

Test pits on McCall's property, Ambleside, East Devonport.

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This property is situated north of a larger recent subdivision at Ambleside and covers about 2.4 hectares. It is planned to subdivide this land into 4 blocks, each averaging 0.6 hectares.

Following an examination of the surface materials of the proposed subdivision, it was recommended that some test pits be dug so that the subsurface materials could be examined.

The following materials were encountered in the test pits:

	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Description</i>
<i>Pit 1</i>	0-0.8	Red soil.
	0.8-1.5	Weathered dolerite.
	1.5	Unweathered dolerite in bottom of hole.
<i>Pit 2</i>	0-1.2	Red soil with limonite pisolites.
	1.2-2.4	Weathered dolerite with a few unweathered centres.
<i>Pit 3</i>	0-1.5	Red soil (some basalt derived soil from uphill) with limonite pisolites (one quartzite pebble at about 1.5 m).
	1.5-2.7	Weathered dolerite with unweathered dolerite at 2.7 m.
<i>Pit 4</i>	0-0.6	Red soil.
	0.6-3.4	Weathered dolerite (no unweathered centres).
<i>Pit 5</i>	0-1.4	Red soil.
	1.4-3.0	Weathered dolerite (no unweathered centres).

The eastern half of the subdivision is on land which slopes at about 10° and there is little risk of instability. However care should be taken not to steepen existing slopes.

Blocks 1 and 2 are situated on steeper land although a flat area occurs on block 1 and a lower, sloping area occurs on the southern part of block 2. Although the land is underlain by dolerite, it is deeply weathered and houses should be sited on the flatter areas as far away from steeper slopes as practicable. Cuts around the sides of slopes should be avoided or kept shallow and drainage should be piped away from the steep slopes. It may be necessary to cut a small bench for the house on block 2 and build a small retaining wall behind it, to avoid the effects of soil creep on the foundations.

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