URI 586_14

1986/14. Groundwater investigations at Richardsons Beach, Coles Bay

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Abstract

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A sequence of Quaternary aeolian, marine and backswamp deposits up to ten metres thick has been deposited in a structurally-controlled granite trough near Richardsons Beach, Coles Bay. The upper marine sand is an unconfined aquifer which can provide a small source of moderately saline groundwater. A suitable location, adjacent to an electricity supply and which can be readily connected to the existing water supply, has been pump tested and the groundwater analysed. The groundwater is suitable for the Freycinet National Park toilet facilities and could be used as a supplementary supply during periods of drought.

INTRODUCTION

At the request of the National Parks and Wildlife Service, investigations were conducted at Richardsons Beach, Coles Bay [EP075350], into the possibility of obtaining a supplementary water supply from groundwater. The present Coles Bay water supply reaches critical levels during periods of drought and the influx of visitors to the Freycinet National Park places heavy demands on the supply, for both drinking and toilet facilities, during the summer months. The Richardsons Beach area was selected as having the best potential for such a groundwater supply, on the basis of its geomorphology. This area is also a major camping site.

GEOMORPHOLOGY

Richardsons Beach is approximately one kilometre in length and extends in an approximate north-south direction between the Coles Bay township and the Chateau, at the foot of The Hazards. A single frontal dune approximately five metres in height backs the beach and extends almost along its entire length. A gently sloping swampy terrace backs the frontal dune and extends up to one kilometre inland at its furthest point. The terrace is approximately triangular in shape with an area of about 0.6 km² and an altitude of approximately one to two metres above high water mark. Ranger Creek drains the granite hills adjacent to Cape Tourville to the east and flows along the northern edge of the terrace, breaching the frontal dune towards the northern end of Richardsons Beach. The terrace may be subdivided into two ill-defined levels with an altitude difference of about 0.5 to one metre. The lower level is a floodplain of Ranger Creek to the north while the higher level to the south is probably of marine origin. The area is surrounded by steep granite hills to the north, east and south.

GENERAL GEOLOGY

Quaternary aeolian, marine and backswamp sandy sediments underlie the coastal terrace inland from Richardsons Beach. Red adamellite is the predominant granitic rock which crops out on the hills surrounding the coastal terrace. The geology of the granites is complex and compositional variations are related to hydrothermal alteration. Acid dykes have intruded the granite in a pattern which is largely structurally controlled. The structure of the area is controlled by cross-faulting which may have produced graben-type features. The bedrock trough described below may be related to the faulting of the region.

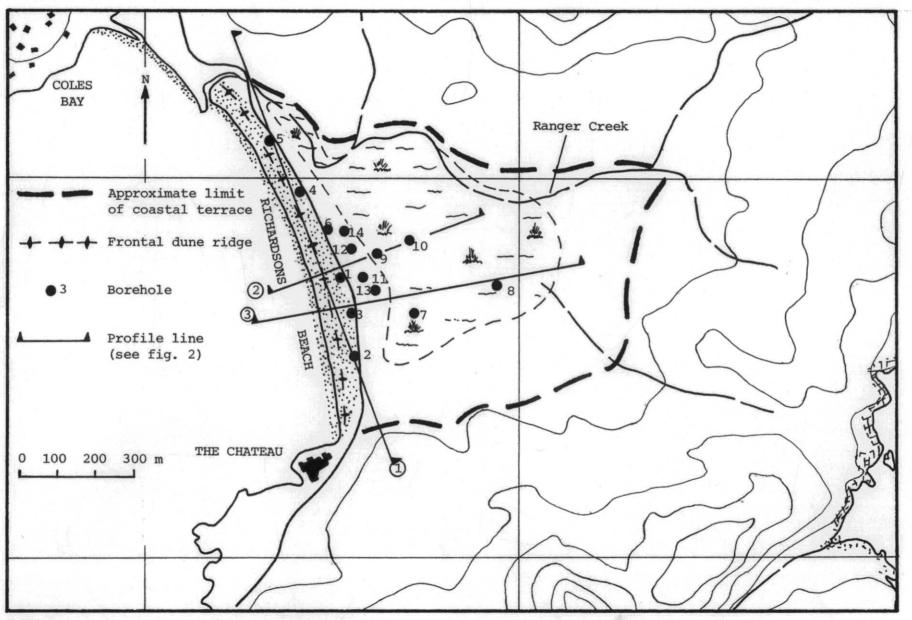
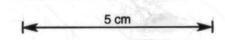


Figure 1. Location of boreholes, Richardsons Beach



RESULTS OF AUGER DRILLING

Fourteen augered boreholes were drilled in the terrace area at the rear of Richardsons Beach. The holes were drilled with a Triefus trailer—mounted drill and extended to depths of ten metres from the groundsurface. The borehole logs are presented in Appendix 1 and the location of drill holes is shown on Figure 1.

The terrace area is underlain by a relatively complex sequence of Quaternary sediments, with large variations in clay and gravel content. A simplified stratigraphy is shown on Figure 2, where three profiles have been plotted. These profiles show a veneer of aeolian sand approximately one metre thick, overlying a clean, shelly, medium-grained marine sand unit. The marine sand is up to 3.8 m in thickness in the area of the borehole 1 to 10 profile line (Line 2).

Beneath the clean marine sand unit the sediments become variable in composition with a clay component that generally increases inland. The clayey sand is finer in grain size than the overlying marine sand and often grades or interdigitates with more gravelly sediments. The gravel particles have been directly derived from the surrounding granite hills and the particle angularity indicates a short distance of transport. Lenses of fine grey sand are also apparent. These lower, clayey sedimentary units also have layers or lenses of organic-rich clay and clayey sand and occasional shell-rich lenses. The lower sediments are considered to have been deposited in a backswamp environment with periodic influxes of fine and coarser sediment, depending on the depositional energy of runoff and streams from the surrounding granite hills.

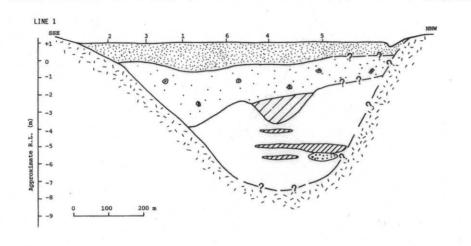
The granite basement is in the form of a trough, trending in a north-west direction. The trend of this basement trough shows as an apparent granite bar beneath the fore dunes in the two profile lines, approximately perpendicular to Richardsons Beach and shown on Figures 1 and 2. The basement trough is probably controlled by faulting of the granitic rocks.

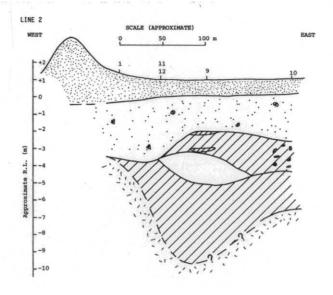
HYDROLOGY

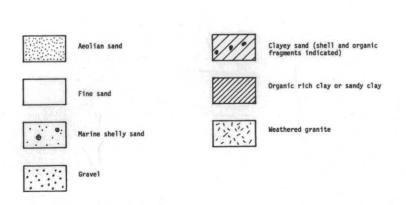
The Quaternary sediments all contain groundwater as an unconfined aquifer. The aquifer units with the best potential for providing groundwater which can be easily extracted by spear bores are considered to be the coarser marine sands with very low or nil clay content. These sands tend to be thickest at the rear of the fore dune.

Nine of the auger holes were selected for pump testing. A 50 mm diameter, 0.6 m long stainless steel well screen was jetted into each of the selected auger holes. Number 10 or 15 screens were selected on the basis of the grain size of the potential aquifer. The pump tests were abandoned if the spears produced low yields or if the conductivity of the groundwater indicated a high salinity. Augered boreholes 1, 11 and 12 were each pump tested for a period of two hours and water samples were taken after 90 minutes from the start of pumping. The results of the pump testing have been summarised in Table 1.

As expected, the low yielding spears were located in the finer grained sediments and therefore yields generally decreased inland. Groundwater salinities varied from 1490 to 2620 ppm for total dissolved solids analysed from the laboratory samples. The major chemical component of the groundwater is sodium chloride. Salinities increased towards Ranger Creek and a field test indicated that water in the small lagoon at the mouth of







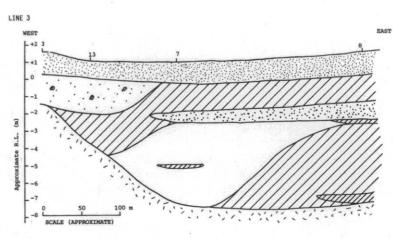


Figure 2. Diagrammatic sedimentary profiles at Richardsons Beach

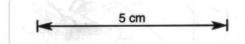


Table 1. SUMMARISED RESULTS OF PUMP TESTING

Hole	Screen Interval (m)	Pump Rate (1/min)	Standing Water Level (m)	Field Conductivity (µS/cm)	Analysed TDS
1	4.4 - 5.0	16	1.3	2400	1740
4	2.6 - 3.2	8	1.8	5000	
5	4.4 - 5.0	8	1.5	4600	2620
6	4.4 - 5.0	7.5	2.0	2500	1530
7	3.0 - 3.6	<2	1.3	2100	
8	2.2 - 2.8	< 2	1.0	2100	
9	4.4 - 5.0	5.2	1.0	3200	
11	3.4 - 4.0	10.4	1.25	3000	1880
12	4.4 - 5.0	10.4	1.25	2500	1420
14	4.4 - 5.0	7.2	1.3	2600	1490

this creek had an approximate salinity of 10 000 ppm. The sand bar at the mouth of Ranger Creek is periodically breached during high tides and south-westerly storm conditions. Saline water is therefore trapped in the lagoon and undoubtedly increases the salinity of the groundwater adjacent to the creek. An improvement in groundwater quality could be made by constructing a small weir at the mouth of Ranger Creek in order to prevent saltwater influx.

As augering and pump testing proceeded it became apparent that the groundwater was unsuitable for human consumption. The investigations were altered in order to determine a suitable aquifer and location to provide water suitable for toilet facilities. In view of the borehole information previously determined, bores 11 and 12 were drilled adjacent to the electricity transmission lines which traverse the terrace. Both the aquifer thickness and water quality were considered suitable in this area, but two boreholes were considered necessary in order to provide a sufficient quantity of groundwater.

Boreholes 11 and 12 are considered to have a potential for providing 21 1/min (280 gallons per hour) of groundwater with an average salinity of 1650 ppm. They are immediately adjacent to the electricity supply, are centrally located, and can be readily connected to the pipelines which supply the toilet facilities.

CONCLUSION

Quaternary sediments underlie a 0.6 km² low lying terrace, inland from Richardsons Beach, Coles Bay. Approximately one metre of aeolian sand overlies up to 3.8 m of marine shelly sand. Below the marine sand are up to seven metres of clayey sand and fine sand which contains organic clay and sandy clay layers and lenses and some gravel. The sediments have been deposited in a structurally controlled trough in the underlying granite, trending approximately in a north-west direction.

The sediments are an unconfined aquifer which contains small quantities of moderately saline groundwater. The groundwater analysed varies in salinity from 1420 ppm to 2620 ppm and is likely to be even more saline in the vicinity of Ranger Creek. Pump testing of shallow spear bores yielded up to 16 litres/minute of groundwater. The groundwater is unsuitable for human consumption but may be used for toilet facilities.

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A suitable supply of groundwater was located towards the centre of the beach and immediately adjacent to the electricity supply inland from the major fore dune. The combined yield of two spears was tested at 21 1/min (280 gallons/hour) of groundwater with an average salinity of 1650 ppm. This supply can be easily connected to existing water supply lines which service the toilets and can therefore be used as a supplementary system during periods of drought.

[8 January 1986]

APPENDIX 1

Logs of augered boreholes

RB1 sheet 1 of 1

ordinates .lination 90° aring			drill method AUGER		by		
notes samples, tests		graphic log classification symbol.	material soil type: plasticity or particle characteristics, colour, secondary and minor components.	moisture	consistency density index	hand penetr- ometer kPa	structure, geology
	1-		SAND. Yellow brown. Medium - coarse. Quadre. Well rounded particles to 4mm dia. Poorly sorted.	A W			??
	3-		SAND. Dull yellow brown. Medium-fine Approxe 10% shell frogments and quartz particles to 2mm dia.				marine sand
16 C miles	5-7	CL	SANDY & GRAVELLY CLAY. Vellow brown - gravel to 50%.	Y			WEATHERED GRANITE?
						·	

ENGINEERING LOG - BOREHOLE

porehole no.

sheet 1 of 1

FREYCINET GROUND WATER RICHARDSONS BEACH project location TRIEFUS co-ordinates drill type hole commenced drill method hole completed AUGER drilled by &C inclination qoo logged by OSS drill fluid bearing checked by hand penetr-ometer consistency density index notes material metres graphic log soil type: plasticity or particle characteristics, colour, secondary and minor components. samples, kPa structure, geology tests 25000 40000 40000 123 SAND. Grey brown. Fine quartz sond. AEOLIAN SAND GRAVELLY CLAY. Yellow brown-grey brown 30% gravel - angular quests and feldspar porticles WEATHERED GRAMTE 3 5 cm

borehole no.
RB3
sheet | of |

o-ordinate L. clination paring				drill method AUGER			hole commenced hole completed drilled by BC logged by DSS checked by						
support	notes samples, tests	metres	classification symbol	material soil type: plasticity or particle characteristics, colour, secondary and minor components.	moisture condition	consistency density index	hand penetr- ometer kPa 0002 8002 8004	structure, geolog					
		3-	ي حد	SAND. Yellow brown. Medium grants SAND. Yellow brown. Medium grants sand. Approx 10% shell and frogs. GRANELLY CLAY. Yellow brown-grey brown. 40% angular quarts and feldspar particles to 5 nm dia.				WEATHGRED GRANTE					

ENGINEERING LOG – BOREHOLE

borehole no. RB4 sheet) of |

L.		s 90°				drill method AUGER			nced ed 3 C 3 TS	/
3	support	notes samples, tests	metres depth	graphic log	classification symbol	material soil type: plasticity or particle characteristics, colour, secondary and minor components.	moisture condition	consistency density index	hand penetr- ometer kPa 0007 kPa	structure, geology
		e dynah E = E	1 -	uni	Sw- SP	SAND Fire - course granule sand. Gray. Other particles to 4 mm. Poorly sorted				AROLLAN SAN
		(metor)	2 -	101777	sw	SAND. Medrum-fine quartz sond. Olive grey. Approx 15% shell frogs.				MARINE SAND.
	10 SAGEN	5e/min	3 -	: : : ! !	 sc	CLATEY SAND. Ohre grey. Fine sand				
			4-	11		with approx 30% clay Grey brown organic? clay layers.				
Lot of Self Self Self Self			5 -	1	SC	SAND Fine grained. 10% clay. Some clay layers. Some organic seaward? particles				
			6-	M M						
			7 -		sw	SAND. Yellow brown fine sand.				
			8 -							
						5 cm				

borehole no.
RB5
sheet | of |

.L.		ates	90°				drill method AUGER	hole commenced hole completed drilled by RC logged by DJJ checked by						
S penetration 3	support	water	notes samples, tests	metres depth	graphic log	classification symbol	material soil type: plasticity or particle characteristics, colour, secondary and minor components.	moisture condition	consistency density index	hand penetr- ometer kPa 002 kPa 004	structure, geology			
				1 -	W)nin	sw SP	SAND. Dull yellow orange SAND. Medium - coarse quartz sand Some fine growel.				ABOLIAN SAN			
		2	6,000ppn (meter)	3 -		sw	SAND. Mediun-fine quartz sond. Olive-grey.							
		10 SLRYE	(mater) 84/min	5-			CLAY: Moderate plashrity. Grey. Organic rich. Some shell frogments							
				7 -	1////	SW	GRAVELLY CLAY. Gray. Approx 30% medium - course angular quartz gravel.				WEATHERED GRAVITE ?			
				9-		. ,	5 cm							

borehole no.
RB6
sheet | of |

R.L. ncli	ordinates lination 90° aring					drill type TRIEFUS drill method AUCER drill fluid	hole c	ommen omplet by G I by		
e penetration	support	notes samples, tests	metres depth	graphic log	classification symbol	material soil type: plasticity or particle characteristics, colour, secondary and minor components.	moisture condition	consistency density index	hand penetr- ometer kPa %2002 40002	structure, geology
			1 -	1141	Sw	SAND. Fire-medium quartz sand. Well sorted. Light gray-dull yellow arange.	a			AEOLIAN
			2-			d	M			MARWE SAN
	•		3-	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	SP.	gravel. Olive brown. Poorly sorted	, 3			
		2,500 pp~	4-		Sw	SAND Medium - fine graned. Trace clay. Light grey - farm. Well sorted				
	- Pace	7.5.2 mi	5-							
			6-							
			7-							
			8-		GC	Medium growd - angular grants particles.				WEATHERED GRANITE
			9 -			5 cm				

ENGINEERING LOG - BOREHOLE

borehole no. RB7 sheet 1 of 1

13/21 BEACH FREYCINET GROUNDWATER RICHARDSONS project location co-ordinates drill type TRIEFUS hole commenced hole completed drill method AUGER drilled by inclination 90° drill fluid logged by DJS bearing checked by hand penetr density inde-density inde-solution aday too eday too eday too eday notes material 90 soil type: plasticity or particle characteristics, samples, structure, geology colour, secondary and minor components. D SAND. Yellow brown. Medium-fine MARINE SAND quartz sand. Some shall particles 21,000 CLAYEY SAND. Gray brown. Medium-time sand. Some shell frogments. Approx 30% clay, some organ 42 kmin 3 -SANDY GRAVEL. Medium gravel. Angular particles. Yellow brown. 30% (meter) GP medium sand SAND. Fine. Light gray. Qta. sand Trace clay. SC CLAY - Plastic, grey . Organic tragments . 6-11/1/1 7 8. gravel. Angular particles. Approx WEATHERED GC GRANITE ? 30% day. GRANITE. GRANITE BEDROCK

5 cm

ENGINEERING LOG – BOREHOLE

borehole no. RB8 sheet 1 of 1

o-ordinates L. clination earing					drill type TRIEFUS drill method AUFER drill fluid	hala assurbated								
support water	notes samples, tests	R.L. metres		classification symbol	material soil type: plasticity or particle characteristics, colour, secondary and minor components.	moisture	consistency density index	hand penetr- ometer kPa 0007 kPa 0007	structure, geology					
		3	1/1/200 1/1/20	the same and	SAND. Medium-frie. Yellow brown. Quartz Sand CLAYEY SAND. Yellow brown. Quartz Sond-medium graned. Some shall. Approx. 20% clay. GRAVELLY SAND. Medium-coarse sand. Some medium gravel. Crrey. Angular particles. CLAYEY SAND. Grey. Medium quartz sand. Approx. 25% clay. Some medium gravel-angular fragments to 4 mm diameter. Variations in clay and gravel content. Organic clay layer at 3.8m SANDY CLAY. Bak brown. Arganic rich Approx. 30% medium sand CLAYEY GRAVEL. Yellow brown-grey Approx. 40% clay. Angular medium gravel-ang	A 8 3			MARINE - ALLUVIAL DEPOSITS					

borehole no.

RB9
sheet \ of \

o-ordinates L. eclination earing	900				drill method Aucer	hole commenced drilled by BC logged by BSS checked by						
support water	notes samples, tests	R.L. metres depth	graphic log	classification symbol	material soil type: plasticity or particle characteristics, colour, secondary and minor components.	moisture condition	consistency density index	hand penetr- ometer kPa 002 8007	structure, geolog			
I TO SCREEN	5.2 L/min 3,200ppm (meter)	3 4 5 6 7 8 9		Sw/	SAND. Fine-medium quartz sond. Grey brown. GRAVELY SAND. Medium quartz sond. Grey. Fine-medium gravel approx 20%. Trove pubbles to 1 cm drimeter. CLAYEY SAND. Yellow brown-gay brown. Medrum-fine sond. Approx 20% clay. Sone clay lagers or lenses. SAND. Light grey. Fine-medium quartz sond. Trace clay. CLAYEY AND GRAVELLY SAND. Yellow brown-light grey. Medium sond. Approx 25% medium gravel - angular particles. Approx 20% play				AEOLIAN SAND? MARINE SAND ALLUVIAL E- MARINE DEPOSITI			

borehole no.
RB10
sheet 1 of 1

160	ordinates clination 46° aring					drill fluid	hole commenced hole completed drilled by &C logged by &J checked by					
nonemanad 3	support	notes samples, tests	metres depth		classification symbol	material soil type: plasticity or particle characteristics, colour, secondary and minor components.	moisture condition	consistency density index	hand penetr- ometer kPa	structure, geology		
			2 -	9	sw	SAND. Medium - coarse. Qtz. sand. Approx 10% coarse sand and shall. Light grey.				AFOLIAN SAND MARINE SANDS		
			4	9	 Sc	CLAYEY SAND. Olive grey. Medium quartz sond. Approx 25% day. Approx 10% whole shell and frogments bivalues a gastropuls. Some wood frogments.						
			6-	11/1/1/1	5C	grey. Very miror amount shell frogments. Trace fine gravel. Approx 15% clay.						
			8 -	/ <u>*</u>		GRANTE BEDROCK				BEDROUT		

ENGINEERING LOG – BOREHOLE

borehole no. R.B. 11 sheet of

L.			۹00				drill fluid		by		
in heliculation 3	support	water	notes samples, tests	metres depth	graphic log	classification symbol	material soil type: plasticity or particle characteristics, colour, secondary and minor components.	moisture condition	consistency density index	hand penetr- ometer kPa	structure, geolog
				l -	(1(1)		sand. Yellow brown. Madrum-fine quartz sand.	Transfer of			A EO LAV
				2			5400. Medium - coase. Dull yellow brown. Trave fine-medium gravel well rounded particles. SAND. Medium quartz Sand. Yellow				MARNE SAND
		KE'√	0.4 ejnin ,500 ppm meter)	3-		SW	from - grey. Approx 10% shall from ments.				
		NS.	meter)			cL	plashicity. Approx 25% medium - fine grand - angular quarts				WEATHERED GRAWITE
				5 -			and foldspor?				
				-			5 cm				

borehole no. RB12

o-ordinates t.L. nclination 9 C learing			drill fluid				hole commenced drilled by BC logged by DTS checked by					
sam te:	oles,	netres depth	classification symbol	material soil type: plasticity or particle characteristics, colour, secondary and minor components.	moisture condition	consistency density index	hand penetr- ometer kPa	structure, geology				
In screen	المناب	3-4-5-6-7-	SW SW	SAND. Vellow brown. Fine-medium quartz sand. SAND. Dull yellow brown. Medium - coorse quartz sand. Some time gravel SAND. Yellow brown- grey. Medium quartz sand. Approx 10% shell fogments. SANDY CLAY. Yellow brown-grey brown. Approx 25% medium quartz sand.				AEOLIAN SAND				

borehole no.
RB13
sheet 1 of 1

.L.	lination 96°					drill fluid	hole commenced hole completed drilled by &C logged by D33 checked by						
support	water	notes samples, tests	R.L. depth depth	graphic log	classification symbol	material soil type: plasticity or particle characteristics, colour, secondary and minor components.	moisture condition	consistency density index	hand penetr- ometer kPa	structure, geology			
			1 -		sw	SAND. Dull yellowish brown. Medium quartz soind. Some coarse sond and five ground - lo 5 mm diameter.	м м			A 60 L.AN SAMB 			
			3-	1///	Sc	CLATEY SAND. Grey-yellow brown. Medium sand. Trave shell fragments. Approx 10%-20% clay.							
			6-	17/1		GRAVELY CLAY. Light grey. Mod. plasticity clay.		7		WEATHERED GRANITE			
			7-	32									
			9-										

ENGINEERING LOG - BOREHOLE

borehole no.
RB 14
sheet) of 1

co-ordinates R.L. inclination 90° bearing						drill method Augen	hole commenced hole completed drilled by &C logged by &JS checked by			
nomemana 3	support	notes samples, tests	metres Q depth	graphic log	classification symbol	material soil type: plasticity or particle characteristics, colour, secondary and minor components.	moisture	consistency density index	hand penetr- ometer kPa	structure, geology
III.						AND. Dull yellowish brown. Medium- D fine quartz sand. Well sorted.				
					Sw	and quart same	M			大声
	-		,				W			
			2-			SAND, creyish yellow brown. Medium- fine quartz sand.				
			1	<i>i</i>		time quarz saro.				
			3-							
						SAND. Light grey, fire-medium quartz				
			4-		sw	sand.				
	IDKREEN	7-2 C min 1,500 ppm (meter)	-							
		DRILL	6-							
		HILLEY								
			7-							
			-							
ī			-							
						5 cm				

		APPE	NDIX 2				
Chemical analyses of	ground	mples					
	RB1	RB5	RB6	RB11	RB14	RB12	
рН	6.4	7.0	6.3	6.6	6.3	6.7	
Conductivity (µS/cm)	2600	4300	2300	2900	2300	2200	
Item (mg/1)							
CO ₃	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	
HCO ₃	230	220	170	290	170	320	
Cl	740	1230	640	890	640	590	
SO ₄	54	190	59	14	55	47	
SiO ₂	4.7	8.5	7.0	4.1	7.1	4.8	
Ca	46	45	35	27	35	46	
Mg	55	87	52	50	52	47	
Fe	6.5	0.3	5.7	1.0	6.1	0.6	
Al	<0.2	0.5	1.0	<0.2	1.0	<0.2	
K	29	32	17	37	17	25	
Na	440	740	360	550	360	380	
TDS	1740	2620	1530	1880	1490	1420	
Hardness (Permanent)	165	290	175	240	180	49	
(Temporary)	190	185	140	35	140	260	
Alkalinity as CaCO,	190	185	140	240	140	260	