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Foundation and drainage conditions on a house block at South Arm.

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A house block at 223 Blessington Street, South Arm was examined for J. McIntyre.

The underlying rock is Malbina mudstone of Permian age, consisting of well-fractured, alternating thinly bedded and medium massive strongly indurated mudstones dipping westward at about 10°.

The soil cover on the block ranges in thickness from 15-60 cm, and is thickest on the southern boundary along a watercourse. The rock immediately below the soil is weathered to a lean clay, but within 1.2 m of the surface hard flaky mudstone is encountered.

These rocks are adequate to bear the load of an ordinary brick veneer or lighter house. They are elsewhere regarded as good aquifer, although groundwater prospects at this site are poor, but the rock is expected to drain freely on account of the fracturing and dip. The absorbency of the near-surface rocks could be improved by fracturing with gelignite after soak-age trenches have been dug.

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