

UR1973-14

Underground water prospects near Exeter.

W.L. Matthews

N.A. Jolly and A.C. Miller requested advice on underground water prospects on their properties which are situated 3-6 km west of Exeter and on the south side of the Frankford Highway. Mr Jolly is interested in obtaining water on two separate properties, one of which adjoins that of Mr Miller.

The geology of all three properties on which water is required is similar. Quaternary clay with some gravel underlies these areas. On the southern part of Mr Miller's property, the rising land is underlain by Upper Permian mudstone and sandstone, and Triassic sandstone is well exposed around the house. The low hills surrounding the various properties are underlain by Upper Permian rocks or Permian sandstone (Liffey Group).

Drilling along the Exeter-Winkleigh road has indicated that the Quaternary sediments overlying the Permian rocks are about 3-6 m in thickness. It is likely that Permian rocks underlie the properties of Messrs Jolly and Miller at somewhat similar depths.

Permian rocks have been a reliable source of water in several parts of the State and it is expected that in the Exeter area similar results will be obtained. Yields of the order of 20-40 l/min are likely. Quality is usually good but can be variable, and is sometimes unsuitable for irrigation, *i.e.* gardens, but is almost always suitable for stock.

As there is little variation in elevation in the areas where the water is required, the most convenient sites should be selected for boring, *i.e.* with regard to power supply and areas where the water will be used.

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