

Heritage Item 17

Staveley Lime Kiln – Christchurch Lime Company



Location

Address:	Boys Road, Staveley
Co-ordinates:	Northing 5727901 , Easting 2381771
Legal Description:	Sec 3 SO 18941
Owner:	Department of Conservation

Purpose

Current Use:	Remnant
Original/Past Uses:	Lime Kiln

Heritage Significance and Category

Heritage Significance:	Physical; Historic
Heritage NZ:	Not registered
Ashburton DC:	Category A

Site Assessment

Assessed by:	Arlene Baird, Davie Lovell-Smith Ltd.
Date Assessed:	27 November 2014

Detail	
Description:	<p>This was the second lime kiln built in the area and was constructed in 1904. It is built into the hillside on the edge of the beech forest just above a tranquil stream. The first kiln was the Langdown 'pot style' kiln constructed in 1897. Great variation exists over the historical details of these kilns – namely over which was built first, dates, names and the spelling of Langdown (often referred to as Langdon).</p> <p>In comparison to the cylindrical pot kiln, this is a chunkier structure built of large, quite regularly sized limestone blocks. The way in which the kiln is built out from the hill makes it appear quite organic, as if growing out of the side of the slope. The kiln is not particularly noticeable from above, other than the opening which is now covered by a metal grate. Metal straps are still evident down the sides of the limestone walls.</p> <p>The limestone for burning was supplied from a quarry close to the kiln. The method of firing was general to all the kilns - a layer of wood, usually manuka, was set at the bottom. Broken limestone and coal were then placed in alternate layers in the kilns until it was full. After the coal was ignited it took around a week of intense heat to burn the lime, the mixture was then allowed 48 hours to cool before being removed from the kiln by opening the hopper at the bottom and using iron shovels to dislodge the burnt lime. This was then bagged and transported by pony and waggon on the tramway.</p> <p>The burnt lime produced was used for agriculture. It may also have been used in the building industry for mortar, putty and whitewash.</p> <p>This kiln, along with the earlier Langdown Pot Kiln (heritage item H18) is an excellent historical example of an important industry in this region around the turn of the century.</p>
History:	<p>In August 1902 the mining leases 18, 25 and 891 were transferred from the Springburn Lime and Coal Company to the recently established Christchurch Lime Company. The shareholders of this company were listed as Peter Graham, Herbert Pearse, Richard Scott, William Bowen and Thomas Andrews who were all builders and plasterers from Christchurch. Thomas Andrews was identified as the kiln manager from 1904 to 1907.</p> <p>In 1903 the company applied for a coal mining lease on an additional 20 acres adjoining the 891 lease to supply coal to the second kiln. It is believed that a second kiln was necessary due to the difficulty in accessing the old kiln – the second one being built in a more accessible position closer to the lime quarry, about 500m to the south of the first one. It is reported that whilst being built, this kiln began to slide down the slope following heavy rain. The kiln was finished in mid-1904 and an Ashburton Guardian article published in July of that year stated that the new kiln was finished and a tramway to the coalmine was due to be completed.</p> <p>It is assumed that the first kiln was no longer used after the second kiln was erected in 1904. The company's rent on leases 18 and 25 was unpaid from 1904 onwards and was surrendered in 1906.</p> <p>The Christchurch Lime Company operated this kiln until 1910. Today the kiln is owned and maintained by the Department of Conservation and public access is permitted.</p>
Notable Features:	<p>Limestone walls; metal straps; top entrance where coal and limestone was poured into kiln; exit at bottom of the hopper; location.</p>

Detail	
Condition:	The kiln is mostly intact – the limestone walls appear stable with some having dislodged around the edges. A metal grate has been placed over the top entrance and over the exit the bottom of the hopper for safety purposes.
Setting:	The second kiln was built in this location as it was more accessible than the original pot kiln. The setting is of high importance as being part of the important industrial history of this region in the early 1900s.



