

Drilling sites in the Alberton goldfield

by V. M. Threader

Drilling is recommended in the Alberton goldfield for the purpose of locating the large fault 'main slide' which is known to have influenced the localisation of gold lodes in the Mathinna goldfield, 13 miles to the south.

This fault, if present, lies on or close to the course of the Dorset River on a NNW–SSE strike and a steep southwesterly dip. Mineralisation was confined to the footwall of the fault in Mathinna; if this is so in Alberton then favourable areas for further prospecting will be found by locating the fault.

Drilling is best undertaken in areas where rich gold lodes of substantial size are known to occur, so additional information regarding these lodes may be obtained at the same time. It will also provide information on the possible presence of other parallel lodes and faults.

Three such areas have already been recommended:

1. The Premier–Rosalind–Gumsucker lode system of the Ringarooma United lease.
2. Mercury No. 1 and No. 2 lodes.
3. Long Struggle and Caxton lodes (at present under lease).

Numbers 1 and 2 were recommended by Hills in 1923 for additional prospecting, while No. 3 was recommended by T. D. Hughes in 1952 for diamond drilling.

No. 2 (section B–B') is preferred as the goldfield is here close to the river course and therefore presumably close to the fault — compare with section A–A' where alluvium half a mile wide separates the river and the known mineralised area.

Two boreholes 1000 feet apart and 1000 feet long would be required to complete this section with a possible third hole further east.

No. 1 (section A–A') is also suitable but would require more drilling than No. 2. This line of holes could be considered if the results from No. 2 justify it. Valuable information may be obtained from holes 2 and 3 in this section, where bedrock is obscured by superficial deposits. If the fault does lie along the river course this alluvial flat is probably a richer portion of the goldfield than that on higher ground to the east.

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