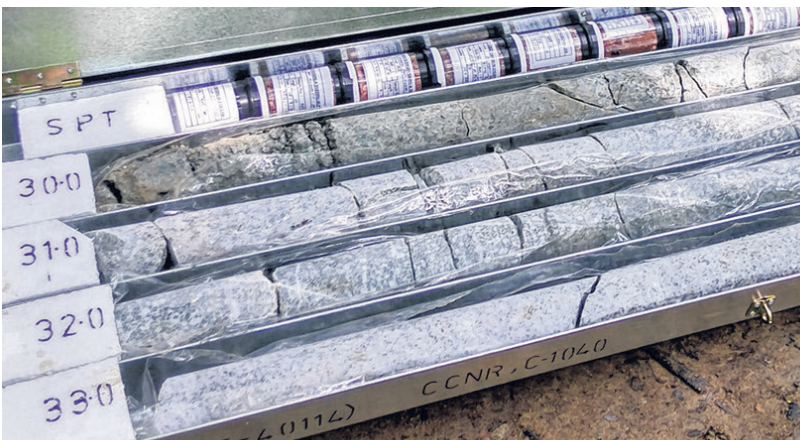


Between a rock and a hard place

The Land Transport Authority has begun conducting site investigation works for the Cross Island MRT line at 16 sites within the Central Catchment Nature Reserve. These works help determine the soil and rock profile under the reserve and will contribute to the decision on whether to run the line under it.



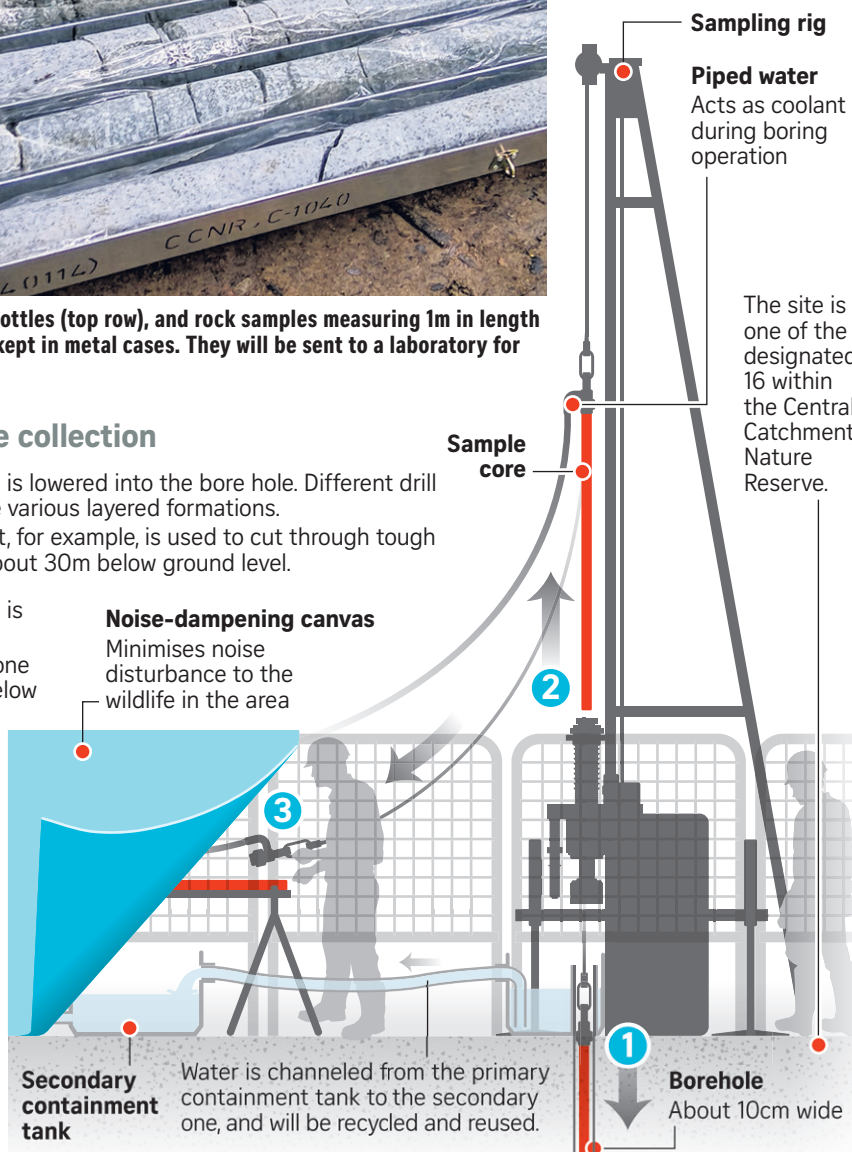
Soil samples, collected in bottles (top row), and rock samples measuring 1m in length and 5.2cm in diameter are kept in metal cases. They will be sent to a laboratory for detailed materials testing.

Boring and sample collection

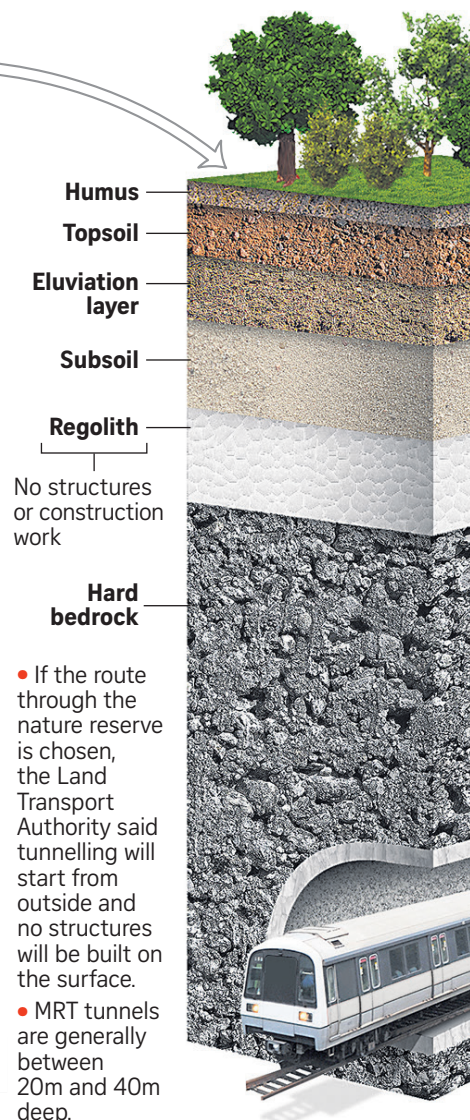
- The sampling bore is lowered into the bore hole. Different drill bits are used for the various layered formations.
 - A diamond bore bit, for example, is used to cut through tough granite which lies about 30m below ground level.

- The sampling bore is hoisted up.
 - The extraction of one sample core from below the ground takes about one to one and a half hours and about 8m of samples can be extracted in a day.

- The sample core is removed from the sampling bore. The process is repeated.
 - Boring is typically done up to a depth of 60m.



Tunnelling under the nature reserve



NOTE: Graphics not drawn to scale.

Source: LTA
PHOTO: LIM YONG
STRAITS TIMES GRAPHICS