

UR 1963/29

29

Basalt for Road Metal at W.K. Firth's Property - Kingston.

At the request of Mr. Firth an examination of this property was made on 12th February, 1963.

The area examined is about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile NW of Kingston township on the northern bank of a small creek which runs into Browns River. The creek in the area in question runs approximately west to east.

Permian mudstone belonging to the Ferntree Group is overlain by Tertiary basalt and a small quarry has been developed in the basalt which is generally weathered and crumbles easily. Even the unweathered material breaks easily and if really solid material is encountered, the rock would probably shatter on blasting because of the well developed jointing and flow structures.

The pre-basalt land surface was irregular, as the area where the quarry is being developed has mudstone just to the east, at a level of about 20-25 feet above the level of the quarry floor. This mudstone is in turn overlain by basalt. Mudstone outcrops in the creek to the west of the quarry.

A face of about 35 feet could be made in the present site but extensions to the east will eventually be limited by mudstone. The quarry could, however, be developed in a northerly direction. Some material can be obtained from the basalt overlying the higher outcropping mudstone and it is possible that basalt extends to lower levels further to the east as no mudstone was seen on the side of the hill here, although it could be covered by basalt scree.

It is not expected that large quantities of material can be obtained from this area because of the unevenness of the pre-basalt surface, but it is probable that the site could be worked on a small scale.

W.L. Matthews

(W.L. Matthews)
GEOLOGIST.

15th February, 1963.