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1984/20. Investigation of the Talisker Quarry at Breadalbane.

V.M. Threader

Abstract

Three percussion drill-holes were drilled in the quarry floor to test dolerite reserves. All holes intersected dolerite to the desired depth.

INTRODUCTION

The Talisker Quarry is situated two kilometres south-west of Breadalbane on the Midland Highway [EP141010]. A dolerite quarrying and crushing operation is carried out at this site. Three test holes were drilled in the quarry floor by an air-track percussion drill to ensure that there was a minimum thickness of 12 m of dolerite in reserve under the present workings.

RESULTS

The test drilling and sampling was done on Thursday 22 March 1984. The approximate locations of the holes are shown on Figure 1. All holes were drilled to a depth of 12 metres.

Hole 1 struck water at 1.5 m and remained in water to 12 m, and no sample was obtained. It is not known whether the water ran into the hole from where it was intersected, or whether the rock contained water for the entire depth of the hole. The former is the more likely, with water occupying near-surface fractures.

Hole 2 also struck water at 1.5 m but a sample was obtained from this hole.

Hole 3 was drilled between the primary crusher and the bins and the surface level was a few metres above the quarry floor. In this hole the dolerite was iron-stained (weathered) to five metres and was fresh (i.e. unweathered) below that depth. The hole was dry.

It would appear that the cause of the localised underground water below the quarry floor is a depression in the floor itself. This problem will be removed if the floor is made self-draining by reversing its dip.

The samples from holes 2 and 3 were examined by X-ray diffraction and found to contain a normal doleritic mineral assemblage. It is considered therefore that there are no other rock types within 12 m below the quarry floor.

[30 March 1984]

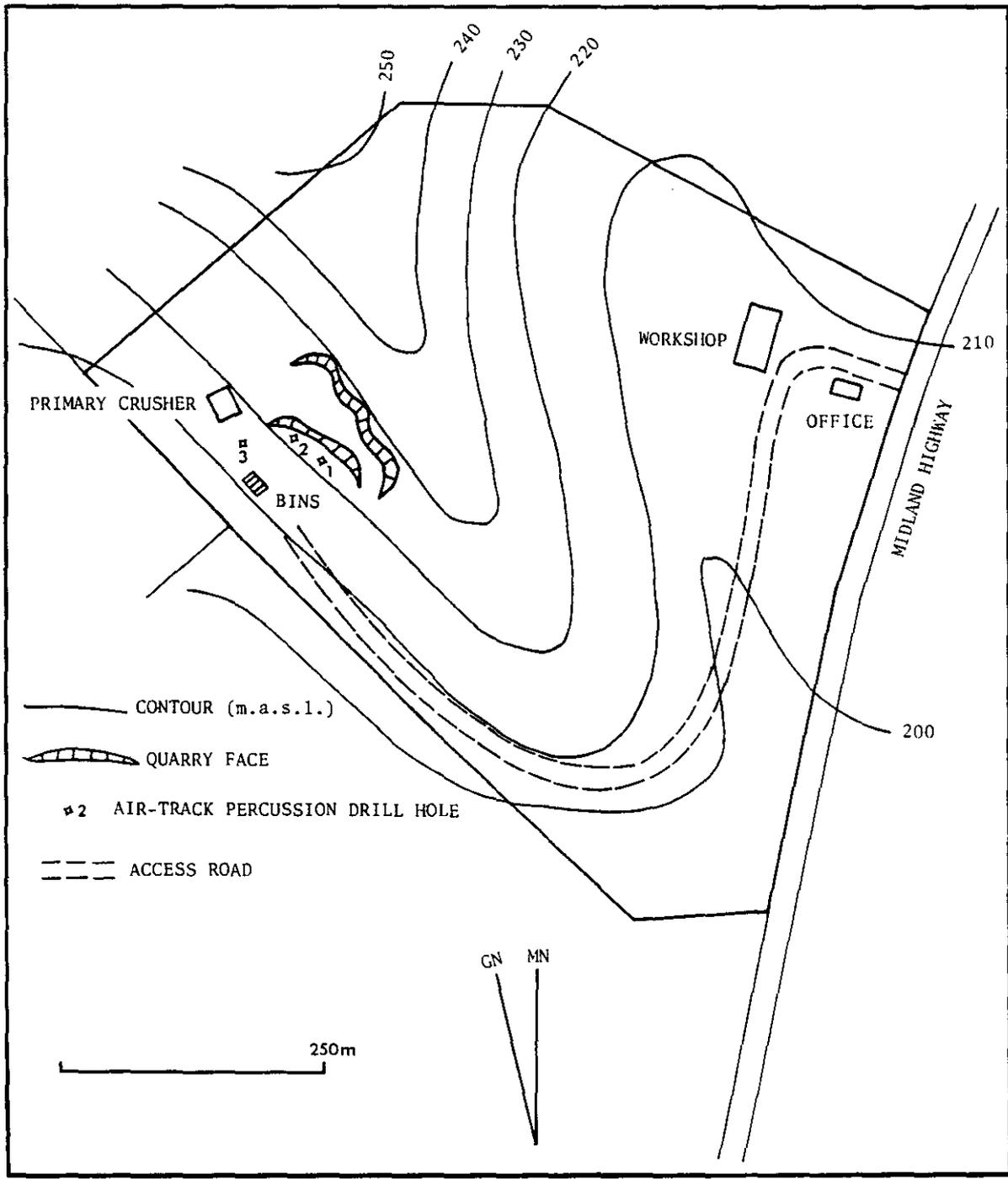


Figure 1. Talisker Quarries P/L, Breadalbane.

5 cm