

TR12-36-37

6. FIRECLAY FROM THE VICINITY OF 'THE GARDENS' 12 MILES NORTH OF ST. HELENS

by V. M. Threader

A sample of fireclay from near the 'The Gardens' was submitted to the Chief Chemist and Metallurgist by a representative of Cornwall Coal Company who hold a Special Prospector's Licence over the area. As requested by the Chief Chemist the area was visited on 25 May to assess the extent of the deposit.

The deposit is exposed over a length of fifty yards in a disused tramway cutting along the shore of Long Lagoon eight feet above sea level. The material is a mixture of clay and silt which is mostly white or off-white, but some organic staining is present in places and also occasionally a blue colouration due probably to traces of copper mineralisation. The uniform grain size of the material indicates that it is a transported and not a residual deposit. It is overlain by colluvial granitic detritus and it was probably formed during late Cainozoic times. Its extent would therefore be indicated by the line bounding the Cainozoic deposits shown on the accompanying sketch plan. The economic depth for extraction purposes would be sea level and the deposit would not be expected to extend more than a few feet away from the lagoon.

An estimate of the extent of this deposit based on the above interpretation is: 8 feet (depth) x 6 feet (width) x 1 mile (length) or approximately 9,000 cubic yards. This would require verification by prospecting. Additional quantities of this material probably occur along the shores of other lagoons in the area.

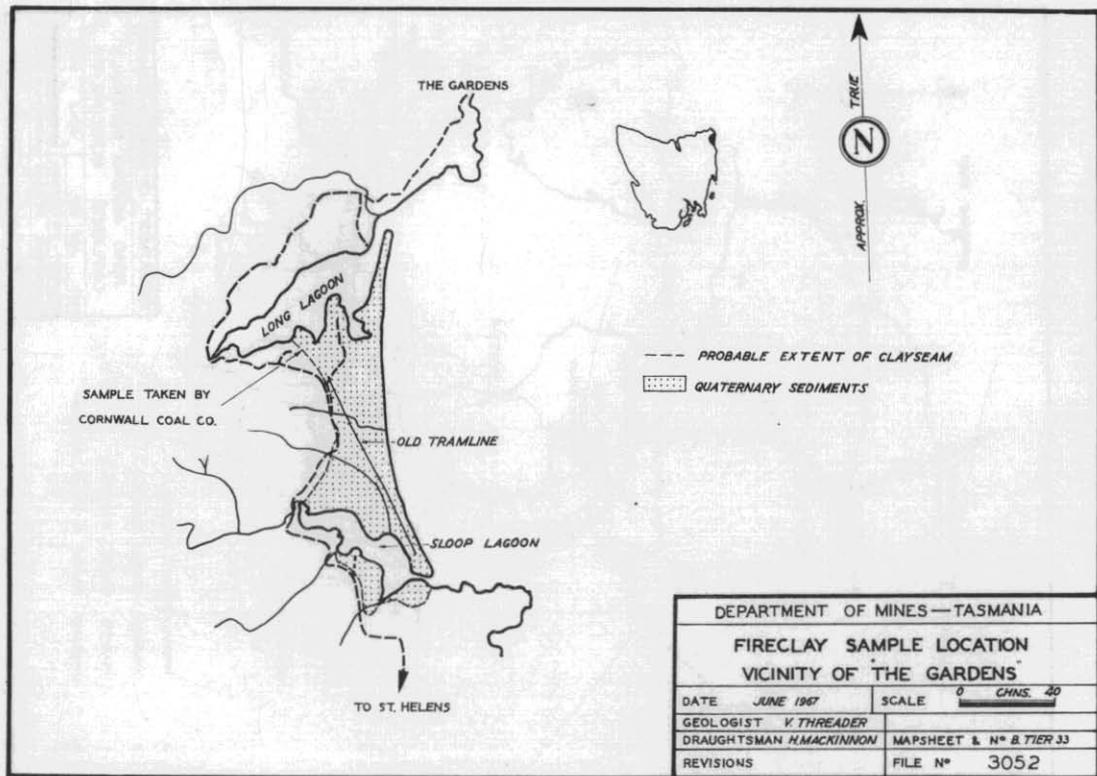


FIGURE 10