

TR12-115-116

## 30. STABILITY OF BLOCK OF LAND — ROSEVEARS

by W. L. Matthews

C. J. Weedon and Co. of Launceston requested an examination of the stability of a block of land at Rosevears. The block is about half a mile N of where Atkinson's Creek enters the Tamar River. The block faces the Tamar and has a road between it and the river.

The area is underlain by clay of probable Tertiary age with Tertiary basalt outcropping at higher levels to the W. Boulders of basalt have migrated downhill towards the river.

Movement has occurred in the area before, as indicated by piling to hold a slump in the road about 100 yards S of the block. A small area has been piled for some time but within the last two years a section of about 100 yards has been piled. Over the surface of the block and nearby land, there are signs of old mass movements in the form of arcuate depressions. These movements are probably very old, but show that the area has at least some history of instability.

The site chosen for the house has no such old movements but some occur in front of the site. Drainage from inland is probably largely collected by two deep valleys whose watersheds almost meet across a narrow divide about a quarter of a mile W of the block.

### CONCLUSION

Although much of the inland drainage is prevented from reaching the area on which the block is situated, there are unmistakable signs of past mass movement in the vicinity. If movement occurs on the block examined it is not expected to affect the house site at first. Slumping could occur in the front part of the block where the road has been cut into the side of the hill and where the Tamar has cut through the clay leaving a sharp drop from the road to the shoreline. Such slumps would leave the area on which the house is situated, largely unsupported. Although these possibilities are fairly remote, it cannot be said that there is no danger of movement on this land.