Figure 48. Ted Carrington’s hut site (Site D49/77), looking towards the west. Note the scatter of artefactual material, and the standing table.

Photo: P. Petchey.

Figure 49. Some of Ted Carrington’s mining tools (returned to original positions after photographs were taken). 0.5 m scale.

Photo: P. Petchey.
had intended to set up a generating plant and possibly intended mining using pumped water. A series of artificial ponds below the hut presumably provided the supply for the mining scheme. Details of what he actually achieved at the site are not known, but there may still be people in the community that have further information.

The lines of several old tracks running away from the hut to the east and south can still be followed. These were presumably cut by Carrington, but their ultimate destinations are uncertain. The south track presumably led across to Scollays Flat and then onto Maori Bay to the south or the Pack Track to the west.

13.2.4 Tin workings (Carringtons Flat)

NZAA Site No. D49/78
G.R. 129 286

These tin workings (Figs 50, 51) are situated at the head of Carringtons Flat, and Carrington’s hut site (D49/77, Figs 47, 48) is located within the worked area. The area of mined ground is large, measuring 150 m × 40 m. The workings consist of three sluice gullies to the north-west of the hut site, and a large area of workings, ponds and low mounds of tailings to the south of the hut site.

The sluice gullies adjacent to the hut are linked, their tail races all feeding into a single race, which leads out to the boggy flats. Two of the gullies are long and thin (no more than 6 m wide), while the third is a more regular shaped paddock (roughly 12 m × 8 m), with a single narrow outlet. These workings certainly pre-date Carrington’s presence, as they are overgrown with regenerating vegetation, including some good-sized trees. By the time Carrington was present in the area, cover over these workings would have already been well-established.

It is not clear whether Carrington constructed the series of ponds below the hut. They appear on the 1951 aerial photographs (run 1888/numbers 19, 20), but the earthworks around them (low dams etc.) do not appear to be particularly fresh in those views. The ponds form a system, with three main ‘lines’ of depressions where low dams have been constructed to retain water. These ‘lines’ of ponds

Figure 50. Ponds in the workings on Carringtons Flat, Site D49/78. View looking north.

Photo: P. Petchey.
Figure 51. Tin workings on Carringtons Flat—Site D49/78; also showing location of Carrington’s Hut—Site S49/77.
are separated by low sinuous mounds of earth and tailings. The outlets for the ponds join, and a single tail race leads out down the boggy flats. The pattern of races is not obvious on the ground, but can be seen clearly from the air (during the survey, a helicopter was used to observe the sites from above).

On the east side of the ponds, a low ridge separates Carringtons Flat from Smiths Stream. The eastern side of the workings is defined by sluice scarps cut into the toe of this rising ground.

These workings were all located on Section 6, Block VIII Pegasus District (Application 38), which was held in 1890 by George Swain, who was one of the original group of prospectors that found tin in Pegasus Creek.

13.2.5 Tin workings

NZAA Site No. D49/79

An area of shallow tin workings (Figs 52, 53), consisting of three distinct sluice gullies, and an area of shallow worked ground with several tail races and numerous piles of tailings. One sluice gully is separate, and its tailrace discharges straight down the hillside, while the rest of the workings are linked, all of the tailraces converging. The total extent of the worked ground is 70 m × 40 m.

This site was on Section 7, Block VIII Pegasus district (Application 45) held in 1890 by Alex Glennie.

13.2.6 Dam

NZAA Site No. D49/80

G.R. 127 285

This dam is located on a saddle between the eastern flank of the Tin Range and a small knoll (christened ‘Carrington’s Castle’ by the Kakapo Project workers; S. King, pers. comm.). The dam wall is earth, about 20 m long. It still holds water, and the pond can be seen from Carringtons Track as it descends the Tin Range.
A feeder race leads into the reservoir from Smiths Creek, and an outlet race leads around the hillside to the east. The water was apparently then directed down to the low ridge between Carringtons Flat and Smiths Creek. However, the survey could not determine which set(s) of workings it supplied, as the line of the race has become quite broken in the boggy ground.

13.2.7 Tin workings

NZAA Site No. D49/81
G.R. 125 287
This is an area of ground sluicings, measuring 50 m × 25 m (Fig. 54), situated on the true right of Smiths Creek. Three distinct small sluice gullies were fed from a single main water race that led from the creek. The workings had two tailraces, both of which fed back into the same creek. The two main areas of workings are separated by a high bank of tailings, suggesting that both areas were once linked, but as operations progressed it was decided to open a second tailrace and separate the areas.

This site was in Section 23, Block VIII Pegasus District (Application 118), originally held by W.S. Moir.

13.2.8 Tin workings, Sites D49/82–89 inclusive

All of these sites are situated on Section 7, Block VIII Pegasus District (Application 45), which was held in 1890 by Alex Glennie. This is the largest group of sites within a single claim area identified during the archaeological survey.

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