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E.L.'S 4856 AND 4857

REPORT ON AREAS RELINQUISHED

IN JANUARY. 1990

VOLUME I - TEXT AND APPENDIX

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B. BERTHAULT MAY, 1990

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TOTAL Mining Australia Pty. Limited

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I. INTRODUCTION

The two Exploration Licences, E.L. 4856 and E.L. 4857, portions of which are the subject of this report, were applied for in August, 1985 and were subsequently granted in March, 1986. They form part of the West Pine Creek Joint Venture in which TOTAL Mining Australia Pty. Limited and PNC Exploration (Australia) Pty. Ltd. are the partners.

The tenements are located in the Reynolds River, Daly River and Fish River area of the Northern Territory, being more or less centred on the Daly River settlement 150 km south of Darwin. They are contained within a block bounded by latitudes 13°15' and 14°20'S and longitudes 13°040' and 141° and are aligned in a north-south direction to cover the general strike and contacts of the Lower and Middle Proterozoic rocks. All the land covered by the licences is under a Pastoral Lease held by Tipperary Station.

The northern tenements are accessible from the main Daly River-Adelaide River road and then by established tourist and station tracks. The southern tenement is less accessible by ground, with flooding of the main waterways prohibiting traffic for 5-7 months of the year. However it is served by station roads.

Exploration activities of the subject area include ground scintillometer traversing, various airborne surveys (EM INPUT and gravity), interpretation and modelling of previously acquired data, ground EM follow-up of selected conductive zones - radon, detailed radiometric survey of EM anomalies as well as geological and structural mapping of the same areas.

The targets defined by these surveys were then tested using percussion and core drilling and the holes were logged with a radiometric probe.

Considering that the results obtained from the various surveys on certain parts of E.L.'s 4856 and 4857 are rather negative, it has been decided to relinquish those portions.

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II. GEOLOGY

2.1 REGIONAL SETTING AND STRATIGRAPHY

The Joint Venture Licences are located on the western edge of the Pine Creek Geosyncline. The main rock types are sediments ranging in age from Lower Proterozoic to Adelaidean; Carpentarian granites intrude these sediments. The Litchfield Complex of ?Archaean to Lower Proterozoic age occurs to the northwest. The Cambrian Daly River Group obscures much of the Lower Proterozoic-Adelaidean rocks both west and east of the tenement area. The geology is illustrated on the Synthesis Map (Plate 1).

The stratigraphy is as follows (from N.T.G.S., 1983):

ARCHAEAN-EARLY PROTEROZOIC: Litchfield Complex comprising high grade metamorphics which appear to include sediments, basic to intermediate rocks and anatectic granites. These are located to the northwest of the project area.

EARLY PROTEROZOIC: Burrell Creek Formation comprising variably metamorphosed sandstones and siltstones. Includes pebble and conglomeratic facies, graphitic shales/schists and some carbonate rocks (Pfb).

LATE PROTEROZOIC:

- (i) Carpentarian syn-orogenic to post-orogenic granites. Represented by the Mt. Litchfield, Allia Creek and Jammine granites and the Soldiers Creek granite at Collia (Pxgl, Pxga, Pxgi and Pgs).
- (ii) ?Early Adelaidean Tolmer Group. Comprises four formations:
 - + Depot Creek Sandstones: thickly bedded medium to coarse quartz arenite (450 m) (Ptd).
 - + Stray Creek Sandstone: flaggy micaceous, ripple marked quartz arenite (300 m) (Pts).
 - + Hinde Dolomite: dolomite, dolomitic shales and arenites, quartz arenites (+ 314 m) (Pth).
 - + Waterbag Creek Formation: red mudstone with thin arenite layers (non-outcropping) (+ 134 m) (Ptw).

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(iii) Late Adelaidean Uniya tillite (0 - 30 m) (Put).

PALAEOZOIC: Cambrian Daly River Group. Basal conglomerates, Antrim Plateau Volcanics (basalts) and the Tindall Limestone (Cla).

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2.2 REGIONAL STRUCTURE

The principal structural feature of the region is the Giants Reef Fault which has caused obvious displacement to the various rock units it traverses. The zone extends some 30 km northeast of Rum Jungle where it loses its identity under alluvial cover; southwards it extends well outside the Joint Venture's area of interest. The Giants Reef Fault is considered to be the northern extension of the Hall's Creek Mobile Zone. Parallel structures, the largest being the Stapleton and Rock Candy Range Faults and many minor ones traverse both the Burrell Creek Formation and the Tolmer Group rocks.

Folding is present both on a small and large scale. The Burrell Creek sediments are tightly folded with fold axes striking generally N-S. The overlying Tolmer Group dips gently eastwards forming the extensive Daly River Basin. Folding occurs in the Tolmer adjacent to the Rock Candy Fault, forming an elongated domal structure thought to be underlain by Carpentarian granite. The Cambrian sediments are nearly flat lying.

Regional dips are moderate to steep westerly for the Burrell Creek Formation and gently eastwards for the Tolmer Group. Strikes are N-S to NW-SE.

2.3 GEOLOGY OF THE TENEMENTS

2.3.1 E.L. 4856

+ Burrell Creek Formation

Lower Proterozoic sediments are confined to the lower western and eastern sides of the E.L. Here they form steep sided hills abutting the Tolmer Sandstone or are present as flat soil-covered plains. Lithologically, the facies comprise fine to coarse sandstones interbedded with micaceous meta-siltstones. The former are quartzitic with, in places, a well developed lineation of the rounded quartz grains; thin conglomeratic and pebble bands occur. The silty variants are often rich in sericite and may vary in colour from pale brown to reddish; regional metamorphism has produced a phyllitic rock. The presence of higher grade and alusite schists in places could be indicative of tectonic and/or intrusive activity.

Much of the non-outcropping country covered by black soil areas and swamps is thought to be underlain by easily erodable schists and meta-siltstones.

A thin, sand-covered area near Surprise Creek, wedged between the Giants Reef Fault and outcropping Lower Proterozoic quartzites/schists has been drilled extensively in the past. Drill logs indicate the presence of chloritic mica schists, carbonaceous shales and thin dolomite bands. An informal name, the Surprise Creek Member, was applied to these rocks although they undoubtedly are part of the Burrell Creek Formation which has undergone localized intense deformation associated with activity along the Giants Reef Fault zone.

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+ Tolmer Group

The basal Depot Creek Sandstone Member covers much of the licence area; it forms both an eastern and western contact with the Burrell Creek rocks, in part unconformable, in part faulted. Regionally, the Tabletop Range is a broad, shallow depression with observed west and east dipping strata on the respective sides, where not affected by faulting. Remnants of younger Stray Creek Sandstone were located during surface prospecting in the more northerly parts of the tenement, these not having been mapped previously. These outcrops are either erosional remnants or have been preserved in localized fault bounded zones.

The Depot Creek is typically a massive, blocky, generally fine to medium grained quartzite often reddish in colour. Bedding is obvious and, in places, is well defined by pebble bands. The Stray Creek Member comprises laminated sandstones with interbedded reddish shaley mudstones. In the field the two members can be distinguished by radiometry. Current bedding, ripple marks, slumping, autobrecciation and sand dikes are all represented in the basal Depot Creek, appearing to be a consistent feature regionally. Ripple marks were also observed in the Stray Creek Sandstone.

+ Uniya Tillite

At AMG grid reference 043169 (Reynolds River 1:100,000 sheet) a previously unmapped outcrop of glacially derived sediment was located during traversing. Lithologically it is a dark coloured fine grained sandstone containing "dropstones" up to 0.5 m diameter of Depot Creek Sandstone. Only a thin layer has been preserved but the coverage is fairly extensive, being several hundred metres in area. Elsewhere, unconsolidated boulder deposits are considered to be of glacial origin.

+ Mesozoic

Lateritized sediments thought to be of Mesozoic age form flat-topped hills overlying Depot Creek Sandstone. Most of these features are located along or adjacent to the mid-Proterozoic unconformity. Other areas of laterite which can be identified on aerial photographs are considered to be derived directly from the Tolmer Sandstone.

+ + Granite

Two granite intrusives are present, located approximately 10 km apart. The most northerly is the Reynolds River Granite, the other has no formal name but has been termed the Alligator Creek Granite. Both are represented by very poor outcrop, the granite being obviously subject to rather quick weathering and decomposition; occasional exposures are seen in rapidly eroding creek beds. Generally the extent of the bodies has been judged by both photo signature and eluvial deposits on the ground surface. F. Lillie's (TOTAL, Paris) satellite interpretation does confirm greater known extent of the Reynolds River Granite and more or less agrees with the current interpretation. Similarly, the granitic body which underlies the Fault Wedge Zone was located accurately by Gravity methods. Drilling has proven it to be of greater extent westwards obscured under 200 m+ of Tolmer Sandstone.

Outcrop observations on the Reynolds River Granite show two variants: pink and grey. The former has been described as a "porphyritic adamellite" and occurs as isolated, rounded, boulder-like outcrops; the latter is far more widespread and poorly outcropping. It is generally a hornblende-biotite granite. Observed outcrops in the Fault Wedge indicate a similar granite type to the hornblende-biotite variety; a description grained from drill core indicates a medium grained monzonitic granite showing a distinctive chloritic-hematitic alteration near the contact.

Contact metamorphic effects are not observed around the Reynolds River Granite, however, as previously described, there is an alteration aureole adjacent to the other.

2.3.2 E.L. 4857

+ Burrell Creek Formation

The lithologies represented here comprise both meta-argillites and arenaceous types, the latter being more widespread than elsewhere. The structural trend is north-south with bedding vertical to steep west. Local folding occurs mainly north and northeast of March Fly, the structures being south plunging. Many photo lineations cross-cut the bedding at right angles; displacements are small scale.

Progressing south along the unconformity there is a gradual change in the facies exposed due to the combination of regional bedding strike and the trend of the contact. Lithologies. exposed to the north, gradually "disappear" under the Tolmer Group producing a continual succession of younger rocks along the traverse zone. This is illustrated by mapping (Robertson Research and Mobil) and ground traversing (T.M.A.) where coarse sandstones and conglomerates predominate adjacent to the unconformity east and north of March Fly. These coarser lithologies have been previously mapped as Noltenius Formation (BMR) and were considered older than the Burrell Creek Formation. This stratigraphic name has since been abandoned with all Lower Proterozoic rocks now being grouped within the Burrell Creek. The stratigraphy is generally as follows: coarse sandstones and grits with thin conglomeratic horizons (basal) becoming finer grained with a predominance of meta-siltstones of variable composition giving rise to sericite and quartz-Interbedded with these are further muscovite schists. sandstones of variable grainsize and some thin conglomerate beds. Locally, carbonaceous (sometimes, but rarely, graphitic) shales occur as thin bands as do isolated outcrops of black silicified greywacke. All these facies occur at the March Fly prospect.

+ Tolmer Group

The depot Creek Sandstone forms a prominent escarpment in places trending NNE-SSW. Outcrop of this basal unit is restricted to an average width of approximately 1.5 km due to overlying tillite and Cambrian limestone northwards (Blackfellow Creek area) and Stray Creek Sandstone elsewhere; the latter has an

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unconformable relationship with the Depot Creek. East and north of Hayward Creek the unconformity surface is well preserved with little erosion of the Burrell Creek. Topographically the landform is fairly flat lying across the contact and this extends perhaps 500-800 m west to where the escarpment is developed in Burrell Creek sediments.

Regional dips taken by the NTGS and field observations show the basal sandstone member to be tilting very gently eastwards with measurements ranging from $10^{\circ}-20^{\circ}$ along most of the contact.

The series of parallel E-W faults in the Burrell Creek Formation also affect the Tolmer although this is not acknowledged on the NTGS maps. Minor offsets in the contact were observed during the traversing; sheeting structures in the sandstone indicated the fault trend.

Lithologically the Depot Creek Sandstone is a fine grained quartz-arenite with thin pebbly bands throughout; local conglomerate lenses were seen in places. Sedimentary features such as ripple marks and current bedding are common.

+ Uniya Tillite

Glacial features and sedimentation occur in a N-S trending zone from Hayward Creek north to the Reynolds River. The feature is thought to represent a glacial valley coinciding with a structural depression within the Tolmer Sandstone; this depression has been identified by geophysics and drilling at two INPUT anomaly locations.

Glacial sediments are present as both unconsolidated till (e.g. Hayward Creek area) and as a fluvioglacial shale/sandstone sequence in both outcrop and drill cuttings (INPUT anomalies 2851 and T11). The shales are red and varve-like while the sandstones are poorly sorted facies containing variously sized pebbles and large dropstones of Depot Creek Sandstone.

The most outstanding glacial feature is the striated pavement at Hayward Creek. Other pavements were found by T.M.A. geologists to the north at the Reynolds River and also near Alligator Creek (T11).

+ Daly River Group

The Cambrian Antrim Plateau Volcanics and Tindall Limestone unconformably overlie both the Tolmer Group and the glacial sequence. Drill holes at both T11 and 2851 INPUT anomalies intersected a thin layer of amygdaloidal basalt covering the glacial sediments; a palaeosol was identified in some holes. Muddy shale beds and some pebbly horizons might also be of Cambrian age though this is not definite.

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III. EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES

3.1 INTRODUCTION

The principal aim of the exploration programmes was to carry out detailed exploration over conductive zones as defined by the aerial INPUT survey and to follow-up where necessary with drilling. Other activities were confined to the evaluation of the outcropping unconformity between the Burrell Creek and Tolmer Formations, and to some ground investigation of subtle airborne radiometric anomalies occurring within the Tolmer Sandstone.

3.2 TARGETS AND MODELS

The Tolmer Project was chosen as an exploration target by the Joint Venture because of the many geological similarities, both regionally and locally and lithologically and structurally, to the Alligator River Uranium Province some 250 km to the east.

The sequence of Lower Proterozoic sedimentation appears to have been fairly uniform across the Pine Creek Geosyncline with subsequent folding and syn-post orogenic granitic intrusive episodes. These have given rise to a series of regional synclinoriums.

Middle Proterozoic sedimentation most likely covered the entire Geosyncline; this episode comprised the Katherine River and Tolmer Groups of sandstones and associated rock types. The B.M.R. have placed the former as the oldest with an unconformity separating the two groups. The Depot Creek and Kombolgie Sandstones are considered by T.M.A. to be stratigraphical equivalents supported by near identical lithological, physiographical and botanical features. The only differences are in the facies variations reflecting the depositional environment, i.e. basic volcanism in the Kombolgie and carbonate deposition near the end of the Tolmer sedimentation.

The Burrell Creek Formation, which immediately underlies the basal Tolmer unit, the Depot Creek Sandstone, is the youngest phase of early Proterozoic sedimentation in the Pine Creek Geosyncline. Further to the northeast, at Rum Jungle, the Burrell Creek Formation is unconformably underlain by the entire sedimentary sequence which has been exposed around the margins of the Rum Jungle and Waterhouse Complexes; the sequence comprises, from oldest to youngest, the Namoona, Mt. Partridge and South Alligator Groups. The Cahill Formation, host to uranium deposits in the ARUF is stratigraphically * equivalent to the Namoona Group; various sedimentary facies have been observed in the Reynolds River by T.M.A. and others which may be Namoona equivalents. These occurrences include the tracts of swampy black soil and alluvium covered country north and south of Surprise creek where bedrock drilling has confirmed the presence of various schists: chloritic and graphitic and lenses of dolomitic sediments. Near Prousts Crossing west of Surprise Creek, probably Namoona equivalents including carbonaceous shales, graphitic schists and dolomite outcrop. Folding in the region has most likely exposed these older sediments. With the intensity of prospection covering the Burrell Creek sediments it cannot be discounted that favourable lithologies could be found in these younger sediments.

Following from the above, two principal exploration targets have been outlined:

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(i) the unconformity model,

(ii) the granite contact model.

Applying these to the Tolmer Project, the main points are:

(i) Unconformity Model:

- the Burrell Creek/Tolmer unconformable contact is relatively flat lying,
- the underlying sediment, i.e. BCF and ?Namoona, have suitable facies present: carbonaceous, graphitic, dolomitic.
- suitable degree of metamorphism: greenschist and minor amphibolite facies,
- possible reactivated Archaean doming during the Middle Proterozoic,
- presence of uranium in the region: the Rum Jungle field and various small occurrences in Burrell Creek sediments.
- abundant groundwater movement,
- intrusion of Proterozoic granites giving an adequate heat source to activate and maintain convection cells which may act to concentrate uranium at physically or chemically suitable sites.

(ii) Granite Contact Model:

- intrusion of upper level granites or granitoids,
- a suitable host rock: carbonaceous shale, graphitic schist, dolomite.

Exposed granites are in evidence south of the Daly River and these intrude the Burrell Creek Formation.

3.3 METHODS OF INVESTIGATION AND EQUIPMENT

At first, the reevaluation and reinterpretation of the available BMR airborne survey data was carried out. The digital data base was acquired and the various data processed to provide a regional picture of the U, Th and K and the various ratios of those elements as well as magnetic intensity and first derivative.

A regional gravity survey was performed using a helicopter to obtain a general 4 x 2 km grid pattern. The results of this survey were combined with the existing data gathered by the B.M.R.

An INPUT survey was then performed over the area covered by outcropping or subcropping basal Tolmer-Depot Creek unit.

Systematic work over the defined EM conductors involved initial location with the aid of aerial photography and 1:100,000 topographic maps. Those inaccessible by 4-WD vehicle were reached by helicopter,

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a Bell Jetranger from Rotor Services, Darwin. Once the conductive zone had been identified the area was gridded, usually with 100 m spaced cross lines and 25 m intervals marked along these lines. The general sequence of activities on each grid is as follows, however not all were employed in each case:

- + initial MaxMin Geoterrex, Sydney,
- + VLF TOTAL staff,
- + alphaCard TOTAL staff.
- + radiometrics TOTAL staff,
- geological mapping TOTAL staff,
- + selection of drilling targets TOTAL staff,
- + site preparation by bulldozer North Australian Haulage, Darwin,
- + drilling: percussion and/or diamond Rockdril, Brisbane,
- + downhole logging Century Geophysics, Adelaide or TOTAL staff,
- + laboratory analyses of cuttings and core Amdel, Darwin,
- thermoluminescence studies on Tolmer Sandstone Mark Hochman, Adelaide University.

During the campaign the MaxMin ground electromagnetic surveying was carried out by a crew from Geoterrex using a 150 m separation between receiver and transmitter along profiles either 100 m or 200 m apart. Equipment used was an Apex Parametrics MaxMin II frequency domain electromagentic system.

The MaxMin survey was performed only on the INPUT anomalies located on or immediately adjacent to the Depot Creek Member of the Tolmer Sandstone as it was ascertained that the method was unable to define a target below a thickness of overlying facies greater than that of the Depot Creek. The latter, with a maximum thickness in excess of 400 m, is already the absolute maximum through which the MaxMin can "see" even when considering the most favourable hypotheses.

The purpose of the ground EM MaxMin survey was to determine the presence and location of conductive belts, possibly corresponding to facies of graphite-chlorite schists within the Burrell Creek Formation below the overlying Depot Creek Sandstone. Our detailed survey of the Burrell Creek Formation outcropping near the Depot Creek unconformity has confirmed the presence of such favourable facies, sometimes accompanied by uranium mineralisation or anomalous radioactivity.

The radon survey was specifically applied to the conductors defined by the MaxMin readings. Radiometric surveying and geological mapping were applied to the total surface of each grid.

The MaxMin survey has provided two types of anomaly:

- some responses corresponding to wide, shallow "bad quality" conductors.
- some responses which could correspond to more deeply seated conductors.

The interpretation of the MaxMin anomalies has been done considering also the limit of mapped geological facies and/or the structural features recorded during the systematic survey of the gridded area.

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VLF was run over as many lines as possible on each grid; its purpose was to define the presence of shallow conductive zones such as overburden, to help in the interpretation of the MaxMin responses, and to outline structures which affect both the Tolmer Sandstone and underlying Burrell Creek Formation. The equipment used is a Geonics EM16 unit, manually operated.

The survey was run on the Japan (NDT) and North West Cape (NWC) transmitters to obtain information on both N-S and E-W sets of faults. Unfortunately, the North West Cape Station emitted very irregularly which did not enable us to obtain values on every reading location of the grid and so get systematic information on the E-W oriented faults.

Radiometric and radon-detecting procedures were implemented concurrently, generally over selected grid lines; the surveys were limited to areas where both favourable conductive trends and suitable lithologies occurred, the latter being Tolmer Sandstone cover. Lines were rarely extended into outcropping Burrell Creek Formation.

Equipment utilised is the portable SPP-2 scintillometer and an alphaNuclear alphaCard device. A Toyota 4-WD with mounted Gemco auger drill prepared a 40 cm deep, 15 cm diameter hole in which is placed an inverted plastic flower pot with attached alphaCard. The hole was sealed with large, thick, plastic bags held in place by soil/rubble. The cards were allowed to "sit" for a minimum of 12 hours and then read using a programmed counter which gives a value in counts per minute. Scintillometer readings were taken both "downhole" and on the surface.

Where access was not available for the auger rig, all holes had to be excavated by hand.

3.4 E.L. 4856 - INVESTIGATIONS AND RESULTS

3.4.1 Ground Radiometric Traversing

Systematic traversing of the Lower-Middle Proterozoic eastern contact was performed: scintillometric readings were taken at 25 m intervals on 50 m spaced lines. Traverse lines were designed to cover at least 800 m-1000 m of Burrell Creek Formation and extend 100-200 m onto the Tolmer Sandstone plateau. Geological observations, were made at each station.

Some of the area relinquished was not explored in any detail as preliminary studies have shown its unsuitability, according to our geological methods, of having the potential for an economic uranium discovery.

No major nor sizeable anomalies were recorded. The Burrell Creek encountered along the profiles showed a much more monotonous facies (especially siltstone) than what has been observed on the western unconformity.

11.

3.4.2 Surface Prospecting: Airborne Radiometric Anomaly Assessment - Ground Check (Plate 2)

A reassessment of the flight line data was done taking into account subtle uranium peaks which coincided with the Depot Creek Sandstone. The location of the anomaly was transferred onto colour aerial photo copies for field use.

Previously, geophysical consultants had determined thresholds for the various lithological units - this formed the basis for the initial interpretation of the radiometric data. The calculated figure arrived at for the Depot Creek Sandstone was considered too high by T.M.A. and that many subtle, yet possibly significant, anomalies were being overlooked. A reinterpretation of the data came up with new information which was then checked out in the field.

+ Photo Run 10E, No. 1728. Centred around AMG 015210. This group is located south and southwest of INPUT SV2; it comprises a N-S trend of four points, and another of three points. The former follow the edge of a low ridge, coincident with a north-south photo lineament; on the ground exposures of Stray Creek Sandstone and shaley beds occur along this line - to the east rubble and sand obscure the sandstone. No indications of any significant anomalies were found; contrast between Pts and Ptd and possibly Pts and rubble cover may have caused the anomalies. This is not conclusive however.

The second group are all coincident with exposures in a main creek. A traverse along the creek confirmed exposures of thinly bedded sandstones and shaley siltstone horizons, background SPP2 values range from 50-80 c/s. One interesting occurrence was located on an exposed shelf of purple fine grained sandstone—this outcrop gave 140 c/s SPP2 (AMG 012211). Thin fractures with some ?bleaching occur on the anomalous outcrop. Background is 50 c/s. Dimensions of the occurrence are limited—approximately 5 x 10 metres.

3.4.3 Geochemistry and Thermoluminescence

Parts of the relinquished area, specifically that which covered the Lower-Middle Proterozoic eastern contact has been sampled for element analyses as well as for thermoluminescence study. All of these samples were of Tolmer Sandstone, collected adjacent to the unconformity where both geochemical and TL effects would be manifested. The analyses covered U and Mg, the latter of which indicates magnesium metasomatism, an important alteration feature of the ARUF deposits.

The effects of radiation are illustrated by the TL study which indicates if uraniferous fluids have circulated through the sandstone adjacent to the unconformity or if there are nearby concentrations of uranium mineralization within the favoured depositional zones.

Location of TL samples is plotted on the Synthesis Map. No major TL nor Mg anomaly was recorded on the eastern unconformity.

12.

3.4.4 Geophysics

Several airborne geophysical surveys have covered the licence area. A widely spaced gravity survey by the B.M.R.; detailed spectrometry and magnetics by the N.T.G.S. (1983); closely spaced systematic heliborne gravity work by the Joint Venture (1986) and systematic EM INPUT in 1987 by Geoterrex Pty. Ltd. for the Joint Venture.

The two gravity surveys were integrated and reinterpreted by consulting geophysicists, TERRA GEOPHYSICS, while the N.T.G.S. data was collated and presented as stacked profiles by Geospex Associates Pty. Ltd. (Sydney) for further interpretation by T.M.A. geologist. The detailed INPUT programme provided targets for ground follow-up which was commenced on a preliminary, experimental basis in November, 1987. This was continued as an intensive 6 week programme during the 1988 dry season.

The Synthesis Map (Plate 1) shows regionally plotted data in respect of the $U/{\rm Th}$ anomalies, Gravity (Bouguer) and magnetic trends.

Details of the various surveys are set out below:

+ N.T.G.S. Data

The following data was presented to the J.V. by Geospex:

- 1. Flight line diagrams.
- 2. Stacked profiles of all flight lines covering the joint venture tenements and the area covered by the Tolmer Sandstone. These show the following parameters:
 - + Total (cps)
 - + U (cps)
 - U corrected (cps)
 - + Thorium (ppm)
 - + Potassium (Z)
 - + U/Th
 - + U/K x 1000
 - + Altimeter (m)
 - + Magnetic gradient (nT/m)
 - + Total magnetic (nT)
- 3. Stacked profiles of the Magnetic Gradient per 100,000 sheet, i.e. the Reynolds River, Daly River and Wingate Mountains sheets.
- 4. Stacked and shaded profiles of the U/Th.

Particular attention was paid to the radiometric data; many subtle U anomalies were outlined within the basal Tolmer Sandstone and some were verified by ground follow-up. The ground work was commenced in the latter part of 1988 with assistance from a helicopter as many of the locations were inaccessible by vehicle.

+ <u>Summary</u>

The aim of the anomaly check was to locate and assess various subtle anomalies supposedly associated with the basal Tolmer Sandstone. It appears that some of the areas have been incorrectly mapped as the Depot Creek Sandstone, the anomalies instead being within the Stray Creek Member and probably representing the higher radiometric background inherent in this lithology. Because the Pts outcrops are localized - probably exposed in minor fault blocks or as residuals - identification from aerial photos is impossible.

As derived from the field, the anomalous areas can be assessed broadly as follows:

- contrast anomalies; sudden variation in background between Pts and Ptd or Pts and recent cover,
- high spots within Pts (and Ptd?),
- laterite,
- radon emanations along fault/fracture zones,
- no observed cause.

In conclusion, there still remains doubt as to the origin of many of the anomalies and it is difficult to assign a definite cause for them. Where the Stray Creek Sandstone is involved, the cover thickness to any Lower Proterozoic source would be too great to have economic significance; similarly those in Depot Creek Sandstone well into the plateau zone might also have large thicknesses of sandstone to the unconformity. Nevertheless it can be considered that clusters along or within significant structurally disturbed zones represent leakages from a buried radioactive source. This is compatible with the proposed model for Tolmer.

U/Th and U anomalies are not confined to specific stratigraphic units as was initially predicted. It is obvious that there is at least some structural control exerted on the anomaly distribution, e.g. the Giants Reef Fault is anomalous in parts.

+ Gravity

This survey has outlined the outcropping Reynolds River Granite on the central east side of the E.L. and is indicating a second submerged body on the southern border of the licence. The latter is present within E.L. 4857.

Conclusions

Relating to the above gravity survey, the following general conclusions can be drawn which are relevant to the project area as a whole:

(i) There are a number of granitic intrusive bodies beneath the Tolmer Sandstone probably forming ridges and troughs. Some of these are thought to have been Archaean palaeotopographic highs which, because they are along zones of structural weakness (deep seated faulting) were the locit of later granitic intrusion in late Lower Proterozoic or early Middle Proterozoic.

14.

- (ii) The Archaean ridges existing during the sedimentation of the Lower Proterozoic sediments have acted as near-coast islands around which back reef type facies of carbonaceous and calcareous sediments have been deposited. This is clearly seen just to the north at Rum Jungle and is interpreted to exist beneath the Tolmer Sandstone to the southwest.
- (iii) The Giants Reef Fault, a very major structural element in the Pine Creek Geosyncline, has afforded extensive related faulting and structural deformation. This can be seen from the gravity, radiometry and magnetic survey results. The Giants Reef Fault appears to trifurcate west of the southern boundary of E.L. 4857. Here it runs north as the Giants Reef Fault, NE as the Stapleton Fault and ENE as the Rock Candy Range Fault. This splitting up of the main fault (feathering) occurs at or near the point where the stratigraphic trend of the Tolmer Sandstone changes from N-S to NW-SE.

+ EM INPUT Survey

This survey was flown by Geoterrex Pty. Ltd. in July, 1987 and covered all the areas underlain by outcropping or subcropping basal Tolmer (Depot Creek). The survey was designed to cover the Tolmer Group sediments in order to locate conductive features within the Lower Proterozoic Burrell Creek Formation, specifically graphitic/carbonaceous facies which occur below the unconformity.

Many conductor anomalies were found during the survey; it was attempted to identify the source of these conductors by utilizing the geological data at hand in combination with modelling based on the EM results

Regionally, 69 flight lines for 968 line-kilometres were flown, followed by infill lines of 80 km. The locations of all the conductors to be investigated appear on the Synthesis Plan.

Procedure - General Comments

After each flight, the tracking camera films were developed and the analog charts were sorted and annotated. As the charts are on thermal paper, which tends to fade with time, ist is recommended to take a more permanent photocopy as soon as the recordings become available. After locating the charts in relation to the navigation photo strips, anomalies were selected and marked on flight-line overlays at 1:25,000 scale.

The data quality has been excellent throughout the survey; efficient work from the ground crew allowed the revision of the complete survey and the selection of infill areas one day after the end of the last flight.

During the survey, the manager of Tipperary Station was kept informed of the whereabouts and purpose of the aircraft.

Interpretation and Results

The preliminary results are based on the field evaluation of the anomalies. The plots on the 1:25,000 maps are approximate only; more accurate are the anomaly locations on the colour photographs set.

Three models were followed during the field interpretation: two indicating horizontal surface conductors (thin sheet and half-space) and one indicating a sub-vertical conductor. Only the "vertical" anomalies were plotted on colour photographs.

The symbols used on the photo set to indicate the anomalies are:

Response in channels 11 or 12: type A Response in channels 0 or 10: type B Response in channels 7 or 8: type C Response in channels 1 to 6: type D Minor anomalies.

On the overlays the ratio between channel 2 and channel 10 amplitudes and the altitude from the ground were also given.

Spatially close anomalies were grouped in "areas", generally reflecting a particular geological environment. A total of 61 areas was thus defined. Unfortunately, none of them indicates the expected occurrences of graphitic schist beneath the sandstone cover. A test flight was carried out over a known graphitic conductor in the Rum Jungle area, in order to compare the amplitude and persistency of the anomalies.

The areas fall broadly into four categories:

- . Conductors in exposed Burrell Creek Formation ("basement").
- . Conductors along faults.
- . Conductors in Tolmer Group.
- Conductors in Cambrian Volcanics and/or the Cretaceous.

The anomalies that occur in Cretaceous are generally located near the edge of a cliff; they could indicate the presence of a thin layer of Antrim Plateau Volcanics in the pediment between Cretaceous and Proterozoic Sandstones or be a laterite response.

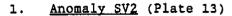
Some anomalies appear to line up or coincide with rivers and billabongs.

The anomalies located by the survey which fall within the relinquished blocks are listed below:

SV2	SH6
SV3	T 5
SH4	T6
SH5	

Among those anomalies, some were selected for a further ground follow-up survey which included MaxMin and VLF, electromagnetic methods, alphaCard (radon), radiometric surveys, geological and structural mapping and drilling for those on which potential targets have been interpreted.





Located at AMG 017522 Reynolds River Sheet, photos Run 10E 1727, 1728. The anomaly is situated on Depot Creek Sandstone, more or less in the central section of the plateau. The unconformity lies several kilometres both to the east and west; depth to Burrell Creek sediments is considered extensive.

Depot Creek Sandstone outcrops only over a limited area; extensive surficial deposits comprising soil, rubble and sand obscure much of the geology. Structural trends are vague due to the limited outcrop, however major directions are indicated as N-S and E-W; the anomaly plots at an intersection of two of these structures.

Due to the limited ground extent of the INPUT response, a 400 m N-S base line was pegged and five 1 km cross lines constructed. The only activity was a MaxMin II survey. The MaxMin response is rather weak and one cannot be certain whether the in-phase values obtained on several profiles for the 888 Hz frequency are due to general noise or to a weak response of a deep seated weakly conductive zone. A tentative, optimistic interpretation of those responses as shown in Plate 13 could indicate N-S, N20E and N10-20W "conductors". Such "conductors" could be given also by variation in the overburden.

As several radiometric anomalies occur to the west and southwest, including an SPP2 spot high of 140 c/s in Tolmer Sandstone, and as the anomaly could be located on the flank of a granite intrusion or an Archaean palaeohigh, it is worth carrying out VLF profiles and an alphaCard survey above the conductor which cannot be explained by the morphology and the lithology of the overburden.

2. Anomalies SV3, SV3a (Plates 14-16)

Located at AMG 024186 Reynolds River Sheet, photos Run 11E 2624-2625. SV3 represented a mis-plot of the anomaly; SV3a was subsequently located in the correct position. Both grids are located on Depot Creek Sandstone, centrally positioned on the plateau area. The former has abundant sandstone outcrop, principally Depot creek but with some interpreted Stray Creek on the western edge of the grid. SV3a has only minor outcrop which is concentrated on the extreme southeast corner of the grid. The remaining parts comprise Recent cover of soil, laterite and Ptd boulder rubble. The latter could be of glacial origin.

The Depot Creek Sandstone comprises a fine to medium grained quartzite; the SV3 Stray Creek facies is a more laminated quartzite with some shaley interbeds. Structures are not well defined in the region due to the masking effect of the laterite and rubble veneer. A regional NW structure traverses SV3a with several localized north to NNE trends cross-cutting this.

MaxMin was conducted over SV3 (Plate 14). Here a 500 m base line was constructed with six 1 km cross lines. The survey located an obvious anomaly on the western end of the grid which is thought to coincide with a vague but regionally extensive photolineament trending NNW. The anomaly is most obvious on the "5s" frequency showing decreasing definition with depth. On the ground the anomaly/structure may well coincide with the observed Ptd/Pts contact. As stated above, 3 is not the true INPUT position, therefore this anomaly is not considered to have significance.



SV3a was located and gridded towards the end of the field season; it was not covered by MaxMin, however a VLF survey was conducted. Four conductors can be interpreted from the profile shapes and Fraser gradient. They could possibly be displaced by a possible N120E structure (Plate 16).

Conductors "a" and "b", with a general N10E direction, could correspond to a fault (conductor "a" being of better quality than "b", could correspond to a photostructure). Conductors "c", N-S, and "d", N10E, could correspond to overburden or even a fault covered by overburden (here too, conductor "c" is better than "d"). There were no obvious indications on the ground of any faulting. Geological observations have been compiled into map form (Plate 15).

Downhole scintillometer readings within the Tolmer Sandstone appear very high, whether this is due to an inherently high background within the Tolmer or is an effect of shallow level Burrell Creek sediments is not known. Contouring shows several weak features: the contact, high zones in the NE in Burrell Creek and several anomalous areas on the Tolmer not necessarily tied to radon anomalies.

3. Anomaly SH6 (Plates 21-24)

Centred at AMG 060120 Reynolds River sheet, photos Run 12E 2543, 2544. The anomaly trends northeast covering both Depot creek Sandstone and Burrell Creek sediments. MaxMin II, VLF and Alphacard were carried out with the latter two activities being confined to the Tolmer Sandstone outcrop area only.

Structurally the area is quite complex with several major fault systems: the regional Stapleton Fault with a subsidiary structure pass along the southern side of the anomaly; complementary NW faults traverse the anomaly, one forming the contact between the Burrell Creek Formation and the Tolmer Sandstone. Various localized photostructures of N-S, E-W and NNE orientations are also evident. Geological observations were made during the VLF survey. The Tolmer Sandstone outcrop pattern is strongly controlled by the series of faults which cross-cut the area, dips are shallow westerly except where disrupted by faulting. Lithologically the sandstone is a fine grained, silicified quartzite; none of the basal facies are present. Outcrops of Burrell Creek sediments occupy approximately half the area of the anomaly; south and east of Back Creek, the lithologies are primarily sandy with some interbedded meta-siltstones. To the north meta-siltstones and phyllites predominate. The Stapleton Fault truncates the outcrop eastwards - here laterite covered ?Cambrian occurs. Elsewhere much of the Burrell Creek is in unconformable contact with the Tolmer. The unconformity is not exposed. See Plate 21 for the interpretative geology of SH6.

The MaxMin survey (Plate 22) does not show any well defined conductors in the southern part of the survey where the Tolmer Formation is overlying the Burrell Creek.

The VLF survey (Plate 23) provided some conductors which are in close connection with known faults or faults inferred by geological observation and which can be explained by the existence of specific morphological patterns. It also provides, in the southeastern corner

of the grid, a N30W conductor which could indicate a fault related to the major accident present on the grid or possibly a limit between a conductive facies in the sandstone to the west and a more resistive one to the east, or a Burrell Creek conductive unit. It is important to note that the southeastern end of this conductor coincides with a definite radon anomaly open to the southeast. The INPUT survey is considered to have picked up the faults rather than lithological conductors.

Radon and downhole SPP2 show the following (see Plate 24):

- + coincident anomalies along the 1400N and 1500N lines which outline both the structural and lithological features,
- + elongate anomalies coincident with structural trends from 800N to 1250N/1200E to 1500E. The most significant is the radon/SPP2 anomaly open in the SE corner of the grid. Strong faulting is evident on ground and there is no Burrell Creek outcropping. Heavy fracturing of the sandstone has allowed the percolation of radon.

Any further work on SH6 would involve "closing off" the 800-900N/1450E anomaly and extending the VLF survey. The values present are anomalous for Tolmer but may represent only background as shown by the surveys results over the outcropping Lower Proterozoic.

Referring to Plate 24, the principal anomaly centred on 1400E/800N had an additional 20 alphaCard stations added, assuming a southwesterly trend. Included in that number, a repeat sample was taken on the maximum reading of 12 cps (1500E/1450N) as a check; the second result gave a 3 cps exhibiting the variability that can be attained by this method.

The result of the current years work shows a discrepancy in both the alphaCard and SPP2 values compared to 1988. The radon anomaly was not repeated and no extension of anomalous values was obtained. No further work at SH6 is recommended.

In view of the results obtained on the previous anomalies, no potential targets could be defined that warranted testing by drilling. It was therefore decided to relinquish these areas.

3.5 E.L. 4857 INVESTIGATIONS AND RESULTS

3.5.1 Geophysics

As with E.L. 4856, the regional airborne surveys covered this licence area in full. For an introduction to this work see page 7.

+ <u>N.T.G.S. Data</u>

The spectrometry and magnetics were both utilized to help in forming a local and regional interpretation of the radiometric characteristics of the various facies and the clear definition of the obscured geology.

19.

The responses shown by the various spectrometer channels for E.L. 4857 are repeated here with much the same features apparent. There is a general lithological signature defined by the radiometrics, particularly the U/Th ratio.

No anomalies are apparent from the magnetics.

+ Gravity

No major anomaly has been interpreted in the areas which are relinquished, but one drill hole was located on the SW flank of the "Alligator Creek" granite anomaly in order to test the gravity method to have an indication of the depth of the unconformity and a lithological sequence of the basal Burrell Creek.

+ EM INPUT Survey

This survey was flown by Geoterrex Pty. Ltd. in July, 1987 and covered all tenements of the Tolmer Project. The survey was designed to cover the Tolmer Group sediments in order to locate conductive features within the Lower Proterozoic Burrell Creek Formation, specifically graphitic/carbonaceous facies which occur below the unconformity.

Many conductor anomalies were found during the survey; it was attempted to identify the source of these conductors by utilizing the geological data at hand in combination with modelling based on the EM results.

Regionally, 69 flight lines for 968 line-kilometres were flown, followed by infill lines of 80 km.

The anomalies located by the survey which fall within the relinquished blocks are listed below:

T11 T17 2881/2891

T17 being, for most of its extension, on Burrell Creek facies, no ground follow-up was carried out.

T11 and Anomaly 2881/2891 were studied in detail and surveyed by MaxMin and VLF electromagnetic methods, alphaCard (radon), radiometry, geological mapping and percussion/coring drilling.

+ T11

Located at AMG 030030 Daly River sheet, photos Run 1, 4928, 4929. This conductor was looked at in some detail, reaching the diamond drilling stage towards the end of the field season.

T11 is located on a wide sand and soil covered area which, based on photo studies, appears to be structurally controlled. Two major structures: the Stapleton Fault zone cuts across the northern boundary in a NW/SE direction; a regional NW lineament forms the eastern boundary of the conductor, coinciding with outcropping Depot Creek Sandstone. To the west much of the geological detail is obscured by recent cover; a possible major NW lineament occurs however, controlling the course of the Reynolds River.

The nearest outcrops of Lower Proterozoic rocks occur to the NE within 2891. Tolmer Sandstone is present as the Depot Creek Member, giving reasonable exposure. The outcrops tend to be strongly fractures with variable SW dips, principally steep, indicating the influence of faulting.

The initial INPUT anomaly comprises three principal conductors aligned in a NW direction. MaxMin generated several persistent conductive trends evident on all channels (Plate 25); partial coverage of the grid by VLF tended to illustrate a similar pattern. Based on the EM results a concentrated pattern of alphaCard stations was planned and completed prior to the final initiation of the pre-collar percussion drilling programme. Several relatively strong radon anomalies exist on the southern portion of the grid, i.e. between 1900N and 2700N (see Plate 26). They show up as two separate trends which eventually coalesce and tend to mirror the MaxMin directions. Northwards the radon anomalies lose intensity and become fragmented, however they persist in following the EM trends.

Scintillometric readings show reasonable correlation, with highest values along the eastern side of the grid. The combination of the EM/radon/SPP2 data enabled the planning of drilling targets on two profiles.

The subsurface geology of the anomaly was not known prior to deep drilling at nearby INPUT 2851 ("Radio Tower"). Here a large area of non-outcrop bordering Depot Creek Sandstone was found to be underlain by glacial sediments and some Cambrian. A similar situation was proposed for T11 and this was, in face, the case. In the meantime however some minor outcrop and rubble areas of conglomerate and laminated sandstone were found, these being assigned to the glacial sequence. The geology of T11 can best be described from the information derived from drilling and this is covered on page 25.

In conclusion, the origin of the conductor is most likely due to a red shale facies within the glacial sediment sequence. There may also be some contribution from faulting and shearing which have created the structural framework of the area. The radon and radiometric anomalies are considered also to be associated with these rocks. That being the case, no further activity will be undertaken on Tll.

+ 2851 - Radio Tower

Centred at AMG 995018 Daly River Sheet, photos 5018, 5019; the main Daly River road passes through the grid.

Like T11, 2851 reached the drilling stage with a percussion precollared diamond hole reaching 350 m. Surface activities included VLF, MaxMin II, alphaCard and scintillometer surveys. Both EM methods defined a similar conductive trend (Plates 27 and 28) which was further investigated by radon detection. Synthesis of the data enabled a target to be established and a drilling profile was chosen (Plate 26). No geological mapping was done due to outcrop absence; outside the grid Depot creek Sandstone outcrops in probable structurally controlled areas to the west and north. In addition extensive outcrops of glacial sediments occur northwards along strike

21.

of the anomaly; facies include a poorly sorted sandstone with dropstones, conglomerates and shales. Glacial striations were seen on Tolmer Sandstone surfaces. Due to the nature of the anomalous zone and the interpreted cause the two additional holes planned for the 1988 campaign were cancelled and there is no geological reason to pursue the investigations at 2851.

IV. DRILLING

4.1 INTRODUCTION: METHODS AND STATISTICS

4.1.1 General

Table 1 summarises the 1988 drilling campaign for the relinquished areas.

All the holes in Burrell Creek were inclined $60^{\rm O}$ except one cored hole at $80^{\rm O}$. Those drilled in the sandstone were vertical.

The drilling contractor was Rockdril Ltd. A Schramm (Rig 11) was used for all percussion holes and precollars, and a Foxmobile (Rig 4) was used for coring. Production from the Schramm was mediocre, 50 m/day average, due primarily to a badly organised crew. Depth penetration was not good (174 m) especially with water in the hole. Foxmobile production was slow (12 m/day) due primarily to the old age of the rig and hard formations. The crew of the Fox were more professional in attitude and efficient.

Access was difficult to some holes. The occasional steep grades, soft sand and heavy rigs required the use of assistance from bulldozers (twice) and a grader.

4.1.2 Gamma Logging

Most logging was performed open hole by a standby Century Geophysical logging unit, with plots produced on site. Routine gamma/gamma, SP/resistivity, ore grade, deviation and 15" combined plots were produced. A total of 1043.2 m was probed with a multifunction probe No. 9055C. Reductions at 1:200 scale of the combined logs and lithology are included in Appendix 1. Precollars TOL-P-17, 18, 19, 22-24 could only be logged to shallow depth due to caving of a clayey shale unit at the water table forming a plug.

The cored holes were planned to be surveyed by T.M.A.'s TD 400 unit. Holes TOL-PD-14 and TOL-PD-16 were successfully logged by NaI to below the unconformity, however this probe broke down before the other cored holes were completed. Polypipe was placed down the remaining holes for probing inn 1989.

4.1.3 Sampling

Core was sampled from intervals of 1, 5, 10, 15, 20 and 30 metres above and below the unconformity in holes TOL-PD-16, 18 and 19 and was analysed for U, Ni, Co, Mg, Al, and As. Thin sections were prepared from the sampled intervals.

4.1.4 Surveying

Drill collars were tied to local grids, usually 25 x 25 m or $25 \times 50 \text{ m}$.

SPP2 readings were taken at 1 m intervals along the projection of the drill hole prior to drilling.

TABLE 1: DRILLING STATISTICS AND CHEMICAL ANALYSES

	LOCATION	TOTAL METRES Perc/ Coring	DEPTH	CHEMICAL ANALYSES											
				1	U Max.	Co Ave.		Ni Ave. M			Mg Max.	Al Ave.		As Ave.	
GRAVITY ANOMALY TOL-P-14	AMG 704855 R621-5070	114P 225C	339												
10L-P-14 2851	K021-3070		666												
TOL-PD-16	1400N/1100E		351	6	8	<4		<4		338	350	6400	1.4%	6	8
<u> </u>	'	1	,												
	'	497P 317.5C													
TOL-PD-17 TOL-PD-18	3400N/1125E 3400N/1175E		162 130.6	<4		<4		<4		200		4600		2	
TOL-PD-19	3400N/1225E		136.2	4	6	<4		<4		767			4150		
TOL-P-22 TOL-P-23	2100N/1075E 2100N/1125E	•	90 229.7												
TOL-P-24	2100N/1025E		66	1											

Analyses for holes that reached unconformity.

23.

DDH-25 was checked for bedding orientation by use of an orientation spear.

4.2 RESULTS

Geological cross-sections at 1:200 scale were prepared for each drill hole. These summarise:

(a) lithological descriptions from cuttings and core,

- (b) radiometric grade and thickness at cut-offs 300, 500 or 1000 eU ppm computed from digitized logs,
- (c) SPP2 values along projection of the drill hole,

(d) water tables at time of logging.

Drill hole locations and interpreted surface geology from drill hole data has been plotted on relevant prospect maps.

15" combination electrical and gamma logs, together with detailed lithological descriptions, acid reaction and SPP2 values plotted at 1:200 scale can be found in Appendix 1.

4.2.1 2851 INPUT Anomaly (Plate 30)

+ Summary

This hole was percussion precollared to 150 m (50 m short of the target depth) at 1100E on the 1400N line. This was the westernmost hole of a proposed 100 m profile across a MaxMin conductor coincident with a moderate Alphacard anomaly. TOL-PD-16 was sited between the MaxMin and VLF anomaly axes (see Plates 27 and 28) in an area of no outcrop.

+ Drilling Result

The unconformity was cored at 319.5 m, a sharp contact was intersected. No alteration was discernible in the sandstone except for some hematitic layers and kaolinite lining some fractures. Opaque quartz grains were more common near the base of the Tolmer but these would probably be detrital, derived from the Burrell Creek Formation. The radiometric log shows no enrichment of uranium in the sandstone above the unconformity although the Burrell Creek rocks are somewhat enriched below it.

The stratigraphy of the hole is as follows:

Lower Cambrian: Antrim Plateau Volcanics: Amygdaloidal basalt

0 - 4 m

Upper Proterozoic: Uniya Tillite:

Fluvioglacial arenites

and conglomerate 4 - 38 m

Upper Proterozoic: Uniya Tillite:

Red and green ?varved shales 38 - 78 m

Middle Proterozoic: Tolmer Group:

Depot Creek Sandstone 78 - 319.5 m

Lower Proterozoic: Burrell Creek Formation 319.5 - 351 m

The Tolmer Sandstone in this hole is generally a fine grained, pink quartzite, however to prominent pebbly bands are located at approximately 260 m; these are good consistent marker beds about 50 m above the base of the sandstone and are also widespread in outcrop. Approximately 30 m of sedimentary breccia and slumped strata were intersected above the pebbly unit.

+ Chemical Analyses

Chemical analyses performed on core suggests that the background for uranium may be slightly higher in this hole than regionally, however no anomalous samples occur.

A sample of Tolmer at 318 m was anomalous in aluminium for that rock type (i.e. Al - 1.4%) however Mg is only slightly high (500 ppm) therefore a clay mineral, perhaps a fracture fill, is indicated.

+ Geological Synthesis and Conclusion

The current thought on the geology of 2851 is a sequence of fluvioglacial sediments occupying a depression within the Depot creek Sandstone. A thin layer of Cambrian basalts overlie and have preserved the Uniya Tillite above the Depot Creek Sandstone. Ground investigation along strike at the northern end of the anomaly has confirmed the presence of outcropping fluvioglacial sediments lying directly on a striated glacial pavement. The shales, however, are absent indicating a lensing out towards the north. The sandstones consist of porous, cream and dark grey coloured quartz-lithic arenites, conglomeratic in parts. In the macro sense these sandstones are packed with pseudonodules. The glacial pavement is extensive and has significant relief and dips towards the axis of the EM anomalies.

The consolidated fluvioglacial sediments are preserved atop the glacial pavement as outliers due to their well stratified and cemented nature as opposed to the easily weathered tillite which overlies this surface at Hayward Creek. This occurrence of the glacial surface so far north has not been recognised before. Indeed other glacial deposits are now being recognised in certain areas atop the Depot Creek.

The MaxMin anomaly could therefore be explained as reflecting the contrast in conductivity between the fluvioglacial overburden (especially the shales) and the underlying resistive quartzite. The coincidence of the northern end of the anomaly with the appearance of outcrop (and lensing of the shale) seems to confirm this hypothesis. No evidence of faulting (another explanation for the EM anomaly) was found in the Tolmer outcrops east of the anomaly.

The Alphacard anomaly may represent contribution of radon from these shales.

Kewanie Oil, in their report on exploration in this area, refer to investigation of Prospect "A" on A.P. 3310M which seems to be near to 2851. They auger sampled a geobotanical anomaly and

discovered large areas with anomalous base metal values. They recognised basalt in these samples so it is suggested that the basalt was preserved in a glacial valley and itself is anomalous in lead/zinc. They abandoned a deeper hole at 25 m, due to hard formation (Tolmer Sandstone) that they drilled south of the anomalies.

4.2.2 Tll INPUT Anomaly

+ Summary

Six holes were drilled on two 100 m profiles where both MaxMin and Alphacard surveys outlined anomalies. All holes were drilled initially by percussion (497 m total) and three holes were extended by coring (317 m total). The results of the drilling are shown on two cross-sections, Plates 31 and 32.

All the holes intersected conductive overburden between 40-70 m, and then passed into Tolmer Sandstone. TOL-P-17, P-18 and P-19 successfully drilled through the Lower Proterozoic unconformity. No mineralisation was found, however some minor anomalies were determined from chemical analyses near the unconformity.

All the percussion precollars suffered from poor recovery and caving at and below the water table, which made interpretation of lithological units difficult from drill chips. Attempts were made by Century to log all the holes a week after drilling, however, due to caving, they were all blocked by clay plugs near the water table.

Major NNW to NW faulting is considered to have created a depression in the Tolmer in which fluvioglacial sediments have been deposited. The EM response could be a reflection of the lithology or structure or both. The Alphacard anomalies, as at 2851, could be caused by the glacial shale unit.

+ Cross-section 3400N

TOL-P-17, PD-18 and PD-19 were drilled from west to east 50 m apart along the 3400N profile. All three holes successfully drilled the unconformity. TOL-P-17 was percussion drilled to 162 m whilst TOL-P-18 and P-19 were precollared to 72 m and 48 m and extended by coring to 130.6 m and 136.2 m respectively.

The unconformity was penetrated at a lesser depth in TOL-P-18 (73.5 m) than in TOL-P-17 (86 m) or TOL-P-19a ((1.4 m - 94.6 m). Therefore only 0.5 m of Tolmer core was recovered in TOL-P-18.

TOL-P-19 and P-18 showed that the Tolmer Sandstone near to the unconformity is steeply dipping, hematitic (or bleached in TOL-P-18) and kaolinitic in fractures; and filled with pervasive cherty silica veins and breccia in TOL-P-19. Brecciation and shearing is very strong in TOL-P-19, especially at the unconformity, which hinders the interpretation of the contact. The underlying Burrell Creek Formation (which has a more complete record in core and chips) is altered in TOL-P-18 and P-19 and relatively fresh in P-17. In TOL-P-17 the sandstones are grey and/or hematitic, and the phyllites are grey. In TOL-P-18 and P-19 the sandstones are hematitic and clayey, while the argillites are red, slatey, fissile shales and phyllites.

26.

These shales are sericitic and quartz veined, especially within 19 m of the unconformity.

All holes were collared in amygdaloidal basalt and tuff of Lower Cambrian age, and then drilled through a regolith into red and green shales and grey/white lithic arenites and conglomerates (presumably of the fluvioglacial Uniya Formation) and into hematitic Depot Creek Sandstone before drilling through the unconformity. Excessive caving of the overburden while drilling in the thin Tolmer Sandstone caused problems in interpretation of precollar chip samples. The water table was drilled between 25 m and 30 m within the fluvioglacial sediments.

Shearing and fracturing were very common in the Lower and Middle Proterozoic rocks.

+ Cross-section 2100N

TOL-P-24, P-22 and P-23 were percussion precollared from west to east, 50 m apart along the 2100N profile. TOL-P-24 and P-22 were percussion drilled only, to 66 m and 90 m respectively, while TOL-P-23 was extended by diamond drill from 60 m to 229.7 m. The Lower Proterozoic unconformity was not reached in TOL-PD-23 due to an extended section of Tolmer Sandstone through faulting and steep dip and poor drilling conditions which caused the hole to be abandoned.

Plate 32 shows that all the holes were collared in chocolate coloured siltstone then passed through a red, clayey tuff and hematitic quartz-arenite and pebbly sandstones then passed into a clean red conglomerate (up to 6 m thick) before entering the purple Depot Creek Sandstone. The siltstone is similar to that overlying basalt at the magnetic anomaly and is therefore interpreted to be Lower Cambrian. The basalt is represented by a shaley tuffaceous unit which merges imperceptibly into a basal conglomerate which may be of fluvioglacial origin as suggested in profile 3400N. As mentioned earlier, caving and poor drilling conditions in deeply weathered clay strata caused contamination of percussion samples.

The Tolmer in ToL-PD-23 was the usual fine grained pink quartzite of the Depot Creek Sandstone down to 115 m, then it became increasingly coarse grained and pebbly, red to purple, occasionally hematitic clay-rich crumbly to silicified sandstone. Fracturing and brecciation were pervasive in the hole. Bleaching, chert development and hematisation were present towards the end of the hole. ToL-PD-23 was abandoned when a large cavity was intersected. Gross lithological correlation with ToL-PD-14 suggests that the pebbly bands of the middle unit of the Depot Creek were penetrated and that a further 50 m would need to be drilled to reach the unconformity.

+ Chemical Analyses

TOL-PD-18 and PD-19 only were sampled. Uranium values in general were low throughout the various rock types (Tolmer max. 6 ppm in TOL-PD-19). Magnesium values were not generally anomalous except perhaps for two analyses in TOL-PD-19 at 72 m and 79.5 m where Mg was 850 ppm and 950 ppm respectively (Tolmer Sandstone). Arsenic, cobalt and nickel, however, in these samples were low. No gold or aluminium analyses were anomalous.

Geological Synthesis and Conclusions

The stratigraphic sequence at Tll is: Burrell Creek, grey to mauve or red metasandstones and schists overlain unconformably or thrust faulted (TOL-PD-19 "transition zone") against steeply dipping and fractured, hematitic Depot Creek Sandstone, which is unconformably overlain by conglomerates and shales of the Uniya Tillite and then amygdaloidal basalt and chocolate coloured siltstone of the Antrim Plateau Volcanics.

Profile 3400N shows that the Phanerozoic rocks dip towards the west quite steeply. The westerly dip is confirmed by the presence of lateritized shale and conglomerate (subcropping fluvioglacials and basaltic tuffs) and a smooth westerly dipping (35°/306°) polished surface on the Depot Creek Sandstone overlain by cobbles (resembling a glacial pavement) at approximately 1250E (25 m east of TOL-PD-19). Fluvioglacial sediments are also exposed in Alligator Creek in the northeast of T11. The shale unit appears to dip back towards the east in TOL-P-17. The Carpentarian unconformity is slightly domed under TOL-PD-18, and bedding/cleavage relationships in the Burrell Creek are very steep, suggesting that it is near to the axis of a structure. However intense faulting near TOL-PD-19 must cause some undulation in this contact. No definite chemical anomalism has been found, however hematitic alteration and some enrichment of Mg, As and Al (but not Co or Ni) has occurred near to the contact in shear zones.

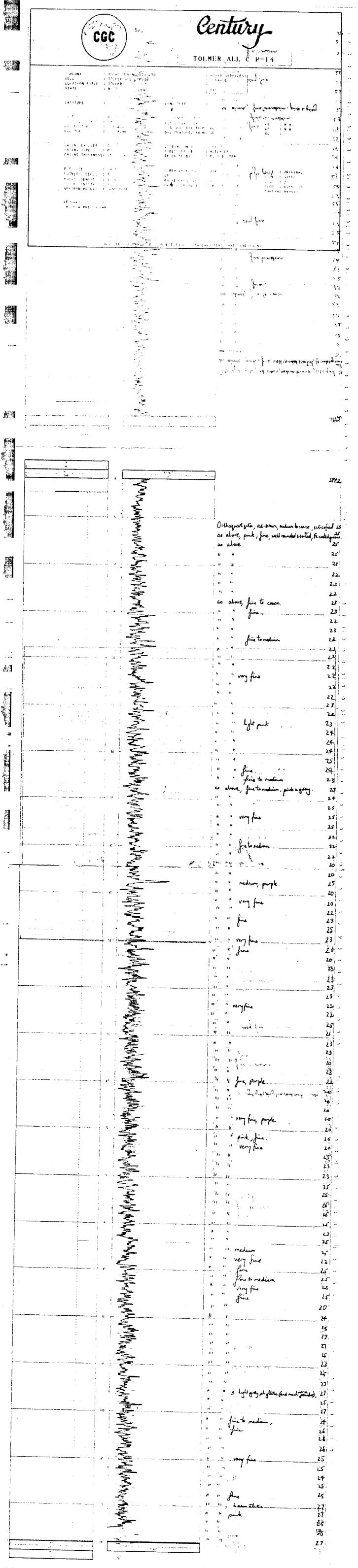
On profile 2100N the units above the Tolmer are apparently deeply weathered interbedded siltstone, sandstone, conglomerate and shales and therefore definite lithological boundaries are diffuse. A subdivision according to lithology and colour has been attempted. The post-Tolmer unconformity surface appears to be trough-like (as in 3400N) with the steepest grade between TOL-P-22 and TOL-PD-23. These units dip towards the east. The easterly dip is confirmed by log character (top of hole only) and a line of prominent outcrops of laterite approximately 25 m west of TOL-P-24, which probably represent outcropping basaltic and shaley sediments. TOL-P-23 was diamond drilled first because the Tolmer Sandstone was positively identified, whereas in TOL-P-22 it was coarse grained, poorly sorted and hematitic and resembled the Burrell Creek Sandstones in TOL-P-16. The presence of bleaching, chert development, hematisation, pervasive fracturing and steep dip suggests that the area is strongly faulted.

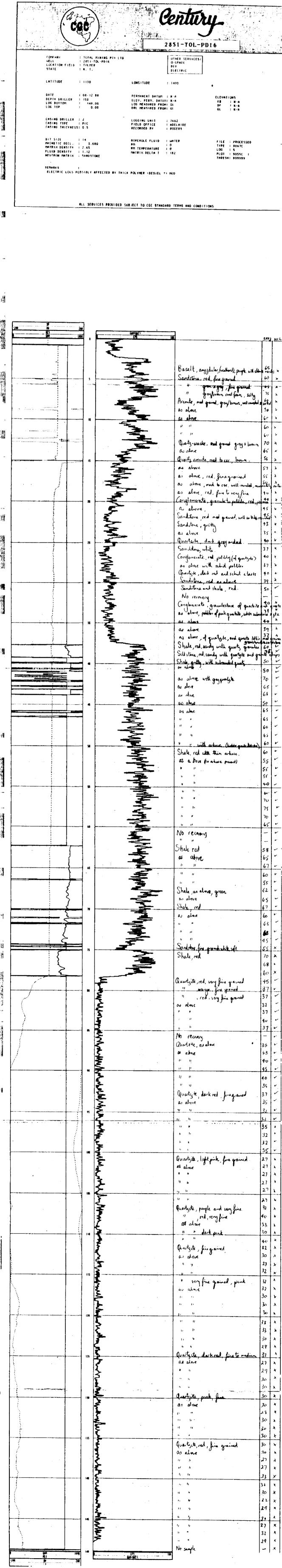
The presence of fluvioglacial sediments against Tolmer outcrop is confirmed near profile 3400N. This glacial surface trends NE, which is parallel to the main MaxMin anomaly. The difference in geology of the overburden between the two profiles causes no problem with the first hypothesis because these profiles lie on two separate anomalous trends; therefore the thickness of conductive shale may be producing the response. The presence of relief in the Lower Proterozoic unconformity, pervasive faulting, brecciation and hematitic alteration and silicification in the Tolmer also suggests a possible structural explanation. Extensive outcrops of Depot Creek Sandstone in the east of T11 are intensely faulted and fractured. Various fault trends have produced a patchwork of faulted blocks causing rapid

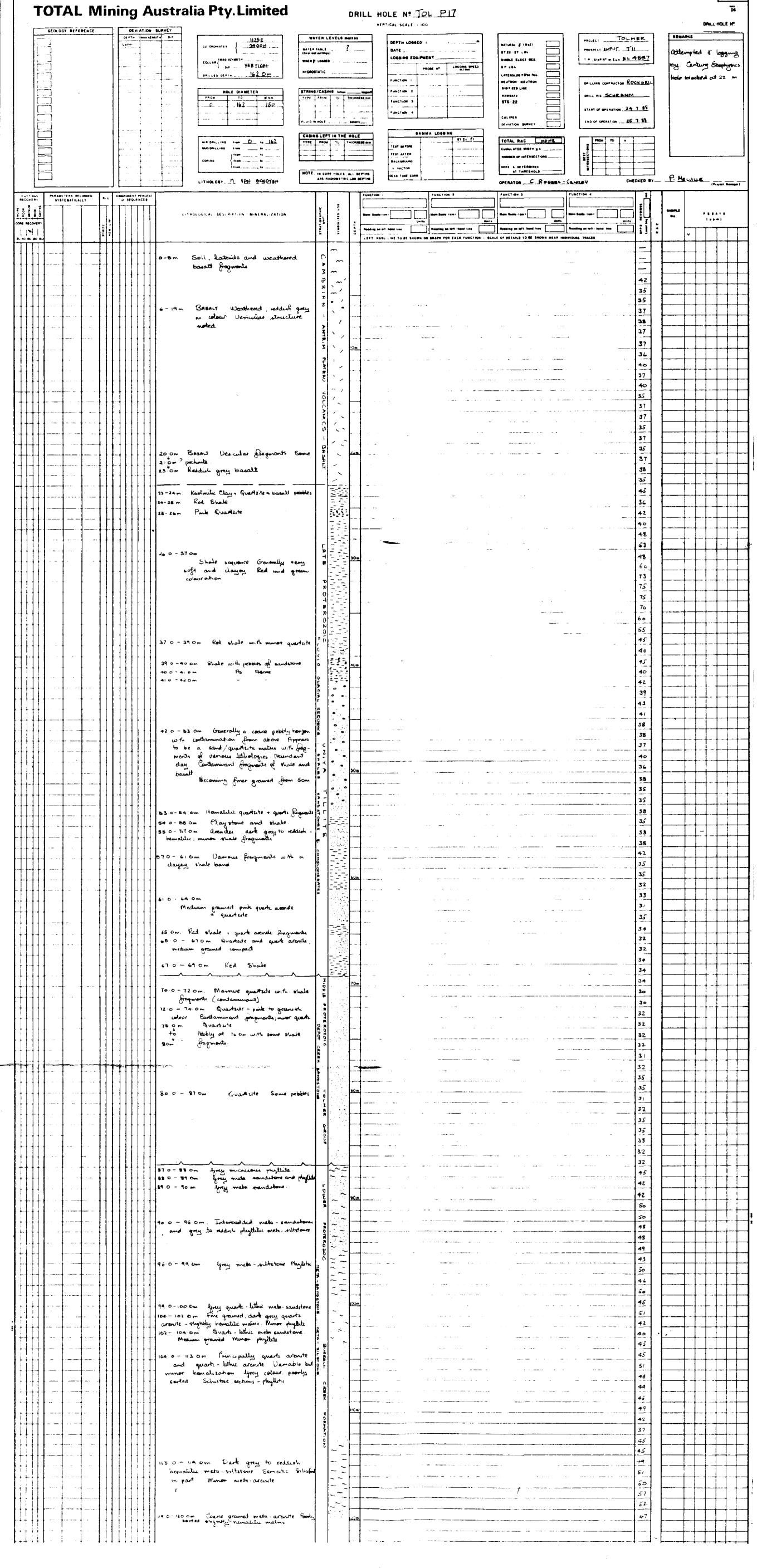
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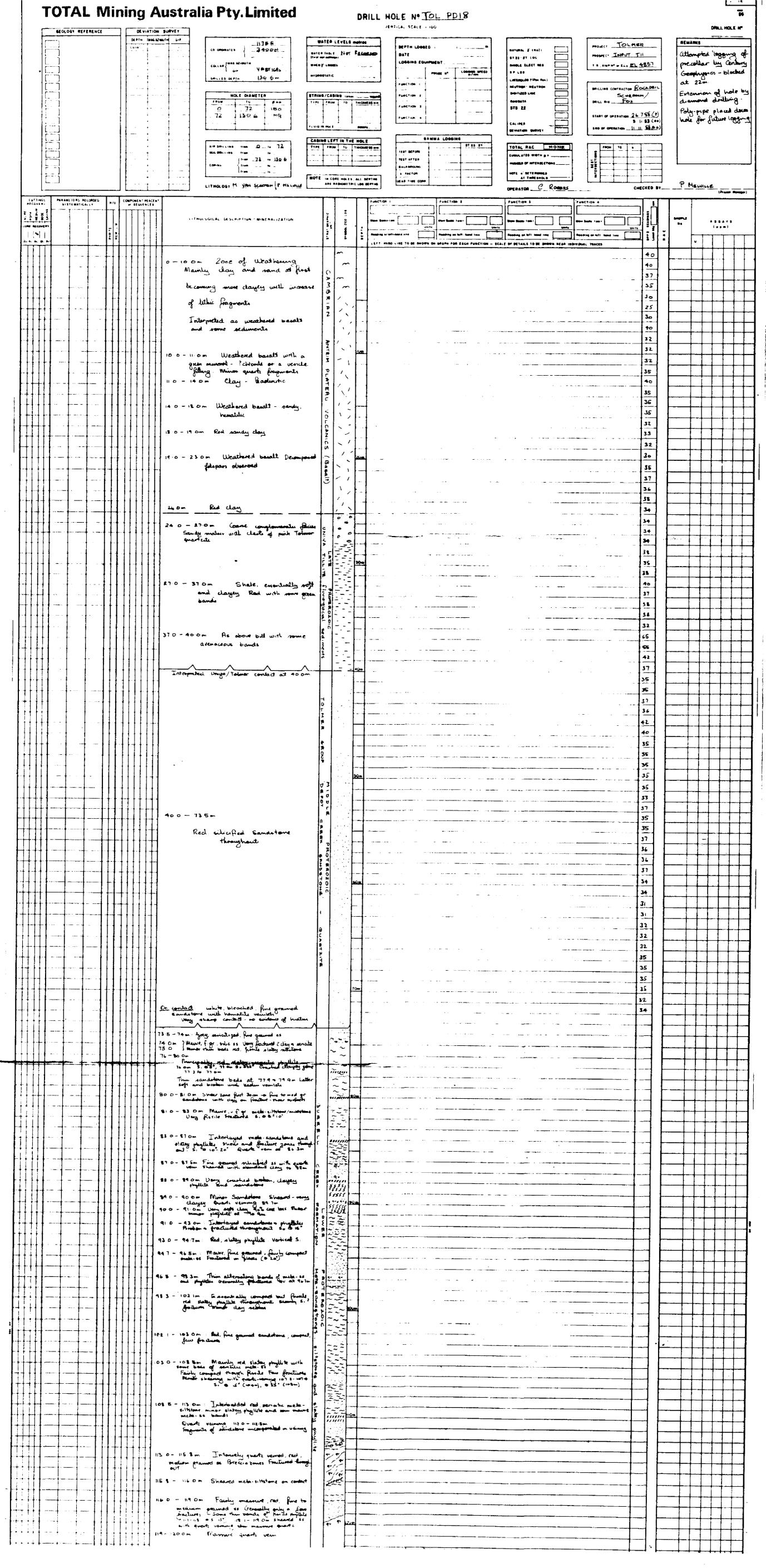
variation in bedding attitudes or complete destruction of bedding and hematisation/silicification of the sandstone in places. The focus of this intense faulting has not been outlined in the reconnaissance mapping to date.

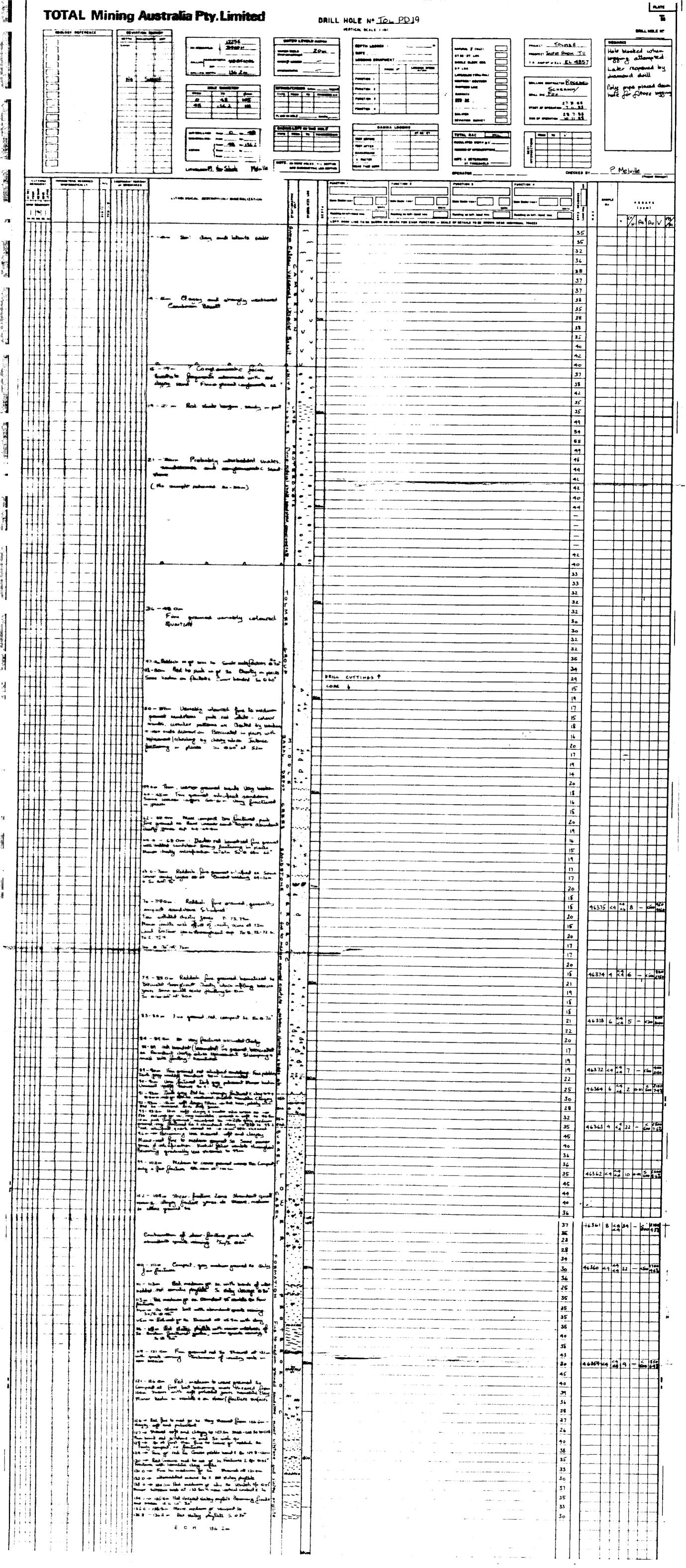
The chemical analyses are not very encouraging, however some magnesium and uranium have been concentrated in this area.

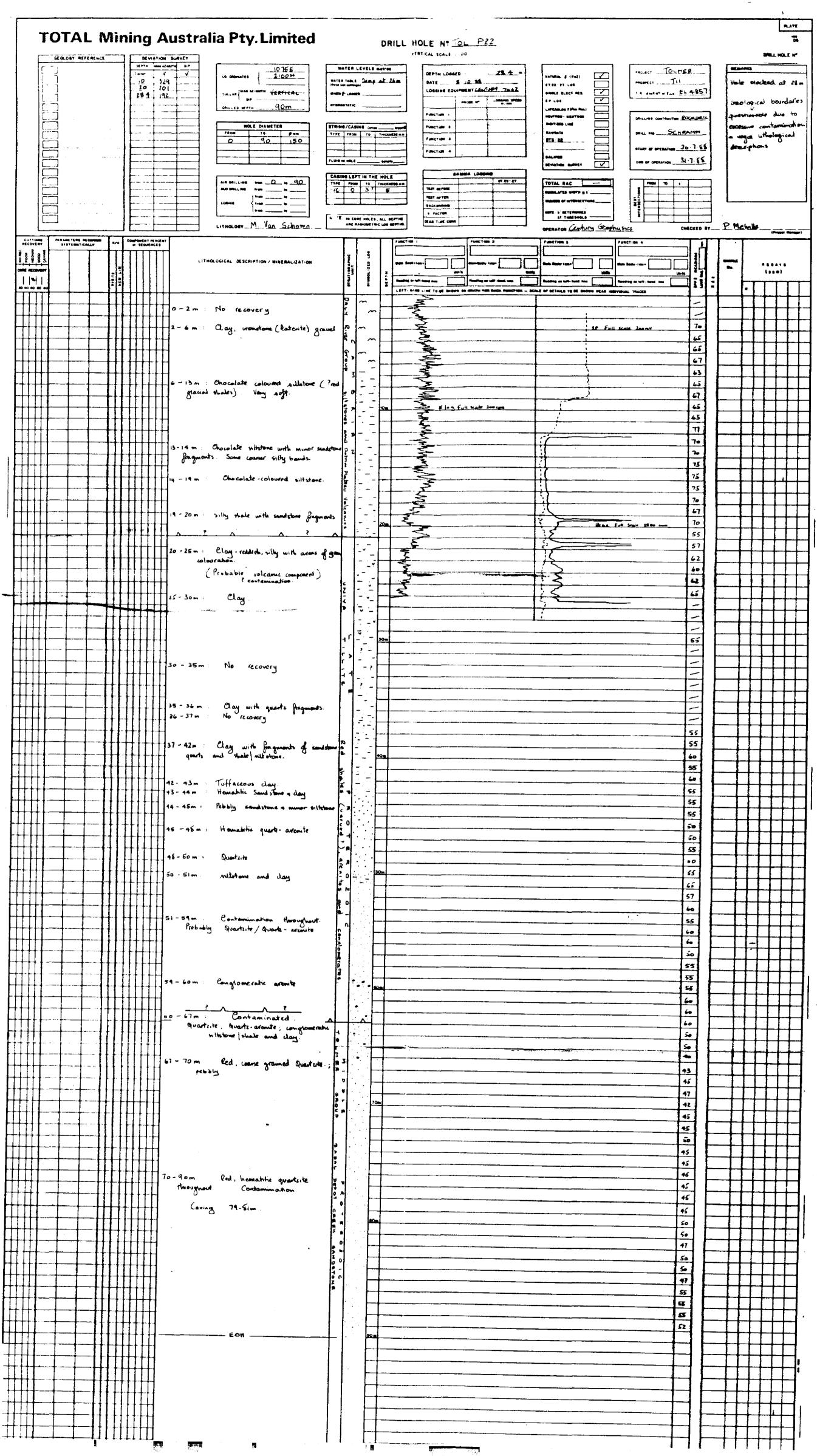


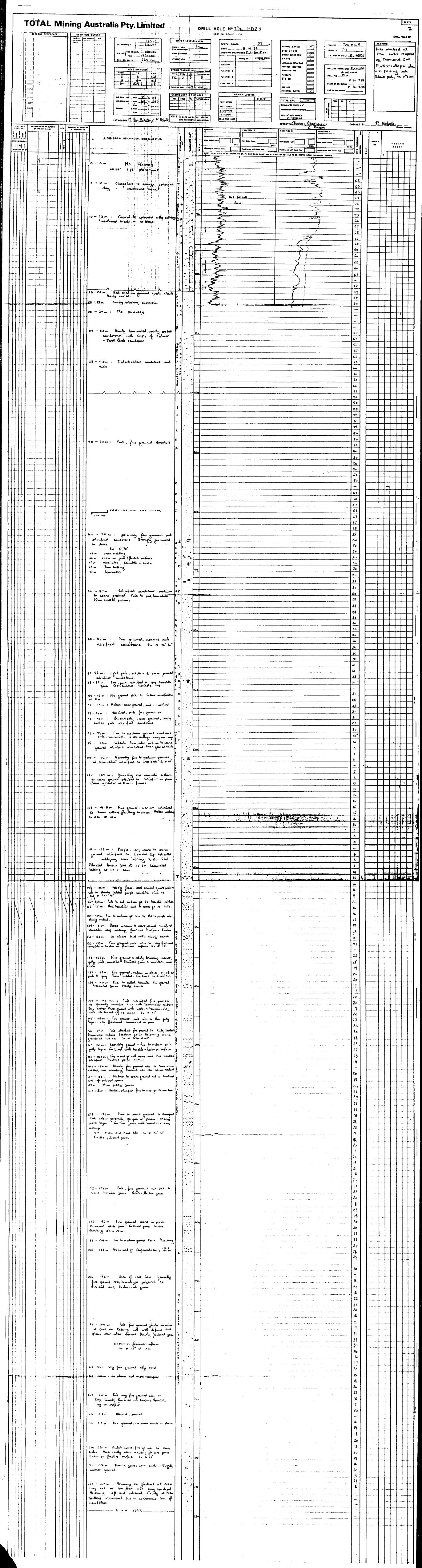


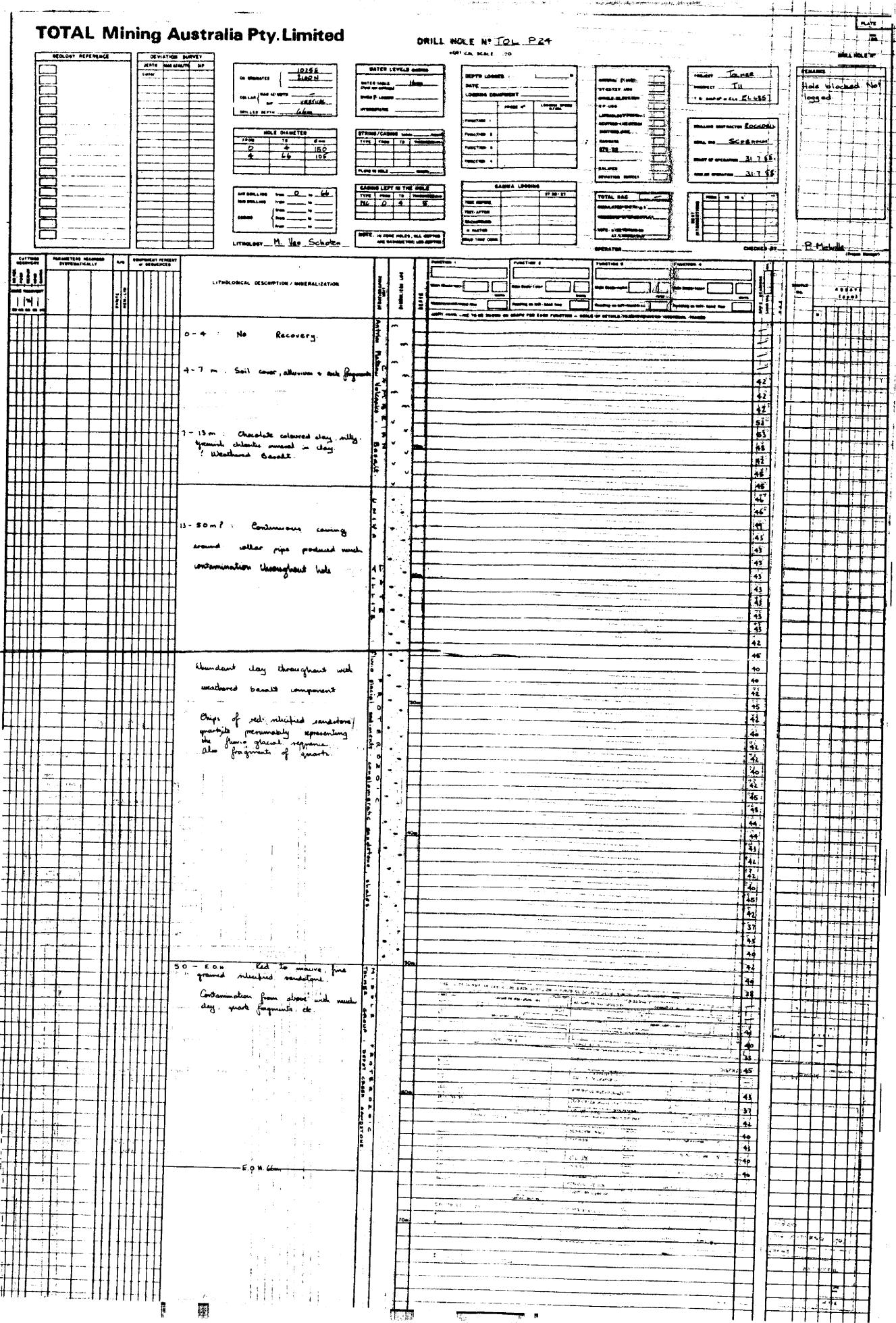


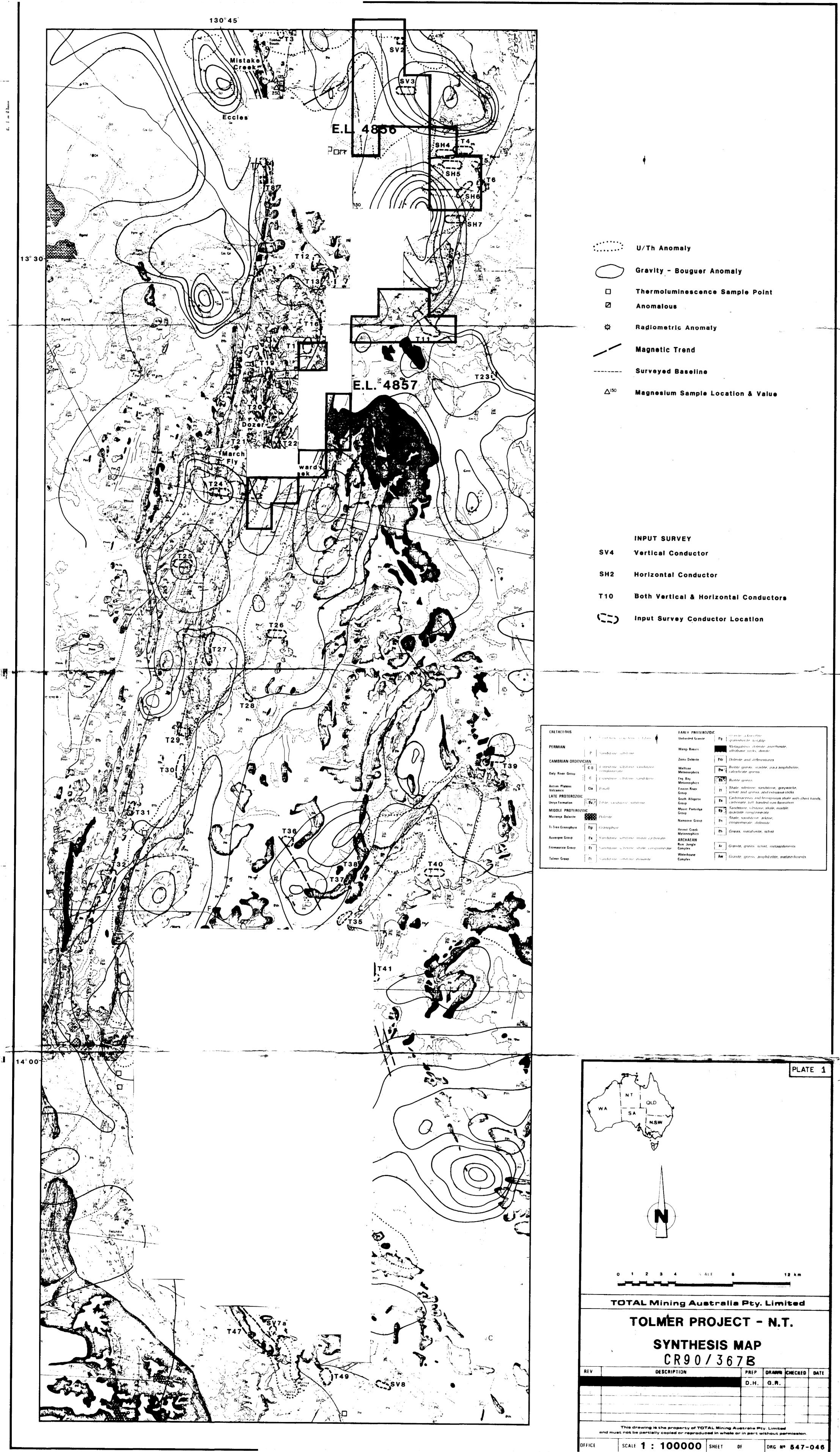


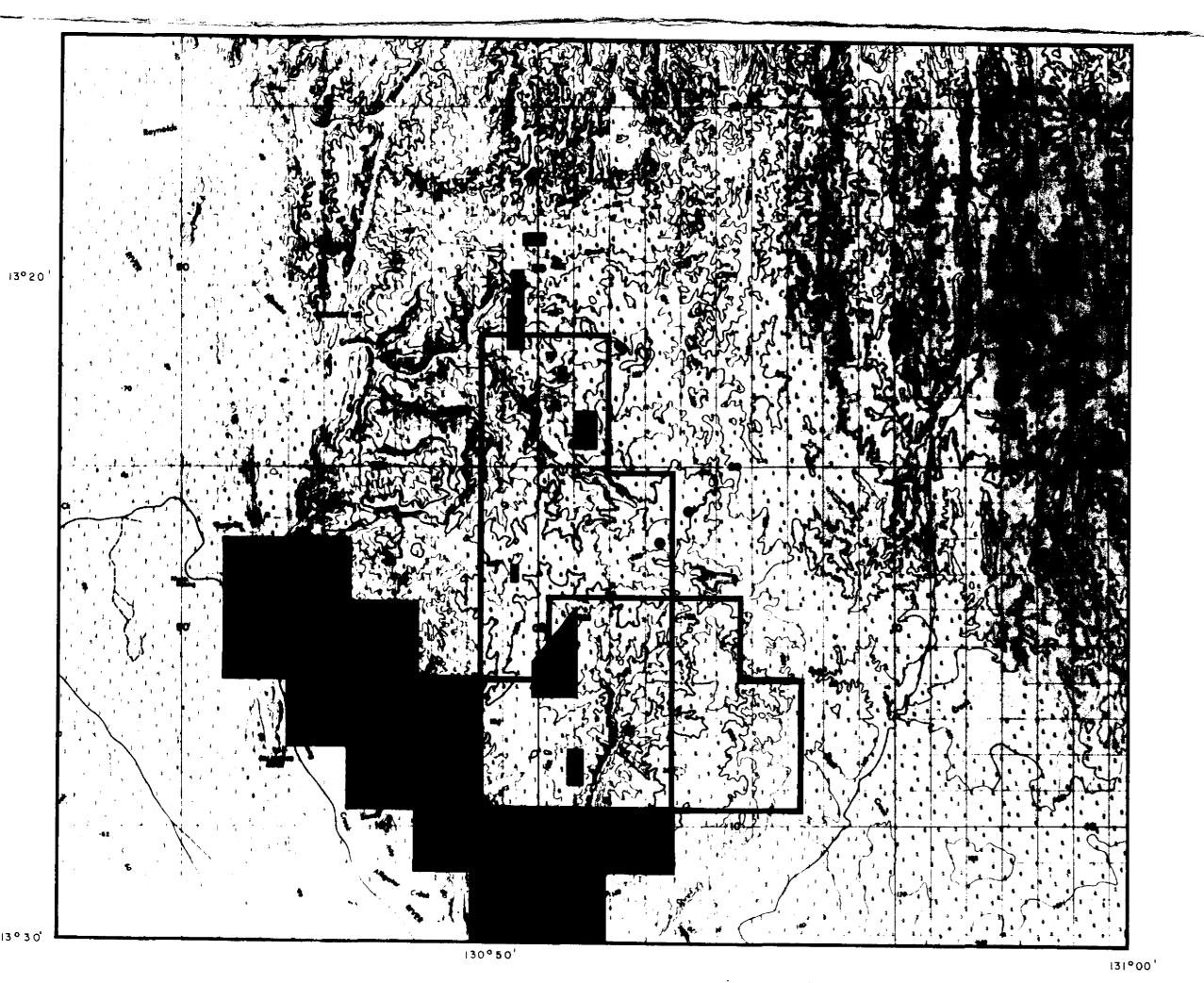












TOLMER PROJECT - N.T. E.L. 4856 **Location of Airborne Radiometric** Anomalies CR90/367B PREP DRAWN CHECKED DATE

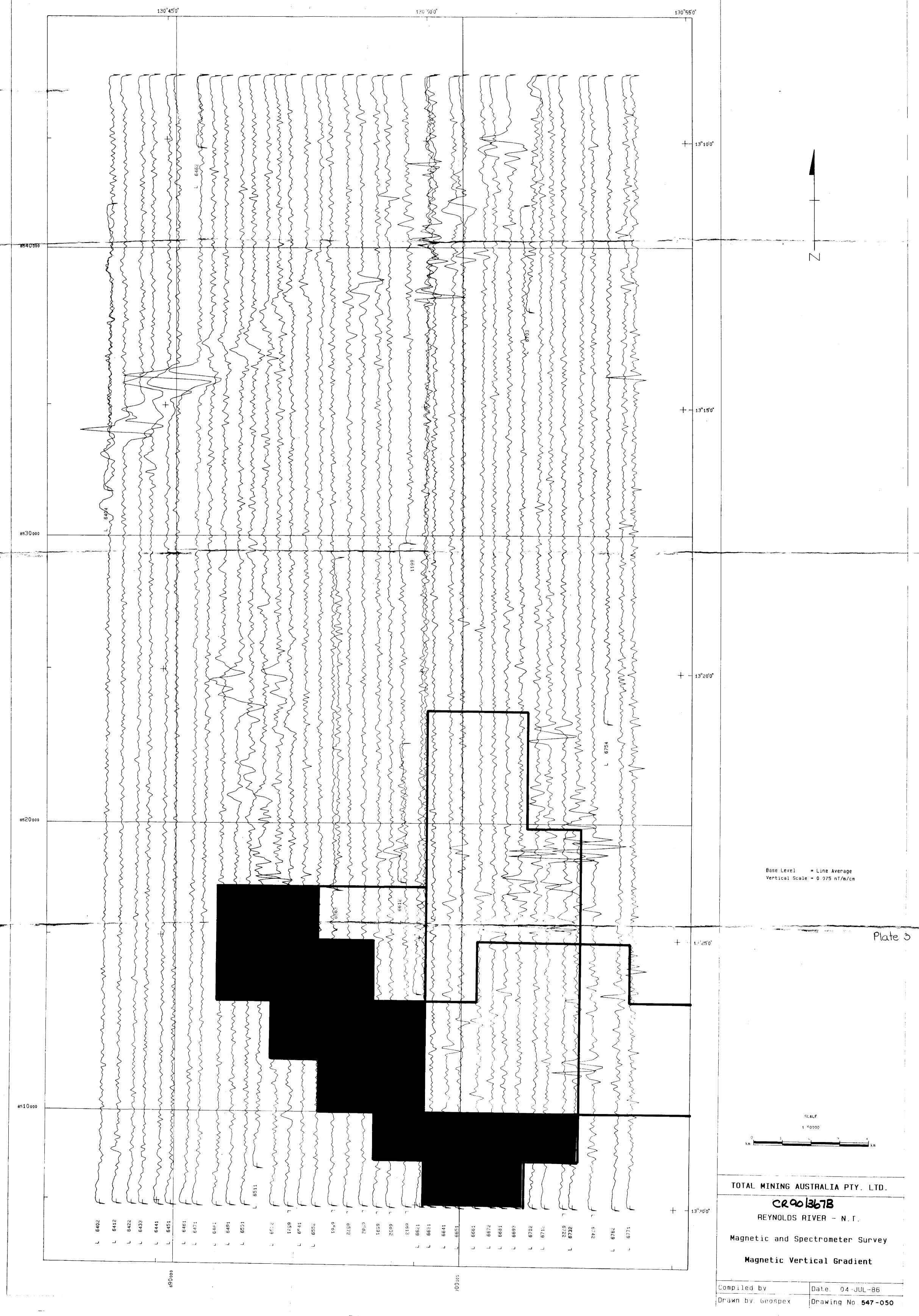
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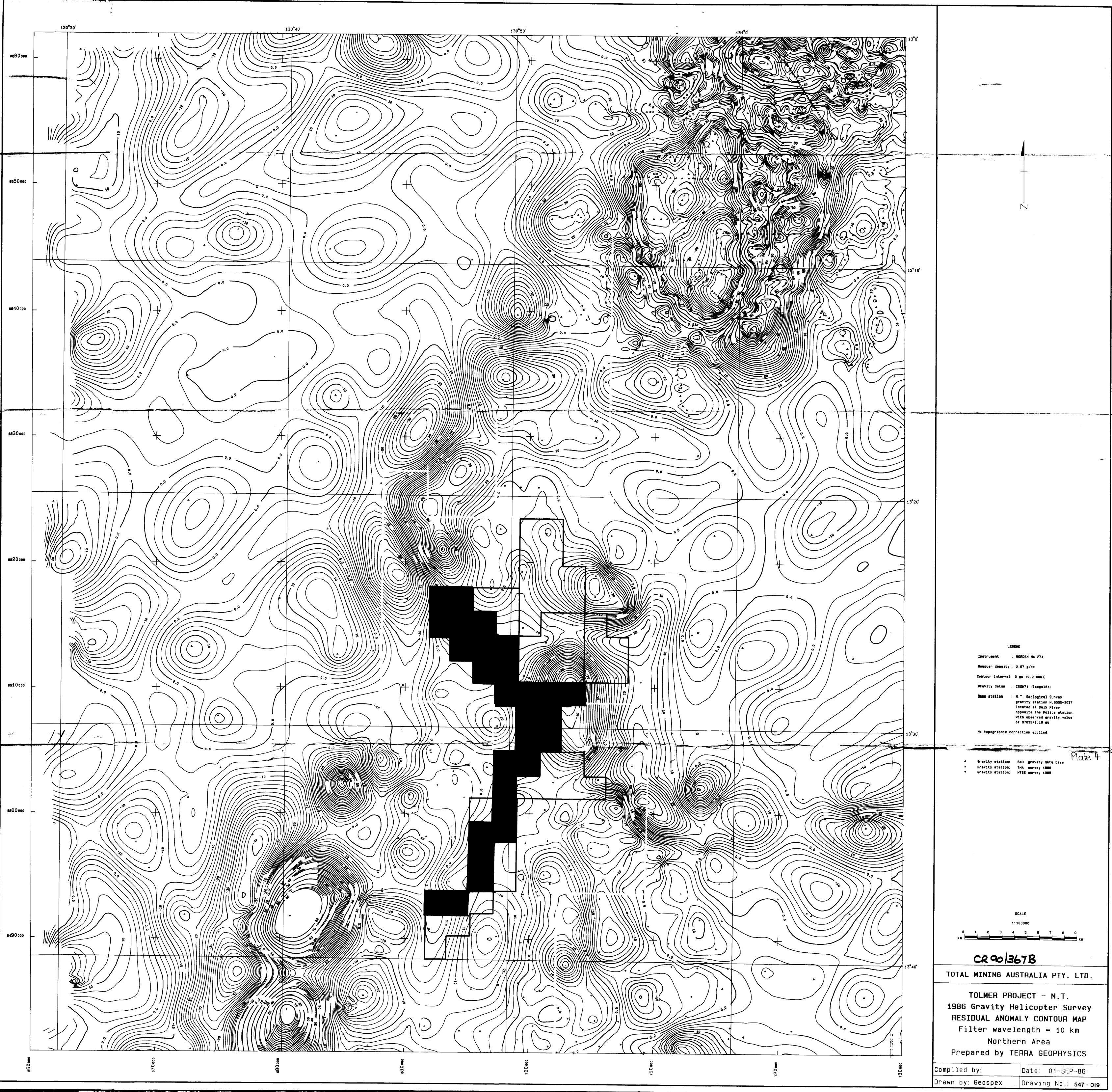
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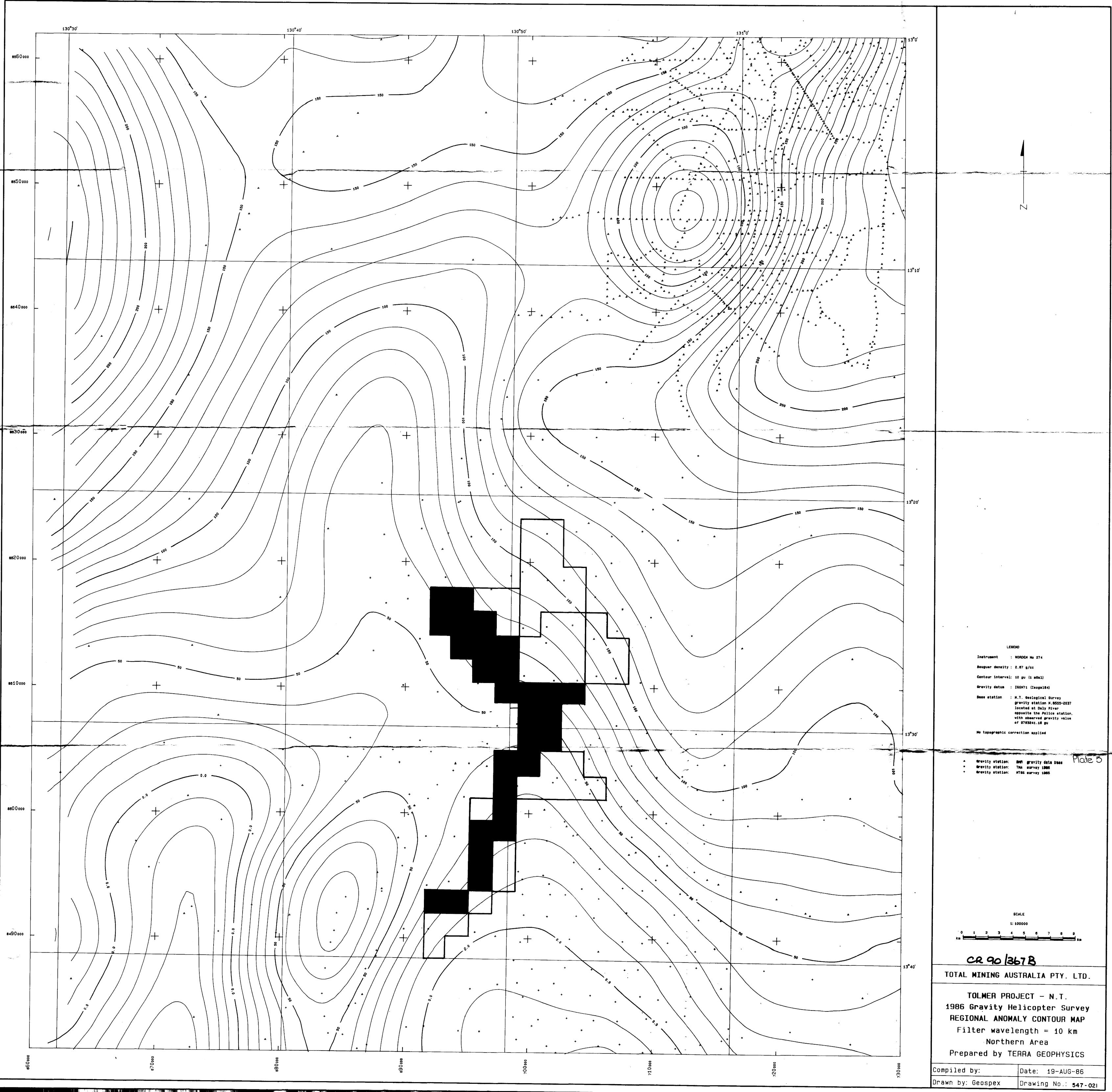
PLATE 2

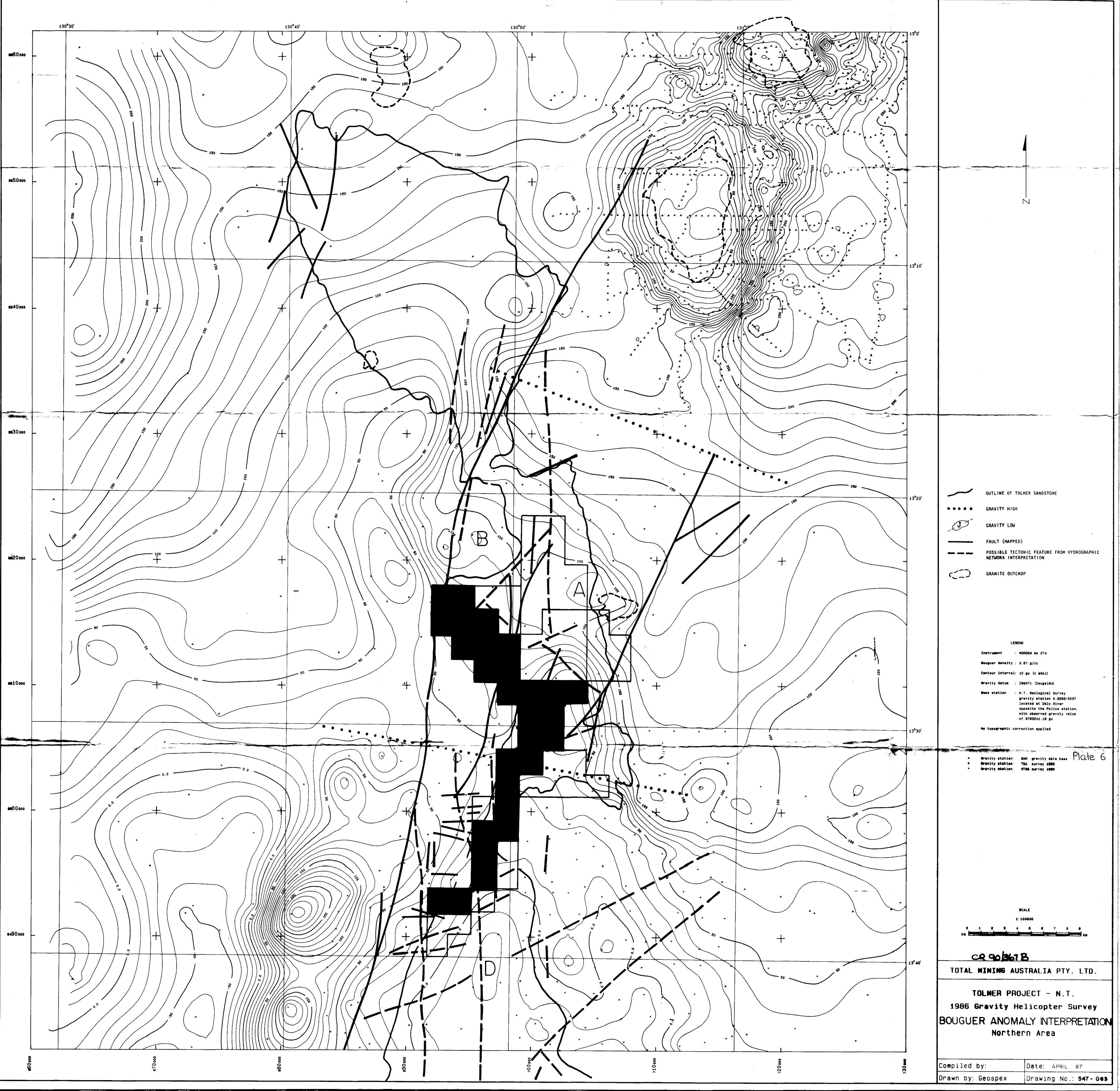
■ Location of Investigated Airborne Anomalies

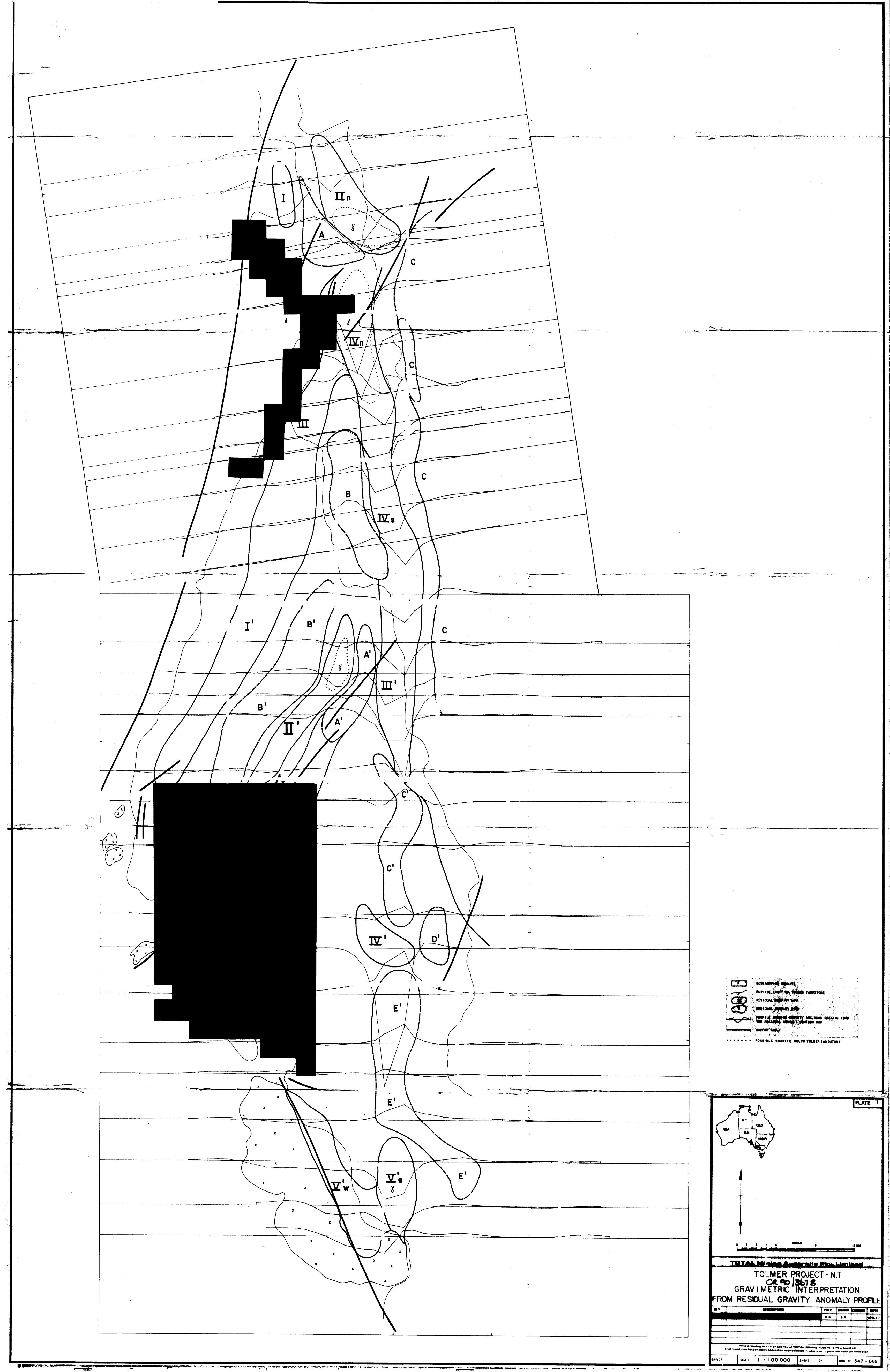
TOTAL Mining Australia Pty. Limited

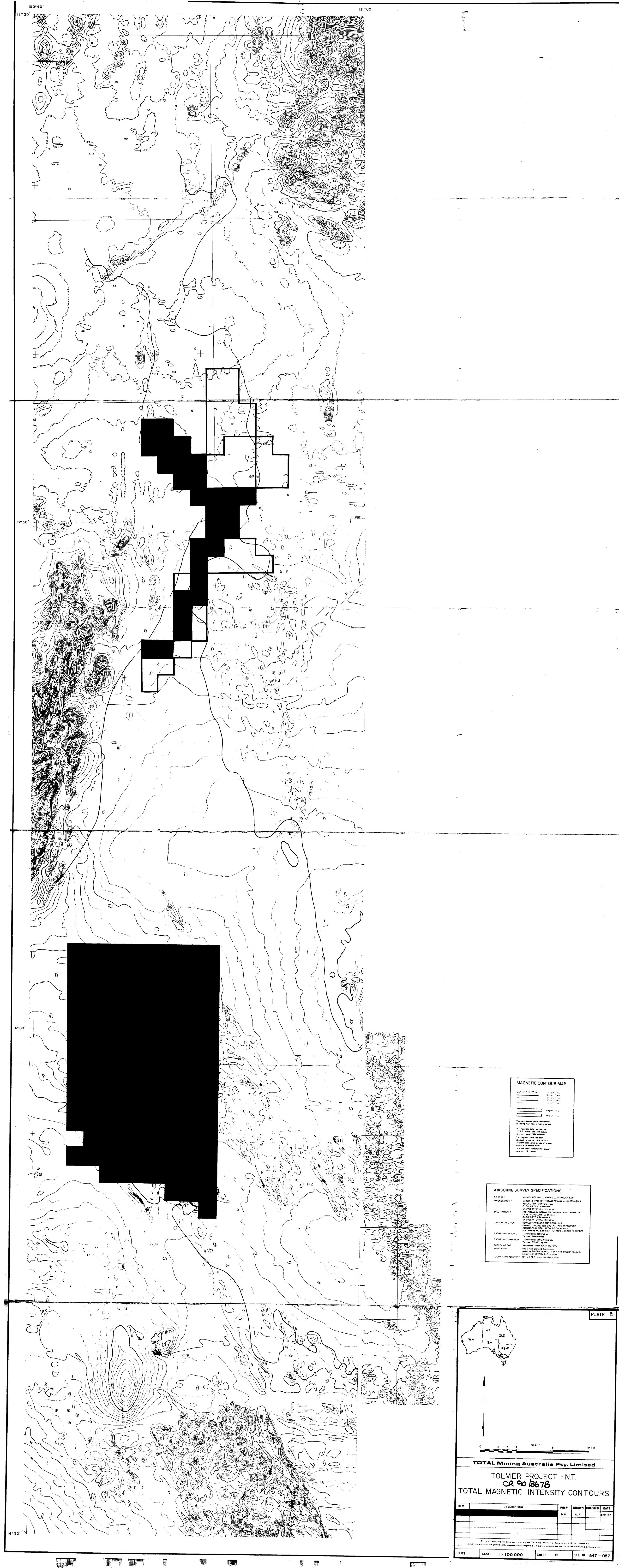


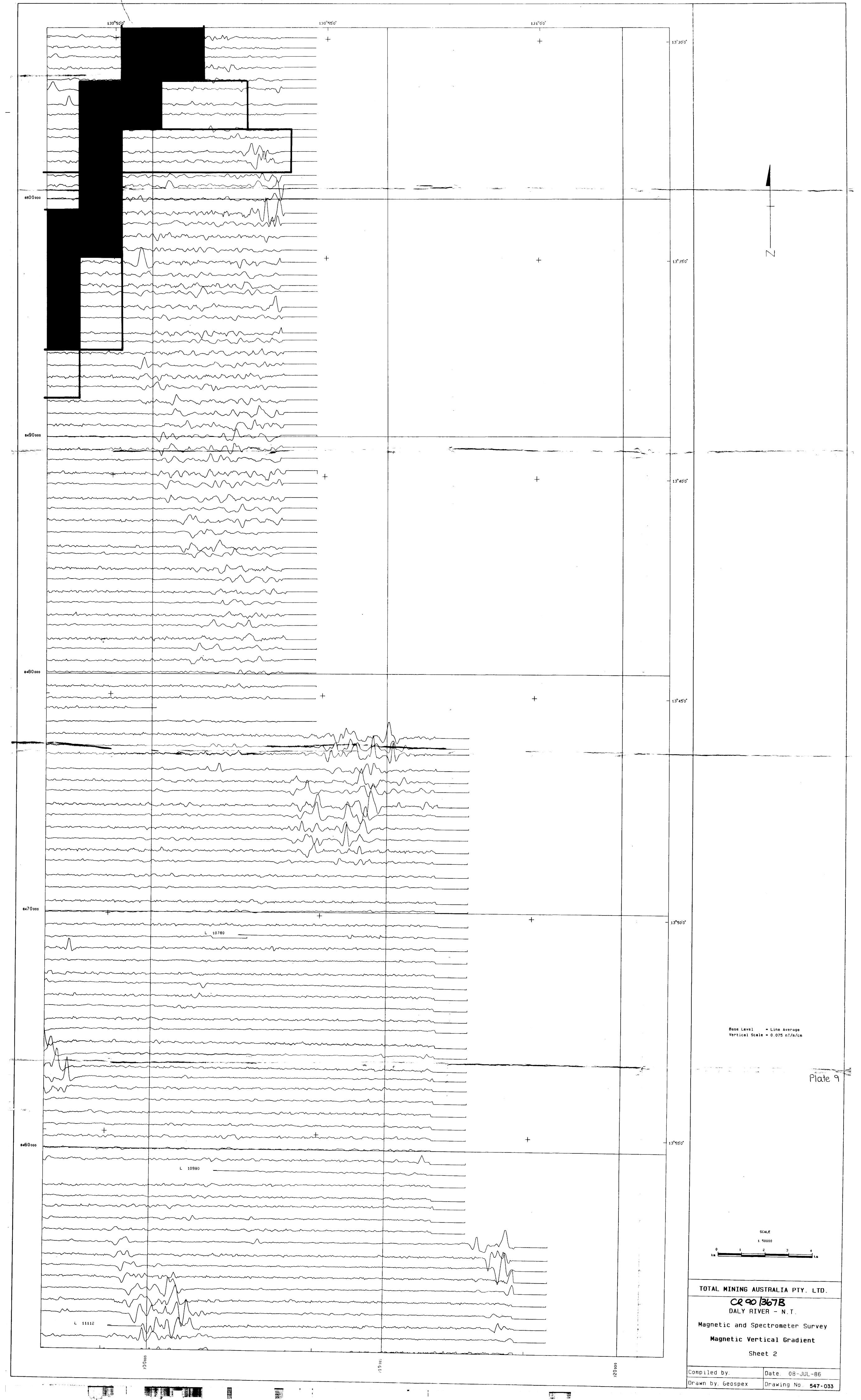


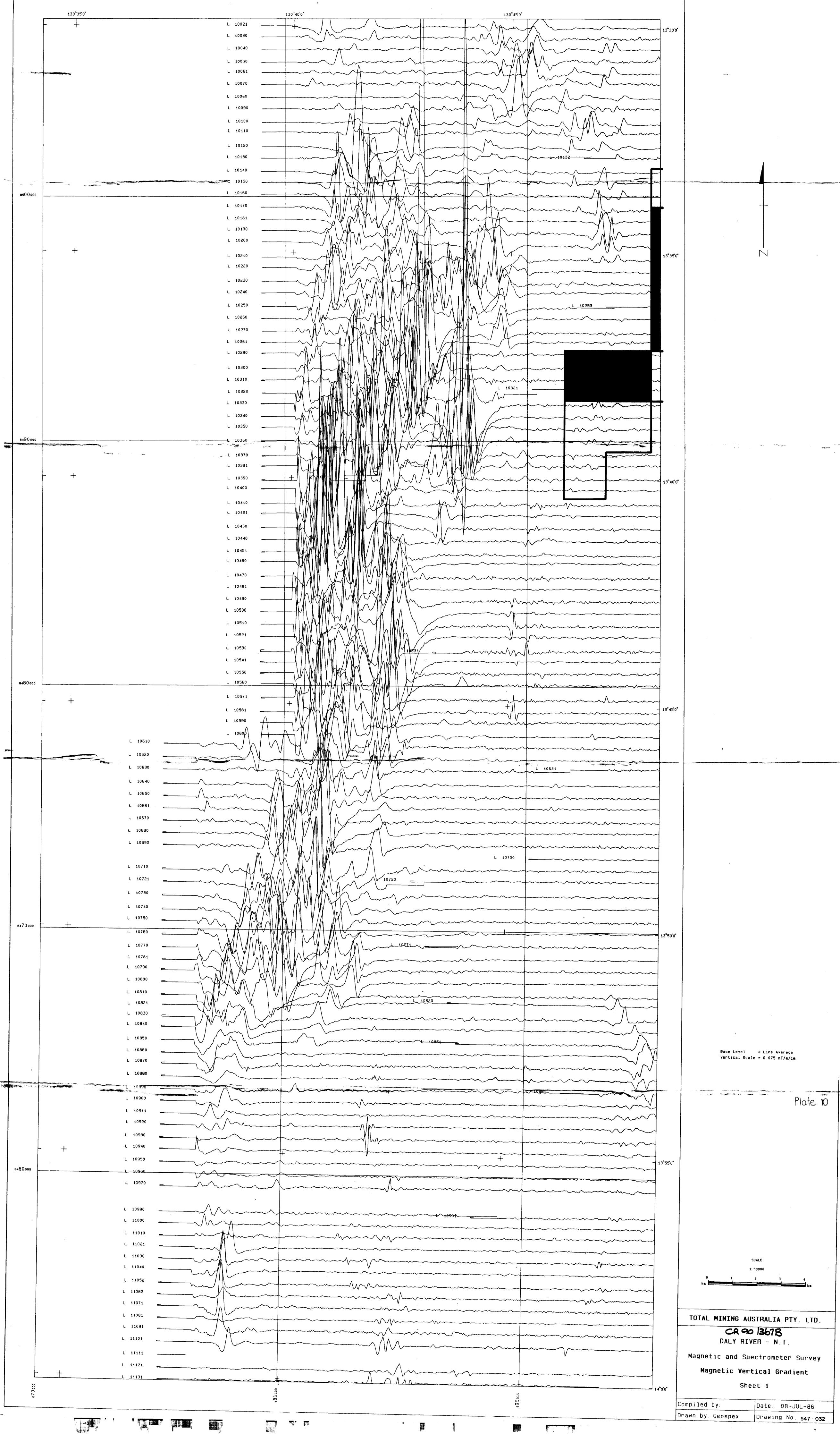


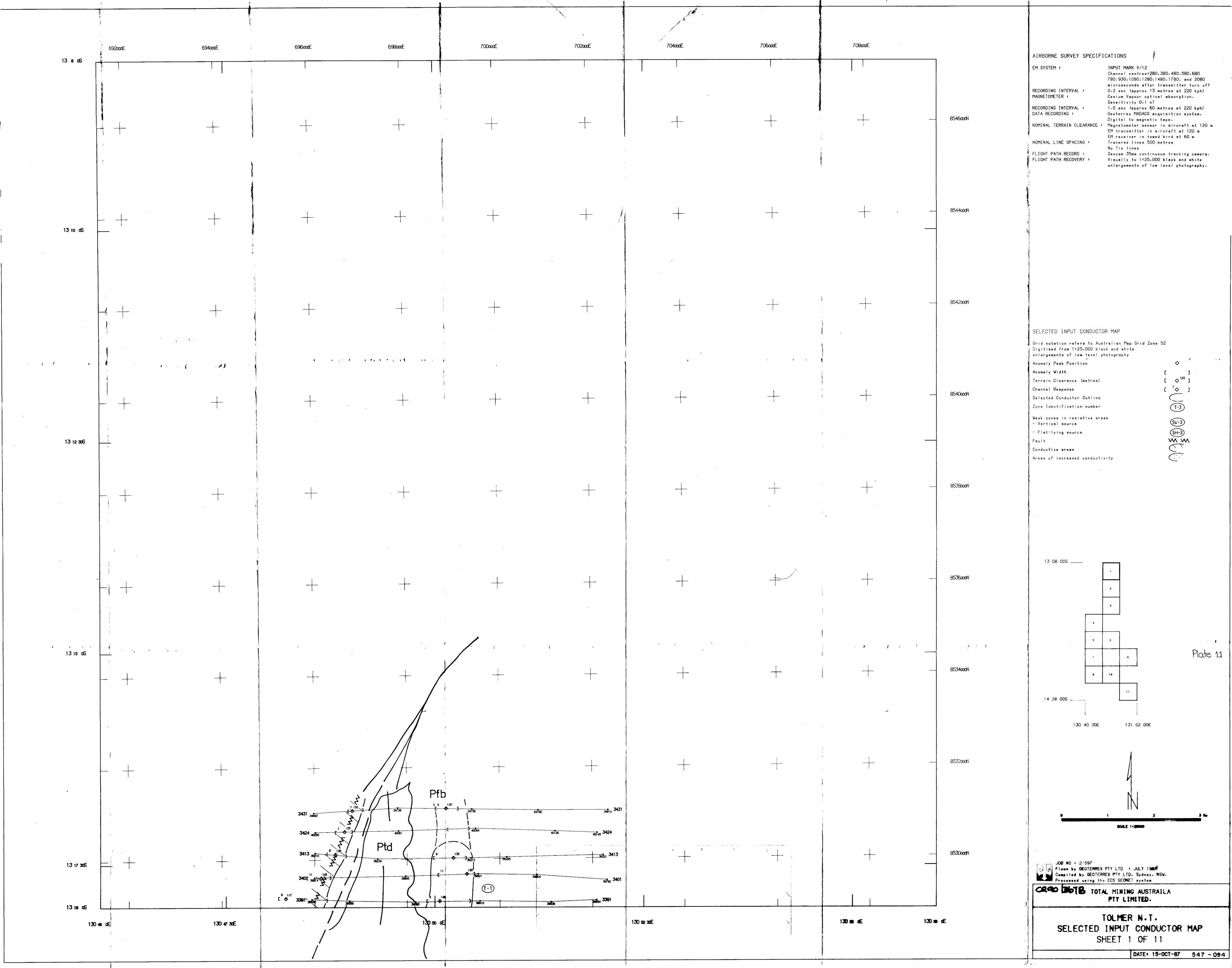


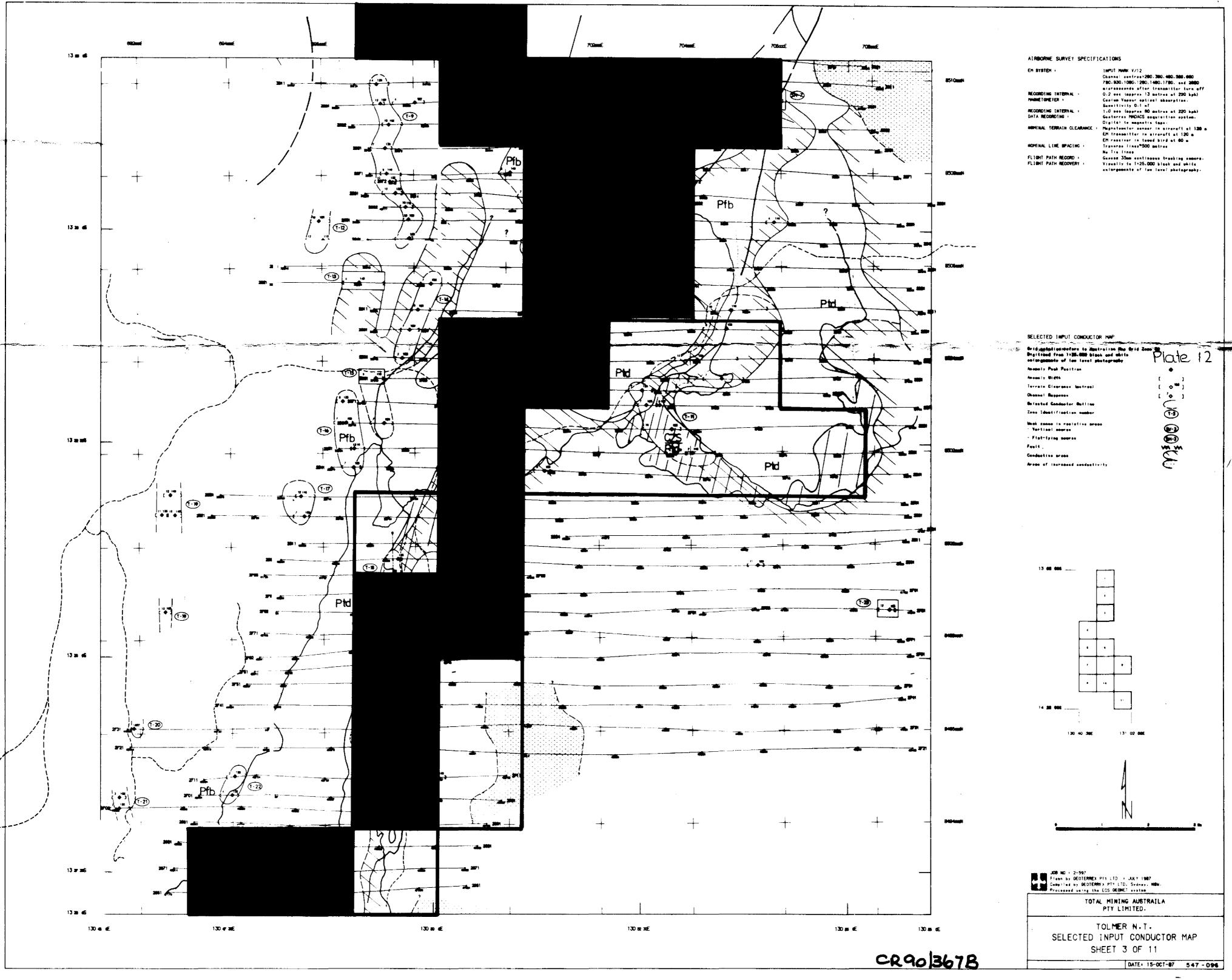


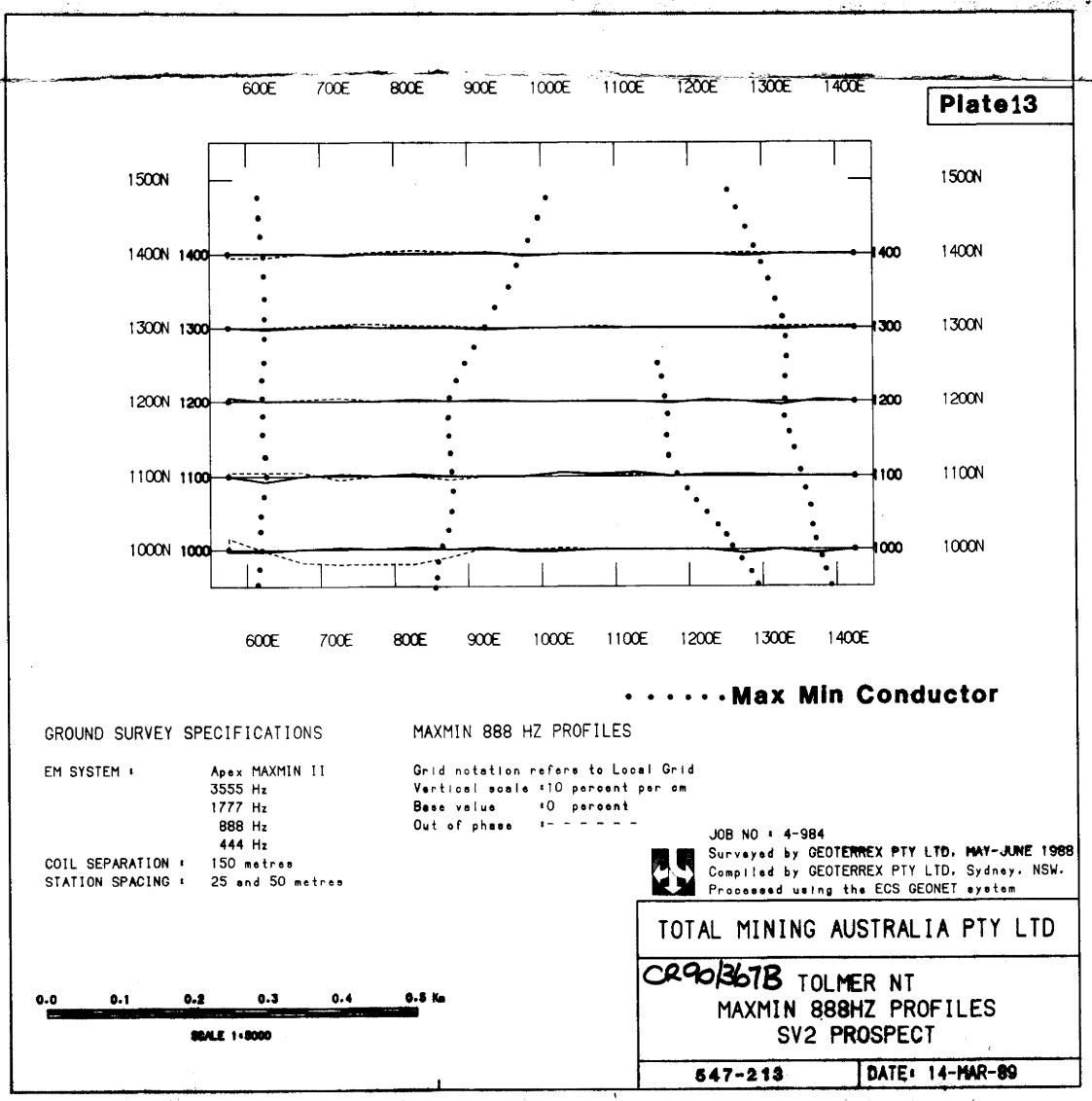


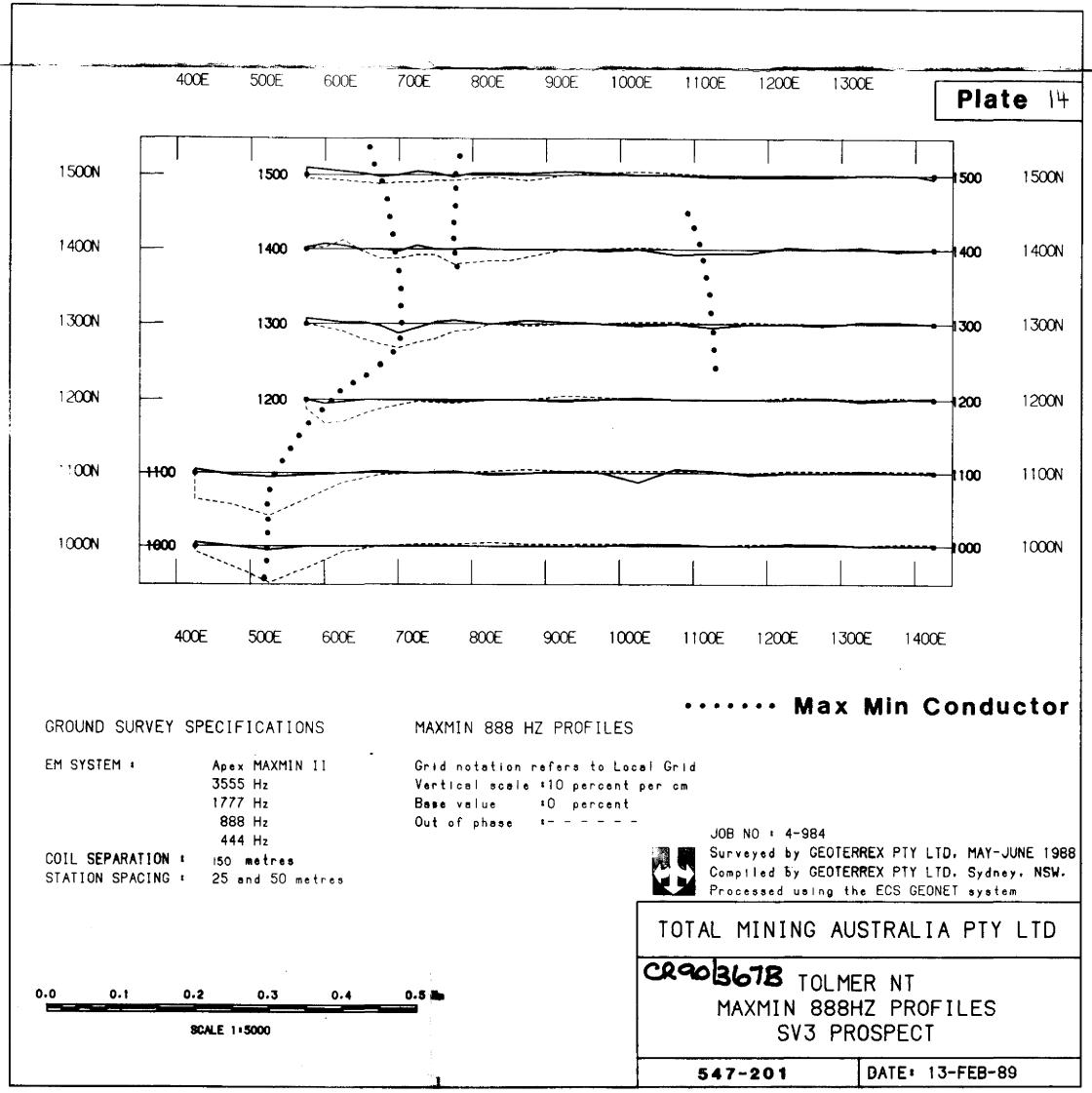


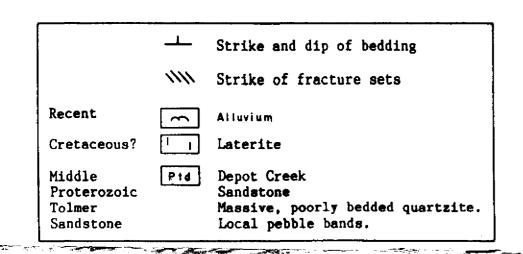












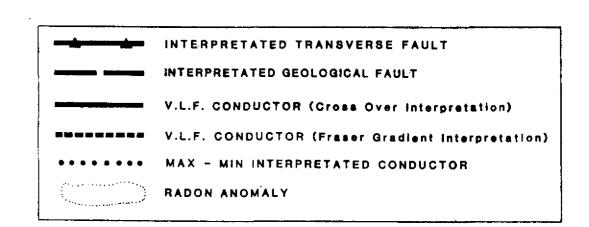
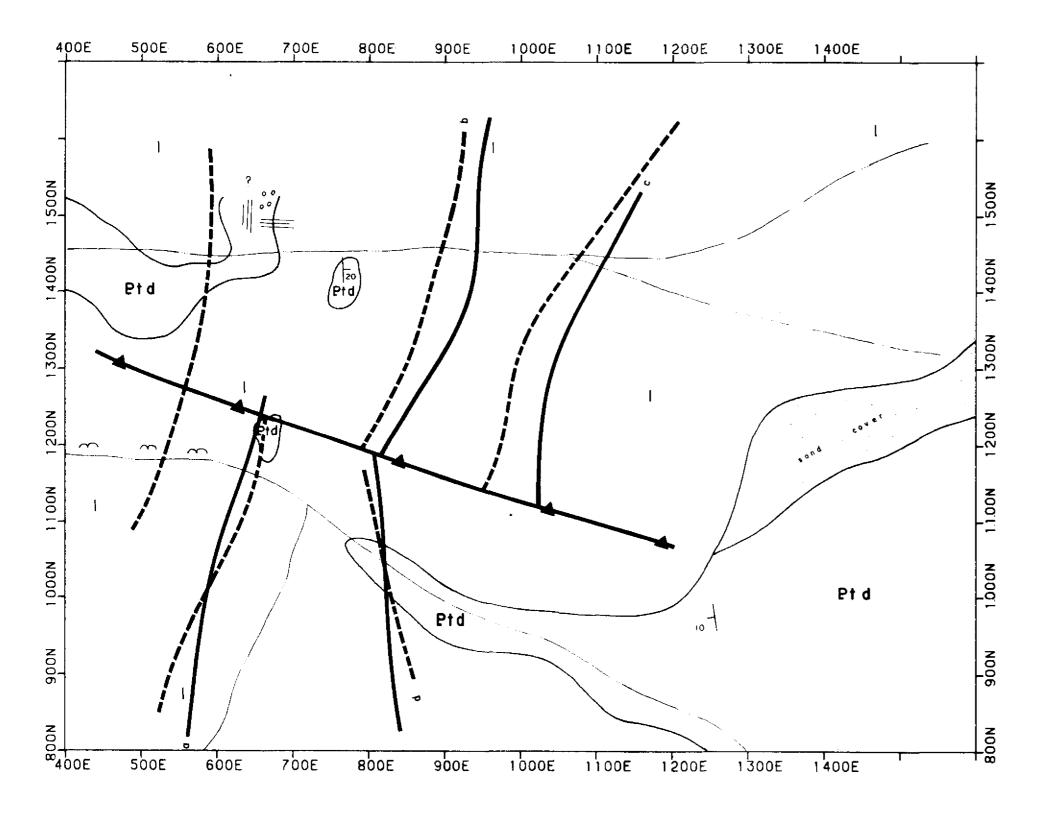


PLATE 15





TOTAL Mining Australia Pty. Limited

SCALE .

TOLMER PROJECT - N.T. INPUT ANOMALY - SV3A CROOKSTA

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SHEET 1 OF 1

DRG. No 547-168

INTERPRETATED TRANSVERSE FAULT

INTERPRETATED GEOLOGICAL FAULT

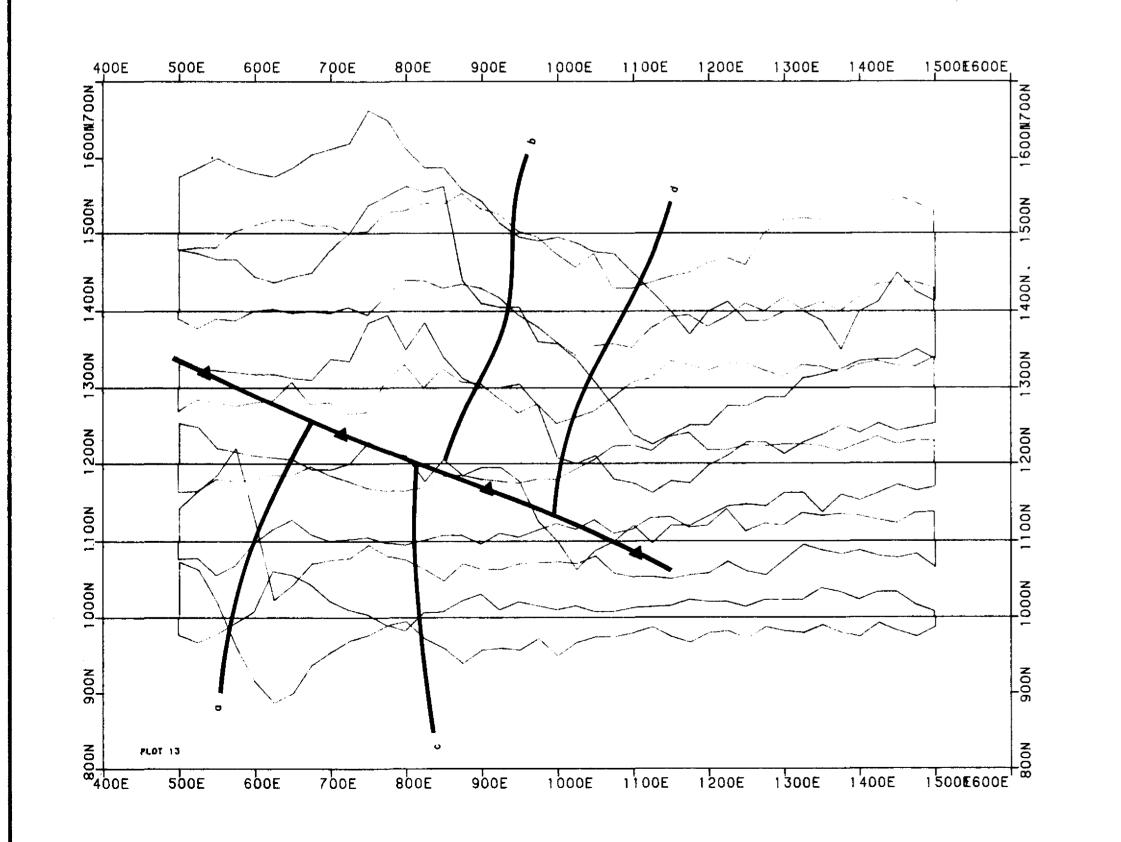
V.L.F. CONDUCTOR (Cross Over Interpretation)

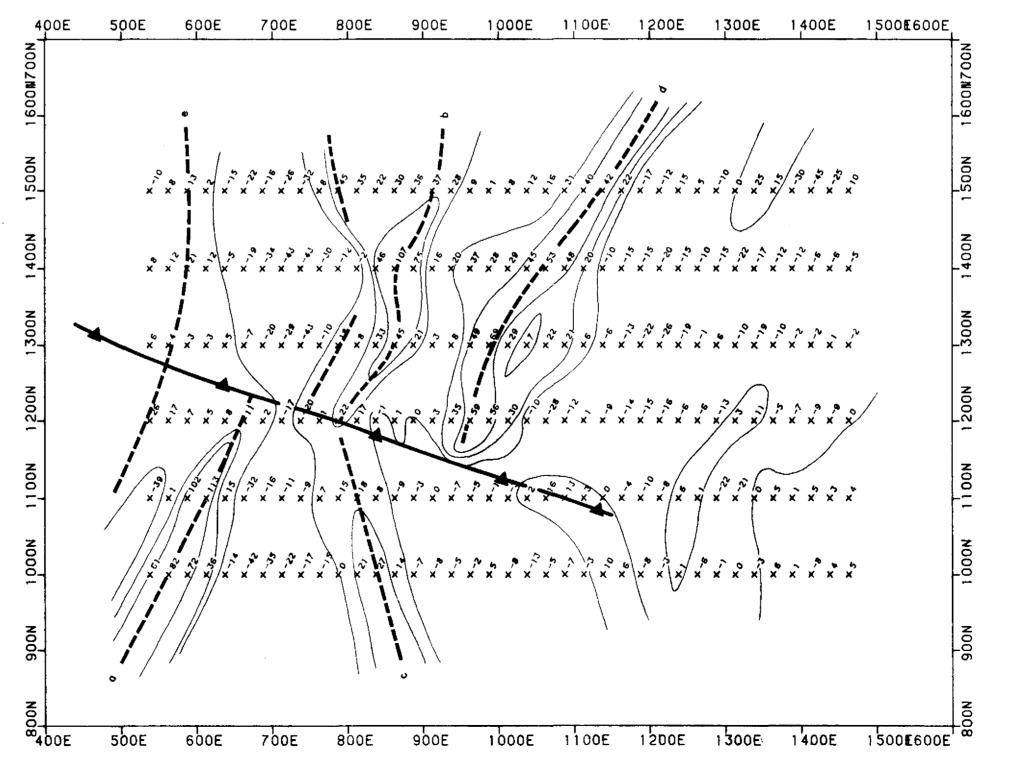
V.L.F. CONDUCTOR (Fraser Gradient Interpretation)

MAX - MIN INTERPRETATED CONDUCTOR

RADON ANOMALY

PLATE 16







TOTAL Mining Australia Pty. Limited

TOLMER PROJECT - NT.

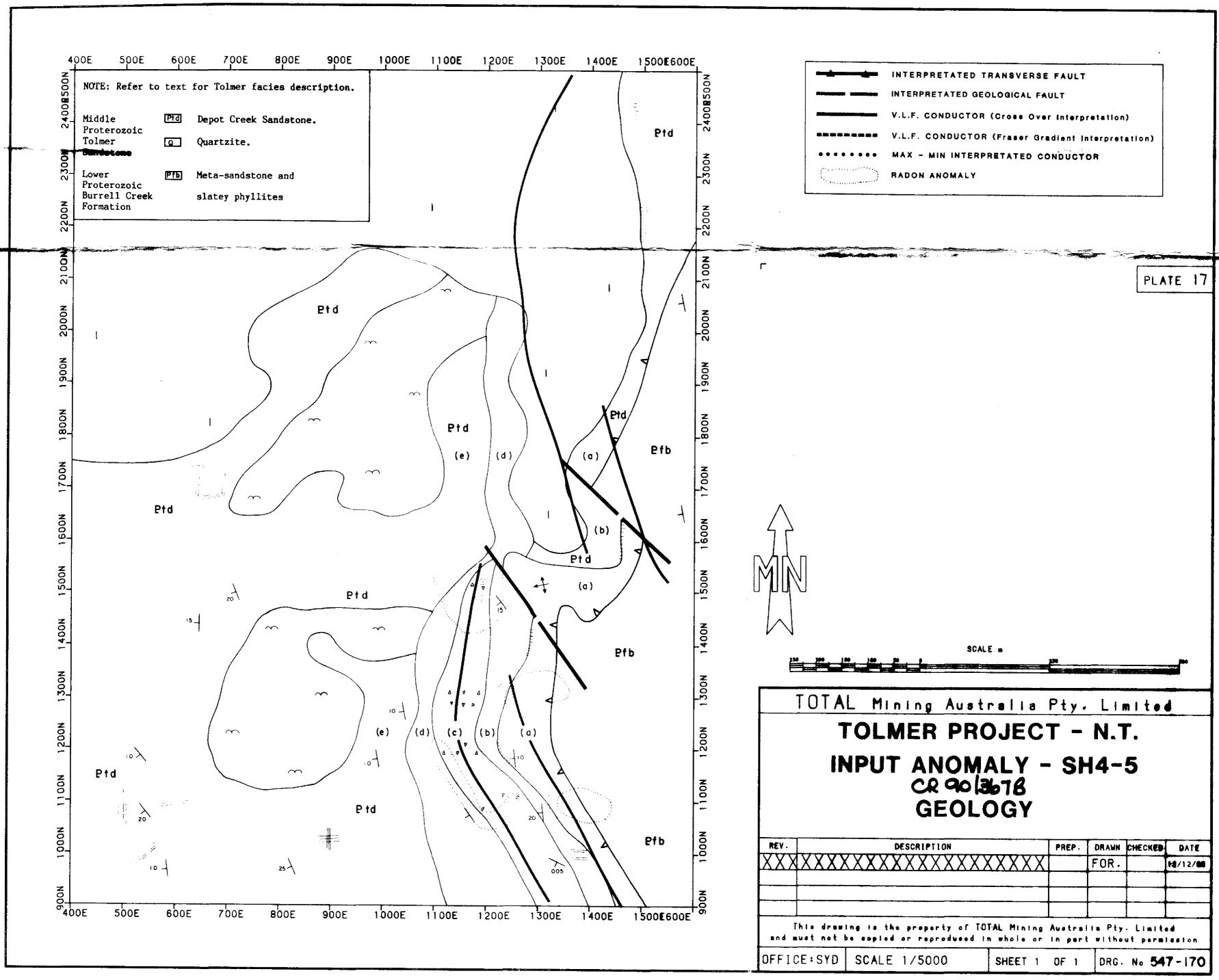
CR90 367 B

INPUT ANOMALY - SV3A

V.L.F. SURVEY (NDT Transmitter)

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700E 800E 900E 1000E 1100E 1200E 1300E 1400E 600E 2500N 2400N **2400**-2400N 2300N 2366- -2300N 2200N 2200 2200N 2100N 2100 2100N 2100 2000N 2089 -2000N 1800N 1700N 1600N 18 Plate 1500N 1400N 1300N 1200N 1100 1100N 1000-1000N 600E 700E 800E 900E 1000E 1200E 1100E 1300E 1400E Max Min Conductor GROUND SURVEY SPECIFICATIONS MAXMIN 888 HZ PROFILES Apex MAXMIN II Grid notation refers to Local Grid 3555 Hz Vertical scale =10 percent per cm 1777 Hz Bose value *O percent 888 Hz Out of phase JOB NO : 4-984 444 Hz Surveyed by GEOTERREX PTY LTD. MAY-JUNE 1988 150 metres Compiled by GEOTERREX PTY LTD. Sydney. NSW. STATION SPACING : 25 and 50 metres Processed using the ECS GEOMET eyetem TOTAL MINING AUSTRALIA PTY LTD CR 90/3678 TOLMER NT 0.2 0.3 MAXMIN 888HZ PROFILES SCALE 1:5000 SH4 PROSPECT

DATE: 14-MAR-89

547-216

2500N

1900N

1800N

1700N

1600N

1500N

1400N

1300N

1200N

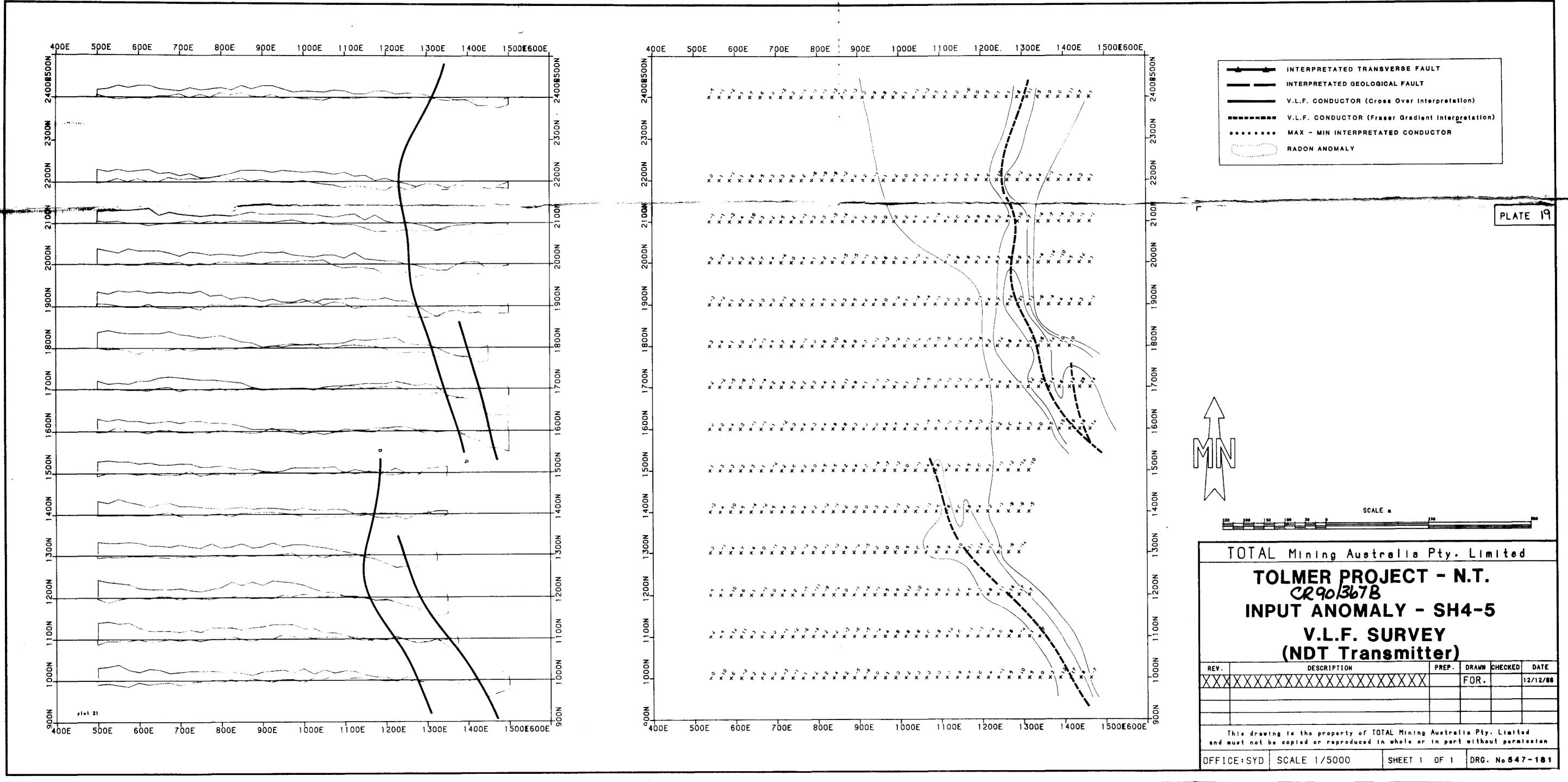
1100N

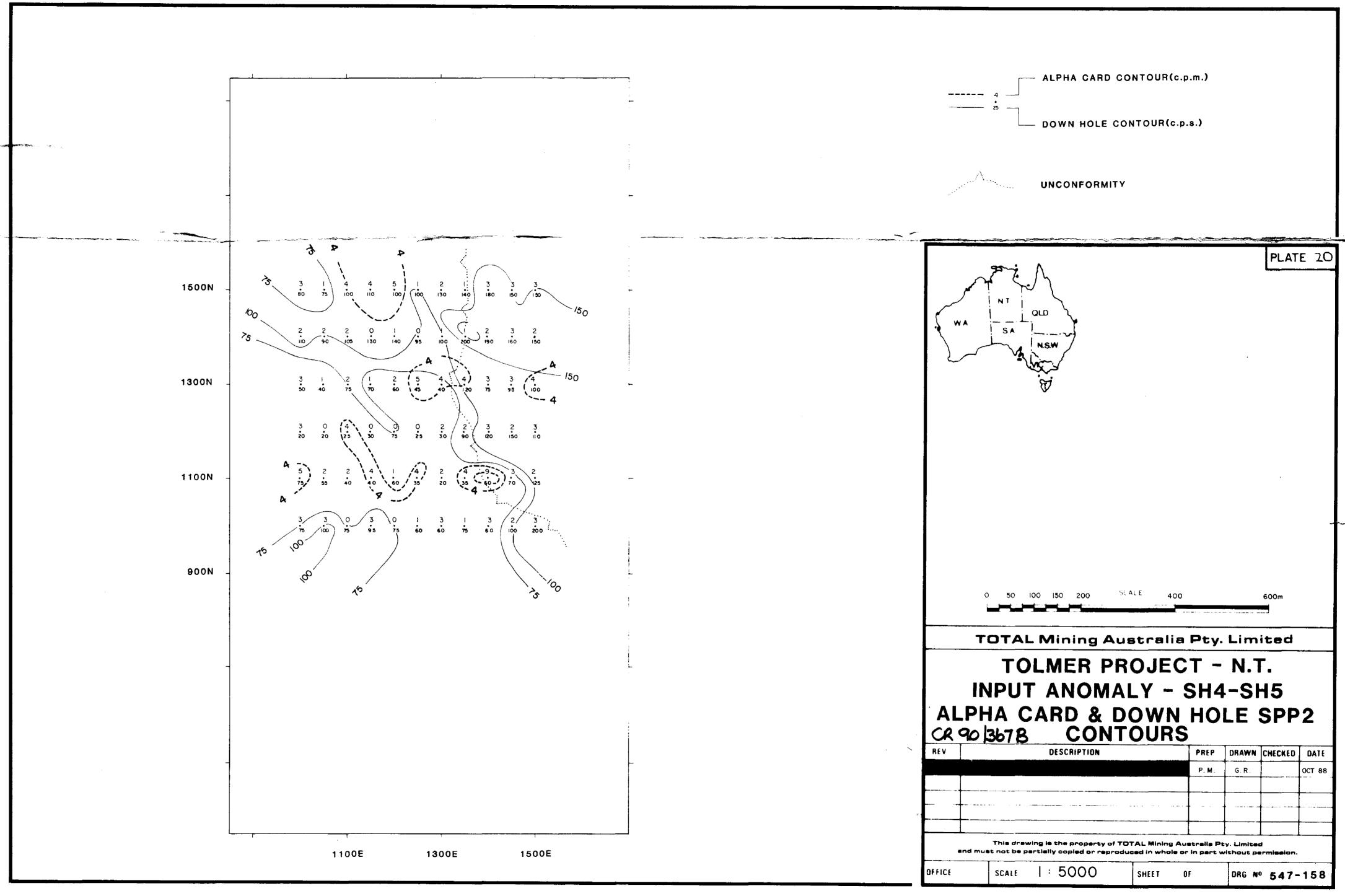
1000N

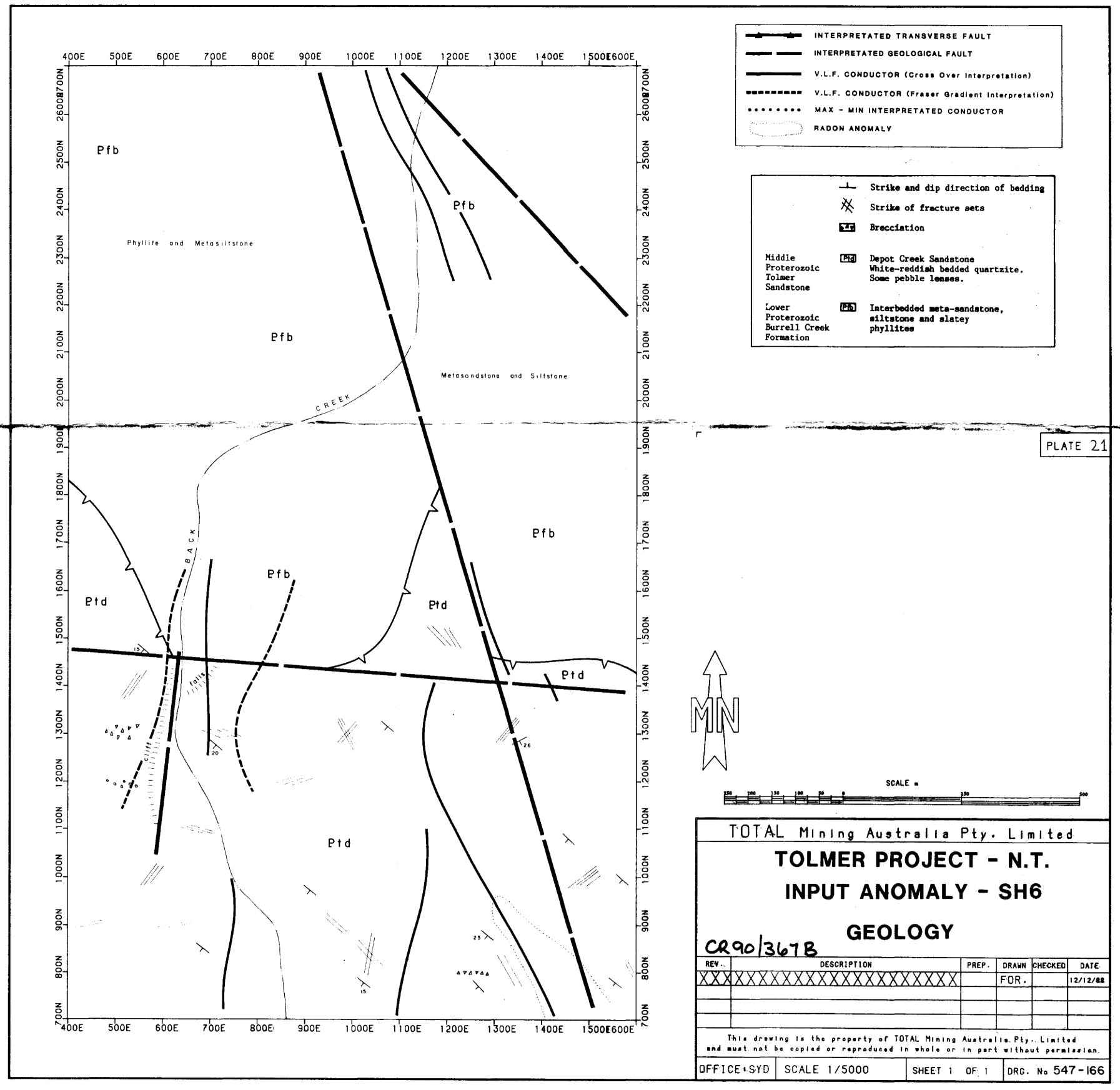
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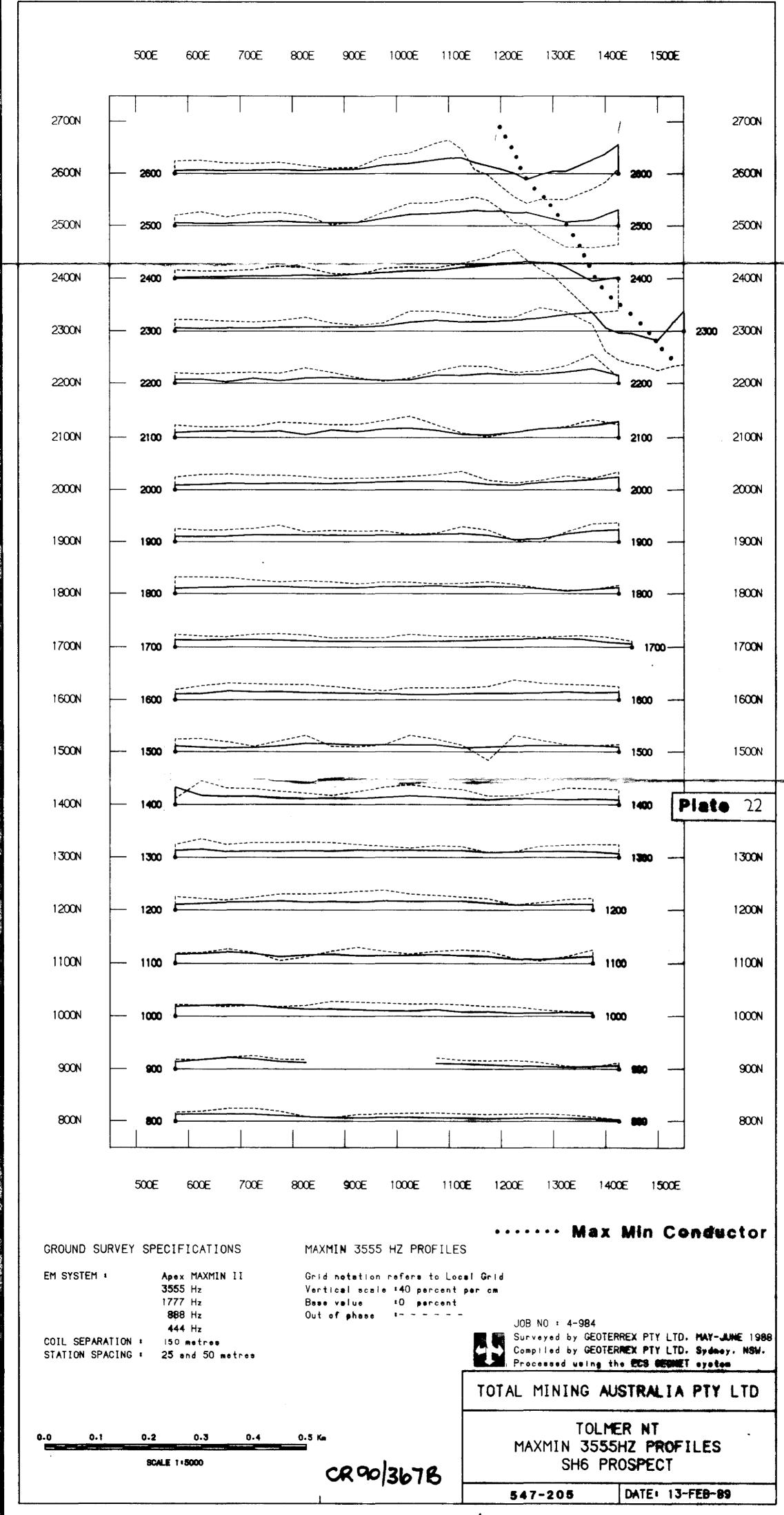
COIL SEPARATION :

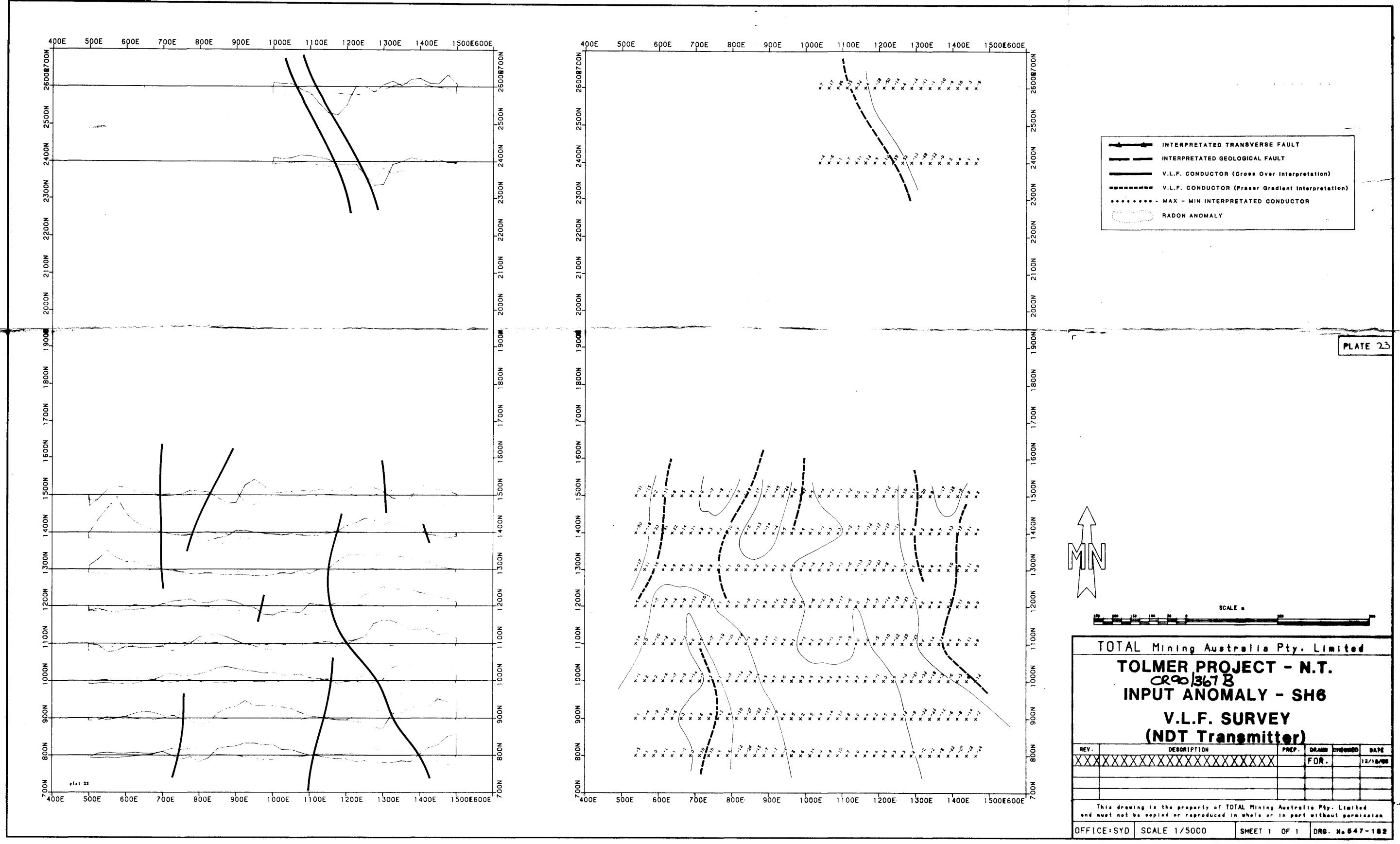
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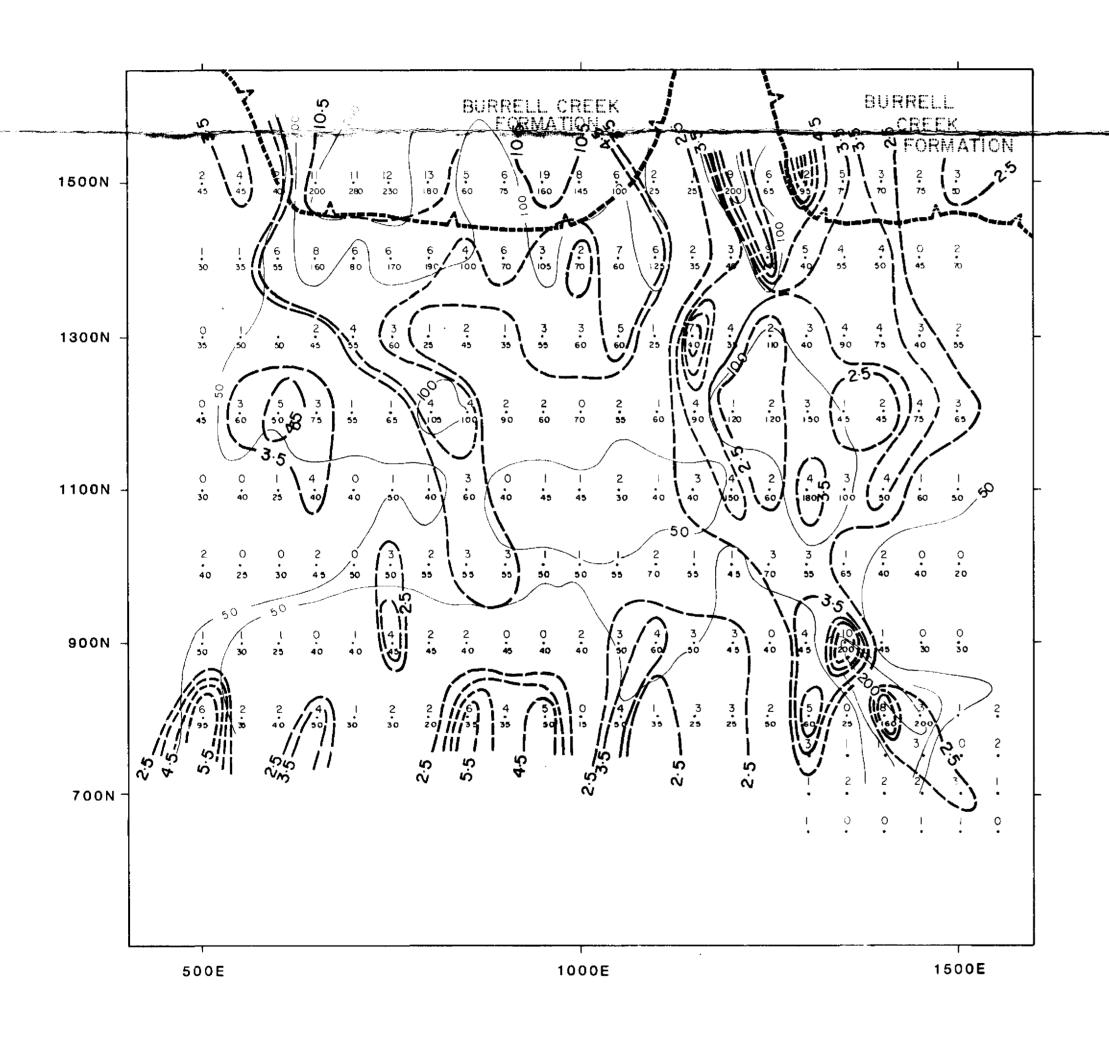






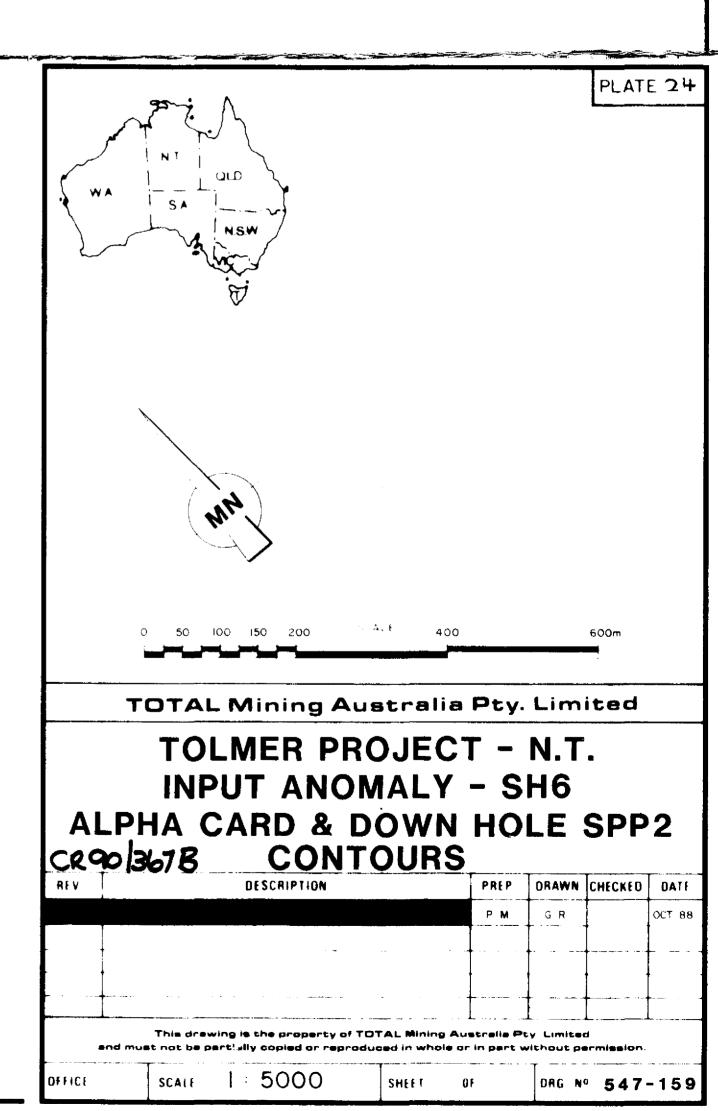


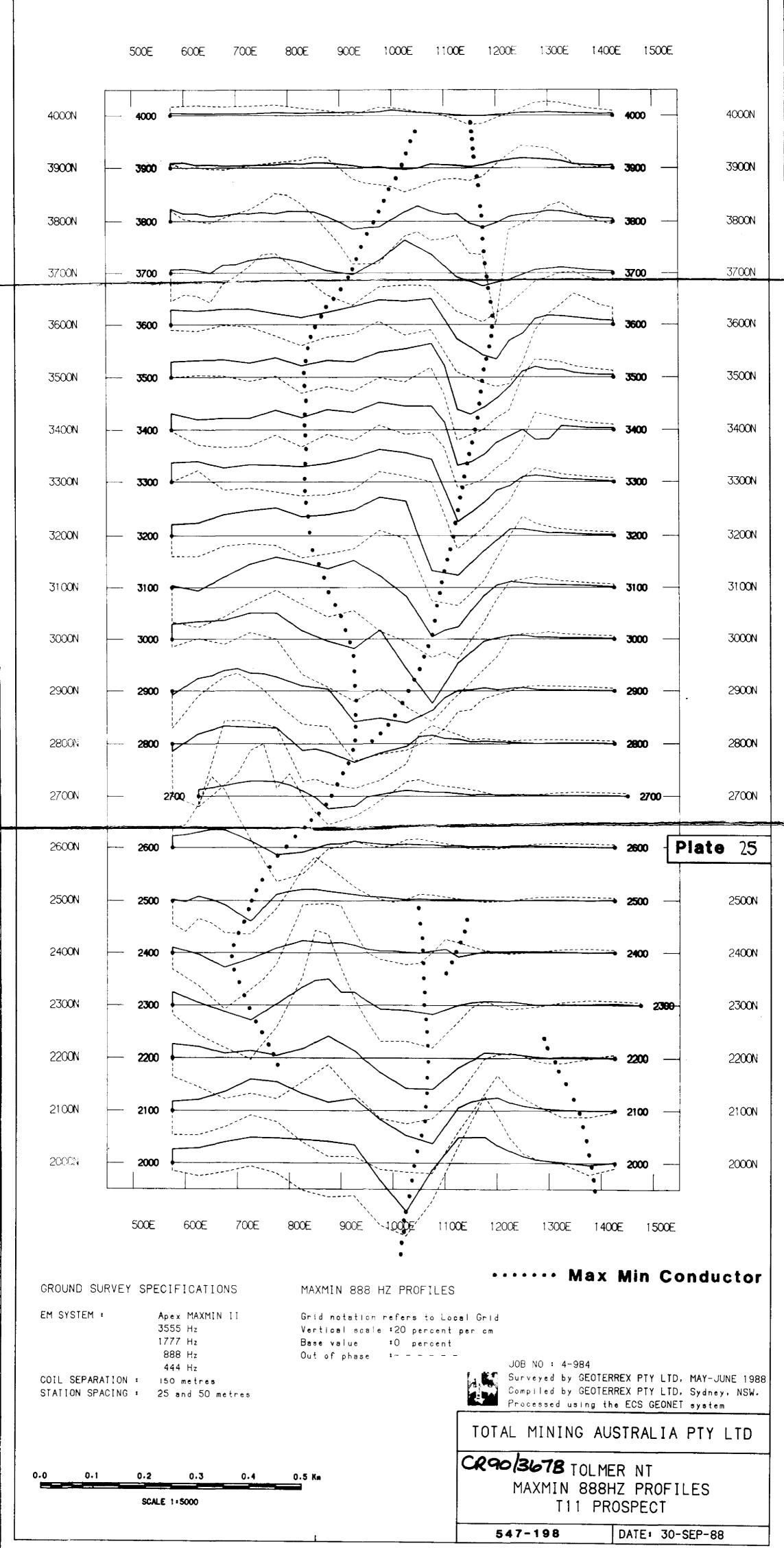


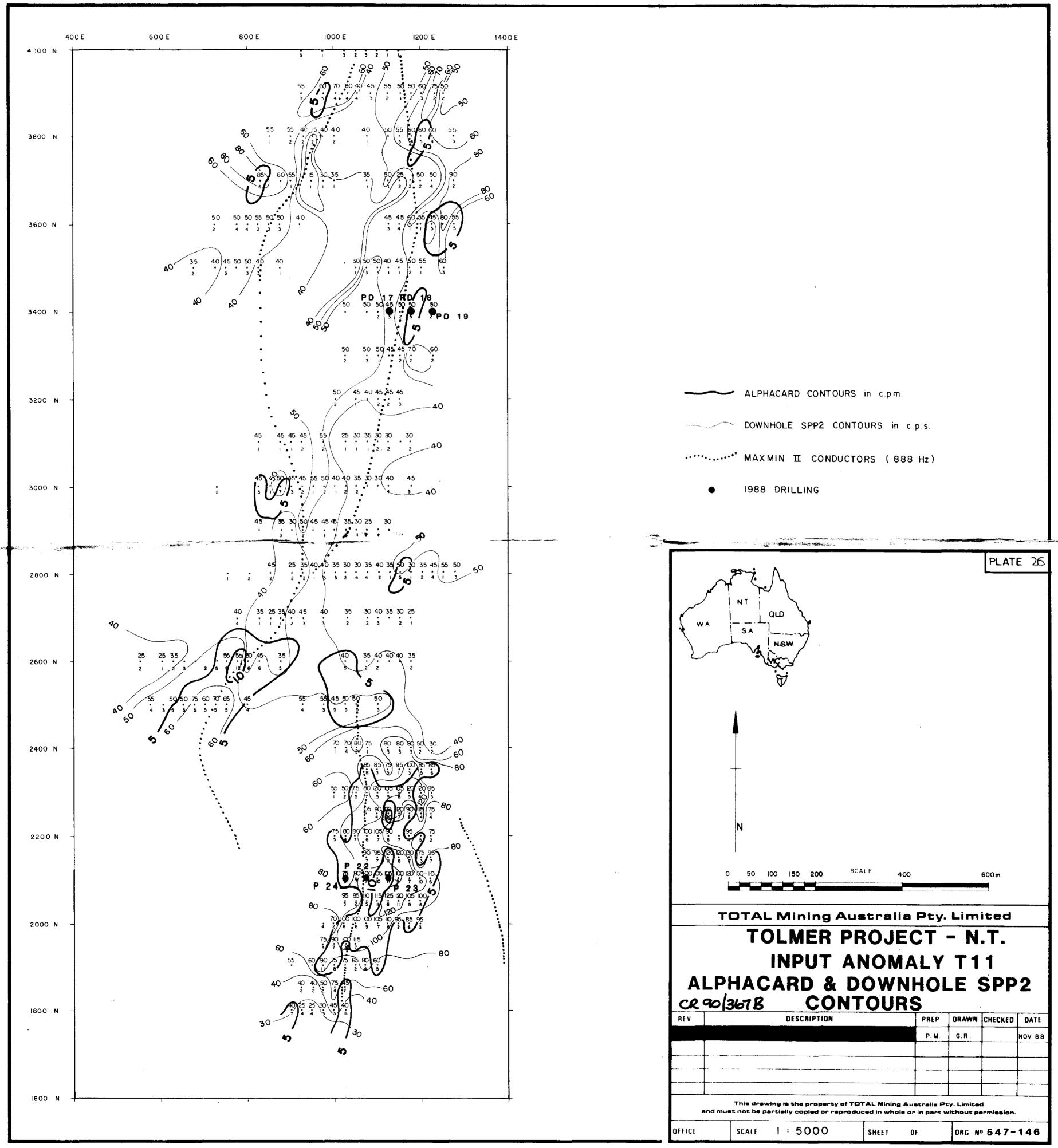


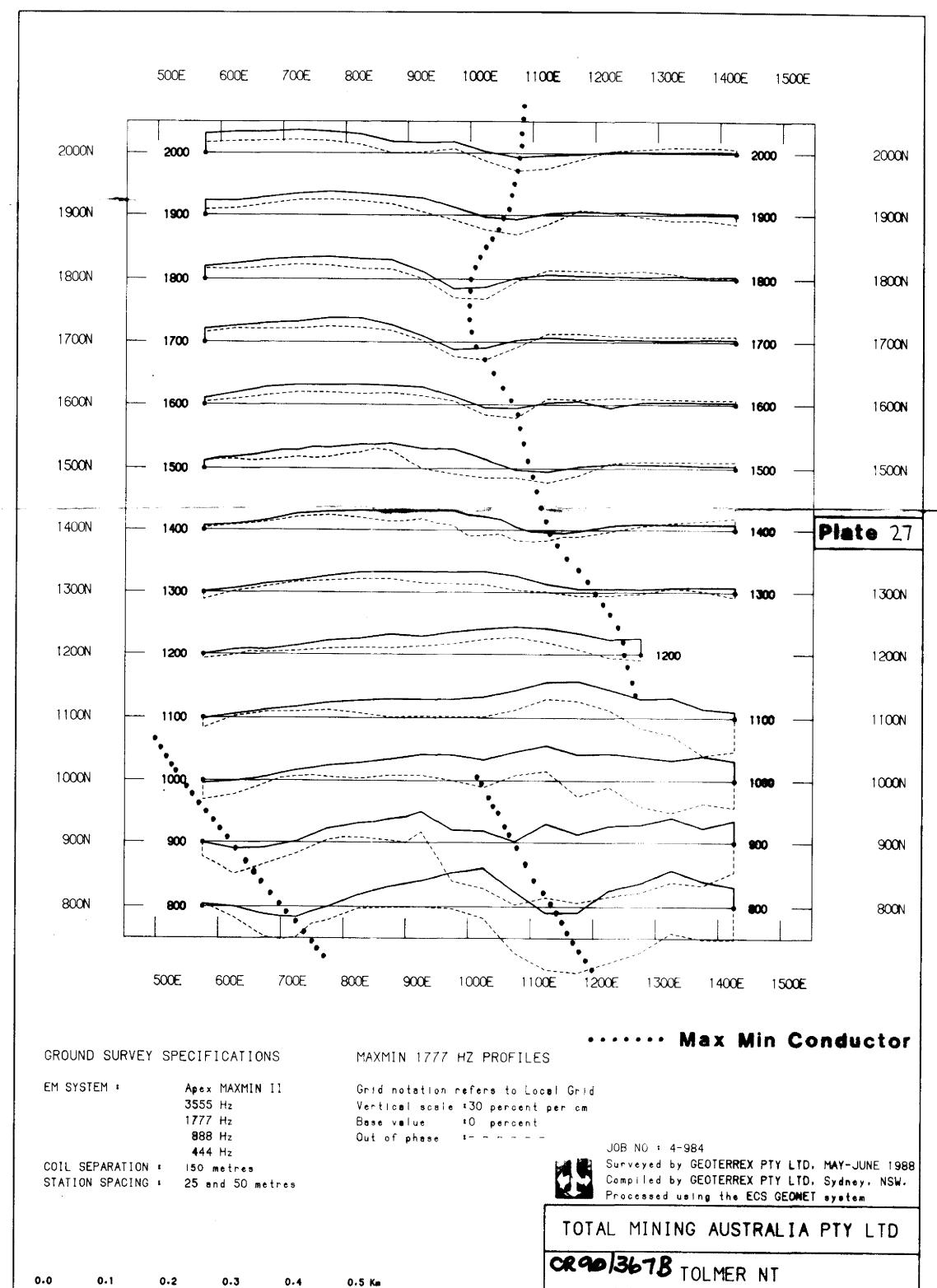
ALPHA CARD CONTOUR (c.p.m.)

DOWN HOLE CONTOUR (c.p.s.)









0.1

0.2

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SCALE 1:5000

0.4

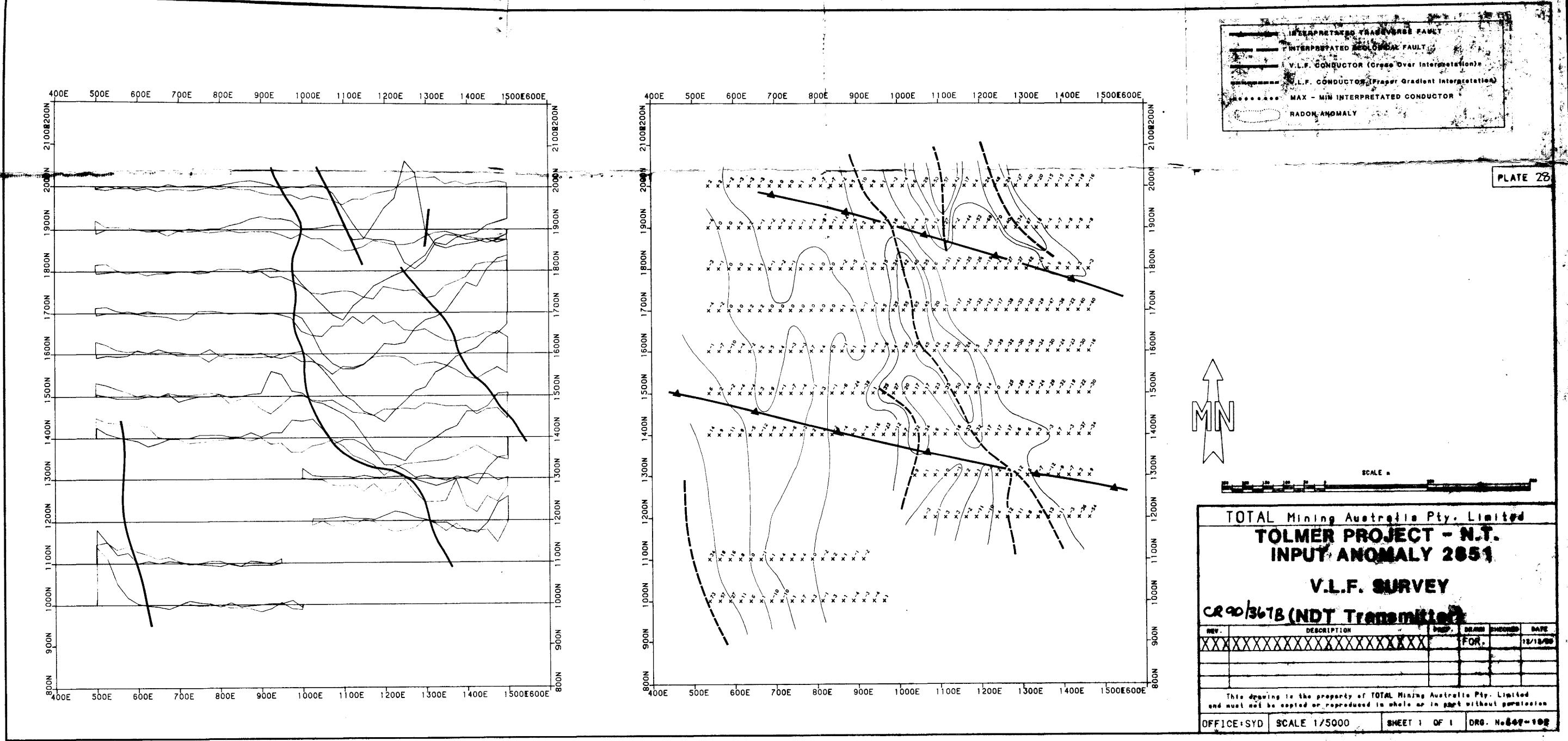
0.5 Km

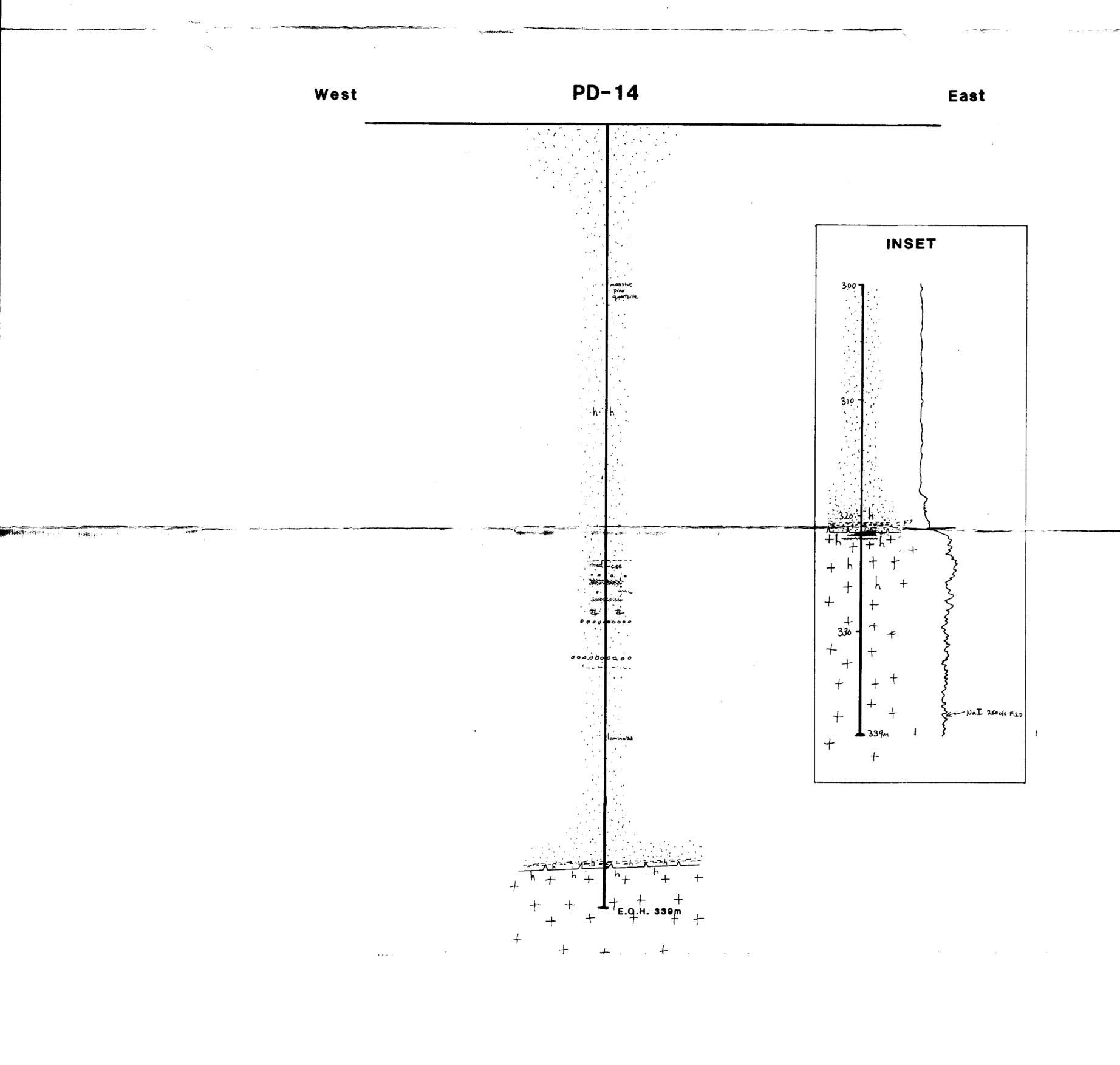
MAXMIN 1777HZ PROFILES

2851 PROSPECT

DATE: 11-0CT-88

547-197





LOWER CAMBRIAN ___ Siltatone, chocolate brown ANTRIM VOLCANICS V V V Tuff, basaltic じいい Besalt/dolerite UPPER PROTEROZOIC Tillite and fluvio-glaciele (Puu) - UNIYA TILLITE . Pebbly shale Varved shales Silicified sandstone Pebbly sandstone (Ptd) -+ + GRANITE LOWER PROTEROZOIC Siltstone, phyllitic to schistose Interbedded siltstone + sendstone Conglomerate/granulestone chl Chloritisation • Sericitisation Py Pyrite YXXXXX Fracturing

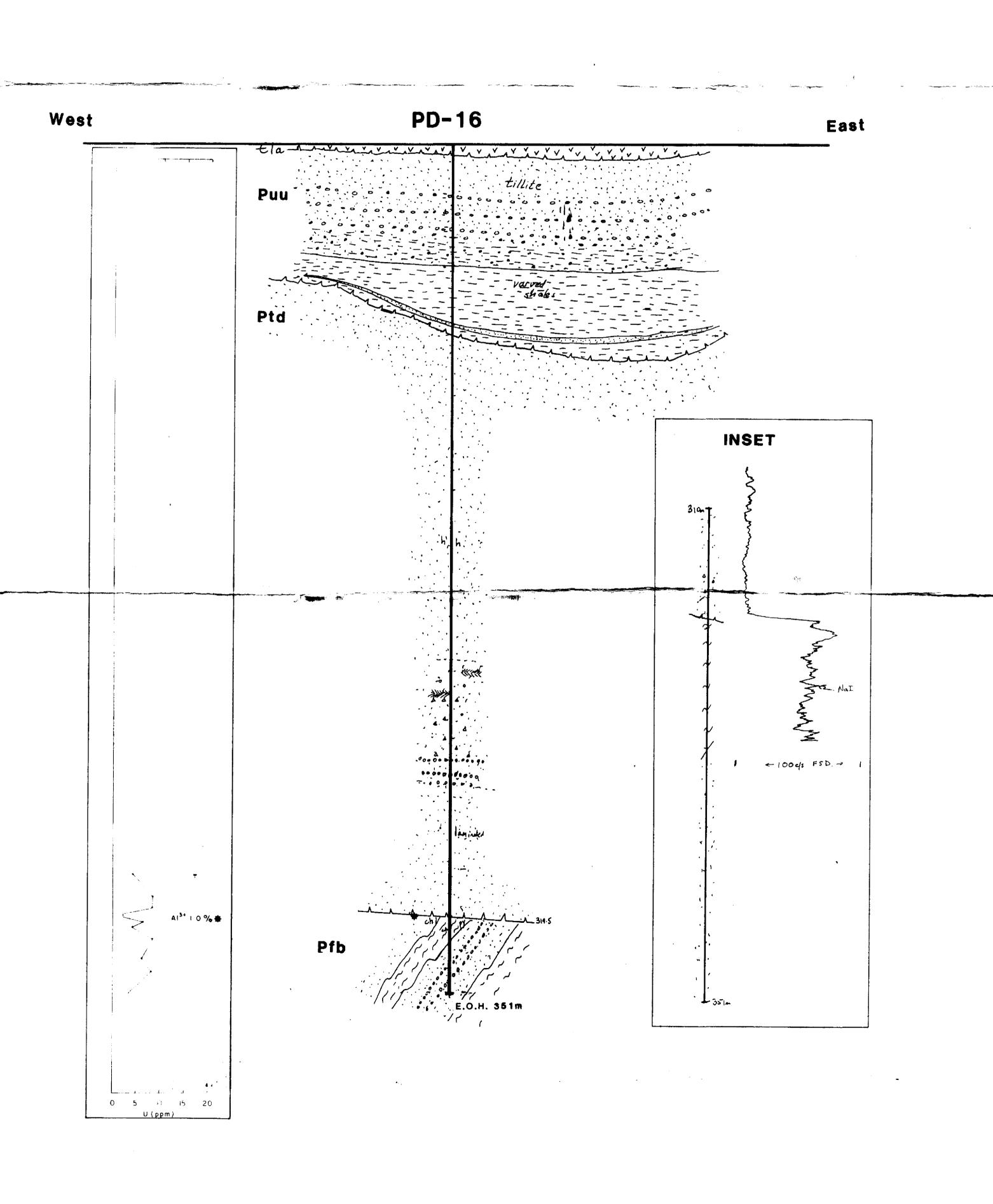


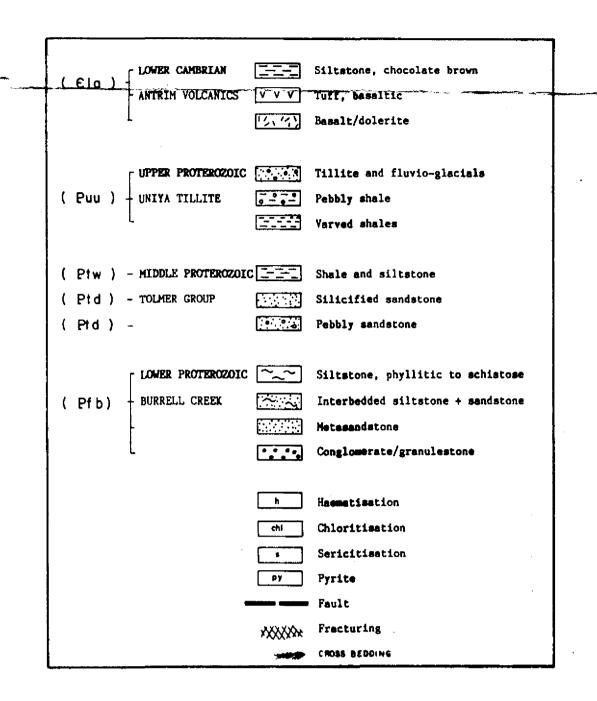
TOTAL Mining Australia Pty. Limited

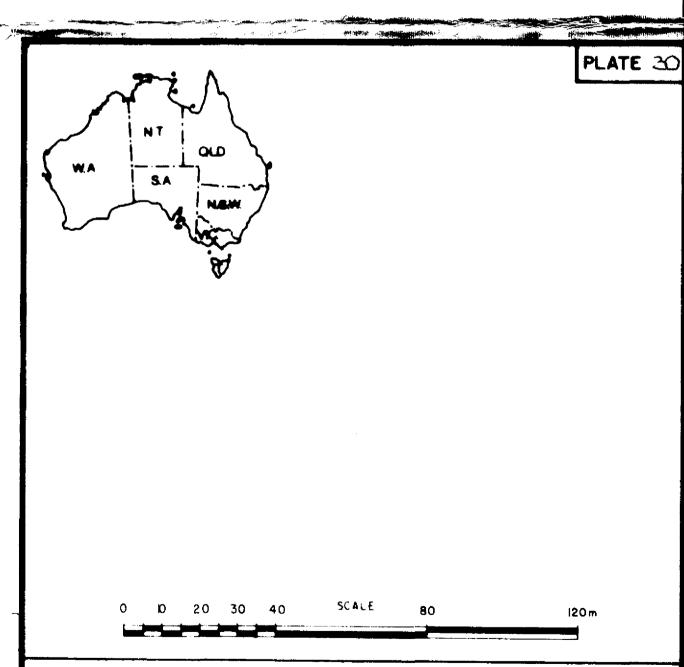
TOLMER PROJECT - N.T.

GEOLOGICAL CROSS SECTION

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TOTAL Mining Australia Pty. Limited

TOLMER PROJECT - N.T.

CR90/3678 2851 INPUT ANOMALY

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