



Mount Gibson near Innot Hot Springs is well known by fossickers as a collecting locality for gem topaz.

The Mount Gibson Fossicking Area was established in 1996 by the Department of Mines and Energy, with the co-operation of the land holder and the Herberton Shire Council, to assist tourist and recreational fossicking.

Access

Innot Hot Springs is situated on the Kennedy Highway between the small townships of Mount Garnet and Ravenshoe, North Queensland. Mount Gibson is about 5km northwest of Innot Hot Springs. From the highway take the Broken Gully Road and travel 1.7km to a grid/steel gate (**please close gate upon entering**) and continue along road to the main entrance sign at Condon Gully. See map on back for details of tracks in the Fossicking Area.

Note: Conventional vehicles should only go as far as Gibson Gully. Access by foot or 4WD vehicle is recommended beyond this point as tracks to the main diggings are steep and gully crossings are very rough and many washouts occur after rain.

Geology

Mount Gibson consists mainly of hornfels resulting from thermal metamorphism of sedimentary rocks of the Silurian to Devonian Hodgkinson Formation by a composite granite batholith of Permo-Carboniferous age. The hornfels occurs as a pendant within the roof zone of the batholith that, in this area, comprises a medium-grained alkali feldspar granite (Pinnacles Granite) and smaller bodies of microgranite, pegmatite and aplite.

Late stage topaz-bearing intrusions related to that appear to be the source of the gem topaz and associated cassiterite. Much of the

area is strongly mineralised and many of the creeks and gullies in the vicinity have been worked for alluvial tin (cassiterite).

Fossicking

Topaz, quartz and cassiterite are the main minerals found. Crystals showing good forms and clarity are common. Topaz is usually colourless but rare golden and blue colours have also been found. Diggings are located on the lower slopes of Mount Gibson to the south-southeast of the trig station. This area is known as "Glittering Star" and contains numerous shallow pits, trenches and shafts. Other diggings referred to as "Patricia" (The Crystal and Patterson's) are located < 1km to the west. Shallow pits and trenches have been worked in two adjacent areas on the northern side of a small northwesterly trending ridge. At the northwestern end (The Crystal), massive white quartz crops out prominently. Several shallow pits have been dug in search of vughs in the quartz outcrop but most of the pits are located in the scree slope below. Further to the southeast (Patterson's) shallow pits have been dug in scree material and quartz-greisen rock which contains many vughs and possibly crystals.

Simple dry sieving methods are used to search for gems as water is generally scarce.

Requirements

Fossicking for gemstones requires a Fossickers Licence which can be issued for varying periods upon payment of the relevant fee to the Mining Registrar, Mareeba; the Mareeba Heritage Centre, Mareeba or the Mobil Store / Hot Springs Health Waters at Innot Hot Springs. Licences may also be obtained from other District Offices throughout the State and from agents at various locations. Licence holders do not need further permission from the land holder to

enter the Fossicking Area and fossick. **Hand tools only are permitted.**

To fossick outside the declared Fossicking Area the licence holder is required to obtain the written permission of the land holder.

Camping

Camping is **not permitted** in the Fossicking Area or elsewhere on this property.

Accommodation is available in Innot Hot Springs at Hot Springs Health Waters which has camping and caravan park facilities and budget motel accommodation (07) 4097 0136. Additional accommodation is available at the Hot Springs Hotel/Motel (07) 4097 0203.

Code of conduct

To protect the area, please:

- Make safe any excavation on leaving.
- Remove all rubbish and dispose of properly.
- Keep vehicles to established tracks to avoid erosion.
- Do not interfere with the vegetation, stock or wildlife.
- Control pets so they do not annoy others, stock or wildlife.
- Do not light any fires.
- Do not use any weapon.

On-the-spot fines may be issued for breaches of the regulations.

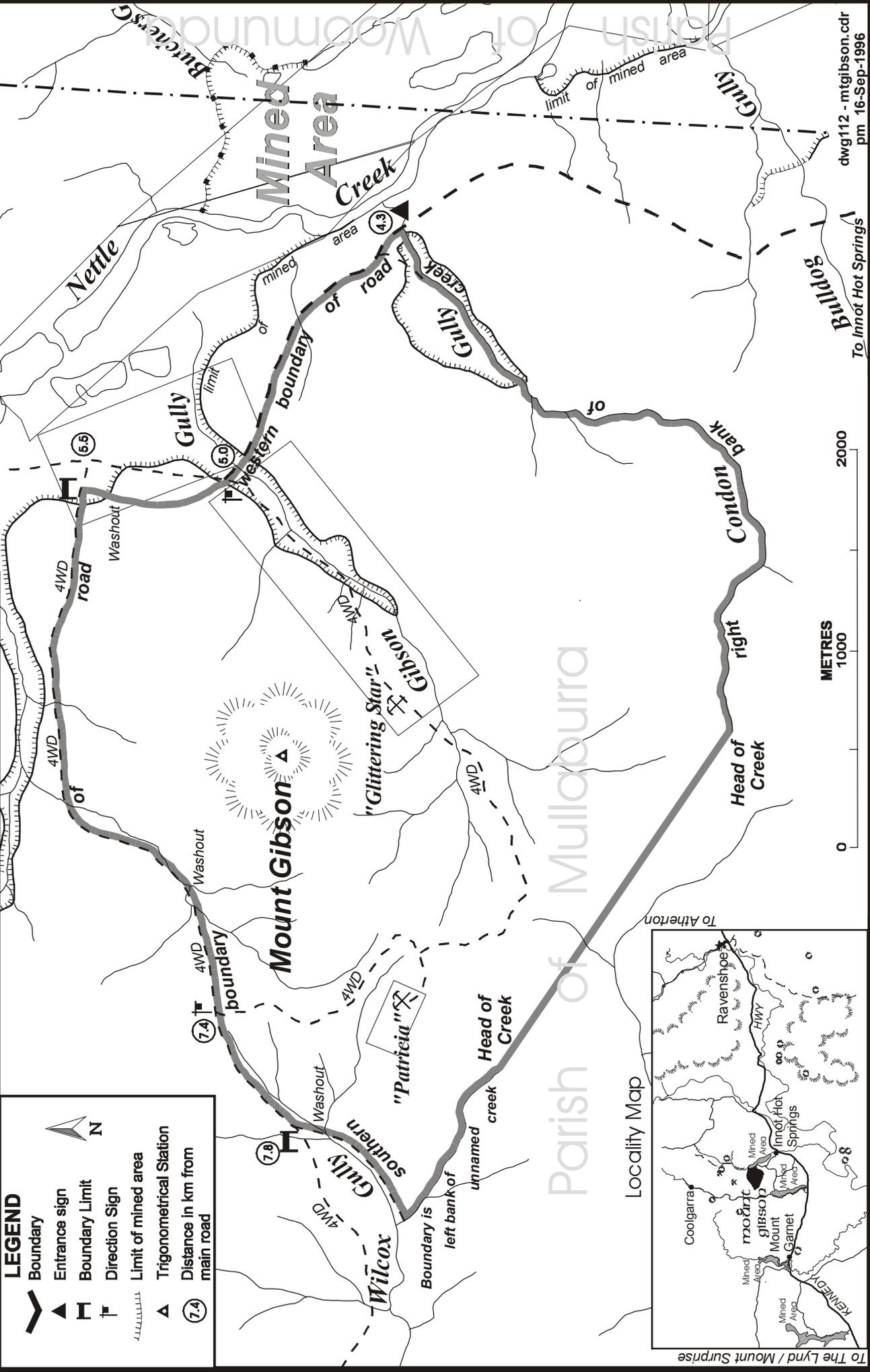
For further information:

*The Mining Registrar
159 Walsh Street
Mareeba Qld 4880
(PO Box 1414)
Phone: (07) 4092 4211
Fax: (07) 4092 4224*

MOUNT GIBSON FOSSICKING AREA

LEGEND

-  Boundary
-  Entrance sign
-  Boundary Limit
-  Direction Sign
-  Limit of mined area
-  Trigonometrical Station
-  Distance in km from main road



Locality Map

