

TR16_19-20

3. Road-making materials on the Mayberry road in the Deloraine Forestry District.

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Three samples were collected during a visit to the area with District Forester J. Snodgrass on 1 December 1971.

Sample 1. Ugbrook Pit [DP455984]

This area is worked jointly by the Forestry Commission and Deloraine Council. The working area is a scree slope and the material is a weathered fine-grained Ordovician sandstone. The size range is extreme, ranging from silt to boulders of unweathered sandstone. All +75 mm stone was excluded from the sample as it would be in road construction. It was noted that all of the particles in the pebble and granule sizes were also aggregates of finer material and in that respect the sizing analysis does not truly represent the grain size distribution, the material being more highly sorted than the analysis shows. The material is non plastic and therefore lacks binding qualities.

Sample 2. Road cuttings, about 4 km north of Lake Parangana [DP369980]

The sizing analysis of the material, which is a decomposed granite, shows over 60% of -75 μ m particles; the plasticity index is 10. The material is therefore unsuitable for road making.

Sample 3. Pit, about 6 km west of Mayberry [DP357948]

This material, a sandy Silurian mudstone, is moderately sorted with a mean value in the coarse sand ranges. The plasticity index is 9 which is excessive.

Cumulative curves of the grain size distributions of the three samples are given in Figure 2 for comparison with the specification limits for surface course material for unsealed roads. It is suggested that a blend of Samples 1 and 3 would have the desired degree of compaction and be within the limits of plasticity demanded. If blending tests are required it will be necessary to obtain further samples.



