# BOTANICAL STUDIES AT

# URBRAE HYGIENE MINING AREA

# HUNTLY

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#### 1. SUMMARY

Seventy-four species were recorded in the Urbrae Hygiene Mining Area. Recordings were taken at regular intervals on a 120m x 120m grid pattern. The results for the tree species, forest stress assessment, logging assessment and soil parameters are summarized in a series of maps at a scale of 1:10000.

Fourteen mapping units were defined and mapped at a scale of 1:5000. In delineating the mapping units, it was possible to subdivide several of the Site-vegetation Types. This subdivision was based upon structural and floristic differences in the plant communities, which were reinforced by corresponding changes in the site conditions.

Stress assessments of the tree species reflected both old and recent deaths in the plant communities at the survey area. These were mapped and should be compared with other studies in the Hygiene Mining Area.

Logging operations were summarized to facilitate the interpretation of structural and floristic differences in the survey area.

Data were presented in a form that could be readily accessible for a future monitoring programme in the Urbrae Hygiene Mining Area.

#### 2. OBJECTIVES

The survey area is located north of the South Dandalup Dam and east of the current Huntly mining operations of Alcoa of Australia Limited. The objective was to provide baseline botanical data for the Urbrae Hygiene Mining Area and in particular to

- . survey the Hygiene Mining Area within the boundaries as defined by Alcoa;
- record the vegetation on a grid of 120m x 120m (to tie in with the 15m and 60m pegging intervals); where required (e.g. on sharp boundaries) additional recordings to be taken at the discretion of the field observers;
- . rank tree species on abundance scale as defined by Havel (1975a);
- . rank all indicator species on abundance scale as defined by Havel (1975a);
- include and record additional perennial species which may assist in future monitoring; selection of these species to be at the discretion of the observers, based upon previous botanical and mapping experience in the Jarrah Forest;
- . rank forest stress and logging on a scale of 0 to 5
   (e.g. 0 for no forest stress, 5 for "graveyard"
   forest stress);
- . note any obvious features in the soils and landscape which will assist in data interpretation;
- . prepare a site-vegetation map at a scale of 1:5000;
- . collect, identify and mount plant specimens of species not included in the current collection of Alcoa of Australia Limited.

#### 3. METHODS

An initial reconnaissance was undertaken in conjunction with Alcoa personnel in the Urbrae Hygiene Mining Area at Huntly. Vegetation sampling was carried out in January, 1985. This sampling was based primarily upon recordings at regular intervals on the grid system already established for drilling by Alcoa; additional observations were made along accessible tracks on the boundaries of the survey area (e.g. White Road). Opportunistic collecting was carried out in December, 1984 and January, 1985.

#### 3.1 Flora

Flowering or fruiting species which were not included in Alcoa's current Herbarium at Booragoon were collected from the Urbrae Hygiene Mining Area. The collected specimens were dried, identified and checked with specimens at the Western Australian State Herbarium.

All species currently held in Alcoa's Herbarium were checked for taxonomic name changes (e.g. <u>Trymalium</u> spathulatum is now Trymalium floribundum).

Specimens were mounted, labelled and lodged with Alcoa of Australia Limited at Booragoon.

# 3.2 <u>Vegetation and Site Assessment</u>

The vegetation was recorded on a grid of 120m x 120m (to tie in with the drilling pegs located at 15m and 60m intervals). Where required (for example, on sharp community boundaries), additional recordings were taken. Information was recorded for a total of 296 sites in the survey area. All data were recorded directly on computer coding forms to expedite data interpretation. During the survey work, additional notes were made on obvious changes in vegetation and site conditions. Data collected at each site included the parameters discussed in the following sections.

# 3.2.1 Rating of Trees

(based on an abundance scale as defined by Havel, 1975a).

The rating of each tree species was recorded for an area of 20 metres radius from the observation point, according to the following scale:

- 0 absent;
- 1 one or two trees;
- 2 three to five trees;
- 3 more than five trees, but contributing less than one third of total stand;
- 4 between one third and one half of total tree stand;
- 5 more than one half of total stand.

The tree species recorded in the survey area are summarized in the following table (Table 1).

### TABLE 1

#### List of Tree Species Recorded in the Survey Area

Allocasuarina fraseria	na Sheoak				
(formerly known as	Casuarina fraserana)				
Banksia grandis	Bull Banksia				
Banksia littoralis	Swamp Banksia				
Eucalyptus calophylla	Marri				
Eucalyptus marginata	Jarrah				
Eucalyptus megacarpa	Bullich				
Eucalyptus patens	Yarri				
Melaleuca preissiana	Paperbark				
Persoonia elliptica					
Persoonia longifolia	Snottygobble				
Xylomelum occidentale	Woody Pear				

# 3.2.2 Rating of Plant Species

(based on an abundance scale as defined by Havel, 1975a).

The rating of undergrowth species was based upon an area of 5 metres radius from the observation point, using the following scale:

- 0 absent;
- very rare; seen only after a careful search;
- 2 present and observable, but in small numbers
  only;
- 3 common locally, but not uniformly over the whole area;
- 4 common over the whole area;
- 5 completely dominating undergrowth.

The undergrowth species recorded in the survey area are summarized in the following table (Table 2).

#### TABLE 2

#### List of Undergrowth Species Recorded in the Survey Area

\* Denotes indicator species defined by Havel (1975a).

The remaining indicator species as defined by Havel (1975a) were followed in the field, but are not listed below because they were absent from the survey area.

\_\_\_\_\_\_

Acacia divergens
Acacia drummondii

- \* Acacia extensa
  Acacia lateriticola
  Acacia preissiana
  Acacia pulchella
  Acacia semitrullata
- \* Acacia urophylla
- \* Adenanthos barbigerus
- \* Agonis linearifolia
- \* Astartea fascicularis Astroloma ciliatum Astroloma pallidum Boronia crenulata

var. gracilis Boronia fastigiata

Boronia molloyae

- \* Bossiaea aquifolium Bossiaea ornata
- Callistemon speciosus
- \* Clematis pubescens
- Cyathochaeta avenacea Daviesia cordata
- \* Daviesia decurrens
  Daviesia incrassata
  Daviesia preissii
  Daviesia rhombifolia
  Gahnia decomposita
  Hakea amplexicaulis
- \* Hakea lissocarpha
- \* Hakea ruscifolia Hakea undulata

Hemigenia pritzellii
Hibbertia amplexicaulis
Hibbertia aff. gracilipes
Hibbertia perfoliata
Hibbertia sp.
(formerly H. montana)

- \* Hovea chorizemifolia
  - Hypocalymma cordifolium
- \* Kennedia coccinea Kennedia prostrata
- \* Lasiopetalum floribundum Lechenaultia biloba
- \* Lepidosperma angustatum Lepidosperma tenue Lepidosperma sp.
- \* Lepidosperma tetraquetrum
- \* Leptocarpus scariosus
- \* Leptomeria cunninghamii
- \* Leucopogon capitellatus
- \* Leucopogon oxycedrus
- \* Leucopogon propinquus
- \* Leucopogon verticillatus
- \* Macrozamia riedlei Mirbelia dilatata
- \* Phyllanthus calycinus
- \* Pteridium aquilinum Sphaerolobium medium Stachystemon vermicularis
- \* Styphelia tenuiflora Thomasia paniculata
- \* Trymalium ledifolium Xanthorrhoea gracilis Xanthorrhoea priessii

Tree and undergrowth species were recorded in smaller areas than those recorded by Havel (1975a); he used an area of 40m radius for trees and 20m radius for undergrowth species. Previous mapping of the Jarrah forest has indicated that the smaller sizes are appropriate for following the tree and undergrowth species (based on species/area curves and regular observation points).

# 3.2.3 Site Assessment

#### 3.2.3.1 Soil Colour

The soil colour was recorded as a series of presence/absence (binary or yes/no) data items. The colours recorded were Dark Brown, Brown, Light Brown, Orange, Red, Yellow and Grey. These colours were recorded for soil depths of 10 to 20 cms.

#### 3.2.3.2 Gravel Size

Average gravel fragment diameters were recorded for all sites. The diameter intervals were:

-5mm

+5mm -10mm

+10mm

#### 3.2.3.3 Gravel Colour

Recent observations in the western Jarrah forest have highlighted the need to differentiate darker gravels from the more typical orange lateritic gravel. Therefore the colour of the surface gravel was recorded as either "orange-brown" or "black".

#### 3.2.3.4 Gravel:Sand:Silt Ratio

The proportions of gravel, sand and silt in the soil matrix at a depth of 10 to 20 cms were recorded relative to a total score of ten (e.g. a heavy gravel with a sandy matrix would be recorded as 7:3:0; while a sandy-loam with limited gravel component would be recorded as 2:4:4).

#### 3.2.3.5 Presence of Boulders and Outcropping

The presence of lateritic boulders or outcrops (granitic or lateritic) was recorded at each site.

#### 3.2.3.6 Slope

The slope in a direction forward along the survey transects was recorded using a Sunto Clinometer, in positive or negative degrees. Additional slope angles were measured when considered appropriate (e.g. sharp slope changes at an angle from the transect's orientation).

#### 3.2.3.7 Position in the Landscape

To assist in the interpretation of field observations, the landscape was subdivided into the following categories; Upper Slope, Mid/Upper Slope, Mid Slope, Mid/Lower Slope, Lower Slope, Gully and Ridge.

#### 3.2.3.8 Drainage Patterns

To assist in the interpretation of the results, the drainage patterns were subdivided into the following four categories; Convex, Concave, Level and Slope.

#### 3.3 Forest Stress Assessment

Although the causes of forest stress are varied, their expression in a plant community is usually in the form of discolouration of leaves, defoliation and death. The following rating of forest stress has been developed and tested in other areas of the northern Jarrah forest, and was used in this survey.

For each tree species in an area of 20 metre radius from the observation point, the stress was recorded using the scale:

- 0 no evidence of stress in plants;
- 1 odd plant showing signs of stress, none dead;
- one or two stressed plants, usually under severe stress and near death (but not dead);
- 3 scattered stressed and dead plants around plot;
- 4 susceptible plants dying or dead;
- 5 "Graveyard" death; most trees logged or salvaged.

A further subdivision of stress levels greater than 3 was made by including the following assessment of the age since death and separation of "stag" deaths from deaths caused by other factors:

- O Old deaths (no leaves left on trees);
- R Recent deaths (leaves only recently dessicated or discoloured);
- S Old stag deaths.

# 3.4 Logging Assessment

Previous logging impacts on the forest structure and composition were assessed at each observation point in the survey area. The number and age of the stumps were used to rate the logging by observing each tree species in an area of 20 metres radius from the point of observation, and recording the rate relative to the following scale:

- 0 no evidence of logging (absence of stumps);
- very old loggings; one cut only (age of stumps
  all old);
- 2 recent logging only (light logging rate, less
   than three stumps in the area of observation);
- old and recent logging; area cut over twice at a light rate (less than three stumps in each age of cutting);
- 4 logged intensively; heavy logging rate (more than three stumps for each age of logging in the area);

5 "Graveyard" or salvage logging.

# 3.5 Site-vegetation Map

The site-vegetation map was prepared from an interpretation of the reconnaissance and survey data. All tree and undergrowth species used by Havel (1975 a and b) were assessed for abundance and reliability in reflecting site conditions at the Urbrae Hygiene Mining Area. Previous findings in the northern Jarrah forest suggest that several of the indicator species are more reliable in different areas of the forest. This fact largely relates to the differing distributions of the plant species concerned; e.g. a species on the limits of its geographical range will be more site selective than in the centre of its range. Other perennial species which occurred in the survey area were recorded to assist in the site-vegetation mapping and to provide a basis for planning a monitoring programme. In instances where these additional species were site specific, they were included in the data interpretation for the site-vegetation map.

A draft site-vegetation map at a scale of 1:5000 was then prepared on the basis of the following parameters:

- . the distribution of each indicator species (Havel, 1975 a and b);
- the distribution of non-indicator species, particularly those which illlustrated a regularity in their occurrence;
- . the structural differences in the plant communities in the survey area (e.g. heath, open forest, woodland);
- . the distribution of the Indicator Groups as defined by Havel (1975 a and b).

During the preparation of the site-vegetation map, the objectives of the Urbrae Hygiene Mining Area were considered. As a consequence, emphasis was placed on assisting the interpretation of hygiene and community susceptibilities to the dieback disease (Phytophthora cinnamomi).

This emphasis stressed the need to concentrate on the Indicator Groups as well as the Site-vegetation Types as defined by Havel (1975 a and b). For example, the variation in the Site-vegetation Type S was reviewed and assessed in relation to the variation in community vulnerability to infection.

The draft site-vegetation map was refined and checked against the various site parameters recorded at each observation point. If this necessitated an alteration to the site-vegetation boundaries, then the floristic and structural data was rechecked for observation points in proximity to the area under review. The following site conditions were reviewed:

- . soil colour,
- gravel size,
  - . gravel colour,
  - . gravel:sand:silt ratio,
  - presence of boulders and exposed outcropping or caprock,
  - . slope,
- . aspect,
- . position in the landscape, and
- . drainage patterns.

Additional checking of the boundaries was carried out by comparing the draft site-vegetation map with a topographic contour map and an aerial photograph, both supplied by Alcoa and both at a scale of 1:5000. Several minor alterations were made to the boundaries in the gullies (on the fringes of the survey area) and in areas between transect lines.

#### 4. RESULTS

#### 4.1 Flora

A total of 21 Families and 74 Species were recorded during the botanical studies on the Urbrae Hygiene Mining Area (Appendix E). Additional indicator species as defined by Havel (1975 a and b) were noted during the survey, but were not included in the list as they were not observed during the survey.

No attempt was made to list all of the species present in the survey area. As the survey was carried out in December and January, the number of flowering species was restricted. Therefore only those species which were flowering or fruiting were considered for submission to Alcoa's herbarium. These specimens were processed and submitted to the Company on completion of the field work.

## 4.2 Vegetation and Site Assessment

### 4.2.1 Tree Species Ratings

The results for each tree species are summarized in Appendix A.

#### Allocasuarina fraseriana (Appendix Al)

Sheoak occurred on the mid and upper slopes of the main ridge which runs north-west to south-east. Sheoak occurred with <u>Eucaltyptus marginata</u>, <u>Banksia grandis</u> and <u>Persoonia longifolia</u>. <u>Adenanthos barbigerus</u> occurred in the understorey of the Sheoak communities on the northern less undulating slopes.

#### Banksia grandis (Appendix A2)

Bull Banksia occurred in the majority of the survey area, but tended to avoid the sandy-loam soils on the lower slopes and in the gullies. Abundance levels were higher on the mid and upper slopes of the main ridges. The latter can be seen by separating rating levels of greater or equal to 4 from those less than 4. The large numbers of Bull Banksia in the survey

area require attention in light of their recognized ability to host the fungus Phytophthora cinnamomi.

# Banksia <u>littoralis</u> (Appendix A3)

Swamp Banksia occurred on the fringes of the survey area in the swamps, creek-beds and moister lower slopes. This species is also known to be susceptible to the fungus <a href="Phytophthora cinnamomi">Phytophthora cinnamomi</a> and therefore its presence in gullies could be used to assist in monitoring hygiene techniques.

# Eucalyptus calophylla (Appendix A4)

Marri occurred over the majority of the survey area, but varied in its abundance. Higher ratings were recorded on the lower slopes and in the side-gullies to the north. The latter appeared to relate to the higher sand and silt components of the soils in these areas. This species tended to avoid the drier sandy-gravels and rocky areas of the upper slopes and ridges.

# Eucalyptus marginata (Appendix A5)

Jarrah occurred in the majority of the survey area. The rating method used in this survey did not include basal areas or numbers of stems and so the denser pole stands on the northern slopes were not delineated. However observations along the transects compensated for this gap in information. Jarrah tended to avoid the moister lower slopes and gullies.

#### Eucalyptus megacarpa (Appendix A6)

Bullich occurred in the gullies (particularly the well-drained creek-beds) and the lower slopes. As such, it overlapped the Yarri and Jarrah distributions. In some areas, Bullich occurred up-slope with Jarrah and in a few areas with Sheoak.

# Eucalyptus patens (Appendix A7)

Yarri occurred on the lower moist slopes in the main gullies of the survey area. In fact, Yarri tended to form a narrow fringing band near the swamps and creek-beds.

#### Persoonia elliptica (Appendix A8)

This species occurred on the sandy-gravels and gravelly soils of the upper slopes and ridges of the survey area. The abundance levels were relatively low (usually less than or equal to 2).

#### Persoonia longifolia (Appendix A9)

Snottygobble occurred on the majority of the mid and upper slopes of the survey area. This species, like Bull Banksia, tended to avoid the lower slopes and gullies.

## Melaleuca preissiana (Appendix Al0)

Paperbark occurred on the broad wetter swamp areas in the gullies fringing the survey area.

#### Xylomelum occidentale

This species occurred in localized patches on the lower slopes with sandy soils. This species is relatively restricted in occurrence in the northern Jarrah forest and consequently was not included in Havel's studies. Larger populations occur on the coastal plain near Bunbury and south of Collie in the Jarrah forest.

In summary, these tree rating results delineated a series of patterns which were used to prepare the site-vegetation map. All species reflected site preferences in their distribution patterns. The details supplied in Appendix A should assist in monitoring the hygiene programme and other changes associated with mining operations in the Urbrae Hygiene Mining Area.

#### 4.2.2 Undergrowth Species Ratings

The data recorded for the undergrowth species were assessed for each recording site. The following text briefly summarizes the findings concerning the indicator species as defined by Havel (1975 a and b) and also selected perennial species which assisted in the preparation of the site-vegetation map and community descriptions. Only those non-indicator species (not used by Havel) which illustrated clear site preferences were included in this report. The remaining results for the other perennial species have been submitted to the Company for future reference.

The first groups of species are indicator species as defined by Havel in his Indicator Groups and Sitevegetation Types (Havel, 1975a).

Acacia extensa was restricted to several locations on the western and southern lower slopes. This species is an indicator of the group FERMO (FERtile MOist).

Acacia <u>urophylla</u> occurred on the upper gravelly slopes in the north-west and south-east of the survey area. This species is an indicator of the group GRAHIR (GRAvels in High Rainfall).

Adenanthos barbigerus occurred largely in the less undulating sandy-gravels on the northerly aspect of the survey area. This species occurs in the GRAMED (GRAvels in MEDium rainfall areas) group.

Agonis linearifolia occurred in large numbers in the wet gullies and on the valley floors. This species occurs in the WETAL (WET ALluvium) group.

Astartea fascicularis occurred in large numbers in the wet gullies and broad valley floors. This species occurs in the group VERWET (VERY WET sites).

Bossiaea aquifolium occurred on the lower slopes and steeper mid-slopes of the survey area. The denser stands were recorded in the north-west and southern areas. This species occurs in group GRAHIR.

Clematis pubescens occurred on the moister loam soils on the lower and mid slopes in the north and southwest areas. This species appeared to be relatively site-specific with other members of the HIGRA (HIgh rainfall, predominantly GRAvelly soils) group.

<u>Daviesia</u> <u>decurrens</u> (formerly <u>Daviesia</u> <u>pectinata</u>) occurred in the south-east corner of the survey area on the sandy-gravels of the upper gully. This species occurs in the DRYSAG (DRY SAndy Gravels) group.

<u>Hakea lissocarpha</u> occurred in a few localized pockets on the lower slopes in the north of the survey area. This species occurs in the BROFER group (BROad tendency towards higher FERtility)

Hakea ruscifolia occurred in several localized patches on the northern lower slopes and on the sandy-gravelly soils in the south of the survey area. This species is similar to <u>Daviesia decurrens</u> in its grouping (group DRYSAG).

Hovea chorizemifolia occurred on the upper slopes and ridges in the survey area. This species occurs in the GRAMED group.

Kennedia coccinea was relatively restricted in its occurrence in the survey area. Minor patches were recorded in the north-west and south-east corners. Havel (1975a) noted that Kennedia coccinea appeared to have a range comparable with that of <u>Hakea lissocarpha</u>. The results from this survey generally support that observation.

<u>Lasiopetalum floribundum</u> occurred on the lower and mid slopes of the survey area. This species occurs in the GRAHIR group.

<u>Lepidosperma</u> <u>angustatum</u> occurred in only restricted areas on the upper sandy-gravel slopes and as such does not contribute significantly to the separation of Site-vegetation Types and the mapping. This species occurs in the BROMO (BROad MOist areas) group.

<u>Lepidosperma</u> tetraquetrum occurred on the wet valley floors. This species occurs in the WETAL group.

<u>Leptocarpus</u> <u>scariosus</u> occurred on the moister lower slopes in the north and south. This species occurs in the BROWET (BROad tendency towards WET sites) group.

<u>Leptomeria</u> <u>cunninghamii</u> did not occur in sufficient areas or in large numbers to warrant further investigation in this survey.

Leucopogon capitellatus and Leucopogon propinquus occurred over the majority of the area on gravelly soils. These species occur in the FREGRA (FRESH GRAvels with maximum development on admixture of lateritic gravels and fresh soils developed from underlying rocks) group.

<u>Leucopogon</u> oxycedrus occurred in relatively low numbers, but consistently on the sandy gravels and gravels of the mid and upper slopes.

<u>Leucopogon verticillatus</u> occurred in large numbers over the majority of the survey area. However it tended to avoid the lower slopes and gullies. In this regard it differed from its other HIGRA species by being less site-specific in its occurrence.

<u>Macrozamia riedlei</u> occurred throughout the survey area, although in larger numbers on the northern slopes. This distribution differed from that of other members of the FREGRA group. In this instance, numbers appear to be more important than presence of a particular species.

Phyllanthus calycinus occurred over the majority of the slopes with gravelly soils. This species occurs in the FREGRA group.

Pteridium aquilinum (Bracken) occurred on the moister gravelly soils. Its distribution was similar to that of <u>Clematis pubescens</u>, but was not as widespread as <u>Leucopogon verticillatus</u> of the same HIGRA group.

<u>Sphaerolobium medium</u> occurred in minor patches and did not contribute to the understanding of species groupings.

<u>Styphelia</u> <u>tenuiflora</u> occurred on the sandy-gravels of the south-east and northern lower slopes. This species occurs in the DRYGRA (DRY GRAvels) group.

Trymalium ledifolium occurred on the majority of gravelly slopes. The distribution was similar to that of Phyllanthus calycinus.

The majority of these indicator species assisted in delineating the distribution of the Indicator Groups and the Site-vegetation Types in the Urbrae Hygiene Mining Area.

Other species recorded also showed clear-cut site preferences and were consequently used in the delineation of the mapping units. They were

Boronia crenulata var. gracilis was restricted to moist lower slopes supporting an open forest of Bullich.

Boronia molloyae was restricted to creek-beds and wet valley floors.

<u>Callistemon</u> <u>speciosus</u> was restricted to wet valley floors.

<u>Daviesia</u> <u>rhombifolia</u> was restricted to drier sandygravels supporting a woodland of Jarrah-Marri.

Gahnia decomposita was restricted to wet valley floors and creek-beds.

Hypocalymma cordifolium was restricted to wet valley
floors and creek-beds.

<u>Mirbelia dilatata</u> was restricted to lower moist slopes supporting an open forest of Marri-Jarrah with some admixtures of Bullich.

<u>Xanthorrhoea preissii</u> was widespread in occurrence, with larger numbers recorded on the lower slopes and steeper mid-slopes.

#### 4.2.3 Forest Stress Assessment

Results are summarized for the four tree species which are recognized as being vulnerable to the fungus disease <a href="Phytophthora cinnamomi">Phytophthora cinnamomi</a> (Appendix B). Stress was also observed in Xanthorrhoea preissii and Macrozamia riedlei.

Results for the four tree species were:

Banksia grandis stands displayed old and recent stress. The majority of the deaths were old (with no signs of recent discolouration or loss of leaves). Recent deaths were recorded predominantly near tracks in the western and southern sections of the survey area. Additional observations near the tracks indicated that the areas of recent stress illustrated on the maps were more extensive than suggested by the transecting on the 120m x 120 grid system.

Banksia <u>littoralis</u> stands were relatively healthy, with only one old death being observed on the transecting.

Eucalyptus marginata stands were relatively stressed throughout the survey area; stress ratings tended to be 1 or 2 in most areas. Where deaths had occurred, they were mostly old and many related to age ("stag" deaths). Additional observations recorded several recent deaths on the lower slopes in the south-west corner of the survey area. This pattern was also noted in the Bull Banksia.

<u>Persoonia</u> <u>longifolia</u> stands were relatively healthy, as only a limited number of deaths were recorded in the survey area.

Results for the other tree species reflected some slight stress (levels usually 1), except where old "stags" of Marri were recorded.

In summary, the stress levels evident in the forest areas indicated that there were localized patches of recent deaths. These areas require checking with other studies in the area.

#### 4.2.4 Site Assessment

The results for the site assessment parameters are summarized in Appendix C.

Several of the parameters were not mapped, but were used in the checking of the draft site-vegetation map. These parameters included the gravel size, gravel colour (no black gravel was recorded in the survey area), slope, aspect, topographic position and drainage patterns. Relationships with these site conditions are evident from the site preferences of the different plant species (e.g. Agonis linearifolia occurred in the wet broad valley floors; section 4.2.2).

<u>Soil Colours</u> (Appendix Cl) reflected the degree of leaching and weathering processes. The main trends included the orange soils on the upper slopes, light brown soils in the gullies and on the lower slopes, brown soils on the slopes and yellow and grey soils on the lower slopes and valley floors.

<u>Soil</u> <u>Composition</u> (Appendices C2, C3 and C4) recordings reflected the transition from gravelly soil on the upper slopes, through sandy-gravels on the mid and upper slopes to silts and loams in the sidegullies and on the lower slopes.

Boulders and Outcropping (Appendix C5) observations showed that the boulders occurred mainly on the upper slopes and ridges, while the shallow outcrops and caprock were restricted to the ridges in the survey area.

These results were used in checking the draft sitevegetation map. The site conditions assisted in delineating and clarifying the map boundaries.

## 4.2.5 Logging Assessment

The results for past logging activities are summarized in Appendix D.

Results indicated that the early logging activities in the area were extensive (though not intensive) over the majority of the survey area. Predictably, logging rates were low near the swamps and lower slopes. Recent logging activities have been concentrated in the southern areas near the main access tracks. The impact of logging tracks and logging activities is particularly evident on the aerial photographs of this southern section. The logging activities appear to correspond to several of the Site-vegetation Types (e.g. D, P-D, P-S2 and S2). Previous logging activities may have affected the current

floristic composition of the plant communities. The latter was taken into consideration when assessing the structural and floristic differences in the survey area.

# 4.3 <u>Site-vegetation Map</u>

All the results summarized in the previous sections were reviewed and summarized by Indicator Group and Sitevegetation Types for the delineation of the mapping units (Table 3).

Indicator Groups

							-				
	W	V	F	В	G	H	D	$\mathbf{F}$	G	S	D
	$\mathbf{E}$	E	E	R	R	I	R	R	R	A	R
	${f T}$	R	R	0	Α	G	Y	${f E}$	Α	N	Y
Site-	Α	W	М	W	H	R	S	G	M	G	G
vegetation	${f L}$	$\mathbf{E}$	0	E	I	Α	Α	R	$\mathbf{E}$	R	R
Types		${f T}$		${f T}$	R		G	A	D	A	Α
A-C	+	+									
C	+	+	+								
A-M1		+	+	+			+				
Wl	+		+		+						
W2	+				+	+		+			
Tl					+	+		+			
Т2					+	+		+	+		
P-S1					+	+		+	+	+	
P-S2						+		+	+	+	+
S2						+		+	+		
Sl-P								+	+	+	+
Sl								+	+		+
P-O							+	+	+	+	+
0							+	+	+		+

These Site-vegetation Types were mapped at a scale of 1:5000 for the Urbrae Hygiene Mining Area. The mapping units were:

- A-C Closed Heath and Low Open Woodland of <u>Melaleuca</u>
  <a href="mailto:preissiana">preissiana</a>, <u>Banksia littoralis</u>. Understorey
  species dominated by <u>Agonis linearifolia</u>, and
  <a href="mailto:Astartea">Astartea</a> fascicularis.
  Indicator Groups: VERWET and WETAL.
- Open woodland of <u>Eucalyptus patens-E. megacarpa</u> with admixtures of <u>Banksia littoralis</u>. Understorey species include <u>Thomasia paniculata</u>, <u>Lepidosperma tetraquetrum</u>, <u>Agonis linearifolia</u> and <u>Hypocalymma cordifolium</u>.

  Indicator Groups: WETAL, VERWET, FERMO.
- A-Wl Open forest of <u>Eucalyptus marginata-E. calophylla</u> with some admixtures of <u>E. patens</u>. Other dominant species include <u>Banksia littoralis</u> and <u>Xylomelum occidentale</u>, <u>Leptocarpus scariosus</u>, <u>Xanthorrhoea preissii</u> and <u>Hakea ruscifolia</u>.

  Indicator Groups: VERWET, FERMO, BROWET, DRYSAG.
- Understorey species include Boronia crenulata var.gracilis, Lasiopetalum floribundum and Xanthorrhoea preissii.

  Indicator Groups: WETAL, FERMO, GRAHIR.
- Open forest of <u>Eucalyptus megacarpa-E. calophylla</u> and <u>E. marginata</u>. Understorey species dominated by <u>Xanthorrhoea preissii</u>, <u>Lasiopetalum floribundum</u> and <u>Bossiaea aquifolium</u>.

  Indicator Groups: WETAL, GRAHIR, HIGRA, FREGRA.
- Open forest of <u>Eucalyptus calophylla-E.</u>

  <u>marginata.</u> Understorey species dominated by

  <u>Bossiaea aquifolium, Lasiopetalum floribundum,</u>

  <u>Macrozamia riedlei, Pteridium aquilinum and</u>

  <u>Xanthorrhoea preissii.</u>

  Indicator Groups: GRAHIR, HIGRA, FREGRA.

Open forest of <u>Eucalyptus marginata-E. calophylla</u> with occasional admixtures of <u>Banksia grandis</u> and <u>Persoonia longifolia</u>. Understorey species dominated by <u>Phyllanthus calycinus</u>, <u>Pteridium aquilinum</u>, <u>Acacia urophylla</u>, <u>Lasiopetalum floribundum</u>, <u>Hovea chorizemifolia</u> and <u>Clematis pubescens</u>.

Indicator Groups: GRAHIR, HIGRA, FREGRA, GRAMED.

P-Sl Open forest of <u>Eucalyptus marginata-E.</u>

<u>calophylla</u>, with admixtures of <u>Allocasuarina</u>

<u>fraseriana</u>, <u>Banksia grandis</u> and <u>Persoonia</u>

<u>longifolia</u>. Understorey species dominated by

<u>Hovea chorizemifolia</u>, <u>Adenanthos barbigerus</u>,

<u>Phyllanthus calycinus</u>, <u>Leucopogon verticillatus</u>

and Lasiopetalum floribundum.

Indicator Groups: largely SANGRA, FREGRA, GRAMED, to a lesser extent HIGRA and GRAHIR.

P-S2 Open forest of <u>Eucalyptus marginata-E. calophylla</u> with admixtures of <u>Allocasuarina fraseriana</u>,

<u>Banksia grandis</u> and <u>Persoonia longifolia</u>. Understorey species include <u>Hovea chorizemifolia</u>,

<u>Leucopogon capitellatus</u>, <u>Leucopogon verticillatus</u>, <u>Phyllanthus calycinus and Styphelia tenuiflora</u>.

Indicator Groups: largely SANGRA, FREGRA, GRAMED, to a lesser extent HIGRA and DRYGRA.

Open forest of <u>Eucalyptus marginata-E. calophylla</u> with admixtures of <u>Banksia grandis</u> and <u>Persoonia longifolia</u>. Understorey species include <u>Leucopogon capitellatus</u>, <u>Leucopogon propinquus</u>, <u>Leucopogon verticillatus</u>, <u>Hovea chorizemifolia</u> and patches of <u>Pteridium aquilinum</u>.

Indicator Groups: largely GRAMED, FREGRA, to a lesser extent HIGRA.

S1-P Open forest of <u>Eucalyptus marginata-E.</u>

<u>calophylla</u>, with admixtures of <u>Banksia grandis</u>

and the occassional occurrence of <u>Allocasuarina</u>

<u>fraseriana</u>. Understorey species dominated by

<u>Adenanthos barbigerus</u>, <u>Phyllanthus calycinus</u> and

<u>Leucopogon verticilllatus</u>. In floristic composition it is similar to P-S1, but differs in the minor occurrence of Sheoak.

Indicator Groups: largely FREGRA, GRAMED, to a lesser extent DRYGRA and SANGRA.

Open forest of <u>Eucalyptus marginata-E.</u>

<u>calophylla</u> with admixtures of <u>Banksia grandis</u> and

<u>Persoonia longifolia</u>. Understorey species

dominated by <u>Adenanthos barbigerus</u>, <u>Leucopogon</u>

<u>capitellatus</u>, <u>Hovea chorizemifolia</u> and

Phyllanthus calycinus.

Indicator Groups: largely FREGRA, GRAMED, to lesser extent DRYGRA.

P-O Open woodland and open forest of <u>Eucalyptus</u> <u>marginata-E. calophylla</u>, with admixtures of <u>Allocasuarina fraseriana</u> and <u>Banksia grandis</u>. Understorey species dominated by <u>Daviesia decurrens</u>, <u>Hakea ruscifolia</u>, <u>Trymalium ledifolium</u>, <u>Phyllanthus calycinus</u> and <u>Styphelia tenuiflora</u>.

Open woodland of <u>Eucalyptus marginata-E.</u>
<a href="mailto:calophylla">calophylla</a>, with some admixtures of <u>Persoonia longifolia</u> and <u>Banksia grandis</u>. Understorey species dominated by <u>Daviesia decurrens</u>, <u>Hakea ruscifolia</u>, <u>Trymalium ledifolium</u>, <u>Phyllanthus calycinus and Styphelia tenuiflora</u>.

Indicator Groups: DRYSAG, DRYGRA, FREGRA, GRAMED.

### 5. <u>DISCUSSION</u> AND CONCLUSIONS

In view of the objectives of the botanical studies on the Urbrae Hygiene Mining Area, an emphasis was placed on delineating mapping units which would assist in summarizing the plant communities and site conditions in the survey area as well as providing a baseline for future management programmes associated with the hygiene mining operation. Consequently, the Site-vegetation Types were grouped to reflect underlying structural and floristic differences in the plant communities. In each case, these differences were checked with existing site conditions.

Some of the mapping units were clear-cut. The most obvious was the heaths in the swamp communities. vegetation Types A-C and C were clearly differentiated on both the distinct range of species and the underlying soil conditions. The A-C type differs in floristic composition from the eastern A swamp type as defined by Havel (1975a), with the dominance of the shrubs, Agonis linearifolia and Astartea fascicularis. The Wl and W2 distinction was based primarily upon the differences in the overstorey (Wl, an open forest of Yarri-Bullich; W2, an open forest of Bullich-Marri-Jarrah). This division was supported by differences in understorey species and site conditions. A - Wl was a local variation with distinctive species composition, (Banksia littoralis, Eucalyptus marginata and Xylomelum occidentale). This separation was further clarified by recordings on the understorey species and the site conditions (sandy soils which were subject to seasonal moisture as reflected by Leptocarpus scariosus).

The Site-vegetation Types O and W differed from the description of these types by Havel (1975a and b) by varying degrees, either through logging in the case of O or through the changes in floristic composition in W (e.g. Bullich upslope with Jarrah). Irrespective of these differences, when compared with Havel's descriptions they had closer affinities with these types than others.

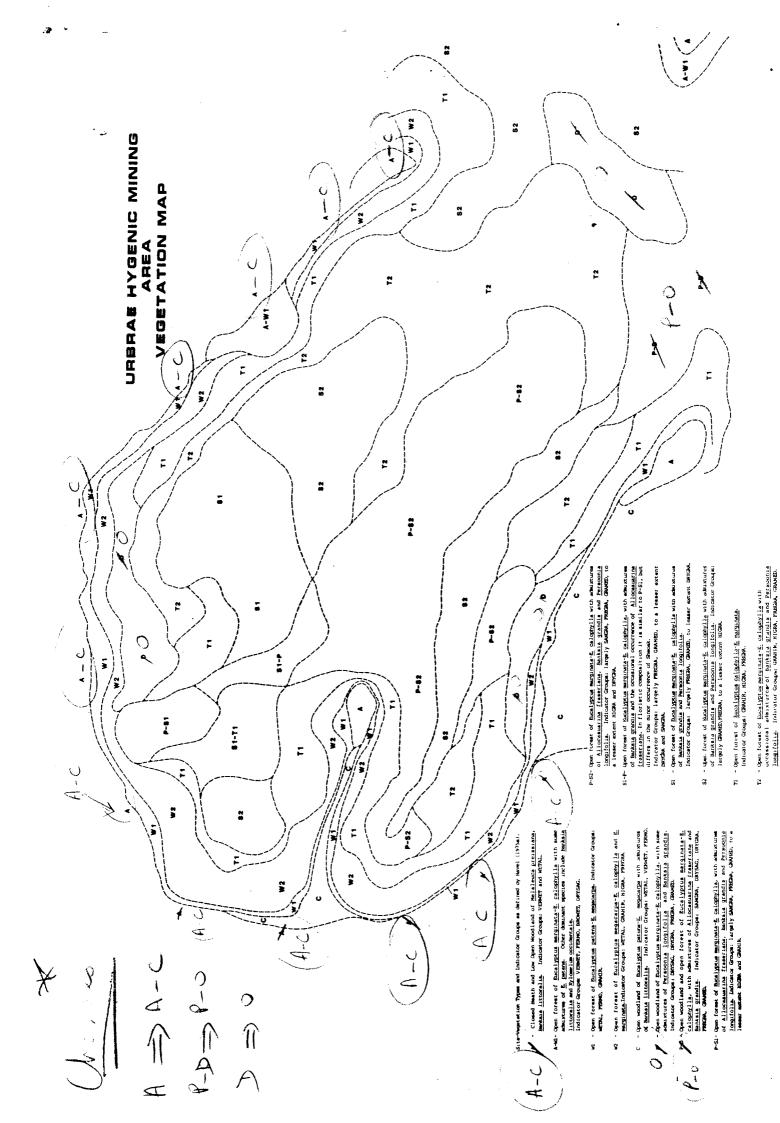
The Site-vegetation Types Tl and T2 were split initially on their different overstorey composition (Tl, an open forest of Marri-Jarrah; T2, an open forest of Jarrah-Marri with admixtures of Bull Banksia). Other differences in the understorey composition later confirmed the need to separate these mapping units. Tl had affinities with Site-vegetation Type T as defined by Havel (1975a); while T2 had affinities with a mixture of T and S types (whether a T-S or S-T type depends on the interpreter's weighting of the indicator species). Further a review of the soils and site conditions added to the justification (e.g. higher gravel component in T2).

Similar differences were recorded in the P-S1, P-S2, S1 and S2 divisions. The P influence related to the high occurrence of Sheoak and hence sandy-gravels; S1 was related to the presence of <u>Adenanthos barbigerus</u> and the sandy gravelly soils while S2 was related to the dominance of Jarrah and Bull Banksia on the shallow soils on the ridges and upper slopes. In all instances, these mapping units and varying combinations were reinforced by other undestorey species and site parameters. Other studies in the Jarrah forest have reinforced the need to clarify the differing vulnerability of the Indicator Groups in the different Site-vegetation Types to disease and other impacts.

In summary, it was possible to subdivide the Site-vegetation Types into a series of mapping units which may assist in future monitoring of the impacts associated with bauxite mining operations. Although many of these differences were subtle, they were all validated by structural and floristic differences, which were in turn reinforced by changes in the site conditions.

## 6. REFERENCES

- Havel, J.J. (1975 a) "Site-vegetation Mapping in the Northern Jarrah Forest (Darling Range). 1. Definition of Site-vegetation Types." Forests Department Bulletin No. 86., Forests Department, Perth, Western Australia.
- Havel, J.J. (1975 b) "Site-vegetation Mapping in the Northern Jarrah Forest (Darling Range). 2. Location and Mapping of Site-Vegetation Types." Forests Department Bulletin No. 87., Forests Department, Perth, Western Australia.



# BOTANICAL STUDIES AT URBRAE HYGIENE MINING AREA HUNTLY

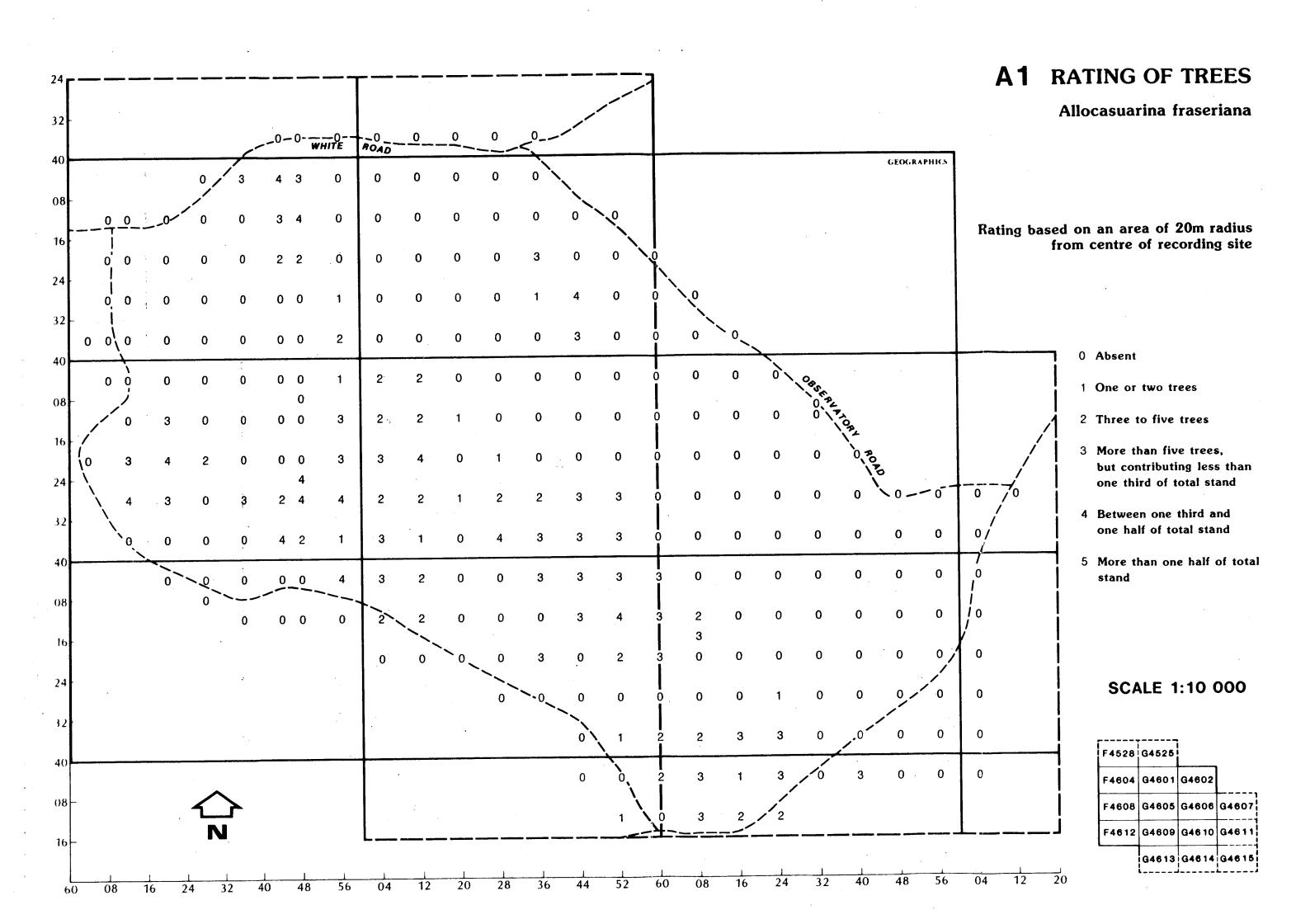
# APPENDICES

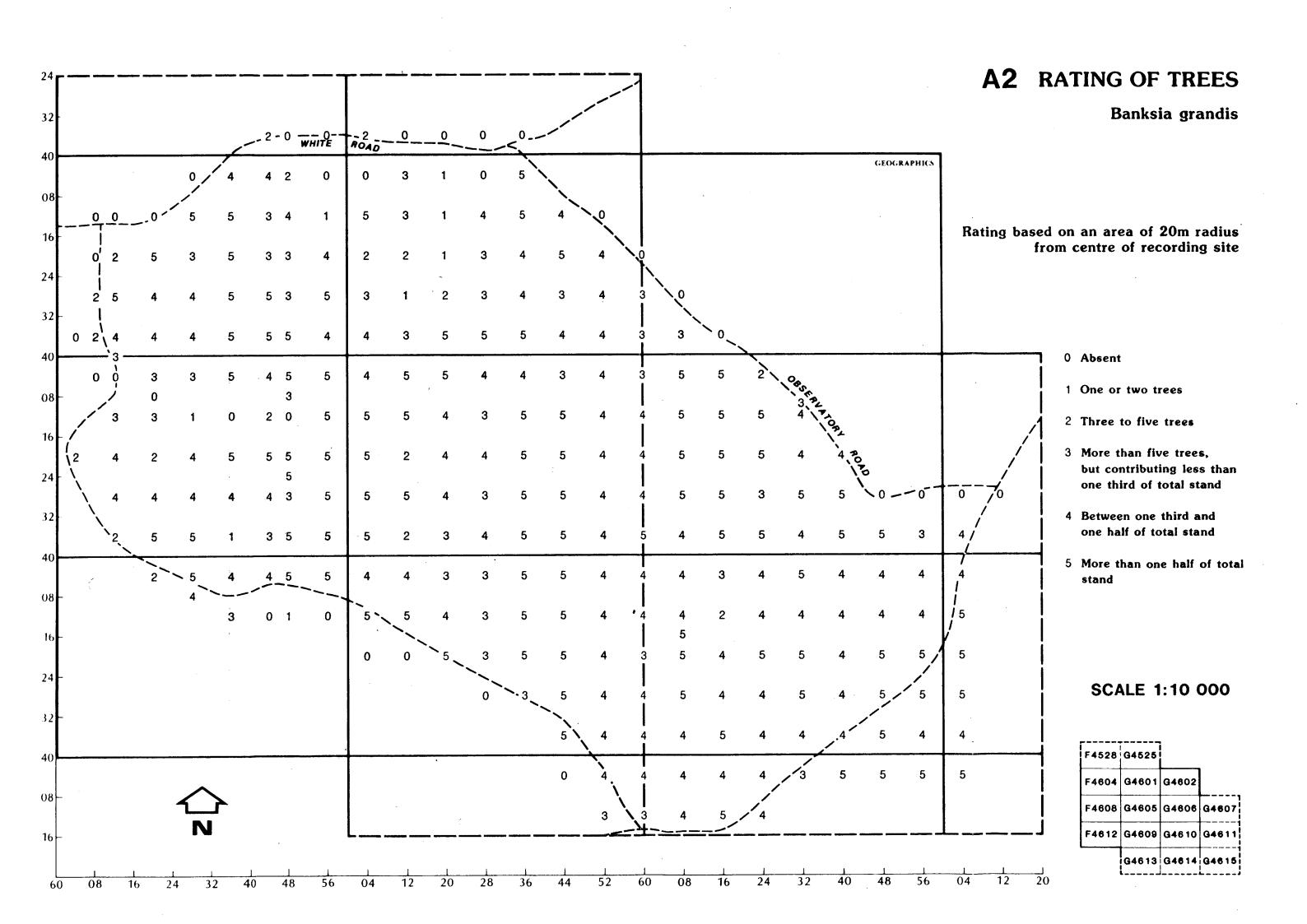
### APPENDIX A

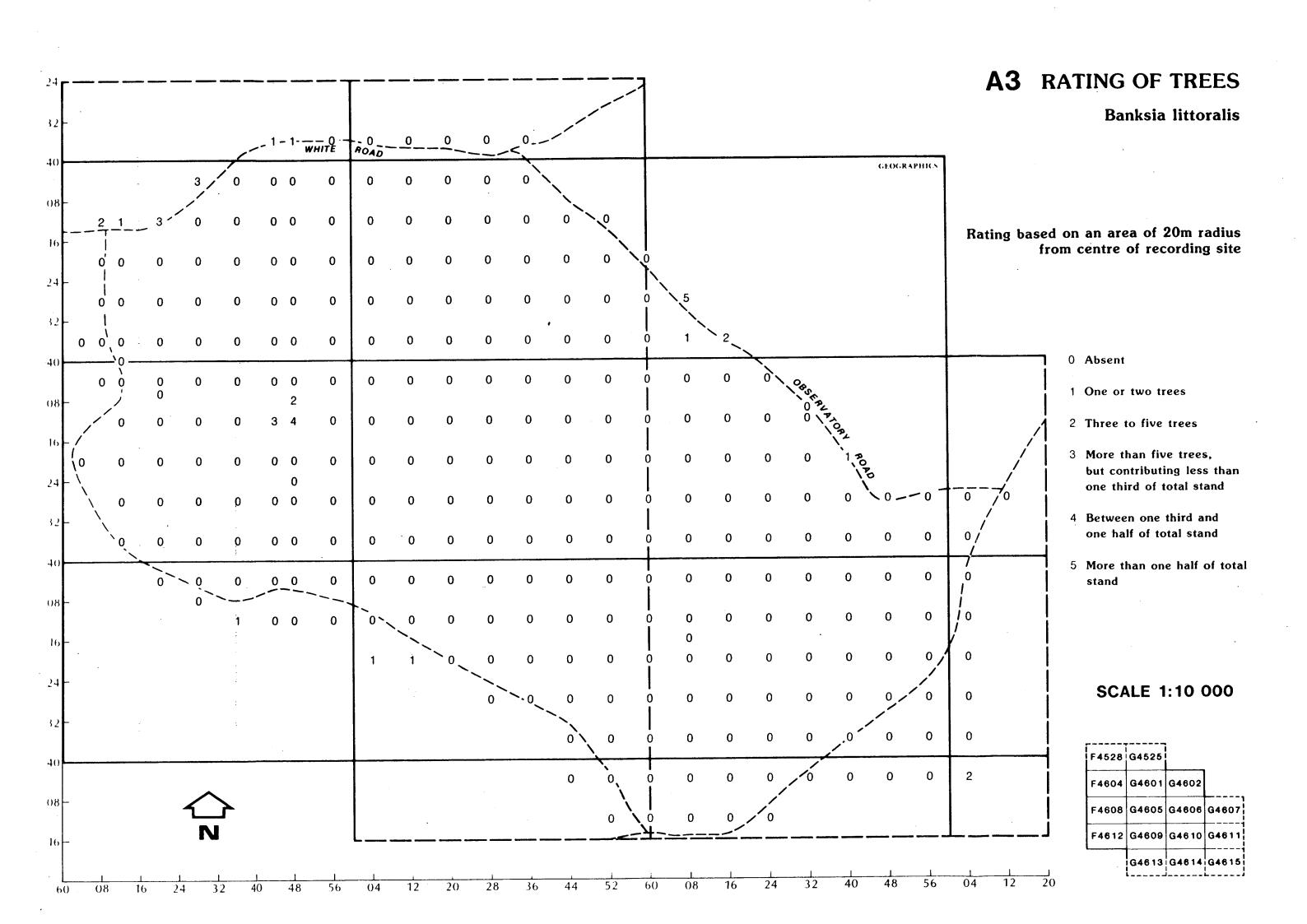
#### BOTANICAL STUDIES AT URBRAE HYGIENE MINING AREA

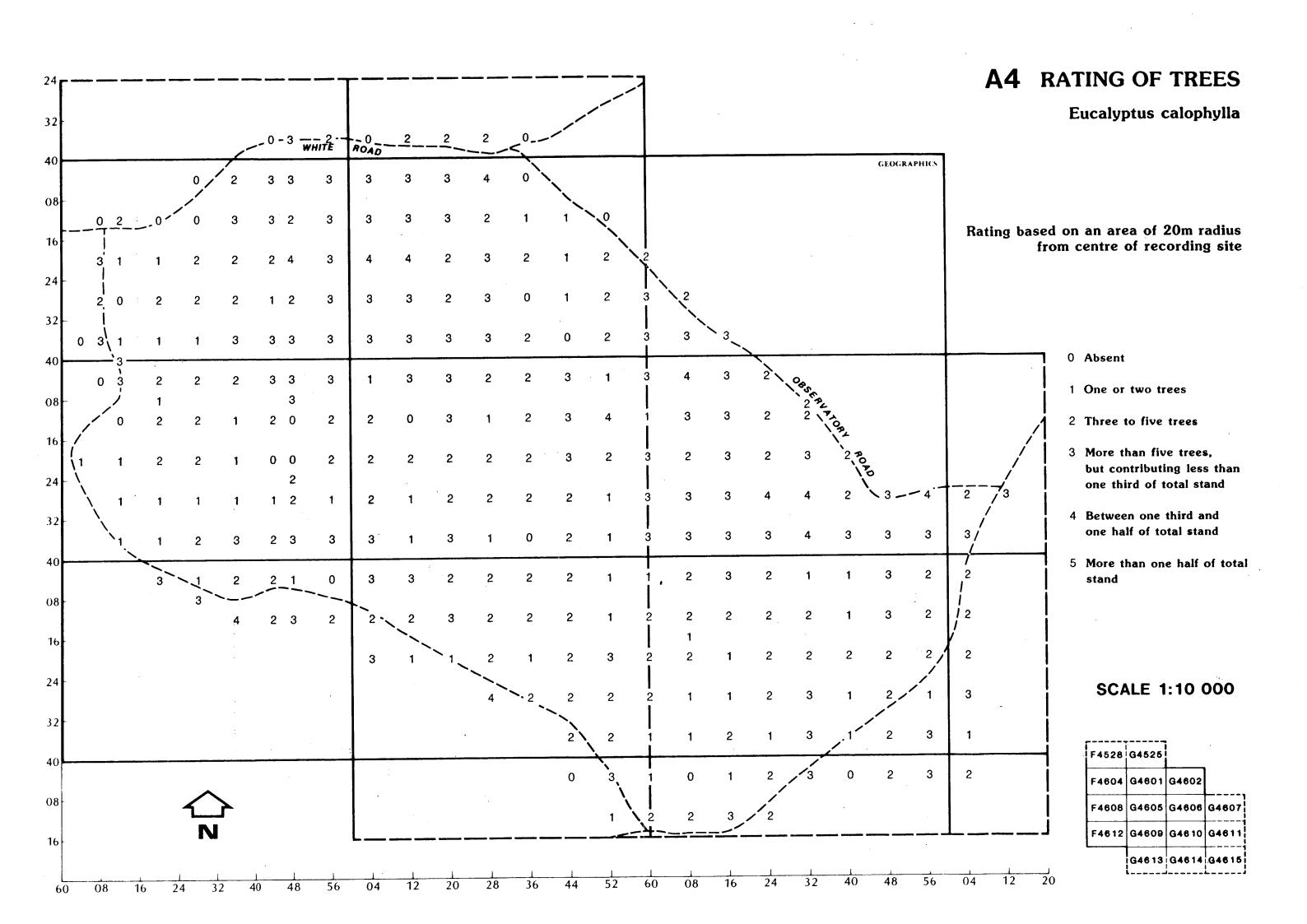
#### RATING OF TREES ON AN ABUNDANCE SCALE OF 0-5

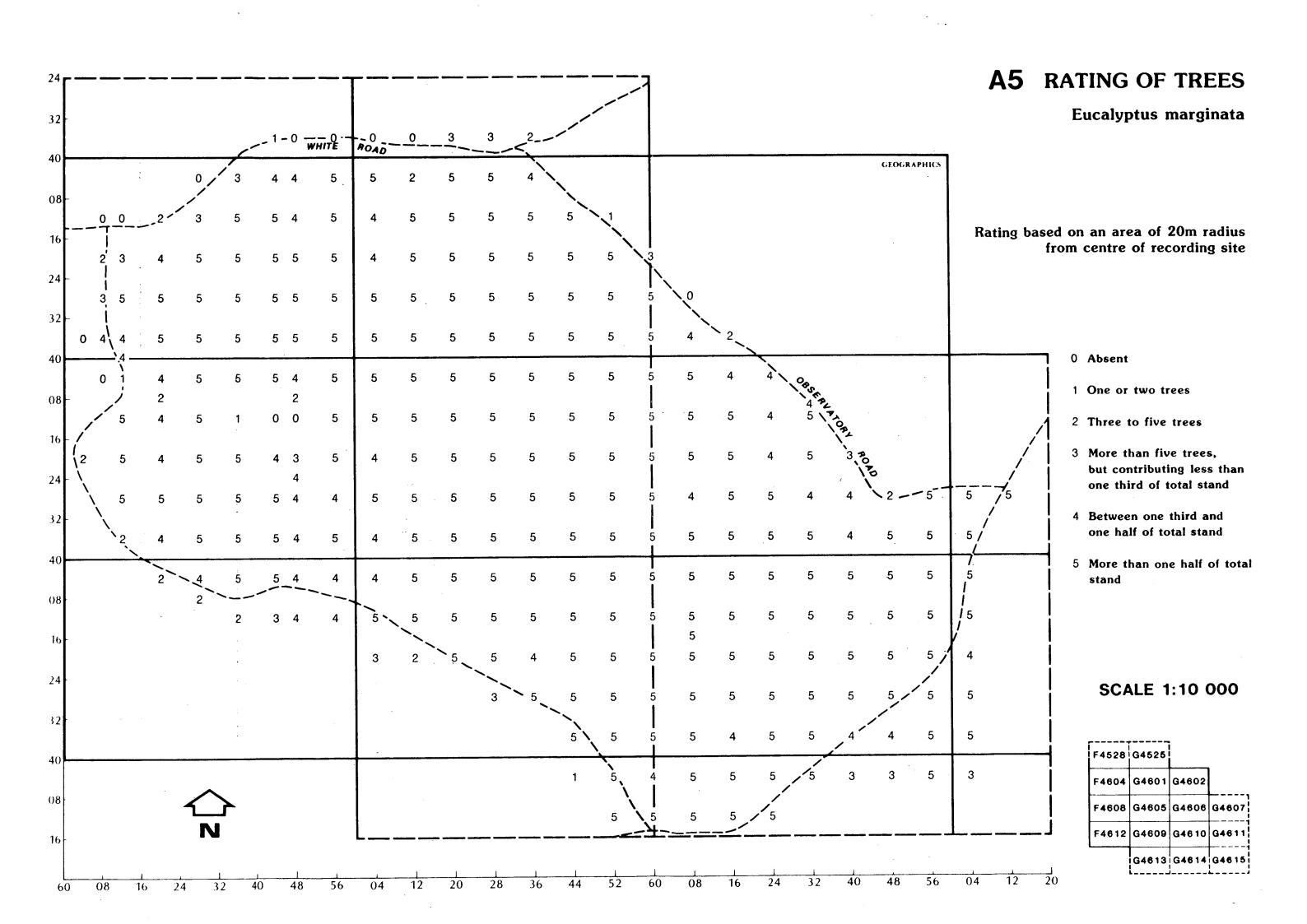
- Al Rating of Trees Allocasuarina fraseriana
- A2 Rating of Trees Banksia grandis
- A3 Rating of Trees Banksia littoralis
- A4 Rating of Trees Eucalyptus calophylla
- A5 Rating of Trees Eucalyptus marginata
- A6 Rating of Trees Eucalyptus megacarpa
- A7 Rating of Trees Eucalyptus patens
- A8 Rating of Trees Persoonia elliptica
- A9 Rating of Trees Persoonia longifolia
- AlO- Rating of Trees Melaleuca preissiana

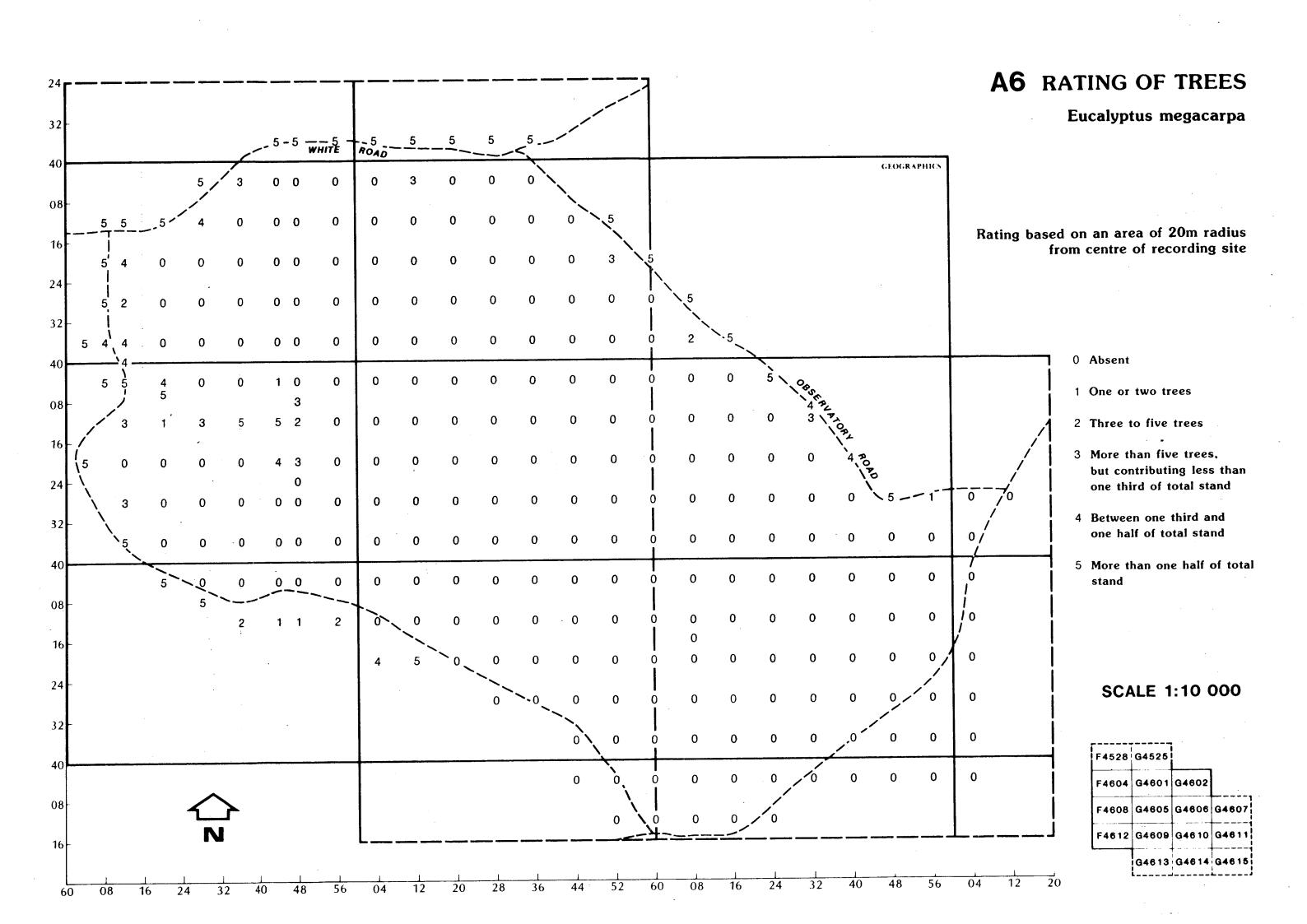


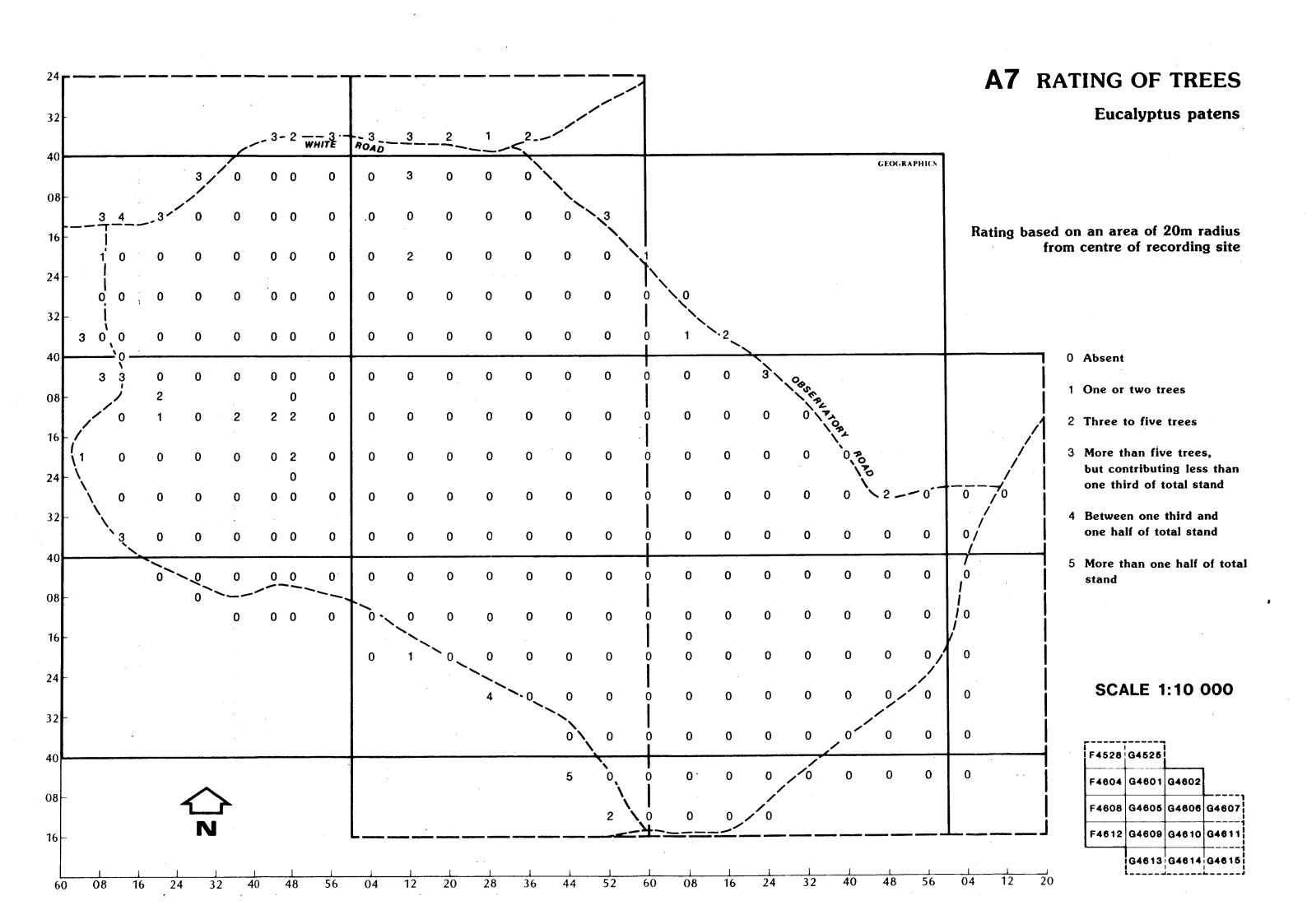


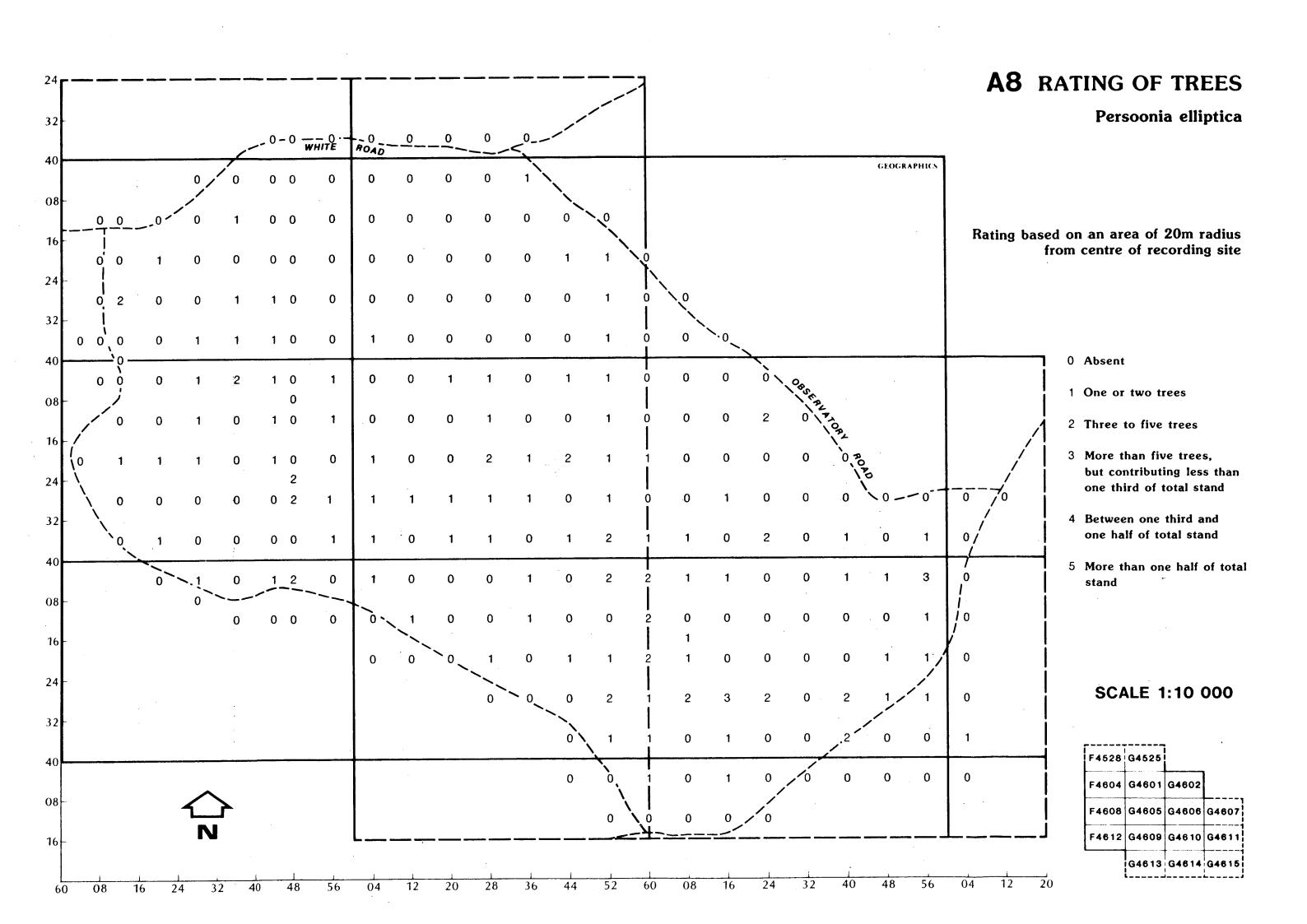


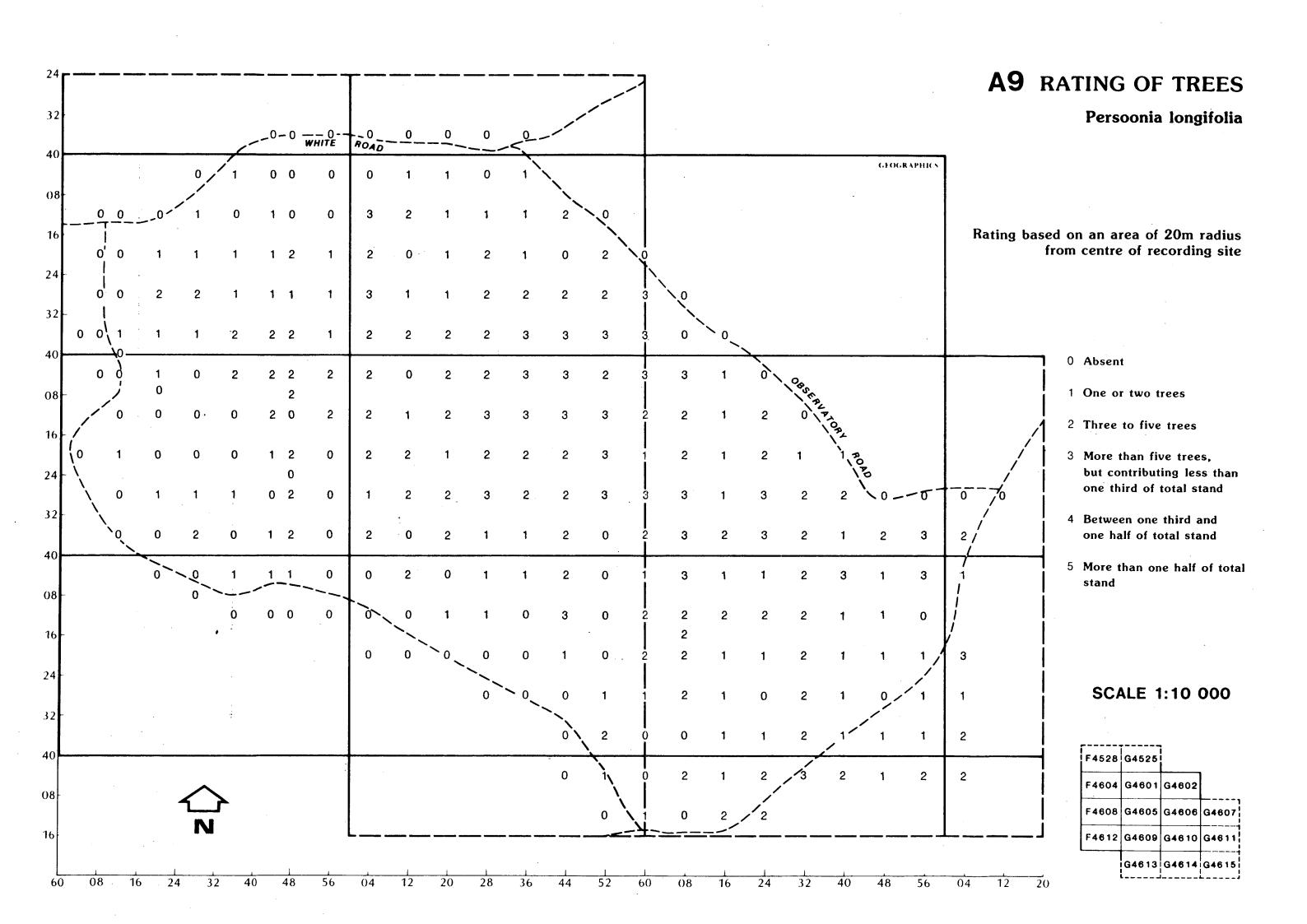


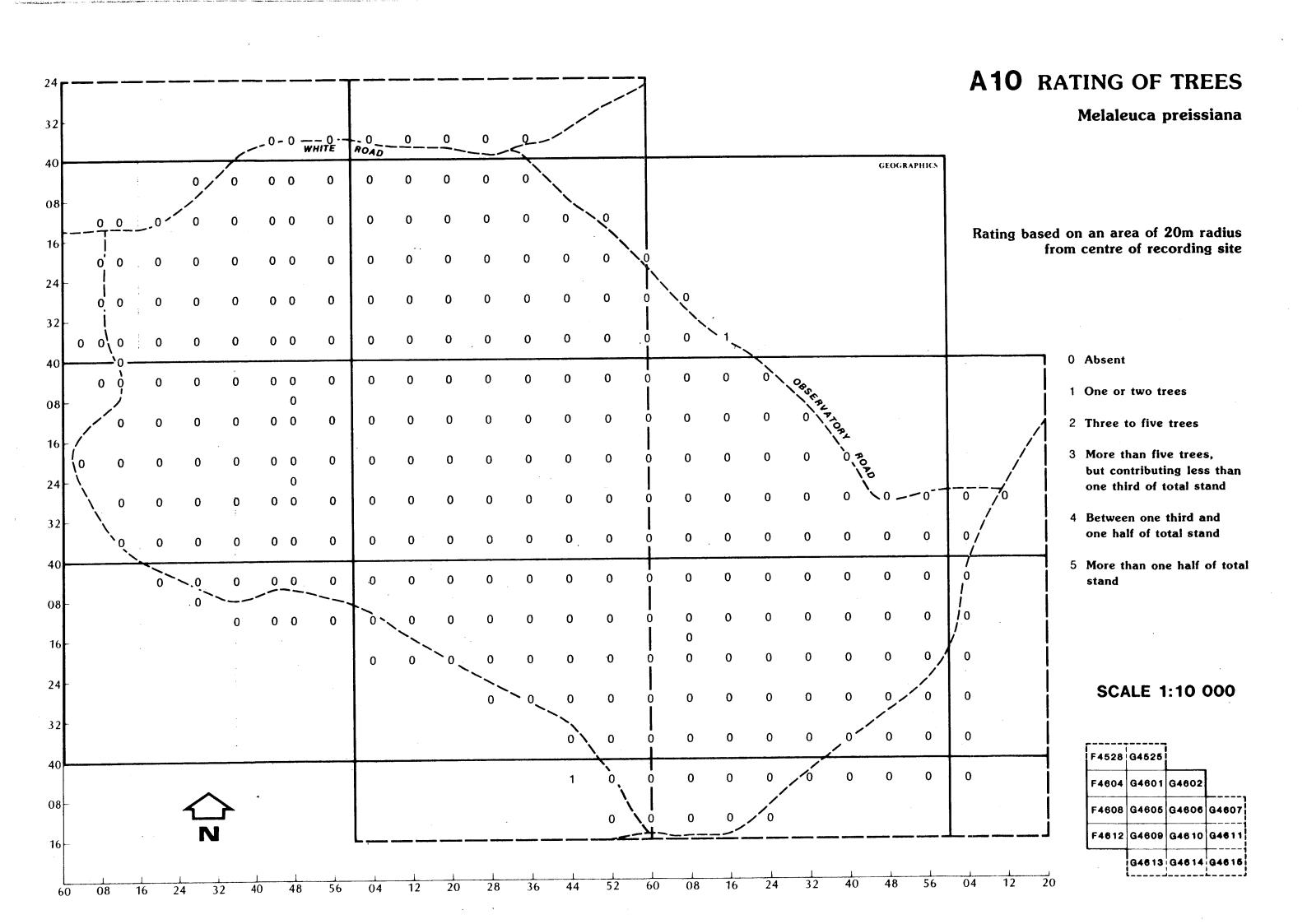










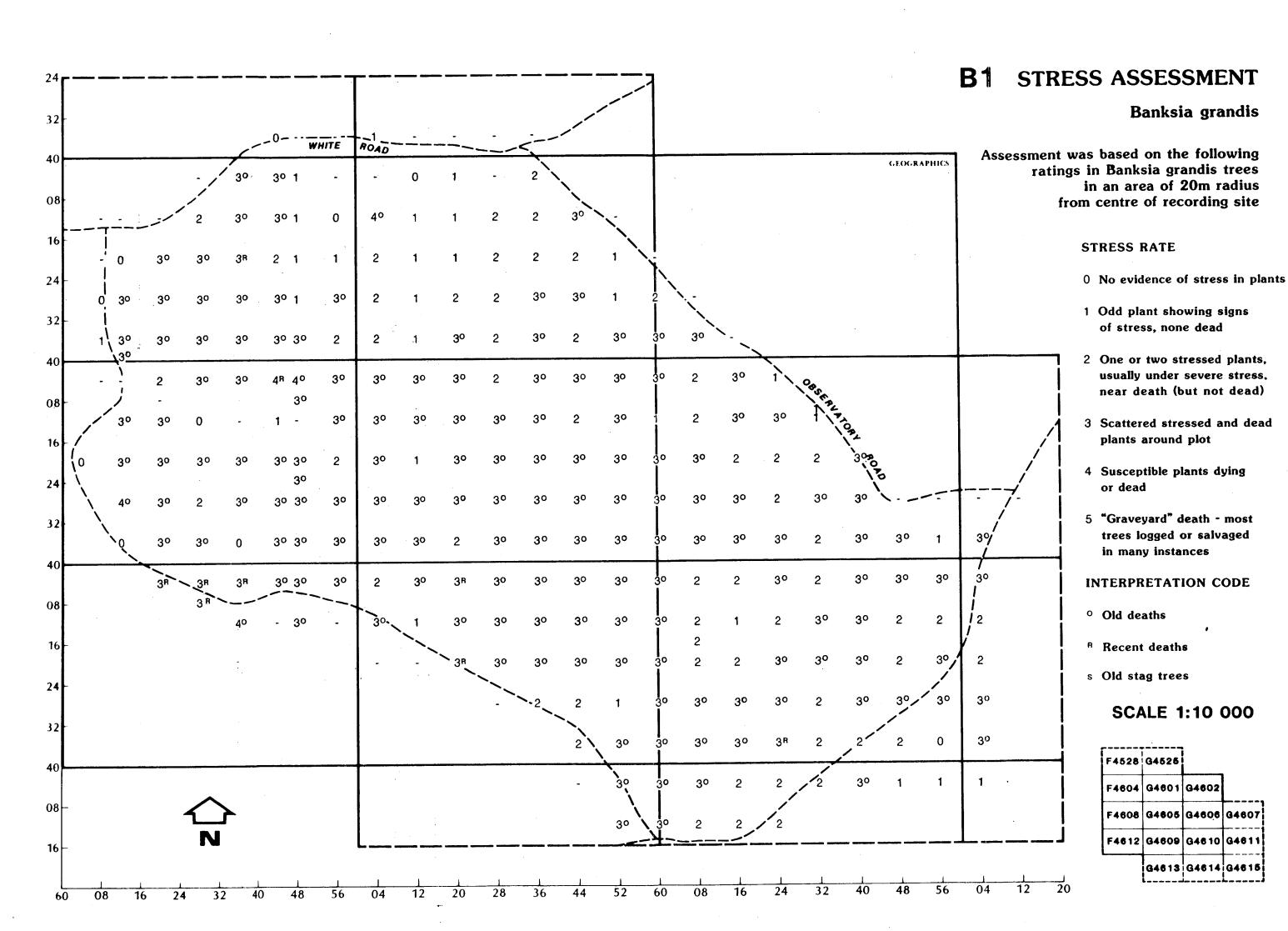


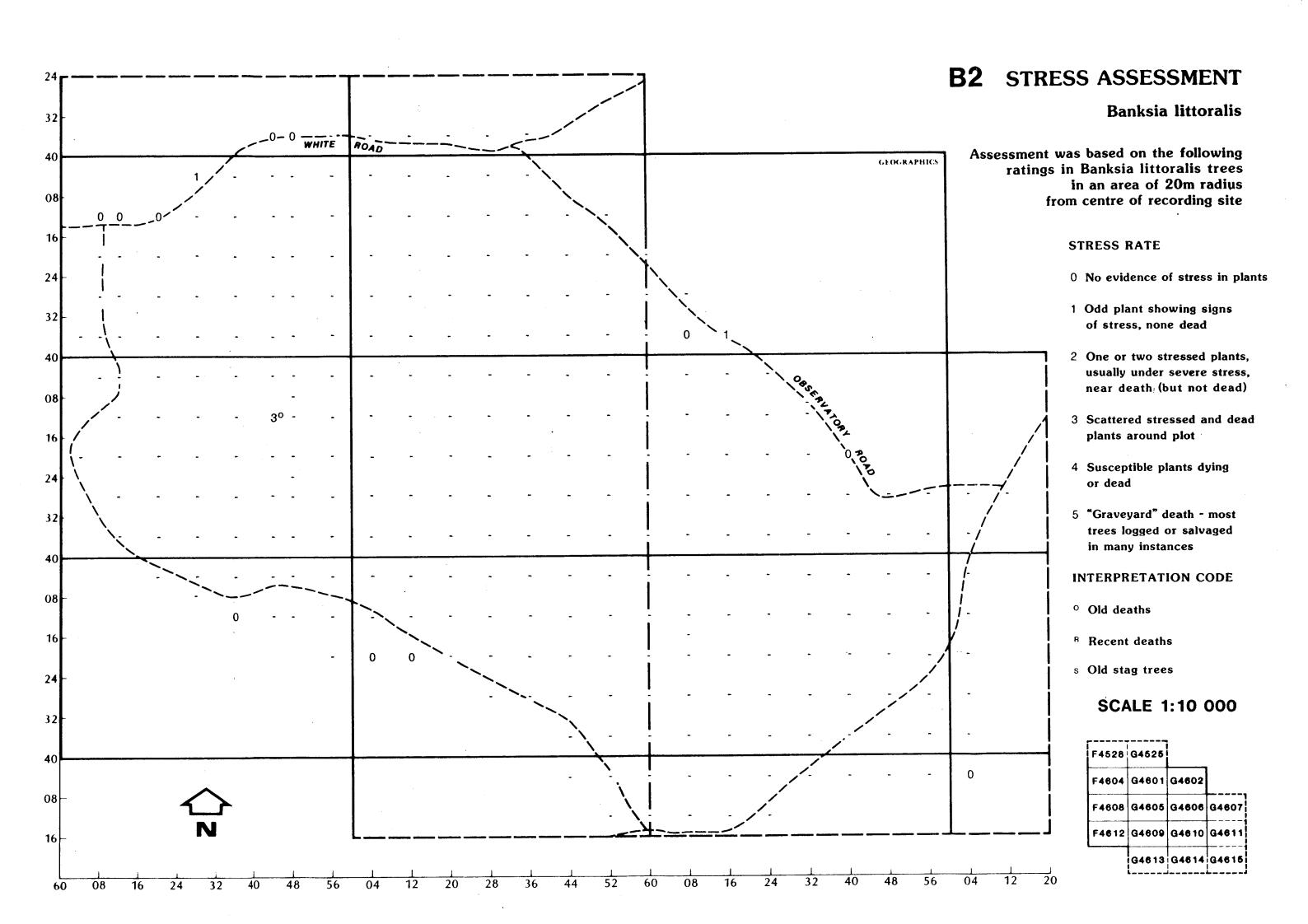
#### APPENDIX B

#### BOTANICAL STUDIES AT URBRAE HYGIENE MINING AREA

#### STRESS ASSESSMENT

- Bl Stress Assessment Banksia grandis
- B2 Stress Assessment Banksia littoralis
- B3 Stress Assessment Eucalyptus marginata
- B4 Stress Assessment Persoonia longifolia





# 32 WHITE ROAD GEOGRAPHICS 08 3\$ 24 32 Зs 2 08 2 38 38 2 2 3s 3<sup>s</sup> 38 3A 24 3s 32 08 16

### **B3** STRESS ASSESSMENT

#### Eucalyptus marginata

Assessment was based on the following ratings in Eucalyptus marginata trees in an area of 20m radius from centre of recording site

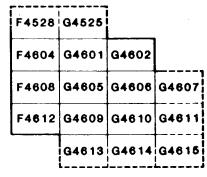
#### STRESS RATE

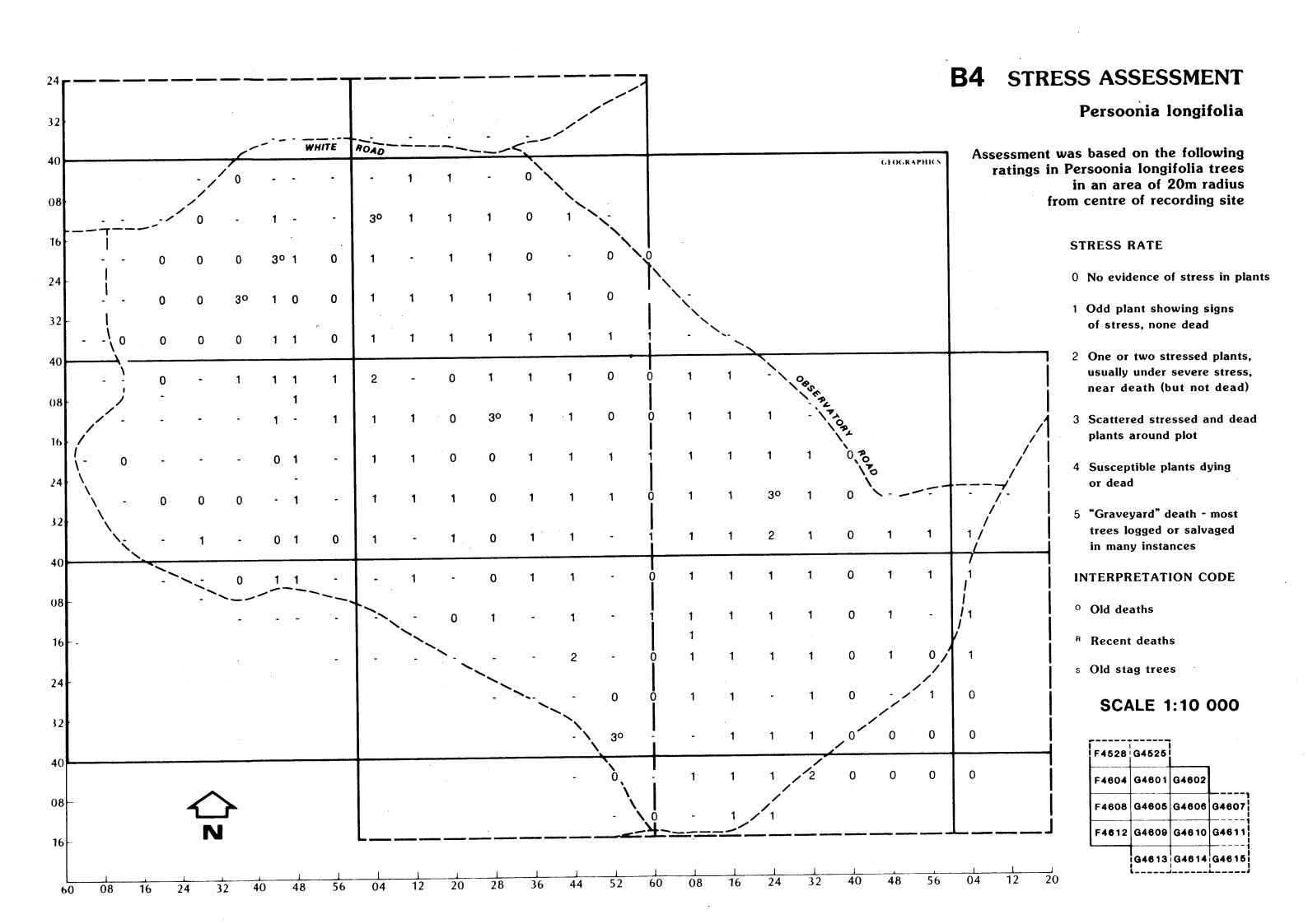
- 0 No evidence of stress in plants
- 1 Odd plant showing signs of stress, none dead
- 2 One or two stressed plants, usually under severe stress, near death (but not dead)
- 3 Scattered stressed and dead plants around plot
- 4 Susceptible plants dying or dead
- 5 "Graveyard" death most trees logged or salvaged in many instances

#### **INTERPRETATION CODE**

- A Alternative causes of old deaths
- Recent deaths
- s Old stag trees

#### **SCALE 1:10 000**



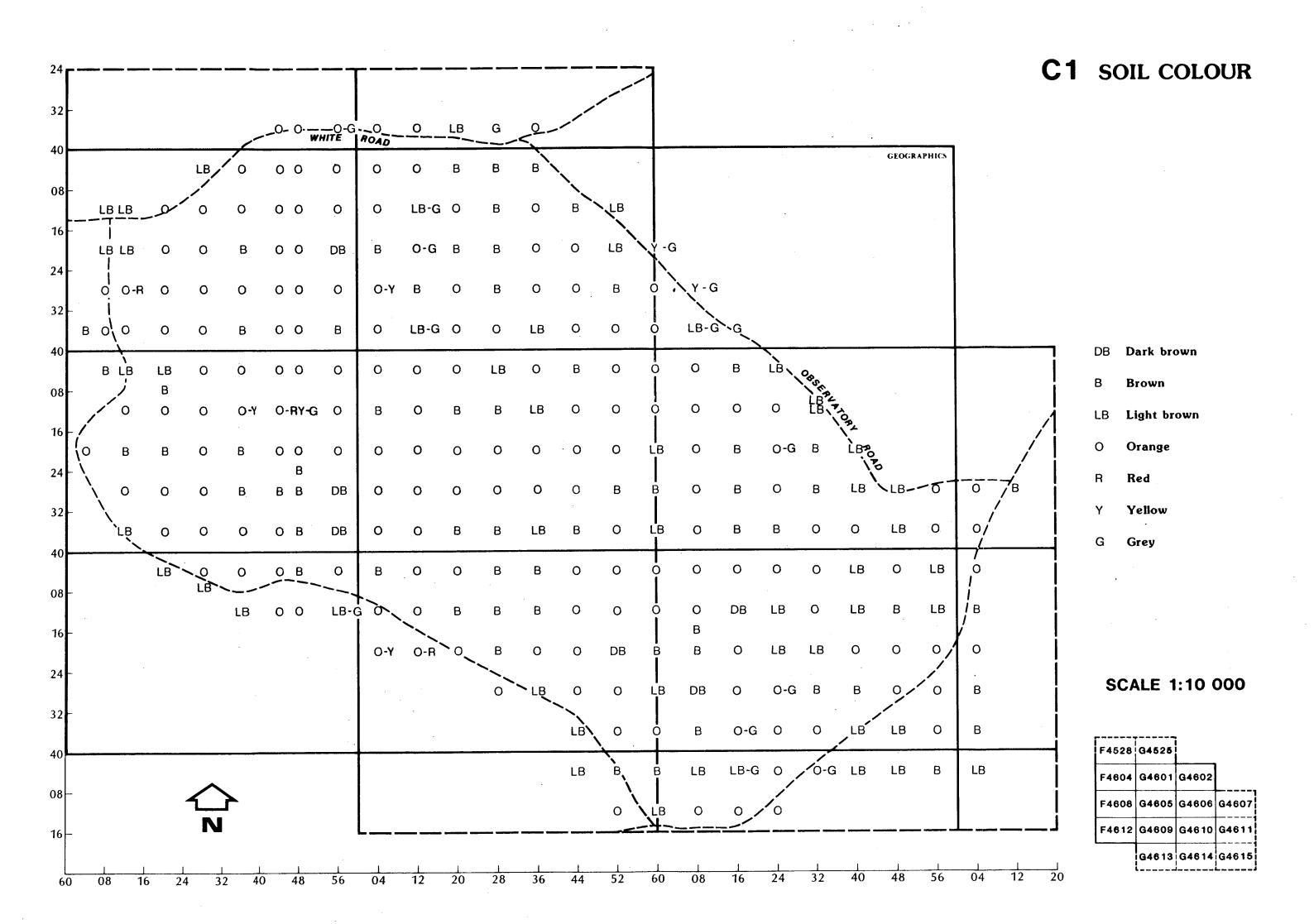


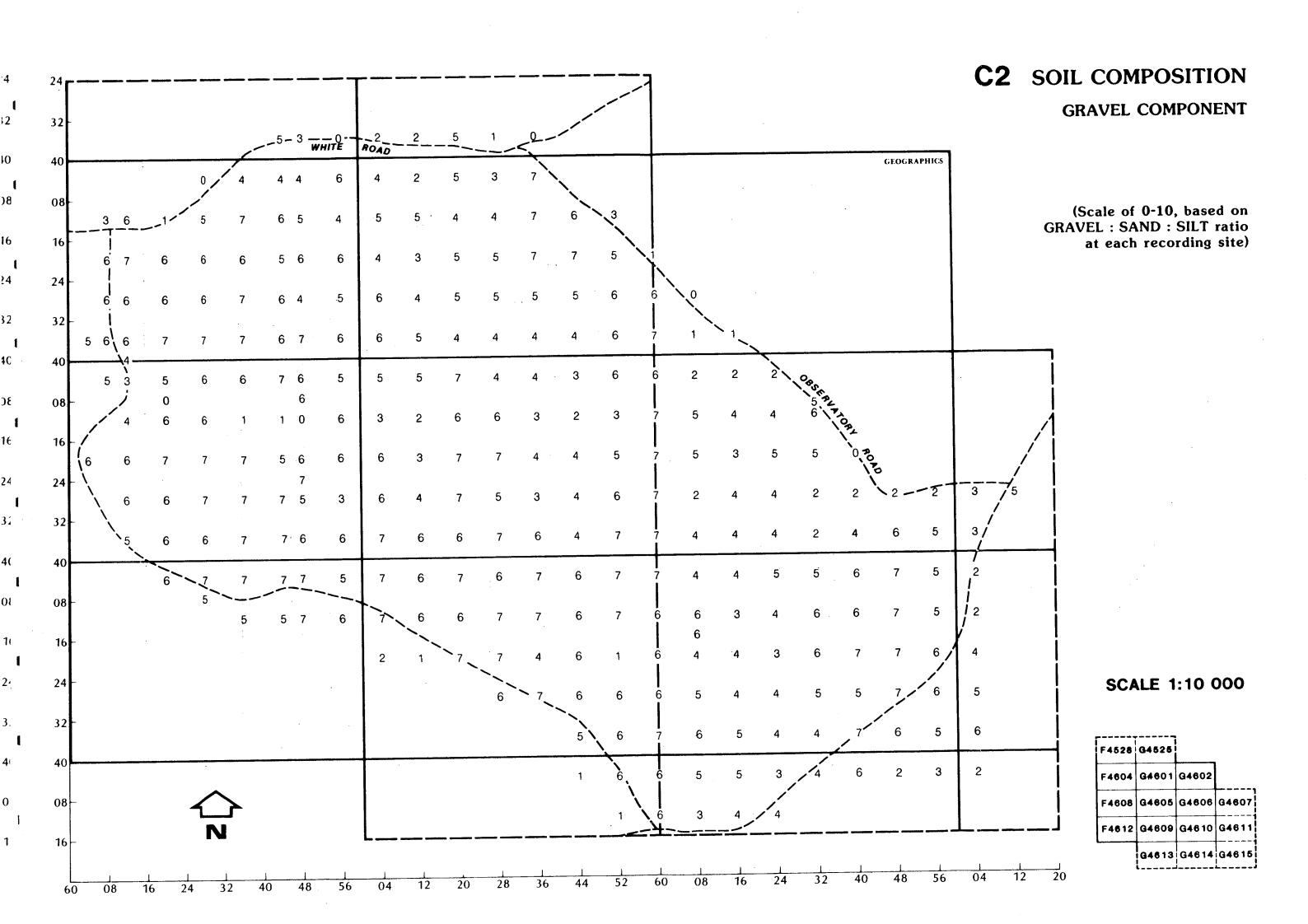
#### APPENDIX C

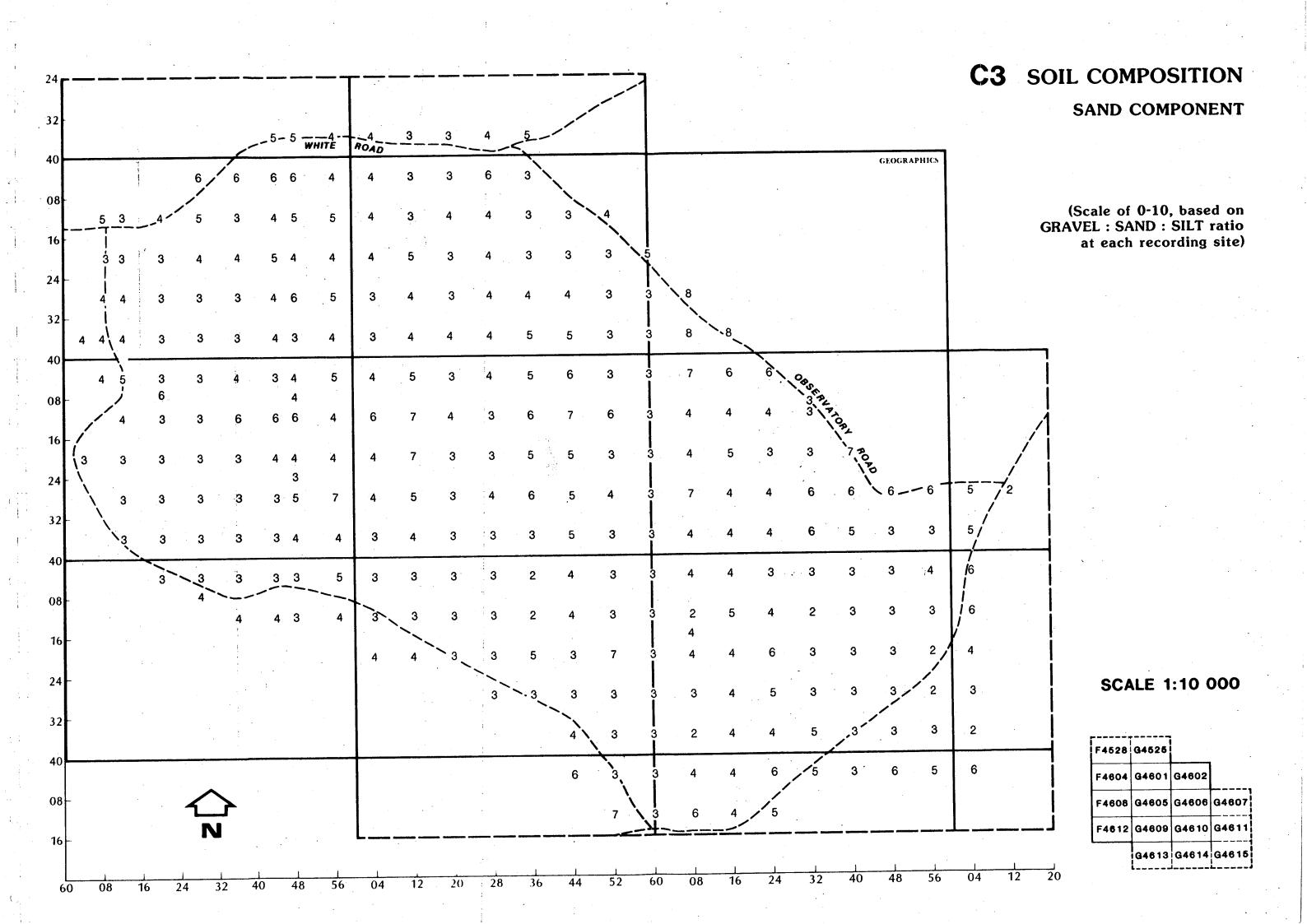
#### BOTANICAL STUDIES AT URBRAE HYGIENE MINING AREA

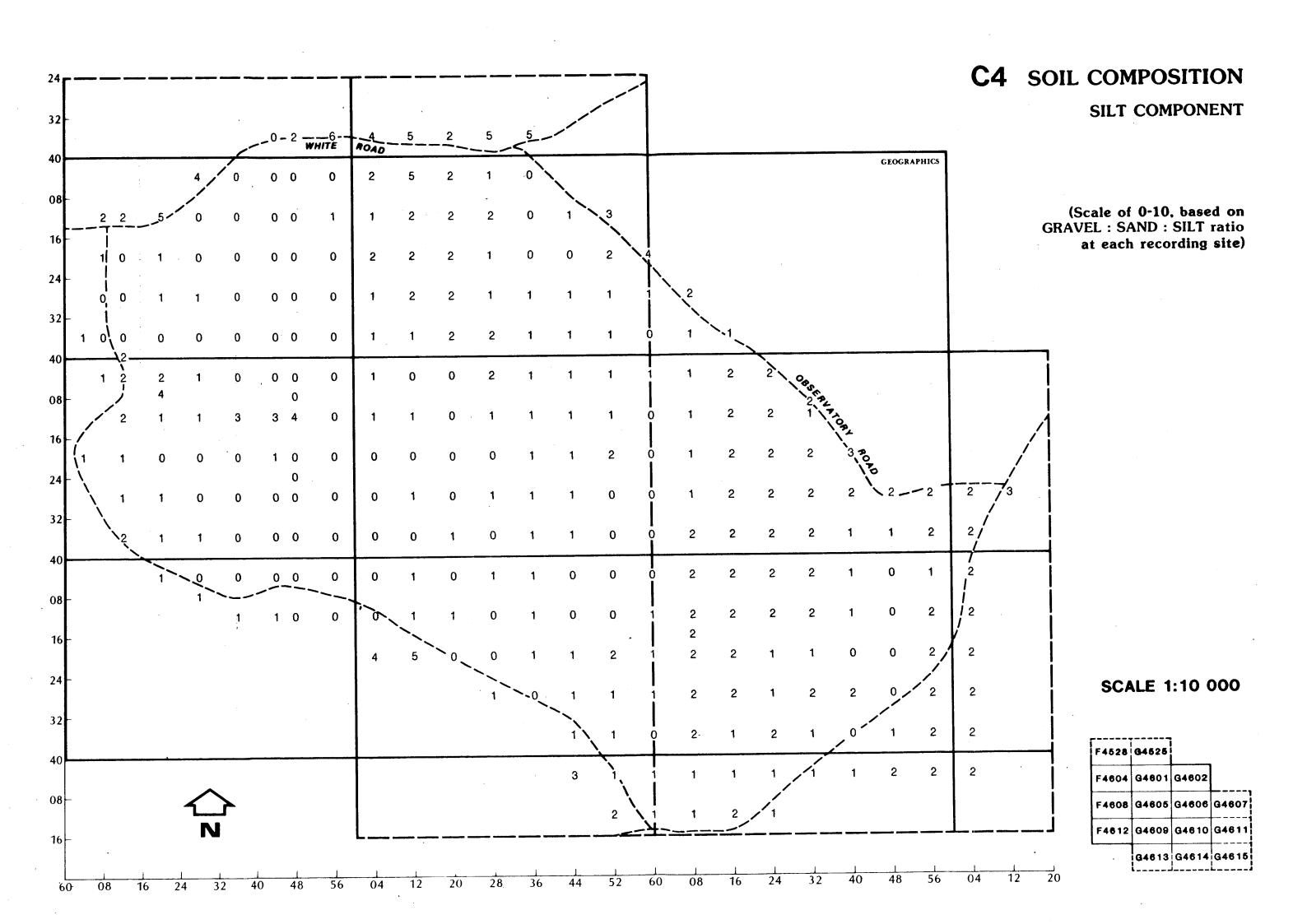
#### SOILS

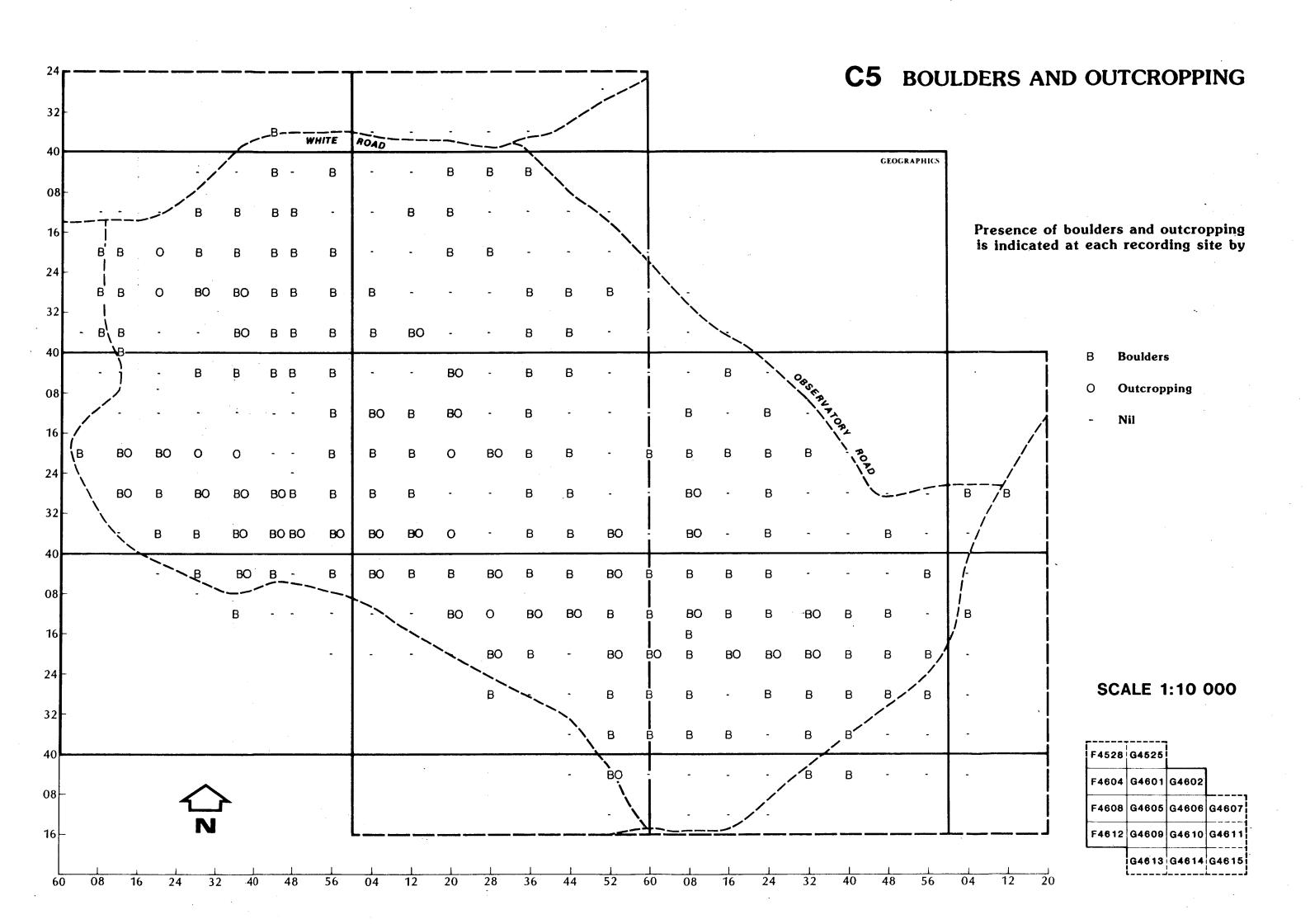
- Cl Soil Colour
- C2 Soil Composition Gravel Component
- C3 Soil Composition Sand Component
- C4 Soil Composition Silt Component
- C5 Boulders and Outcropping









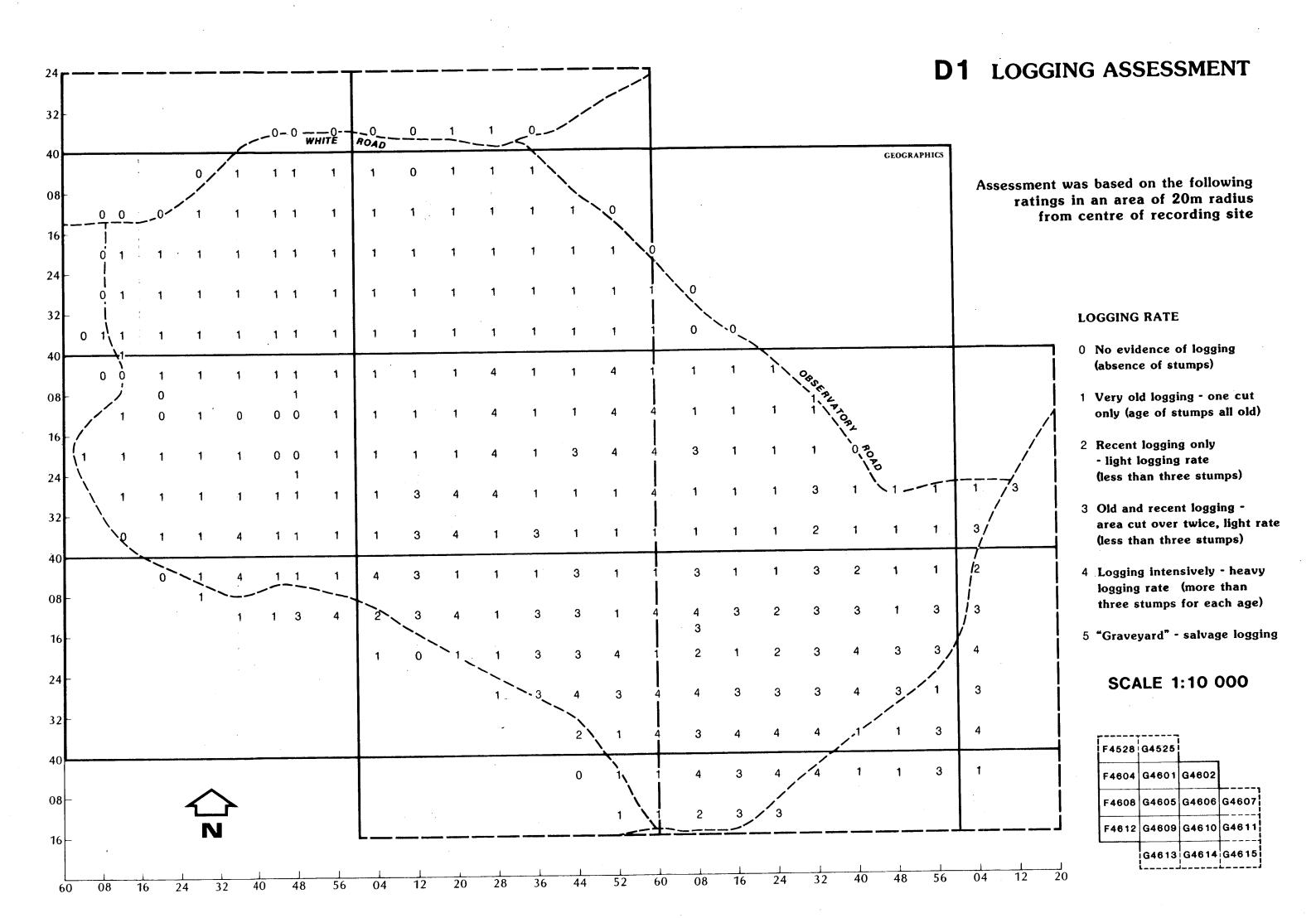


#### APPENDIX D

#### BOTANICAL STUDIES AT URBRAE HYGIENE MINING AREA

#### LOGGING ASSESSMENT

D1 - Logging Assessment



#### APPENDIX E

### BOTANICAL STUDIES AT URBRAE HYGIENE MINING AREA

VASCULAR PLANT LIST

### URBRAE HYGIENE MINING AREA VASCULAR PLANT LIST

FAMILY	GENERA	SPECIES
DENNSTAEDTIACEAE		
	Pteridium	aquilinim
ZAMIACEAE		
•	Macrozamia	riedlei
CYPERACEAE		
	Cyathochaeta	avenacea
	Gahnia	decomposita
	Lepidosperma	angustatum
	Lepidosperma	tenue
	Lepidosperma	tetraquetrum
	Lepidosperma	sp.
RESTIONACEAE		
	Leptocarpus	scariosus
LILIACEAE		
	Xanthorrhoea	gracilis
	Xanthorrhoea	preissii
CASUARINACEAE		
	Allocasuarina	fraseriana
PROTEACEAE		
	Adenanthos	barbigerus
	Banksia	grandis
	Banksia	littoralis
	Hakea	amplexicaulis
	Hakea	lissocarpha
	Hakea	ruscifolia
	Hakea	undulata
	Persoonia	elliptica
	Persoonia	longifolia
	Xylomelum	occidentale

### URBRAE HYGIENE MINING AREA VASCULAR PLANT LIST (continued)

FAMILY	GENERA	SPECIES
SANTALACEAE	Leptomeria	cunninghamii
RANUNCULACEAE ,	Clematis	pubescens
PITTOSPORACEAE	Sollya	heterophylla
LEGUMINOSAE		
SUBFAM. MIMOSACE	ΑE	
	Acacia	divergens
	Acacia	drummondii
	Acacia	extensa
	Acacia	lateriticola
	Acacia	preissiana
	Acacia	pulchella
	Acacia	semitrullata
	Acacia	urophylla
LEGUMINOSAE		
SUBFAM. PAPILION	OIDEAE	
	Bossiaea	aquifolium
	Bossiaea	ornata
	Daviesia	cordata
	Daviesia	decurrens
	Daviesia	incrassata
	Daviesia	preissii
	Daviesia	rhombifolia
	Hovea	chorizemifolia
	Kennedia	coccinea
	Kennedia	prostrata
	Mirbelia	dilatata
	Sphaerolobium	medium

## URBRAE HYGIENE MINING AREA VASCULAR PLANT LIST (continued)

FAMILY	GENERA	SPECIES
RUTACEAE		
	Boronia	crenulata var. gracilis
	Boronia	fastigiata
	Boronia	molloyae
EUPHORBIACEAE		
	Phyllanthus	calycinus
	Stachystemon	vermicularis
RHAMNACEAE		
	Trymalium	ledifolium
STERCULIACEAE		
	Lasiopetalum	floribundum
	Thomasia	paniculata
DILLENIACEAE		
	Hibbertia	amplexicaulis
	Hibbertia	aff. gracilipes
	Hibbertia	perfoliata
	Hibbertia	sp.
MYRTACEAE		
	Agonis	linearifolia
	Astartea	fascicularis
	Callistemon	speciosus
	Eucalyptus	calophylla
	Eucalyptus	marginata
	Eucalyptus	megacarpa
	Eucalyptus	patens
	Hypocalymma	cordifolium

## URBRAE HYGIENE MINING AREA VASCULAR PLANT LIST (continued)

FAMILY	GENERA	SPECIES
EPACRIDACEAE		
	Astroloma	ciliatum
	Astroloma	pallidum
	Leucopogon	capitellatus
•	Leucopogon	oxycedrus
	Leucopogon	propinquus
	Leucopogon	verticillatus
	Styphelia	tenuiflora
LAMIACEAE		
	Hemigenia	pritzelii
GOODENIACEAE		
	Lechenaultia	biloba