

**TASMANIA DEPARTMENT OF MINES  
UNPUBLISHED REPORT 1976/73**

**Examination of a property  
at Howick Street, Launceston**

*by C. J. Knights*

A property at 28 Howick Street, Launceston, was examined. The property is located on steeply sloping ground rising from Howick Street. This land is located in Zone 3, or potential landslip, on the Tamar Valley Landslip Zone Map.

Immediately behind the back fence is a steep bank about 1.5 m high and behind that a slope of about 20°. Lying on this bank and slope is a pile of material, 1.5–2.0 m in depth, which is reported to consist of rubble and rubbish. This pile is loading the back fence which has been partially destroyed.

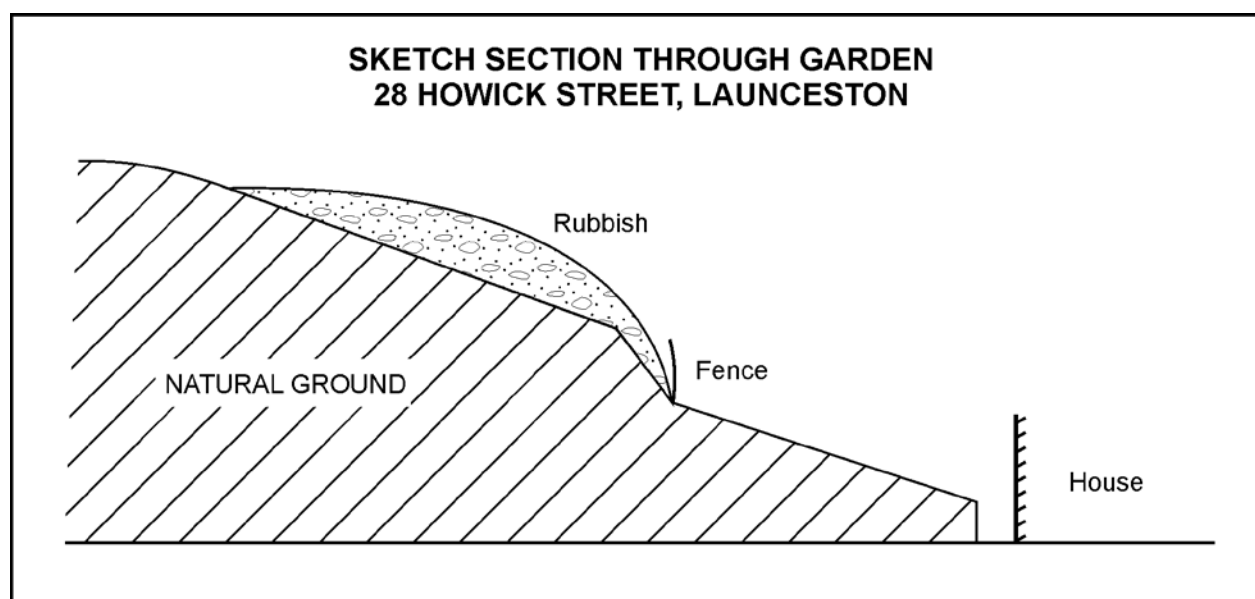
A sketch section which shows the relationship between the rubble, garden and house is shown in Figure 1. The slope itself is composed of clay and silty clay of the Launceston Beds. In this locality ironstone bands are also common, and these would account for the presence of the unusually steep slope.

The pile of rubble is largely stabilised by blackberries, but the slow down-hill creep will continue to damage the fence. A mudflow of rubble is unlikely, although without knowing the constituents of the pile the possibility cannot be ruled out.

The main danger is that the rubble is loading what is already an exceptionally steep bank. It could well induce instability in the bank itself and so start a process which would be difficult and expensive to halt.

It is considered prudent that the pile should be moved and spread thinly over the more shallow land behind. The procedure should not take place in late summer or winter, as there must be time to re-establish vegetation on the slope before the winter rains.

[11 February 1976]



**Figure 1**