

1979/34. The stability of slopes above the Eaglehawk Neck look-out

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*Abstract*

An inspection of an area adjacent to Eaglehawk Neck look-out revealed no evidence of large-scale landslipping. The proposed road cutting should be bottomed on bedrock and attention paid to batters and drainage.

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This work was carried out on 3 August 1979 at the request of Scott and Furphy, Engineers, for the Sorell Council.

The slopes on the upper side of the road within 250 m radius of the present parking area at EN765387 are composed of 1-2 m of silty clay (CL) slope deposits overlying hard moderately-weathered Permian siltstone. Triassic medium- to coarse sandstone occurs up-slope and is shedding boulders downslope. These boulders become incorporated in the slope deposits.

The slopes lie at angles from 12° - 20° and have been somewhat disturbed by downslope creep, but there is no evidence of landslipping on any scale larger than one metre. The existing road cuts have a natural batter of about 60° and although some small-scale fretting and gullying is apparent this does not constitute any risk to the slope as a whole. It does however present a maintenance problem in that the table drains become silted and blocked.

Any proposed road cutting above the look-out should be made with the aim of bottoming on the bedrock and the road drains should be arranged consistent with the safety of the existing road. Resulting batters should not be higher than 2 m, preferably flatter than 60°, and protected by vegetation or pitching.

Drainage of water takes place principally at the rock head, that is between bedrock and the overlying slope deposit clays. Batters should therefore expose this surface so that the slope deposit remains free draining.

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