

MIDDLETON CREEK

SITE INVESTIGATION



Paul Darby
November 2013

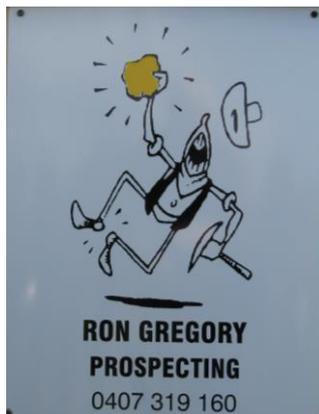
MIDDLETON CREEK SITE INVESTIGATION

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INTRODUCTION

This site investigation of the Historic Workings of Middleton Creek Gold Field was undertaken on behalf of Ron Gregory of Ron Gregory Prospecting..

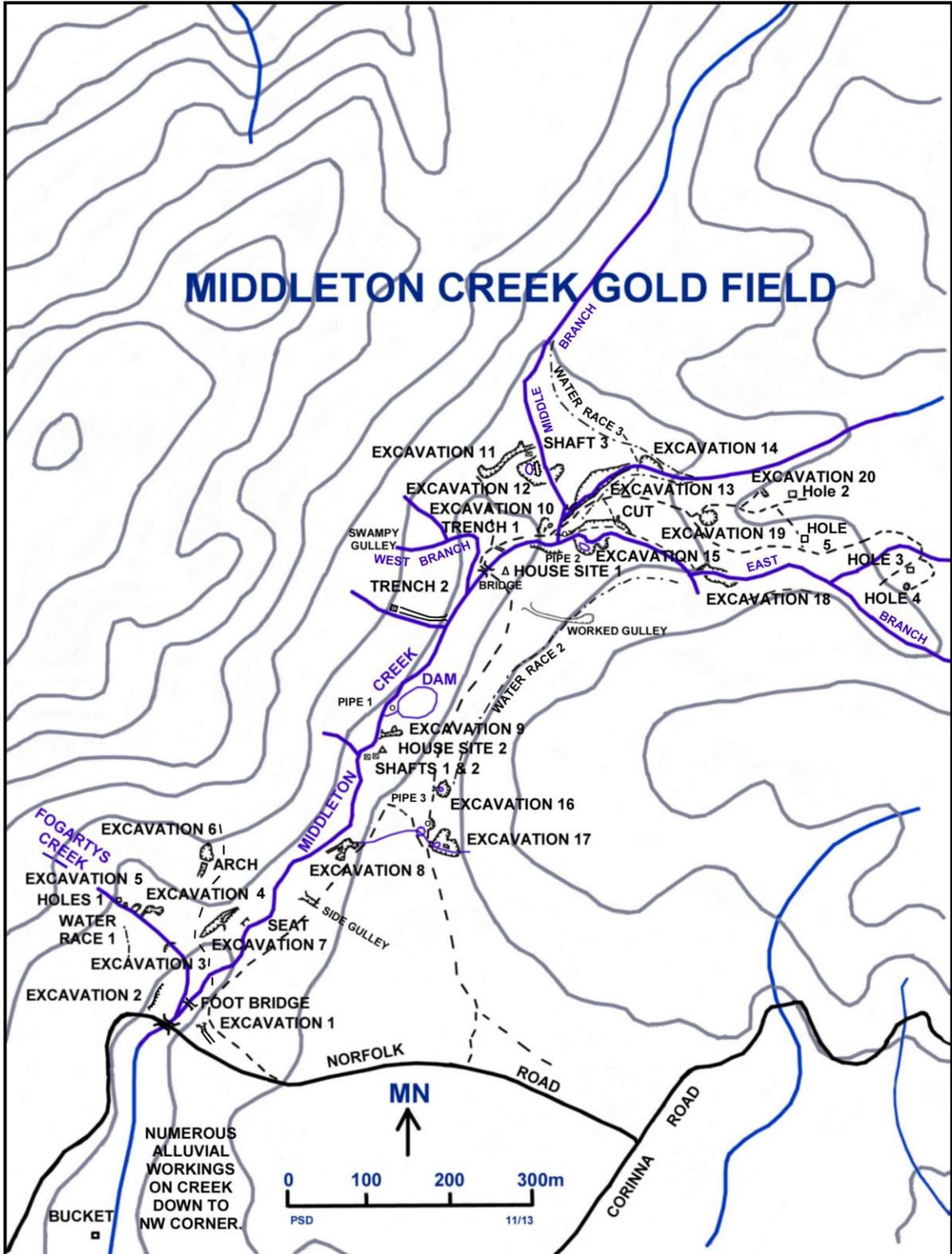


ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I wish to thank those who accompanied me on the trips to Middleton Creek :
Lyndsey Gray, Nic Haygarth, Noel Showell, and Sally and Michael Simco. Thanks to Lyndsey for helping to produce this report.

All photographs in this publication have been taken by Paul Darby.

MAP of WORKINGS

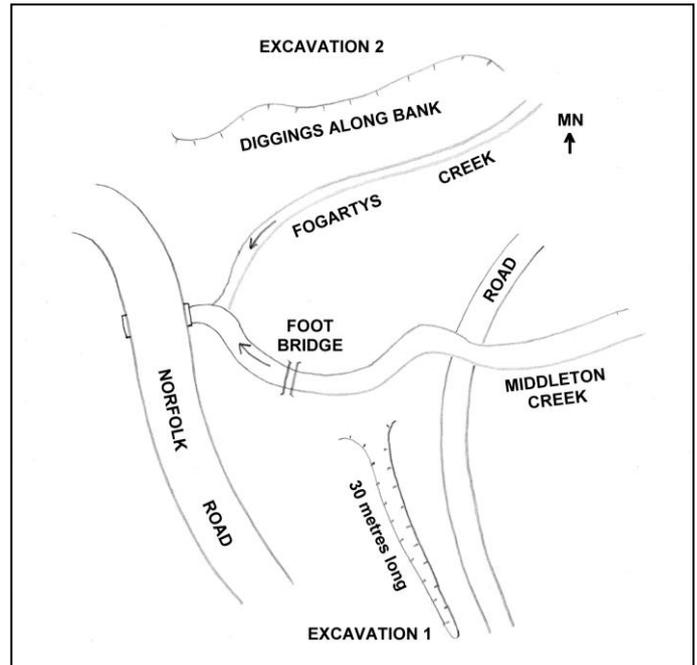


EXCAVATIONS

EXCAVATIONS 1 and 2.

Excavation 1 is a 30 x 4 metre trench on the West side of a mining / forestry track.

Excavation 2 is a length of diggings in the North bank of Middleton Creek between the Norfolk Road and Fogartys Creek.



EXCAVATION 1.

EXCAVATION 2



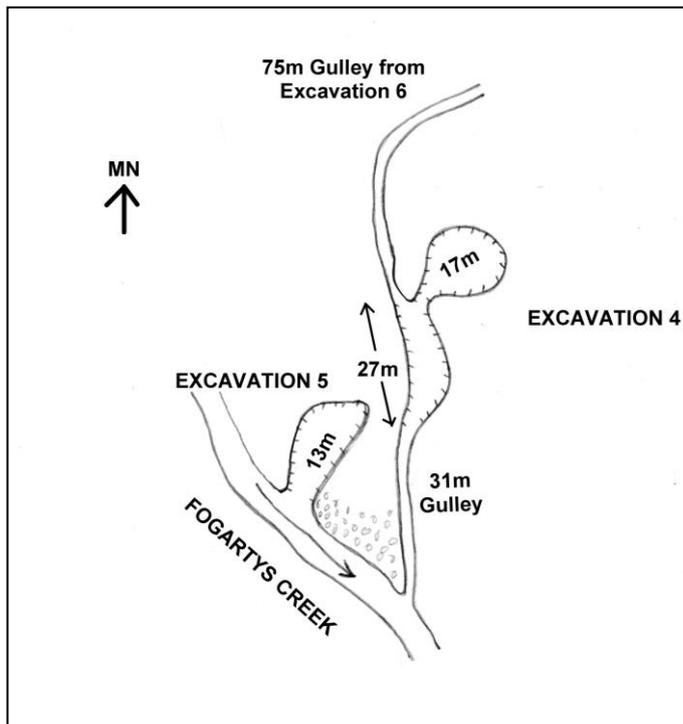
EXCAVATION 3.

Diggings 60 metres up Fogartys Creek,
3 metres in diameter.

EXCAVATION 3

**EXCAVATIONS 4 and 5.**

Workings 100 metres up Fogartys Creek on the
north bank and side gully.



EXCAVATION 5

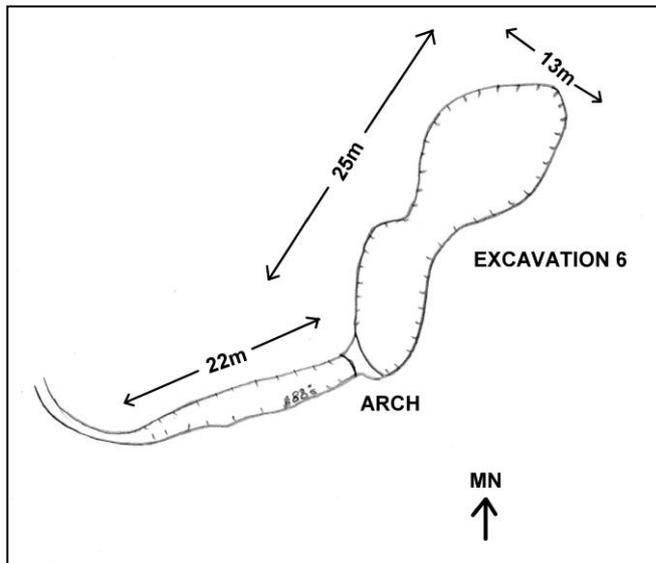


EXCAVATION 4



EXCAVATION 6.

Major workings on the hillside up the minor gulley above Excavation 5. Behind the face of an adit the ground has been opened up into an open cut quarry, leaving an Arch feature.



LOWER GULLEY.



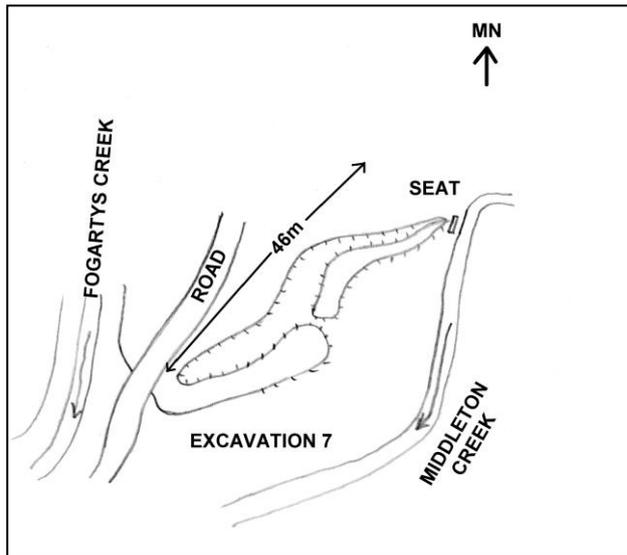
FACE OF ADIT (ARCH).



OPEN CUT WORKINGS.

EXCAVATION 7.

Hydraulic workings on North East corner of Fogartys Creek / Middleton Creek junction.

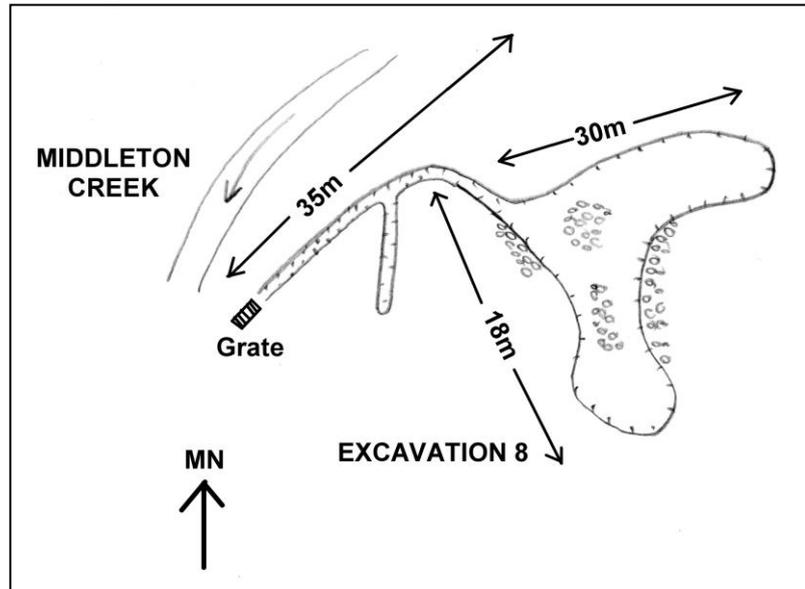


EXCAVATION 7.



EXCAVATION 8.

Trenching and hydraulic slucing on East bank of Middleton Creek.

**LOWER TRENCH.**

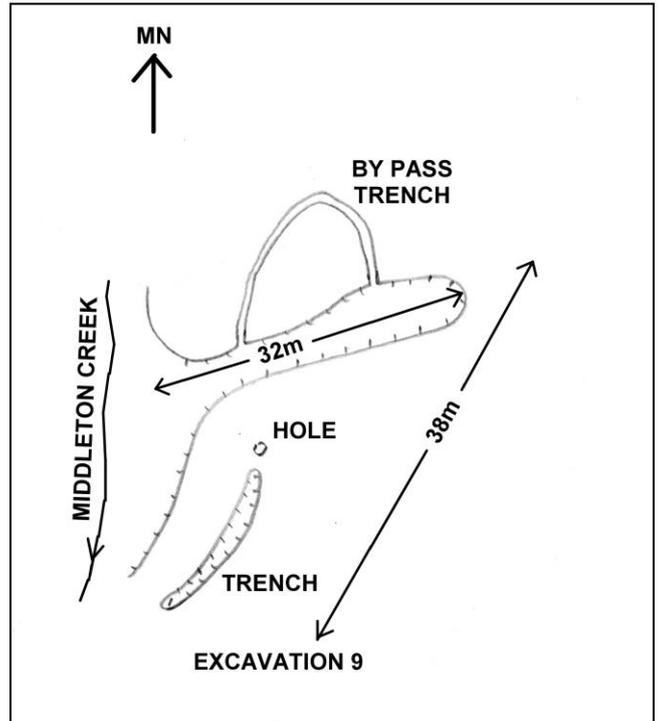
ROCK WORK IN MAIN DIGGINGS.

EXCAVATION 9.

Large area of surface alluvial workings on East side of Middleton Creek with a narrow by pass trench. No water was observed flowing through the workings.



HOLE.



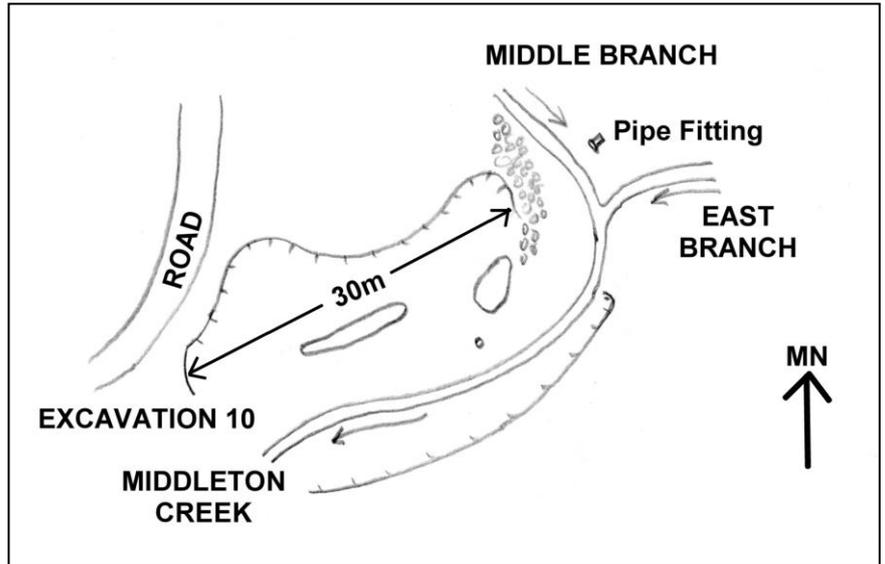
**WORKINGS
LOOKING UP FROM
THE CREEK.**



**LOOKING DOWN
TO MIDDLETON
CREEK.**

EXCAVATION 10

Large area of alluvial excavation on flat at junction of East and Middle Branches of Middleton Creek.



LOOKING NORTH ACROSS THE FLAT.



MULLOCK ON THE SIDE OF THE MIDDLE BRANCH.



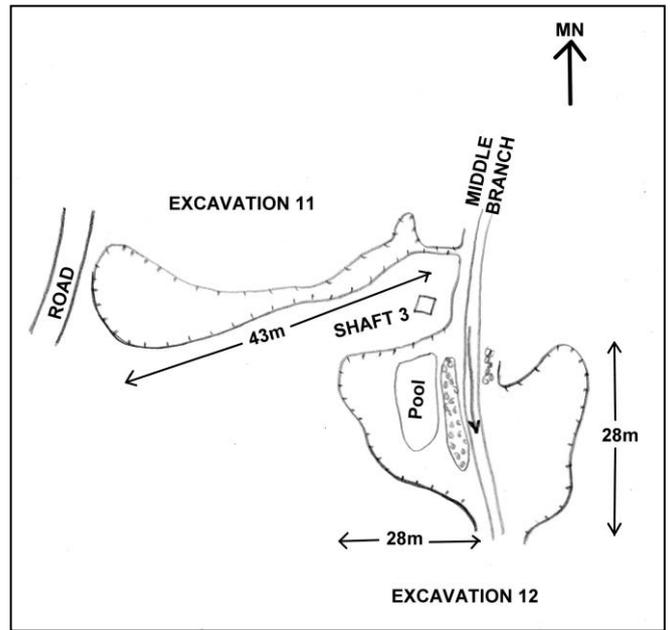
PIPE FITTING.

EXCAVATIONS 11 & 12.

Excavation 11 is Hydraulic workings in, or forming, a deep narrow gully on the West side of the Middle Branch. The western end has formed into a damp compound with no surface water inflow.

Excavation 12 is two quarries on each side of the Middle Branch with fine sands in their walls.

Between the two excavations on the West side of the creek is a flooded shaft which may be one of two shafts mentioned in *The Report on the Corinna Goldfield, Mine Offices, Launceston, 9 April 1894.*



EXCAVATION 11.



SHAFT 3.



EXCAVATION 12 WEST SIDE.

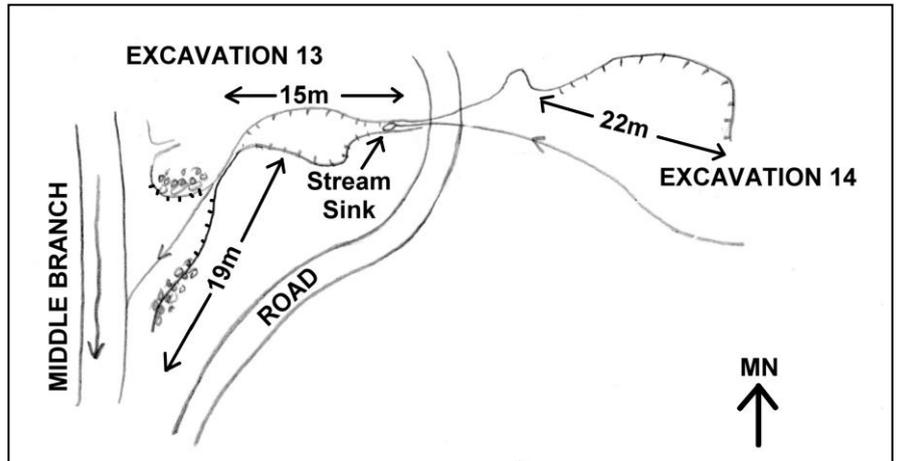
EXCAVATION 12 EAST SIDE.



EXCAVATION 13 and 14.

Excavation 13 is a quarry on the North side of Middle Branch just up from the junction of East Branch. It has a narrow trench to the north east into a swampy pit which has a creek entering on its top end. This could be the remains of the "Gold Gurgler". See reference 5.

Excavation 14 is workings on the side of the small creek upstream of excavation 13.



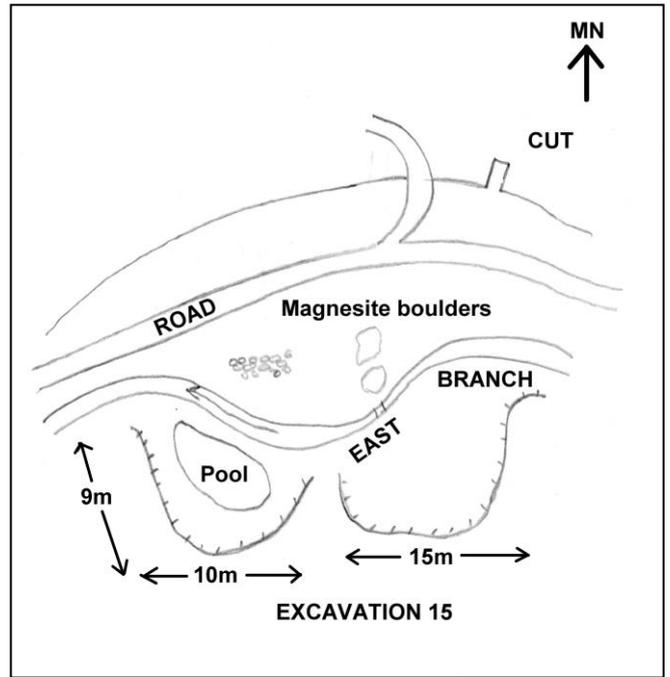
**EXCAVATION 13
QUARRY.**



EXCAVATION 14

EXCAVATION 15

Excavation 15 is workings on East Branch just up from the Middle Branch junction. Two quarries are on the south side of the creek. Mullock and Magnesite boulders litter the valley floor, with a magnesite reef crossing the East Branch. A modern excavator cut is on the northern side.



EAST BRANCH CREEK.



ROCK PILE.

WESTERN QUARRY.



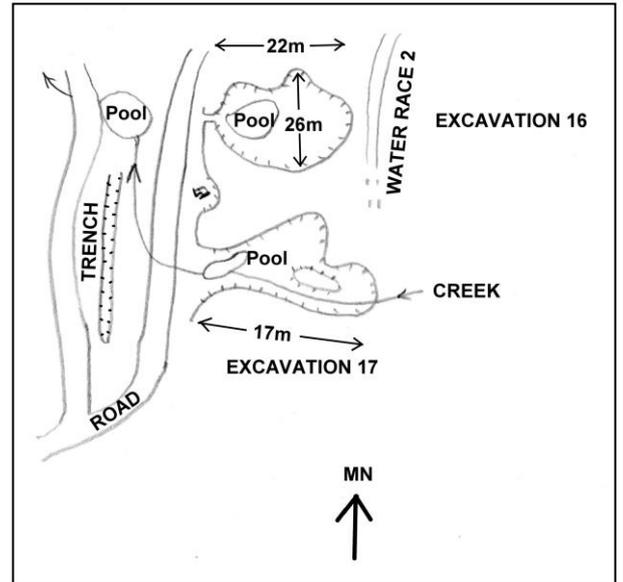
MAGNESITE REEF.

EXCAVATIONS 16 & 17

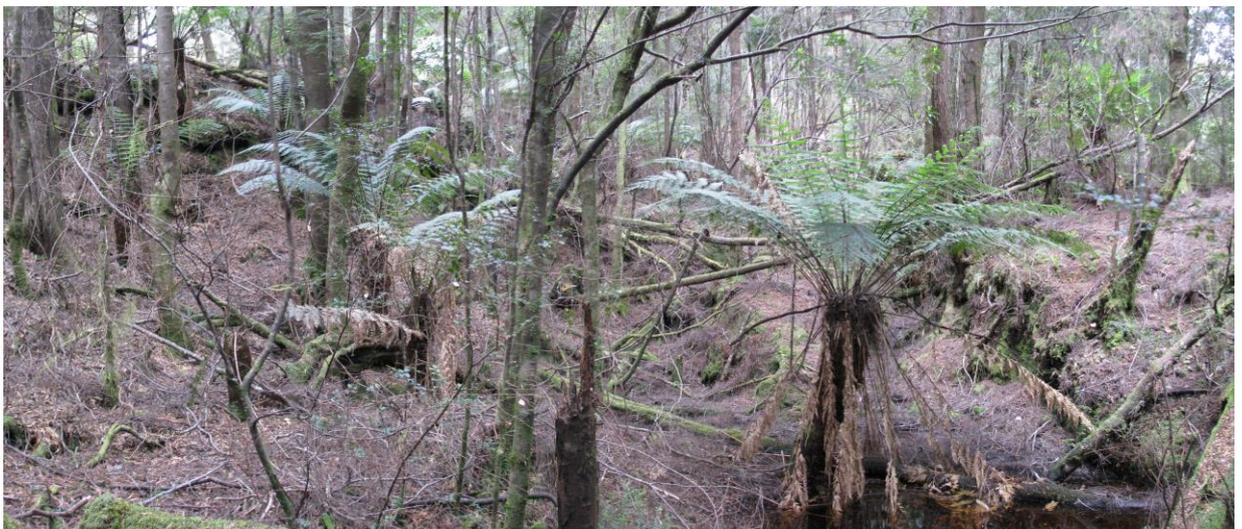
Excavations 16 and 17 are two significant quarries over 100 metres to the east of Middleton Creek above excavation 8. A small creek flows through the southern quarry and is dammed by a road below the workings.



PIPE FITTING.



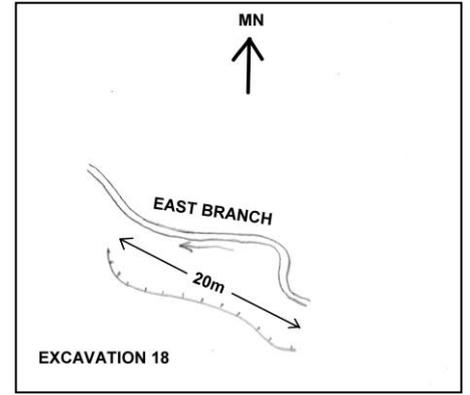
EXCAVATION 16.



EXCAVATION 17.

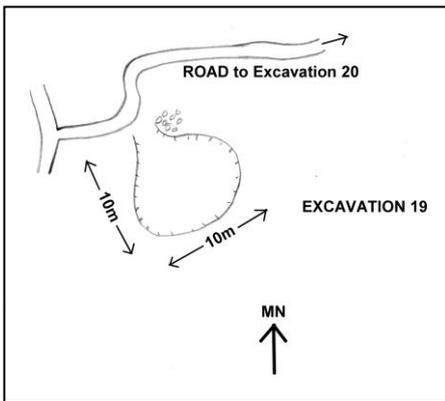
EXCAVATION 18

Excavation 18 is workings on the upper reach of the East Branch above a tributary gulley.



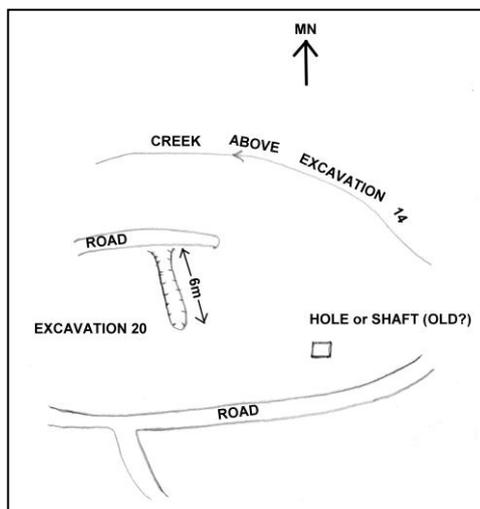
EXCAVATION 19

Excavation 19 is a small modern quarry on the road network north of the East Branch creek.



EXCAVATION 20

Excavation 20 is a small modern cut above the creek which flows into excavation 13. Nearby is a hole which may be the remains of an older shaft.



PHOTOGRAPHS

CREEKS and GULLEYS

The early maps and references to Middleton Creek mention *Left (Western)*, *Middle*, and *Right (Eastern)* branches above the upper flat on the creek. With the significant mining of the original creek valley, and the display and positioning of the creeks on the modern map, it is uncertain as to which creeks are referred to in these reports. I have plotted the creeks on my map from the GPS readings and labeled three of these as Western, Middle, and Eastern branches. It may be that my Middle branch is the Western branch in the old reports, and the creek flowing into Excavation 13 may be Middle branch.

MIDDLETON CREEK



MIDDLETON CREEK JUST UPSTREAM OF EXCAVATION 7.

WEST BRANCH



SWAMPY GULLEY ON WEST BRANCH.

MIDDLE BRANCH



MIDDLE BRANCH AT JUNCTION WITH EAST BRANCH.

EAST BRANCH

DOUBLE TAPES FOUND ON TREE, POSSIBLY AT HIGHEST LEVEL OF MINING ON EAST BRANCH ABOVE EXCAVATION 18.



FOGARTYS CREEK



PANNING ON FOGARTYS CREEK.

SIDE GULLEY.

SIDE GULLEY SOUTH OF EXCAVATION 8.



HOLES and SHAFTS

HOLES 1

TWO HOLES IN SIDE OF FOGARTYS CREEK.



HOLES 2 to 5 are found on the hill north of East Branch.

HOLE 2



HOLE 2.
OLD HOLE
OR SHAFT.

HOLE 3



HOLE 3.
MODERN
SAMPLE
HOLE.

HOLE 4



5m dia x 3m deep EXCAVATOR HOLE.

HOLE 5

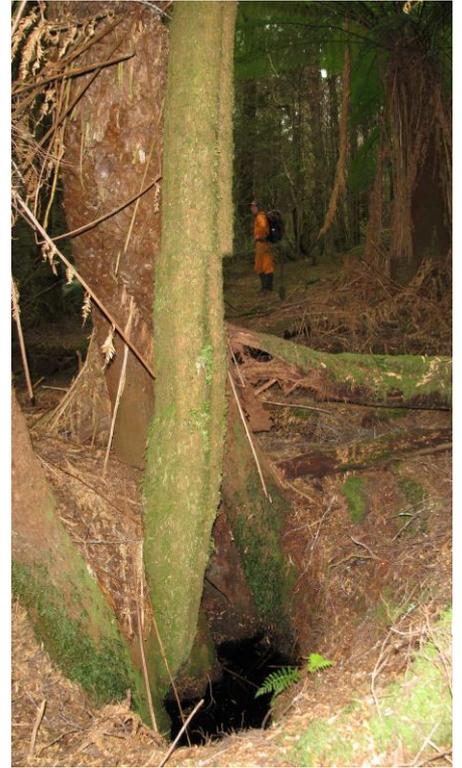


MODERN HOLE.

SHAFTS 1 and 2.



**SHAFTS 1 and 2
south of
excavation 9.
Both flooded.**



SHAFT 3.



SHAFT 3 BETWEEN EXCAVATIONS 11 and 12. COLLAPSED.

TRENCHES

TRENCH 1.

TRENCH 1 ON FLAT NEAR BRIDGE.



TRENCH 2.

**TRENCH 2 ON WEST SLOPE OF MIDDLETON CREEK
SOUTH OF WEST BRANCH.**



WATER RACES

WATER RACE 1.

**RACE 1 ON SOUTH SIDE
OF FOGARTYS CREEK.**



WATER RACE 2.

**RACE 2 FROM EAST BRANCH
RUNNING DOWN THE EAST
SIDE OF MIDDLETON CREEK
VALLEY.**



WATER RACE 3.

**RACE 3 FROM
MIDDLE
BRANCH DOWN
TOWARDS
EXCAVATION 10.**



HOUSE SITES

HOUSE SITE 1.



COOKING POT AT SITE 1.

HOUSE SITE 2.



CHIMNEY BASE AT SITE 2.

LANDMARKS

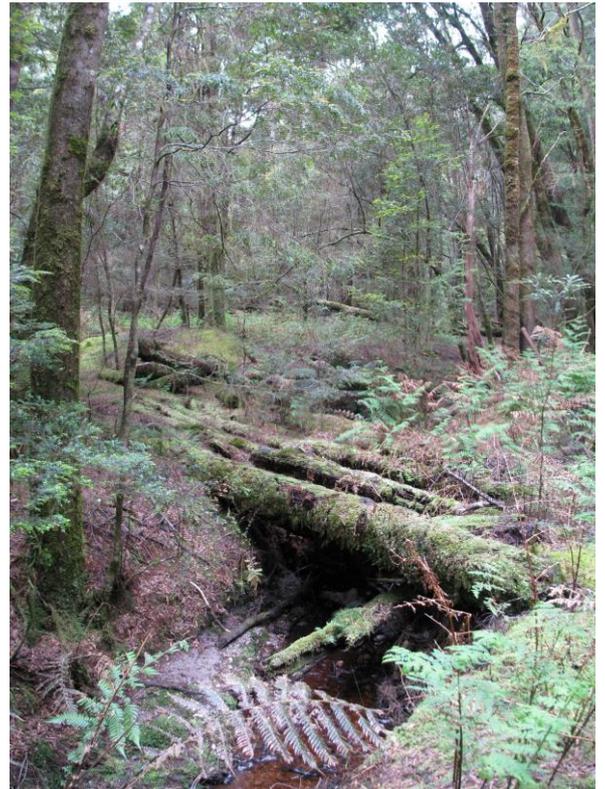
DAM.



FOOTBRIDGE.



BRIDGE.



FURTHER RESEARCH

From Parry Kostoglou's *Archaeological Report 1999/05*, he reports on a Mill Site, Water Race and Tramway which we have yet to locate. Also the *1925-1945 survey chart showing leases held by C. T. Crabtree. (MRT map 186)* shows further workings in the west up on the lower slopes of the Elizabeth Ridge, and downstream on Middleton Creek where it turns west to the Savage River. These two areas are still to be investigated and reported on.

INTERESTING REFERENCES

*Included in this report

1894

Report on the Corinna Goldfield. Mines Office, Launceston, 9 April 1894
(Middleton's Creek)

1939

Report on Corinna Alluvial Goldfield by F. Blake, Acting Government Geologist
Mines Department, Hobart. 26 June, 1939
(a. Middleton Creek)

1940

*Advocate, Monday 8 April 1940, page 8
Camp at the Pieman by H. Stuart Dove
(A visit to the area)

1956

*CORINNA, State Aerial Survey, Zone 7, Sheet No.43C
(Tributaries of Middleton Creek slightly different position to Tas Map 1:25,000 Series)

1997

Karst Geomorphology and Values of the Tarkine, A Report to the Australian Heritage Commission and the Tasmanian Conservation Trust Inc. by Chris Sharples 1997
'The Gold Gurgler' (informal name)
Unenterable (?) hole which is the sink point of a creek most probably in the headwaters of Middleton Creek. Possible positions are 341 800mE 389 700mN or 341 400mE 390.000mN, but these has (sic) not been checked (Kiernan 1995). There is a cliff nearby and traffic on the Corinna Road can be heard (Shannon in:Scott 1988)
(above is a quote from the above report)

1999

*An archaeological inspection of the historic alluvial mine workings at Middleton Creek by Parry Kostoglou, *Mineral Resources Tasmania, Archaeological Survey Report 1999/05*

MIDDLETON CREEK NORTH CO-ORDINATES GDA94			
EL36/2010			
PAUL DARBY - Nov 2013			
ITEM		EASTING	NORTHING
Footbridge		0341090	5389348
Excavation 1		0341115	5389343
Excavation 2		0341076	5389372
Excavation 3		0341083	5389434
Excavation 4		0341063	5389464
Excavation 5		0341053	5389465
Holes 1		0341021	5389490
Water Race 1		0341051	5389445
Excavation 6		0341110	5389536
Arch		0341128	5389543
Excavation 7		0341118	5389434
Seat		0341158	5389424
Excavation 8		0341297	5389580
Shafts 1 & 2		0341326	5389655
House Site 2		0341338	5389659
Excavation 9		0341334	5389681
Dam Outlet		0341338	5389720
Trench 2 (Top)		0341341	5389844
House Site 1		0341459	5389860
Bridge		0341445	5389873
Trench 1		0341458	5389909
"		0341476	5389900
Excavation 10 (Swamp)		0341370	5389914
Excavation 10		0341506	5389944
Excavation 11		0341468	5390019
Shaft 3		0341510	5390038
Water Race 3		0341689	5390004
"		0341522	5390170
"		0341613	5390048
"		0341710	5390010
Excavation 12		0341535	5390007
Excavation 13		0341552	5389973
Excavation 14		0341633	5390027
Excavation 15		0341583	5389926
Cut (Excavation)		0341632	5389945
Dolomite Boulders	240 degree magnetic Strike in Creek	0341641	5389924
Water Race 2		0341666	5389881
"		0341571	5389835
"		0341422	5389656
Hole 3 (Modern)		0341953	5389892
Hole 4 (Modern)		0341961	5389860
Hole 5 (Modern)		0341838	5389931
Hole 2		0341818	5389985
Excavation 20 (Modern)		0341802	5389995
Excavation 19 (Modern)		0341720	5389965
Iron Peg		0341539	5389921
Excavation 16		0341383	5389648
Excavation 17		0341382	5389591
Pool		0341361	5389618
Excavation 18		0341691	5389890

MIDDLETON CREEK SITE INVESTIGATION

PART TWO SOUTHERN SECTION



**Paul Darby
December 2013**

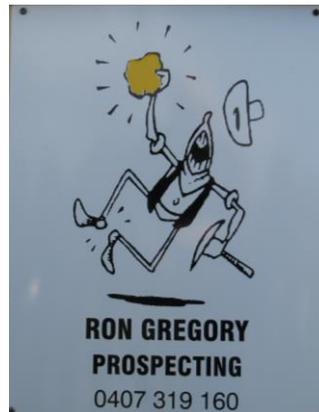
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INTRODUCTION

This is a continuation of the site investigation of the Historic Workings of Middleton Creek Gold Field south of Norfolk Road. It was undertaken on behalf of Ron Gregory of Ron Gregory Prospecting.

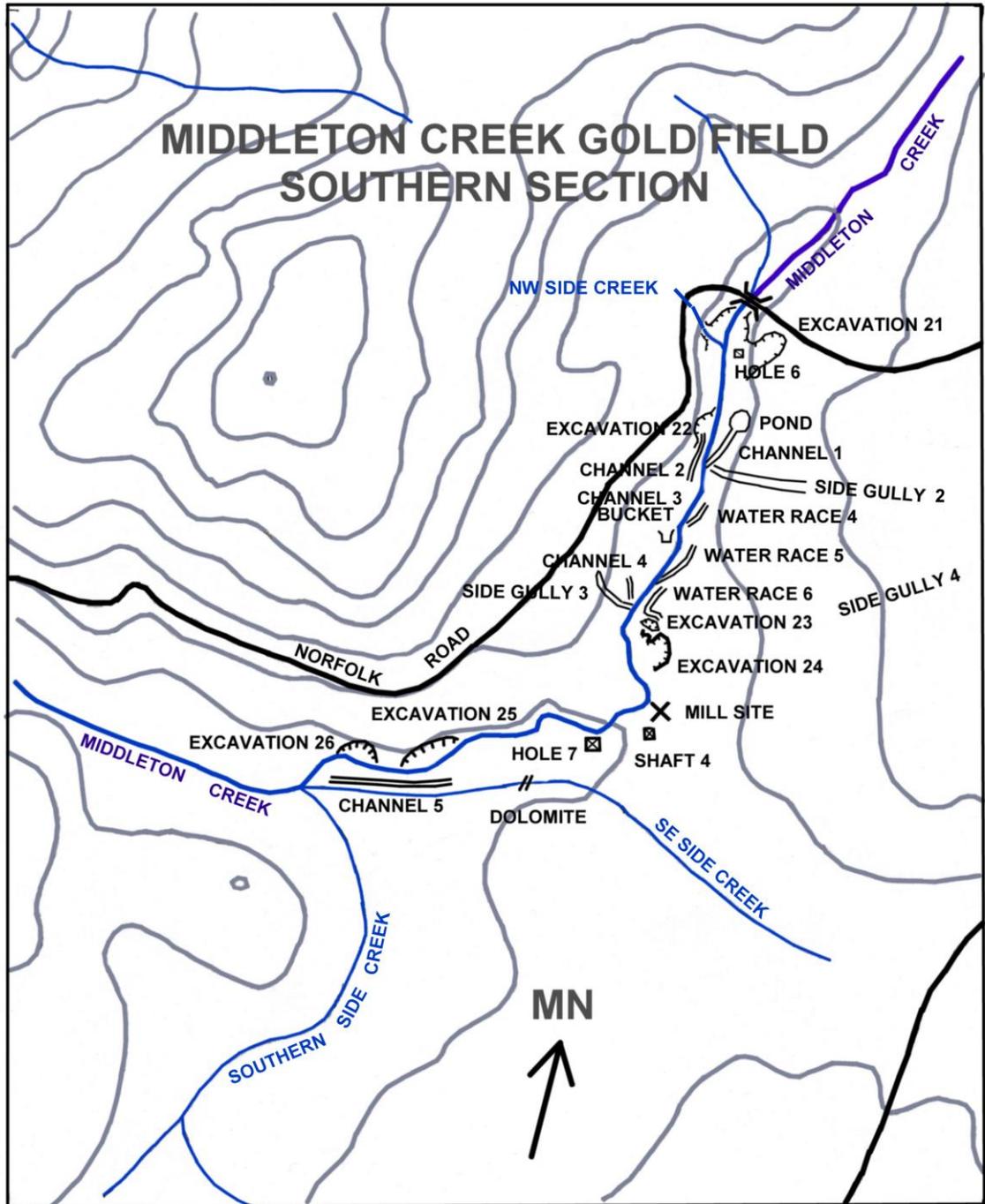


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I wish to thank those who accompanied me on this trip to Middleton Creek :
Lyndsey Gray and Noel Showell. Thanks to Lyndsey for helping to produce this report.

All photographs in this publication have been taken by Paul Darby.

MAP of WORKINGS



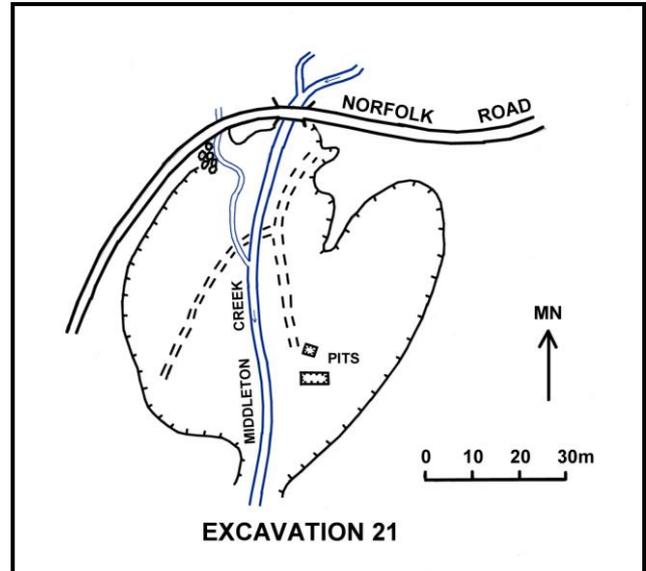
SOUTHERN SECTION EXCAVATIONS

EXCAVATION 21.

This is a large area of excavation on both sides of Middleton Creek immediately south of the bridge on Norfolk Road. Two pits have been dug, the larger labeled as "Hole 6".



SIDE CREEK BELOW THE ROAD SHOWING ROCK PILES.



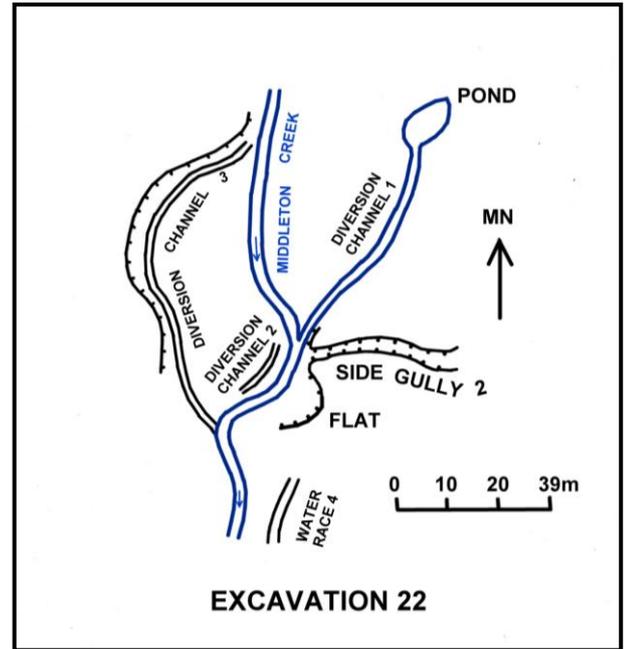
EXCAVATION BELOW THE BRIDGE.



WESTERN SIDE OF EXCAVATION. PITS ARE ON THE FLAT TO THE LEFT OF THE PICTURE.

EXCAVATION 22.

Excavation 22 is 200 meters down from the bridge mainly on the western side of Middleton Creek, with a minor flat and worked gully on the eastern side. Three diversion channels exist at this location, one emanating from a small pond. There are remains of a water race beyond this excavation, possibly fed originally from the side gully.



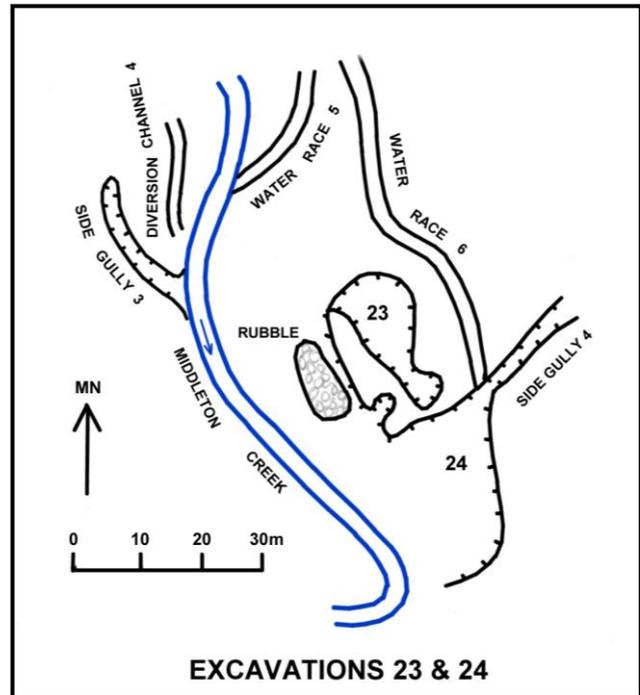
**EXCAVATION 22 LOOKING
ACROSS MIDDLETON CREEK.**



MIDDLETON CREEK BELOW EXCAVATION 22.

EXCAVATIONS 23 and 24.

These excavations are 400 meters below the bridge, mainly on the east side, with some working in a steep gully on the west side. One water race enters Middleton Creek just upstream, while a second passes above Excavation 23, and may have ended at Excavation 24, or been obliterated by work at this site. Another diversion channel exists on the west side.



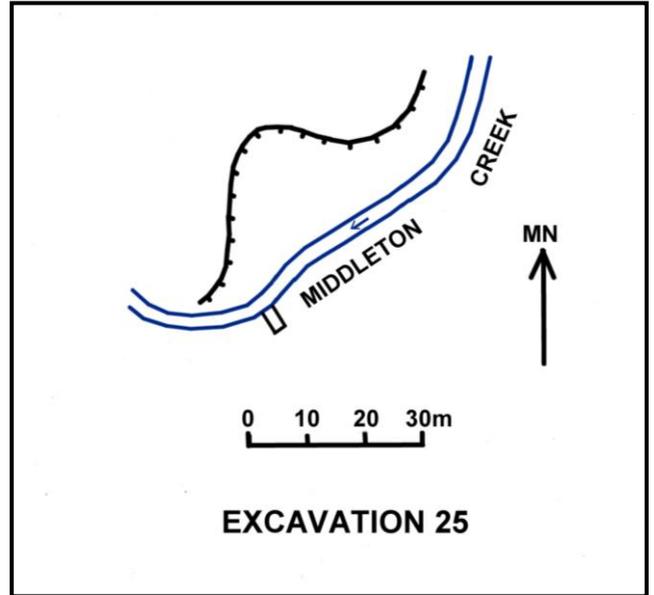
**EXCAVATION 23 from WATER RACE 6.
(Race visible on left side of picture.)**



EXCAVATION 24.

EXCAVATION 25.

This is a small excavation on the west side of Middleton Creek 250 meters down stream of the Mill site. There is a trench cut into the east bank.



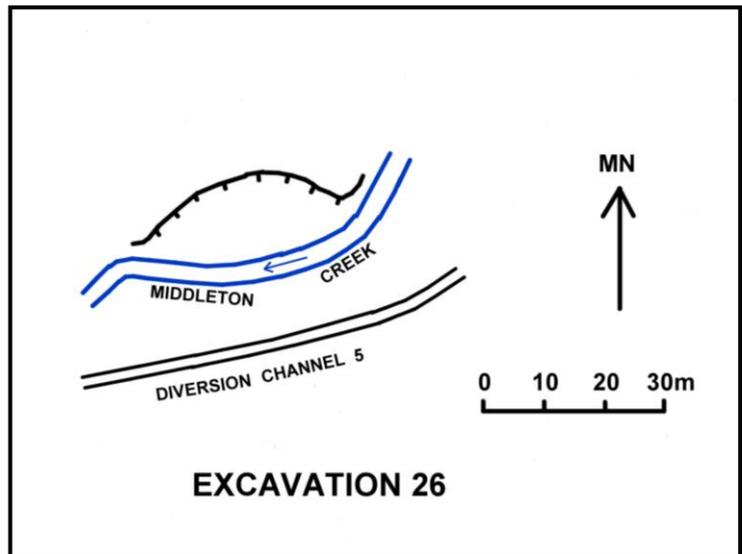
**CUT IN SIDE OF
MIDDLETON CREEK.**



EXCAVATION 25.

EXCAVATION 26.

This excavation just past Excavation 25 is the last observed before Middleton Creek flows North West through the Elizabeth Ridge. The valley here widens out and becomes swampy as two side creeks join Middleton Creek. A long Diversion Channel passes this excavation.



EXCAVATION 26, COVERED BY SCRUB.

**PHOTOGRAPHS
(SOUTHERN SECTION)
CREEKS and GULLYS**

NORTH WEST SIDE CREEK



**CREEK PASSING THROUGH EXCAVATION 21, WITH A
VEHICLE TRACK CROSSING OVER THE CREEK.**

SOUTH EAST SIDE CREEK.



DOLOMITE REEF CROSSING SOUTH EAST SIDE CREEK.

SOUTHERN SIDE CREEK.



SEDIMENTATION IN SOUTHERN SIDE CREEK AT JUNCTION WITH MIDDLETON CREEK.

SIDE GULLY 2



SIDE GULLY 2 RUNNING INTO MIDDLETON CREEK OPPOSITE EXCAVATION 22.

SIDE GULLY 3

**SIDE GULLY 3 ON THE
WEST SIDE OF
MIDDLETON CREEK
ABOVE EXCAVATION 23.
POSSIBLY FORMED BY
MINING.**



SIDE GULLY 4

**BOTTOM OF
SIDE GULLY 4 AT
EXCAVATION 24.**



DIVERSION CHANNELS

CHANNEL 1



CHANNEL 1 FLOWING OUT OF A POND ON EASTERN SIDE OF MIDDLETON CREEK.

CHANNEL 2



CHANNEL 2 PASSING SIDE GULLY 2 ON WEST SIDE OF MIDDLETON CREEK.

CHANNEL 3

**A CHANNEL ON THE WEST
SIDE OF MIDDLETON CREEK
DOWN STREAM OF
EXCAVATION 22. MAY HAVE
BEEN PART OF CHANNEL 2.**



CHANNEL 4

**A CHANNEL ON THE WEST SIDE
OF MIDDLETON CREEK NEAR
SIDE GULLY 3.**



CHANNEL 5

**A LONG CHANNEL ON THE
EASTERN SIDE OF
MIDDLETON CREEK
OPPOSITE EXCAVATION 26.**



HOLES and SHAFTS

HOLE 6

A LARGER PIT ON THE EASTERN FLAT FORMED BY EXCAVATION 21.



HOLE 7



A HOLE BELOW THE RAISED AREA DOWN STREAM OF THE MILL SITE.

SHAFT 4

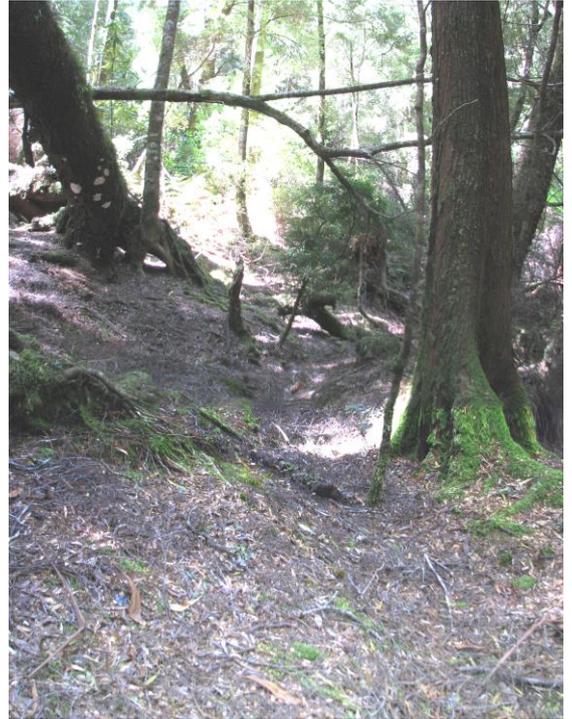
A HOLE WITH A TIMBER FRAME THAT APPEARS TO BE A FILLED IN SHAFT OR WELL BEHIND THE CHIMNEY BASE AT THE MILL SITE.



WATER RACES

WATER RACE 4

WATER RACE 4 HAS BEEN DUG ON THE EASTERN SIDE OF MIDDLETON CREEK DOWN STREAM OF SIDE GULLY 2.



WATER RACE 5



WATER RACE 5 WHERE IT JOINS MIDDLETON CREEK OPPOSITE SIDE GULLY 3.

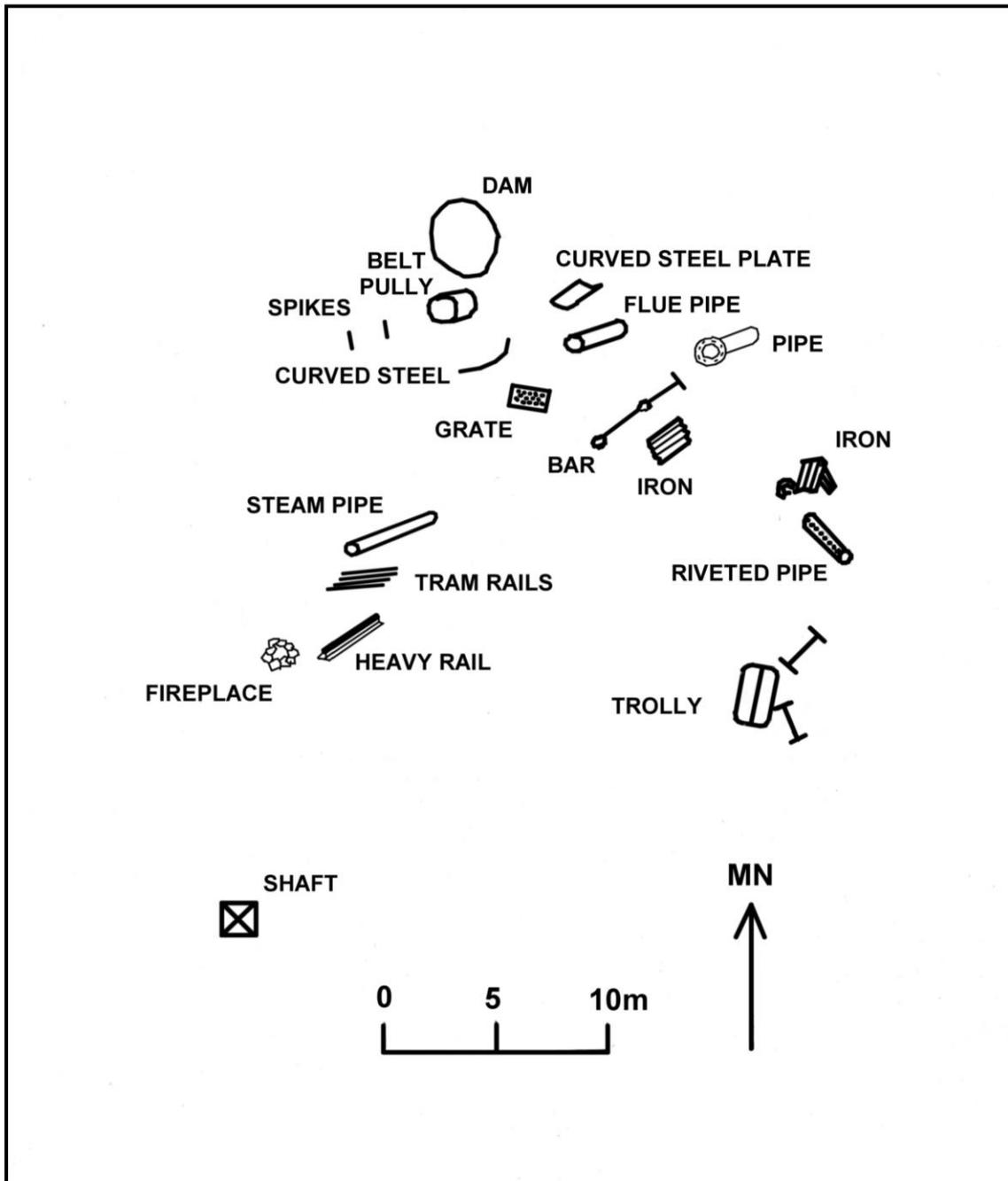
WATER RACE 6

WATER RACE 6 WAS DUG UPHILL OF WATER RACE 5, AND FLOWS INTO SIDE GULLY 4 ABOVE EXCAVATION 24.



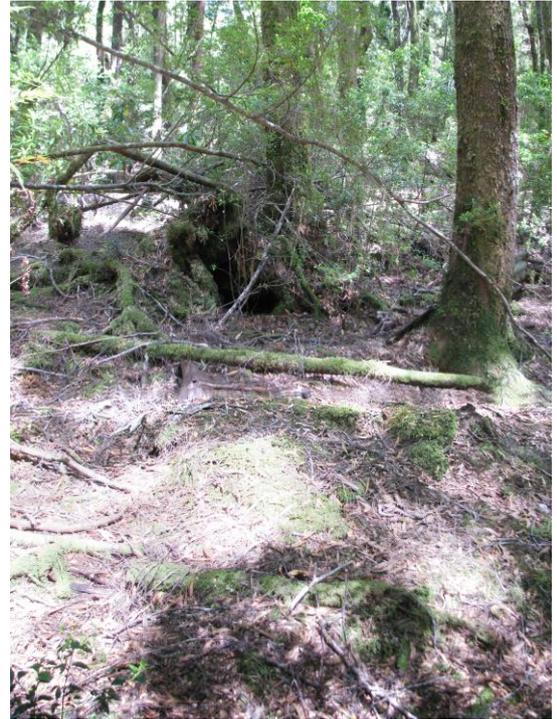
MILL SITE

Near the bottom of the Southern Section gold leases there exists evidence of what Parry Kostoglou called “*an ore milling site with adjacent timber tramway*”. The following artifacts were located, but the building foundation reported upon was not obvious. South of the mill site a formation which could be a tramway was seen, but it was only evident for about 50 meters before entering a boggy area covered with horizontal scrub. One section of heavy rail iron was seen which would match the trolley wheels, with a bundle of light tram rail iron beside it.





RIM OF BELT PULLEY & CURVED STEEL.(POSSIBLE SLED RUNNER.)



CHIMNEY BASE.



CURVED PIPE.



CURVED PLATE.



FLUE PIPE.



GRATING.



HEAVY RAIL.



TRAM RAIL.



IRON



LARGE PIPE SECTION.



IRON SPIKES IN TIMBER & DAM.



RIVITED PIPE.



LONG BAR OR LEVER.



ROOFING IRON.



STEAM PIPE & TRAM RAILS.



POSSIBLE TRAMWAY



SIDE TIPPING TROLLEY & AXLES.



WATER PIPE.

MIDDLETON CREEK SOUTH SIDE CO-ORDINATES GDA94			
EL36/2010			
ITEM		EASTING	NORTHING
Road Bridge		O341066	5389341
Excavation 21		O341049	5389294
Side Creek Rock Wall		O341012	5389302
Hole 6		O341052	5389278
Pond & Diversion Channel 1		O341046	5389192
Excavation 22		O341007	5389175
Diversion Channel 2		O341018	5389162
Channel 1/Middleton Creek Junction		O341019	5389155
Flat and Side Gully 2		O341020	5389153
Water Race 4		O341001	5389101
Bucket		O340988	5389079
Diversion Channel 3		O340990	5389092
Water Race 5		O341003	5389063
Water Race 6		O340971	5389028
Water Race 5/Middleton Creek Junction		O340950	5389026
Side Gully 3 workings		O340939	5389025
Diversion Channel 4		O340942	5389025
Excavation 23		O340962	5388997
Excavation 24 and side gully 4		O340987	5388964
Mill Site		O370976	5388893
Shaft 4		O340956	5388872
Tram Formation?		O340930	5388869
Hole 7		O340898	5388866
Excavation 25		O340723	5388852
Excavation 26		O340657	5388854
Diversion Channel 5		O340649	5388850
Southern Side Creek Junction		O340581	5388823
Dolomite Reef in South East Side creek		O340824	5388828