

Road making materials for the Forestry Commission in the Fish River area.

V.M. Threader

The Forestry Commission road formation extending south of the Fish River on the east bank of Lake Rowallan was visited on 21-22 February 1972 at the request of the District Forester in Deloraine. The purpose of this visit was to assist in the search for road making materials.

The geology of the area consists of Lower Permian pebbly mudstone (Wallace River Group) which is locally exposed in stream beds and valley walls and an overlying layer of Pleistocene glacial drift which is entirely concealed by accumulations of dolerite talus.

The Permian beds would be difficult to quarry as they form the bedrock of the area. The material is also likely to produce a high proportion of fines and therefore to be unsuitable for road making.

The dolerite would also be unsuitable due to the extreme nature of the particle size distribution.

The glacial drift consists of sub-rounded cobbles of dolerite in a clay sand matrix. It appears to be suitable for road making and future work should be directed to developing pits in this material and to locating areas where the talus overburden is thin enough for economic extraction of the drift.

The drift covers extensive areas in the Little Fish River area but thins out in a southerly direction and does not occur south of Howells Bluff. Several areas of this material were exposed by bulldozing during the visit and a road exposure immediately south of the Fish River bridge was examined. The District Forester has undertaken to develop this exposure.

When this has been done, the area should be re-visited so that an assessment can be made and samples taken for testing.

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