

UR1973_36

Further examination of a subdivision at Abels Hill Road, St Leonards.

C.J. Knights

Following an examination of blocks 2, 5 and 6 on Abels Hill Road (Matthews, 1973), the owner of blocks 3 and 2 requested advice on her property. The blocks, each of 2 hectares, lie on the eastern side of the road.

GEOLOGY

Tertiary clay and sand overlies dolerite, and bauxite occurs near the interface. Dolerite crops out on the lower, western side of the road, and there are small outcrops of dolerite and bauxite immediately to the east of the road.

Most of the subdivision is underlain by Tertiary sediments and the top of the hill above the blocks is capped by basalt overlying quartz gravel.

STABILITY

Slopes east of the road have been subject to landslides in the past; there is evidence of old slips towards the rear of block 4 and in the north-eastern part of block 3.

A large slide is at present developing on the hillside, about 300 m above block 3.

The lower part of block 3 has a gentle slope and contains areas of bauxite which is not susceptible to slipping.

Part of block 4 slopes at 6-9°, and if it can be proved that the sub-surface is dry, or that there is bauxite or dolerite near the surface in this area, then landslips should not occur.

RECOMMENDATIONS

In siting houses in this area consideration must be taken of the stability of the site itself, and of the possibility that slips developing on the steeper ground above the plots could extend down hill to affect the site.

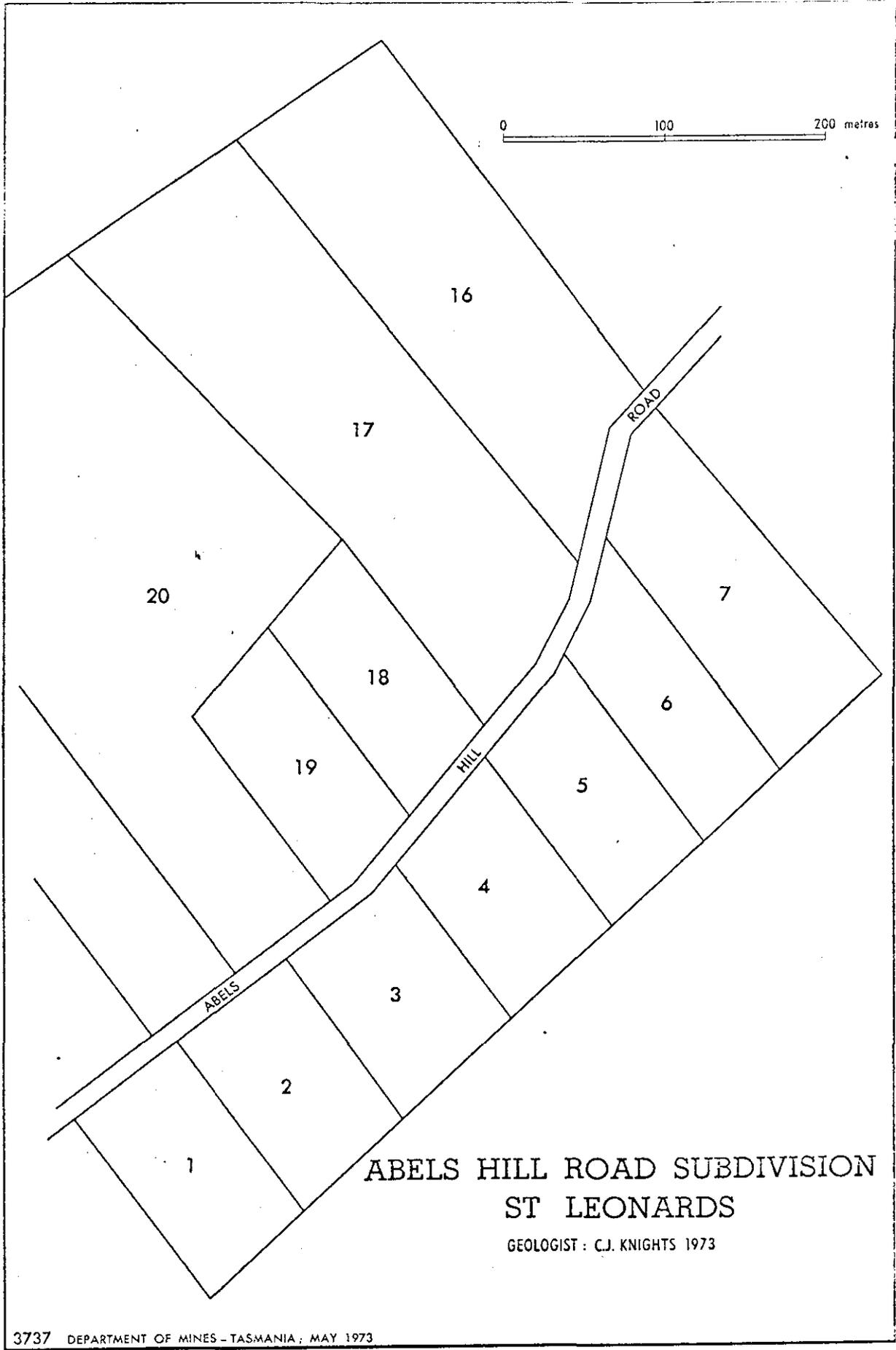
Test pits should be dug by means of a back hoe to establish the type of subsurface material, and the amount of water present.

Development should be confined to the front of the blocks, where they will not be affected by slips developing on the steeper slopes.

REFERENCE

MATTHEWS, W.L. 1973. Examination of part of a subdivision at Abels Hill Road, St Leonards. *Unpubl.Rep.Dep.Mines Tasm.* 1973/10.

[19 April 1973]



3737 DEPARTMENT OF MINES - TASMANIA, MAY 1973

5 cm