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Groundwater prospects at Dixon Point Road, Sandford.

P.C. Stevenson

The property of G. Shea at Sandford [EN383437] was examined on 30 November 1973.

The eastward sloping area of the old orchard lies on Ferntree Mudstone which dips west at about 10° . The rock has a weathered surface 2-3 m thick and outcrops are not seen.

The Ferntree Mudstone is regarded as a good hard-rock aquifer, but suffers in this area from the reduced quality of the water obtained because of low rainfall and high evaporation. Water quality is expected to be in the range 500-1000 ppm of total dissolved solids; NaCl being the principal constituent.

The yield will depend intimately on the fracture system cut by the bore, but yields of 400-1200 l/h are not unusual for a 13 cm diameter bore penetrating about 20 m below the water table in these rocks.

The position chosen for the bore is not critical, but a site at a similar elevation to the existing dams will avoid unnecessary drilling. The depth to water table is estimated as 10-15 m.

[3 December 1973]