

Examination of land at Ambleside, East Devonport

by W. L. Matthews

Mr N. Lester, of Lester and Franks surveyors of Devonport, requested advice on the stability of land owned by Mr T. J. McCall of Devonport. This land is situated on steeply sloping ground north of a recent subdivision and east of River Road.

Geology

Dolerite boulders can be found at several points on the property and also on slopes above the property. It is apparent that the dolerite is deeply weathered as on the subdivision to the south. Weathered Tertiary basalt occurs towards the top of the slope.

Discussion of stability

No definite slips, either active or old, occur on the land examined. One or two areas where there are changes in slope on Lot 1 could represent very old slips but they could also be due to differential weathering and erosion of the dolerite. Apart from a large seepage on the southern boundary the area appears to be dry.

The property has particularly steep areas in some locations, with parts of Lot 2 reaching angles of about 25°. In view of the steep nature of the area and the apparent deep weathering of the dolerite, more information on the subsurface material should be obtained before any assessment of the likely stability of the area could be given. It would be useful to obtain information on how deep the weathering of the dolerite has extended, the degree of weathering, and also to determine the presence or absence of subsurface water or moisture in the weathered material. Four test pits dug with a backhoe to about 12-14 feet, in positions marked on Figure 1, would allow this information to be obtained.

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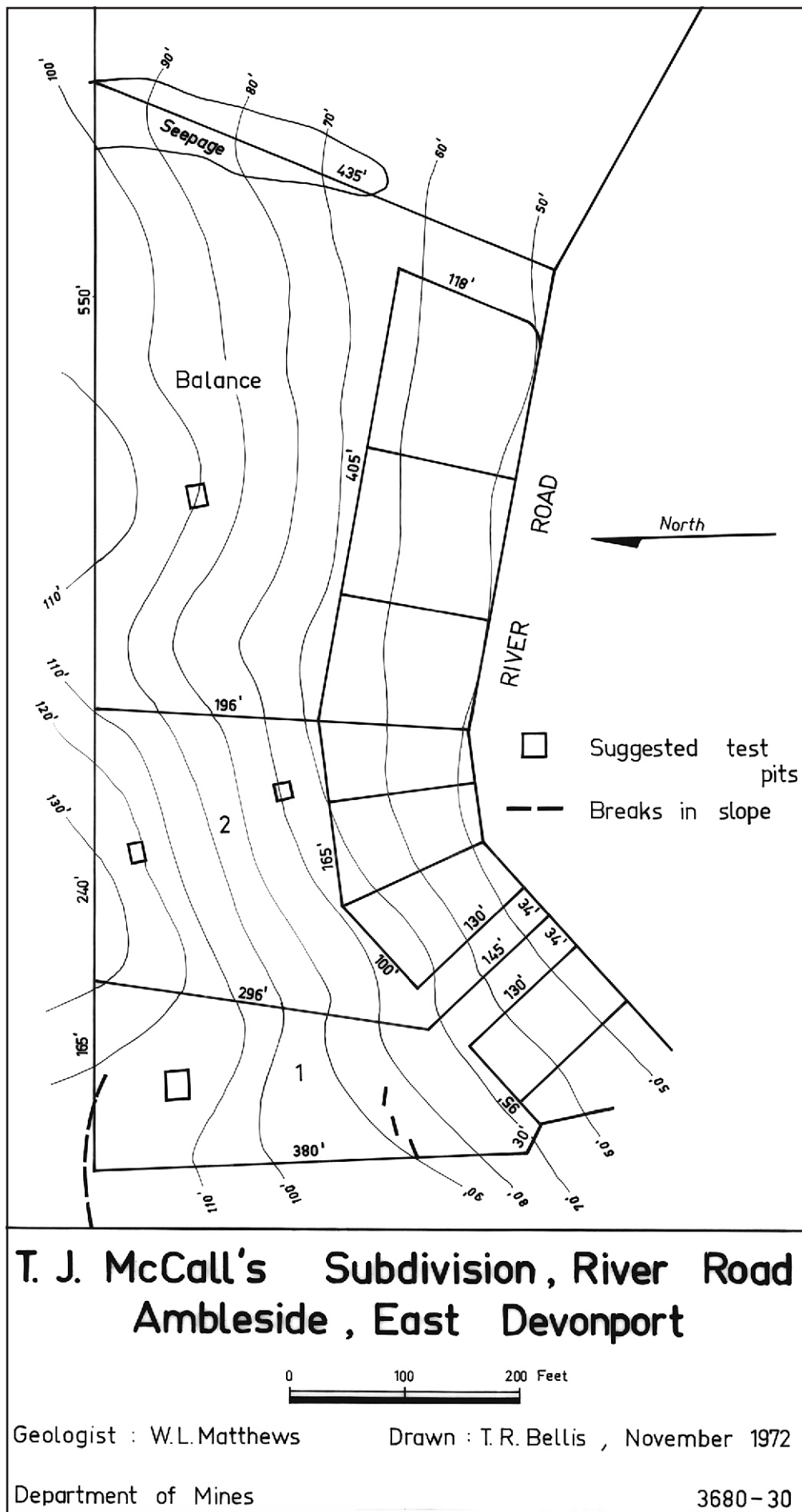


Figure 1