

GEOTECHNICAL INVESTIGATION

FOR

NSW LAND & HOUSING CORPORATION

40 – 46 Eighteenth Avenue, Sawtell, New South Wales (BGYVU)

Report No: 22/1570

Project No: 31688/6224D-G

May 2022

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DRAWING NO. 22/1570 – BOREHOLE AND PENETROMETER LOCATIONS

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1. INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of a geotechnical investigation carried out by STS Geotechnics Pty Limited (STS) for a proposed new residential development to be constructed at 40 to 46 Eighteenth Avenue, Sawtell. At the time of writing this report STS were not provided with architectural drawings for the project, however we understand the development will typically comprise the demolition of existing structures prior to construction of single or double storey residential buildings. The development will not include basement levels.

The purpose of the investigation was to:

- assess the subsurface conditions over the site,
- provide a Site Classification to AS2870,
- provide recommendations regarding the appropriate foundation system for the site including design parameters, and
- comment on soil aggressiveness to buried steel and concrete.

The investigation was undertaken at the request of NSW Land and Housing Corporation.

Our scope of work did not include a contamination assessment.

2. NATURE OF THE INVESTIGATION

2.1. Fieldwork

The fieldwork consisted of drilling seven (7) boreholes numbered BH1 to BH7, at the locations shown on Drawing No. 22/1570. The boreholes were drilled using a utility mounted Edson RP70 drilling rig owned and operated by STS. BH1, BH3, BH4 and BH5 were drilled using rotary solid flight augers attached to one of our utility mounted drilling rigs. Because there was no access for the drilling rig, BH2, BH6 and BH7 were drilled using a hand auger. Soil strengths were determined by undertaking Dynamic Cone Penetrometer (DCP) tests at each borehole location.

Drilling operations were undertaken by one of STS's senior geologists who also logged the subsurface conditions encountered.

The subsurface conditions observed are recorded on the borehole logs given in Appendix A. An explanation of the terms used on the logs is also given in Appendix A. Notes relating to geotechnical reports are also attached.

2.2. Laboratory Testing

To assist with determining the site classification, a shrink swell index test was carried out on a representative sample retrieved from the site.

To assess the soils for their aggressiveness, a selected representative soil sample was tested to determine the following:

- pH,
- Sulphate content (SO₄),
- Chloride content (CL), and
- Electrical Conductivity (EC)

Detailed test reports are given in Appendix B.

3. GEOLOGY AND SITE CONDITIONS

The Coffs Harbour coastal Quaternary geological series sheet at a scale of 1:100,000 shows Cambro-Ordovician, Devonian and Carboniferous Age sedimentary rocks and minor volcanic rocks underlie the site.

The site is roughly rectangular in shape with an area of approximately 3080 m². At the time of the fieldwork, the site was occupied by single storey houses. Site vegetation comprised grass lawn areas and trees.

The ground surface falls towards the west. Site drainage is very poor.

To the south of the site Eighteenth Avenue. Richardson Park is to the north and other residential properties are to the east and west.

4. SUBSURFACE CONDITIONS

When assessing the subsurface conditions across a site from a limited number of boreholes, there is the possibility that variations may occur between test locations. The data derived from the site investigation programme are extrapolated across the site to form a geological model and an engineering opinion is rendered about overall subsurface conditions and their likely behaviour regarding the proposed development. The actual condition at the site may differ from those inferred, since no subsurface exploration programme, no matter how comprehensive, can reveal all subsurface details and anomalies, particularly on a site that has been previously developed.

The subsurface conditions generally consist of concrete topsoil and fill, overlying natural silty clays. Fill was encountered in BH1, BH2 and BH6 to a maximum depth of 1.0 metres. In BH2 and

BH6 hand auger refusal occurred on tree roots at a depth of 0.6 metres. The fill is not considered to be engineered material. In the other boreholes topsoil is present to depths of 0.3 to 0.6 metres. Natural silty clays underlie the topsoil and fill to the depth of drilling, 3.0 metres. The clays were assessed to be firm becoming very stiff with depth.

Groundwater was not observed during site drilling; however, wet soils were noted at some locations.

5. GEOTECHNICAL DISCUSSION

5.1. Site Classification to AS2870

The classification has been prepared in accordance with the guidelines set out in the “Residential Slabs and Footings” Code, AS2870 – 2011.

Undisturbed samples were collected to determine the soils Shrink Swell Index. Results of the testing are summarised in Table 5.1 below:

Table 5.1 – Shrink Swell Index Test Summary

Location	Depth (m)	Material Description	Shrink Swell index (%)
BH3	0.9 – 1.1	Grey brown silty clay	0.0
BH4	0.8 – 1.1	Grey brown silty clay	1.0
BH5	1.0 – 1.2	Grey brown silty clay	1.3

Because there are buildings and trees present, abnormal moisture conditions (AMC) prevail at the site. (Refer to Section 1.3.3 of AS2870).

Due to the presence of AMC and fill, the site is classified *a problem site (P)*. It is not considered appropriate to reclassify the site.

5.2. Foundation Design

The existing topsoil and uncontrolled fill should not be relied upon for foundation support.

Deep pad/strip footings founded in firm natural clays may be proportioned using an allowable bearing pressure of 70 kPa. This value may be increased to 100 kPa in firm to stiff natural clays. The minimum depth of founding must comply with the requirements of AS2870-2011. The structural designer should however be aware that the standard designs given in AS2870 assume a minimum allowable bearing pressure of 100 kPa.

To overcome the presence of the trees along the site boundaries, the foundations should be designed in accordance with the procedures given in Appendices H and CH of AS2870-2011.

Piles founded in very stiff clays may be proportioned using an allowable bearing pressure of 300 kPa, provided their depth to diameter ratio exceeds a value of 4. An allowable adhesion of 20 kPa may be adopted for the portion of the shaft within the natural soils.

Due to the depth of topsoil and uncontrolled fill in the profile, the site may not be suitable for conventional slab on ground construction. In this regard, the slab will likely need to be designed as fully suspended by installing piles to transfer the loads to the underlying very stiff clays. A *Moderately Reactive (M)* classification may be adopted for the design of a fully suspended slab or slab with deepened footings founded on at least firm clays.

To ensure the bearing values given can be achieved, care should be taken to ensure that the base of excavations is free of all loose material prior to concreting. It is recommended that all footing excavations be protected with a layer of blinding concrete as soon as possible, preferably immediately after excavating, cleaning, inspection and approval. As noted above, wet soils were noted in some of the boreholes. This implies that some groundwater seepage could enter pile excavations if left open. Screw piers are probably better suited to the subsurface conditions encountered than conventional augered cast in place piers/piles. The augered cast in place piles/piers may require temporary liners for support

5.3. Soil Aggressiveness

The aggressiveness or erosion potential of an environment in building materials, particularly concrete and steel is dependent on the levels of soil pH and the types of salts present, generally sulphates and chlorides. To determine the degree of aggressiveness, the test values obtained are compared to Tables 6.4.2 (C) and 6.5.2 (C) in AS2159 – 2009 Piling – Design and Installation. The test results are summarised in Table 5.2 below.

Table 5.2– Soil Aggressiveness Summary

Sample No.	Location	Depth (m)	pH	Sulfate (mg/kg)	Chloride (mg/kg)	Electrical Conductivity (dS/m)	
						EC _{1:5}	EC _e
S1	BH1	0.4	8.6	<10	<10	0.069	0.7
S2	BH3	0.4	7.7	10	<10	0.069	0.7
S3	BH4	0.4	6.7	<10	20	0.024	0.2
S4	BH5	0.4	7.0	<10	20	0.035	0.4

The soils on the site are cohesive in nature. Therefore, the soil conditions B are considered appropriate.

A review of the durability aspects indicates that:

- pH : minimum value of 6.7
- SO₄ : maximum value of 10 mg/kg (ppm) < 5000 ppm
- Cl : maximum value of 20 mg/kg (ppm) < 5000 ppm
- EC_e : maximum value of 0.7 dS/m

In accordance with AS2159-2009, the exposure classification for the onsite soils is non-aggressive to both steel and concrete. The soils are classified as A1 in accordance with AS2870-2011.

Reference to DLWC (2002) "Site Investigations for Urban Salinity" indicates that EC_e values of 0.2 to 0.7 dS/m are consistent with the presence of non-saline soils.

6. FINAL COMMENTS

During construction, should the subsurface conditions vary from those inferred above, we would be contacted to determine if any changes should be made to our recommendations.

The exposed bearing surfaces for footings should be inspected by a geotechnical engineer to ensure the allowable pressure given has been achieved.

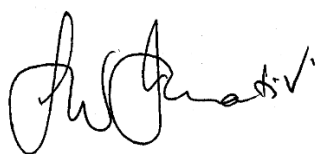
Attention is drawn to Appendix B of AS2870 - 2011 regarding the need to properly maintain the foundations. Surface drainage should be provided to avoid the possibility of water ponding near the building and the finished ground surface should fall at least 50 mm over one metre away from the building.

If excavations for rainwater or detention tanks are to be made within 6 metres of the building foundations, advice should be sought regarding their effect on the foundations.

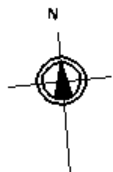
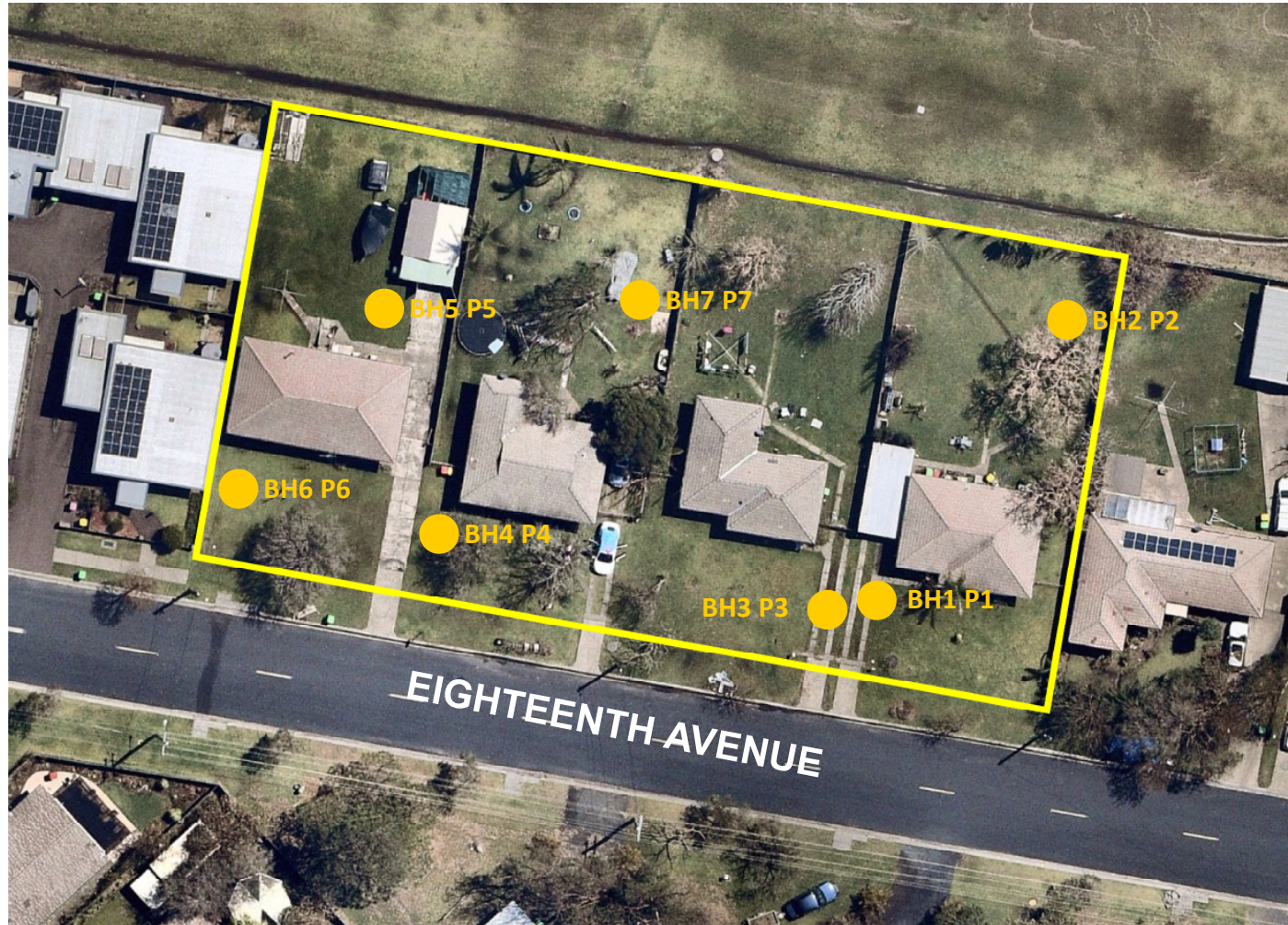
Placing absorption trenches on the high side of the property may create abnormal moisture conditions for the foundations (Refer to Section 1.3.3 of AS2870). This could have a negative effect on the foundation performance and more than likely alter the site classification provided above.

This report has been prepared assuming that no trees other than those noted will be present on the site. If future tree planting is planned, eg. there is a landscaping plan, their effect on the foundation performance must be considered.

This report has been prepared assuming the site development will be limited to one or two storey residential buildings. The information and interpretation may not be relevant if the design proposal changes (e.g. to a five-storey building involving major cuts during the site preparation). If changes occur, we would be pleased to review the report and advise on the adequacy of the investigation.



Laurie Ihnativ
Senior Geotechnical Engineer
STS Geotechnics Pty Limited



Numerous trees surrounding
properties

STS Geotechnics Pty. Ltd.

Scale: Unknown

Date: May 2022

Client: NSW LAND & HOUSING CORPORATION

GEOTECHNICAL INVESTIGATION
40-46 EIGHTEENTH AVENUE, SAWTELL
BOREHOLE AND PENETROMETER LOCATIONS

Project No.
31688/6224D-G

Drawing No: 22/1570

NOTES RELATING TO GEOTECHNICAL REPORTS

Introduction

These notes have been provided to outline the methodology and limitations inherent in geotechnical reporting. The issues discussed are not relevant to all reports and further advice should be sought if there are any queries regarding any advice or report.

When copies of reports are made, they should be reproduced in full.

Geotechnical Reports

Geotechnical reports are prepared by qualified personnel on the information supplied or obtained and are based on current engineering standards of interpretation and analysis.

Information may be gained from limited subsurface testing, surface observations, previous work and is supplemented by knowledge of the local geology and experience of the range of properties that may be exhibited by the materials present. For this reason, geotechnical reports should be regarded as interpretative rather than factual documents, limited to some extent by the scope of information on which they rely.

Where the report has been prepared for a specific purpose (eg. design of a three-storey building), the information and interpretation may not be appropriate if the design is changed (eg. a twenty storey building). In such cases, the report and the sufficiency of the existing work should be reviewed by STS Geotechnics Pty Limited in the light of the new proposal.

Every care is taken with the report content, however, it is not always possible to anticipate or assume responsibility for the following conditions:

- Unexpected variations in ground conditions. The potential for this depends on the amount of investigative work undertaken.
- Changes in policy or interpretation by statutory authorities.
- The actions of contractors responding to commercial pressures.

If these occur, STS Geotechnics Pty Limited would be pleased to resolve the matter through further investigation, analysis or advice.

Unforeseen Conditions

Should conditions encountered on site differ markedly from those anticipated from the information contained in the report, STS

Geotechnics Pty Limited should be notified immediately. Early identification of site anomalies generally results in any problems being more readily resolved and allows re-interpretation and assessment of the implications for future work.

Subsurface Information

Logs of a borehole, recovered core, test pit, excavated face or cone penetration test are an engineering and/or geological interpretation of the subsurface conditions. The reliability of the logged information depends on the drilling/testing method, sampling and/or observation spacings and the ground conditions. It is not always possible or economic to obtain continuous high quality data. It should also be recognised that the volume or material observed or tested is only a fraction of the total subsurface profile.

Interpretation of subsurface information and application to design and construction must take into consideration the spacing of the test locations, the frequency of observations and testing, and the possibility that geological boundaries may vary between observation points.

Groundwater observations and measurements outside of specially designed and constructed piezometers should be treated with care for the following reasons:

- In low permeability soils groundwater may not seep into an excavation or bore in the short time it is left open.
- A localised perched water table may not represent the true water table.
- Groundwater levels vary according to rainfall events or season.
- Some drilling and testing procedures mask or prevent groundwater inflow.

The installation of piezometers and long term monitoring of groundwater levels may be required to adequately identify groundwater conditions.

Supply of Geotechnical Information or Tendering Purposes

It is recommended tenderers are provided with as much geological and geotechnical information that is available and that where there are uncertainties regarding the ground conditions, prospective tenders should be provided with comments discussing the range of likely conditions in addition to the investigation data.

APPENDIX A – BOREHOLE LOGS AND EXPLANATION SHEETS

Client: NSW Land & Housing Corporation		Project / STS No. 31688/6224D-G		BOREHOLE NO.: BH 1		
Project: 40-46 Eighteenth Avenue, Sawtell		Date: April 26, 2022		Sheet 1 of 1		
Location: Refer to Drawing No. 22/1570		Logged: TS Checked By: IW				
W A T T A E B R L E	S A M P L E S	DEPTH (m)	DESCRIPTION OF DRILLED PRODUCT (Soil type, colour, grain size, plasticity, minor components, observations)	S Y M B O L	CONSISTENCY (cohesive soils) or RELATIVE DENSITY (sands and gravels)	M O I S T U R E
	S1 @ 0.4 m	0.5	FILL: SILTY SANDY CLAY: brown some dark grey, low plasticity	CL	-	M-W
		1.0	SILTY CLAY: dark grey mottled brown, medium plasticity	CL	STIFF	M-W
		1.5	SILTY CLAY: pale grey, mottled brown, medium plasticity	CL	VERY STIFF	M
		2.0				
		2.5	BOREHOLE DISCONTINUED AT 3.0 M			
D - disturbed sample U - undisturbed tube sample B - bulk sample WT - level of water table or free water N - Standard Penetration Test (SPT) S - jar sample				Contractor: STS Equipment: Edson RP70 Hole Diameter (mm): 100		
NOTES: See explanation sheets for meaning of all descriptive terms and symbols				Angle from Vertical (°): 0 Drill Bit: Spiral		

Form: I1-2

Client: NSW Land & Housing Corporation		Project / STS No. 31688/6224D-G		BOREHOLE NO.: BH 3		
Project: 40-46 Eighteenth Avenue, Sawtell		Date: April 26, 2022				
Location: Refer to Drawing No. 22/1570		Logged: TS Checked By: IW		Sheet 1 of 1		
W A T T E R L E V E	S A M P L E S	DEPTH (m)	DESCRIPTION OF DRILLED PRODUCT (Soil type, colour, grain size, plasticity, minor components, observations)	S Y M B O L	CONSISTENCY (cohesive soils) or RELATIVE DENSITY (sands and gravels)	M O I S T U R E
	S2 @ 0.4 m		TOPSOIL: SILTY SANDY CLAY: dark grey, fine to medium grained	CL	-	M-W
		0.5	SILTY CLAY: orange brown with some ref brown and pale grey, medium plasticity	CL	FIRM TO STIFF	M-W
	T1	1.0	SILTY CLAY: dark grey mottled brown, medium plasticity	CL	FIRM TO STIFF	M-W
		1.5	SILTY CLAY: dark grey mottled brown, medium plasticity	CL	FIRM TO STIFF	M
		2.0			STIFF	
		2.5			VERY STIFF	
			BOREHOLE DISCONTINUED AT 3.0 M			
D - disturbed sample U - undisturbed tube sample B - bulk sample WT - level of water table or free water N - Standard Penetration Test (SPT) S - jar sample				Contractor: STS Equipment: Edson RP70 Hole Diameter (mm): 100 Angle from Vertical (°): 0 Drill Bit: Spiral		
NOTES: See explanation sheets for meaning of all descriptive terms and symbols						

Client: NSW Land & Housing Corporation		Project / STS No. 31688/6224D-G		BOREHOLE NO.: BH 4		
Project: 40-46 Eighteenth Avenue, Sawtell		Date: April 26, 2022		Sheet 1 of 1		
Location: Refer to Drawing No. 22/1570		Logged: TS Checked By: IW				
W A T E R L E V E L	S A M P L E S	DEPTH (m)	DESCRIPTION OF DRILLED PRODUCT (Soil type, colour, grain size, plasticity, minor components, observations)	S Y M B O L	CONSISTENCY (cohesive soils) or RELATIVE DENSITY (sands and gravels)	M O I S T U R E
	S3 @ 0.4 m	0.5	TOPSOIL: SILTY SANDY CLAY: dark grey, low plasticity, fine to medium grained	CL	-	M-W
			SILTY CLAY: dark grey, medium plasticity mottled brown	CL	FIRM TO STIFF	M-W
	T2	1.0	SILTY CLAY: pale grey mottled brown, medium plasticity	CL	STIFF	M
		1.5			VERY STIFF	
		2.0				
		2.5				
			BOREHOLE DISCONTINUED AT 3.0 M			
D - disturbed sample U - undisturbed tube sample B - bulk sample WT - level of water table or free water N - Standard Penetration Test (SPT) S - jar sample				Contractor: STS Equipment: Edson RP70 Hole Diameter (mm): 100		
NOTES: See explanation sheets for meaning of all descriptive terms and symbols				Angle from Vertical (°): 0 Drill Bit: Spiral		

Client: NSW Land & Housing Corporation		Project / STS No. 31688/6224D-G		BOREHOLE NO.: BH 5		
Project: 40-46 Eighteenth Avenue, Sawtell		Date: April 26, 2022		Sheet 1 of 1		
Location: Refer to Drawing No. 22/1570		Logged: TS Checked By: IW				
W A T T A R L E	S A M P L E S	DEPTH (m)	DESCRIPTION OF DRILLED PRODUCT (Soil type, colour, grain size, plasticity, minor components, observations)	S Y M B O L	CONSISTENCY (cohesive soils) or RELATIVE DENSITY (sands and gravels)	M O I S T U R E
	S4 @ 0.4 m		TOPSOIL: SILTY SANDY CLAY: dark grey, low plasticity, fine to medium grained	CL	-	M-W
		0.5	SILTY CLAY: orange brown with some red brown, medium plasticity	CL	FIRM TO STIFF	M-W
		1.0	SILTY CLAY: dark grey mottled brown, medium plasticity	CL	FIRM TO STIFF	M-W
	T3		SILTY CLAY: pale grey mottled brown, medium plasticity	CL	STIFF	M
		1.5				
		2.0				
		2.5				
			BOREHOLE DISCONTINUED AT 3.0 M			
D - disturbed sample U - undisturbed tube sample B - bulk sample WT - level of water table or free water N - Standard Penetration Test (SPT) S - jar sample				Contractor: STS Equipment: Edson RP70 Hole Diameter (mm): 100		
NOTES: See explanation sheets for meaning of all descriptive terms and symbols				Angle from Vertical (°): 0 Drill Bit: Spiral		

Client: NSW Land & Housing Corporation				Project / STS No. 31688/6224D-G		BOREHOLE NO.:		BH 6	
Project: 40-46 Eighteenth Avenue, Sawtell				Date: April 26, 2022					
Location: Refer to Drawing No. 22/1570				Logged: TS		Checked By: IW		Sheet 1 of 1	
W A T T A B E R L E	S A M P L E S	DEPTH (m)	DESCRIPTION OF DRILLED PRODUCT (Soil type, colour, grain size, plasticity, minor components, observations)			S Y M B O L	CONSISTENCY (cohesive soils) or RELATIVE DENSITY (sands and gravels)	M O I S T U R E	
		0.5	FILL: SILTY SANDY CLAY: dark grey, low plasticity, fine to medium grained			CL	-	M-W	
		1.0	HAND AUGER REFUSAL AT 0.6 M ON TREE ROOTS						
		1.5							
		2.0							
		2.5							
D - disturbed sample WT - level of water table or free water S - jar sample						Contractor: STS Equipment: Hand Auger Hole Diameter (mm): 100			
NOTES: See explanation sheets for meaning of all descriptive terms and symbols						Angle from Vertical (°): 0 Drill Bit: Spiral			

Client: NSW Land & Housing Corporation				Project / STS No. 31688/6224D-G		BOREHOLE NO.: BH 7		
Project: 40-46 Eighteenth Avenue, Sawtell				Date: April 26, 2022				
Location: Refer to Drawing No. 22/1570				Logged: TS Checked By: IW		Sheet 1 of 1		
W A T E R L E V E	S A M P L E S	DEPTH (m)	DESCRIPTION OF DRILLED PRODUCT (Soil type, colour, grain size, plasticity, minor components, observations)			S Y M B O L	CONSISTENCY (cohesive soils) or RELATIVE DENSITY (sands and gravels)	M O I S T U R E
			TOPSOIL: SILTY SANDY CLAY: dark grey, low plasticity, fine to medium grained			CL	-	M
		0.5						

Dynamic Cone Penetrometer Test Report

Project: 40-46 EIGHTEENTH AVENUE, SAWTELL

Project No.: 31688/6224D-G

Client: NSW LAND & HOUSING CORPORATION

Report No.: 22/1569

Address: 31-39 Macquarie Street, Parramatta

Report Date: 4/05/2022

Test Method: AS 1289.6.3.2

Page: 1 of 2

Site No.	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6
Location	Refer to Drawing No. 22/1570	Refer to Drawing No. 22/1570	Refer to Drawing No. 22/1570	Refer to Drawing No. 22/1570	Refer to Drawing No. 22/1570	Refer to Drawing No. 22/1570
Date Tested	26/4/2022	26/4/2022	26/4/2022	26/4/2022	26/4/2022	26/4/2022
Starting Level	Surface Level	Surface Level	Surface Level	Surface Level	Surface Level	Surface Level
Depth (m)	Penetration Resistance (blows / 150mm)					
0.00 - 0.15	2	1	1	2	3	2
0.15 - 0.30	2	1	1	1	2	1
0.30 - 0.45	1	1	3	1	2	2
0.45 - 0.60	2	1	4	4	4	2
0.60 - 0.75	3	2	4	5	5	3
0.75 - 0.90	4	3	5	4	5	4
0.90 - 1.05	4	3	4	6	6	4
1.05 - 1.20	5	4	3	5	4	3
1.20 - 1.35	6	4	3	7	5	6
1.35 - 1.50	6	5	4	7	7	6
1.50 - 1.65	8	6	5	11	7	8
1.65 - 1.80	8	6	6	10	8	11
1.80 - 1.95	13	13	6	14	12	11
1.95 - 2.10	12	16	11	18	16	13
2.10 - 2.25	12	22/D	11	18	22/D	17
2.25 - 2.40	22/D		12	22/D		22/D
2.40 - 2.55			17			
2.55 - 2.70			22/D			
2.70 - 2.85						
2.85 - 3.00						
3.00 - 3.15						
3.15 - 3.30						
3.30 - 3.45						
3.45 - 3.60						
3.60 - 3.75						

Remarks: * Pre drilled prior to testing



Approved Signatory.....

Technician: TS

Orlando Mendoza - Laboratory Manager

Dynamic Cone Penetrometer Test Report

Project: 40-46 EIGHTEENTH AVENUE, SAWTELL

Project No.: 31688/6224D-G

Client: NSW LAND & HOUSING CORPORATION

Report No.: 22/1569

Address: 31-39 Macquarie Street, Parramatta

Report Date: 4/05/2022

Test Method: AS 1289.6.3.2

Page: 2 of 2

Site No.	P7					
Location	Refer to Drawing No. 22/1570					
Date Tested	26/4/2022					
Starting Level	Surface Level					
Depth (m)	Penetration Resistance (blows / 150mm)					
0.00 - 0.15	1					
0.15 - 0.30	1					
0.30 - 0.45	2					
0.45 - 0.60	2					
0.60 - 0.75	3					
0.75 - 0.90	4					
0.90 - 1.05	5					
1.05 - 1.20	5					
1.20 - 1.35	6					
1.35 - 1.50	11					
1.50 - 1.65	11					
1.65 - 1.80	14					
1.80 - 1.95	14					
1.95 - 2.10	18					
2.10 - 2.25	22/D					
2.25 - 2.40						
2.40 - 2.55						
2.55 - 2.70						
2.70 - 2.85						
2.85 - 3.00						
3.00 - 3.15						
3.15 - 3.30						
3.30 - 3.45						
3.45 - 3.60						
3.60 - 3.75						

Remarks: * Pre drilled prior to testing



Approved Signatory.....

Technician: TS

Orlando Mendoza - Laboratory Manager

E1. CLASSIFICATION OF SOILS

E1.1 Soil Classification and the Unified System

An assessment of the site conditions usually includes an appraisal of the data available by combining values of engineering properties obtained by the site investigation with descriptions, from visual observation of the materials present on site.

The system used by STS Geotechnics Pty Ltd (STS) in the identification of soil is the Unified Soil Classification system (USC) which was developed by the US Army Corps of Engineers during World War II and has since gained international acceptance and has been adopted in its metricated form by the Standards Association of Australia.

The Australian Site Investigation Code (AS1726-1981, Appendix D) recommends that the description of a soil includes the USC group symbols which are an integral component of the system.

The soil description should contain the following information in order:

Soil composition

- SOIL NAME and USC classification symbol (IN BLOCK LETTERS)
- plasticity or particle characteristics
- colour
- secondary and minor constituents (name estimated proportion, plasticity or particle characteristics, colour)

Soil condition

- moisture condition
- consistency or density index

Soil structure

- structure (zoning, defects, cementing)

Soil origin

interpretation based on observation eg FILL, TOPSOIL, RESIDUAL, ALLUVIUM.

E1.2 Soil Composition

- (a) Soil Name and Classification Symbol

The USC system is summarised in Figure E1.2.1. The primary division separates soil types on the basis of particle size into:

- Coarse grained soils - more than 50% of the material less than 60 mm is larger than 0.06 mm (60 µm).
- Fine grained soils - more than 50% of the material less than 60 mm is smaller than 0.06 mm (60 µm).

Initial classification is by particle size as shown in Table E1.2.1. Further classification of fine grained soils is based on plasticity.

TABLE E1.2.1 - CLASSIFICATION BY PARTICLE SIZE

NAME	SUB-DIVISION	SIZE
Clay (1)		< 2 µm
Silt (2)		2 µm to 60 µm
Sand	Fine Medium Coarse	60 µm to 200 µm 200 µm to 600 µm 600 µm to 2 mm
Gravel (3)	Fine Medium Coarse	2 mm to 6 mm 6 mm to 20 mm 20 mm to 60 mm
Cobbles (3)		60 mm to 200 mm
Boulders (3)		> 200 mm

Where a soil contains an appropriate amount of secondary material, the name includes each of the secondary components (greater than 12%) in increasing order of significance, eg sandy silty clay.

Minor components of a soil are included in the description by means of the terms "some" and "trace" as defined in Table E1.2.2.

TABLE E1.2.2 - MINOR SOIL COMPONENTS

TERM	DESCRIPTION	APPROXIMATE PROPORTION (%)
Trace	presence just detectable, little or no influence on soil properties	0-5
Some	presence easily detectable, little influence on soil properties	5-12

The USC group symbols should be included with each soil description as shown in Table E1.2.3

TABLE E1.2.3 - SOIL GROUP SYMBOLS

SOIL TYPE	PREFIX
Gravel	G
Sand	S
Silt	M
Clay	C
Organic	O
Peat	Pt

The group symbols are combined with qualifiers which indicate grading, plasticity or secondary components as shown on Table E1.2.4

TABLE E1.2.4 - SOIL GROUP QUALIFIERS

SUBGROUP	SUFFIX
Well graded	W
Poorly Graded	P
Silty	M
Clayey	C
Liquid Limit <50% - low to medium plasticity	L
Liquid Limit >50% - medium to high plasticity	H

(b) Grading

“Well graded”	Good representation of all particle sizes from the largest to the smallest.
“Poorly graded”	One or more intermediate sizes poorly represented
“Gap graded”	One or more intermediate sizes absent
“Uniformly graded”	Essentially single size material.

(c) Particle shape and texture

The shape and surface texture of the coarse grained particles should be described.

Angularity may be expressed as “rounded”, “sub-rounded”, “sub-angular” or “angular”.

Particle **form** can be “equidimensional”, “flat” or “elongate”.

Surface texture can be “glassy”, “smooth”, “rough”, “pitted” or “striated”.

(d) Colour

The colour of the soil should be described in the moist condition using simple terms such as:

Black	White	Grey	Red
Brown	Orange	Yellow	Green
Blue			

These may be modified as necessary by “light” or “dark”. Borderline colours may be described as a combination of two colours, eg red-brown.

For soils that contain more than one colour terms such as:

- Speckled Very small (<10 mm dia) patches
- Mottled Irregular
- Blotched Large irregular (>75 mm dia)
- Streaked Randomly oriented streaks

(e) Minor Components

Secondary and minor components should be individually described in a similar manner to the dominant component.

E1.3 Soil Condition

(a) Moisture

Soil moisture condition is described as “dry”, “moist” or “wet”.

The moisture categories are defined as:

Dry (D) - Little or no moisture evident. Soils are running. Moist (M) - Darkened in colour with cool feel. Granular soil particles tend to adhere. No free water evident upon remoulding of cohesive soils.

In addition the moisture content of cohesive soils can be estimated in relation to their liquid or plastic limit.

(b) Consistency

Estimates of the consistency of a clay or silt soil may be made from manual examination, hand penetrometer test, SPT results or from laboratory tests to determine undrained shear or unconfined compressive strengths. The classification of consistency is defined in Table E1.3.1.

TABLE E1.3.1 - CONSISTENCY OF FINE-GRAINED SOILS

TERM	UNCONFINED STRENGTH (kPa)	FIELD IDENTIFICATION
Very Soft	<25	Easily penetrated by fist. Sample exudes between fingers when squeezed in the fist.
Soft	25 - 50	Easily moulded in fingers. Easily penetrated 50 mm by thumb.
Firm	50 - 100	Can be moulded by strong pressure in the fingers. Penetrated only with great effort.
Stiff	100 - 200	Cannot be moulded in fingers. Indented by thumb but penetrated only with great effort.
Very Stiff	200 - 400	Very tough. Difficult to cut with knife. Readily indented with thumb nail.
Hard	>400	Brittle, can just be scratched with thumb nail. Tends to break into fragments.

Unconfined compressive strength as derived by a hand penetrometer can be taken as approximately double the undrained shear strength ($q_u = 2 c_u$).

(c) Density Index

The insitu density index of granular soils can be assessed from the results of SPT or cone penetrometer tests. Density index should not be estimated visually.

TABLE E1.3.2 - DENSITY OF GRANULAR SOILS

TERM	SPT N VALUE	STATIC CONE VALUE q_c (MPa)	DENSITY INDEX (%)
Very Loose	0 - 3	0 - 2	0 - 15
Loose	3 - 8	2 - 5	15 - 35
Medium Dense	8 - 25	5 - 15	35 - 65
Dense	25 - 42	15 - 20	65 - 85
Very Dense	>42	>20	>85

E1.4 Soil Structure

(a) Zoning

A sample may consist of several zones differing in colour, grain size or other properties. Terms to classify these zones are:

Layer - continuous across exposure or sample

Lens - discontinuous with lenticular shape

Pocket - irregular inclusion

Each zone should be described, their distinguishing features, and the nature of the interzone boundaries.

(b) Defects

Defects which are present in the sample can include:

- fissures
- roots (containing organic matter)
- tubes (hollow)
- casts (infilled)

Defects should be described giving details of dimensions and frequency. Fissure orientation, planarity, surface condition and infilling should be noted. If there is a tendency to break into blocks, block dimensions should be recorded

E1.5 Soil Origin

Information which may be interpretative but which may contribute to the usefulness of the material description should be included. The most common interpreted feature is the origin of the soil. The assessment of the probable origin is based on the soil material description, soil structure and its relationship to other soil and rock materials.

Common terms used are:

“Residual Soil” - Material which appears to have been derived by weathering from the underlying rock. There is no evidence of transport.

“Colluvium” - Material which appears to have been transported from its original location. The method of movement is usually the combination of gravity and erosion.

“Landslide Debris” - An extreme form of colluvium where the soil has been transported by mass movement. The material is obviously distributed and contains distinct defects related to the slope failure.

“Alluvium” - Material which has been transported essentially by water. usually associated with former stream activity.

“Fill” - Material which has been transported and placed by man. This can range from natural soils which have been

placed in a controlled manner in engineering construction to dumped waste material. A description of the constituents should include an assessment of the method of placement.

E1.6 Fine Grained Soils

The physical properties of fine grained soils are dominated by silts and clays.

The definition of clay and silt soils is governed by their Atterberg Limits. Clay soils are characterised by the properties of cohesion and plasticity with cohesion defines as the ability to deform without rupture. Silts exhibit cohesion but have low plasticity or are non-plastic.

The field characteristics of clay soils include:

- dry lumps have appreciable dry strength and cannot be powdered
- volume changes occur with moisture content variation
- feels smooth when moist with a greasy appearance when cut.

The field characteristics of silt soils include:

- dry lumps have negligible dry strength and can be powdered easily
- dilatancy - an increase in volume due to shearing - is indicated by the presence of a shiny film of water after a hand sample is shaken. The water disappears upon remoulding. Very fine grained sands may also exhibit dilatancy.
- low plasticity index
- feels gritty to the teeth

E1.7 Organic Soils

Organic soils are distinguished from other soils by their appreciable content of vegetable matter, usually derived from plant remains.

The soil usually has a distinctive smell and low bulk density.

The USC system uses the symbol Pt for partly decomposed organic material. The O symbol is combined with suffixes “O” or “H” depending on plasticity.

Where roots or root fibres are present their frequency and the depth to which they are encountered should be recorded. The presence of roots or root fibres does not necessarily mean the material is an “organic material” by classification.

Coal and lignite should be described as such and not simply as organic matter.

APPENDIX B – LABORATORY TEST RESULTS

Shrink Swell Index Report

Project: 40 - 46 EINGHTEENTH AVENUE, SAWTELL

Client: NSW LAND & HOUSING CORPORATION

Address: 4 Parramatta Square, 12 Darcy Street, Parramatta

Test Method: AS1289.7.1.1

Project No.: 31688/6224D-L

Report No.: 22/1580

Report Date: 5/05/2022

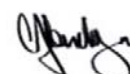
Page: 1 OF 1

Sampling Procedure: AS 1289.1.3.1 Clause 3.1.3.2 - Thin Walled Sampler

STS / Sample No.		6224D-L / 1	6224D-L / 2	6224D-L / 3			
Sample Location		Borehole 3, Refer to Drawing No. 22/1580	Borehole 4, Refer to Drawing No. 22/1580	Borehole 5, Refer to Drawing No. 22/1580			
Material Description		Silty Clay, grey brown	Silty Clay, grey brown	Silty Clay, grey brown			
Depth (m)		0.9 - 1.1	0.8 - 1.0	1.0 - 1.2			
Sample Date		26/04/2022	26/04/2022	26/04/2022			
Shrink	Moisture Content (%)	19.8	20.3	20.5			
	Soil Crumbling	Nil	Nil	Nil			
	Extent of Cracking	Nil	Open Cracks	Fine Cracks			
	Strain (%)	0.0	1.9	2.4			
Swell	Moisture Content Initial (%)	23.1	23.8	19.8			
	Moisture Content Final (%)	24.4	23.1	20.8			
	Strain (%)	0.0	0.0	0.0			
Inert Inclusions (%)		<15	<20	<20			
Shrink Swell Index (%)		0.0	1.0	1.3			

Remarks:

Approved Signatory.....



Technician: DH

Orlando Mendoza - Laboratory Manager

CERTIFICATE OF ANALYSIS

Work Order	: ES2214683	Page	: 1 of 4
Amendment	: (Preliminary Report)		
Client	: STS Geotechnics	Laboratory	: Environmental Division Sydney
Contact	: ENQUIRES STS	Contact	: Customer Services ES
Address	: Unit 14/1 Cowpasture Place Wetherill Park 2164	Address	: 277-289 Woodpark Road Smithfield NSW Australia 2164
Telephone	: ----	Telephone	: +61-2-8784 8555
Project	: 30055/31688/31670	Date Samples Received	: 29-Apr-2022 14:30
Order number	: 2022-135	Date Analysis Commenced	: 03-May-2022
C-O-C number	: ----	Issue Date	: 06-May-2022 17:23
Sampler	: ----		
Site	: ----		
Quote number	: EN/222		
No. of samples received	: 14		
No. of samples analysed	: 14		



Accreditation No. 825
Accredited for compliance with
ISO/IEC 17025 - Testing

This report supersedes any previous report(s) with this reference. Results apply to the sample(s) as submitted, unless the sampling was conducted by ALS. This document shall not be reproduced, except in full.

This Certificate of Analysis contains the following information:

- General Comments
- Analytical Results

Additional information pertinent to this report will be found in the following separate attachments: Quality Control Report, QA/QC Compliance Assessment to assist with Quality Review and Sample Receipt Notification.

Signatories

This document has been electronically signed by the authorized signatories below. Electronic signing is carried out in compliance with procedures specified in 21 CFR Part 11.

<i>Signatories</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Accreditation Category</i>
Ankit Joshi	Senior Chemist - Inorganics	Sydney Inorganics, Smithfield, NSW

(Preliminary Report)

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Work Order : ES2214683
Client : STS Geotechnics
Project : 30055/31688/31670



General Comments

The analytical procedures used by ALS have been developed from established internationally recognised procedures such as those published by the USEPA, APHA, AS and NEPM. In house developed procedures are fully validated and are often at the client request.

Where moisture determination has been performed, results are reported on a dry weight basis.

Where a reported less than (<) result is higher than the LOR, this may be due to primary sample extract/digestate dilution and/or insufficient sample for analysis.

Where the LOR of a reported result differs from standard LOR, this may be due to high moisture content, insufficient sample (reduced weight employed) or matrix interference.

When sampling time information is not provided by the client, sampling dates are shown without a time component. In these instances, the time component has been assumed by the laboratory for processing purposes.

Where a result is required to meet compliance limits the associated uncertainty must be considered. Refer to the ALS Contact for details.

Key : CAS Number = CAS registry number from database maintained by Chemical Abstracts Services. The Chemical Abstracts Service is a division of the American Chemical Society.
LOR = Limit of reporting
^ = This result is computed from individual analyte detections at or above the level of reporting
ø = ALS is not NATA accredited for these tests.
~ = Indicates an estimated value.

This report contains preliminary authorised results. The report may contain semi-quantitative results. Any result presented in this preliminary report may be subject to change in the final report.

- ASS: EA029 (SPOCAS): Liming rate is calculated and reported on a dry weight basis assuming use of fine agricultural lime (CaCO_3) and using a safety factor of 1.5 to allow for non-homogeneous mixing and poor reactivity of lime. For conversion of Liming Rate from kg/t dry weight to kg/m³ in-situ soil, multiply reported results x wet bulk density of soil in t/m³.

(Preliminary Report)

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Work Order : ES2214683
Client : STS Geotechnics
Project : 30055/31688/31670



Analytical Results

Sub-Matrix: SOIL (Matrix: SOIL)				Sample ID	30055/8289	30055/8322	31688/S1	31688/S2	31688/S3
Sampling date / time					28-Apr-2022 00:00	28-Apr-2022 00:00	26-Apr-2022 00:00	26-Apr-2022 00:00	26-Apr-2022 00:00
Compound	CAS Number	LOR	Unit		ES2214683-001	ES2214683-002	ES2214683-003	ES2214683-004	ES2214683-005
				Result	Result	Result	Result	Result	Result
EA002: pH 1:5 (Soils)									
pH Value	----	0.1	pH Unit		7.6	6.2	8.6	7.7	6.7
EA010: Conductivity (1:5)									
Electrical Conductivity @ 25°C	----	1	µS/cm		166	51	69	69	24
EA055: Moisture Content (Dried @ 105-110°C)									
Moisture Content	----	0.1	%		17.0	19.1	17.6	22.8	23.6
ED040S : Soluble Sulfate by ICPAES									
Sulfate as SO4 2-	14808-79-8	10	mg/kg		30	10	<10	10	<10
ED045G: Chloride by Discrete Analyser									
Chloride	16887-00-6	10	mg/kg		----	----	<10	<10	20

(Preliminary Report)

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Work Order : ES2214683
Client : STS Geotechnics
Project : 30055/31688/31670



Analytical Results

Sub-Matrix: SOIL (Matrix: SOIL)				Sample ID	31688/S4	31670/S1	31670/S2	----	----
Sampling date / time					26-Apr-2022 00:00	27-Apr-2022 00:00	27-Apr-2022 00:00	----	----
Compound	CAS Number	LOR	Unit		ES2214683-006	ES2214683-007	ES2214683-008	-----	-----
				Result	Result	Result	Result	----	----
EA002: pH 1:5 (Soils)									
pH Value	----	0.1	pH Unit		7.0	6.2	6.4	----	----
EA010: Conductivity (1:5)									
Electrical Conductivity @ 25°C	----	1	µS/cm		35	8	17	----	----
EA055: Moisture Content (Dried @ 105-110°C)									
Moisture Content	----	0.1	%		17.3	23.4	<0.1	----	----
ED040S : Soluble Sulfate by ICPAES									
Sulfate as SO4 2-	14808-79-8	10	mg/kg		<10	<10	<10	----	----
ED045G: Chloride by Discrete Analyser									
Chloride	16887-00-6	10	mg/kg		20	<10	<10	----	----

Inter-Laboratory Testing

Analysis conducted by ALS Brisbane, NATA accreditation no. 825, site no. 818 (Chemistry) 18958 (Biology).

(SOIL) EA029-D: Calcium Values

(SOIL) EA029-E: Magnesium Values

(SOIL) EA029-F: Excess Acid Neutralising Capacity

(SOIL) EA029-H: Acid Base Accounting

(SOIL) EA029-G: Retained Acidity

(SOIL) EA029-A: pH Measurements

(SOIL) EA029-C: Sulfur Trail

(SOIL) EA029-B: Acidity Trail