

Place name Gelliondale Briquette Plant

Survey Date:

Other name

Id: 795

Street Coal Pit Road

Last Update 9/07/2007

Locality Gelliondale

Postcode

Official Locality

Property No

Local Government Area Wellington Shire

Property Info

Precinct: Not in precinct

Easting 462100

Northing 5723600

Map 8220

Workshop number

Workshop votes

Field survey number

Community priority

Designer

Builder

Ownership

Built Date 1929 **Change Date** 1950

Description This site contains the remains of briquette plant built in early 1930s consisting of a series of concrete mounting blocks and associated machinery parts, together with scattered timber beams. The site also includes a water filled open cut coal mine, a large intact mullock heap and the remnants of both a tramway and a conveyor belt system.

The property is on the south side of South Gippsland Hwy, entrance to property is opposite Coal Mine Road, approximately 4km west of Gelliondale.

SOURCE
Victorian Heritage Inventory H8220-0008

Description: Date Started 1929; Date Finished ; Storeys 0; Desc MINING STRUCTURES;

Condition Ruinous

Integrity

Ruins/remnants

History The Gelliondale Brown Coal and Oil Co. commenced operations in 1930 and under the direction and ownership of James T Knox started manufacturing briquettes in 1934. The company ceased the production of briquettes in 1944 and was wound up in 1950. The concrete engine footings and machinery remains of the briquette plant today form part of an industrial complex comprised of a factory and conveyor belt system, a water frilled open-cut mine, a large mullock heap and the remnants of a tramway system.

The remains of the Gelliondale Briquette plant have an important association with the endeavors of James Knox and the Gelliondale Brown Coal and Oil Co. to retain the rights of individuals and of private enterprise on the face of active opposition from the State Government. The social associations of the site are an illustration of the lack of power granted to the private sector when a conflict of interests arises in relation to the utilization of natural resources, culminating in this instance in the passing of legislation, the 1950 Gelliondale Land (Mineral Lease) Act which granted the Crown authority for the resumption of both mineral leases and land.

REFERENCES

Certificate of Title Details: Vol 5387;Folio 290 (From: 20/03/28 to 01/01/50)

Site sheet, Photos, Slides, Drawings, Other

Heritage Protections Register	Reference	Zoning	Status
Planning Scheme	HO81		Listed
Victorian Heritage Inventory	H8220-0008		Listed
Victorian Heritage Register	H1058		Listed

National Estate

Research Required

Recommendations Conservation management plan.

Fieldwork priority?

Stage 1 Ranking Assessed & protected **Stage 2 priority** No Action: Already include

Final Ranking State significance **Final Recommendation** Amendment C26

Statement of significance The Gelliondale Briquette plant oils a demonstration of technical accomplishment in the history of briquette production and of the construction and lay- out of a brown-coal mining operation. Of Victoria's three original briquette production facilities the Gelliondale briquette plant is the only one which is represented by physical remains. Due to extended open-cut mining both of the Yallourn sites have been completely removed. It is also the only remaining site that is representative of non-government operated briquette production facility.

The site of Gelliondale Briquette Plant is a rare example of a briquette plant. It is the oldest remaining example of briquette production processes in Victoria and is the only site which remains as a record of the history of briquette manufacturing in the State. The processes and machinery used in the production of briquettes at Gelliondale pre-date and differ to some extent from those used at the later, currently operational Morwell plant. The Gelliondale Briquette plant is much smaller in scale than the Morwell plant and therefore is representative of a different approach to the utilization of resources.

The Gelliondale Briquette plant demonstrates an association with an important figure as it was owned and operated by James T. Knox (1889-1967), a civil engineer who is noted for promoting the use of concrete in the Australian construction industry. He is purportedly the designer of the original 1937 concrete southern stand at the Melbourne Cricket Ground. Knox's innovative projects extended beyond building design and included attempts to introduce advanced farming technology and his operation of the Gelliondale Brown Coal and Oil Co (Heritage Victoria).

Extent of designation 1. All the objects, structures a

Informant

Notes

Follow up

Bibliography