

# GLENALVA FOSSICKING AREA

*Glenalva* is one of five Fossicking Areas on the central Queensland sapphire fields, which were set aside in 1985 for recreational, and tourist fossicking. Such fossicking is also possible on another six areas of Designated Fossicking Land, but on those certain commercial mining tenures are also allowed.

*Glenalva* is close to the Capricorn Highway, but at the same time it is secluded, and relatively large and self-sufficient, as it comprises 497ha under light to medium bushland cover.

## Access

The turn off to *Glenalva* from the sealed Capricorn Highway is sign-posted to the south 62km from Emerald, or 20km from Anakie. An unsealed road leads for 1km to the boundary of the Fossicking Area and continues through the centre of the area along a ridge crest. Minor tracks lead from the road to various diggings. The boundaries are fenced.

## Water

As there is no permanent water supply in the area, visitors must carry water. The nearest supply is at Anakie. Water for treating the wash may be seasonally available from Blackboy Creek.

## Requirements

Fossicking requires a Fossickers Licence under the *Fossicking Act 1994*. Individual, family, club, educational organisation and commercial tour operator licences can be obtained for periods between one and twelve months, with fees varying accordingly. They can be obtained from the Mining Registrar at Emerald,

selected local businesses, or the Department's other offices throughout the State. Hand tools only are permitted.

## Camping

Camping is allowed for a maximum period of 3 months. A camping permit is required, which can be obtained for the payment of a small fee from the Emerald, Rockhampton, Mackay and Brisbane offices of the Department or the local businesses that issue the Fossickers Licences. No facilities exist in the area, but there are plenty of spots along the lightly timbered ridges. The main camping area is near the western boundary.

## Sapphire occurrence

Good quality sapphires have been obtained from shallow wash that rarely exceeds 500mm. The workings have exposed 300mm of grey, soily wash containing pebbles and cobbles of chert and silicified sandstone. This overlies a thin layer of light grey clayey material, described locally as decomposed volcanic ash. The wash rests on a clay bottom, which overlies basement rocks.

There are separate digging areas, chiefly near the western boundary south of the road, and at Pacey's Ridge on the north side of the road. The McAuleys Hill diggings are to the east, on the southern side of the road.

*Glenalva* has produced a wide variety of stones, predominantly greens or blue-greens and yellows, with occasional black star sapphires, particolours, blues and pinks. The rare blues, and a fair proportion of the greens are of high quality.

Although much of *Glenalva* has been hand-mined to some extent, there is still sufficient virgin wash to provide opportunities for fossickers. Areas that may yield sapphires are in the tops of gullies that drain off the central wash-capped ridge. These areas are good for specking, particularly after rain.

## Code of Conduct

- Use only safe working practices. Holes deeper than 2m or undermined overhangs **are not permitted**.
- Workings should be left in a safe, tidy condition so as not to endanger other persons or stock.
- Dismantle any structures upon vacating a campsite.
- **Remove all rubbish** and bury human waste at least 20cm deep.
- Do not interfere with any vegetation, stock or wildlife. Shooting is prohibited.
- Minimise noise and control pets at all times.
- Clear a 2m space around campfires.

## For further information:

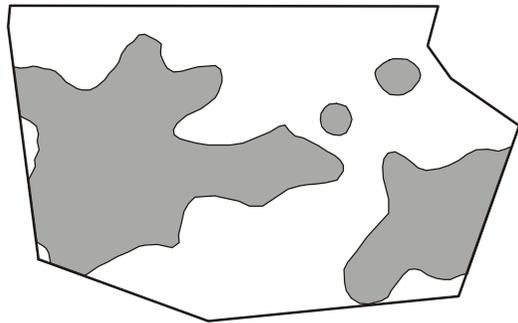
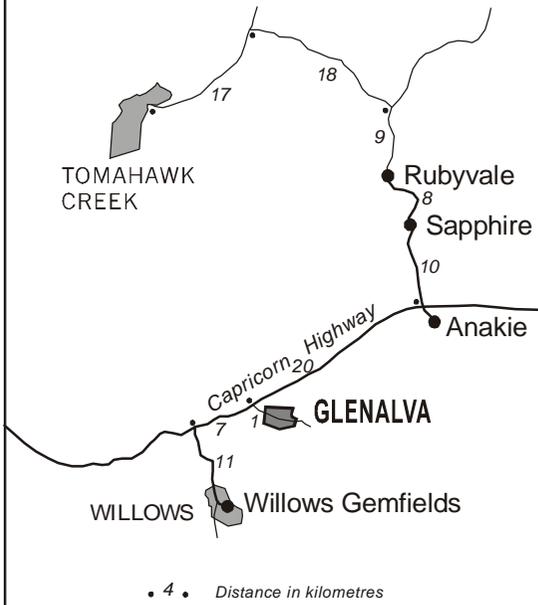
*The Mining Registrar*  
*Department of Natural Resources*  
*and Mines*  
*State Government Building*  
*99 Hospital Road*  
*Emerald Qld 4720*

*PO Box 19*  
*Emerald Qld 4720*

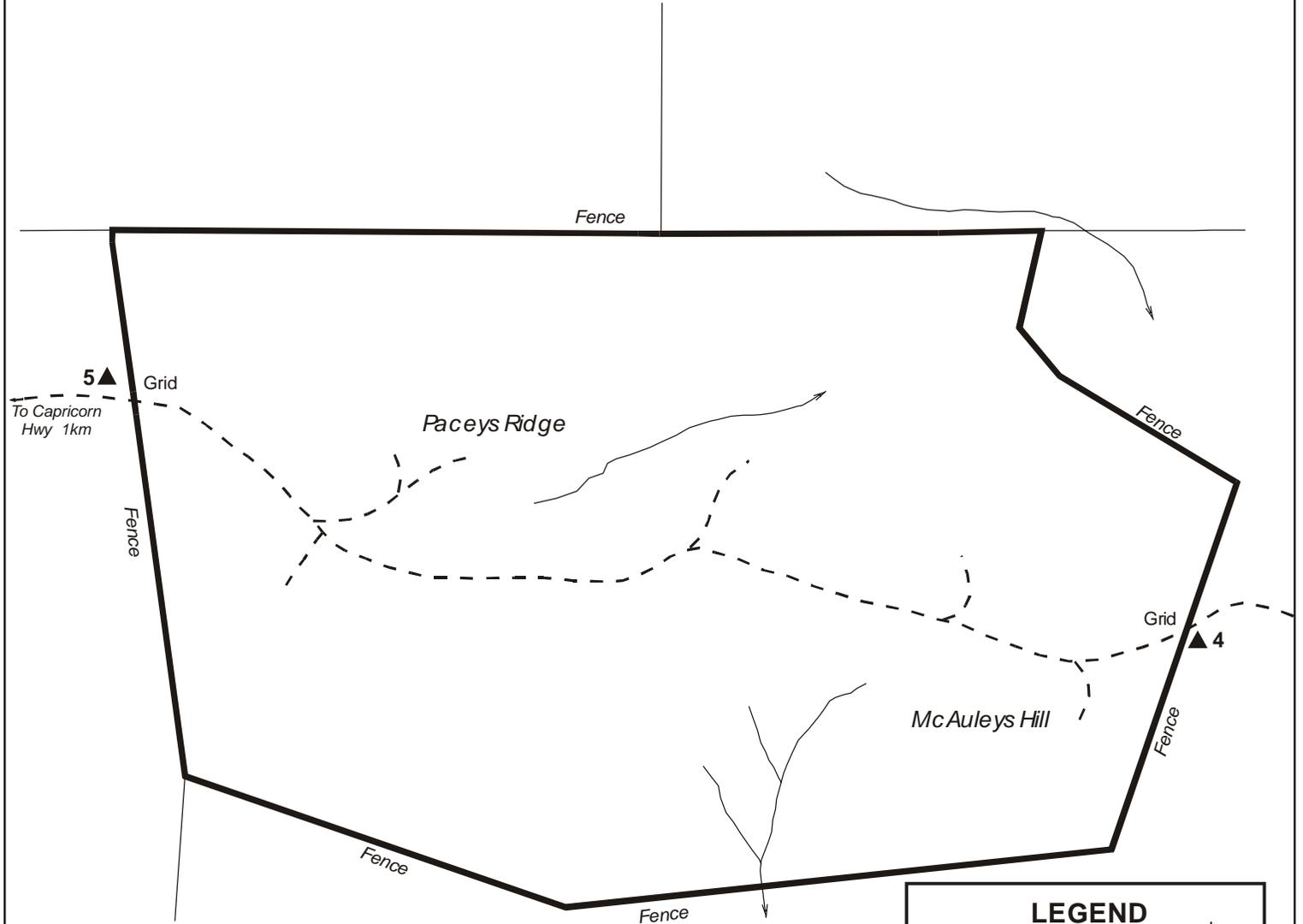
*Telephone: (07) 4987 9373*  
*Facsimile: (07) 4987 9333*  
*Website: [www.nrm.qld.gov.au](http://www.nrm.qld.gov.au)*

*Glenalva\_V1.doc Aug 2002*

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Sapphire bearing wash



0 500 metres

LEGEND	
	Boundary
	Numbered entrance sign
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