

TR16-206-207

38. Proposed lawn cemetery, Milford, Pitt Water.

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The property 'Milford' at Pitt Water has been examined with regard to its possible future use as a lawn cemetery as proposed by the Southern Metropolitan Master Planning Authority.

'Milford' is situated south of the Tasman Highway and east of the access road to the forestry plantation at Seven Mile Beach. The outline of the property and the examined area is indicated in Figure 60. The maximum elevation on the property is about 9 m near the main entrance on the highway and much of the land is only 3-5 m above high water level.

Geologically the property is simple. With the exception of a small area in the north-east it is clay founded and covered thinly with wind-blown sand. In the north-east, along the highway and on the site of the Tasmania Golf Course quartz sandstone occurs at shallow depth (less than one metre). The sandstone is quite massive and firm with little weathering as indicated by its seismic velocity (1,750-2,800 m/sec). The sand cover has a velocity of 640-700 m/sec. The north-west corner of the property is a sand covered bench of sandstone. The firm rock is at a depth of 5.7 m at the junction of the highway and forestry roads. The actual position where the bench of sandstone is overlain by clays is not known, but by analogy with other parts of the Cambridge region is probably a cliff. The remainder of the property consists of a fractured clay (>25 m thick) with some wind-blown sand covering it to the north and west. The thickness of sand cover is variable and ranges up to 2 m.

All materials whether sand or clay within the top 3 m are stable, easily dug by hand tools or machine and require little, if any, support.

The depth to the water table (3 February 1971) is indicated on Figure 70. While the summer has been a wet one and as a consequence the water table is higher than normal at this time of the year it would be expected that the winter water table is even higher. Indeed in the clay region in the centre of the property it probably approaches the surface. Springs have been recorded in this region. The water surface over the bulk of the area is probably not a true water table but a piezometric surface. This is a result of the fractured clays transmitting water under pressure. The amount of water produced varied considerably in test holes. The only true water table exists in the sands of the north-west corner where it is at a depth greater than 3 m. Only the northern portion of the property had a water table deeper than required at the time of examination. The low-lying southern half of the property was generally less than 2.5 m and the central region less than 1.5 m.

The only part of the property to meet all requirements is the northern third. However the present water levels should be deemed low, according to the season. Some further water table levels tests should be made in July or August to establish how much rise can be expected. It may be that the level will rise within the 2.75 m limit. The remainder of the property is suitable in all respects other than water level.

DEPTH TO ROCK LESS THAN 3 m
AREA SUITABLE FOR CEMETERY



