

Appendix C: Consultant Report Heritage Landscapes

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Queenstown Lakes District Council Heritage Landscapes Appraisals (based upon a desk-top appraisal of published information; September 2014)

QLDC DP Ref: A10-1

Title: Skippers Heritage Landscape

Description:

The Skippers Heritage Landscape (SHL) encompasses a substantial portion of the Shotover River valley that includes the Skippers Road from Coronet Peak Road to the Shotover River. It then takes in the range of hills between the Shotover River and Green Gate Creek as far as the Maori Point Saddle and confluence with Stoney Creek; the boundary extends westwards up Stony Creek as far as Yates Terrace. From Stoney Creek Terrace, the heritage landscape extends north along either side of the Shotover River valley taking in the Skippers Township, the lower reach of Skippers Creek, and ending at Sandhill Cut, just north of the Shotover-Sandhill Creek confluence at the Branches Road.

The topography of the Skippers Heritage Landscape includes the narrow, twisting, hillside route of the Skippers Road, the wide and frequently deep gorges of the Shotover River valley, the steep valley hillsides belonging to Coronet Peak and the Harris Mountain ranges and the previously flat sluiced terraces.

Significant Elements:

- Includes a large number of the most significant archaeological sites relating to the historic Wakatipu gold rush and mining era of the 1860s and onwards.
- Includes the now-deserted, historic gold mining township of Skippers along with the 1901 suspension Bridge and restored Skippers Point School and Mt Aurum Homestead.
- Maori Point was one of the earliest and richest alluvial gold mining beaches in the Shotover Valley (1863) and its name records the finding of gold by two Māori prospectors, an uncommon record amongst the European-dominated mining sites.
- Skippers Road (1883-1890) is famous for its precipitous and winding route to the Shotover River, which also incorporates a significant mining history and retains visible archaeological remains of the pack road revetting and construction techniques (1863).

- There are numerous archaeological gold mining sites within the SHL that include huts, water races, tailings, sluicing remains, pipes, cableways, dams and mining excavations.
- The Shotover Valley was one of the Māori traditional routes to the West Coast.
- The SHL encompasses one of the most dramatic and scenic valleys in the Wakatipu Basin and combines both significant natural history and historic heritage elements such as the Bridal Veil Falls and Pinchers Bluff.
- A small section of the SHL is within the much larger Mt Aurum Recreation Reserve (the former Mt Aurum Station) that is managed by the Department of Conservation.

Summary Statement of Heritage Significance:

The Skippers Heritage Landscape (SHL) represents some of the most historically and archaeologically significant, 19th century gold mining sites in Otago and Southern New Zealand. Together, the diverse gold mining sites and features form an historically rich landscape that embodies the 1860s gold mining efforts and challenges of early miners, as well as later, more sophisticated mining technology that was needed to access the more difficult deposits of gold. In combination with the remote and stunning natural landscape of the Shotover River valley, the SHL offers a unique, largely intact, and publically accessible historic gold mining experience for visitors to the Shotover River. Within the SHL, the precipitous later 19th century Skippers Road (1883 – 1890), the deserted Skippers Township (1862) and the 1901 Skippers Suspension Bridge are all highly significant heritage sites that have been recognised by their Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga listings. In addition, over 130 archaeological sites within the SHL are entered on the New Zealand Archaeological Association Archaeological Site Recording Scheme, demonstrating the outstanding heritage significance of the Skippers Heritage Landscape.

Notes, Issues & Recommendations:

- There are 4 HNZPT listings within the SHL boundary (Mt Aurum Homestead and Skippers School complex, Category II; Skippers Road, Category I; Pleasant Terrace Workings, Category I; Wong Gongs Terrace Historic Area).
- NZAA sites: over 130 counted within the SHL boundary with a dense distribution of archaeological sites along the Shotover River from Sandhill Cut down to Stapletons Terrace, after which it thins out along the Skippers Road and Green Gate Creek.
- A small section of the SHL, focused on the Skippers Township area, lies within the Mt Aurum Recreation Reserve managed by Doc.
- The rationale for the SHL boundary appears to be based upon the spread of identified NZAA archaeological sites along the Shotover River, with a central focus on the Skippers Township area and incorporating the dense concentrations of gold working sites and huts immediately north of Skippers, the lower reach of Skippers Creek, the lower reach of Stony Creek, south of

Skippers including Maori Point, and down to the Devil's Elbow. Outlying sites along Green Gate Creek (including the Green Gates Hotel site) and Skippers Road have also been included within the SHL boundary. The existing southern boundary is formed by Skippers Road itself.

- Inclusions/exclusions: The north end of the SHL boundary on the Shotover River and along Skippers Creek appears to have arbitrarily stopped at these points with identified archaeological sites omitted that are located fairly close by (e.g. within 150 metres). The boundary along the true right of the Shotover River below Maori Point Flat also omits a number of sites that lie immediately west of the boundary along the valley (e.g. Boomerang Terrace and Charlestown). The inclusion of Skippers Road reflects its listed status, but the boundary should be widened to include the environs of the road and Long Gully.
- **Recommendation:**
 - A detailed review of the boundaries to rationalise the included/excluded sites should be undertaken. The review should consider inter alia –
Whether the boundaries should be extended to some, or all, ridges to ensure that the full landscape character encapsulated in the SHL;
How the boundaries around Skippers Road and Long Gully can be extended to ensure this crucial part of the SHL is included; and
How unregistered, but still highly significant, features such as sluice terraces can be adequately recognised within the SHL.

This review can only be undertaken by a site visit and more detailed assessment of the SHL.

Threats & Vulnerabilities:

- Incremental loss of archaeological sites and features within the Skippers Heritage Landscape leading to a reduction of its overall heritage significance.
- Increased traffic volumes and road upgrading along both the Skippers Road and Branches Road may adversely impact the high level of heritage significance through a gradual loss of historic and archaeological features and the intrusive effects of higher traffic numbers.
- The formation of new tracks (particularly bike tracks) into and within the SHL has the potential to erode existing archaeological features and create a gradual degradation of the historic landscape quality of the area through the informal creation of side tracks and alternative routes from the main tracks.

Key features to be protected:

- The Skippers Road and its historic revetments and construction features.
- The Skippers suspension bridge and former township area.
- All other known archaeological sites and listed historic places within the SHL.

- Unregistered archaeological sites, including sluiced terraces.
- Unobstructed views along the Skippers Canyon section of the Shotover River.

QLDC DP Ref: A10-2

Title: Macetown Heritage Landscape

Description:

The Macetown Heritage Landscape (MHL) encompasses the valley of the Gold or Rich Burn at its northern extent and continues south-east to its confluence with the Arrow River, taking in the lower reaches of a number of smaller creeks feeding into the Rich Burn. Its confluence with the Arrow River also marks the beginning of the mining 'ghost town' of Macetown that is laid out along the banks of the Arrow River for approximately 2km. At the Mt Soho Homestead/Eight Mile Creek Hut, the MHL widens considerably, its boundary taking in the Arrow River to the east and the Big Hill Walkway to the west, ending just to the north of Arrowtown town centre.

The topography of the Macetown Heritage Landscape includes the sinuous river valleys of the Rich Burn and Arrow River, the wide terrace of the Macetown Township, and the hilly terrain of Big Hill.

Significant Elements:

- The Macetown Heritage Landscape is focused upon the now-deserted gold mining township of Macetown that has left many tangible traces of its plan, buildings and occupants from its founding in 1862 until its final desertion in the 1930s.
- The Macetown township is recognised by its designation as a historic reserve managed by the Department of Conservation.
- Macetown itself is a highly significant relic township of the early gold mining period whose significance lies in the evidence of alluvial (1860s) and quartz (1870s) mining remains, the surviving buildings (e.g. the bakehouse) and garden plans, and the park-like planting of species such as spruce and ash, and ornamental plants such as lilac and daffodils.
- Part of Macetown's significance is its remoteness, both historically and in the present, which resulted in the unusual preservation of portions of the town's plan and features allowing a greater level of interpretation and appreciation of what an historic gold mining town would have been like in the late 19th century.
- The Macetown Heritage landscape encapsulates more than just the historic township of Macetown, but a much broader archaeological and historic mining landscape that includes significant sites and features in the Rich Burn valley (e.g. the Premier Battery, Anderson's Battery, and the Homeward Boundary Battery) and sites along the Arrow River south of Macetown, including the Shamrock Company water race, Soho mining camp, Scole's Tunnel, miners' huts, and the Macetown road itself.
- Significant mining tracks within the MHL include the Macetown Road (completed 1884), Big Hill Track (the alternative route to Macetown; 1864), Hayes Creek Track and Advanced Peak Track.

Summary Statement of Heritage Significance:

Although it covers a large area, the Macetown Heritage Landscape is significant for its concentration of historic gold mining sites, focused on the deserted mining town of Macetown, which span from the earliest exploitation of gold in the Arrowtown area in 1862, through to the end of gold mining in the 1930s. Such a continuum of mining activity – first alluvial then hard-rock or quartz – has left a distinct and intelligible landscape with diverse features and stories linked by a series of mining tracks that still allow access to this remote and stunning countryside. The MHL encompasses three key areas: the Rich Burn valley, Macetown and the Arrow River valley, all three of which have distinctive characters and features that coalesce to form a broader mining heritage landscape of regional significance. Among these, Macetown is highly significant, representing the surviving remains of a remote 19th century mining village to which stories are still attached and some history has been traced of its founders, occupants and demise. Situated within its larger mining heritage landscape context, Macetown can be interpreted as part of a community of gold mining activity sites, which are a key part of the wider Otago gold mining story.

Notes, Issues & Recommendations:

- MHL is much more extensive than the Macetown historic reserve boundary (managed by DoC) and includes a large area to the south including Mt Soho Homestead, Hayes Creek, Saw Pit Gully, Big Hill and the lower reaches of the Arrow River.
- There are no HNZPT sites listed within the MHL.
- NZAA sites: approximately 34 archaeological sites included within the MHL. There are a number of sites lying just outside of the MHL boundary (e.g. 9 along the south side of the boundary along the Rich Burn) and which appear to be related to sites within the boundary (e.g. at the Homeward Bound Battery site). All of the key Macetown NZAA sites are included within the MHL, but the concentration of sites along the Eight Mile Creek, south-west of the Mt Soho Homestead site, are excluded. 7 sites included along the lower reaches of the Arrow River leading into Arrowtown with only two outlying sites excluded further up Soho Creek to the north-east of the boundary.
- The inclusion of the Rich Burn historic mining sites and the Big Hill and Arrow River sites is considered sensible as this reflects the broader mining heritage landscape context that the Macetown Historic Reserve is situated within.
- The exclusion of the Eight Mile Creek gold mining sites seems inconsistent given the inclusion of other comparable sites along the Rich Burn valley.
- **Recommendations:**
 - A further review of the boundaries to rationalise the included/excluded sites, but essentially the current boundaries appear reasonable with the possibility of some minor alteration to include the Eight Mile Creek archaeological sites. The extent to which boundaries should be raised to ridge lines needs to be assessed on site.

- Possible re-naming of the Heritage Landscape to recognise the Rich Burn/Arrow River archaeological areas.

Threats & Vulnerabilities:

- Incremental damage to, and loss of, archaeological sites and features within the Macetown Heritage Landscape from increasing visitor numbers to the Arrow River, Macetown and Rich Burn historic mining areas, leading to a reduction of its overall heritage significance.
- Increased damage to standing archaeological features such as the Macetown cottages and garden walls, hut sites and extant mining infrastructure (e.g. the crushing batteries) from increasing visitor access and interaction may adversely impact the high level of heritage significance through a gradual loss of historic and archaeological fabric.
- Any increase in off-road vehicles through the MHL and in particular, Macetown, has the potential to damage existing historic tracks, trails and other sensitive historic features, resulting in the gradual degradation of the historic and natural landscape within the MHL.
- The formation of new tracks into and within the MHL have the potential to erode surviving archaeological features such as existing mining tracks through the informal creation of side tracks and alternative routes from the main tracks.

Key features to be protected:

- The Macetown Historic Reserve area including the Macetown Road.
- The Rich Burn mining remains (e.g. Anderson's Battery and the Homeward Bound Battery; the Sunrise Mine Office).
- The historic mining tracks of Hayes Creek, Sawpit Gully and Advance Peak and similar tracks within the MHL.
- All other known archaeological sites and listed historic places within the MHL.

QLDC DP Ref: A10-3

Title: Seffertown & Moke Lake Heritage Landscape

Description:

The Seffertown and Moke Lake Heritage Landscape (SMLHL) encompasses two separately bounded areas. The Seffertown Heritage Landscape extends from Moonlight Creek, just west of its confluence with Montgomery's Creek on the eastern foot of the Richardson Mountains, and follows the Moonlight Creek south-eastwards until its confluence with Moke Creek. The Moke Creek Heritage Landscape begins approximately 500 metres downstream of the confluence, following Moke Creek for approximately 2.5 kilometres along either side of its banks. Both Heritage Landscapes are focused upon small, but significant early gold mining activity areas; Seffertown (or Sefferstown as it was also known) being the site of a former (alluvial) mining village located at the confluence of Moonlight and Moke Creeks with a complex of dams, huts and water races further north on the Sheepyard Terrace/Jones Saddle area of Moonlight Creek. Moke Creek was the location of a copper mine and alluvial gold mining.

The topography of the SMLHL primarily includes the narrow valleys of the Moonlight and Moke Creeks, which cut through the more mountainous areas to the east and west, with smaller creeks feeding into them.

Significant Elements:

- Seffertown was a gold rush tent village with over 3,000 occupants at its peak in 1863 and has an interesting history and longevity, with the last two villagers remaining into the 1950s and still connected with mining.
- Seffertown (or more accurately 'Sefferstown') was named from its occupation by the large Seffers family (of Crimean/Russian origin) and contained several stores (the Seffers owned one), a hotel, post office and library.
- The settlement co-existed with Moke Creek village and a stone school building still stands that served both settlements.
- The archaeological remains of stone walls, hut foundations, at least two complete buildings (the Seffers house and Moke Creek School) and ornamental tree plantings (e.g. poplars) survive to mark the location of Sefferstown/Moke Creek.
- Moonlight Creek encompasses the extensive and clearly visible remains of the Moonlight gold fields, with a long (8.8km) water race (and siphons) running west-to-east to the alluvial mining remains at Sheepyard Terrace and further down the Moonlight Creek. The archaeological remains include earth and stone dams, earth reservoirs, sluicings and tailing piles, in-stream wing dams and hut sites.

- Moke Creek is significant for its (disused) copper mine, opened in 1863, and gold deposits discovered in 1869. Copper continued to be extracted into the 1930s and later, and the mine was still open in the early 1970s.

Summary Statement of Heritage Significance:

The Seffertown and Moke Lake Heritage Landscapes are significant for their concentrations of historic gold and copper mining remains, which include both mining infrastructure and settlement sites. The extensive and well-preserved complex of features along Moonlight Creek and Moke Creek are an important part of the wider history of the Wakatipu gold rush, linking closely with the Shotover River, Arrow River and Macetown/Rich Burn goldfields. Sefferton/Moke Creek was the site, albeit short-lived, of an early tented gold rush township that settled into a remote, mountain community that survived into the 1950s. Its remains provide tangible reminders of the many local stories that survive of the mining community and their hardships and life in the mountain goldfields of Otago.

Issues & Recommendations:

- There are no HNZPT sites listed within the SMLHL.
- NZAA Sites: there are 2 archaeological sites within the SMLHL boundary (E41/200 and 202) and 2 related sites (E41/256 and 200) that are excluded from the extent of the SMLHL.
- The historic Moke Creek settlement and Seffertown are essentially the same/interrelated settlement site; the latter refers to its connection with the large Seffers family and appears to have been an alternative name for the Moke Creek village area.
- **Recommendations:**
 - The possibility of the renaming of the Moke Lake HL to the Moke Creek Heritage Landscape should be considered to more accurately reflect its historic origins and geographic focus.
 - Alternatively, it would make sense to amalgamate the two HL into one and consider renaming it the *Moonlight – Moke Creek Heritage Landscape*.
 - The current boundary should be slightly extended to include the two outlying NZAA sites (E41/256 and E41/201) to rationalise the inclusion of the known archaeological sites related to the SMLHL group. The extent to which boundaries should be raised to ridge lines needs to be assessed on site.

Threats & Vulnerabilities:

- Incremental damage to, and loss of, archaeological sites and features within the Sefferton and Moke Lake Heritage Landscape from potential increases in visitor numbers to the historic mining areas via the Moke Lake Road access, leading to a reduction of its overall heritage significance.

- The formation of any new tracks into and within the SMLHL have the potential to erode surviving archaeological features such as existing mining tracks through the informal creation of side tracks and alternative routes from the main tracks.
- The risk of an increasing spread of pines and other masking vegetation in the Sheepyard Terrace section of the historic Moonlight mine features is likely to have an adverse impact upon the condition and legibility of the extensive surviving features (e.g. earth and stone dams, water races and tailings) in this area.

Key features to be protected:

- The former mining settlement remains at Moke Creek/Sefferton including the surviving cottages/huts, gardens and plantings.
- The copper mining site along Moke Lake Road.
- Moke Lake Road and the historic track to Butchers Hut along the true right bank of the Moonlight Creek.
- The extensive stone and earthwork mining remains centred on Sheepyard Terrace and the Moonlight Creek.
- The 8.8km water race leading from above Montgomery's Creek to the Sheepyard Terrace area and below.
- All other known archaeological sites and listed historic places within the SMLHL.

QLDC DP Ref: A10-4

Title: Glenorchy Heritage Landscape

Description:

The Glenorchy Heritage Landscape (GHL) lies to the east of Glenorchy township. It encompasses an area extending from Mount Judah Road, Mt Judah and Mt Alaska in the south, to the western slopes of Mt McIntosh to the north. A westerly spur in the boundary takes in a section of Long Gully and the slopes of the peak above. The focus of the GHL are the 19th and 20th century scheelite (tungsten ore) mines located primarily on Mt Judah, Mt McIntosh, Black Peak and Long Gully. The GHL also incorporates the tracks dating from the late 19th and early 20th centuries that were cut to access the different mines and bring the scheelite down to the battery on Mount Judah Road.

The topography of the Glenorchy Heritage Landscape is mountainous with steep stream valleys and high peaks reaching nearly 2,000 metres ASL.

Significant Elements:

- Represents an historic and more recent scheelite mining landscape – a change from the dominant gold mining heritage landscapes found in the region although not fundamentally different in morphology.
- Although scheelite has been mined elsewhere in New Zealand, the Glenorchy mines area is significant as the main mining focus and producer of tungsten ore in the 19th and 20th century.
- Glenorchy scheelite mining commenced on a commercial level in 1885 with the Mt Judah Mine and continued until the 1980s with the Bonnie Jean and Heather Jock Mines, so has a continuity far longer than almost any of the historic gold mining fields.
- The clusters of mines, access tracks, cableway and water races on Mt Judah, Mt McIntosh and Black Peak form a distinctive and unique pattern of mining operations spread over a hundred year period that reflects the exploration and expansion of the scheelite mines across this area.
- The development of the mining activities within the Glenorchy Heritage Landscape have an accessible history that has been documented (e.g. Bradshaw 1997), and this provides further support for the significance of its scheelite mining heritage.
- The historic importance of scheelite/tungsten ore mining at Glenorchy was reflected in the take-over of the Mt Judah and Paradise Mines by the Government in 1942 to increase ore production for the war effort.

Summary Statement of Heritage Significance:

The Glenorchy Heritage Landscape is significant for its specific scheelite mining activities that extended from the 1880s until the 1980s, which have left a significant group of mine sites and infrastructure, along with a unique social history of the people who worked there. They in turn, represent the hard won and sometimes fruitless endeavours of a close-knit community of miners that spanned a hundred years of mining at Glenorchy. The GHL encompasses the majority of the key mine sites, tracks, a cableway and sections of water races that represented the primary scheelite producing area in New Zealand. The combination of private and state-owned mines is also a unique part of the GHL's history and one not paralleled in the ubiquitous and contemporary gold mining industry of the Wakatipu Basin. Overall, the scheelite mining history symbolised by the Glenorchy Heritage Landscape is a unique one of national heritage significance.

Issues & Recommendations:

- There are no specific boundary issues for the GHL as the boundaries incorporate virtually all of the known scheelite-related mining sites within the area.
- There are no HNZPT sites listed within the Glenorchy Heritage Landscape.
- NZAA sites: there are 18 archaeological sites listed within the GHL and its boundaries incorporate all of the scheelite-related sites listed on the NZAA database. Three sites lie beyond the south-west boundary of the GHL, but these relate to gold mining activities and not scheelite mining.
- Inclusions/exclusions: The boundaries of the GHL appear to have included all of the listed archaeological sites in addition to many of the other scheelite mine sites and tracks that do not appear in the NZAA database (e.g. those on Black Peak and Mt Alaska). The boundary also includes a spur of land to the west of Long Gully that, presumably, has been included for the mine access track from Chinamans Flat, further west, to the Long Gully mines via a small, un-named peak.
- **Recommendations:**
 - The extreme northern tip of the GHL boundary should be checked/revised to ensure it includes the Black Peak Mine that lies to the north-east of the summit. The extent to which boundaries should be raised to ridge lines should also be assessed on site.

Threats & Vulnerabilities:

- Incremental damage to, and loss of, archaeological sites and features within the Glenorchy Heritage Landscape from potential increases in visitor numbers to the historic scheelite mining area via the Mount Judah Road access, leading to a reduction of its overall heritage significance.
- The formation of any new tracks into and within the GHL have the potential to erode surviving archaeological features such as existing mining tracks and

mine openings and infrastructure, through the informal creation of side tracks and alternative routes from the main tracks.

- The scheelite mines at Glenorchy are not well known to the wider public and have a low level of information/signage available, which makes the interpretation and appreciation of their national heritage significance challenging.

Key features to be protected:

- All mines, mining huts, the cableway and track ways within the Glenorchy Heritage Landscape boundary (including the Black Peak Mine).
- The more accessible mine sites along the Mount Judah Road.
- All other known archaeological sites and historic places within the GHL.







