



CENTRAL QUEENSLAND GEMFIELDS

## GRAVES HILL FOSSICKING AREA

*Graves Hill* is one of five Fossicking Areas on the central Queensland sapphire fields which were set aside in 1985 for recreational and tourist fossicking by holders of Fossicker's Licences. Such fossicking is also possible on another six areas of Designated Fossicking Land, but on those certain commercial mining tenures are also allowed. Other brochures describe the general background to the fields and the individual areas.

*Graves Hill* comprises 116ha of undulating open to semi-cleared bushland and is popular because of its proximity to Sapphire township and its shallow wash.

### Access and roads

Turn off the Capricorn Highway at Anakie, and take the sealed Sapphire road for 8km to a signpost indicating *Graves Hill* to the left. Continue on this unsealed road along the southern side of Retreat Creek for 4km to the signposted entrance. Alternatively continue to Sapphire and take the road to the west, passing through *Big Bessie* to the *Graves Hill* entrance. The main track passes along the length of the area through 'Mount Clifford'; midway a track to the right passes 'Millionaires Hill' before crossing Ruby Creek to continue to *Reward Designated Fossicking Land*.

Whilst roads are unformed they are suitable for conventional vehicles except in wet weather. Water needs to be carried from Sapphire.

### Requirements

Fossicking requires a Fossickers Licence under the Fossicking Act 1994. Individual, family, club, educational organisation and commercial tour operator licences

can be obtained for this area or for the whole of the State for periods between one and twelve months, with fees varying accordingly. They can be obtained from the Mining Registrar at Emerald, selected local businesses, or the Department's other offices throughout the State. Hand tools only are permitted.

### Camping

Camping is allowed for a maximum period of 3 months. A camping permit is required, which can be obtained for the payment of a small fee from the Emerald, Rockhampton, Mackay and Brisbane offices of the Department or the local businesses that issue the Fossickers Licences. No facilities exist in the area, but there are several good spots where shade is afforded by clumps of trees.

### Sapphire occurrence

Extensive shallow workings comprise the popular 'Mount Clifford' diggings in the central and southern parts of the area. Generally these are 300-400mm deep and expose a wash composed of angular to rounded pebbles and cobbles of billy, silicified sandstone and quartz set in a friable brown soil. Greens and yellows have been found here as well as blues.

The wash continues to the north and northeast around an outcrop of granite. At 'Millionaires Hill' there is a small area of shallow diggings where the wash, 200-300mm deep, comprises a dark red to chocolate coloured soil containing billy cobbles and pebbles.

At the eastern boundary of the area there is a series of deeper workings, both open cut and

underground, which are up to 3m deep. They have exploited a bouldery wash which may be a lead formed by a former channel of Ruby Creek. The boulders are mostly billy, silicified sandstone and conglomerate.

Near the southwestern boundary there was an area of shallow wash which was previously stripped by machinery and treated on site. It does not appear to extend beyond the worked area.

### Code of Conduct

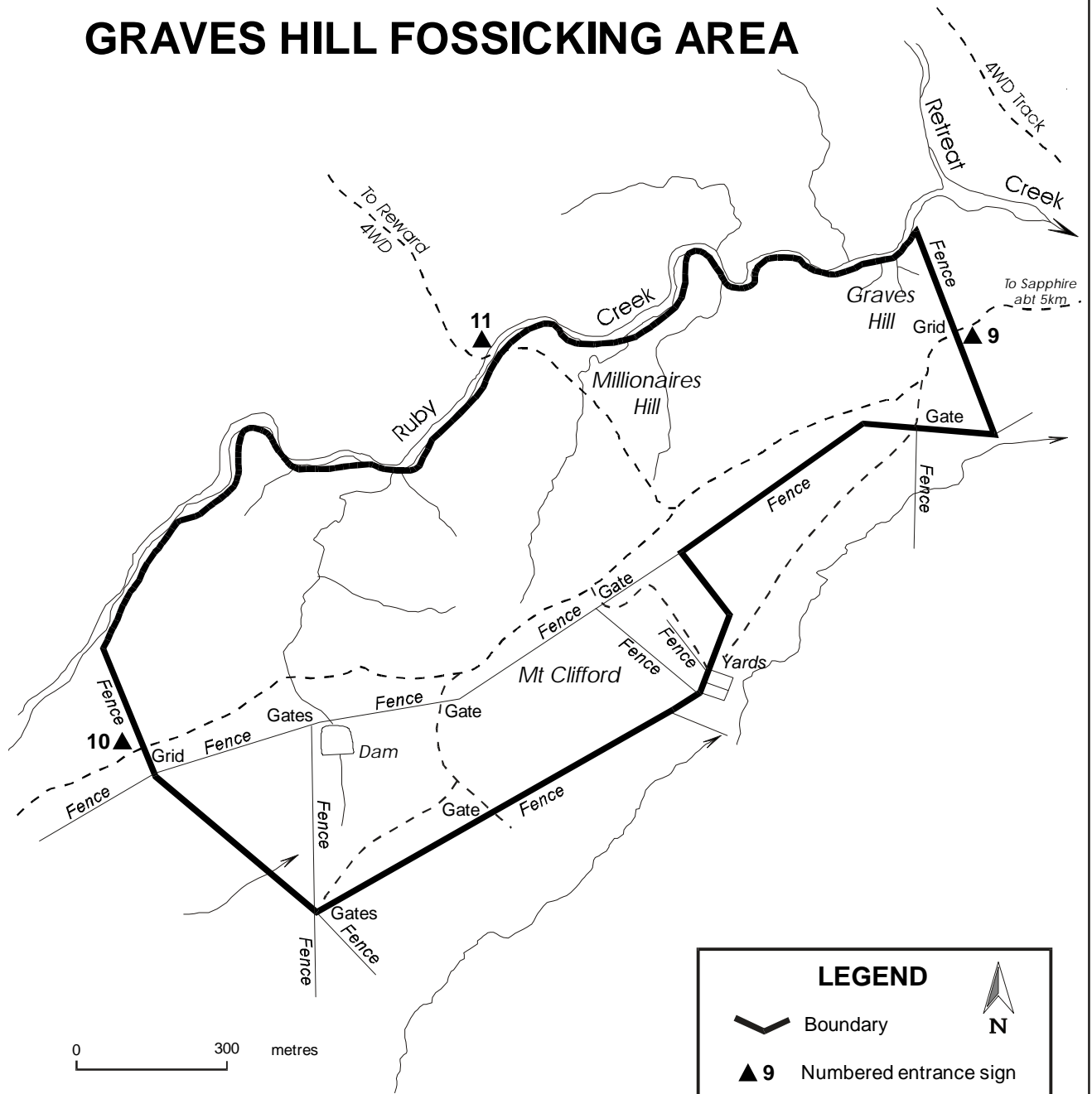
- Use only safe working practices. Holes deeper than 2m or undermined overhangs **are not permitted**.
- Workings should be left in a safe, tidy condition so as not to endanger other persons or stock.
- Dismantle any structures upon vacating a campsite.
- Remove all rubbish** and bury human waste at least 20cm deep.
- Do not interfere with any vegetation, stock or wildlife. Shooting is prohibited.
- Minimise inconvenience to others by limiting noise and control pets at all times.
- Be careful with campfires, particularly in dry times. Clear a 2m space around them.

### For further information:

*The Mining Registrar  
Clerana Centre  
29-31 Clermont Street  
Emerald Qld 4720*


*Telephone (07) 4982 4011  
Fax. (07) 4982 4230  
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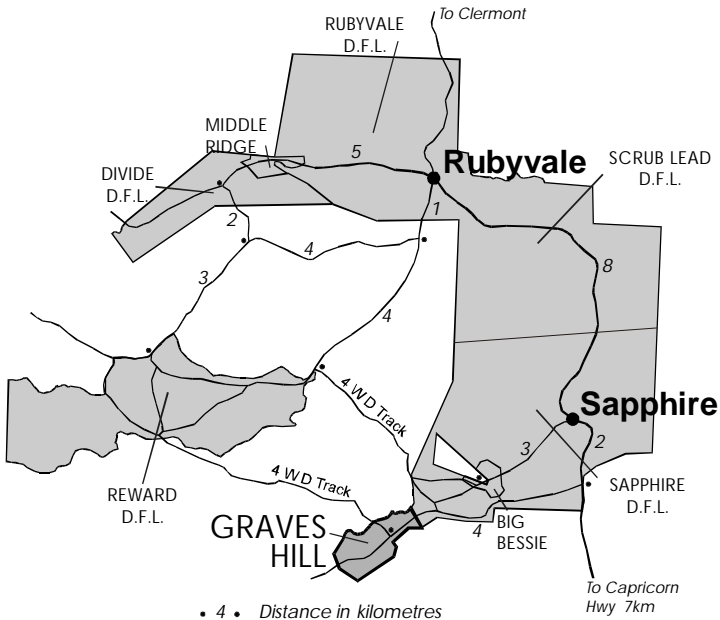
0 300 metres

**LEGEND**

 Boundary

 N

 9 Numbered entrance sign



• 4 • Distance in kilometres

