

Crown Pastoral Land Tenure Review

Lease name : LAUDER

Lease number : PO 376

Conservation Resources Report - Part 5

As part of the process of Tenure Review, advice on significant inherent values within the pastoral lease is provided by Department of Conservation officials in the form of a Conservation Resources Report. This report is the result of outdoor survey and inspection. It is a key piece of information for the development of a preliminary consultation document.

Note: Plans which form part of the Conservation Resources Report are published separately.

These documents are all released under the Official information Act 1982.

September 06

APPENDIX FIVE Historic Sites and Records

- Figure 2 Survey Map From 1873 Showing Woolshed and Hut
- Figure 3 Survey Map Showing Break Up of Original Lauder Lease
- Figure 4 Survey Map From 1892 Showing Where Land Was Reserved For Mining
- Figure 5 Survey Map From 1890 Showing the Lauder Coal Pit
Description and Plans of the Lauder Farmstead, and Smithy and Cook Shop
Description and Plans of Lauder Gold and Coal Mining

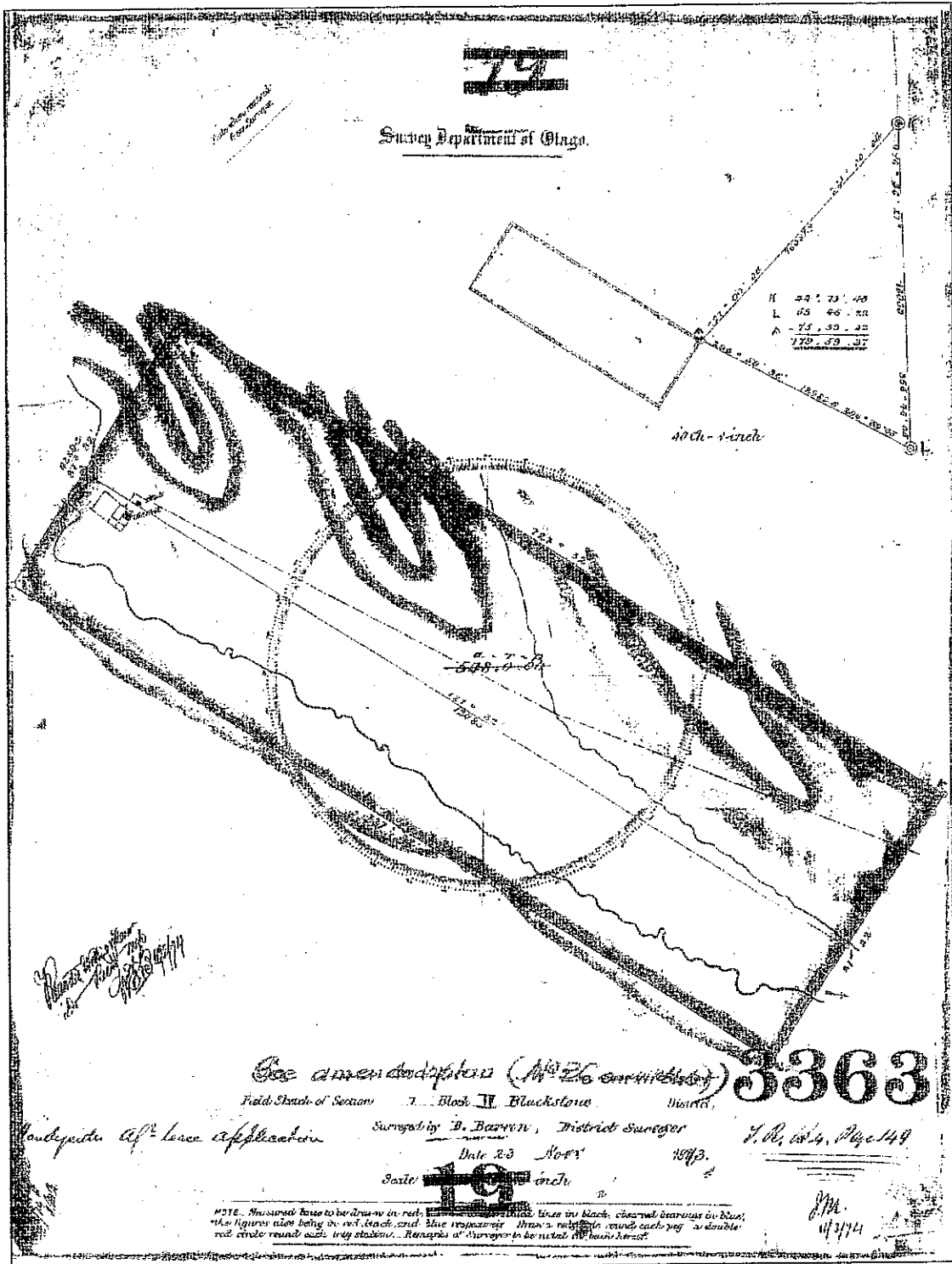


Figure 2. Survey map from 1873 showing woolshed and hut on the Lauder Pastoral lease. The woolshed is still present today and used as a working building. The 'hut' maybe the smithy/cook shop also still present today.

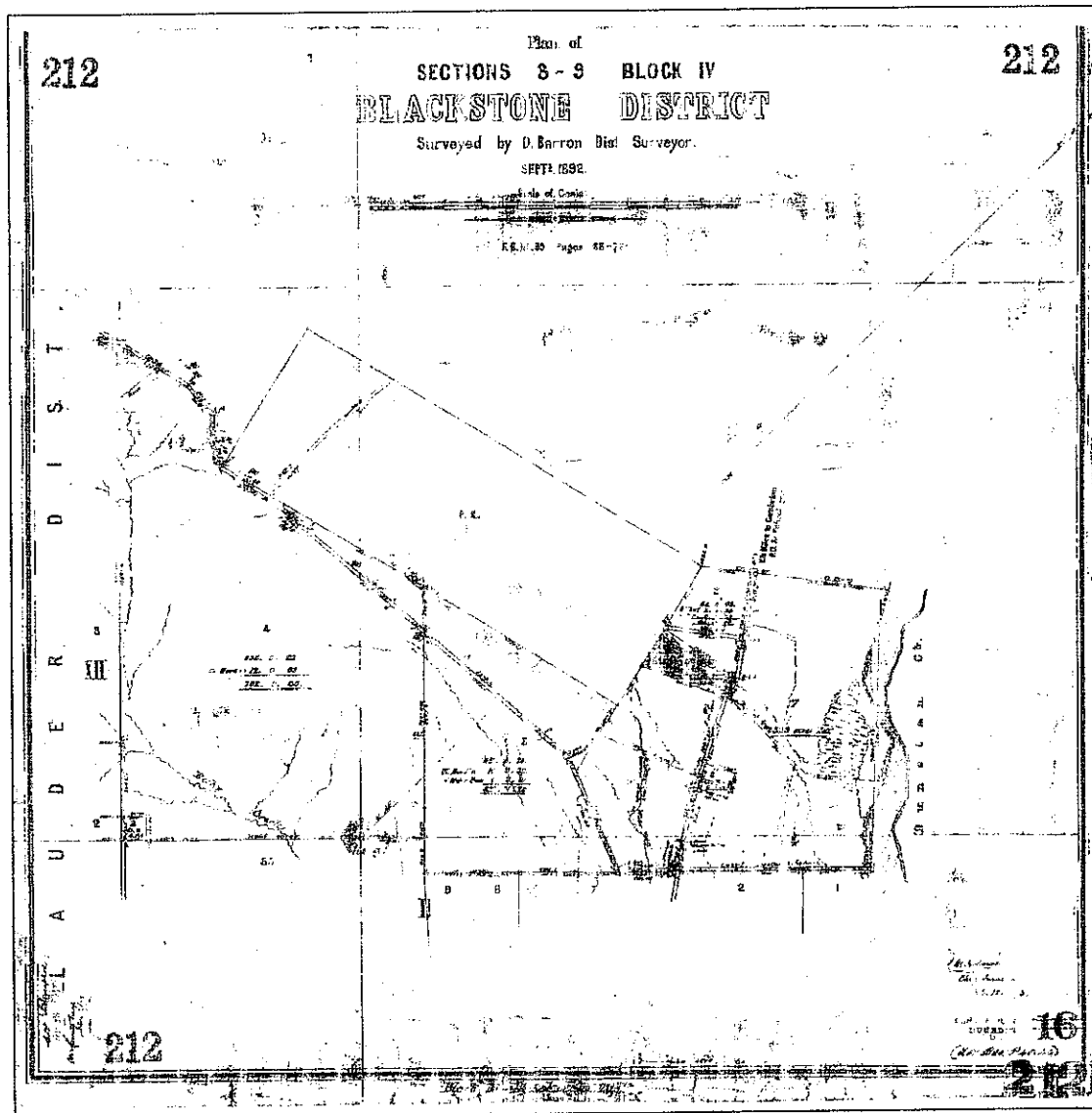


Figure 4. A survey map from 1892 shows where land was reserved for mining on the Lauder Pastoral Lease. Today evidence of the sluicing for gold at this location can still be seen.

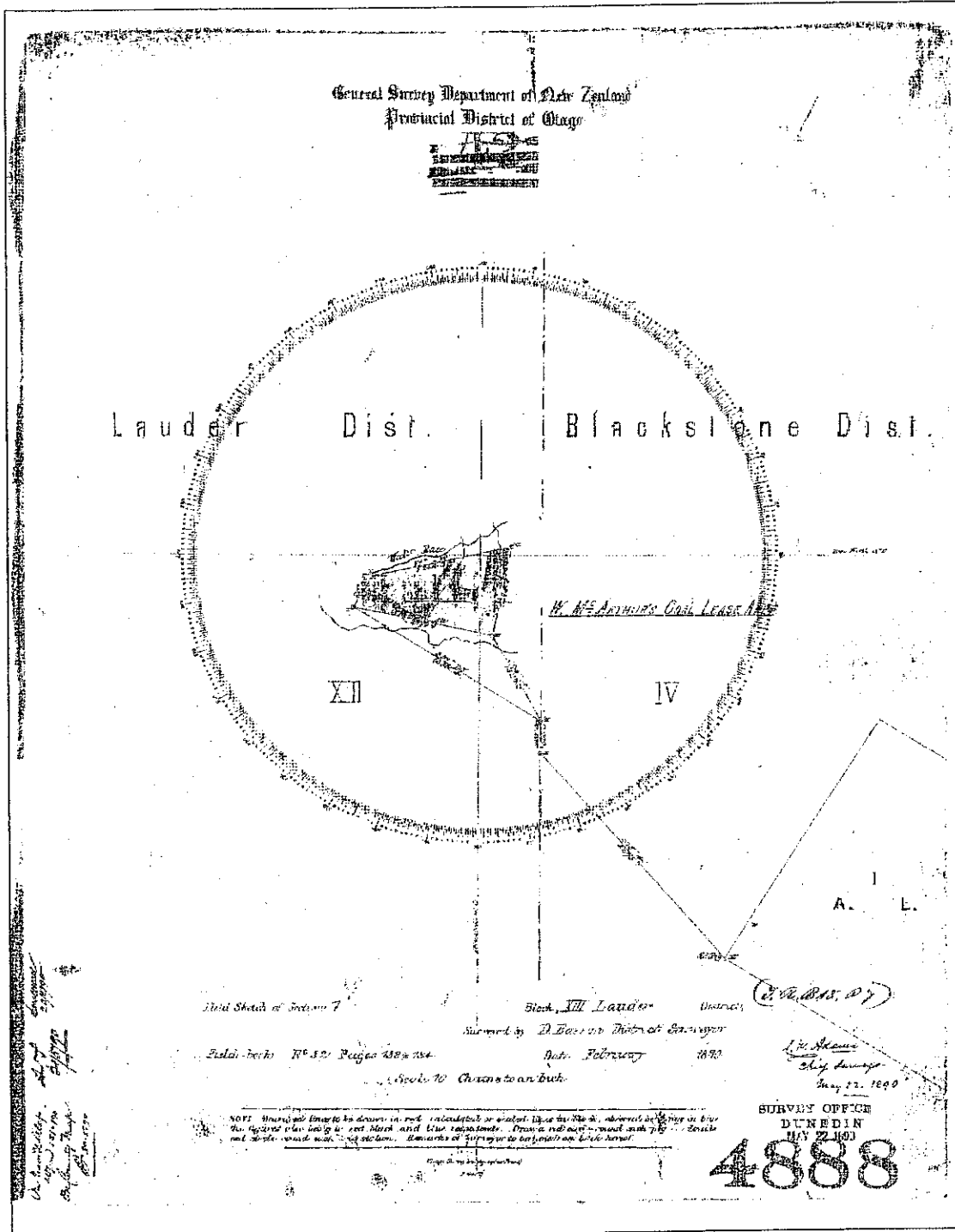


Figure 5. Survey map from 1890 showing the Lauder Coal Pit surveyed for W. McArthur's Coal Lease Application. 5

Hamel (1990) description and plans of the Lauder farmstead (H41/125)

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The Lauder farmstead

As with so many nineteenth century farmsteads, the woolshed is one of the closest buildings to the public road, with the homestead tucked well back and to the south of the dust and smell of the yards (Figs 2 and 3). The old buildings include a smithy/cookshop, woolshed, stables, two wooden cottages, sheds and the homestead. Large Wellingtonias, pines and poplars blend the buildings into their landscape.

The present house was built at a later date than the rest of the farm buildings and it is not known where the first house was situated. Judging by the pattern of tree planting though it could have been close to the present house site or near the cookshop (Alan Harley: pers.comm.). The house as originally built was an uncompromising oblong of concrete (Figs 4 and 5). The outside walls are 14 inches thick and the inner walls eight inches. There is a single long central corridor with four major rooms on each side, all about 12x12 feet or 10x10 feet, and a bathroom at the end of the corridor. Sandwiched in the two rows of rooms was a smaller gun room on the east side and a sewing room on the west. The dining room at the south end of the house had an outside door so that the men could walk directly in without passing through the rest of the house. All the main rooms had a fireplace. The roof gables were nicely hipped at each end of the house, but a verandah was added to the north end without a proper break in the roof angle. The narrow double hung windows and the orientation of the house made no allowance for the entry of sunlight.

The smithy/cookshop, 11 x 8 m, is a two gabled building with mortared stone walls, corrugated iron roof and retains its double hung windows on the cookshop side (Figs 4 and 6). The smithy still has its forge but the bellows have gone to a local museum. The smithy may have originally been a dining room for the cookshop, since there is a serving hatch between the two. There are two rooms at the south end of the building. Behind the smithy is a store, presumably for iron bars and tools.

Beside the massive cookhouse chimney is a stoutly-built, square, stone bread oven. It is built of unusually large schist slabs with a flat top covered now with rubbish. There may originally have been a brick dome and chimney over the oven, but now there is just a gap leading straight into the oven flue. Seen from inside the oven has the same basic structure as the oven at the mens' quarters at Moa Flat and the free standing one at Aviemore (Thornton 1986:176). The oven has iron frames inset for two doors, one behind the other, with a flue leading up between them. To the right of the oven, an ash pit leads down in a curve from the oven so that it can be emptied from the front. There is no obvious sign of how the ash pit was sealed off from the oven after the bread was put in to bake. The fireplace for general cooking beside the oven is unusual in that it is an open hearth with an oven underneath it. The oven has very long narrow iron door opening sideways at shin level.

The stable, 21 x 10 m, is an impressive Georgian building with lean-to sections at each end of a hip-roofed central section (Figs 7 and 8). It is built of a mixture of mud brick and schist slabs. It would appear from the distribution of the mud brick walls inside that the original stable was a row of three rooms which now form the centre of the front face, and that the back and wings were added in stone. The centrally placed dormer door leads to the hay loft which supplied hay to a continuous manger over four stalls and a loose box (Thornton 1986).

The woolshed, 25 x 10 m, is a simple barn shaped building of quarried schist with a sufficient roof pitch for a loading door into the attic above the main end doors (Figs 3 and 7). It was a relatively small shed for eight shearers. One of the old ports has had a shed for a generator placed in it. Unlike Moutere with its low walls of about 1.8 m, the side walls of this shed are 2.5 m high and the stone end gable is about 6 m high. A modern section and covered yards have been added. Two wooden cottages for staff complete the farmstead.

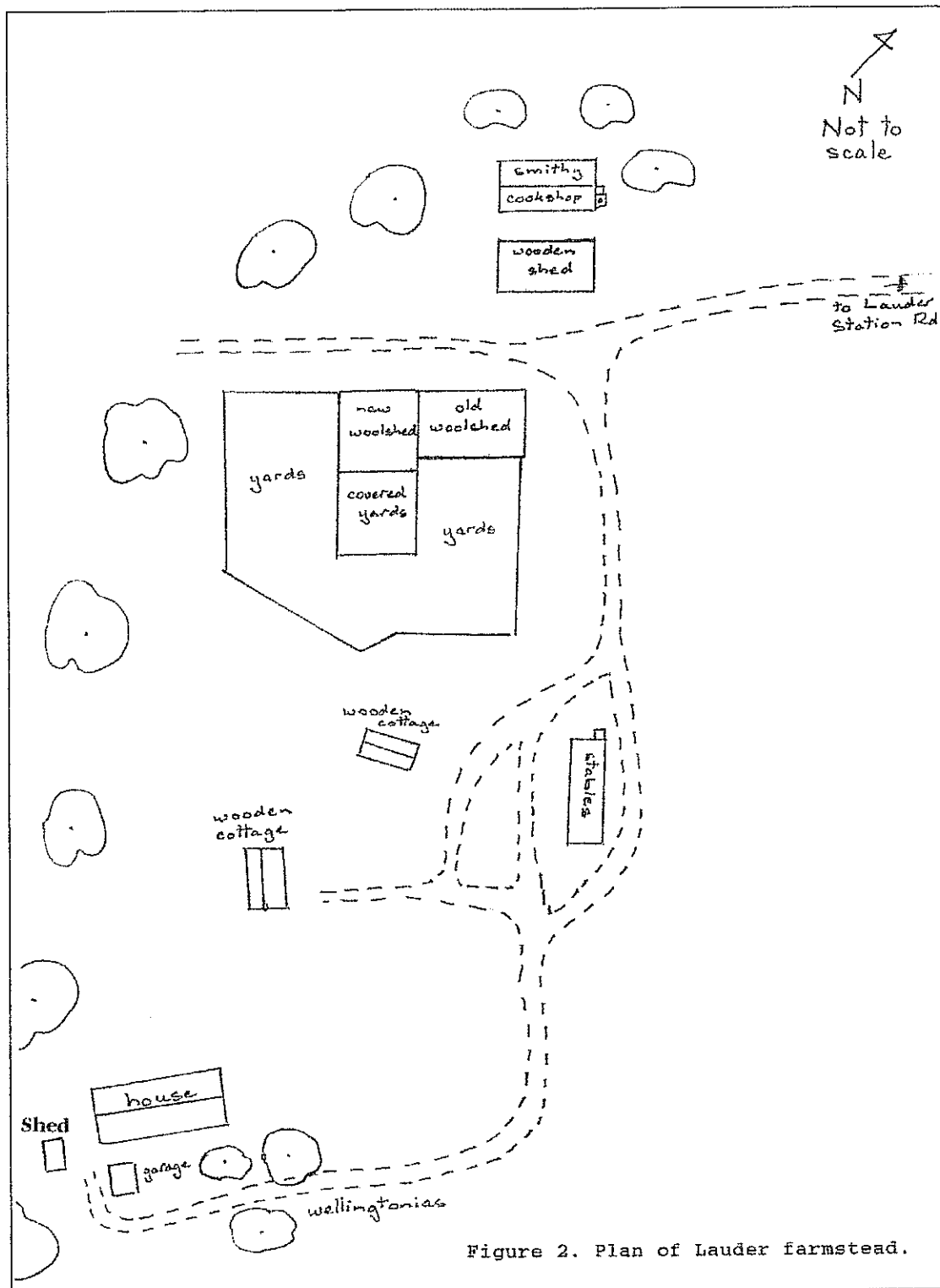


Figure 2. Plan of Lauder farmstead.

Farmstead layout from Hamel (1990).

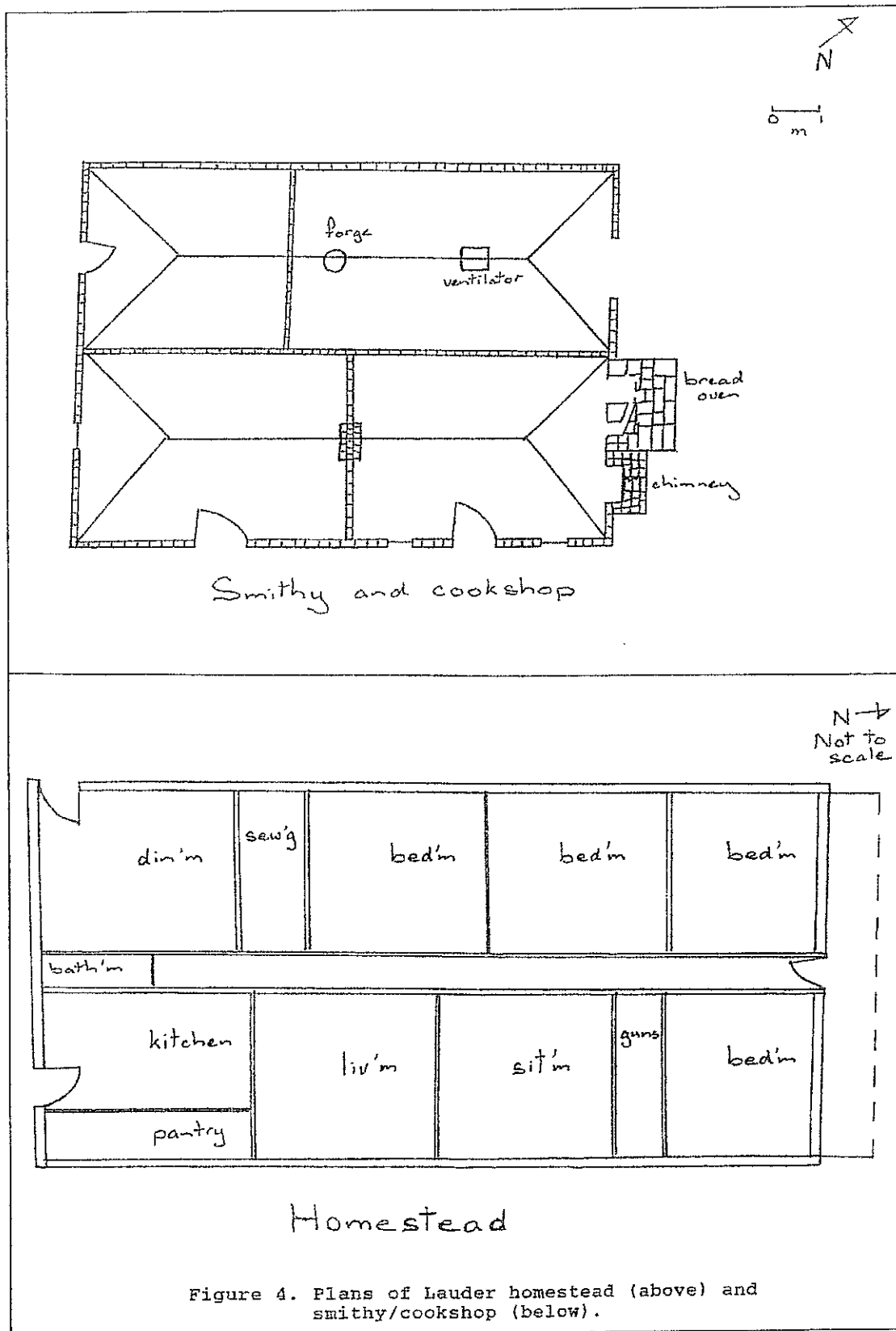


Figure 4. Plans of Lauder homestead (above) and smithy/cookshop (below).

Plans of Smithy and Cook shop and Homestead from Hamel (1990).

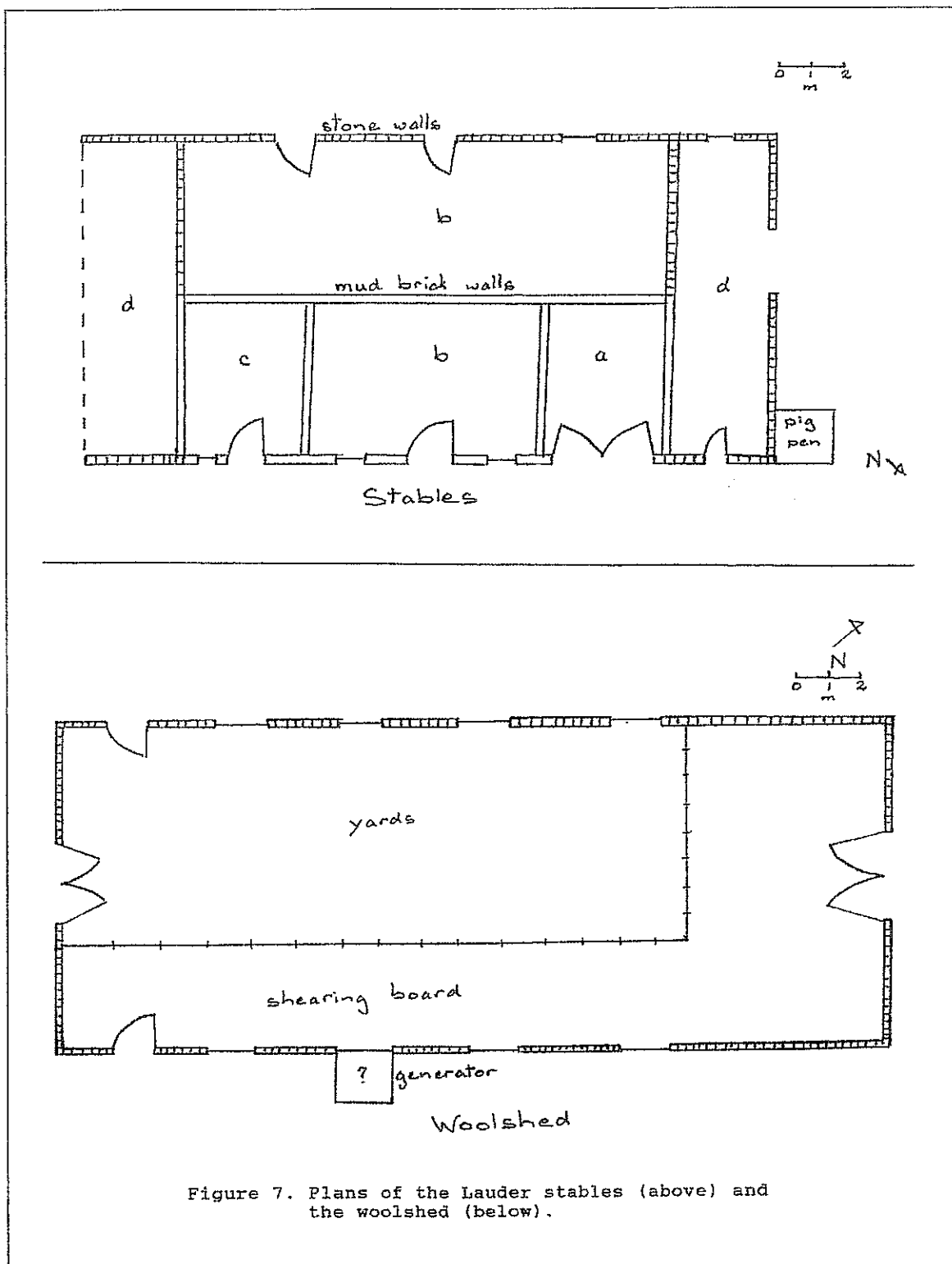


Figure 7. Plans of the Lauder stables (above) and the woolshed (below).

Plans of Stables and Woolshed and Yards from Hamel (1990).

Hamel (1990) description and plans of the Lauder gold (H41/129) and coal mining (H41/131).

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The sites on the ground

Lauder Station Road sluicings.

These are the largest gold workings on the Lauder runs. They stretch for about 400 metres along the north side of a small tributary of Woolshed Creek and are easily visible from Lauder Station Road (Fig.1, Site 2). They consist of simple sluice pits worked back into the toe slope of a gentle spur, with a few amorphous heaps of cobbles and silcrete boulders below clay faces about eight metres high (Figs 9 and 10). On the slope above there is an elaborate anastomosing system of races, some running down gulches about two metres wide and 0.8m deep. The races are fed from the system coming from Donald Stuarts Creek, both directly and from a double reservoir further back on the spur (Fig.1). Subsidiary races have been added for irrigation but there are still an amazing number of races above the sluicings for the amount of work done.

On the south side of the gully there are two minor areas of sluicings which seem to have been worked by races coming from Woolshed Creek to the south. It is not easy to confirm the pattern of these latter races as they have been partly ploughed out.

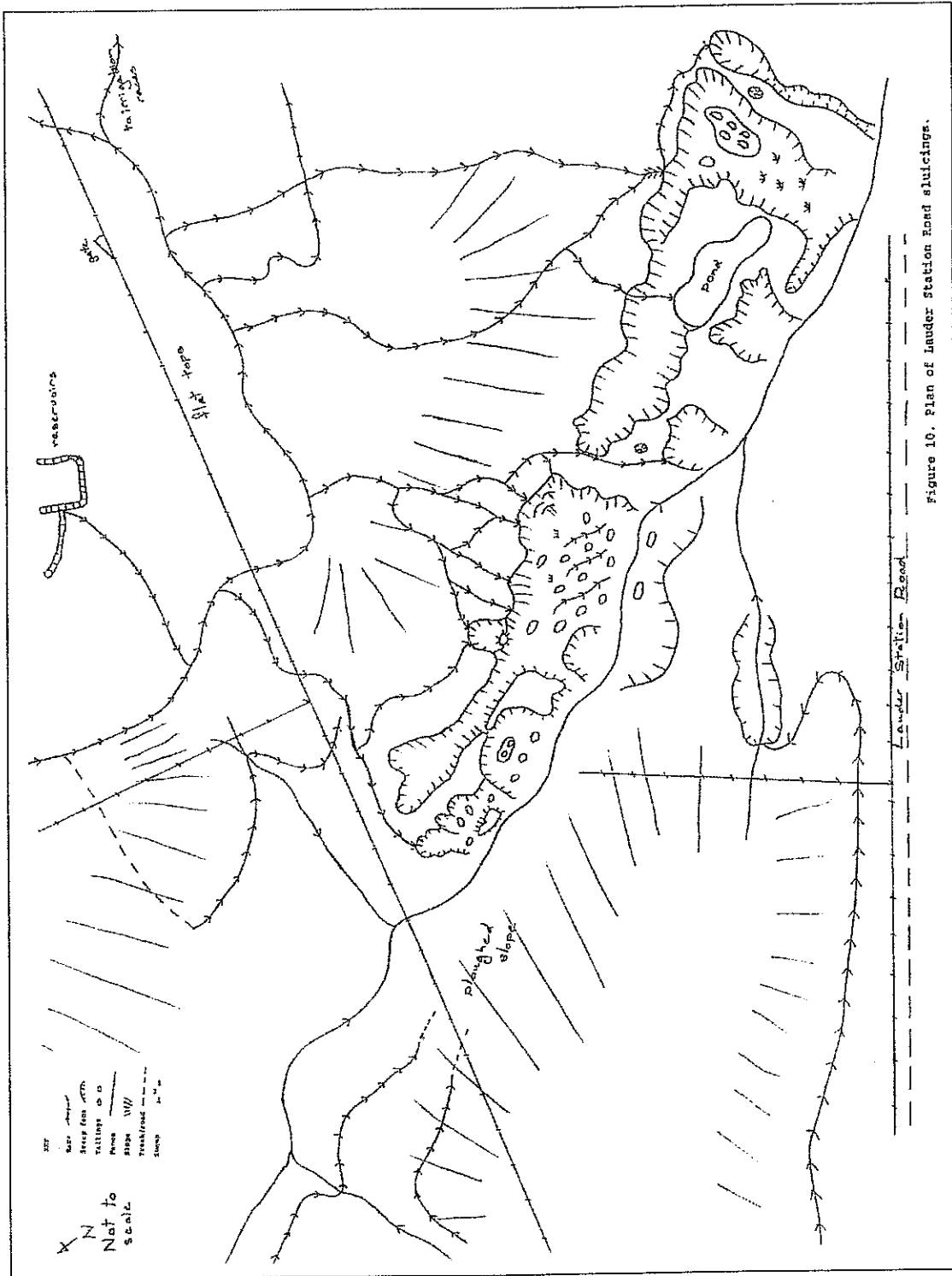
The races

There are basically two separate race systems on the Lauder runs - the set out of Woolshed Creek flowing north and the set from Donald Stuarts Creek and running south (Fig.1). Neither set were followed for their full length, but are well marked on the topographical map, S125. The highest race out of Woolshed Creek rises at GR445861 and runs north at about the 1800 foot contour to Welshmans Creek. As it passes above Woolshed Creek coalpit small races lead down from it, presumably for sluicing out the coalpit (Fig.11). The race is a substantial one, 3.0 m wide and 0.8m deep. A lower and smaller race rises from just above the coal pit and runs out to a farm dam on the terraces north of Woolshed Hill. It is only 1.6 m wide and 0.6 m deep, and is correctly positioned to have taken water to the south side of the Lauder Station Road sluicings.

The set of races from Donald Stuarts Creek rise at GR464880 and run as a paired race south east to the spur with the U-shaped dam at GR477852. The live race of the pair is large, about 3 m across and 0.8 m deep, with numerous small bywashes (for irrigation). The dam is 20 x 25 m with earth walls 3 m wide and 2m high and holding water. To the west there is a curve of walling suggesting that there was a previous dam which has been partly obliterated by the present one.

The coalpits

These are small opencast pits, which must have always been a problem to keep dry. The Woolshed Creek pit had a network of races above it which seem to have been partly to bring water down from the race and partly to divert a small side creek. Woolshed Creek itself had to be partly diverted to keep it out of the pit, and on higher ground beside the creek south of the pit, a wooden building and winching machinery were erected (Figs 11,12 and 13). The stone and concrete foundations of the building measure 8 x 10 m, and outline about three rooms. Elderberry bushes nearby suggest this was a house rather than just a coal store. The machinery consists of the remains of a steam winch with one large cylinder but no boiler, and a fixed pulley. There are several areas of coal dross beside the pit. On the north side a bogey wheel is embedded in a clay bank, and a possible dray road leads away from the pit.



Plan of Lauder gold mining area (H41/129) from Hamel (1990: Figure 10).

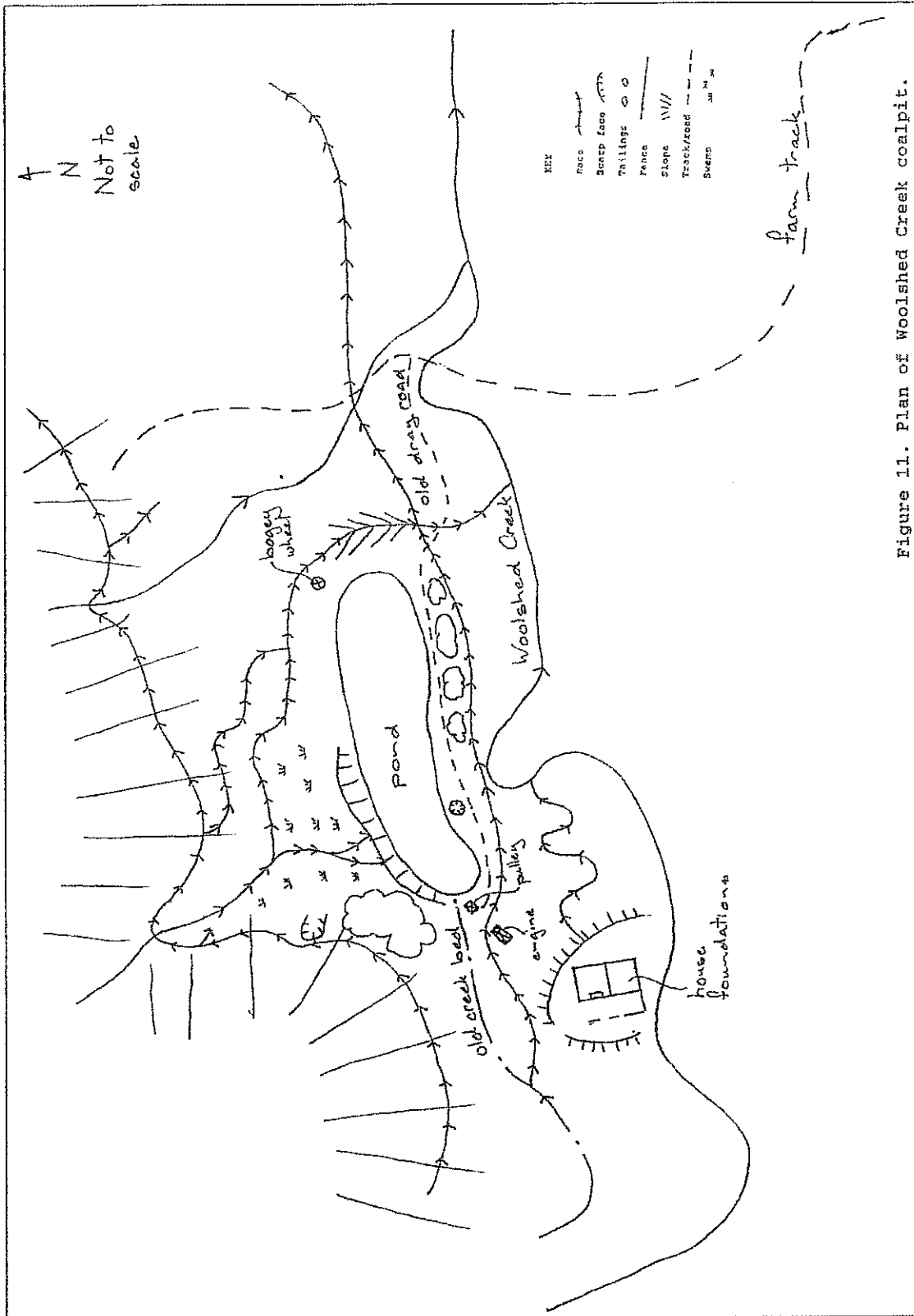


Figure 11. Plan of Woolshed Creek coalpit.

Plan of Lauder coal mining area (H41/131) from Hamel (1990: Figure 11).