

36. Foundation conditions at Lampton Avenue, Glenorchy.

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The site of the old IXL timber yard in Lampton Avenue, opposite the end of Sunderland Street, was examined on 1 July 1971 in the company of R.W. Jackman of R.W. Jackman & Co. Pty Ltd, who had requested advice on the nature of the material encountered in drainage trenches.

The site lies in the Moonah basin of Tertiary rocks of which clays form a considerable part. About 20 m of trench was examined, where about 3 m of moist dark grey plastic clays were exposed below about 0.6 m of soil and made ground. The trench sides had repeatedly collapsed and had required close support by timbering. The surrounding ground was very wet, but no great amount of water was lying in the trench.

When examined in hand specimen the clays showed a great profusion of polished movement planes (listric surfaces) in several directions. These movement planes are probably related to a major fault which is known to run into this area, but has not been located within it.

A trial pit was excavated in the site some months ago and it is remarkable that no hazardous conditions were noted at that time, as the listric surfaces might be expected to cover a zone many metres wide. Inspection of this trial pit by a geologist would have been advisable.