

**FINAL REPORT
RETENTION LICENCE 8803,
BROWN PLAINS,
SAVAGE RIVER, TASMANIA**

**reporting period:
23-5-1989 to 23-5-1990**

BY

C.H.C. SHANNON

3-5-1990



**SAVAGE RESOURCES LIMITED
Incorporated in Tasmania**

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Introduction

A management decision has been made to pull out of the Brown Plains clay project. The ground may suit an enterprise specifically interested in developing a ceramic clay source in Tasmania, and it was felt that Savage Resources should not hang on to the ground when the company was unlikely to do anything further with it.

Previous work

The work program in the field was completed prior to this reporting period, and the previous annual report is an essentially up to date record of progress (ref. 6). During the year to May 1990 no field work was done apart from periodic inspections of the rehabilitation work. The planned further work on the samples stored at the Ballarat laboratory of Savage Resources did not take place. For several months the laboratory has been closed, and prior to the closure another project had priority. The 9 tonnes of samples collected from the auger drilling program were never examined and are to be held in the shed at Ballarat in the hope that they will be collected by the next holder of the ground, thus saving them the expense of a major drilling program.

Further notes on the geology

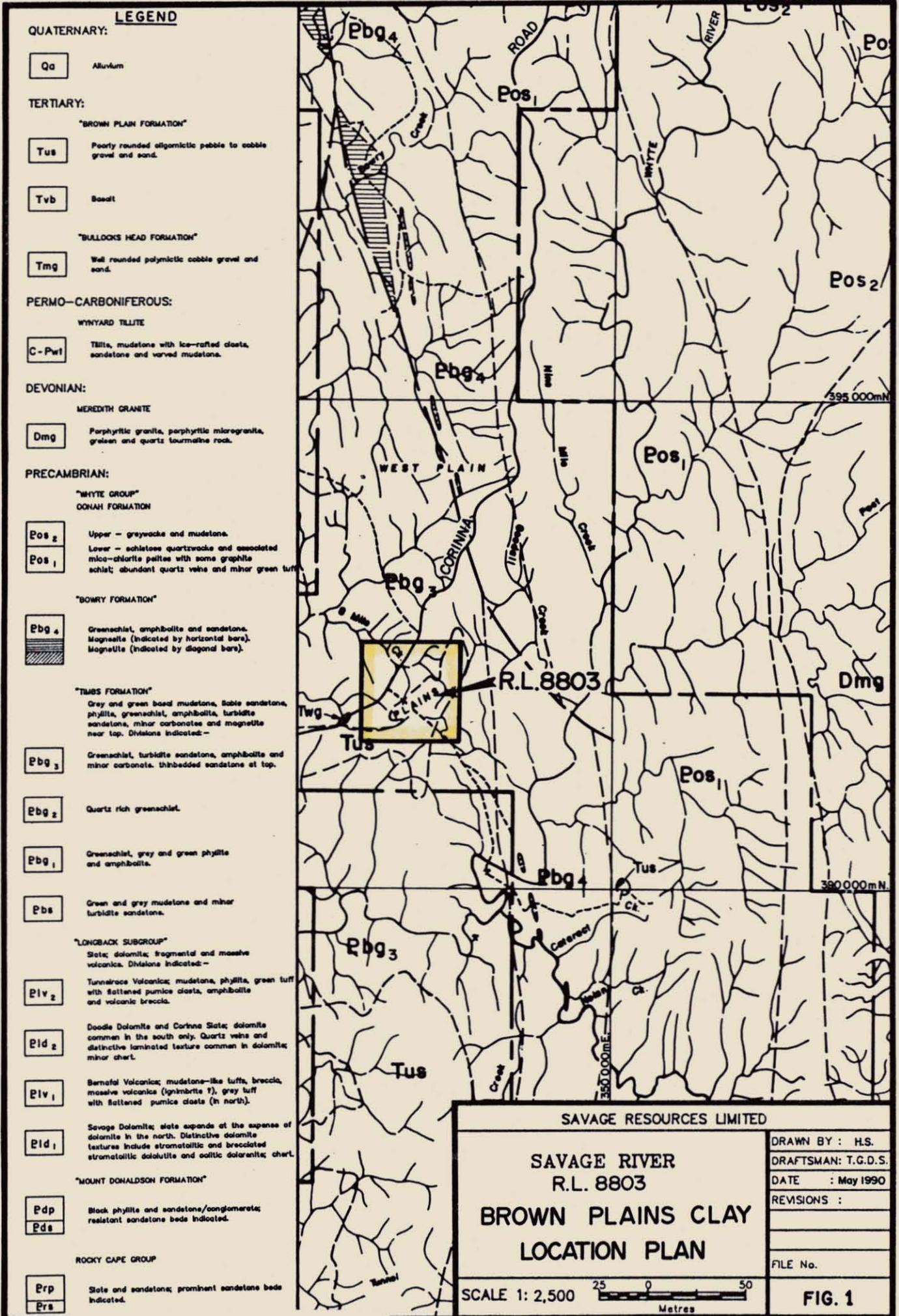
On the "B" dump road there is a point (301028) where sub-basalt sediments are exposed which include lacustrine muddy sand and silty clay, rather coarser than the clay at Brown Plains but giving support to the concept that the clay at Browns Plains is an outlier of the Bullock's Head Formation, i.e. from below the basalt. It has been reported to me verbally (N. Turner pers. comm.) that there has been some work done on plant spores from the deposit in the Mines department and the tentative dating is upper Oligocene or Early Miocene, i.e. roughly the age expected for the basalts which makes the hypothesis proposed in ref (6), that the lake in which the clay was deposited was basalt dammed a possibility.

Conclusion

The deposit may well be the best quality ball clay in Tasmania in terms of fired strength and approach to white-firing character despite its somewhat too high iron and titania content. (See ref (6) appendix 2 table 2 and appendix 3 table following p17. For comparative data for Tasmania see ref (7); table 3, and for overseas material ref (2) table 4). There is a possibility that superfine quartz can be extracted from the clay as a co-product. The original concept of producing fired clay pigment extender and a pottery base co-product foundered because there were allegedly superior pigment extender grade clays found on the mainland.

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