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4.

EXPLORATION IN THE MAINWARING GROUP

4.1 Introduction - Previous Work

Rocks which are assigned to the Mainwaring Group occupy a \pm 3 kilometer wide, thickly forested zone which marks the north-western boundary of the E.L. (fig 21). Previous exploration of this suite of predominantly basic volcanic rocks and argillites has been limited due to access problems. B.H.P. conducted exploration over an AEM anomaly in the Cypress Creek area which culminated in the drilling of 3 holes in a sequence of otherwise barren pyritic black shales (Flood, 1973).

Regional stream sediment geochemical sampling over this part of the E.L. is incomplete, with the exception of the Sassy Creek drainage system which cuts the southern extremity of the Sassy Creek Formation. Exploration by Geopeko has been confined to the examination of copper mineralization which is exposed on the coast near Veridian Point (Voyager 23) and at the estuary of Copper Creek (Voyager 18).

The Georex airborne geophysical survey of the Elliott Bay area highlighted the distinctive magnetic character of the basic members of the Mainwaring Group and formed the basis for extrapolation of the coastal geology through the forested area to the north.

Large (1981) proposed that a regional reconnaissance be carried out across to the central part of the Mainwaring Group in the 1980/1981 field season. The work was conducted by contractors and included: