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Test pits on a proposed outlet road alignment at Brooklyn

by W. L. Matthews

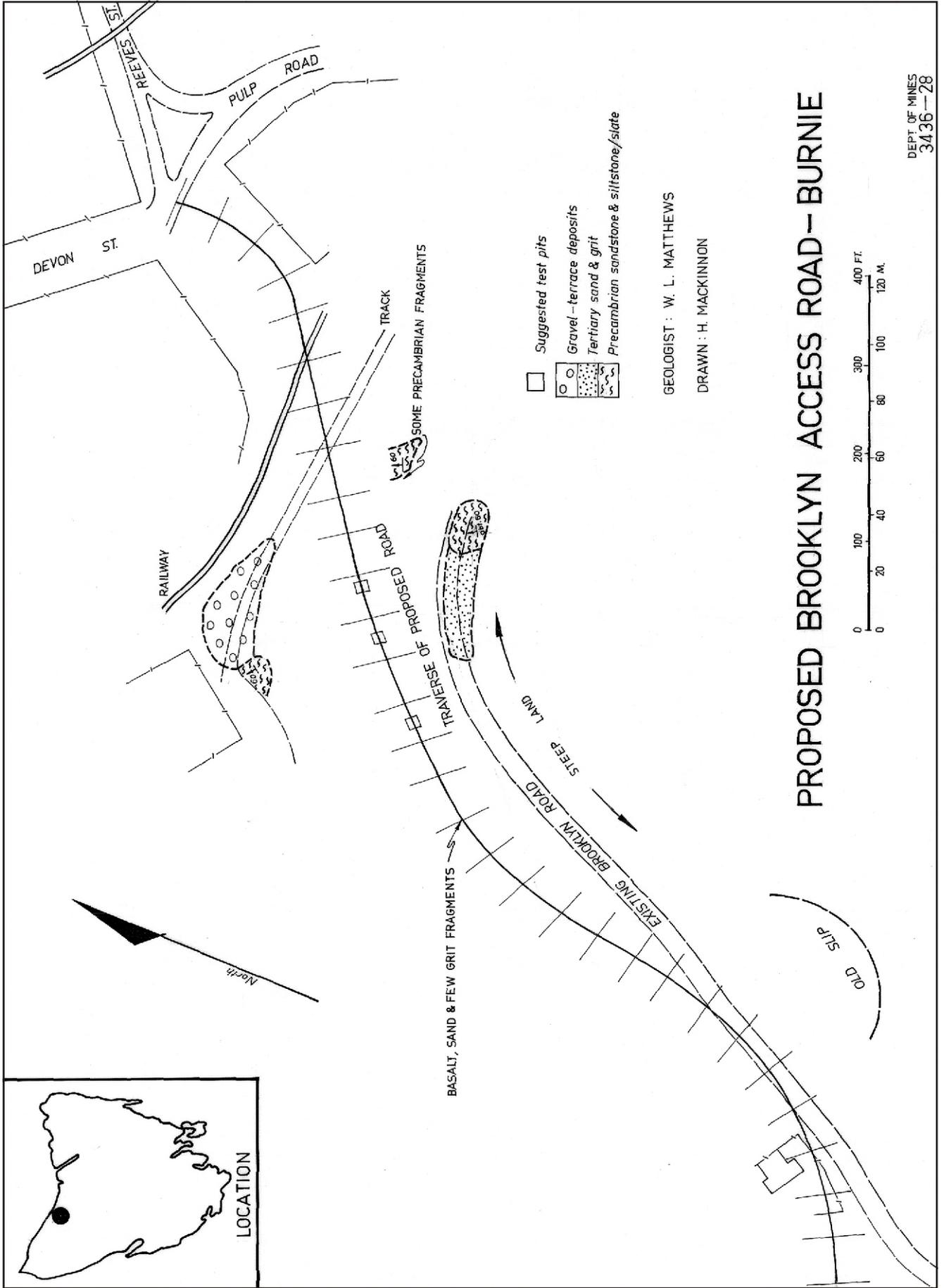
Samples taken from three test pits dug on the alignment of a proposed outlet road at Brooklyn, Burnie, have been examined. Descriptions from the surface down are given below. The materials are all of Tertiary origin indicating that the Precambrian outcrops represent the tops of fairly steep-sided pinnacles of rock around which the Tertiary sediments were deposited and the basalt flowed.

The fact that some water seeped into two pits (at footage 490 and 575), when dug in a dry period, suggests that there could be significant drainage through this area in winter. Clay was struck in the bottom of both of these holes and if drainage occurs along the sand/clay contact as expected, erosion of the sand in cuttings at this level would take place. This would tend to steepen the cuttings and perhaps promote slipping. It might be necessary to put retaining walls along this section of the proposed road and if this is necessary, special measures to allow free drainage of the material should be undertaken. The material is so unconsolidated that some support might be necessary regardless of drainage.

<i>Sample</i>	<i>Description</i>
490-1	Brown sand, some grit.
490-2	Brown sandy grit, a little clay.
490-3	Grey and brown mottled clay, some limonite nodules.
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575-1	Brown sandy clay.
575-2	Fine even-grained brown sand.
575-3	Grey clayey sand, some limonitic staining.
575-4	Coarse grey sand, some grit fragments.
575-5	Brown sand, some grit fragments, a little clay.
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675-4	Brown clay, some wood fragments.
675-3	Fine even-grained brown sand, a little clay.
675-2	Grey and brown mottled clay.
675-1	Coarse brown sand, a little clay.

Samples 675-4 and 675-3 were both labelled as 675-3, but from the descriptions of the pits supplied the above order appears correct.

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PROPOSED BROOKLYN ACCESS ROAD - BURNIE

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