

LIMESTONE AT LITTLE DENISON RIVER,
HUON DISTRICT.

(11)

Location and Access

The deposits are situated on the north-eastern slopes of Little Denison River valley, above the road crossing. This stream junctions with Huon River about 6 miles above Judbury township.

Good access is available by road from Huonville via Judbury in a distance of 18 miles to within a $\frac{1}{2}$ mile of the deposits, from a road following Little Denison River.

Previous Literature

Reference is made to the limestones in an unpublished report and geological maps made by R.J. Ford in 1955 for the Hydro-Electric Commission.

Topography

The principal topographical feature of the area consists of the steep side of Little Denison River valley rising sharply 80 feet from a flat floor to the base of cliff faces, along which the limestones are exposed. The cliffs rise 60 - 80 feet higher to the top of the limestone beds.

Geology

The rocks in the area consist of Permian mudstones and limestones dipping at low angles to the south-east. These are well exposed on the steep north-east side of Little Denison River valley over a distance of approximately two miles, where the stratigraphical succession (Ford, 1955) is as follows:-

Woodbridge Glacial Formation
Berriedale Limestone
Bandella Mudstone

The Limestone

The limestone deposit outcrops in a series of steep cliffs commencing some 50 - 80 feet above the valley floor. It occurs in the form of numerous narrow beds of limestone, 4 - 6 inches in thickness, separated by shaley mudstone bands of a similar width. Pebbles of quartz, quartzite and granite, up to 3 inches in size, are distributed through the limestones and in some beds they are numerous enough to form conglomerates.

The limestones are generally fine grained and dark grey in colour which weather at surface to a light grey or buff colour. A large variety of fossil remains is present consisting predominantly of brachiopods and bryozoans.

quality - A 10 ft. sample taken across the lower beds, including limestone and shale bands has been analysed with the following results :-

<u>Constituents</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Acid Insoluble	61.7
Fe ₂ O ₃	4.1
CaO	17.0
MgO	0.6
Ignition Loss	15.3
CaCO ₃ (calc. from CaO)	26.8

This analysis indicates that the lime content of these beds is too low for commercial use at the present.


Quantity - Large quantities of limestone occur in this area. The beds are exposed laterally for about two miles and have a maximum thickness of 90 feet. Owing to the low grade of the deposit as indicated by the preliminary sampling there appears to be little necessity to estimate possible tonnages at this stage.

Quarrying - Conditions for quarrying are difficult and likely to prove costly owing to a thick overburden and the location of the limestone beds on steep cliffs high above the valley floor.

Proximity to Markets - The deposit is easily accessible by roads to the adjacent agricultural district of the Huon valley where lime is in constant demand.

Conclusion

The low grade of this limestone occurrence, coupled with thick overburden and difficult quarrying facilities, appears to preclude the deposit from economic operation at the present time.


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