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Inspection of new plans for a subdivision at Don.

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The stability of land at Don owned by L.M. Marshall [DQ420495] was examined in 1968 when it was proposed to subdivide the area. A zone of old slips in weathered basalt was marked on the plan accompanying the report made after this examination (Matthews, 1969, fig. 19) and it was suggested that instability could be caused by developing this area. The part of the subdivision below the zone of slips is underlain by Permian mudstone which appears to have had a more stable history.

Pitt and Sherry, consulting engineers of Devonport proposed a small alteration in the route of a proposed road so that smaller earth works would be required than for the original plan. The re-routing of this road leaves little space on Block 4 for a house to be built below the line of old slips.

The new road alignment is outside the area of old landslides and will probably be in weathered Permian sediments near the contact. A little basalt talus covers small areas of the Permian rocks but is not likely to present any problems. With lesser earth works, slumping is less likely to occur in road cuttings than in the previous plan. Several seepages come from under the basalt and these should be drained so that water is not allowed to accumulate on the uphill side of the road.

The positioning of houses in the area where old landslips have previously occurred, including Block 4, should be avoided. Although there is no recent movement on these slips, development could promote instability.

REFERENCE

MATTHEWS, W.L. 1969. Stability of land, Don area. *Tech.Rep.Dep.Mines Tasm.* 13:96-98.

[30 July 1974]