

UNPUBLISHED REPORT 1966/02

Gravel removal, Parish of Marland

by D. J. Jennings

The Public Works Department required three quarry sites on part of chart Devon 1B to be reserved for their use for road gravel. These sites were inspected on Wednesday 9 February. Areas leased to the Broken Hill Pty Co. Ltd adjacent to and south of Public Works Department site 3, and east of the Beaconsfield–Flowery Gully road, were inspected on Wednesday 9 and Thursday 10 February.

It was concluded that neither the Public Works Department sites 1 nor 2 were likely to produce high grade quartz of the type at present being quarried by the Broken Hill Pty Co. Ltd, and that area 3 was already partly covered by the Broken Hill Pty Co. Ltd lease.

Area 1

This consists of a large cleared expanse on the northeast flank of hills southwest of the Winkleigh/Holwell road. The scar on the hillside is visible from the West Tamar Highway at Exeter. The scree on the hillside consists of flaggy blocks of pure (white) and impure (pink, buff or dark grey) sandstone; and blocks of Owen-type conglomerate and an abundance of isolated, perfectly rounded coloured pebbles, either derived directly from the conglomerate or via a Tertiary (?) pebble concentrate. The finest material, although variable, is mainly pale in colour and of sand rather than clay grade.

Sandstone beds exposed in the operation of this quarry will probably include some pure quantities but present evidence suggests these will be in a minority.

Area 2

This area consists of the southern flank of the hills northeast of Frankford. The northern quarry reserve is situated on a bluff of massive, highly-coloured Owen-type conglomerate. A ridge extends to the northwest and displays abundant conglomerate outcrops, as does the sub-parallel ridge through Trig station P. 75. Between the ridges a gully is partly filled with conglomerate scree and Tertiary (?) pebble beds, and further east the whole hillside carries a substantial cover of coarse-bedded gravel, locally clayey or iron stained. Bedrock high on the ridge in the eastern part of the reserve consists of impure pink or buff fine-grained sandstone.

Area 3

This includes much of Broken Hill Pty Co. Ltd lease and consists of a ridge of silicified quartz grits and sandstone, grey or glassy on freshly broken surfaces but weathering to produce a copious scree of small white angular blocks, and locally, white sand.

It was concluded that 'gravels' in areas 1 and 2 were derived from a different type of source rock, were more variable and less pure than in area 3, and were unlikely to be of value as a source of pure silica in

[9 February 1966]