

## *CHARCOAL PITS*

Pt. Por. 32 Parish of Wedderburn  
Four Sandstone Lined Pits

**No pictures currently available**

## **HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION:**

During World War II, petrol rationing forced many people to find alternative methods of running vehicles. Charcoal burners were used to some extent and in Wedderburn these pits were dug for the purpose of extracting charcoal. Nothing is known of whom the pits were dug by or who used them. Pits like these would have been used across Sydney, but most would have since been lost. The survival of these ones is owing to their remote location and the stone lining which has helped to keep them from caving in.

Pit No. 1 – 5.4m long x 2.0m wide x 1.4m deep

Pit No. 2 – 3.5m long x 2.0m wide x 0.9m deep

Pit No. 4 – 3.5m long x 1.8m wide x 1.2m deep

(Information supplied by Verlie Fowler and Professor Jack, University of Sydney).

## **CONDITION AND USE:**

Of the original four pits, only pits No. 1, 2 and 4 were found (1993). Pit No. 1 is in good condition with two courses of sandstone blocks lining the top of the pit. Part of the stonework has collapsed in Pit No. 2 and Pit No. 4 has partially collapsed.

Their untouched state is owing to the remote location and surrounding bushland.

(Information supplied by Verlie Fowler and Professor Jack, University of Sydney).

## **HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE:**

- The pits have historic, archaeological and scientific significance
- They are a rare surviving example of a method of alternative fuel used during World War II.

## **HERITAGE LISTING:**

**LOCAL:** LEP 193

**STATE:** NSW Heritage Act 1977: Listed under the Act – although not on the State Heritage Register