

Fossicking Conduct

ForestrySA welcomes you to its fossicking area and needs your co-operation in looking after the forests.

These guidelines are designed to protect the forest environment and to safeguard the recreational nature of fossicking.

- Fossicking is only permitted in the area shown on the map.
- Plants, animals and man-made or natural features must be left undisturbed.
- Do not dam, divert or pollute streams.
- Only hand operated tools such as pans, hand sluices and metal detectors are permitted.
- All holes must be backfilled.
- Stay clear of old mineshafts. Children must be supervised at all times.
- Observe all fire regulations.
- The Minister for Government Enterprises accepts no liability for injury or loss incurred by visitors while on Forest Reserves.

Further details about the history and location of other old mine fields can be obtained from the Department of Mines and Energy.

Fossickers are encouraged to join a Gem and Mineral Club to get the best enjoyment from the activity, and the benefits of insurance against public liability.



Fossicking or Prospecting?

The mining Act defines fossicking as

“...the gathering of minerals –

- (a) as a recreation, and
- (b) without any intention to sell the mineral or to utilise them for a commercial or industrial purpose.”

If you are seeking minerals or precious stones to sell, you are a prospector. The Mining Act, 1971, protects the Forest Reserves from prospecting and mining.

Think carefully! Are you a genuine fossicker?

Permits

A fossicker does not need a Miner's Right, but must obtain a permit from the Mount Crawford Information Centre. A permit fee is charged.

Mount Crawford Information Centre

Mount Crawford Forest is situated in the Northern Adelaide Hills, 1 hours drive from Adelaide, just south of the Warren Reservoir on Warren Road. From Adelaide travel along North East Road to Gumeracha. Driving from Gumeracha to Williamstown you will pass through the Mt Crawford Forest, there are signs to the Information Centre.

To contact the Forest Ranger:

Office Hours: 9:00am - 11:00am

(7 days, including public holidays)

Telephone: (08) 8521 1700 (office hours and 24hr information and reporting)

Facsimile: (08) 8521 1799

E-mail: mailto://forestry.recreation@saugov.sa.gov.au

Internet: <http://www.forestry.sa.gov.au>

or write to: Mount Crawford Forest
Private Bag
Williamstown SA 5351



Government
of South Australia

FOSSICKING



ForestrySA

History

Fossickers have been attracted to the Adelaide Hills area since William Chapman discovered gold near Echunga in 1852. When the gold became more elusive, prospectors moved to the newly discovered Blumberg goldfield near Birdwood in the Mount Crawford district.

A rich strike was made by John Watts in 1884 in the gully that is now named after him. News of this discovery leaked out and prompted a major rush in 1885. More gold was discovered in nearby areas, including Sailors, Speck, Dead Horse and Blood and Thunder gullies.

Another minor rush occurred in the 1930s when a 20 ounce nugget and some smaller pieces were found close to the surface during planting near the old Kollosches' mine.

Potential Finds

Opal, garnet and quality specimens of beryl, kyanite, tourmaline and other gems have been found in the fossicking area shown on the plan.

Durable stones like diamond and garnet, as well as gold, collect in stream gravel behind rock bars or in crevices and hollows. These gravels need to be sieved or panned to separate the gems.

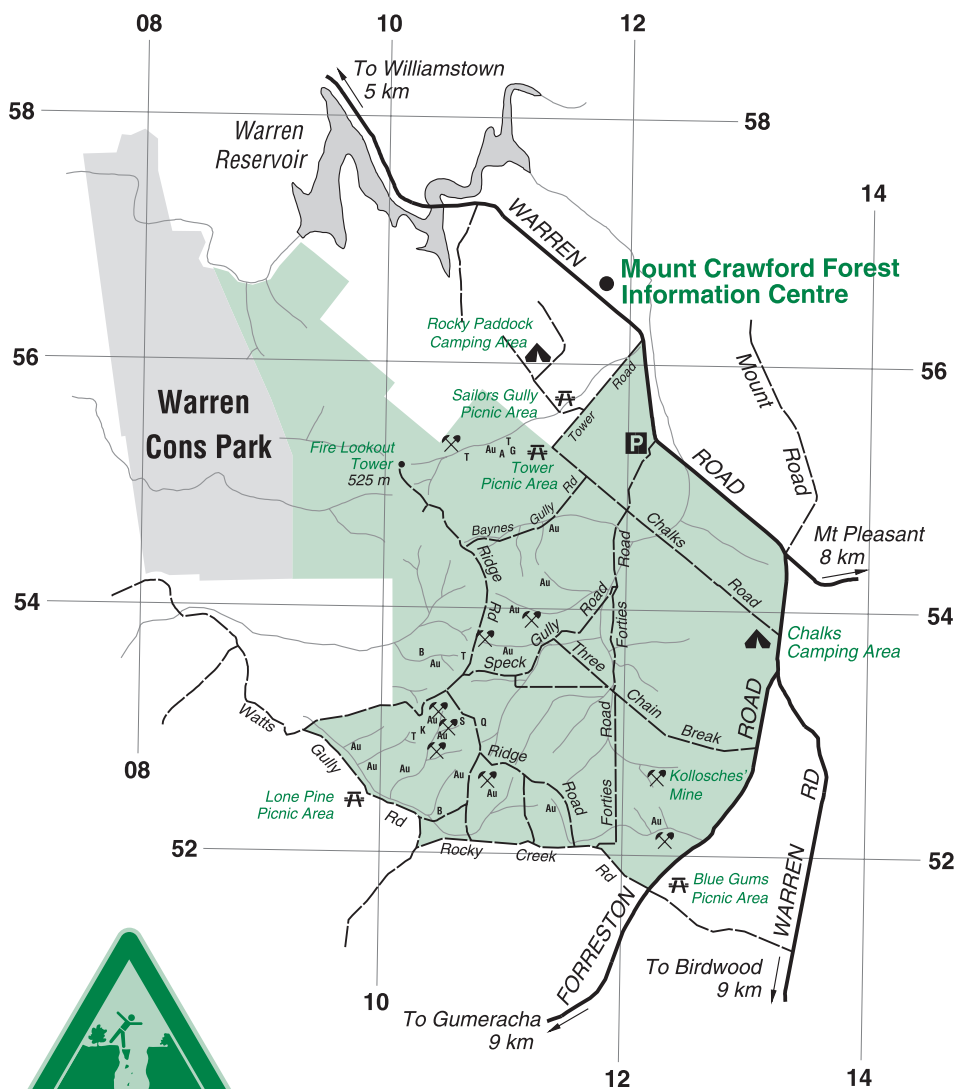
Beryl and tourmaline are usually found in association with pegmatites, which are of coarse granitic composition.

Fossicking Locations

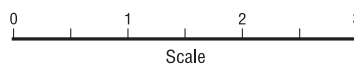
Since many of the good fossicking areas are now on farmland or in protected catchments or parks, fossickers have concentrated their activities in smaller areas. Metal detectors too have increased the number of fossickers, and their impact on the soils of the forest is of concern.

Attractive rock outcrops are being chipped away, creeks are being dammed, diverted and dug over, native plants are being felled, trampled or uprooted, and holes have been left unfilled.

To lessen this impact by a careless few, fossicking is restricted in the Mt Crawford Forest Reserve to the area shown on the map.



WARNING!



| Legend | |
|------------------------------------|-------|
| Sealed road: Major, minor..... | ————— |
| Unsealed road..... | ----- |
| Fossicking area..... | ■ |
| Drainage course/gully..... | ~~~~~ |
| Scattered mine shafts..... | ⚡ |
| Parking; Camping; Picnic area..... | ⊞ ▲ ⚡ |
| National park or reserve..... | ■ |

This map was produced for ForestrySA by Flat Earth Mapping, Ph (08) 8431 7750, using base source data from the Resource Information Group, Department of Heritage and Aboriginal Affairs. Copyright 1999.

Mineral Occurrences

| | |
|----|-----------------|
| Au | Gold |
| B | Beryl |
| A | Aquamarine |
| T | Tourmaline |
| Q | Coloured Quartz |
| G | Garnet |
| S | Serpentine |
| K | Kyanite |