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Exploration Licence 15/85
Annual Report to end of September 1987

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| MINES | |
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| Action Officer | Initials |
| LETTER | |
| 29. 9. '87 | |
| REFERS. | |
| Tasmania | |
| glass making | |
| to justify | |
| required | |
| of product | |
| Resubmit to | Date |

Introduction

The silica sand potential in the Lapoinya area of N.W. Tasmania has been investigated and found to be suitable for glass making purposes. These are, however, insufficient reserves to justify establishing an export oriented business. The reserves required need to be able to provide 500,000 tonnes per year of product for a minimum of twenty years.

However, the sand in the Lapoinya area would be a good starting point for an export oriented business and a study was carried out by Longworth & McKenzie to locate other potential areas in the state where a major deposit could be developed. The areas investigated had to have known large sand deposits, be close to a port or suitable harbour and close to a supply of labour, housing etc. They were

- (a) North East Tasmania around Bridport
- (b) King Island
- (c) Strahan

Conclusion

For a long term silica sand export business, large reserves which can be beneficiated into the necessary product quality are essential. These exist in the extensive mobile and stabilised leached dunes north of Strahan and a major feasibility study will be carried out with a view to establishing a long term viable export silica sand operation.

In the meantime, however, the sand deposits in the N.W. of the state adjacent to the port of Burnie could support an export business for up to twenty years depending on the number of locations that were mined and the rate of extraction.

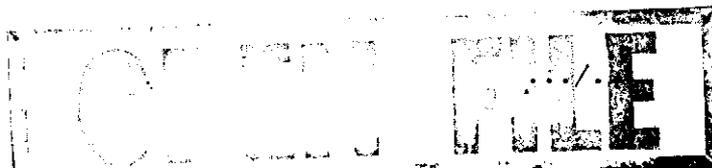
It is also probable that if a float glass, tableware, light globe, T.V. tube or high grade clear container business were ever to be established in Tasmania (to serve Australian Mainland and export markets) the most likely place would be around Burnie and drawing on the sand deposits in the area.

A major Japanese trading house and an associated glass manufacturer are now considering the possibility of establishing an export glass sand business as is a Korean glass manufacturer.

Work carried out on Exploration Licence 15/85

Site Location

The area investigated for silica sand is near the eastern boundary and approximately 2.5 kilometres S.W. of Lapoinya. Other areas considered in the North West of the State to make up sufficient reserves are Boat Harbour. (Sisters Hills) Calder, Hellyer and the Dip Range.



Method of Investigation

The deposit was drilled with an "air track" drill borrowed from the Kara Scheelite mine. However, it suffered from clogging of the air holes and hole collapse which made drilling very slow and limited the depth that could be drilled.

Hammer seismic in 40 metre traverses was then used after correlation at Boat Harbour alongside a deep auger hole. The depth of friable material was taken to be where there was a large increase in seismic velocity.

Samples

Samples were collected every 3 metres during drilling by taking sand from the top of the core around the drill rods whilst the drill bit was going down to ensure that the material taken was not falling down from higher up the hole.

Sample Analysis

The samples were analysed by S.G.S. in Sydney after washing in 1 N Hydrochloric acid to remove drill steel contamination but not any clay or other impurities such as iron or heavy minerals. It had been determined from previous work that the sand was amenable to beneficiation with water attritioning and washing and that the grading was appropriate for glass manufacture.

Reserves

The depth to bedrock ranged from 6 to 22 metres with an average of 16 metres for the total seismic traverse length of 240 metres. If this depth is maintained for the friable part of the deposit - 500 metres long by 300 metres wide then the reserves will be around 4 million tonnes.

Further work

During the next year the exploration licence needs to be systematically rechecked for other locations of Jacob Orthoquartzite which are friable and that may have been missed previously. If there are no other areas then the rest of the licence area can be handed back.

Where results
see 88-2857

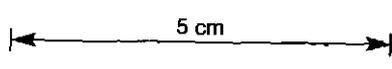
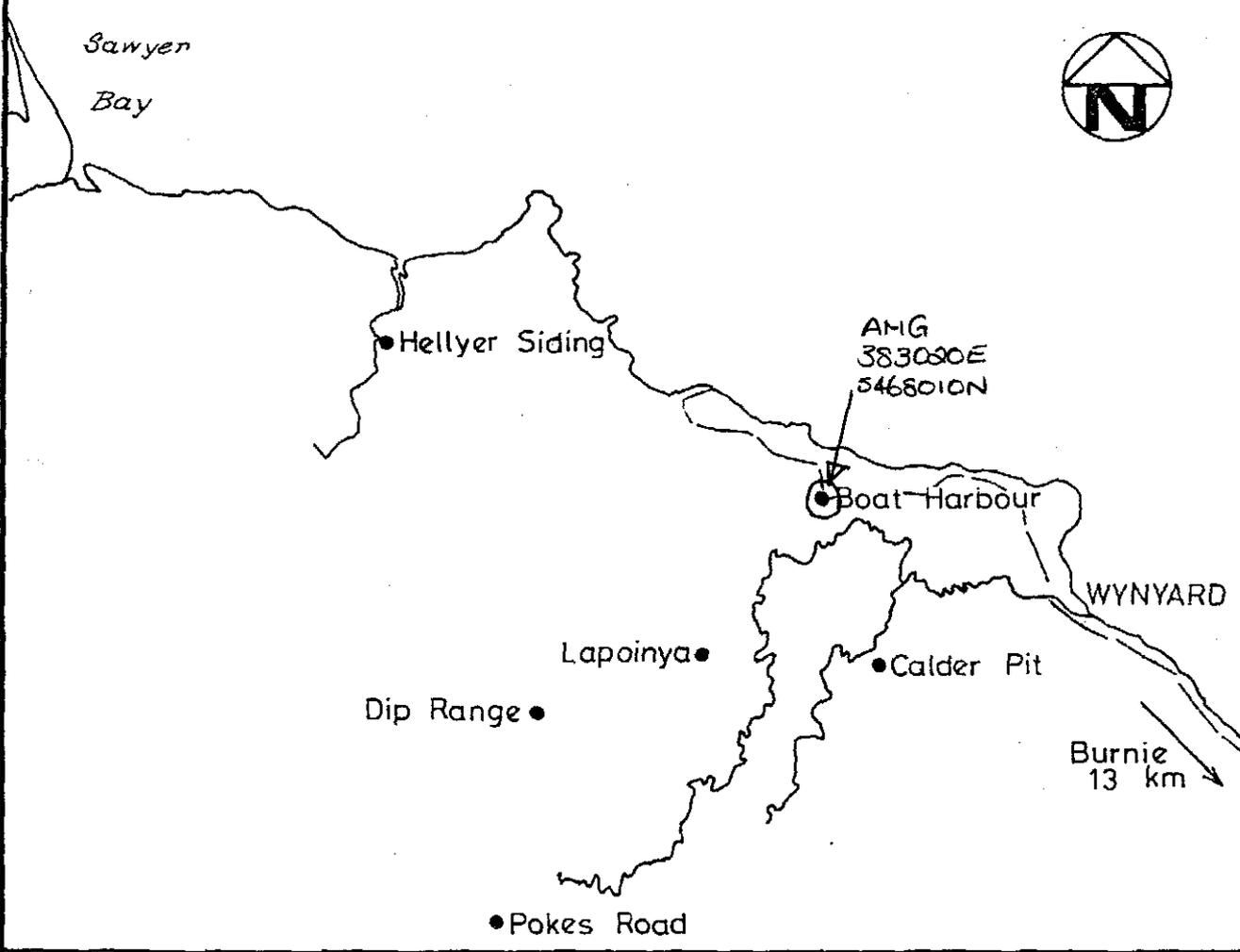
Where results?
see 88-2857

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NORTH COAST LOCATION PLAN

FIGURE NO 4.5

8670.03



AMG REFERENCE POINTS ADDED



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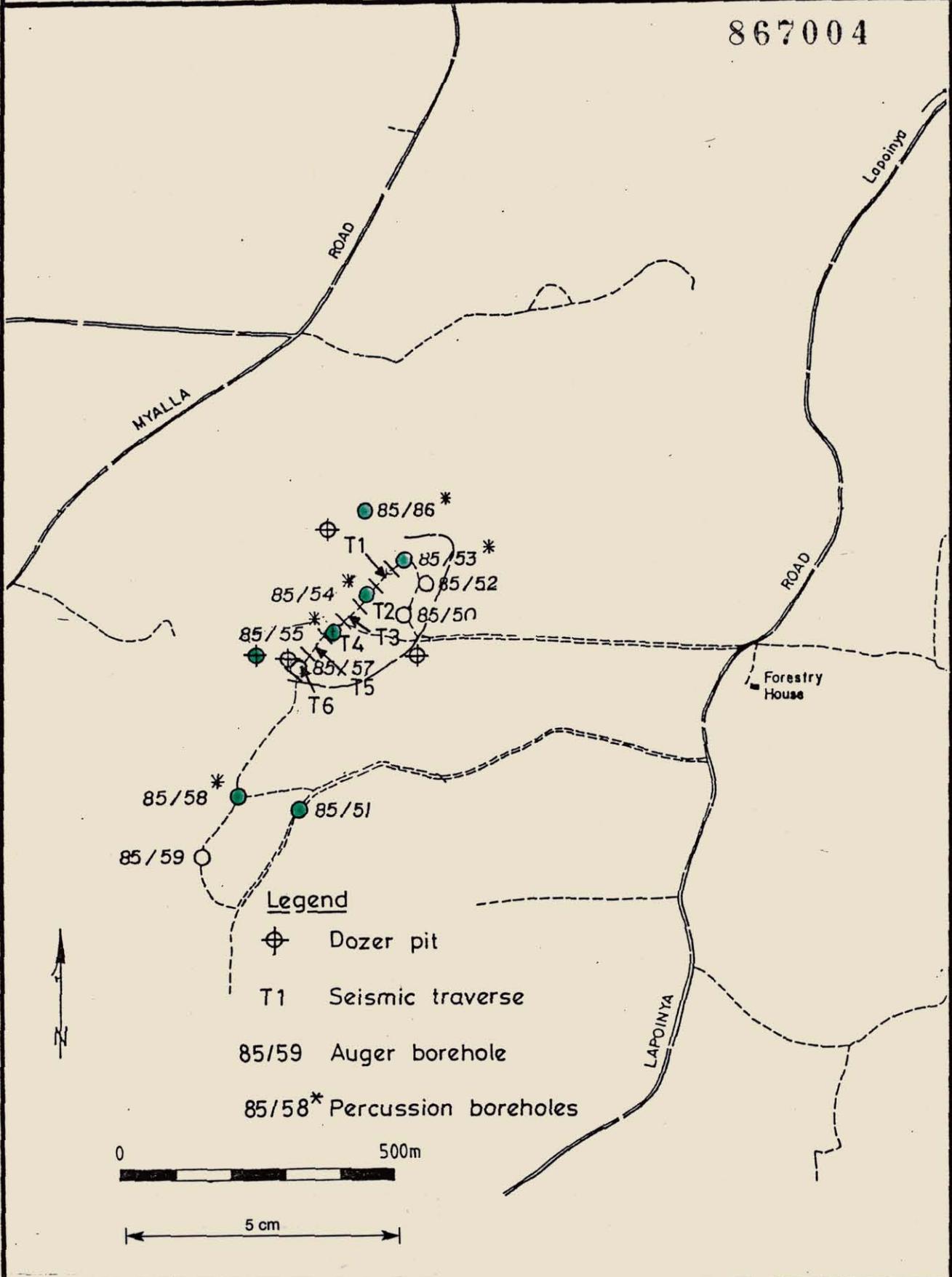
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LAPOINYA

FIGURE NO 4.7

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Legend

⊕ Dozer pit

T1 Seismic traverse

85/59 Auger borehole

85/58* Percussion boreholes

0 500m

5 cm

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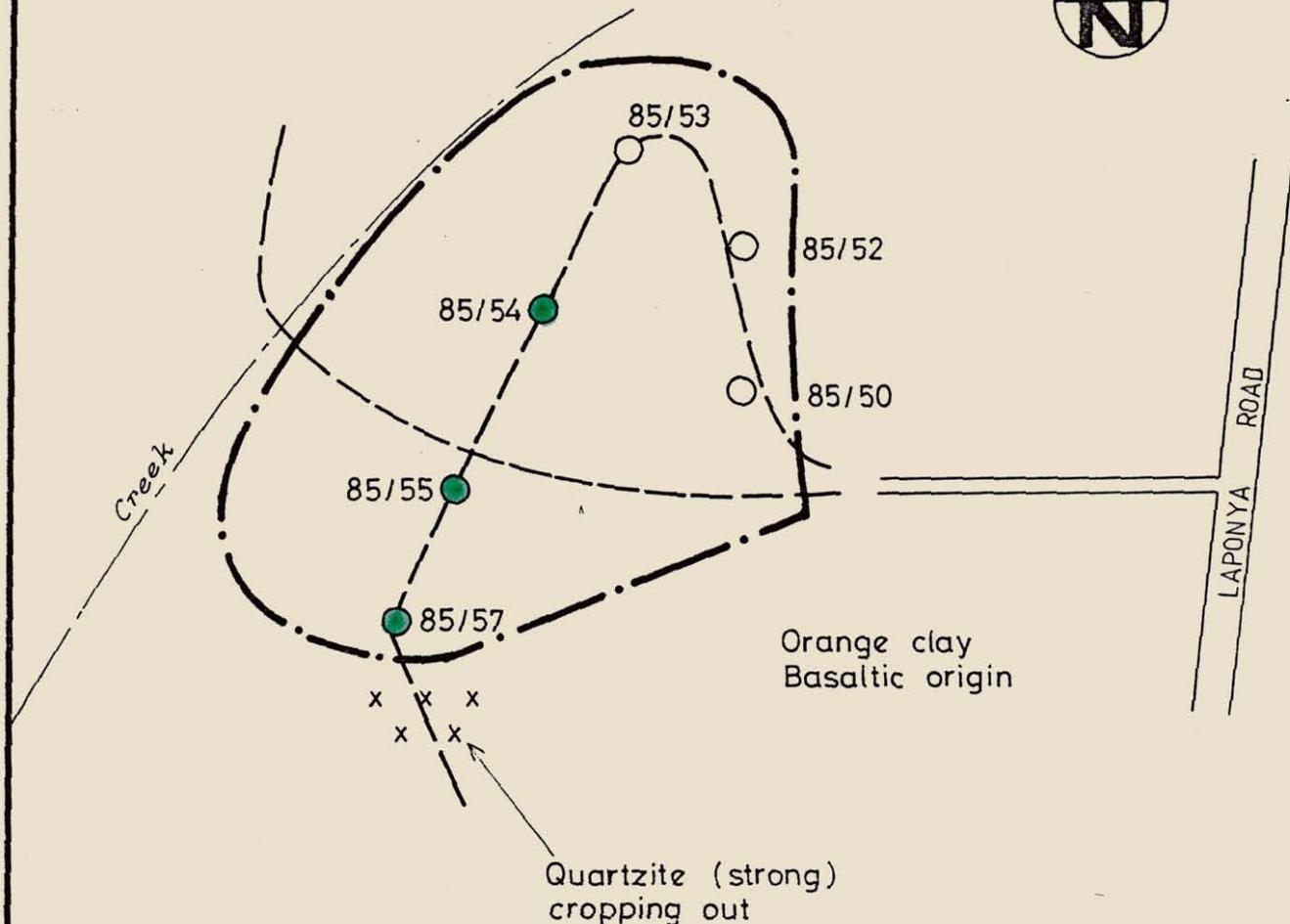
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SKETCH PLAN LAPONYA

FIGURE NO 4.7(a)

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- Tracks
- . - Extent of deposit

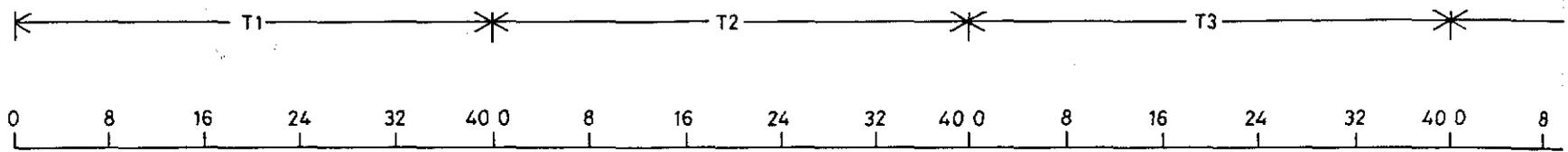
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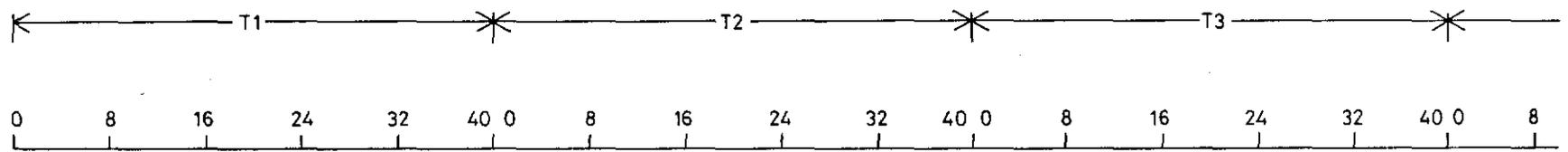
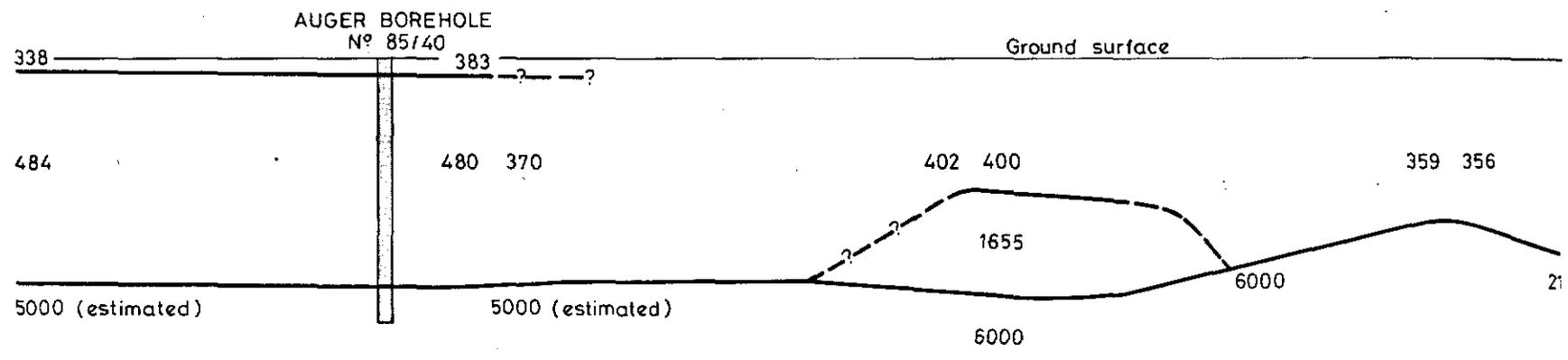


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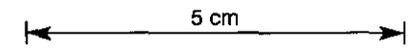
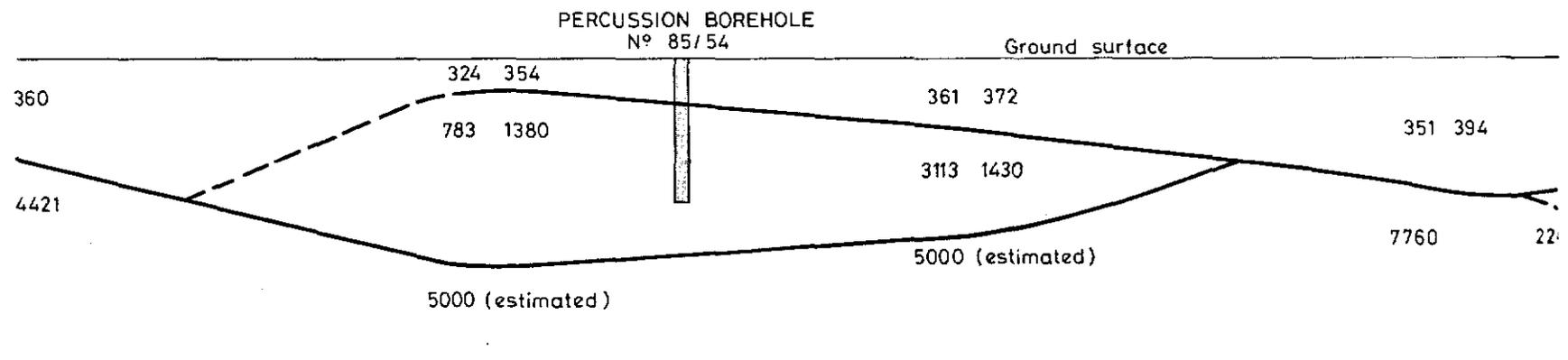
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(metres)



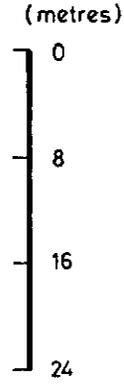
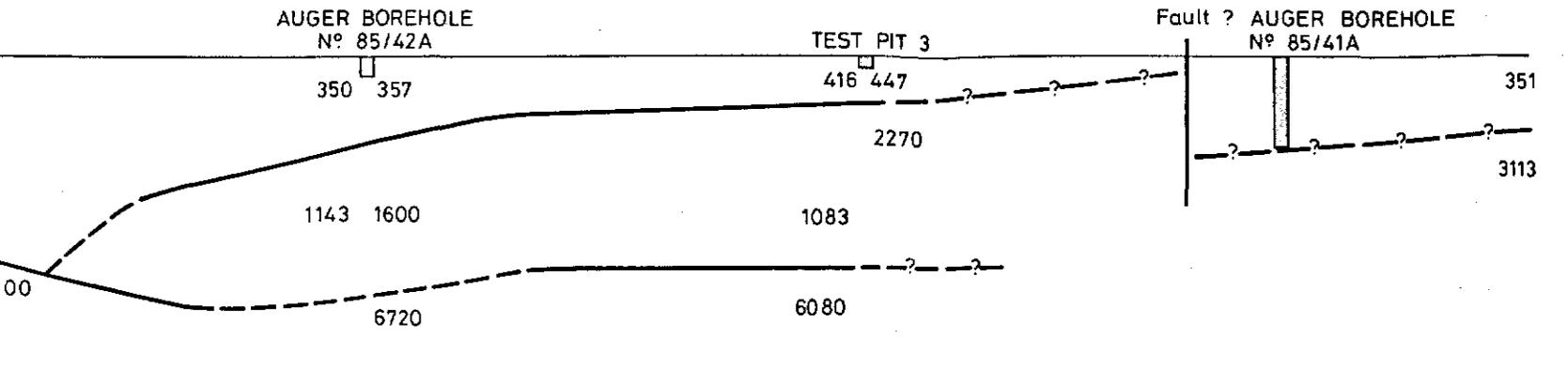
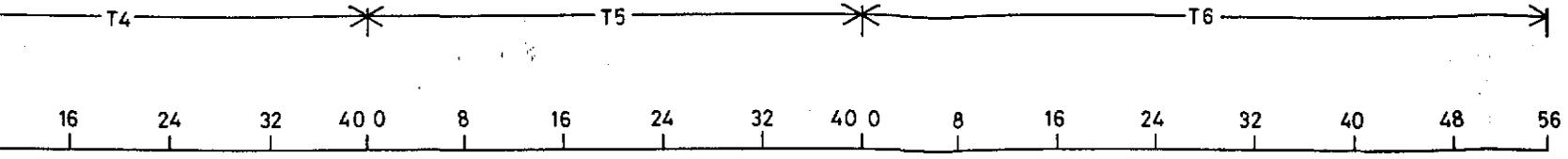
(metres)



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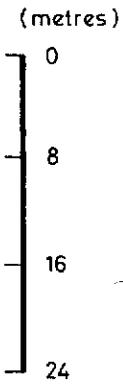
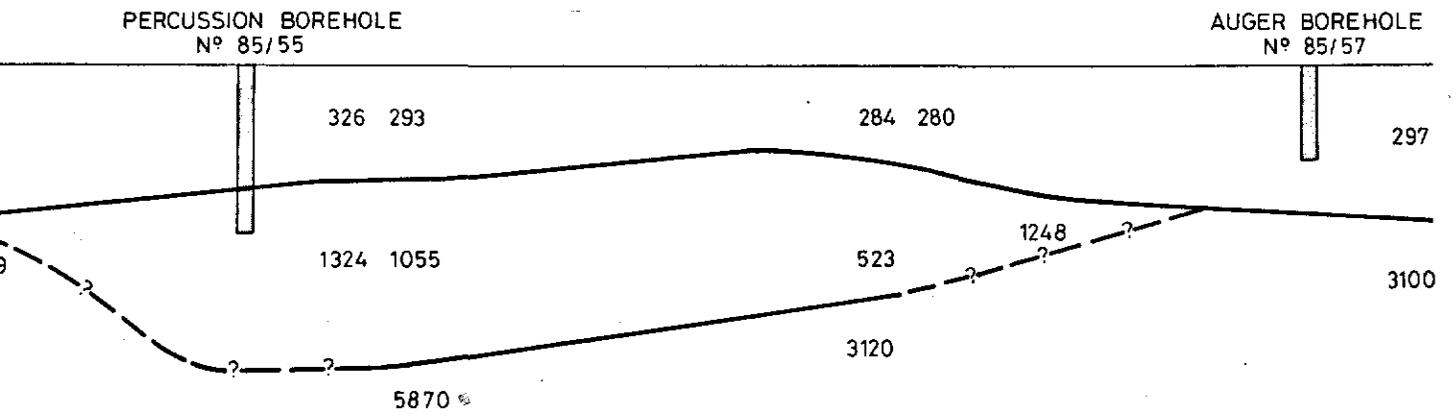
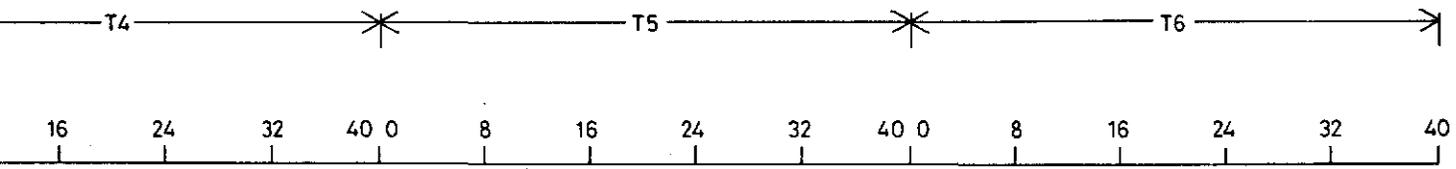
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(a) BOAT HARBOUR



Seismic velocities in metres / second

SCALE 1:400 (natural)



(b) LAPOINYA

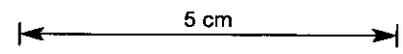


FIGURE A.2.1 : DIAGRAMMATIC SECTIONS FROM INTERPRETATION OF SEISMIC RESULTS

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