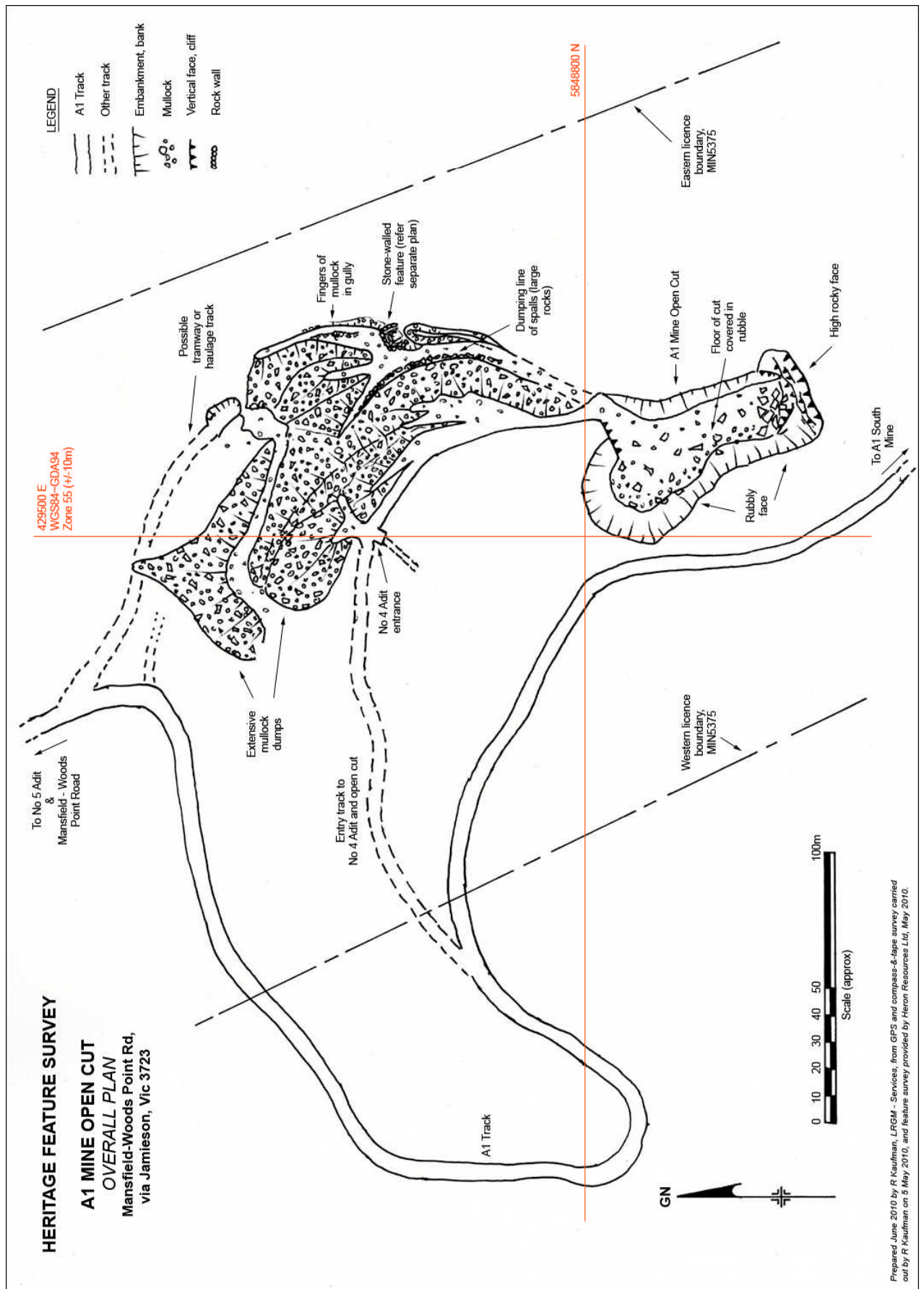


ATTACHMENTS  
TO  
HERITAGE INVENTORY  
SITE CARD:  
A1 MINE OPEN CUT

Prepared by Rob Kaufman  
LRGM – Services  
Recorded 05/05/2010

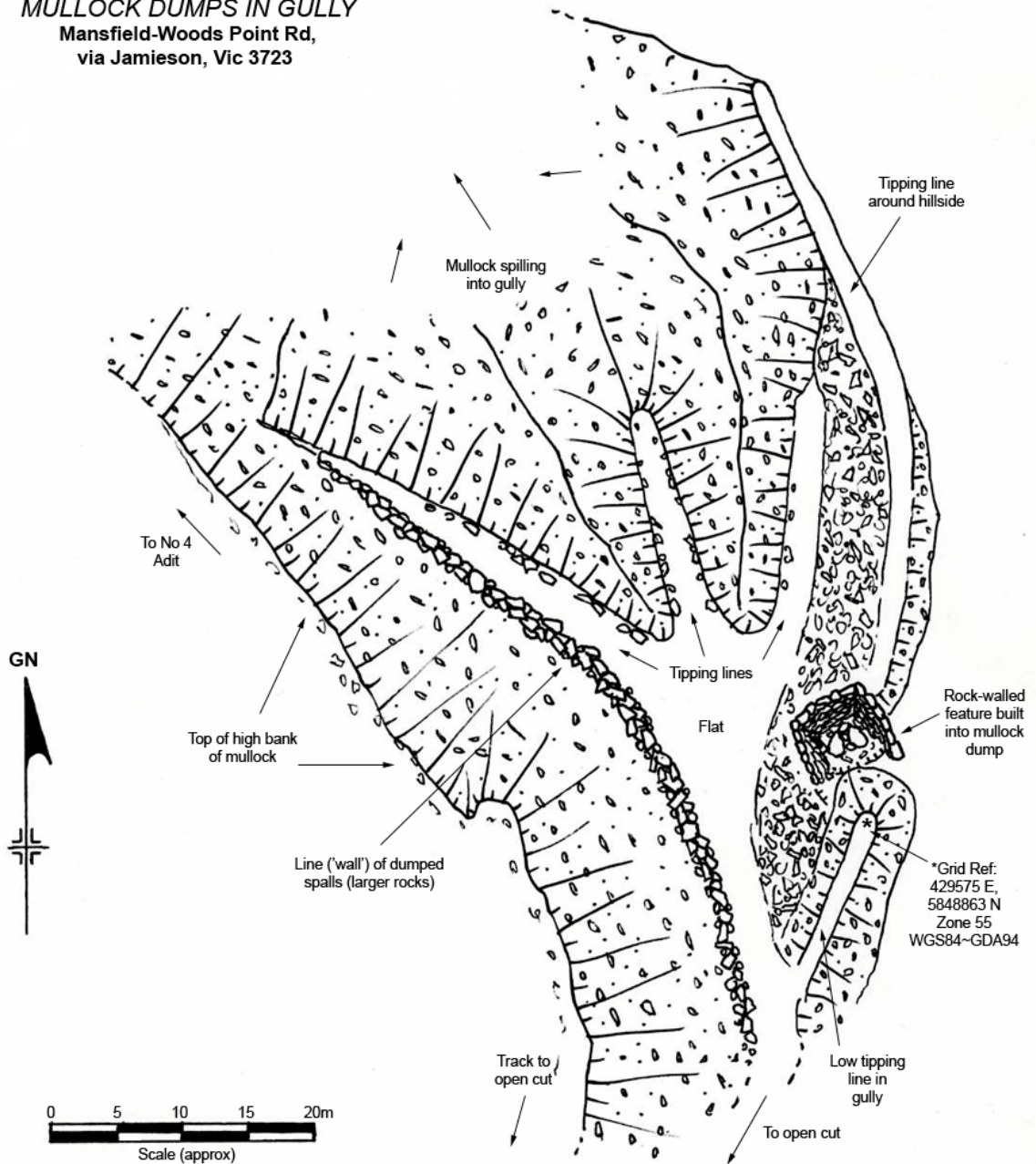
## 11. Plan of site:



## HERITAGE FEATURE SURVEY

### A1 MINE OPEN CUT MULLOCK DUMPS IN GULLY

Mansfield-Woods Point Rd,  
via Jamieson, Vic 3723



Prepared June 2010 by R Kaufman, LRG M - Services, from GPS and compass-&-tape survey carried out by R Kaufman on 5 May 2010, and feature survey provided by Heron Resources Ltd, May 2010.

## **12. Place history:**

Gold was being worked in the Upper Goulburn in late 1859 as prospectors worked further into the remote mountain areas of Eastern Victoria. Terrance Gaffney was rewarded for his discovery in early 1860 of gold at Gaffneys Creek, and William Strickland unsuccessfully applied for a reward for shortly afterwards discovering gold in Raspberry Creek, a tributary of Gaffneys Creek. (Flett 1970)

The alluvial gold was rich in places, particularly in the Castle Claim which worked jumbled terrace deposits on Raspberry Creek, below a small tributary gully. A large formation was visible above the workings, and the Prospecting Claim on the outcrop was pegged out by Drummond & Co in September 1862 (L&C p62). The first crushing machine to be put in on the field was installed on Raspberry Creek below the outcrop in May 1863, and by the end of the year Drummond and Co's open cut on the outcrop had a 50 feet high face. (L&C p63). In May 1864 the open cut had a 60 feet high face, and in December the A1 Gold Mining Company was formed. The property changed hands in early 1865 and a tramway to the mill was constructed. (L&C p66). The open cut was essentially finished by 1870, although some intermittent works continued on flat makes of quartz, from the face of the open cut. (L&C p98).

A new tribute party took over the operation in 1871 and drove a new tunnel to intersect the dyke below the floor of the open cut. At the end of 1888 the No4 Adit was commenced and between 1893 and 1898, tributors worked out of No4 Adit and elsewhere. The Hoist Shaft in No4 Adit was begun by Edwin Field in 1899, and in October 1915 the No5 Adit was commenced. The last work recorded in the open cut was in 1928, when slabs were broken up and crushed by Bert Young & mate, who made wages for a time before giving up. (L&C p206).

Between 1862 and 1976, 407,177 ounces of gold were won from the A1 mine (figures from L&C, including production from the various early claims and leases that were later incorporated into the A1 lease). Higher figures have been quoted (eg 440,000+ on mine signage in the early 1970s) but the source of those figures is not known. The peak decades of production were the 1940s, 50s and 60s, when over 220,000 ounces were produced. By comparison, just over 43,000 ounces were produced in the first three decades of operation. Production during the time of the operation of the open cut in the 1860s amounted to about 3% of the total gold production from the mine.

## **13. Interpretation of site:**

Additional interpretation: The rock-walled feature that is built into a mullock dump in the gully (marked on site plans) is of unknown purpose. The structure is substantial, 7m wide at the top with wing walls 7m long at each side. It funnels down to an area of approximately 2.4m by 1.2m some 5m below the top, where it is choked with boulders and rubble. There are a number of possibilities, and the most likely is that it may have retained the mullock around an ore pass connected to workings below. There are also suggestions that it may be associated with later attempts to access unworked alluvial gold deposits at the foot of the dyke wall in the gully, buried by mullock – these are mentioned in Lloyd & Combes 1981 (p70). The long 'rock wall' identified in a due diligence report (2010) is a line of large spalls from the open cut, dumped from ore trucks on the western dumping line of the gully mullock dumps.

## **15.**

### **Cultural heritage significance:**

Regional. The A1 Mine had historical production that ranked it seventh in the list of gold producers in the State, but the fabric of its peak and most historically important years (mid 1900s) has been destroyed with rehabilitation of the No5 Adit level area in the 1990s. At a local level, the A1 operated for much of its life in the shadow of the Morning Star Mine at Woods Point, a significantly larger producer. Today, the fabric that survives is the open cut (1860s), some features at the South A1 Mine (not inspected) which was absorbed into the A1 workings, and archaeological traces of buildings in the A1 Settlement Conservation Area (HO45 in the Mansfield Planning Scheme). The absence of fabric relating to ore processing and ancillary functions reduces the significance of the A1 site. Some others of the handful of 'flagship' mines that led the Victorian mining industry in the mid 1900s have an abundance of machinery and structural fabric remaining (eg Wattle Gully Mine, Chewton, and Maude

& Yellow Girl Mine, Glen Wills, both of which are included in the Victorian Heritage Register). The open cut and associated mullock dumps relate to the earliest workings on the formation, but while impressive lack the very strong visual qualities associated with, for example, the open cut at the Balaclava Mine, Whroo.

**Statement of Significance:**

***What is significant?***

Work began on an open cut on what was then known as the Castle Reef (later A1) on Raspberry Creek, Upper Goulburn goldfield, in 1862 and by 1870 the cut was effectively completed. A tunnel was driven in 1871 to cut the formation below the open cut and in 1888 the No 4 Adit level was commenced. Works continued from a hoist shaft situated in No 4 Adit and from a shaft at the South A1 until the No 5 Adit was completed in the early 1900s. The shaft from No4 Adit level was deepened from No 5 Adit level, eventually reaching a depth of over 2000 feet from the surface. The A1 Mine produced over 220,000 ounces of gold in its peak years from the 1940s to 1960s, and had a total recorded production of 407,177 ounces. The area around No 5 Adit level was rehabilitated in the 1990s, with all buildings and machinery removed and the surface landscaped. Today the old open cut shows as a large quarried area in the gully several hundred metres above No 5 Adit, with extensive mullock dumps spilling into the gully.

***How is it significant?***

The A1 Mine is of historical and social significance to the region. The open cut is of historical and technological significance to the region.

***Why is it significant?***

The A1 Mine is historically significant to the region as the site of one of its largest gold mines, and one that produced a very large quantity of gold in State terms. The A1 Mine is socially significant to the region as a large and long-term employer of local and regional labour, in a life that has lasted from the 1860s to the present day (2010). The open cut is historically significant to the region as a relic of the early phases of the operation of the mine, and technologically significant as a well-preserved example of this type of mining in the period.

**19. Photographs of site:** taken May 2010



View east across dumping lines in centre of gully.



Rock walling in centre of gully, built into mullock dump. View to north from point of small dumping line in gully.



View south, down-gully from point of central dumping line.



View to north east from level of floor of open cut, looking down on mullock in gully. Rock-walled feature at centre-right.



View south into open cut, showing high rocky south face.



No 4 Adit entrance



View into gully, looking south-east. Old tramway shows as side cut with red face, centre-left.



Face of open cut



Dumping line, looking north, with line of spalls at left



Dumping line, looking south, with line of spalls at right



View south, open cut in bush at rear

20. Map showing location of site:

