

TR13-22-23

3. WHITE CLAY AT ELECTRONA

by V. M. Threader

At the request of Mr D. Wells of Blackmans Bay, a Proline drilling programme was conducted to search for white and cream coloured clay for use in the brick industry. This search covered 6 acres owned by the Australian Commonwealth Carbide Co. Ltd. adjacent to the plant at Electrona.

A total length of 258 feet, spread over 11 shallow holes (see fig. 4) was drilled. There is a soil cover 0-3 feet thick and then an average thickness of 6 feet of white and cream sandy clay. This is followed by more than 30 feet of yellow, orange, red and purple clays and then unweathered mudstone. Greater penetration was not possible. Samples of both types of clay have been submitted to the Department's ceramic technologist for examination.

It is estimated that approximately 1,500 tons of white and cream clay and 50,000 tons of red, etc., clay could be obtained per acre. The proximity of Hydro-Electric Commission installations and transmission lines may, however, limit quarrying activities. As the white clay appears to be a leached zone above the water table, the area in which it occurs is probably much greater than that examined in this drilling programme and so additional reserves should be found readily in the vicinity.

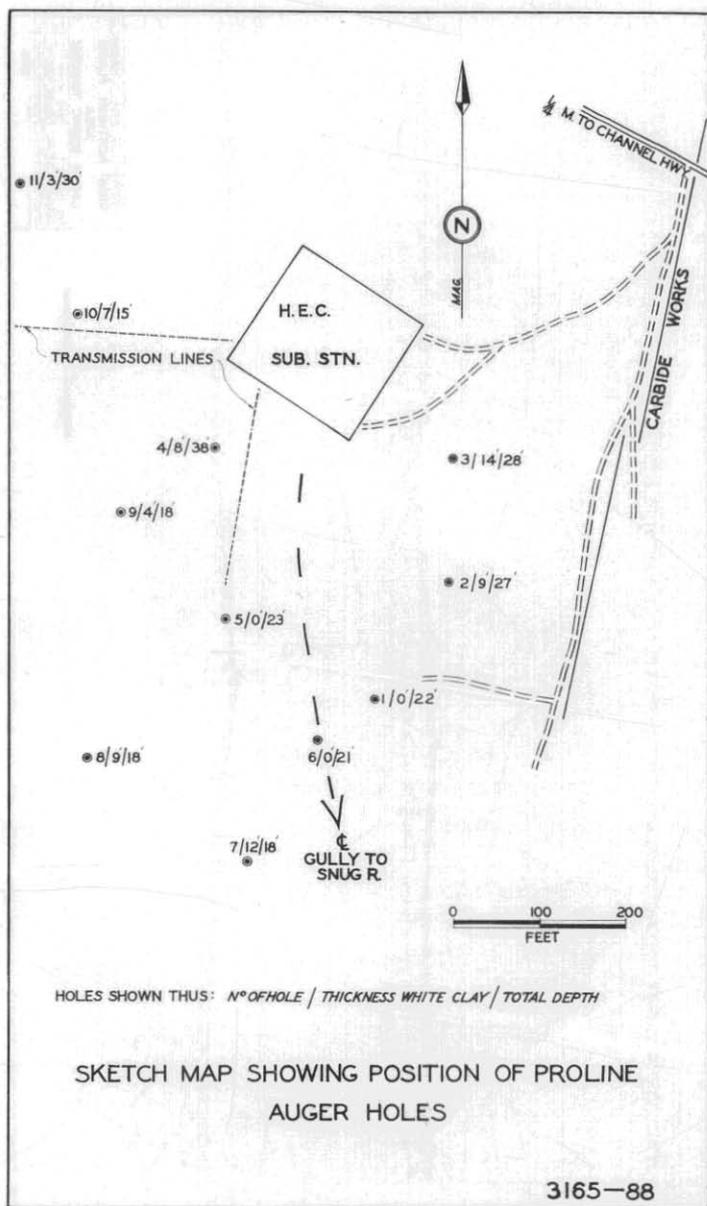


FIGURE 4.