



Landslips at Blackwall Road

by *W. L. MATTHEWS*

A brief inspection was made of two recent landslides that have occurred on slopes to the River Tamar and are affecting the edge of the road at Blackwall (fig. 1). Landslides have taken place on the embankment to the river previously.

The most southerly slip intersects the road edge and material has slumped about 1.5 m, leaving a steep scarp directly below the road. Some 30–50 cubic metres of material has been involved in the movement. Some of it comprises material from a recently excavated sewerage trench that was placed along the road edge.

The slope from the road edge to the river is steep and some 5–6 m high. Recent rains and drainage across the road have saturated the slope causing the clay to soften (a brown plastic clay is exposed in the heel of the slip) resulting in the slump.

Drainage should be prevented from flowing into the heel of the slip. At present water can flow across the road and enter the affected area. Piling or buttressing the slope with rock will probably be required to stabilise the area with the latter being the cheaper solution.

The northern slip has much the same form but is smaller and similar treatment will probably be required.

Traffic should be kept away from the road edge in the areas of the slip as further collapse is possible.

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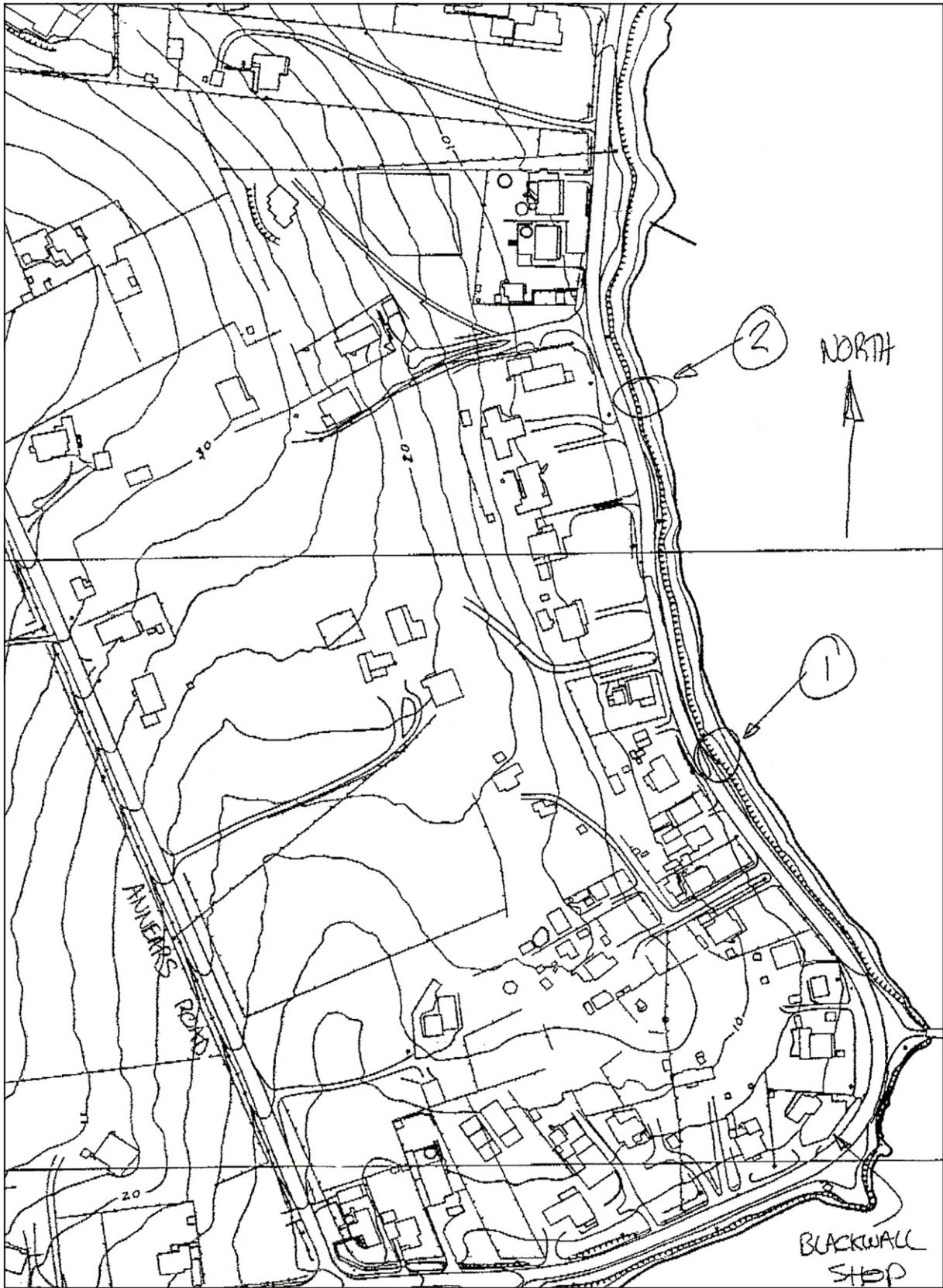


Figure 1