



Inspection of proposed subdivision at Hillwood

by *W. L. MATTHEWS*

An inspection has been made of the proposed subdivision of a block of land in Johnstons Road, Hillwood. The land is in a Class 4 area on the landslip zone map of the Tamar Valley and has a boundary on Egg Island Creek. Most of the block is relatively low sloping (angles of 5° or less) except for steep banks around the creek.

In view of the relatively flat nature of the land the risk of landslides affecting it may not be great provided some precautions are taken. Any house should be sited at least 20 m away from the steep slopes to the creek and excellent drainage around the house should be established. Any excavations greater than about 0.7 m should be supported with retaining walls.

A sample of clay from the property was tested.

Liquid limit	108
Plastic limit	31
Linear shrinkage	20
X-ray analysis (clay fraction) (%)	
Kaolinite	55
Montmorillonite	20
Goethite	15
Gibbsite	5
Lepidolite	5

Determinations by R. N. Woolley

These results suggest that the clay on the property will have expansive properties and foundations should be designed to take this into consideration.

In summary the landslide risk is not considered high provided some precautions are taken and the clay has expansive properties.

[5 October 1989]