

SORELL HERITAGE SURVEY

Address: Pearces Road Pawleena 7172		UPI: FKN04	PID: 0
Name: PEARCES HILL LIME KILN			
Feature Type: Limekiln	Structure Type	Dating: 1891 - 1915	
	Site Feature Type	Access Restrictions: Restricted	
		Inspection Date: D Parham December	
		Style: Not applicable	
		Grid ref: 5426 548920 5266300	
Indication of Significance: High probable significance Potential archaeological significance		Theme: Mining	
Material: Brick & stone		Listings:	
Condition: Deteriorated			
Integrity: Disturbed or damaged			
National Estate Criteria: B2 C2 D2		Photograph Index: 22: 8-16	
Risk: Excavation: ☐ Development: ☐ Maintenance: ☒ Vandalism: ☐			

SITE DESCRIPTION:

A lime kiln and associated small quarry. Fossiliferous limestone is widespread across the hill as are small depressions or borrowpits where the limestone was collected. The kiln consists of a small 'D' shaped structure comprised of locally quarried stone (probably from an adjacent small quarry). The most elaborate part of the structure is a vertical wall incorporating the grate which consists of an arch constructed using hand made clay bricks. Tram rails lie scattered in a shallow cutting that trends directly west from the grate prompting speculation that trucks on bogeys may have transported the lime a short distance from the kiln where it was transferred to drays for the steep descent.

A stone chimney butt on the crest of the hill may be associated with the site - possibly the residence of the limeburner.

HISTORY:

Lime was widely used in the building industry (in mortars and plasters) and as a soil 'sweetener' in agricultural contexts. Kilns were typically situated high on hillsides to catch the breeze but just below the crest so that drays could discharge into them. Large scale enterprises usually utilised kilns constructed in pairs so that one could be cooling while the other was being charged and burnt thereby maximising production.

The kiln on Pearces Hill is a single 'D' kiln which suggests a low level of production for local use. The kiln is an intermittent type, that is, it was loaded fired and emptied for each load of lime. This process was expensive in both labour and fuel as, unlike the larger continuous operations, the kiln cooled down after each load. The entire cycle could take up to seven days. It is not clear whether the kiln operated as a 'flare' kiln, whereby the fuel and limestone were kept separate or a 'mixed feed' kiln where fuel and stone were loaded in alternating layers. Despite their limitations 'D' kilns were cheap to construct and since it is likely the demand for lime was low in the district, the operator probably considered it unnecessary to construct a more elaborate and expensive continuous type kiln.

Kilns were generally constructed where the raw material source was located close to the market. The stimulus for establishment of a limekiln operation may have been agriculturally based or for single projects such as the construction of a large house requiring substantial amounts of lime.

BOUNDARY:

The listing boundary is defined by all the land above the 120 metre contour on that portion of Pearces Hill situated on land parcel 1252.

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COMMENTS:

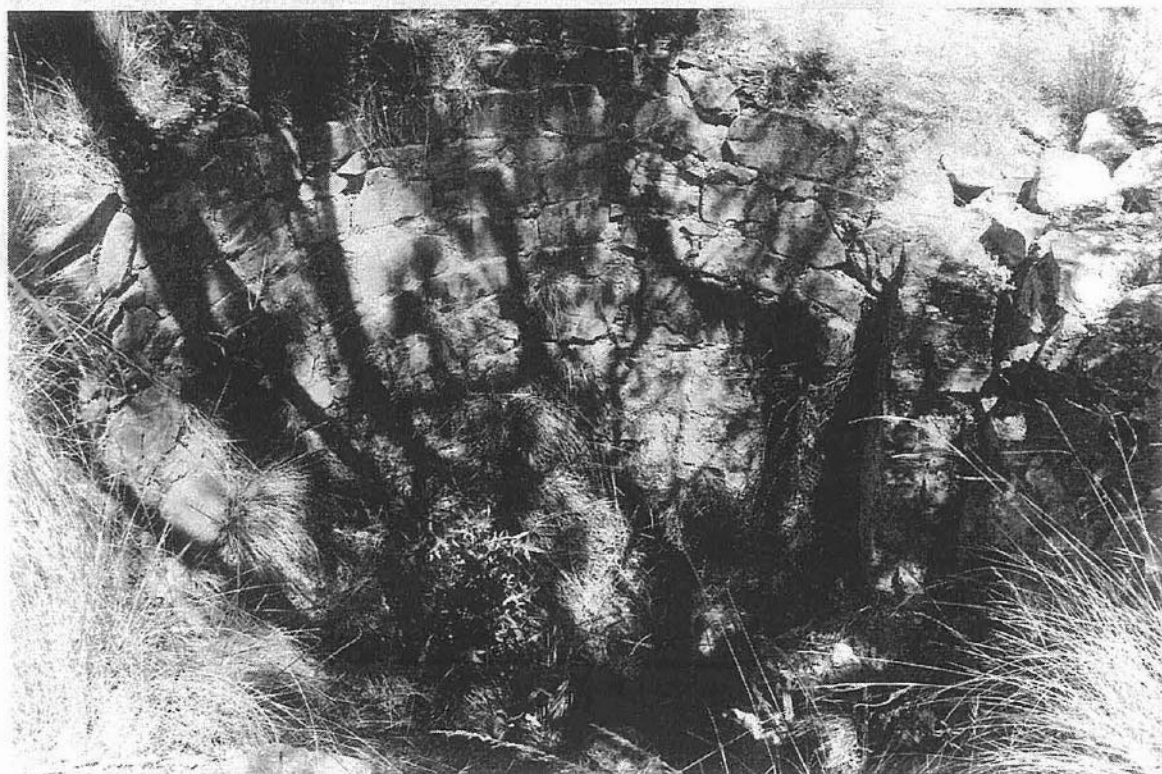
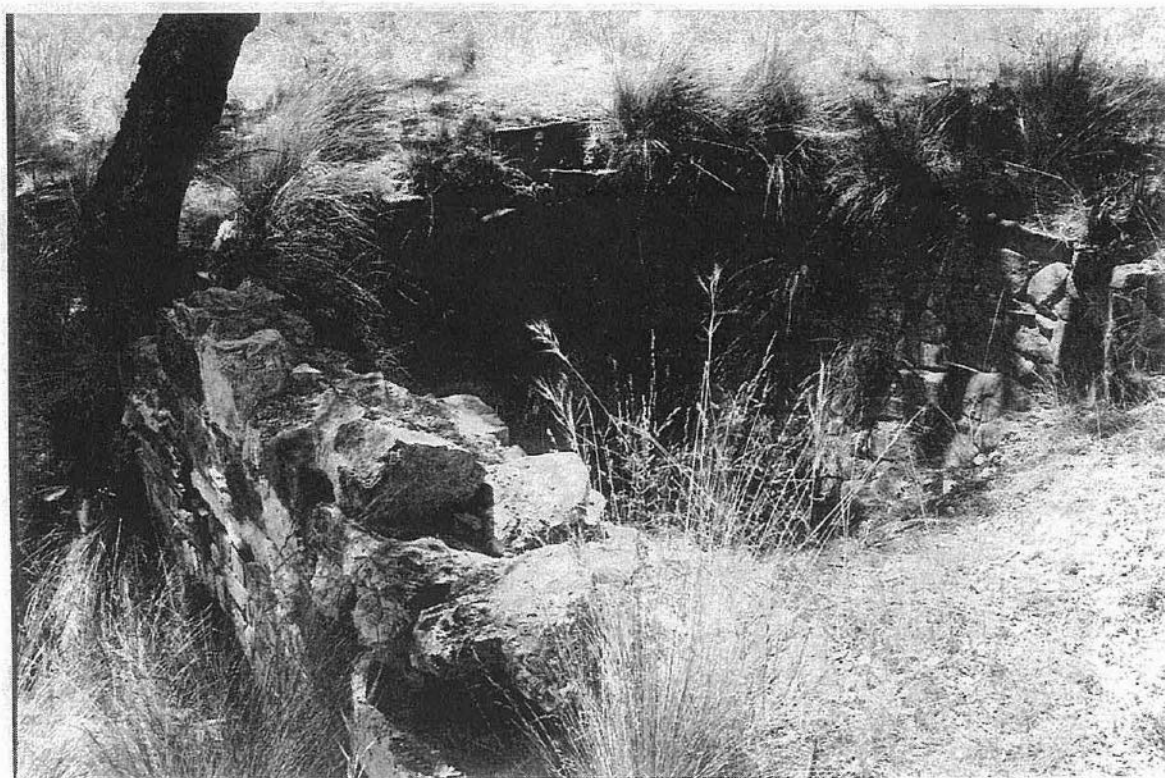
The Pearces Hill limekiln site is significant as an example of small scale industry serving a local market. Although the kiln attracts most attention, its position on the hillside amidst the raw material source, indications of transport systems, associated quarry, evidence of borrow pits, and nearby structural ruins (possibly the residence of the limeburner) have the ability to demonstrate not only how the process worked but could yield valuable information on wider associations relevant to the district. In general these aspects are poorly understood in the Australian context.

The site meets criteria B2, C2, D2 for inclusion in the Register of the National Estate. It should be included in Schedule 3 of the Sorell Planning Scheme and should be nominated for inclusion in the Tasmanian Heritage Register and the Register of the National Estate.

BIBLIOGRAPHY + PREVIOUS STUDIES:

- Birmingham, J, Jack, I & D. Jeans, 1983. *Industrial Archaeology in Australia - Rural Industry*. Heinemann Publishers Australia.
- Pearson, M. 1990. The Lime Industry in Australia - An Overview in: *The Australian Journey of Historical Archaeology, Vol 8*. Published by The Australian Society for Historical Archaeology, University of Sydney.

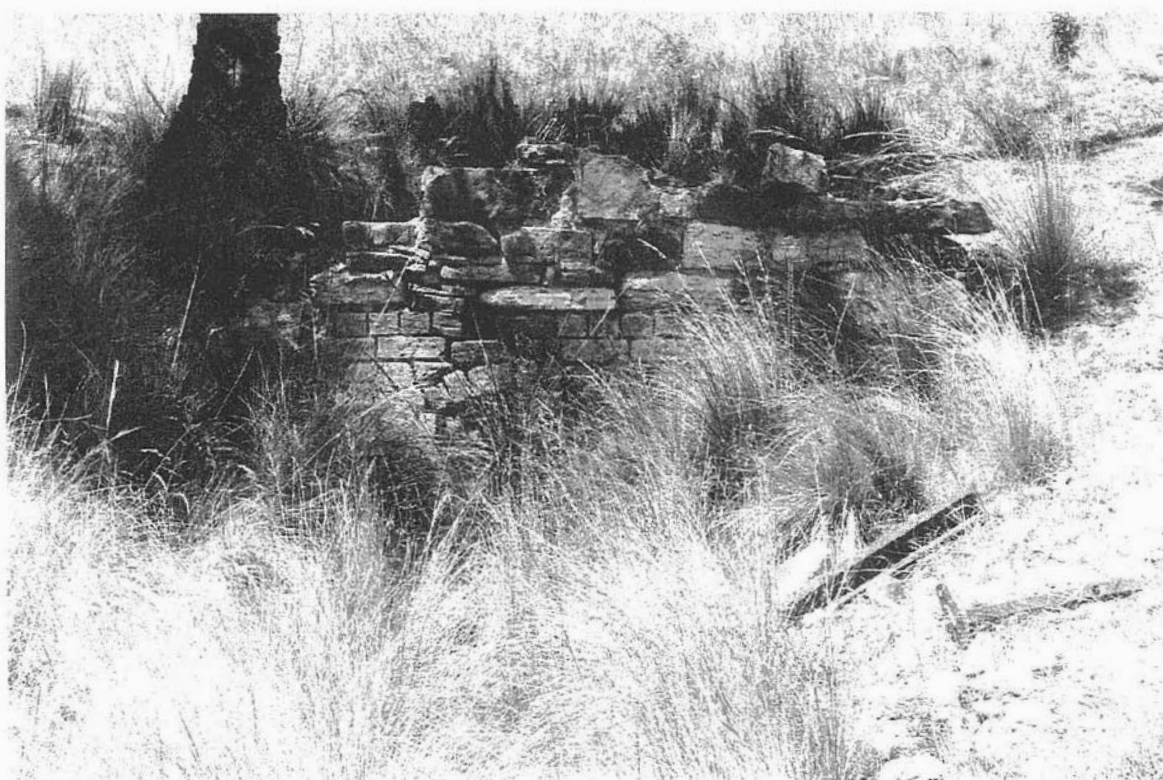
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