

# EL 20/94 SALISBURY HILL PARTIAL RELINQUISHMENT REPORT

2004



Bouma structures exposed in a slab from the Corn Hill Formation

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## **1.0 SUMMARY**

EL 20/94 lies south along stratigraphic strike from the BMJV's Beaconsfield Gold Mine, a mesothermal quartz + ankerite + gold reef with a pre-mining resource of 2Moz.

The licence was established in 1994 to facilitate exploration for similar mesothermal style gold mineralisation in the surrounding district. Exploration activity has included a broad programme of gridding, soil sampling, rock sampling and mapping over the entire tenement with additional focus paid to areas of historical workings, particularly the Salisbury Gold Field at the southern end of Salisbury Hill.

Work completed during the period of tenure has contributed significantly to the geological understanding of the district generally, and culminated in collaborative work with Mineral Resources Tasmania to reproduce the Beaconsfield 1:25,000 map sheet (Reed, *et al.*, 2001).

The current report has been prepared to meet the requirements for relinquishment of a portion of the licence at its notional expiry date. Allstate Exploration NL has applied to retain the remaining portion of the tenement for a period of two (2) years to allow time for completion of the current exploration programme. The report provides a summary of the geology of the portion of the tenement and the district generally as it is currently understood. The report also provides details of all work completed over the areas chosen for relinquishment during the history of the licence to date.

## **2.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **2.1 LOCATION AND ACCESS**

The relinquished portion of EL 20/94 lies 7km to the south of the township of Beaconsfield and is centred on the Flowery Gully area. (see figure 1). Flowery Gully lies approximately 35 kilometres northwest of Launceston on the western side of the Tamar River. Access to the area is by bitumen road from Launceston. Access within the licence is generally good via Flowery Gully road and numerous gravel roads crossing the licence area, particularly Rookery Road, Bulls Road and a track beneath HEC transmission lines at the northern end of the relinquished portion.

### **2.2 TENURE**

The licence was granted to Allstate Prospecting Pty Ltd on behalf of the Beaconsfield Mine Joint Venture, operators of the Beaconsfield Gold Mine. The original licence covered 45 skm of which slightly more than 5 skm was excluded by pre-existing mining leases. The licence was reduced to approximately 21 skm to meet a requirement for 50% relinquishment as at 28<sup>th</sup> October, 1999. The licence was due for final relinquishment on 28<sup>th</sup> October 2004, however application was made for an extension of tenure over approximately 12 skm and 8.75skm is being relinquished at this time

### **2.3 TOPOGRAPHY, VEGETATION AND LAND USE**

The topography is generally undulating although steep in part.

The western and southern fringes of the relinquished portion are developed for agricultural purposes, predominantly grazing, while the remainder is used for forestry.

### **2.4 RELINQUISHMENT**

The portion of EL 20/94 being relinquished is illustrated in figure 1. The portion is contained in a single area defined as that area commencing at 484000E, 5434000N and continuing east to 486000E then south to 5432000N then east to 487000E then south to 5429000N then west to 485500E then north to 5431000N then west to 484000E then north to the point of commencement. Allowing for exclusions the total area being relinquished is approximately 8.75 skm.

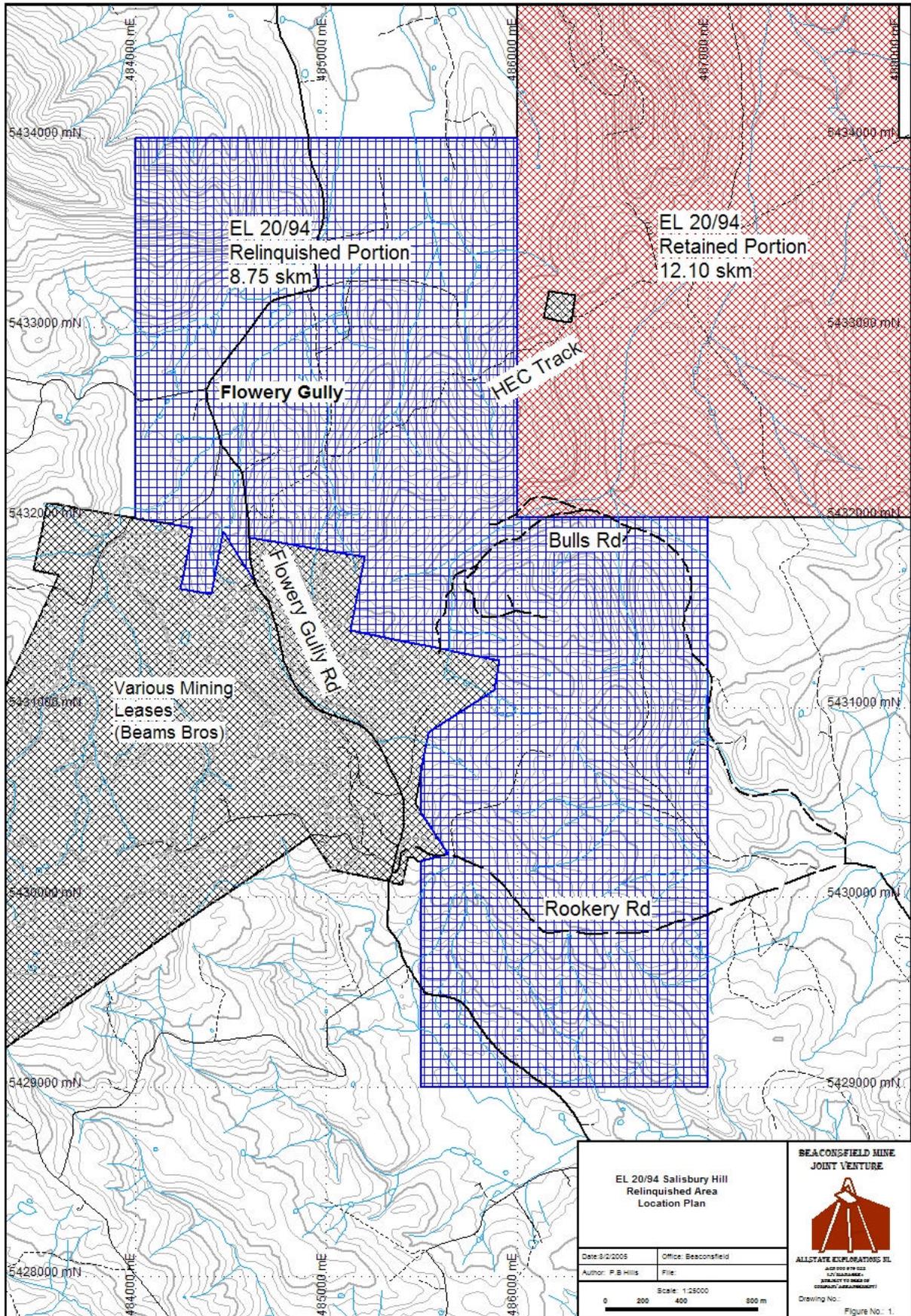


Figure 1. EL 20/94 Salisbury Hill – Relinquished Portion Locality Plan.

### **3.0 EXPLORATION PHILOSOPHY**

Principally, the BMJV is exploring for sediment hosted mesothermal gold mineralisation. Empirically, the target model is based upon the developing understanding of the 2Moz Tasmania Reef. The latter is a northeast striking mesothermal quartz + ankerite + sulphide (pyrite + arsenopyrite > chalcopyrite + sphalerite + galena) reef hosted within the Salisbury Hill and Eaglehawk Gully Formations of the Denison Group in the Cabbage Tree Thrust slice of the Beaconsfield Block.

A detailed description of the geology pertaining to the Tasmania Reef is contained in Hills, et al. (2001).

#### **4.0 PREVIOUS EXPLORATION**

The area of EL 20/94 has been the subject of several geological investigations and limited exploration programmes over the past 35 years. However, little if any of the work occurred over the portions of the licence being relinquished.

Modern exploration for gold commenced in the early 1970's when the Mines Department drilled two diamond drill holes to test for reported nickel in inaccessible old workings on the historical Salisbury Gold Field. In the early 1980's AMAX carried out a programme of soil sampling, mapping and ground magnetics over the Salisbury Hill prospect as well as detailed mapping and channel sampling of some of the old workings at Salisbury Hill (Poltock, 1980; Hamlyn, 1982).

Further soil sampling and diamond drilling was carried out at the Salisbury Hill prospect by Goldfields Exploration Limited (Pease, 1984).

In 1988 a small programme of costeaning and RAB drilling was carried out again at the Salisbury Hill prospect (Stacpoole and Miedecke, 1988).

More regionally focused stream sediment sampling, mapping and an aeromagnetics survey was completed in the late 1980's by Beaconsfield Gold Mines Limited (Hicks, 1989).

Work on the current licence EL 20/94 has been ongoing over the past 10 years. After a literature review and limited reconnaissance work in the first 2 years of the licence (McKeown, 1995; Hills, 1996), more intensive exploration commenced in 1997 with a high definition ground magnetics survey over the Salisbury Hill prospect. This was followed by reconnaissance scale soil sampling along ridge tops in the region (Hills, 1997). Regional mapping and rock sampling was the focus of the BMJV's exploration of the licence in 1997/98 (MacDonald, 1998a) and detailed grid based soil sampling and geological mapping of second priority outcropping palaeozoic geology occurred in 1998/99 and 1999/2000 (MacDonald, 1999; 2000).

A mid-term relinquishment report was completed by Hills & MacDonald (1999).

Allstate Explorations NL, Manager of the Beaconsfield Mine Joint Venture, was forced into Voluntary Administration in June 2001, and shortly thereafter, junior Joint Venture Partner Beaconsfield Gold NL appointed a Receiver. These events effectively curtailed exploration expenditure by the BMJV. However, in November 2002, an Exploration Agreement was signed with Diamond Ventures NL which allowed exploration to recommence to the account of Diamond Ventures NL. Exploration success was to result in Diamond Ventures NL recouping its exploration expenditure and earning a royalty from subsequent production. Resource sovereignty was to remain with the BMJV.

Work by Diamond Ventures NL saw all regional grid based soil sampling completed over EL 20/94 (Bucknell, 2003) together with targeted percussion and diamond drilling in several areas (Bucknell & Morrison, 2003a; 2003b; Morrison, 2004). Only soil sampling was carried out over the portion of the tenement to be relinquished.

In addition to the exploration activities summarised above, work completed during the period of tenure has contributed significantly to the geological understanding of the district generally, and culminated in collaborative work with Mineral Resources Tasmania to reproduce the Beaconsfield 1:25,000 map sheet (Reed, *et al.*, 2001).

## 5.0 GEOLOGY

### 5.1 INTRODUCTION AND REGIONAL GEOLOGY

The geology of EL 20/94 has previously been described in various company reports, the most significant of which are those by Poltock (1980), Hamlyn (1982), Pease (1984), Hicks (1989), Hills (1997), Hills & MacDonald (1999), MacDonald (1998; 1999; 2000), Bucknell (2003), Bucknell & Morrison 2003a; 2003b) and Morrison (2004). The area was the focus of work by Green (1959), Kennedy (1971) and Hills (1982). The area straddles the boundary between the Beaconsfield (Gee and Legge, 1971) and Frankford (Gulline and Naqvi, 1973) 1 mile series map sheets with discussion in the Explanatory Notes accompanying each of these map sheets Gee and Legge (1979) and Gulline (1981) respectively. A significant addition to the understanding of the geology of the region was also made by Lewis (1998). He described the Denison Group in the Beaconsfield Gold Mine from diamond drill core and formally defined the Salisbury Hill and Eaglehawk Gully Formations.

Green (1959) was first to suggest a correlation between rocks above the Flowery Gully Limestone Beaconsfield district and the Mathinna Supergroup of northeast Tasmania. Fundamental to supporting that correlation was the recognition of turbidite facies typical of the Mathinna Supergroup in the Beaconsfield rocks and confirmation of contemporaneity through the fossil record. This has now been established, and the unit has been defined as the Corn Hill Formation (Rickards *et al.*, 2002). The Corn Hill Formation, correlates of which host vein-style mesothermal gold mineralization throughout northeast Tasmania and Victoria underlies most of the relinquished portion of EL 20/94. The regional geology is described in some detail by MacDonald *et al.*, (2001).

### 5.2 GEOLOGY OF THE RELINQUISHED PORTION

The geology of the relinquished portion of the tenement is dominated by outcropping Siluro-Devonian sediments of the Johnston Creek Siltstone and the unconformably overlying Corn Hill Formation in part obscured by shallow patchy Permian cover. Denison Group siliciclastics occur east of the Cabbage Tree Thrust outcrop poorly along a strike ridge west of Bulls Road on the eastern margin of the portion, as well as on the lower slopes of Peaked Hill in the northwest.

The outcropping geology is illustrated in figure 2 with a stratigraphic column for the pre-Permian stratigraphy focusing on the detailed stratigraphy of the Denison Group and based on the Tasmanian Geological Atlas provided in figure 3.

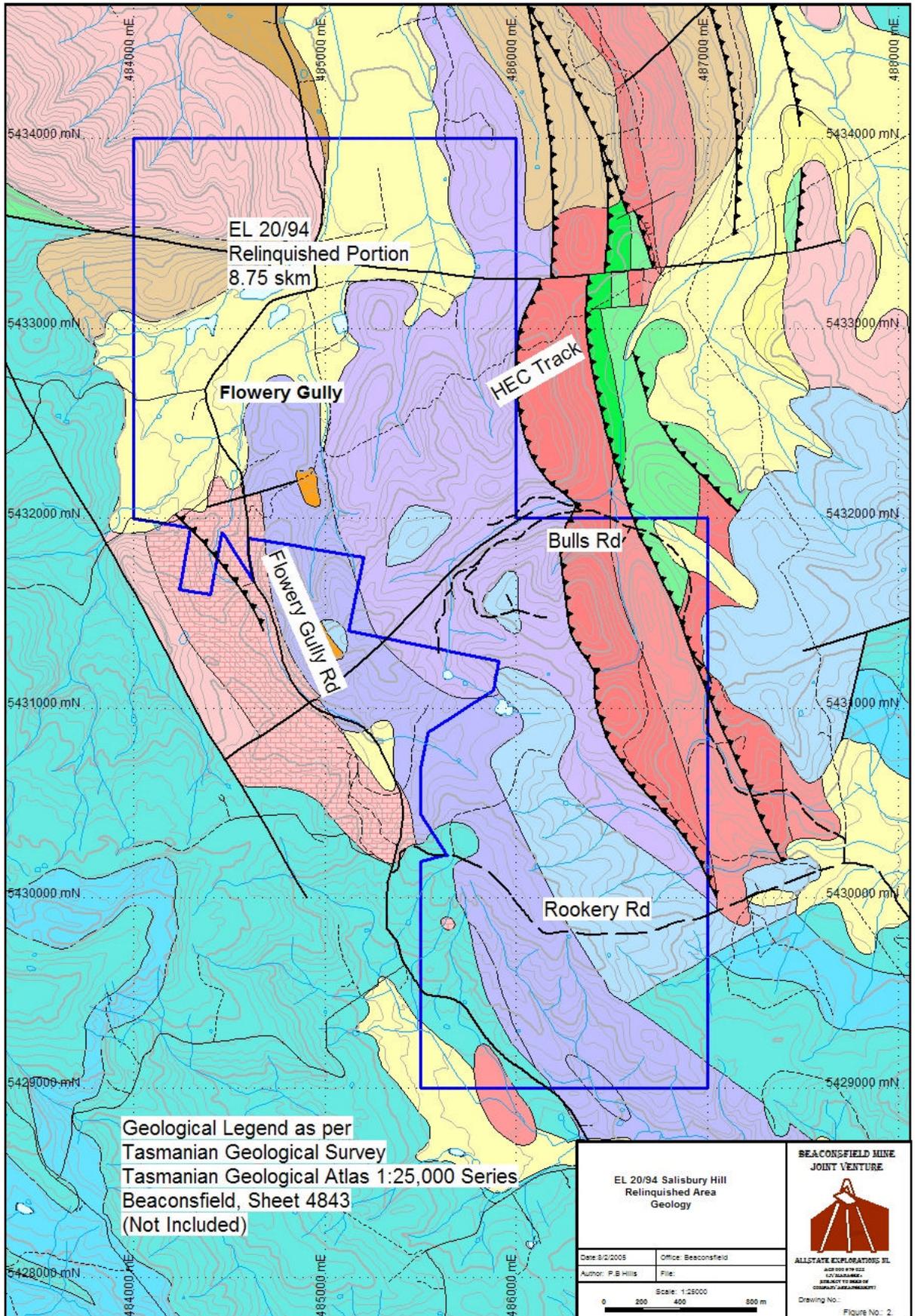


Figure 2. Geological Map of the Flowery Gully Area EL 20/94.

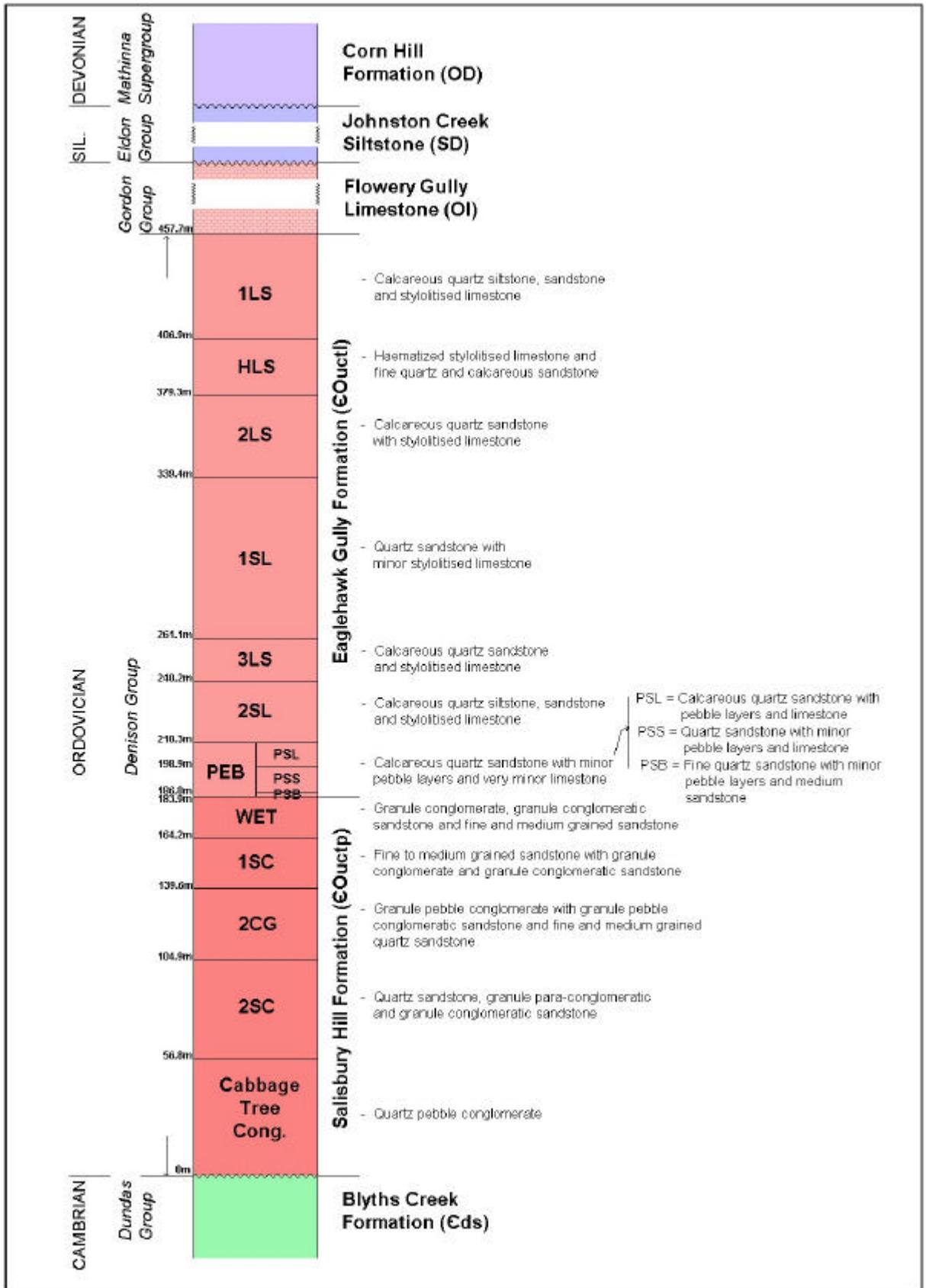


Figure 3. Pre-Permian Stratigraphic Column for the Beaconsfield Area.

### 5.3 MINERALISATION

Regionally the most significant gold deposit is the Tasmania Reef. The Tasmania Reef is a quartz + ankerite + gold + arsenic + chalcopyrite + sphalerite + minor galena reef of mesothermal style. The reef is approximately 320-350 metres long and averages 2.5 metres in width (Hills, 1998; Hills *et al.*, 2001). It is analogous in many ways to mesothermal slate belt deposits in northeastern Tasmania, Victoria and elsewhere in the world. The main difference is the actual host rocks themselves, which in the case of the Tasmania Reef, are the Denison Group siliciclastics.

Exploration throughout EL 20/94 has targeted this style of mineralisation but with no success in the relinquished portion.

## **6.0 WORK COMPLETED AND RESULTS – Relinquished Portion**

### **6.1 INTRODUCTION**

Prior to 1998/99 exploration of the relinquished portion of EL 20/94 was restricted to a ridge top soil sampling programme in 1997. The results of this programme were found to be flawed, due to assaying error, during the course of more recent work. Corrected results only are included below. Some follow-up ridge sampling was completed in 1998.

During 1998/99 grid based mapping and soil sampling was undertaken over selected areas of outcropping pre-Permian rocks within EL 20/94 to help with assessment for mid-term 50% relinquishment. In 1999/2000 and subsequently in 2002/03 work was undertaken to complete the grid based mapping and soil sampling over the remaining pre-Permian rocks. This was the full extent of work completed over the relinquished portion during the period of the licence.

### **6.2 GRIDDING**

Initially, grids were designed to be optimal for discovering north-east to east-northeast striking reefs similar to the Tasmania Reef. Consequently, grid lines were oriented at 330° true north (MacDonald, 1999; 2000). Subsequently, work was complete on an east-west grid (Bucknell, 2003). Although relatively broadly spaced for reefs only a few metres (at most) wide, soil sampling was undertaken at 50 metres spacing on 100 metre spaced grid line. It was hoped that relatively more mobile pathfinder elements such as arsenic, copper, lead and zinc would define sufficiently broad halos around potential interest areas to allow infill sampling to locate more narrowly focussed gold mineralisation.

Classical B/C-horizon soil sampling using a hand or powered auger was chosen as the most suitable method at all stages of the sampling programme (MacDonald, 1999; 2000; Bucknell, 2003).

### **6.3 BASELINES**

Initially, baseline pegs were surveyed using a Trimble real time differential GPS. Accuracy is estimated to be  $\pm 2$  metre based upon the accuracy of the equipment ( $\pm 1$  metre) and the level of accuracy accepted in placing the peg ( $\pm 1$  metre) (MacDonald, 1999; 2000).

Although later sampling was completed from a north-south baseline established for the purpose of gridding by MacDonald (2000), no grid was flagged for later work. Despite this, all samples were GPS located to an accuracy estimated at  $\pm 2$  metres (Bucknell, 2003).

### **6.4 SOIL SAMPLING**

#### **6.4.1 1998/99/2000 and 2002/03 Soil Sampling**

Initially, soil samples were collected from the B/C-horizon using a manual 4" Jarrod tree planting/post hole auger (MacDonald, 1999; 2000). Subsequently a power auger was used (Bucknell, 2003). In EL 20/94 the soil profile is usually topped by a 0.1-0.3 metre thick layer of humic A

horizon material. This overlies a leached sandy B-horizon, particularly in soil profiles developed over quartz sandstones, of around 0.2 metres thickness. The C-horizon is generally a yellowish orange to dark yellowish orange clayey material with increasing coherent rock fragments with depth. Most soil samples were collected from 0.4 to 0.7 metres depth.

During the earlier programme, all soil samples were dried (generally naturally) and sieved through a 3mm sieve. Representative rock fragments in the +3mm fraction were taken and collected in chip trays. These rock chips have been logged and the descriptions included in the soil ledger (appendix 1). The -3mm fraction was rebagged and analysed by ANALABS Burnie for Au (to a 1ppb detection limit), As (to 1ppm), Cu, Pb and Zn. Samples from the 2002/03 programme were similarly analysed by ANALABS Burnie.

A total of 847 soil samples were collected within the relinquished portion in the 1998/99 reporting year (MacDonald, 1999). A further 35 infill samples were collected in 1999/2000 (MacDonald, 2000). A total of 282 samples were collected by Diamond Ventures NL in 2002/03 (Bucknell, 2003). The location of all samples, with results, taken from within the relinquished portion are illustrated in figure 4. Figures 5 to 9 provide colour contoured images for Au, As, Cu, Pb and Zn respectively. Details of all soil samples including sample number, grid, AMG co-ordinates, grid co-ordinates, sample depth, analyses, +3mm chip descriptions and interpreted geology are included in appendix 1 and sample locations are illustrated in figure 4.

#### **6.4.2 Re-assaying 1997 Ridge Top Soil Samples**

As part of the soil sampling work completed by MacDonald (1999) an effort was made to integrate the results of all soil sampling programmes undertaken in the area and available to the author. The spread of values returned from the 1999 programme accord well with those carried out by Beaconsfield Gold NL on their adjacent licence at Winkleigh (Morrison, 1998). However, it was recognised that the results of the Ridge Top soil sampling programme undertaken by the BMJV previously (Hills, 1997) were quite markedly elevated.

The analytical method used in early programme had a detection limit of 10ppb meaning that values around that range (considered anomalous in the BMJV's work this year) were potentially spurious. In order to allow the data sets to be integrated it was decided to re-assay some of the pulps retained from the Ridge Top programme using the more accurate, lower detection limit (1ppb Au), method of the 1998/99 programme. The result was that almost all re-assayed samples returned values below 1ppb Au. Further checking by the external laboratory where the samples had originally been assayed revealed systematic errors in the values initially reported. The error was human and apparently involved a failure to accommodate the gold inherent in the flux used in analysis. The laboratory recalculated those values greater than 1ppb and re-assayed a significant number of those pulps to

confirm the validity of the recalculation. This affected a total of 129 samples collected within the relinquished area as illustrated in figure 4.

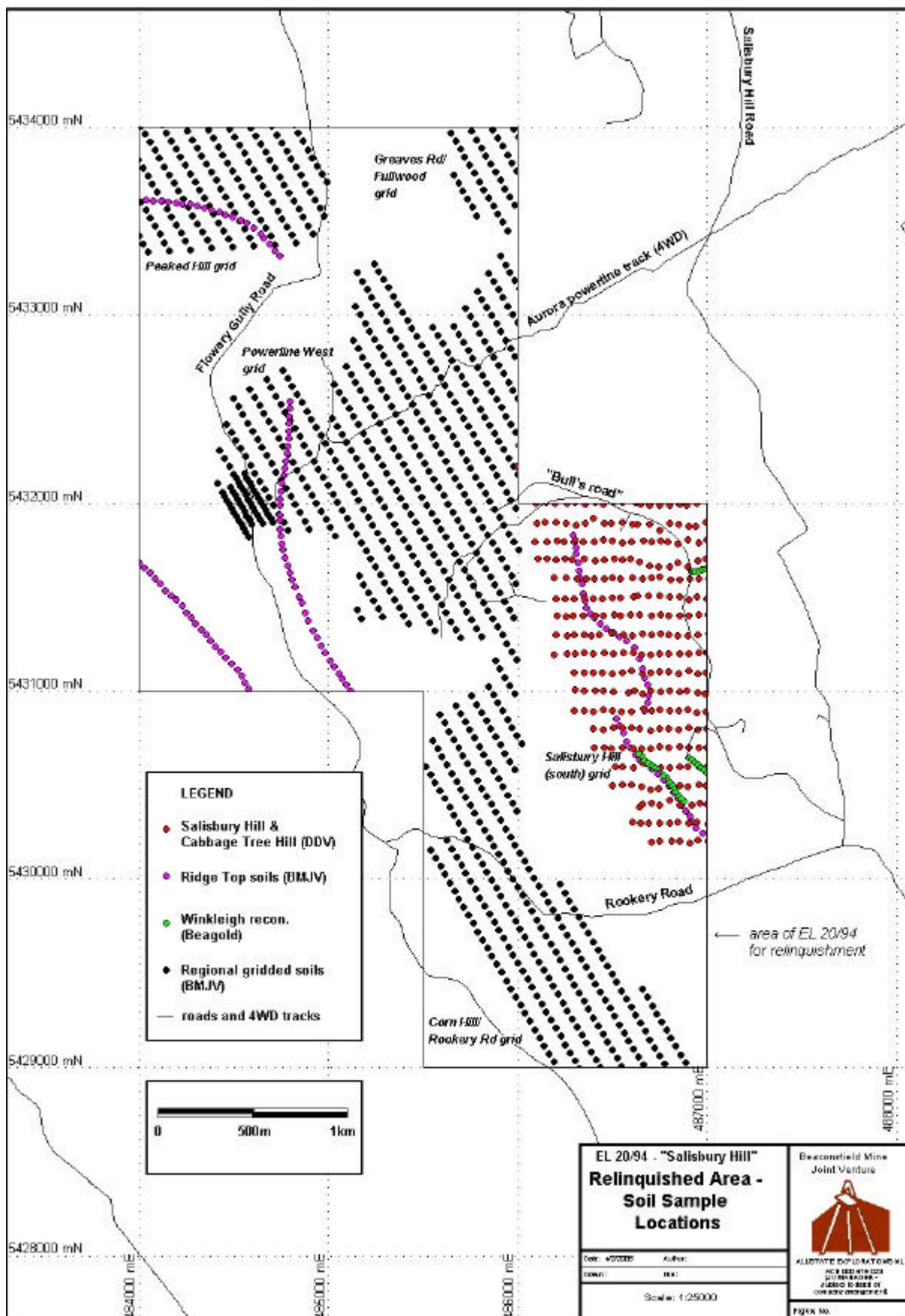


Figure 4. Soil sample locations.

The corrected results only are used in generation of the figures included below and these have been included in the soil sample register (appendix 1).

### **6.4.3 Orientation Sampling by Beaconsfield Gold NL**

Beaconsfield Gold NL acquired an adjacent tenement south and east of EL 20/94 in 1997. Work undertaken by Beaconsfield Gold NL included the collection of 29 orientation soil samples along the ridge tops in the southeastern corner of the relinquished portion. These samples were collected and analysed in a similar fashion to those collected in the 1998/99 BMJV programme (Morrison, 1998) and the results are incorporated in the database contained herein and sample locations are illustrated in figure 4.

### **6.4.4 Results/Conclusions**

Figures 5 to 9 are colour enhanced images displaying anomalous zones for each of the elements incorporating all 1322 samples described in Sections 6.4.1 – 6.4.3. The DISCOVER software used in creating these images calculates a weighted average for every 20m square using a search ellipse (120m x 80m) oriented at 060° (TN) and a weighting factor of 5 which acts to smooth out the image but also tends to hide spot anomalies.

## **6.5 MAPPING**

All grid lines marked for the soil sampling programme were mapped in detail. In addition the mapping the +3mm rock chips retained from the soil samples were logged and assigned to lithological units. This mapping formed the basis for the current regional geological map presented as figure 2.

A total of 97 rock samples collected during the course of geological mapping were submitted for analysis for Au, Ag, As, Cu, Pb and Zn. Details of these samples are contained in the rock sample ledger in appendix 2.

## **6.6 LITHOGEOCHEMISTRY**

Commencing in 1998, a programme of lithogeochemical sampling and assaying has been in progress throughout the Beaconsfield district. The aim of the programme is to determine the degree to which trace element geochemistry can be used as a tool for stratigraphic correlation and distinction of the extensive suite of Palaeozoic sediments across the Beaconsfield Block. Initial work concentrated on Denison Group correlates using the detailed drill core logging of Lewis (1998) as a quasi-type section. The programme was quickly expanded to encompass the Dundas, Gordon, Eldon and Mathinna Group correlates in the district and extended to sampling outside the immediate area for control purposes. To date a total of 253, samples have been collected from as far west as Deloraine (Purvis, 1998a) through Mt Careless (Purvis, 1998b), Winkleigh, (Morrison, Pers. Comm.), Flowery Gully (MacDonald, 1998a; 1999), Beaconsfield (MacDonald, 1998b) and Lefroy (Purvis, 1999). All samples have been analysed by ANALABS, Welshpool W.A. for Ti, Zr, V, Nb, Rb, Y, Ba, Sr, Sn, Cr and P using XRF and Ni and Co by AAS. In some cases, rare earth elements have also been read.

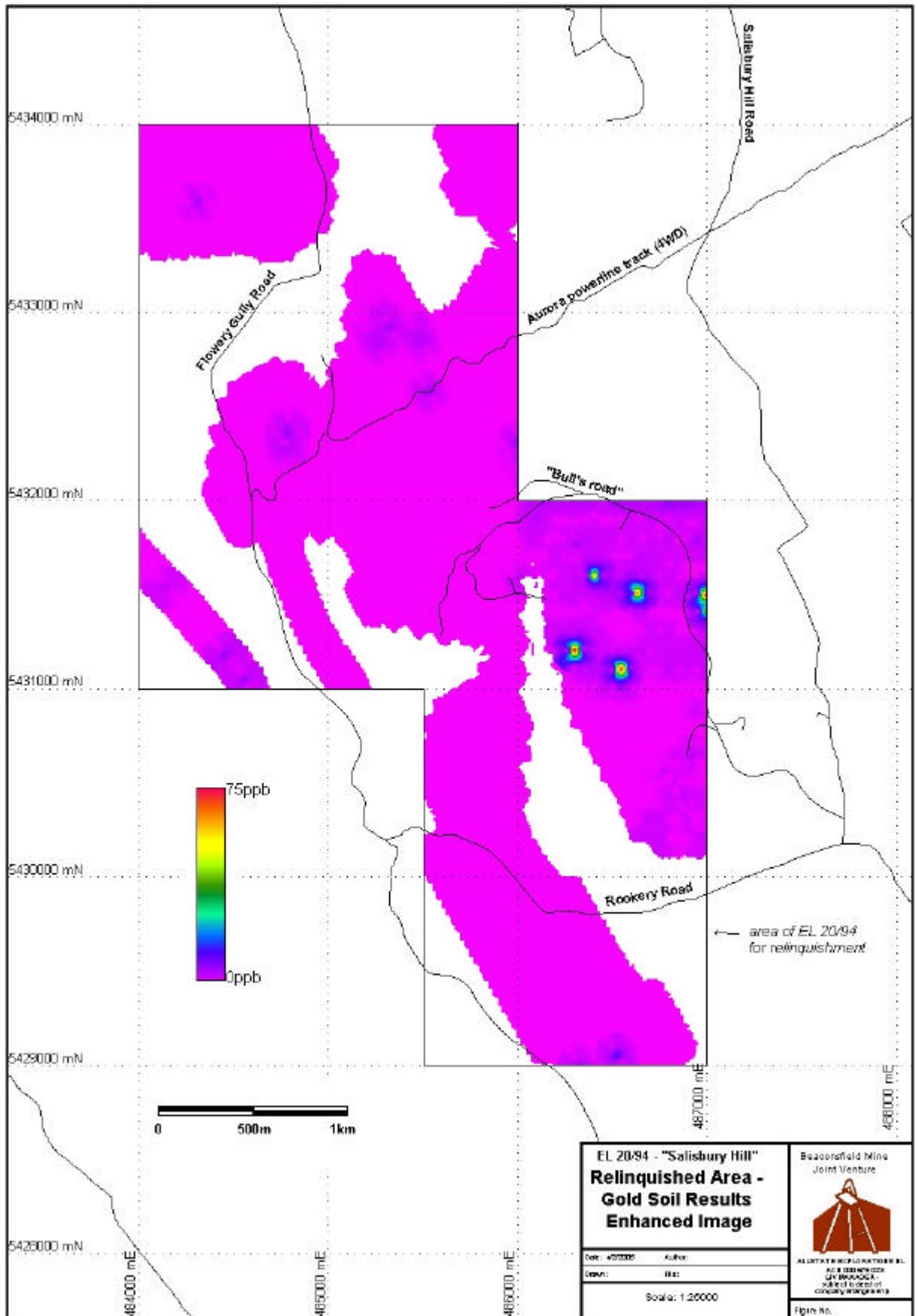


Figure 5. Contoured soil sample image for gold.

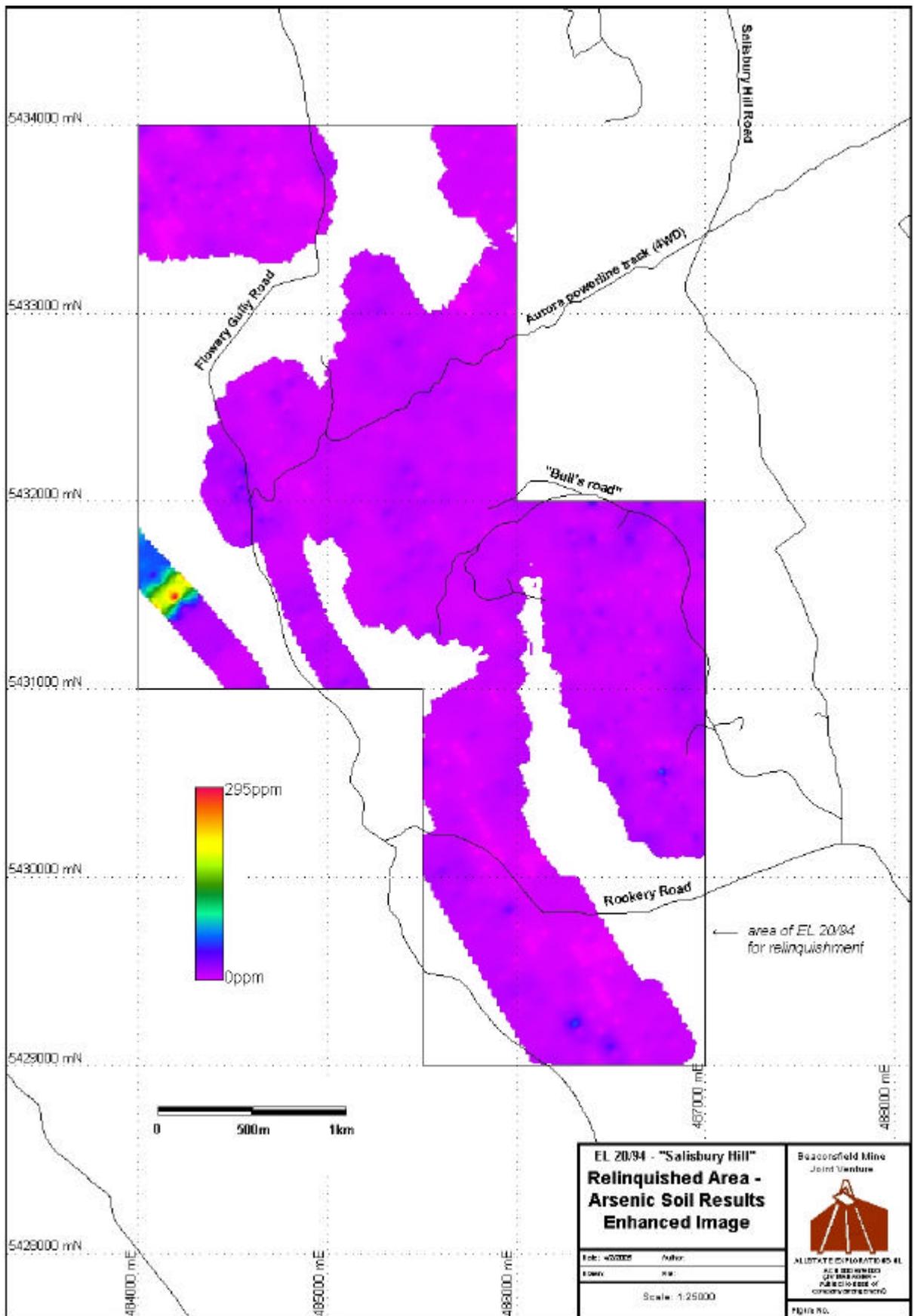


Figure 6. Contoured soil sample image for arsenic.

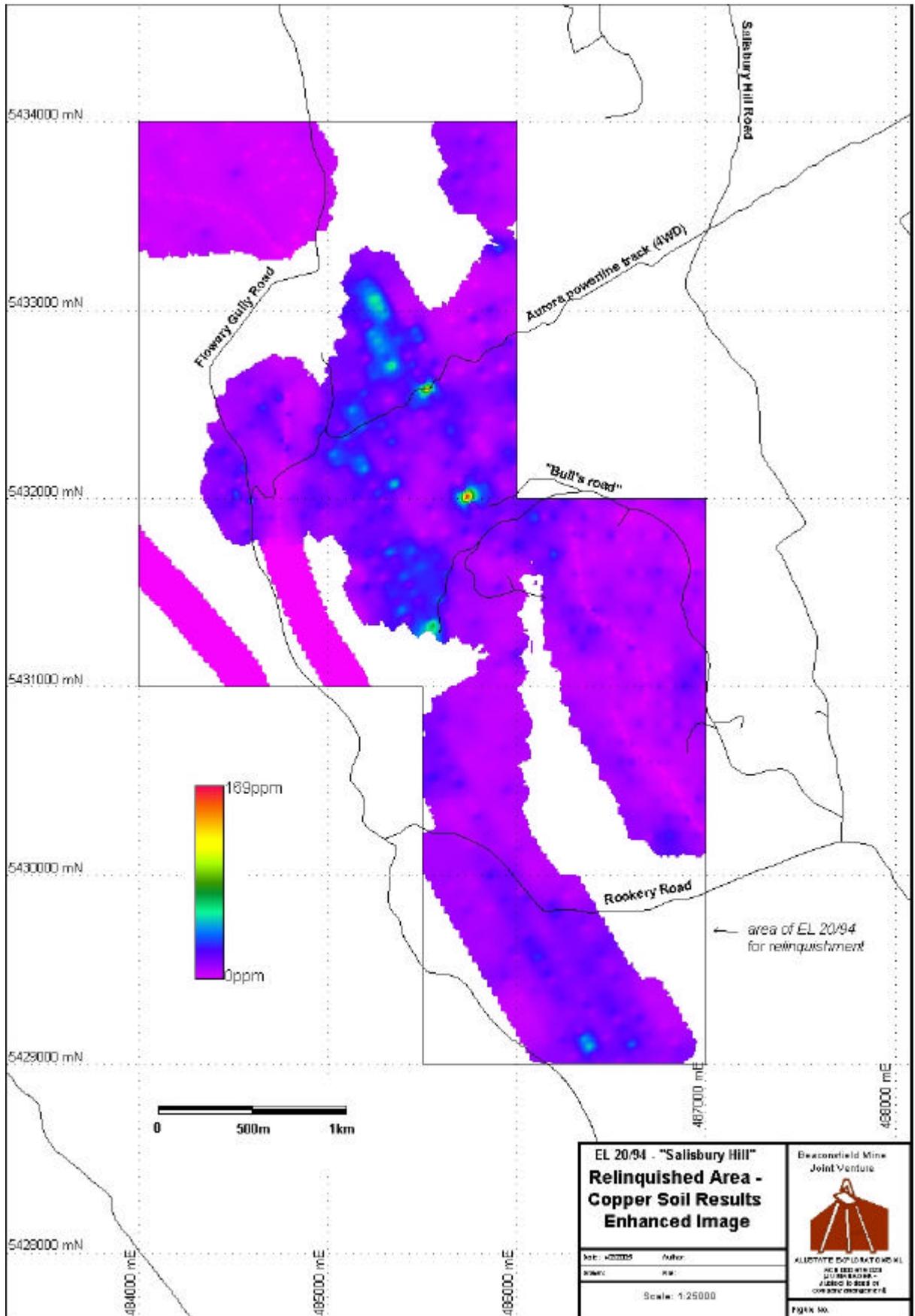


Figure 7. Contoured soil sample image for copper.

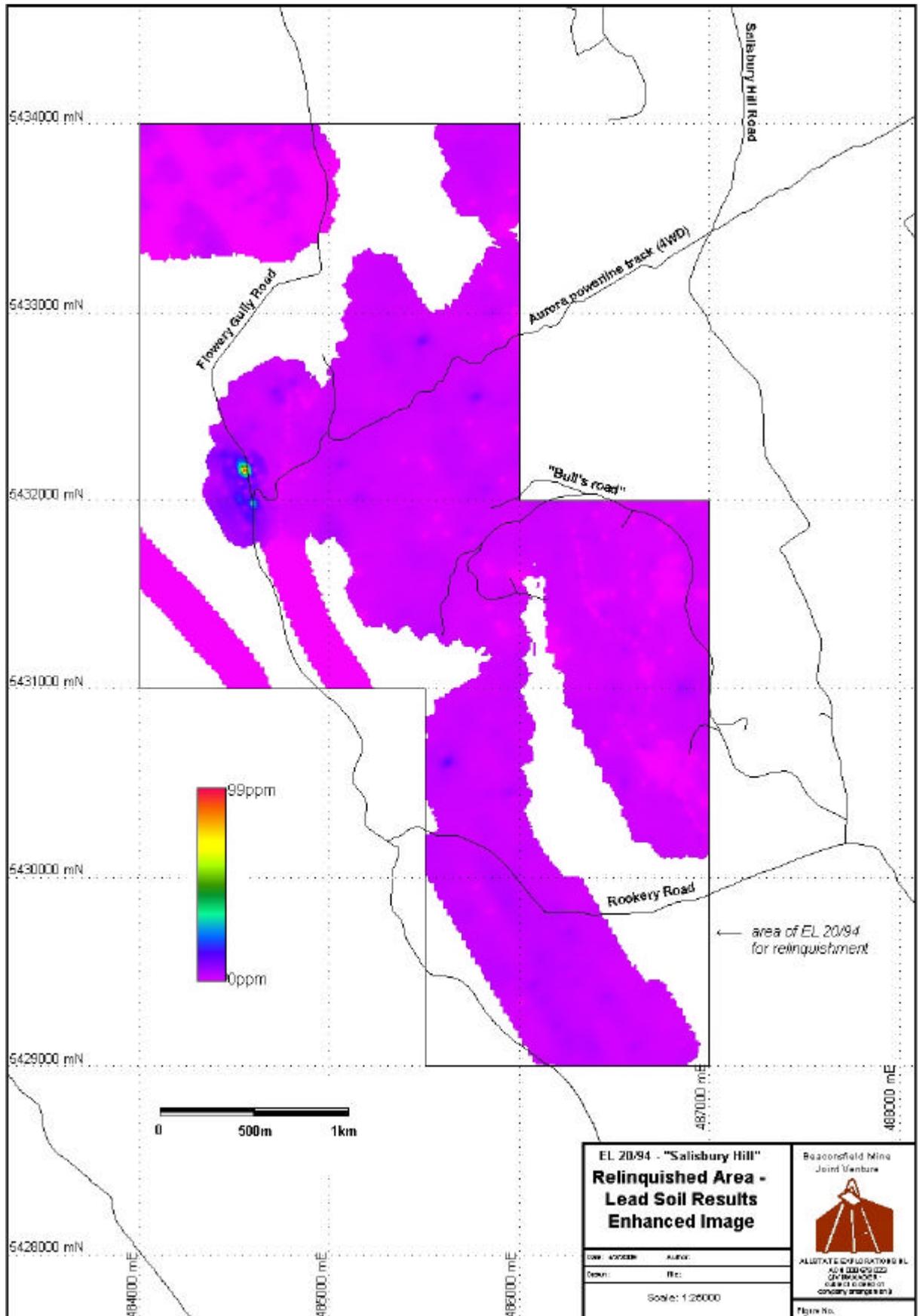


Figure 8. Contoured soil sample image for lead.

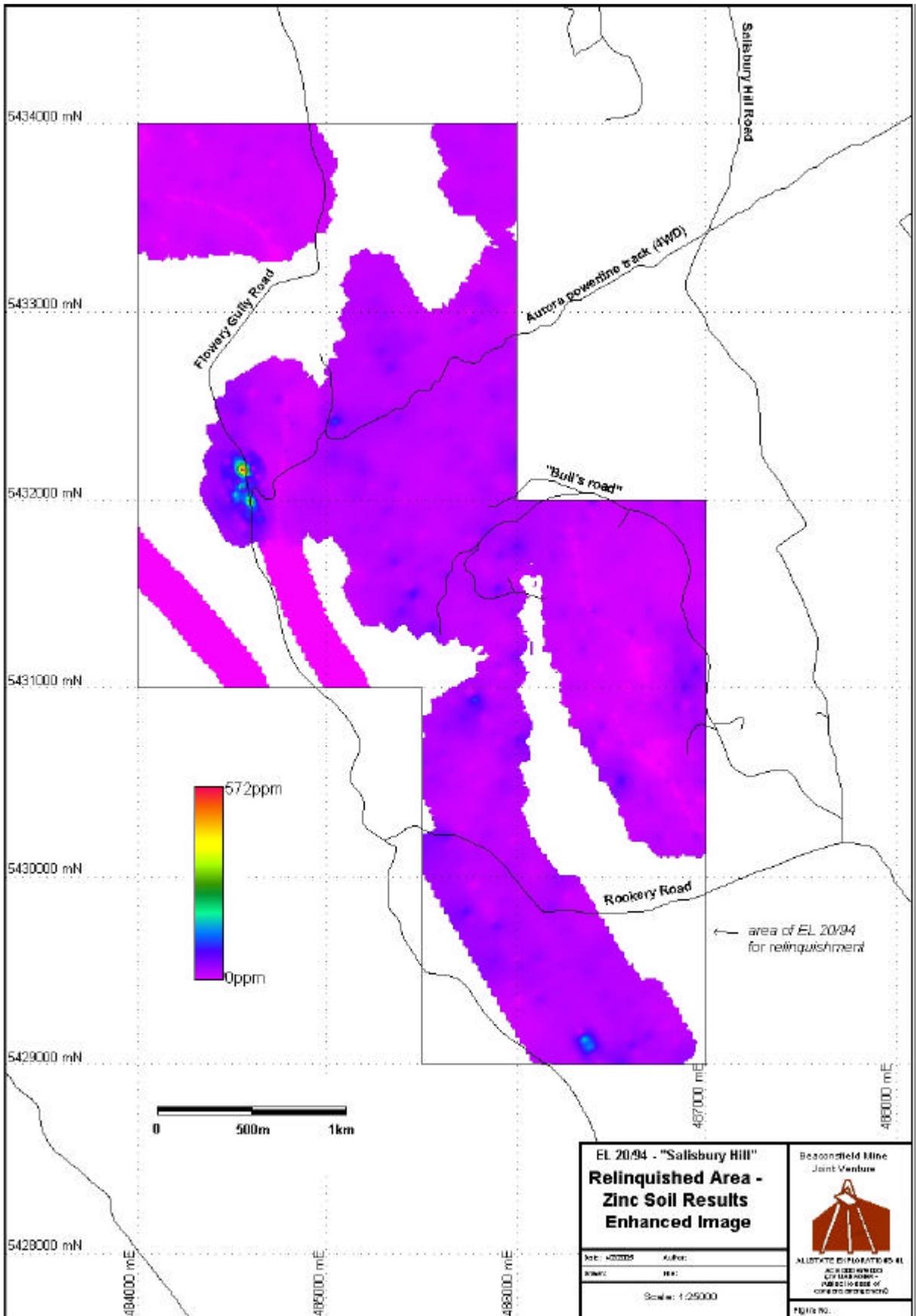


Figure 9. Contoured soil sample image for zinc.

Nineteen rock samples have been collected for lithogeochemical analysis from various locations within the relinquished portion of EL 20/94, primarily to support assignment of the outcropping sediments to the Corn Hill Formation. Details of these samples are tabulated in appendix 2.

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