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DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY AND SHIPPING.
MINERAL RESOURCES SURVEY.

REPORT No. 1945/61 .
Plan No. 1247.

TALC DEPOSITS AT GAWLER, NEAR ULVERSTONE, TASMANIA.

- C. L. Knight -
Geologist.

CANBERRA.

22ND AUGUST, 1945.

DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY AND SHIPPING.

Mineral Resources Survey Branch.

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Report No. 1945/61 - Plan No. 1247.

I. INTRODUCTION.

The Gawler talc deposit, situated 2 miles south from Ulverstone, Tasmania, was inspected in May, 1944, and report No. 1944/21 of this Branch contains descriptions of geology, ore occurrence, etc. Since that date further work has been done at the mine and some production achieved. The deposit was inspected again in May, 1945, to bring information up to date, so that this could be included in a Summary Report on Talc, in course of preparation. One plate, No. 1247, is attached to this report. On it are shown a surface geological plan, a geological plan of the adit, and a longitudinal projection of the eastern lens.

2. WORKINGS.

Old Work. At the time of the inspection in 1944, an open cut had been excavated and two lenses of talc formation had been partially uncovered. A western lens was exposed at intervals on the 10 foot bench over a length of 90 feet. An eastern lens was showing to the east of the open cut at a general elevation of 20 feet for a distance of 35 feet where a few feet of soil had been stripped. A continuation of the lens for 13 feet farther to the east was indicated by boring results.

New Work. Recent work on the western lens consists of a pot hole sunk from the 10 foot bench for testing grade. A little further gouging had been done on the southerly branch from the lens in the floor. No other work has been done on this lens.

At a height of 10 feet above the floor of the cut at the eastern end, a bench has been levelled off and an adit driven in a southeasterly direction for a distance of 83'. At the end of the adit a wide winze has been sunk for 6' underlaying to the south. The adit is well timbered. Old timber encountered during the driving indicated that an old adit had been driven previously on the lens immediately underneath the new adit.

3. GEOLOGY.

The only new geological features exposed are revealed in the new adit workings. For the first 5 feet, the adit is in schist. The western end of the talc formation is almost vertical. The formation widens in a short distance to about 5 feet and this or a slightly greater width is maintained for 52 feet. At this point the lens begins to narrow and cuts out entirely 8 feet farther on. From this point to the end the adit is in mica-schist and the winze is also in schist. The eastern edge of the talc lens pitches westward. The dip of the lens is to the south at angles from 50° to vertical, the average being about 60° .

The talc is enclosed between walls of soft mica schist and, so far as can be determined, the walls are conformable in strike and dip with the adjacent schist over most of its length. At the eastern end, the lens cuts across the general schistosity. The lens apparently cuts out against a fine grained quartz-schist.

4. PRODUCTION AND GRADE.

About 100 tons of talc has been taken from the drive. Of this total, some 20 to 30 tons is regarded as first grade talc

(white), about 50 tons as second grade (bluish white), and the remainder as third grade (brown stained). All of the tale is saleable, the price offering for the three grades on wharf North Coast being £8, £4.10.0 and £2 per ton respectively. Grading is done mainly on colour which is, to a large degree, indicative of the amount of impurity.

The quality of the tale in the western lens, where tested in the pot hole, is said to be inferior.

5. RESERVES AND POSSIBILITIES.

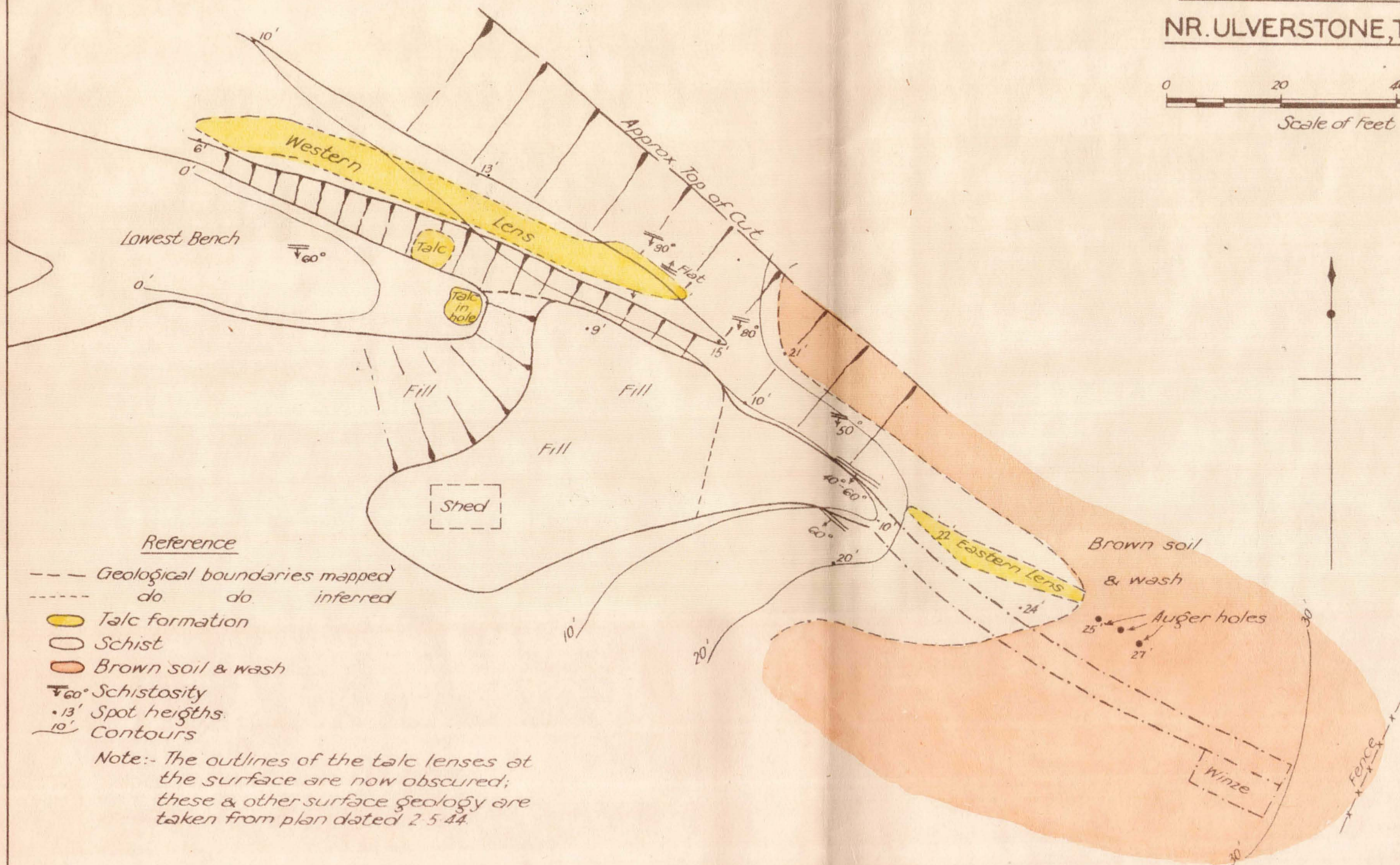
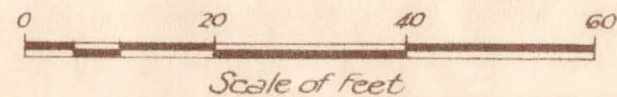
In the eastern lens there are no proved reserves, as the adit is so placed that there are no minable backs. The strike length of the lens is 60 feet and it cannot be expected to persist to any great depth. At adit level, tonnage per vertical foot is 20 tons.

The western lens with its 90 foot length and its wide southerly branch contains some 30 to 45 tons per vertical foot. Grade as revealed in pot holes is said to be poor on the whole, although some good grade tale was taken from the southerly branch. Testing has been carried out near the surface where the tale may be contaminated by overburden. It would seem that grade has not been adequately tested. As no winzes or shafts have been sunk on the tale, nothing can be said about possibilities below this level. It is possible that other lenses may occur under the soil and wash cover to the east of the open cut.

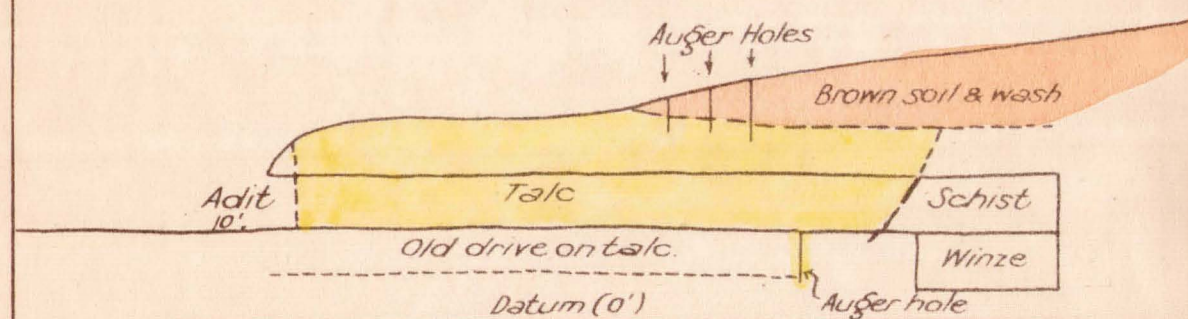
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22nd August, 1945.

C. L. Knight
C. L. KNIGHT,
Geologist.

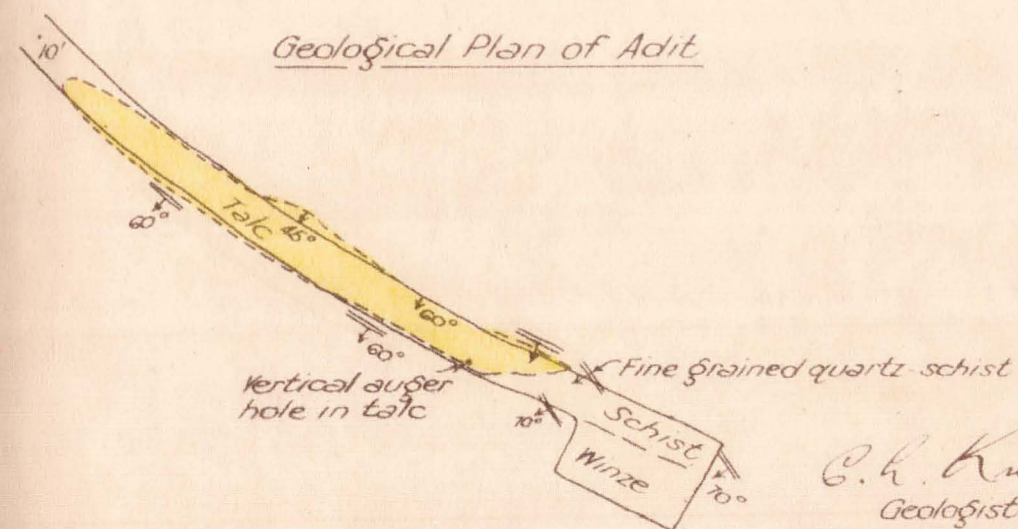
SURFACE GEOLOGICAL PLAN
GAWLER TALC DEPOSIT
NR. ULVERSTONE, TASMANIA



Longitudinal projection of Eastern Lens



Geological Plan of Adit



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