



Examination of a proposed house site at Kayena

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A proposed house site in Camms Road, Kayena, was inspected as requested to assess stability conditions.

The site is on the southwest side of Richmond Hill and comprises sloping land. The slope is uneven and localised flat areas occur around the slope. The proposed house site is situated on one of these flatter zones. The top of the hill is underlain by basalt while the slopes have talus (soil and boulders) derived from the weathering of the basalt. Tertiary sediments (clay, sandy clay and sand) are expected to underlie the slopes at depth.

The unevenness of the slope is due to possible old landslide movements and the area has been placed in class 3 on the landslide zone map of the Tamar Valley, although a class 4 classification may be more

appropriate. Reactivation of these possible older movements (there are no signs of recent landslides nearby) is a definite possibility and for this reason the development cannot be recommended unless detailed investigations show the risk of reactivation is very low. This may not be found to be the situation. The south-facing slopes are quite wet as a result of recent heavy rainfall.

A possible alternative house site is on a small west facing ridge around the contour but this is outside the proposed lot boundaries. Here the slope is not as steep and is smooth. There is also a concentration of basalt boulders here. A few test pits (3-4) to up to three metres depth would be required to assess this site.

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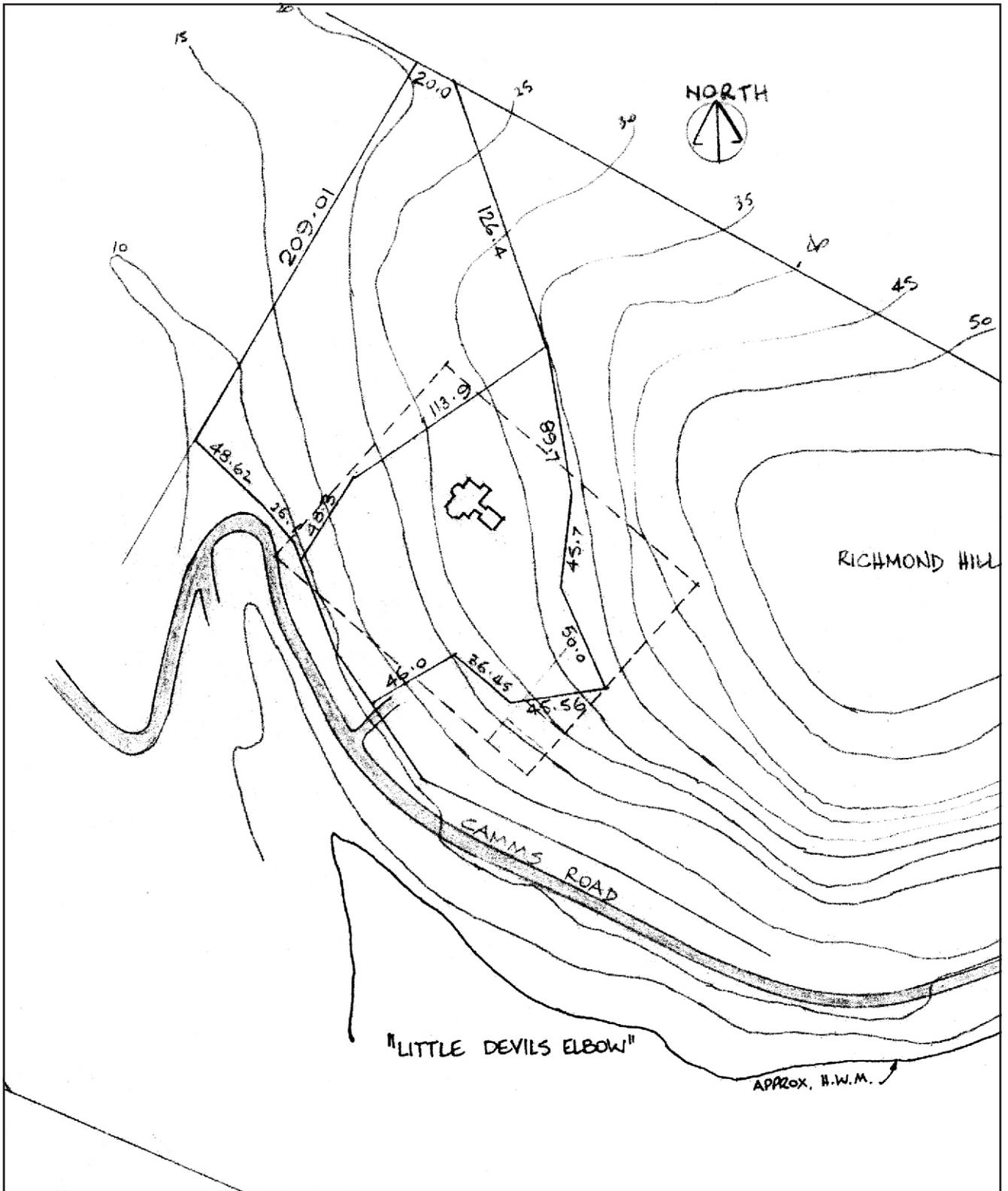


Figure 1
Location map