

Come in Time Battery

Noisy... Wet... Dusty... Hot... Cold... Dangerous

Welcome to the Come in Time Battery Site

A successful goldmine needs more than just a source of gold. Gold-bearing quartz rock (ore) was found here. A crushing machine (battery) was brought here to release the gold from the rock. Water to power the battery was brought by a water race to the Pelton wheel. Tramways and an aerial cableway transported ore to the battery.



Red Tunnel Mine is 60m long and was used to access the ore. It is named after the red waste rock (Mullock) at its entrance.

Alta Reef workings provided another source of ore, located over the ridge in front of you.

Tramways (the rails have gone) used by small wagons carried ore to the battery.

Aerial Cableway carried buckets of ore to the battery. The upper terminus or bullwheel is marked by white posts across the valley in front of you.

The Eureka Battery site is where the first battery was located.

A water race carried water the Pelton wheel to power the battery.

A coal carrier's luck

Coal carrier John Kane discovered the quartz gold reef at this location in June 1880 while on a delivery run from Bannockburn near Cromwell. Although he went into business with a William Cameron to mine the gold, before operations got under way John Kane sold his shares and took up farming at Grandview near Tarras where the Kane family still farms. To crush the ore, the mining company purchased the abandoned Eureka Battery, renamed it the 'Come in Time Gold Stamper Battery', and shifted it here.

A crushing blow

The first crushing of 350 tons of ore yielded only 110 troy ounces (3.42kg) of gold and the second was equally disappointing. By August 1881 operations ceased and in time, the battery was removed.

Better luck next time?

In 1908 a new Come in Time Mining Company was formed and moved half of the 20-stamp Matilda Battery from nearby Bendigo to this site, which like the first was named the Come in Time Battery. The following year the gold workings were abandoned because, as newspapers of the time reported, 'only a meagre 4 ounces of gold was recovered.'

All over by the 1920s

From 1912 to 1920 different parties attempted to obtain better results from various ore sources in the vicinity. All met with "meagre" results and the battery and workings were finally abandoned in the 1920s.



Pelton Wheel



Camshaft and stamper stems



Cableway 'Bull wheel'

Come in Time Battery Restoration

This battery was restored in 2006 by the Otago Goldfields Heritage Trust and DOC with funding assistance from the Central Lakes Trust, The Community Trust of Otago and the Ray O'Brien Trust.

For more information visit
www.goldfieldstrust.org.nz



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai