

Landslip risk in an area to the south of Leith.

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At the request of the Devonport Municipal Council, an area of Leith south of the Bass Highway and between the Forth River foreshore road and the road between Leith and Braddon's Lookout was examined on 26 January 1972.

A street plan has been drawn but only the two roads mentioned above actually exist.

The area has been mapped as Tertiary sediments overlain by basalt on Sheet 29, Devonport, of the Geological atlas 1 mile series (Burns, 1964) and has been distinguished on that sheet as being an area of mass movement.

The sediments are not extensively exposed but where they are seen, appear to consist mainly of weakly or strongly cemented gray sand. The slopes in the area are steep, up to 35°, although this has been ignored by the street layout. The basalt layer towards the top of the slope produces benches which might well serve as house sites.

Slopes of this angle are subject to soil rain-wash erosion as well as more massive movement. In addition stability has been further reduced by the past opening of small quarries at the foot of the slope as sources of sand. Nevertheless the slope is at the moment stable and no signs of recent movement are to be seen.

Building on slopes of this magnitude in this material will present problems and cannot be regarded as desirable. However, isolated properties might be possible if foundation conditions are regarded as satisfactory by an engineer and if precautions are taken to ensure that the drainage of effluents is not allowed to add to the soil erosion.

A restrictive covenant, absolving the council and government of any liability for landslip damage should be made a condition of the release of this land.

REFERENCE

BURNS, K.L. 1963. Geological atlas 1 mile series. Zone 7 Sheet 29 (8115N). Devonport. *Department of Mines, Tasmania.*

[February 1972]