

Recognising an Historic Sheep Dip

A Photographic Guide to Recognising and Identifying Historic and Abandoned Sheep Dips

Current: June 2012

This guide shows a range of historic sheep dips. The purpose of this guide is to allow landowners to identify historical sheep dips on their properties for the purposes of protecting human and stock health from toxic contamination. Contaminated sheep dip sites may also need to be identified to comply with the National Environmental Standard for Assessing and Managing Contaminants in Soil to Protect Human Health.

1. Sheep Dips in their Original Form

The following photographs show the characteristics of several sheep dips that have been disused for some time but are still easily recognisable.



Classic round plunge dip covered over with old gates



Classic narrow swim through dip, with a parallel foot bath.



Foot bath beside old swim through dip.



Close up of an island dip. The sheep swam around the central island to scramble out up the concrete ramp.

2. Sheep Dips That Have Been Filled In

Many sheep dips have been filled in with soil or rocks. Here are photos that show what they may look like now.



Visible edges of a wide concrete dip in a grassy paddock, with a stream bank in the background.



The swim through dip is fill with boulders, and the land around it has been eroded away by a stream.



The clues here are sturdy posts in a rectangle around the old holding pen, and a gorse covered swim through dip.



A key hole shaped plunge dip, filled with rubble.



The sheep went into the dip from the metal slope. The concrete rim is visible and the drainage pad is present under the grass.

3. Sheep Dips that are Difficult to Locate

Some sheep dips are now very difficult to spot because they have been completely covered or overgrown.



The damp depression is where the dip was, and the piped water still leaks there. Sheep yards long gone. The current landowner didn't know this was dip site, and information was provided by an employee of the original owner.



Swim through dip, overgrown with blackberries, and not filled in, or covered over.



The dip is under the blackberry, and the drainage pad is divided in two. Release paddock in foreground.



Old swim through dip covered with corrugated iron. Close to a stream.



The clues here are fenced off area that is overgrown, adjacent water tank, and shearing shed.

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