

of 24 metres (Figure 45). Four samples collected from the showing contained 89.1 to 93.6 per cent barium sulphate with specific gravities ranging from 4.24 to 4.42 respectively. Barite is present as both very coarse-grained granular and bladed crystals in a fine-grained matrix of granular barite (125-200 micron size). Locally, blades of barite have been transected by granular barite.

Reno (83)

Minfile Number: 082KNW 055

Latitude: 50°40'48" Longitude: 117°05'18" NTS: 82K/11E

A 1.5 metre wide siliceous vein containing pyrite and galena occurs in brown weathering quartzitic argillite, on the south side of Hall Creek above Duck Lake (Figure 25). Within the vein there is a 0.7 metre wide zone of massive grey barite that also contains minor amounts of pyrite and galena.

Parson (84)

Minfile Number: 082N 002

Latitude: 51°01'18" Longitude: 116°39'00" NTS: 82N/2E

At present, the only production of barite in British Columbia comes from a quarry located 9 kilometres by road west of Parson (Figure 46). This quarry is operated by Mountain Minerals Company Limited of Lethbridge, Alberta. Production commenced in 1941 and except for some short periods of non-production has continued producing to the present day. Initially, barite was quarried from three open pits (Figure 47). In 1957 adits were driven into the deposit and all mining since that time has been

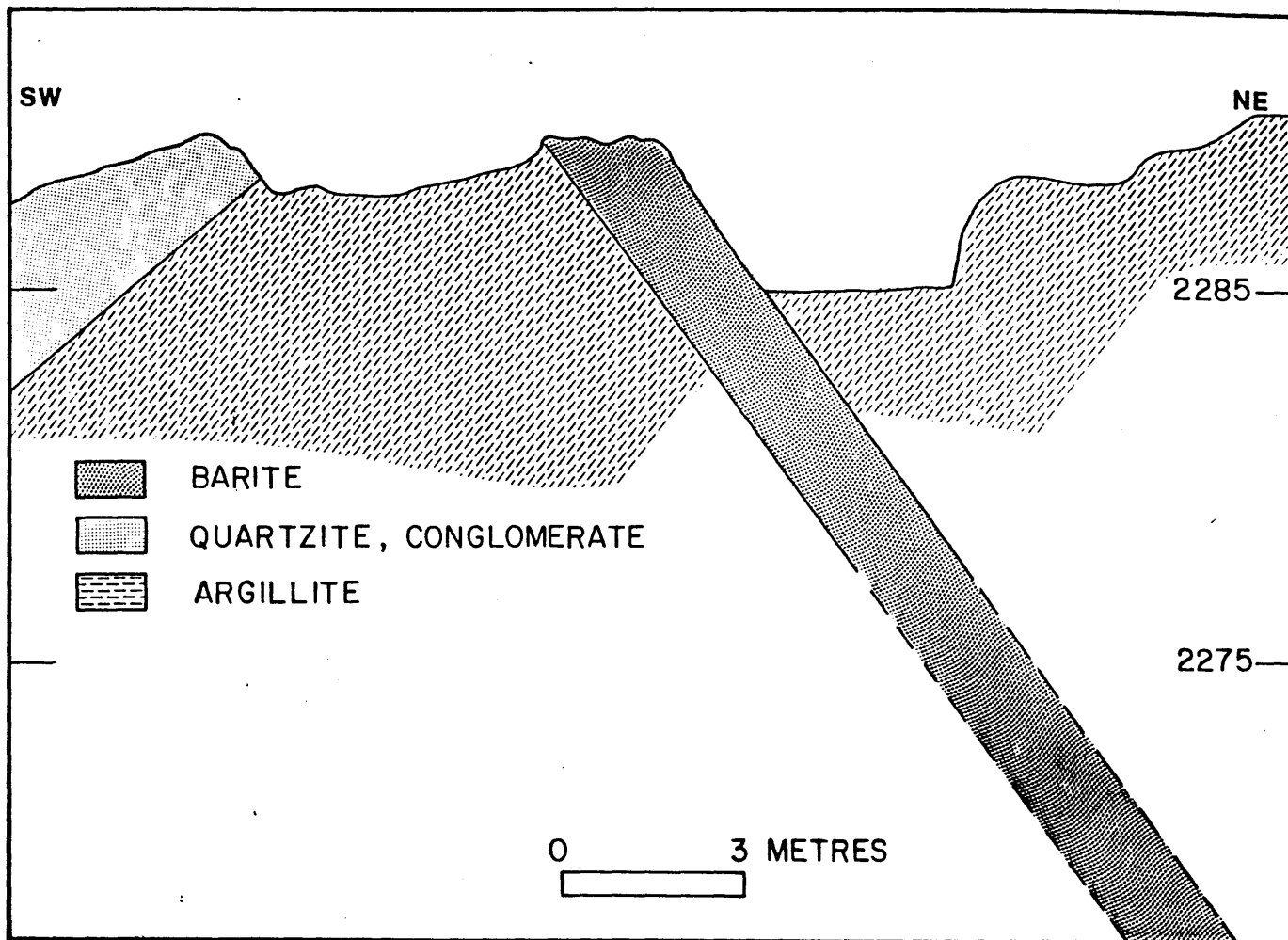
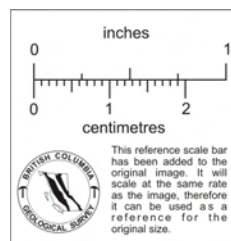


Figure 45. Cross-section, looking southeast, through the HAT bauxite occurrence (from Mason, 1978a).



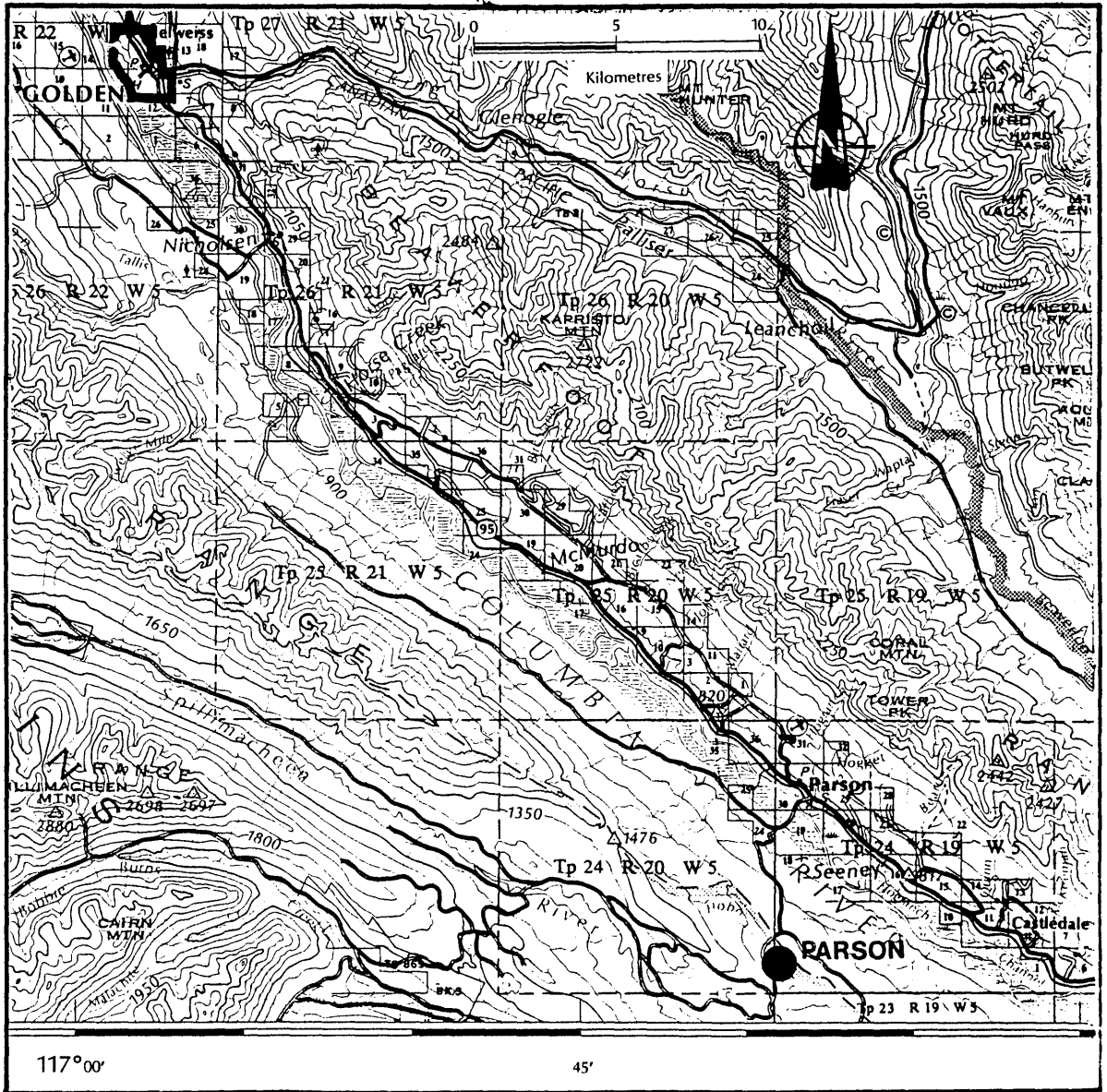
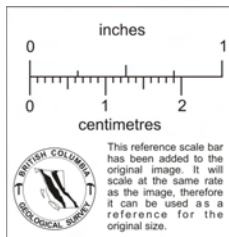


Figure 4b. Location of the Parson banded deposit.



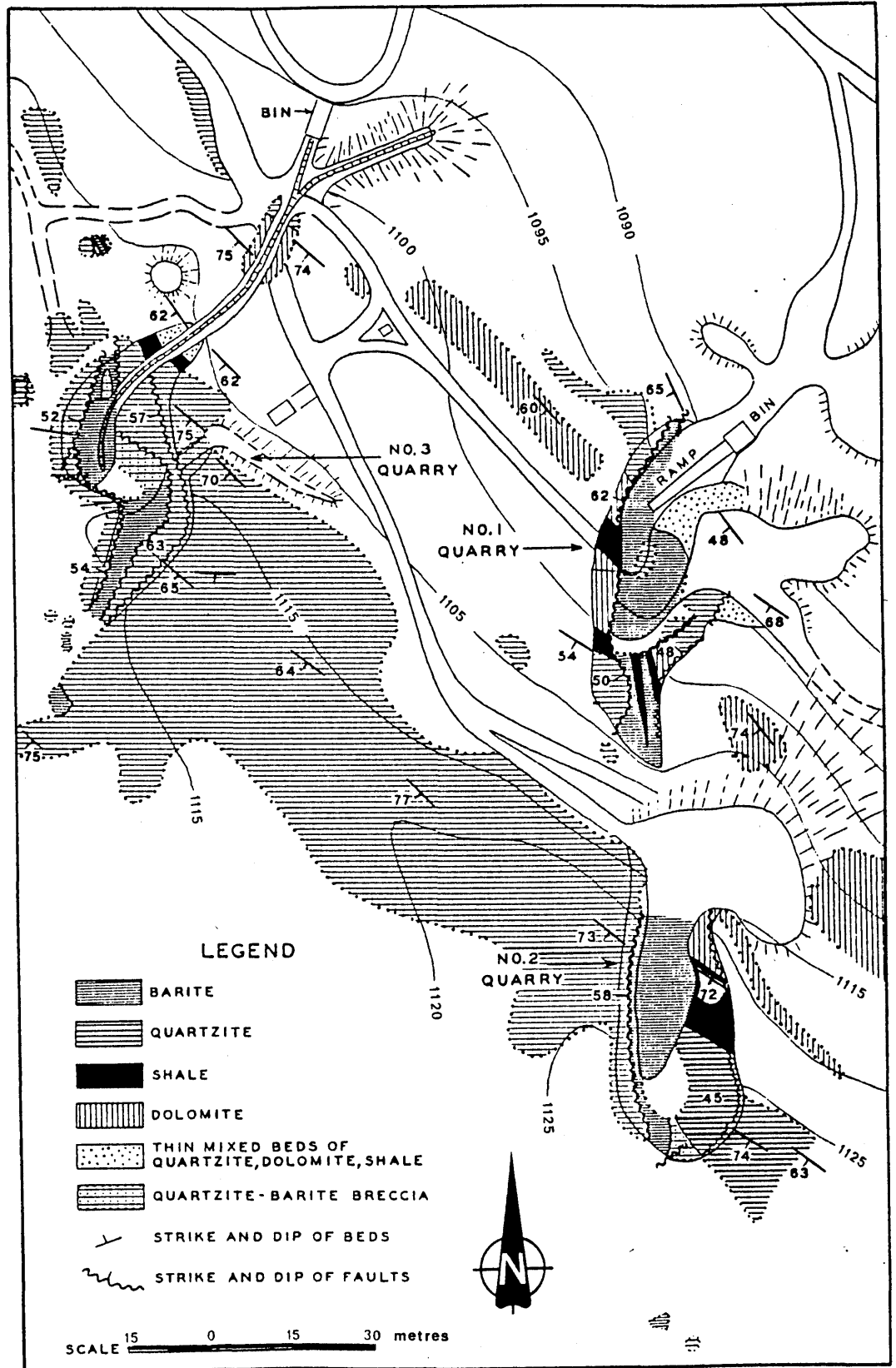


Figure 47. Parson barite quarries (MMAR, 1952).

from underground. In excess of 75000 tonnes of barite have been produced from this deposit.

Much of the area is covered by surficial deposits and good bedrock exposures are minimal, generally being restricted to steep slopes and knolls. Bedrock in the area consists of a thick series of quartzites, possibly of the Hamil Formation. The quartzites are thin to thick bedded and coarse granular. Underlying the quartzite is a 3 to 6 metre thick bed of slaty, dark grey shale in turn underlain by blue-grey, crystalline, brown weathering dolomite approximately 30 metres thick.

Rocks in the area strike northwesterly with dips of 70 degrees to the southwest. Locally the strike changes to north-northeast with dips of 48 to 75 degrees to the southwest. Rocks in the area appear to be on the east limb of a major syncline.

Barite occurs in two irregular fissure veins 90 to 100 metres apart. These veins strike N10°W and dip steeply to the west (Figure 48). They are confined between two fault planes with negligible horizontal movement. Underground the veins appear to coalesce.

The barite is white to creamy white, coarse-grained and crystalline. Much of the barite is iron stained. Minor to trace amounts of hematite, quartz, pyrite, chalcopyrite, siderite and calcite are found in the barite.

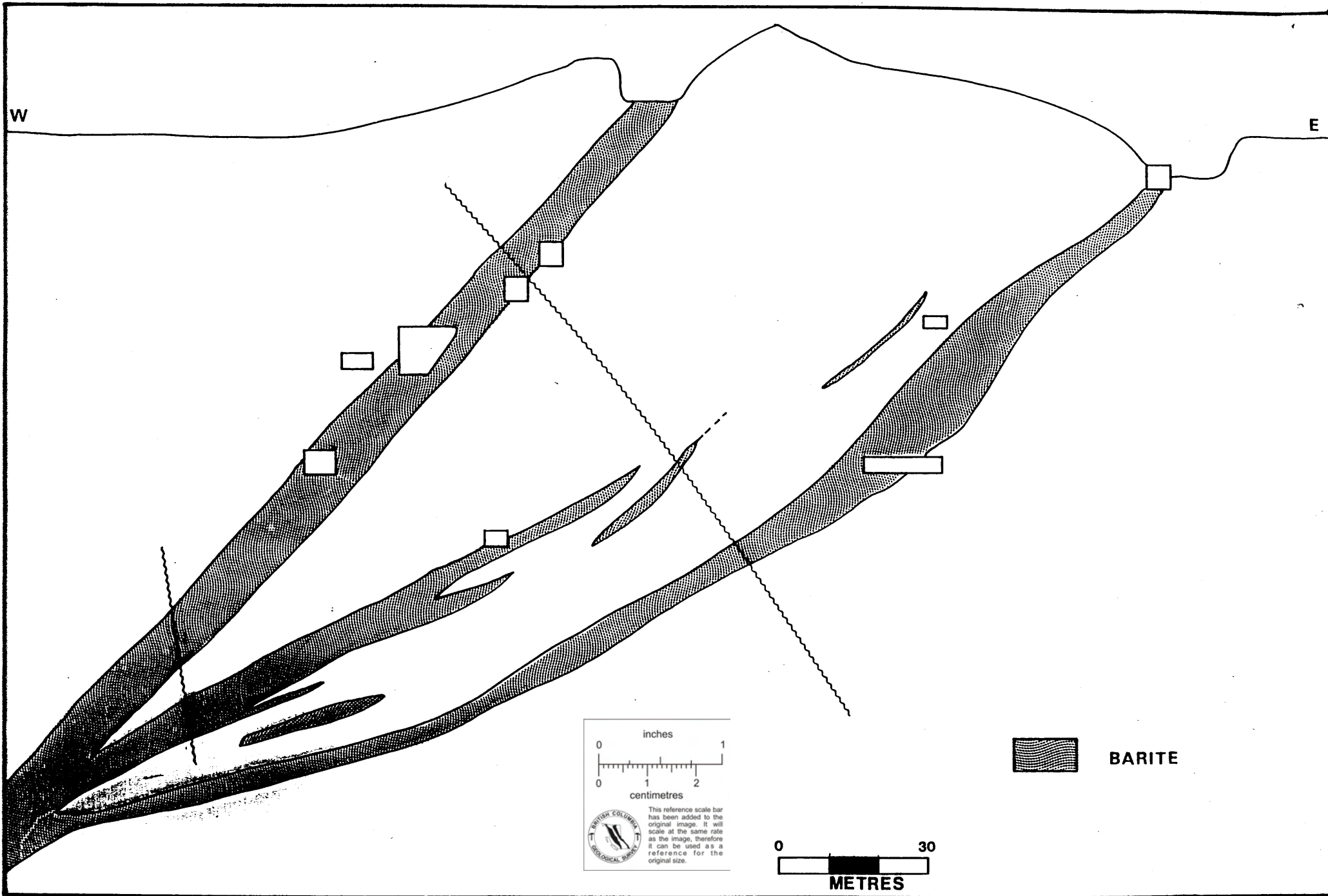


Figure 48. Schematic east-west cross-section through the Parson barite deposit (from Z.D. Hbra, personal communication).