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MUD TANK ZIRCON FIELD

Discoveries: Zircon, Apatite, Magnetite, Martite.

The main diggings cover the crest of Zircon Hill, which is capped with magnetite and weathered calcite. The zircons are obtained by digging and sieving (wet and dry). The zircons here are orange, pale brown, pink, purplish shades, colourless, yellow and parti-coloured, and may occur as small, double-terminated crystals or chips.

Larger zircon specimens with better-developed crystal faces are found on Specimen Hill, but the interior of the crystals is invariably cracked and generally considered unsuitable for cutting.

Waterworn Zircons may be found in the low-lying area (The Flats) between Specimen Hill and Zircon Hill.

Access: Access is from the Plenty Highway 7.7km east from The Gemtree Caravan Park. Turn right at Mud Tank Bore, where there are signs indicating the zircon fields, and continue south-west. Follow the signs to a gate (8km), which is the entrance to the Fossicking Area. Total driving time from Alice Springs is approximately one and a half hours, with sealed roads to the Mud Tank Bore turn-off.

Access to the Fossicking Area is suitable for conventional vehicles with care.

Driving Tips: The Plenty Highway is only single-lane bitumen, and special care must be taken when approaching on-coming traffic. If approaching a road train, vehicles should pull off to the side of the road and stop while it passes.

Camping: "Bush camping" is permitted within the Mud Tank Zircon Field on both sides of the main track up to Marktree Creek. Campers must take their rubbish with them when they leave.

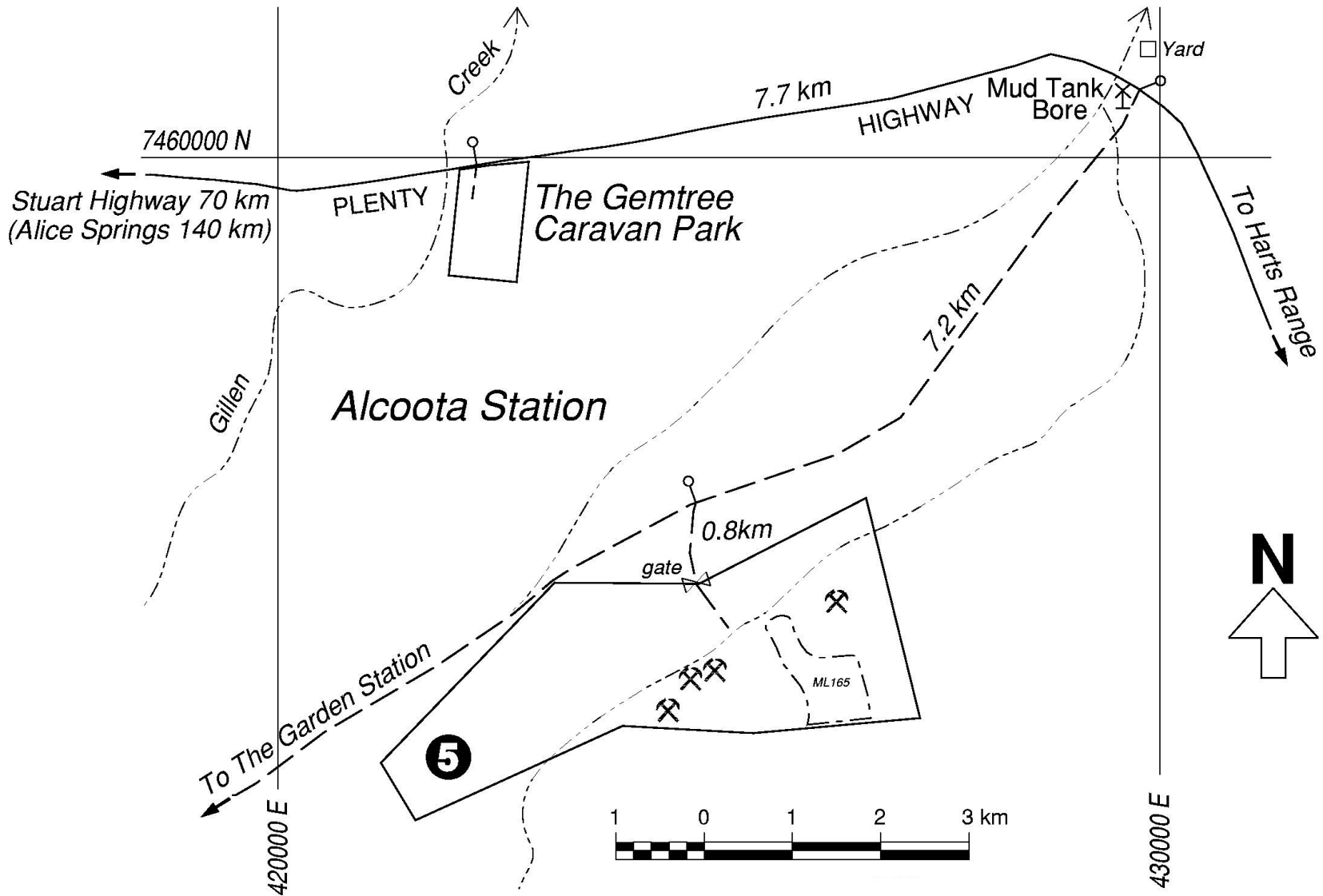
Accommodation and campsites are available at The Gemtree Caravan Park, along with a range of other facilities including fuel (diesel, leaded and unleaded) and a grocery store.

Please Note: Fossicker's Permits are available from The Gemtree Caravan Park.

There is no water available at the Fossicking Area, but visitors are welcome to replenish water supplies with bore water from the Gemtree. As a matter of courtesy, please notify the office beforehand, and collect water only during daylight hours.

Holders of commercial tour operator's permits, by special agreement with the Department of Mines and Energy, have approval to reserve a number of digging holes between tours by safely placing tools in the holes. Please do not interfere with these holes or equipment.

MAP1



Mapsheets: ALCOOTA 1:250 000 SF53-10
 ALICE SPRINGS 1:250 000 SF53-14