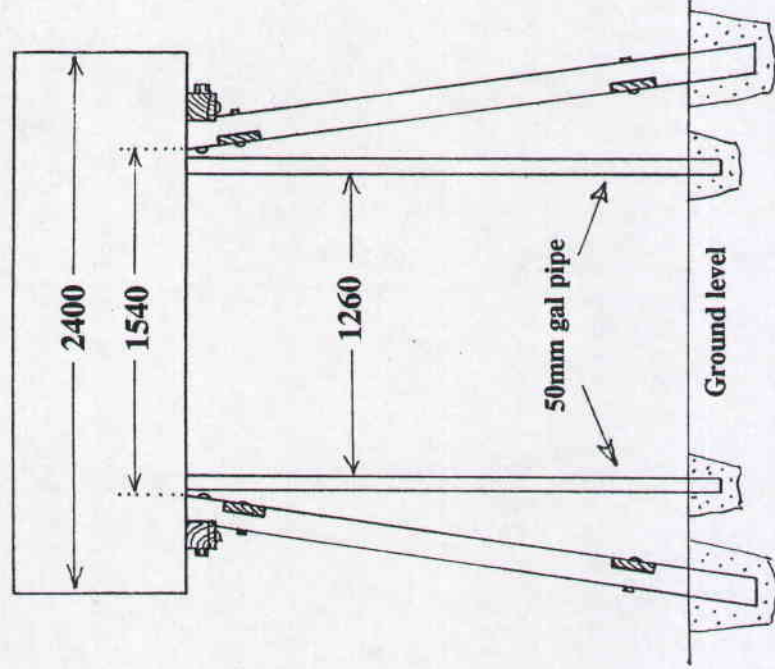
FOR
CORNISH HILL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
HEPBURN SHIRE COUNCIL
LRGM - SERVICES, APRIL 1998



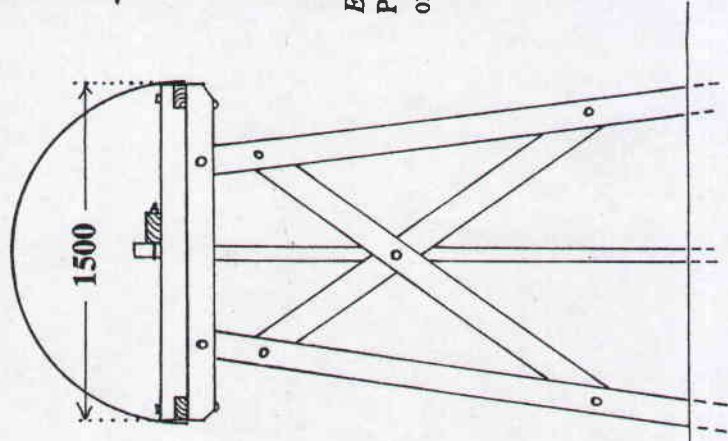
- PINES
- NATURAL BUSH WITH OVERSTOREY
- LOW, UNDERSTOREY VEGETATION
- ROAD
- WALKING TRACK
- MULLOCK DUMP (MAJOR)
- RESERVE BOUNDARY (APPROX)
- SIGNPOSTED ROADS & TRAILS ONLY SHOWN WITHIN RESERVE
- REVEGETATION - STREAMSIDE
- REVEGETATION - INSTUTION OF OVERSTOREY
- MAIN INFORMATION BOARD
- SCENIC VIEWS
- TRAFFIC FLOW
- SIGNPOSTED THROUGH-ROAD
- SHORT-LOOP WALKING TRAIL
- LONG-LOOP WALKING TRAIL
- PARKING
- PICNIC FACILITIES
- INTERPRETATIONS SIGN



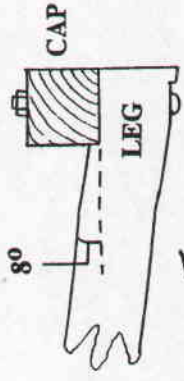
SIDE ELEVATION



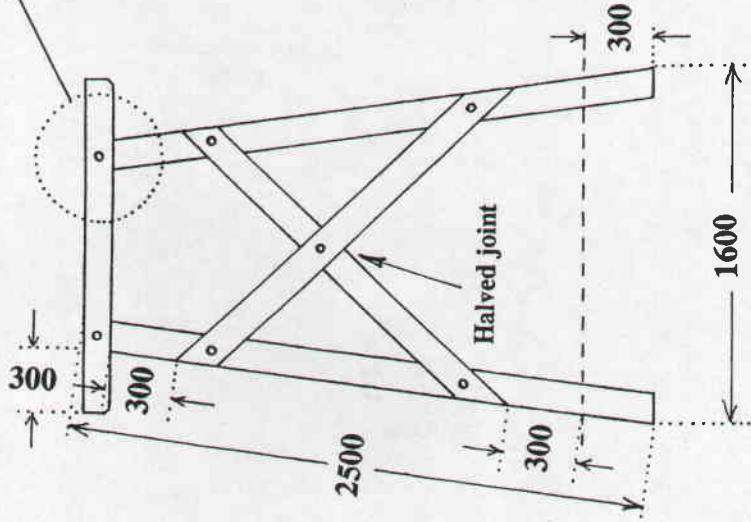
END ELEVATION



*End pieces (option):
Painted semicircles (0.75m radius)
of 5/8" (16mm) marine ply.*

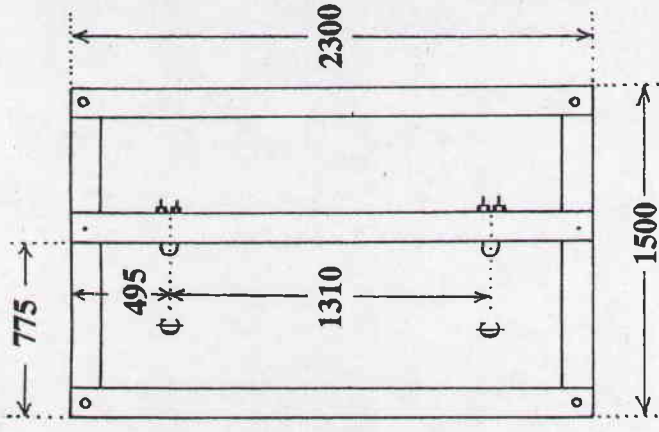


FRAMING



SIDE FRAMES X 2

Braces: 100x37
Other: 100x100



TOP FRAME

Centre strip: 100x37
Sides: 100x100

Materials:

- 20m 100 x 100mm rough-sawn hardwood
- 10m 100 x 37mm rough-sawn hardwood
- 5m 50mm OD galvanised pipe
- 3 rolled semi-circular colourbond corrugated sheets, 0.75m radius
- 14 125mm x 12mm coach screws
- 2 50mm U-bolts, long
- 4 225mm x 12mm coach screws
- Tek screws & 75mm nails



CORNISH HILL
DAYLESFORD, VIC

**MAIN
INFORMATION BOARD
SHELTER**

DESIGN	RJK	SCALE	
DRAWN	RJK	TRACED	
CHECKED	AS	PASSED	
APPROVED			
DATE	10/4/98		

CLIENT: HEPBURN SHIRE COUNCIL
76 VINCENT STREET
DAYLESFORD, VIC 3460

ROBERT J KAUFMAN

LRGM - SERVICES
22 Wills St
Bright, Vic 3744
Tel (03) 57 551628

DRAWING No.

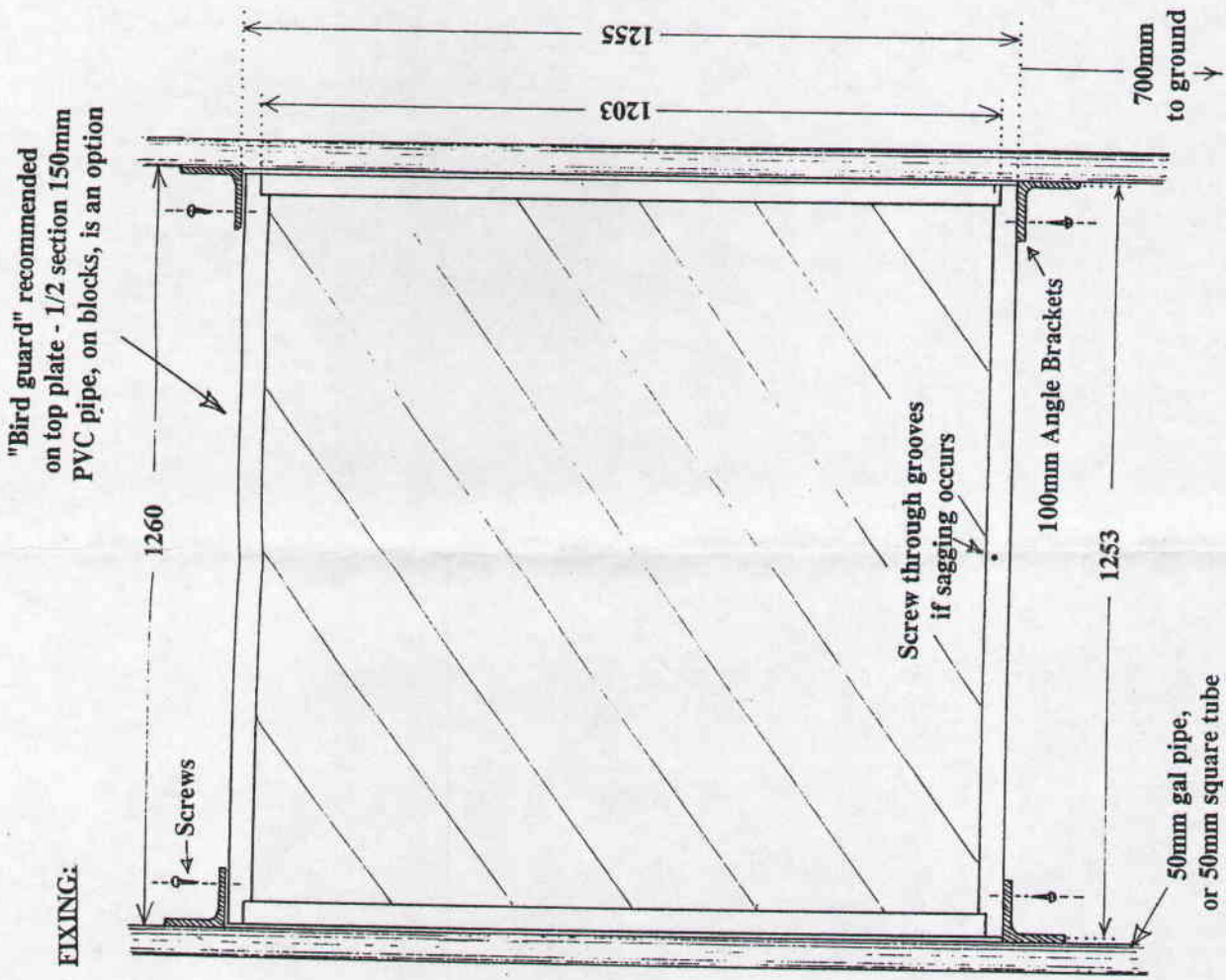
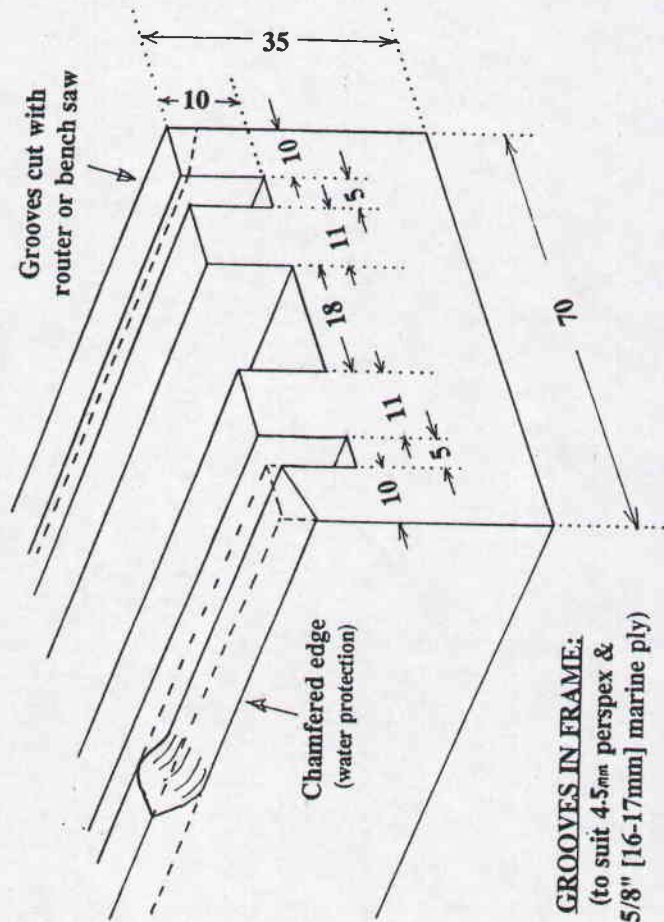
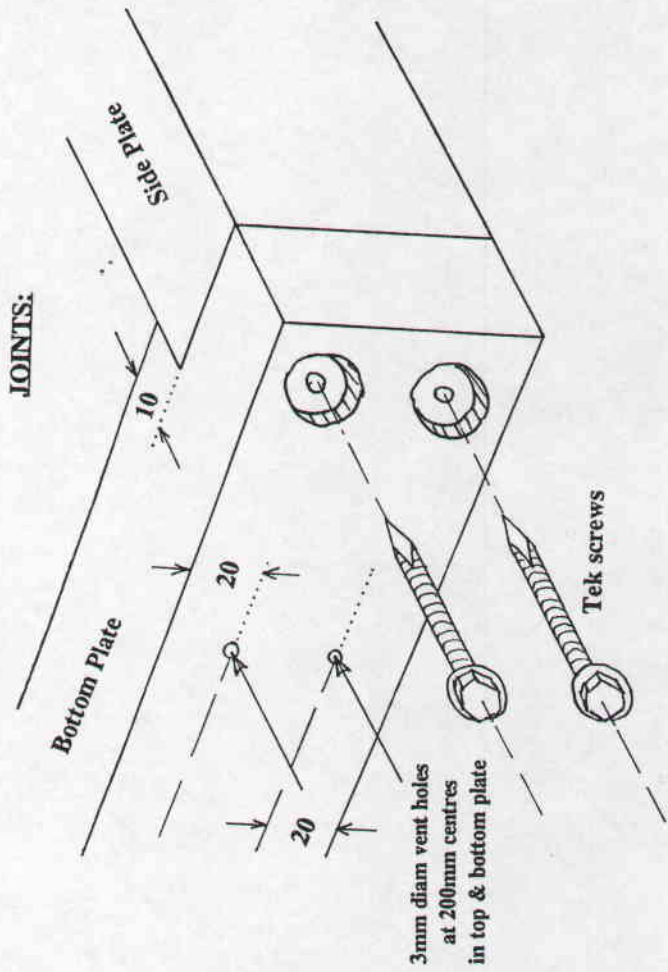
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SHEET SIZE

A3

REVISION

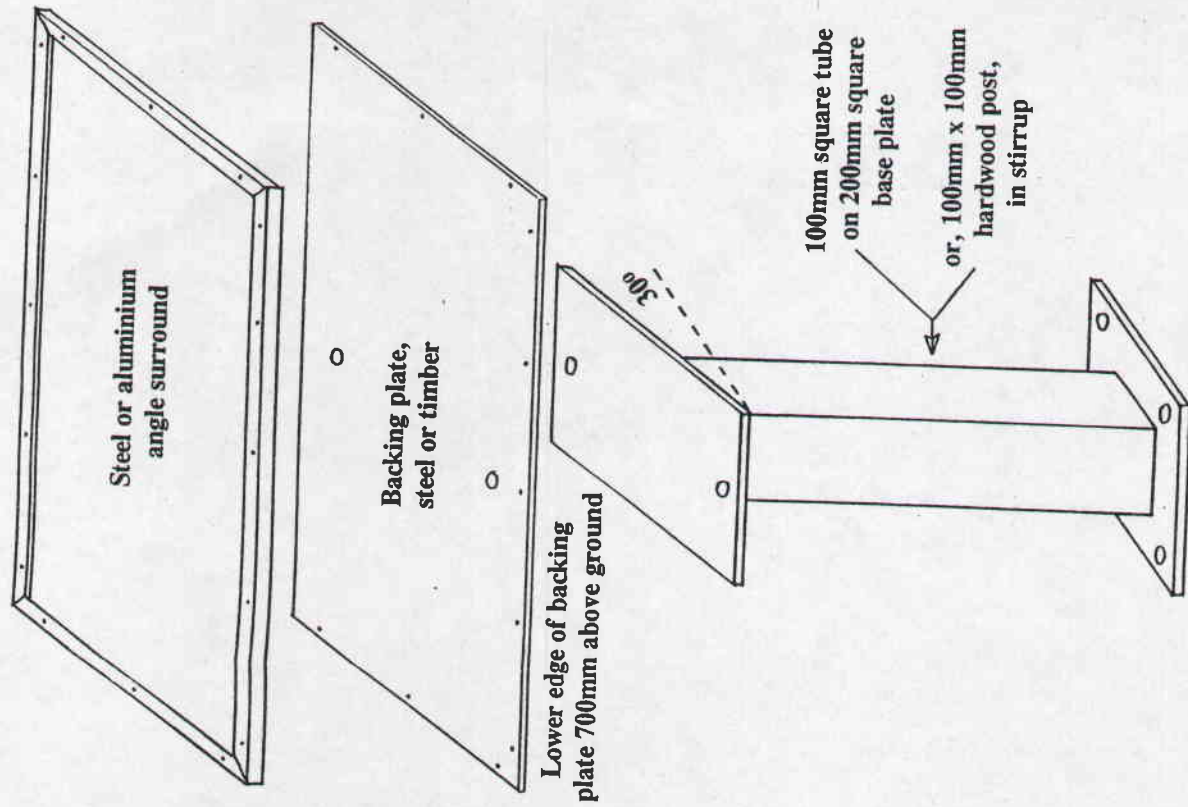
SHEET 1 OF 3



Materials:

- 2 sheets 1200x1200mm, 4.5mm Perspex
- 5m 70x35mm dressed pine
- 1 sheet 1200x1200mm 5/8" (16-17mm) marine ply
- 4 100mm angle brackets (welded to pipe)

Tek screws, screws, paint etc.



DESIGN OPTION FOR PEDESTAL STANDS
800mm x 400mm Photo Interpretation Boards

CORNISH HILL
DAYLESFORD, VIC

MAIN INFORMATION BOARD DESIGN

DESIGN	RJK	SCALE
DRAWN	RJK	TRACED
CHECKED	AS	PASSED
APPROVED		
DATE	10/4/98	

CLIENT: HEPBURN SHIRE COUNCIL
76 VINCENT STREET
DAYLESFORD, VIC 3460

ROBERT J KAUFMAN

LRGM - SERVICES
22 Wills Street
Bright, Vic 3741
Tel (03) 57 551628

DRAWING No.

2

SHEET SIZE

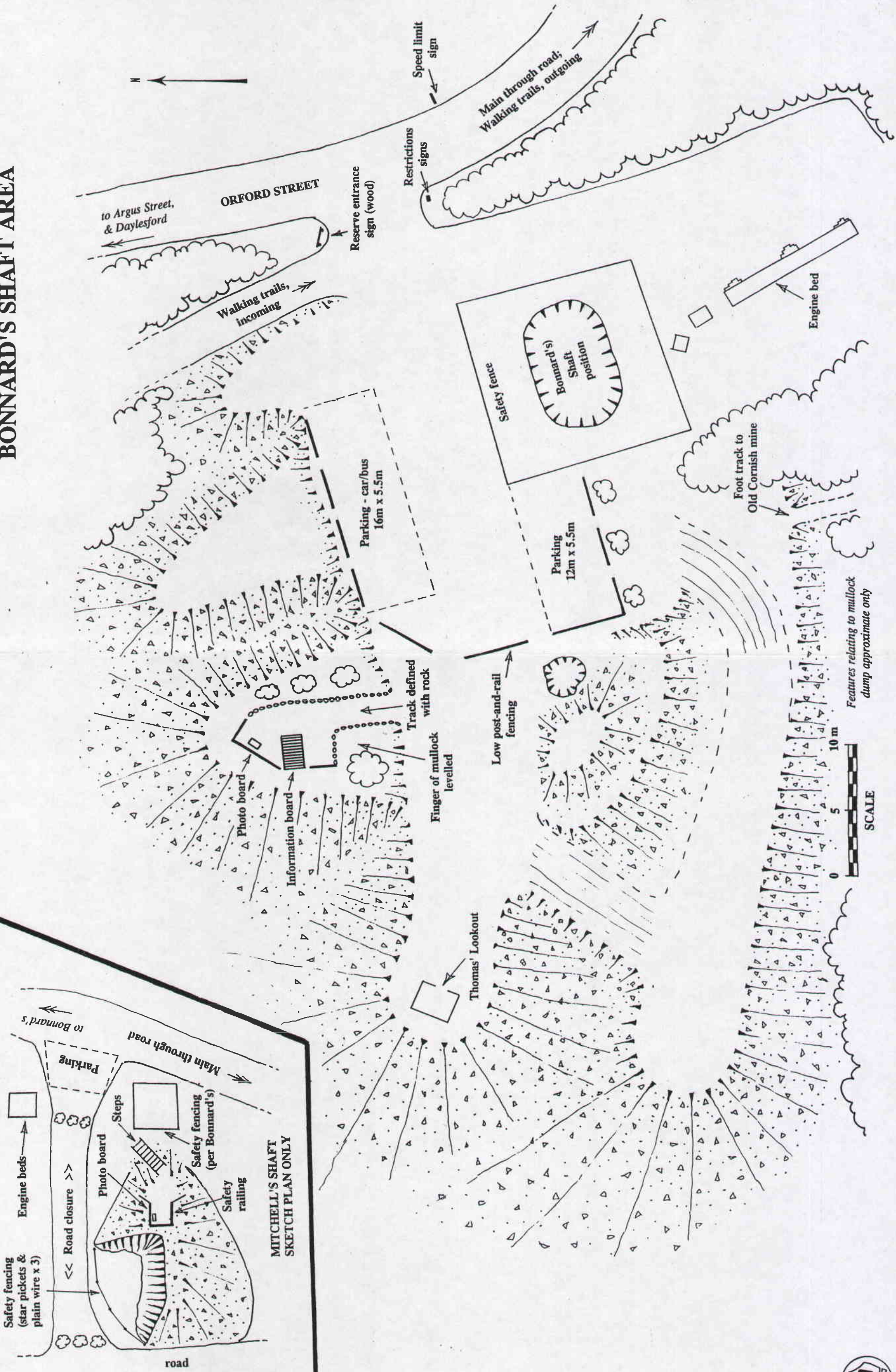
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REVISION

SHEET 2 OF 3



BONNARD'S SHAFT AREA



DRAWING No.

3

ROBERT J KAUFMAN

LRGM - SERVICES
22 Wills Street
Bright, Vic 3741
Tel (03) 57 551628

SHEET SIZE

A3

REVISION

SHEET **3** OF **3**

CLIENT: **HEPBURN SHIRE COUNCIL**

**76 VINCENT STREET
DAYLESFORD, VIC 3460**

DESIGN

RJK

SCALE

DRAWN

RJK

TRACED

CHECKED

AS

PASSED

APPROVED

AS

DATE

10/4/98

CORNISH HILL
DAYLESFORD, VIC

**SITE PLAN:
BONNARD'S SHAFT**

(WITH SKETCH PLAN OF MITCHELL'S)



CORNISH HILL RESERVE

TOWNSHIP OF DAYLESFORD

FIGURE 1: HISTORIC ZONE AND FACILITIES

KEY

	Reserve boundary		HISTORIC ZONE BOUNDARY
	Vehicle track		STAGE 1:
	Walking track		1 Thomas' Lookout
	Contour		2 Main information board
	Gully		3 Enamelled photo sign
	Mullock dump		4 Enamelled photo sign
			5 Enamelled photo sign
			6 Wooden sign
			STAGE 2:
			7 Enamelled photo sign
			8 Enamelled sign
			9 Wooden sign
			10 Wooden sign
			11 Enamelled sign
			12 Possible battery site and adits
			13 Wooden sign
			14 Informal picnic area

LRGM - Services August 1998







CORNISH HILL RESERVE
 TOWNSHIP OF DAYLESFORD
FIGURE 3: VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

KEY

	Reserve boundary		Essentially natural regeneration
	Vehicle track		Some active revegetation required for overstorey and habitat enhancement (Smith's Creek)
	Walking track		Vegetation managed for fire protection purposes
	Contour		Managed for scenic, landscape and historic purposes
	580		Pine/other conifer retention for landscape and other purposes
	Gully		
	Mullock dump		

LRCM - Services August 1988

1:4000



CORNISH HILL RESERVE
 TOWNSHIP OF DAYLESFORD
FIGURE 4: WALKING TRACKS

KEY

	Reserve boundary		Start loop, Basic Track T3
	Vehicle track		Long loop with connection to Jubilee Lake
	Walking track		Trackwork required, Stage 2
	Contour		
	Gully		
	Mulleck dump		

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