

9. Proposed dolerite quarry, Chigwell

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An investigation into the practicability of establishing a dolerite quarry was made on a 80 ha (194 acre) block at Chigwell at the request of D.C. Oxley of Moonah.

This block is located on the crest of an easterly-trending spur lying between Faulkners Rivulet and an unnamed tributary to the north. The ground rises approximately 275 m to a flat-topped hill on the western boundary. The block is not bounded by any roads although access could be obtained from Berriedale Road in the south.

A geological map prepared by Sutherland (1964) shows that the spur is entirely composed of dolerite except for a small area of Permian sediments on the hilltop. The slopes are covered with dolerite scree and sparse areas of dolerite outcrop.

The form of the dolerite intrusion is interpreted as a cone sheet but the depth of weathering and the thickness of the sheet are not known and would need to be ascertained by exploratory drilling.

The proximity of dwellings and the steep nature of the terrain makes this property uneconomic for quarrying operations.

The gully which crosses the south-west corner of the property appears to offer better prospects for quarrying, as it is accessible and reasonably distant from housing. This site would only be suitable for a limited operation. If a major quarrying operation is intended it would be preferable to choose a site to the north of the block in the vicinity of the unnamed tributary. It would be advisable to test the reserves of dolerite by diamond drilling whichever site is chosen.

When a site has been chosen, further assistance can be obtained in the location of holes, logging of bore core and a general assessment could be made if required.

REFERENCE

SUTHERLAND, D.L. 1964. The geology of the Collinsvale area. *Pap.Proc.R.Soc. Tasm.* 98:119-135.

Description of strata	Elevation		
	75 m	70 m	65 m
Thin-grained grey sandstone, bedded at base	75	6	-
Grey mudstone with gradational lower contact	75	0	-
Coal	73	4	-
Coarse-grained sandstone	68	0	-
Iron-stained sandstone	19	1	-
Soft coal	18	0.5	-
Soft coal	18	1	-
Iron-stained sandstone	18	0	-
Silt and claystone	10	0	-