Site Classification
for
Lot 1 in DP577917, 1928 Goolma Road, Two Mile Flat NSW 2852

Prepared For: Manor Homes

Reference: SGC22-614

Date: 22nd October 2022

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Author
[redacted]
Ben Hamilton **Engineering Geologist** **B. Sc. (Geo), GradCertEngSci, Member AGS**

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1 INTRODUCTION

Sydney Geotech Consultancy (SGC) was commissioned by Manor Homes to undertake a Geotechnical Site Classification at 1928 Goolma Road Two Mile Flat 2852.

The objective of the geotechnical investigation is to provide information on the surface and subsurface soil conditions within the excavated areas of the subject site. This work was done to classify the subject site in accordance with Australian Standard AS2870 2011 "Residential Slabs and Footings".

1.1 Proposed Development

Proposed new single storey residence.

1.2 Scope of Works

The scope of works includes provision of the following:

- Desktop review;
- Review of Dial Before You Dig (DBYD);
- Drilling of two (2) boreholes within the footprint of the excavated area;
- In-situ testing including Dynamic Cone Penetrometer (DCP) and Pocket Penetrometer (PP) testing at each borehole;
- Wind Classification and Rating;
- Recommended Bearing capacity; and
- Provision of a geotechnical site classification report.

1.3 Context of Report

This report is to be read in its entirety and individual sections should not be reviewed to provide any level of information independently. Each section of the report relates to the rest of the document and as such is to be read in conjunction, including its appendices and attachments. Particular attention is drawn to the limitations of inherent site investigations and the importance of verifying the subsurface conditions inferred herein.

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Fieldwork

A site visit was made on Monday 17th October 2022 by an engineering geologist from SGC. A preliminary walkover of the site was conducted during the site visit. The fieldwork consisted of the drilling of two (2) boreholes up to 1.50 m (met with refusal) within the footprint of the proposed development area. The drilling was undertaken utilising a 4WD Ute Mounted Drill Rig with 90mm solid flight auger attachments (Figure 1).

Figure 1 4WD Ute Mounted Drilling Rig

In-situ DCP and PP testing was undertaken at each borehole location. Appendix A displays the location of the excavated borehole.

3 SITE DESCRIPTION

The site was located at Lot 1 in DP577917, 1928 Goolma Road, Two Mile Flat NSW 2852. The investigation area is displayed in Figure 2 below. The site is accessed from Goolma Road to the south.

Figure 2 Existing Site

3.1 Geology and Soils

Turondale Formation. Thick bedded, crystal-lithic, rhyolithic to rhyodacitic volcaniclastic sandstone interbedded with lesser thin-bedded, pelagic and volcaniclastic sandstone, siltstone and phyllitic shale. Minor rhyolithic tuff and conglomerate.

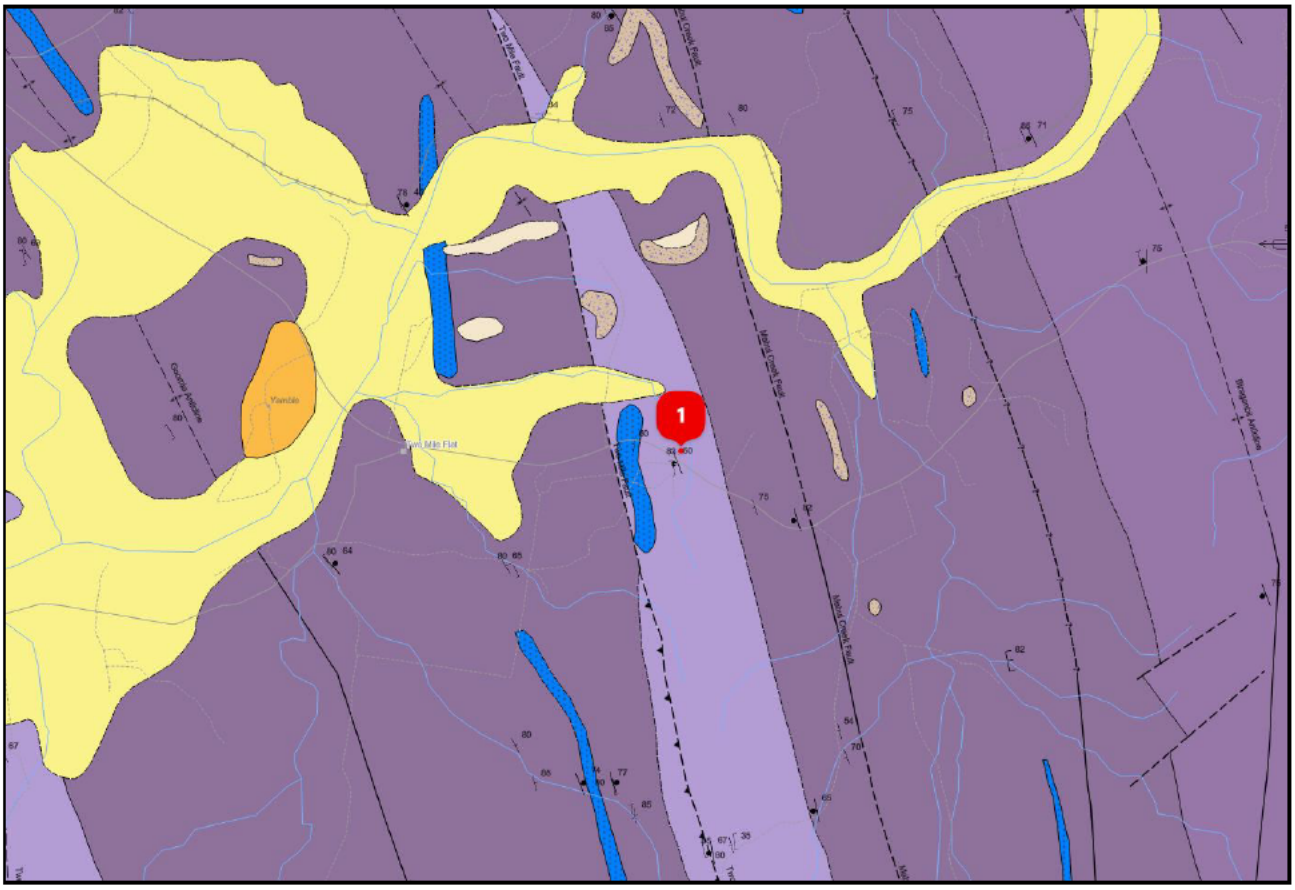


Figure 3 Geology Map

4 RESULTS

4.1 Subsurface Conditions

The subsurface conditions at the site are summarised in Table 1 below:

Table 1 A Summary of Soil Strata

Depth (m)	Material Description
0.20 – 1.00	NATURAL: Silty CLAY w sand, low to medium plasticity, red brown and yellow orange, trace fine to medium gravels, fine to medium grained, moisture content < plastic limit (DEEP MARINE)
1.00 – 1.50*	NATURAL: Clayey ROCK (SILTSTONE/SANDSTONE), extremely weathered, orange and grey to pale grey and white, fine to coarse grained, moist (DEEP MARINE-Volcaniclastic)

* Met with refusal.

Figure 4 Recovered Borehole Material

5 DISCUSSION & RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Site Classification

The classification of a site involves several geotechnical factors such as depth of bedrock, the nature and extent of subsurface soils and any specific problems (slope instability, soft soils, deleterious materials, filling, reactivity of the soils etc.).

The subject site in its current state presents sandy clays overlying shallow weathered rock. The natural soils displays a characteristic soil movement (Ys) of 20-30mm and can be classified as a "Class M" site. This classification is based on local knowledge, recovered borehole material, laboratory results and professional judgement.

An appropriate footing system should be designed in accordance with the above code. All footings should be founded through any uncontrolled filling, soft soils and deleterious materials, socketed a minimum of 200mm depth into underlying natural materials. The possibility of additional movements, due to abnormal moisture variations, should be minimised by proper "site management" procedures as provided on the attached CSIRO Sheet.

If controlled fill is used as foundation material the site may be re-classified (if applicable) if assessed in accordance with engineering principles. Good engineering principles are provided in Australian standard 3798-2007 'Guidelines on earthworks for commercial and residential developments' compaction and certification methods.

The footing design should take into consideration the effect on trees and the impact trees have on soil moisture within the building footprint and surrounding areas. In the event where recent removal of trees within the building footprint and surrounding areas has occurred, enough time for soil moisture to return to equilibrium should be allowed otherwise specific engineering assessment and input would be required for foundation design.

It should be noted that this assessment is based on site conditions being represented by the natural soil profile. Any change in conditions noted during development, including cut or fill should be referred to SGC for appropriate inspection and assessment.

5.2 Footings

The suggested footing parameters are presented in the following table:

Table 2 Suggested Footing Parameters

Layer Depth (m)	Material Description	Allowable End Bearing Pressure (kPa)	Allowable Shaft Adhesion (kPa)
0.00 – 0.50	Soft CLAY	25	-
0.50 – 1.00	Stiff CLAY	100	10
1..00 – 1.50*	Clayey ROCK	250	30

*Limit of investigation

5.3 Wind Classification

The classification has been carried out in accordance with the guidelines set out in AS4055 - 2012 “Wind loads for housing – Table 2.2 and Table 2.1A”.

Wind Classification:

The site is classified **N2**.

Design Gust Wind Speed:

Serviceability limit state - **26 ($V_{h,s}$)**, Ultimate limit state – **40 ($V_{h,u}$)**.

6 LIMITATIONS

Scope of Services

This report has been prepared for the Client in accordance with the Terms of Agreement between the Client and Sydney Geotech Consultancy.

Reliance on Data

Sydney Geotech Consultancy has relied upon data and other information provided by the Client and other individuals. Sydney Geotech Consultancy has not verified the accuracy or completeness of the data, except as otherwise stated in the report. Recommendations in the report are based on the data.

Sydney Geotech Consultancy will not be liable for incorrect recommendations should any data, information or condition be incorrect or have been concealed, withheld, misrepresented or otherwise not fully disclosed.

Geotechnical Investigation

Findings of Geotechnical Investigations are based extensively on judgment and experience. Geotechnical reports are prepared to meet the specific needs of individual clients. This report was prepared expressly for the Client and expressly for the Clients purposes.

This report is based on a subsurface investigation, which was designed for project-specific factors. Unless further geotechnical advice is obtained this report cannot be applied to an adjacent site nor can it be used when the nature of any proposed development is changed.

Limitations of Site investigation

As a result of the limited number of sub-surface excavations or boreholes there is the possibility that variations may occur between test locations. The investigation undertaken is an estimate of the general profile of the subsurface conditions. The data derived from the investigation and laboratory testing is extrapolated across the site to form a geological model. This geological model infers the subsurface conditions and their likely behavior regarding the proposed development.

The actual conditions at the site might differ from those inferred to exist.

No subsurface exploration program, no matter how comprehensive, can reveal all subsurface details and anomalies.

Time Dependence

This report is based on conditions which existed at the time of subsurface exploration. Any construction operations at or adjacent to the site, and natural events such as floods, or groundwater

fluctuations may also affect subsurface conditions, and thus the continuing adequacy of a geotechnical report.

Sydney Geotech Consultancy should be kept appraised of any such events and should be consulted for further geotechnical advice if any changes are noted.

Avoid Misinterpretation

A geotechnical engineer or engineering geologist should be retained to work with other design professionals explaining relevant geotechnical findings and in reviewing the adequacy of their plans and specifications relative to geotechnical issues. No part of this report should be separated from the Final Report.

Sub-surface Logs

Sub-surface logs are developed by geoscientific professionals based upon their interpretation of field logs and laboratory evaluation of field samples. These logs should not under any circumstances be redrawn for inclusion in any drawings.

Geotechnical Involvement During Construction

During construction, excavation frequently exposes subsurface conditions. Geotechnical consultants should be retained through the construction stage, to identify variations if they are exposed.

Report for Benefit of Client

The report has been prepared for the benefit of the Client and no other party. Other parties should not rely upon the report or the accuracy or completeness of any recommendations and should make their own enquiries and obtain independent advice in relation to such matters.

Sydney Geotech Consultancy assumes no responsibility and will not be liable to any other person or organisations for or in relation to any matter dealt with or conclusions expressed in the report, or for any loss or damage suffered by any other person or organisations arising from matters dealt with or conclusions expressed in the report.

Other limitations

Sydney Geotech Consultancy will not be liable to update or revise the report to consider any events or emergent circumstances or facts occurring or becoming apparent after the date of the report.

Other Information

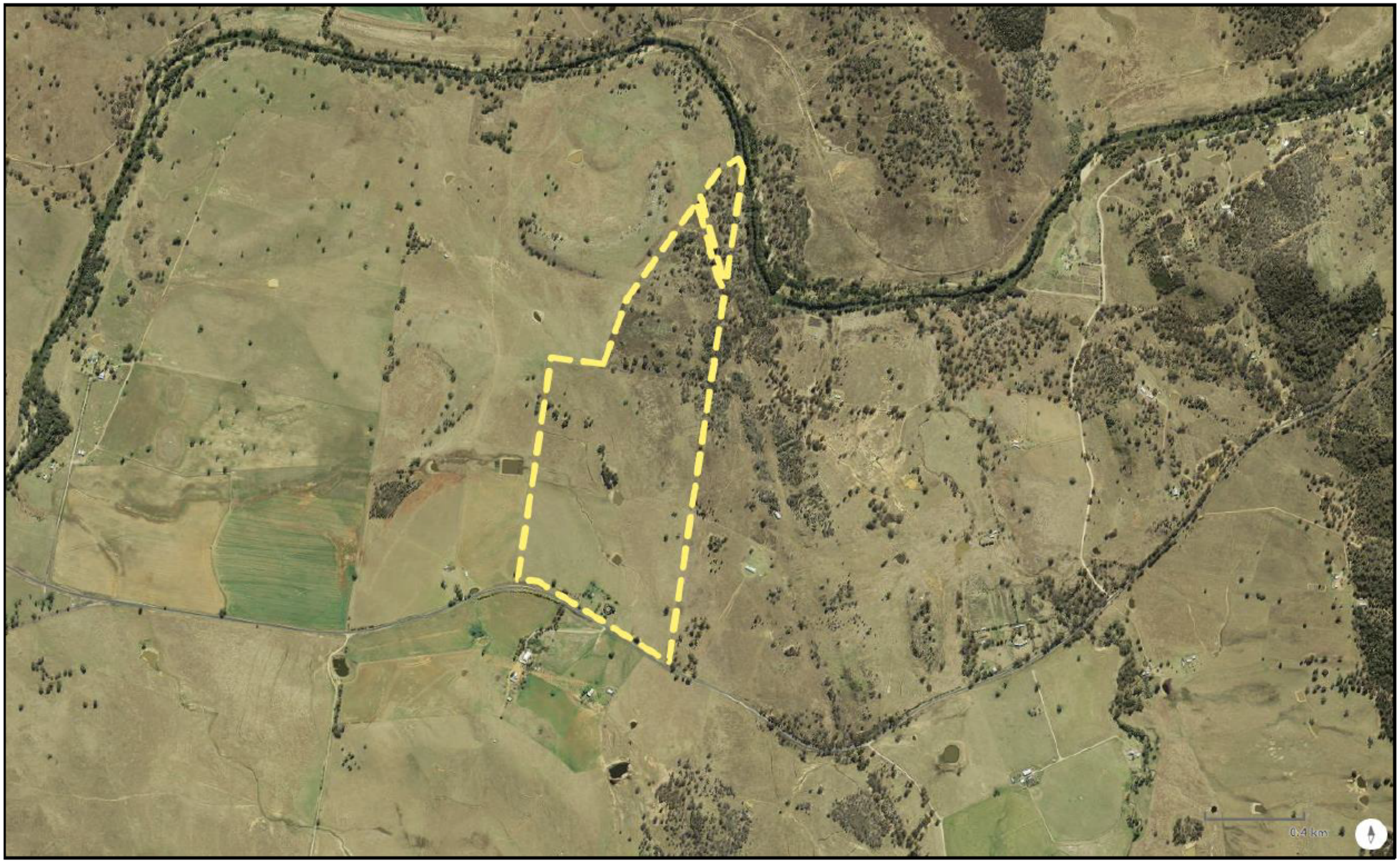
For further information reference should be made to "Guidelines for the Provision of Geotechnical Information in Construction Contracts" published by the Institution of Engineers Australia, 1987.

7 REFERENCES

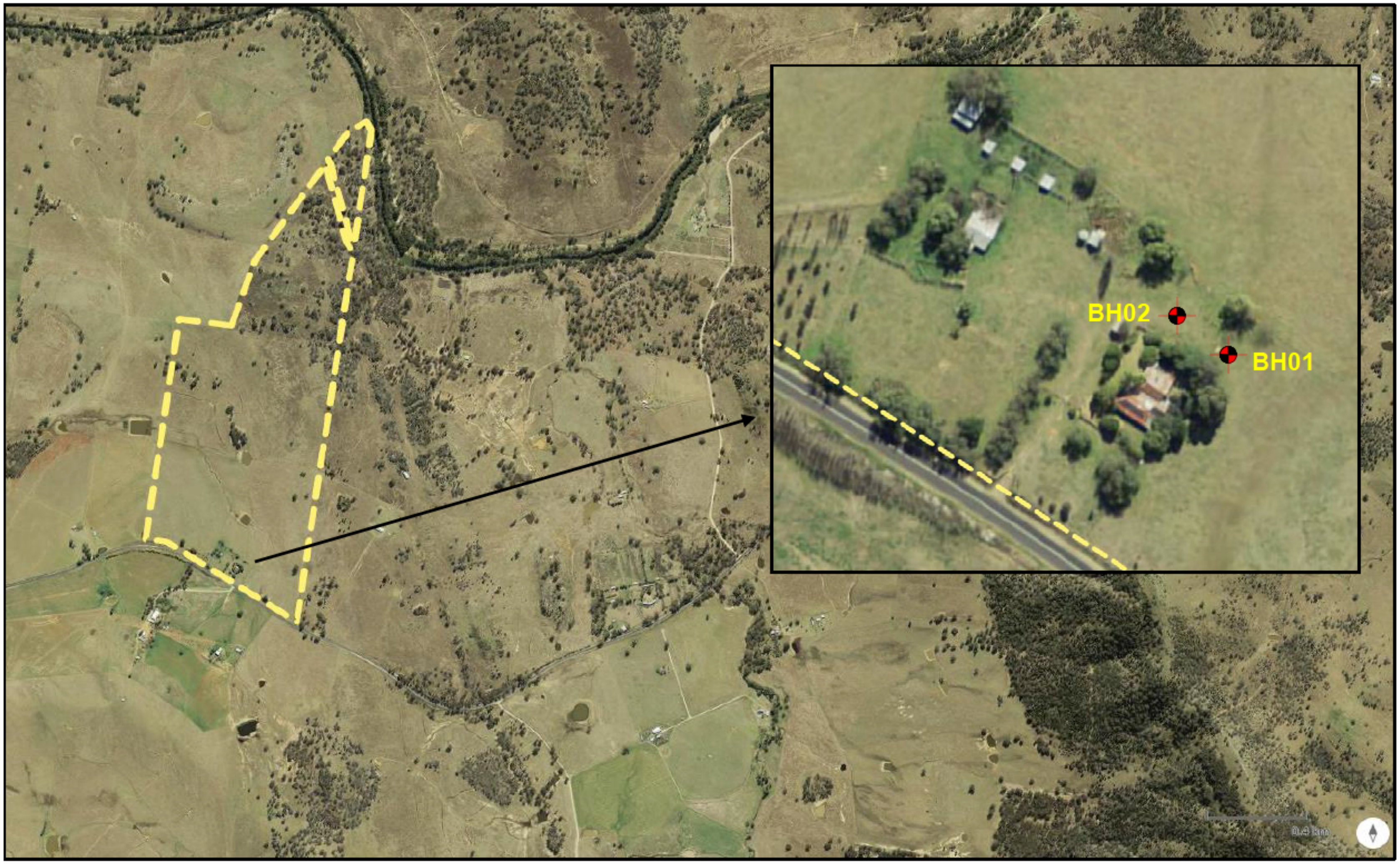
- AS 1726 (2017) – 'Geotechnical site investigations'
- AS 2870 (2011) – 'Residential slabs and footings'
- AS 3798 (2007) – 'Guidelines on earthworks for commercial and residential developments'
- AS 4055 (2012) – 'Wind loads for housing'
- Council policies, guidelines and requirements
- GSNSW – Seamless Geology of NSW
- NSW Spatial Information Exchange (https://maps.six.nsw.gov.au/)
- NSW Espade (https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/eSpade2WebApp)
- NSW Planning Portal (https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/spatialviewer/#/find-a-property/address)

Appendix A – Site & Borehole Location

Site Location



Borehole Location



Note: Borehole locations are approximate. Borehole size is not to scale.

Appendix B – Laboratory Results

SYDNEY GEOTECH
GEOTECHNICAL CONSULTING + DRILLING

SOIL CLASSIFICATION REPORT

Client:	Manor Homes	**Source:**	BH01, 0-1.0m
Address:		**Sample Description:**	Silty Sandy CLAY, orange & brown
Project:	1928 Goolma Road Two Mile Flat 2852	**Report No:**	1
Job No:	SGC22-614	**Lab No:**	1

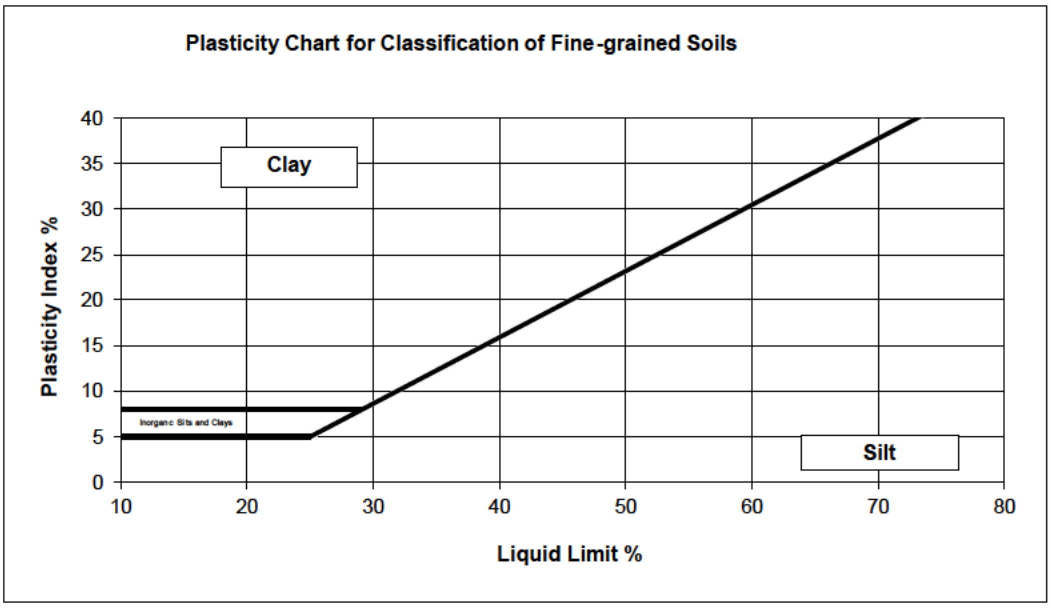
Test Procedure:

- ☑ AS1289 2.1.1 Soil moisture content tests (Oven drying method)
- ☐ AS1289 3.1.1 Soil classification tests - Determination of the liquid limit of a soil - Four point casagrande method
- ☐ AS1289 3.1 2 Soil classification tests - Determination of the liquid limit if a soil - One point Casagrande method (subsidiary method)
- ☐ AS1289 3.2.1 Soil classification tests - Determination of the plastic limit of a soil - Standard method
- ☐ AS1289 3.3.1 Soil classification tests - Calculation of the plasticity Index of a soil
- ☑ AS1289 3.4.1 Soil classification tests - Determination of the linear shrinkage of a soil - Standard method

Sampling: **Date Sampled:** 17/10/2022

Preparation: Prepared in accordance with the test method

Liquid Limit (%):	-	**Linear Shrinkage (%):**	5.0
Plastic Limit (%):	-	**Field Moisture Content (%):**	13.7
Plastic Index:	-		



Soil Preparation Method: Dry Sieved
Soil History: Oven Dried
Soil Condition: Linear

Appendix C - CSIRO Sheet BTF 18 'Foundation Maintenance & Footing Performance'

Foundation Maintenance and Footing Performance: A Homeowner's Guide

CSIRO PUBLISHING

BTF 18-2011 replaces Information Sheet 10/91

Buildings can and often do move. This movement can be up, down, lateral or rotational. The fundamental cause of movement in buildings can usually be related to one or more problems in the foundation soil. It is important for the homeowner to identify the soil type in order to ascertain the measures that should be put in place in order to ensure that problems in the foundation soil can be prevented, thus protecting against building movement.

This Building Technology File is designed to identify causes of soil-related building movement, and to suggest methods of prevention of resultant cracking in buildings.

Soil Types

The types of soils usually present under the topsoil in land zoned for residential buildings can be split into two approximate groups – granular and clay. Quite often, foundation soil is a mixture of both types. The general problems associated with soils having granular content are usually caused by erosion. Clay soils are subject to saturation and swell/shrink problems.

Classifications for a given area can generally be obtained by application to the local authority, but these are sometimes unreliable and if there is doubt, a geotechnical report should be commissioned. As most buildings suffering movement problems are founded on clay soils, there is an emphasis on classification of soils according to the amount of swell and shrinkage they experience with variations of water content. The table below is Table 2.1 from AS 2870-2011, the Residential Slab and Footing Code.

Causes of Movement

Settlement due to construction

There are two types of settlement that occur as a result of construction:

- Immediate settlement occurs when a building is first placed on its foundation soil, as a result of compaction of the soil under the weight of the structure. The cohesive quality of clay soil mitigates against this, but granular (particularly sandy) soil is susceptible.
- Consolidation settlement is a feature of clay soil and may take place because of the expulsion of moisture from the soil or because of the soil's lack of resistance to local compressive or shear stresses. This will usually take place during the first few months after construction, but has been known to take many years in exceptional cases.

These problems are the province of the builder and should be taken into consideration as part of the preparation of the site for construction. Building Technology File 19 (BTF 19) deals with these problems.

Erosion

All soils are prone to erosion, but sandy soil is particularly susceptible to being washed away. Even clay with a sand component of say 10% or more can suffer from erosion.

Saturation

This is particularly a problem in clay soils. Saturation creates a bog-like suspension of the soil that causes it to lose virtually all of its bearing capacity. To a lesser degree, sand is affected by saturation because saturated sand may undergo a reduction in volume, particularly imported sand fill for bedding and blinding layers. However, this usually occurs as immediate settlement and should normally be the province of the builder.

Seasonal swelling and shrinkage of soil

All clays react to the presence of water by slowly absorbing it, making the soil increase in volume (see table below). The degree of increase varies considerably between different clays, as does the degree of decrease during the subsequent drying out caused by fair weather periods. Because of the low absorption and expulsion rate, this phenomenon will not usually be noticeable unless there are prolonged rainy or dry periods, usually of weeks or months, depending on the land and soil characteristics.

The swelling of soil creates an upward force on the footings of the building, and shrinkage creates subsidence that takes away the support needed by the footing to retain equilibrium.

Shear failure

This phenomenon occurs when the foundation soil does not have sufficient strength to support the weight of the footing. There are two major post-construction causes:

- Significant load increase.
- Reduction of lateral support of the soil under the footing due to erosion or excavation.

In clay soil, shear failure can be caused by saturation of the soil adjacent to or under the footing.

GENERAL DEFINITIONS OF SITE CLASSES

Class	Foundation
A	Most sand and rock sites with little or no ground movement from moisture changes
S	Slightly reactive clay sites, which may experience only slight ground movement from moisture changes
M	Moderately reactive clay or silt sites, which may experience moderate ground movement from moisture changes
H1	Highly reactive clay sites, which may experience high ground movement from moisture changes
H2	Highly reactive clay sites, which may experience very high ground movement from moisture changes
E	Extremely reactive sites, which may experience extreme ground movement from moisture changes

Notes

1. Where controlled fill has been used, the site may be classified A to E according to the type of fill used.
2. Filled sites. Class P is used for sites which include soft fills, such as clay or silt or loose sands; landslip; mine subsidence; collapsing soils; soil subject to erosion; reactive sites subject to abnormal moisture conditions or sites which cannot be classified otherwise.
3. Where deep-seated moisture changes exist on sites at depths of 3 m or greater, further classification is needed for Classes M to E (M-D, H1-D, H2-D and E-D).

Tree root growth

Trees and shrubs that are allowed to grow in the vicinity of footings can cause foundation soil movement in two ways:

- Roots that grow under footings may increase in cross-sectional size, exerting upward pressure on footings.
- Roots in the vicinity of footings will absorb much of the moisture in the foundation soil, causing shrinkage or subsidence.

Unevenness of Movement

The types of ground movement described above usually occur unevenly throughout the building's foundation soil. Settlement due to construction tends to be uneven because of:

- Differing compaction of foundation soil prior to construction.
- Differing moisture content of foundation soil prior to construction.

Movement due to non-construction causes is usually more uneven still. Erosion can undermine a footing that traverses the flow or can create the conditions for shear failure by eroding soil adjacent to a footing that runs in the same direction as the flow.

Saturation of clay foundation soil may occur where subfloor walls create a dam that makes water pond. It can also occur wherever there is a source of water near footings in clay soil. This leads to a severe reduction in the strength of the soil which may create local shear failure.

Seasonal swelling and shrinkage of clay soil affects the perimeter of the building first, then gradually spreads to the interior. The swelling process will usually begin at the uphill extreme of the building, or on the weather side where the land is flat. Swelling gradually reaches the interior soil as absorption continues. Shrinkage usually begins where the sun's heat is greatest.

Effects of Uneven Soil Movement on Structures

Erosion and saturation

Erosion removes the support from under footings, tending to create subsidence of the part of the structure under which it occurs. Brickwork walls will resist the stress created by this removal of support by bridging the gap or cantilevering until the bricks or the mortar bedding fail. Older masonry has little resistance. Evidence of failure varies according to circumstances and symptoms may include:

- Step cracking in the mortar beds in the body of the wall or above/below openings such as doors or windows.
- Vertical cracking in the bricks (usually but not necessarily in line with the vertical beds or perpends).

Isolated piers affected by erosion or saturation of foundations will eventually lose contact with the bearers they support and may tilt or fall over. The floors that have lost this support will become bouncy, sometimes rattling ornaments etc.

Seasonal swelling/shrinkage in clay

Swelling foundation soil due to rainy periods first lifts the most exposed extremities of the footing system, then the remainder of the perimeter footings while gradually permeating inside the building footprint to lift internal footings. This swelling first tends to create a dish effect, because the external footings are pushed higher than the internal ones.

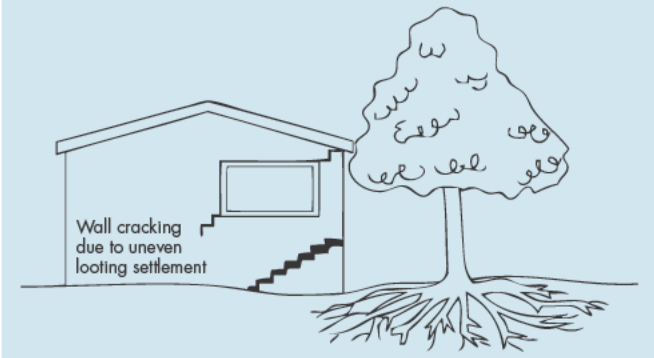
The first noticeable symptom may be that the floor appears slightly dished. This is often accompanied by some doors binding on the floor or the door head, together with some cracking of cornice mitres. In buildings with timber flooring supported by bearers and joists, the floor can be bouncy. Externally there may be visible dishing of the hip or ridge lines.

As the moisture absorption process completes its journey to the innermost areas of the building, the internal footings will rise. If the spread of moisture is roughly even, it may be that the symptoms will temporarily disappear, but it is more likely that swelling will be uneven, creating a difference rather than a disappearance in symptoms. In buildings with timber flooring supported by bearers and joists, the isolated piers will rise more easily than the strip footings or piers under walls, creating noticeable doming of flooring.

As the weather pattern changes and the soil begins to dry out, the external footings will be first affected, beginning with the locations where the sun's effect is strongest. This has the effect of lowering the external footings. The doming is accentuated and cracking reduces or disappears where it occurred because of dishing, but other cracks open up. The roof lines may become convex.

Doming and dishing are also affected by weather in other ways. In areas where warm, wet summers and cooler dry winters prevail, water migration tends to be toward the interior and doming will be accentuated, whereas where summers are dry and winters are cold and wet, migration tends to be toward the exterior and the underlying propensity is toward dishing.

Trees can cause shrinkage and damage



Movement caused by tree roots

In general, growing roots will exert an upward pressure on footings, whereas soil subject to drying because of tree or shrub roots will tend to remove support from under footings by inducing shrinkage.

Complications caused by the structure itself

Most forces that the soil causes to be exerted on structures are vertical – i.e. either up or down. However, because these forces are seldom spread evenly around the footings, and because the building resists uneven movement because of its rigidity, forces are exerted from one part of the building to another. The net result of all these forces is usually rotational. This resultant force often complicates the diagnosis because the visible symptoms do not simply reflect the original cause. A common symptom is binding of doors on the vertical member of the frame.

Effects on full masonry structures

Brickwork will resist cracking where it can. It will attempt to span areas that lose support because of subsided foundations or raised points. It is therefore usual to see cracking at weak points, such as openings for windows or doors.

In the event of construction settlement, cracking will usually remain unchanged after the process of settlement has ceased.

With local shear or erosion, cracking will usually continue to develop until the original cause has been remedied, or until the subsidence has completely neutralised the affected portion of footing and the structure has stabilised on other footings that remain effective.

In the case of swell/shrink effects, the brickwork will in some cases return to its original position after completion of a cycle, however it is more likely that the rotational effect will not be exactly reversed, and it is also usual that brickwork will settle in its new position and will resist the forces trying to return it to its original position. This means that in a case where swelling takes place after construction and cracking occurs, the cracking is likely to at least partly remain after the shrink segment of the cycle is complete. Thus, each time the cycle is repeated, the likelihood is that the cracking will become wider until the sections of brickwork become virtually independent.

With repeated cycles, once the cracking is established, if there is no other complication, it is normal for the incidence of cracking to stabilise, as the building has the articulation it needs to cope with the problem. This is by no means always the case, however, and monitoring of cracks in walls and floors should always be treated seriously.

Upheaval caused by growth of tree roots under footings is not a simple vertical shear stress. There is a tendency for the root to also exert lateral forces that attempt to separate sections of brickwork after initial cracking has occurred.

The normal structural arrangement is that the inner leaf of brickwork in the external walls and at least some of the internal walls (depending on the roof type) comprise the load-bearing structure on which any upper floors, ceilings and the roof are supported. In these cases, it is internally visible cracking that should be the main focus of attention, however there are a few examples of dwellings whose external leaf of masonry plays some supporting role, so this should be checked if there is any doubt. In any case, externally visible cracking is important as a guide to stresses on the structure generally, and it should also be remembered that the external walls must be capable of supporting themselves.

Effects on framed structures

Timber or steel framed buildings are less likely to exhibit cracking due to swell/shrink than masonry buildings because of their flexibility. Also, the doming/dishing effects tend to be lower because of the lighter weight of walls. The main risks to framed buildings are encountered because of the isolated pier footings used under walls. Where erosion or saturation causes a footing to fall away, this can double the span which a wall must bridge. This additional stress can create cracking in wall linings, particularly where there is a weak point in the structure caused by a door or window opening. It is, however, unlikely that framed structures will be so stressed as to suffer serious damage without first exhibiting some or all of the above symptoms for a considerable period. The same warning period should apply in the case of upheaval. It should be noted, however, that where framed buildings are supported by strip footings there is only one leaf of brickwork and therefore the externally visible walls are the supporting structure for the building. In this case, the subfloor masonry walls can be expected to behave as full brickwork walls.

Effects on brick veneer structures

Because the load-bearing structure of a brick veneer building is the frame that makes up the interior leaf of the external walls plus perhaps the internal walls, depending on the type of roof, the building can be expected to behave as a framed structure, except that the external masonry will behave in a similar way to the external leaf of a full masonry structure.

Water Service and Drainage

Where a water service pipe, a sewer or stormwater drainage pipe is in the vicinity of a building, a water leak can cause erosion, swelling or saturation of susceptible soil. Even a minuscule leak can be enough to saturate a clay foundation. A leaking tap near a building can have the same effect. In addition, trenches containing pipes can become watercourses even though backfilled, particularly where broken rubble is used as fill. Water that runs along these trenches can be responsible for serious erosion, interstrata seepage into subfloor areas and saturation.

Pipe leakage and trench water flows also encourage tree and shrub roots to the source of water, complicating and exacerbating the problem. Poor roof plumbing can result in large volumes of rainwater being concentrated in a small area of soil:

- Incorrect falls in roof guttering may result in overflows, as may gutters blocked with leaves etc.
- Corroded guttering or downpipes can spill water to ground.
- Downpipes not positively connected to a proper stormwater collection system will direct a concentration of water to soil that is directly adjacent to footings, sometimes causing large-scale problems such as erosion, saturation and migration of water under the building.

Seriousness of Cracking

In general, most cracking found in masonry walls is a cosmetic nuisance only and can be kept in repair or even ignored. The table below is a reproduction of Table C1 of AS 2870-2011.

AS 2870-2011 also publishes figures relating to cracking in concrete floors, however because wall cracking will usually reach the critical point significantly earlier than cracking in slabs, this table is not reproduced here.

Prevention/Cure

Plumbing

Where building movement is caused by water service, roof plumbing, sewer or stormwater failure, the remedy is to repair the problem. It is prudent, however, to consider also rerouting pipes away from the building where possible, and relocating taps to positions where any leakage will not direct water to the building vicinity. Even where gully traps are present, there is sometimes sufficient spill to create erosion or saturation, particularly in modern installations using smaller diameter PVC fixtures. Indeed, some gully traps are not situated directly under the taps that are installed to charge them, with the result that water from the tap may enter the backfilled trench that houses the sewer piping. If the trench has been poorly backfilled, the water will either pond or flow along the bottom of the trench. As these trenches usually run alongside the footings and can be at a similar depth, it is not hard to see how any water that is thus directed into a trench can easily affect the foundation's ability to support footings or even gain entry to the subfloor area.

Ground drainage

In all soils there is the capacity for water to travel on the surface and below it. Surface water flows can be established by inspection during and after heavy or prolonged rain. If necessary, a grated drain system connected to the stormwater collection system is usually an easy solution.

It is, however, sometimes necessary when attempting to prevent water migration that testing be carried out to establish watertable height and subsoil water flows. This subject is referred to in BTF 19 and may properly be regarded as an area for an expert consultant.

Protection of the building perimeter

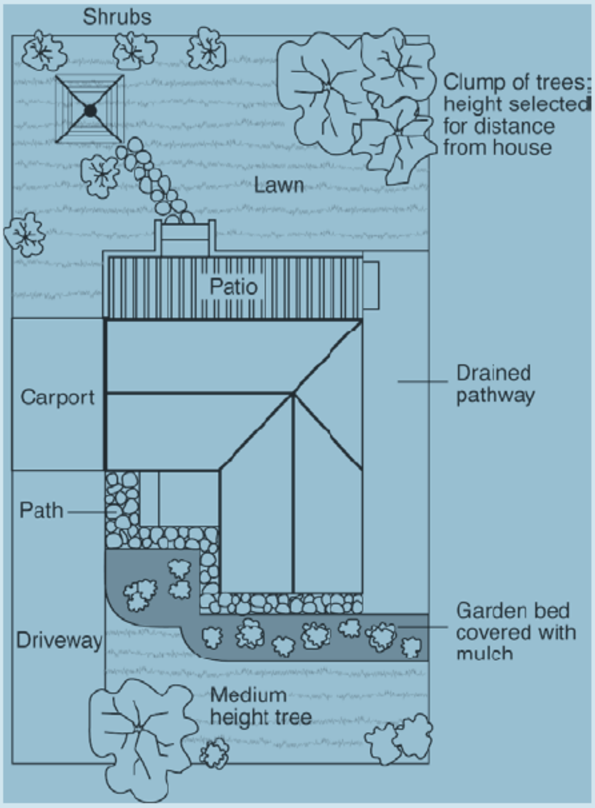
It is essential to remember that the soil that affects footings extends well beyond the actual building line. Watering of garden plants, shrubs and trees causes some of the most serious water problems.

For this reason, particularly where problems exist or are likely to occur, it is recommended that an apron of paving be installed around as much of the building perimeter as necessary. This paving should

CLASSIFICATION OF DAMAGE WITH REFERENCE TO WALLS

Description of typical damage and required repair	Approximate crack width limit (see Note 3)	Damage category
Hairline cracks	<0.1 mm	0
Fine cracks which do not need repair	<1 mm	1
Cracks noticeable but easily filled. Doors and windows stick slightly.	<5 mm	2
Cracks can be repaired and possibly a small amount of wall will need to be replaced. Doors and windows stick. Service pipes can fracture. Weathertightness often impaired.	5–15 mm (or a number of cracks 3 mm or more in one group)	3
Extensive repair work involving breaking-out and replacing sections of walls, especially over doors and windows. Window and door frames distort. Walls lean or bulge noticeably, some loss of bearing in beams. Service pipes disrupted.	15–25 mm but also depends on number of cracks	4

Gardens for a reactive site



extend outwards a minimum of 900 mm (more in highly reactive soil) and should have a minimum fall away from the building of 1:60. The finished paving should be no less than 100 mm below brick vent bases.

It is prudent to relocate drainage pipes away from this paving, if possible, to avoid complications from future leakage. If this is not practical, earthenware pipes should be replaced by PVC and backfilling should be of the same soil type as the surrounding soil and compacted to the same density.

Except in areas where freezing of water is an issue, it is wise to remove taps in the building area and relocate them well away from the building – preferably not uphill from it (see BTF 19).

It may be desirable to install a grated drain at the outside edge of the paving on the uphill side of the building. If subsoil drainage is needed this can be installed under the surface drain.

Condensation

In buildings with a subfloor void such as where bearers and joists support flooring, insufficient ventilation creates ideal conditions for condensation, particularly where there is little clearance between the floor and the ground. Condensation adds to the moisture already present in the subfloor and significantly slows the process of drying out. Installation of an adequate subfloor ventilation system, either natural or mechanical, is desirable.

Warning: Although this Building Technology File deals with cracking in buildings, it should be said that subfloor moisture can result in the development of other problems, notably:

- Water that is transmitted into masonry, metal or timber building elements causes damage and/or decay to those elements.
- High subfloor humidity and moisture content create an ideal environment for various pests, including termites and spiders.
- Where high moisture levels are transmitted to the flooring and walls, an increase in the dust mite count can ensue within the living areas. Dust mites, as well as dampness in general, can be a health hazard to inhabitants, particularly those who are abnormally susceptible to respiratory ailments.

The garden

The ideal vegetation layout is to have lawn or plants that require only light watering immediately adjacent to the drainage or paving edge, then more demanding plants, shrubs and trees spread out in that order.

Overwatering due to misuse of automatic watering systems is a common cause of saturation and water migration under footings. If it is necessary to use these systems, it is important to remove garden beds to a completely safe distance from buildings.

Existing trees

Where a tree is causing a problem of soil drying or there is the existence or threat of upheaval of footings, if the offending roots are subsidiary and their removal will not significantly damage the tree, they should be severed and a concrete or metal barrier placed vertically in the soil to prevent future root growth in the direction of the building. If it is not possible to remove the relevant roots without damage to the tree, an application to remove the tree should be made to the local authority. A prudent plan is to transplant likely offenders before they become a problem.

Information on trees, plants and shrubs

State departments overseeing agriculture can give information regarding root patterns, volume of water needed and safe distance from buildings of most species. Botanic gardens are also sources of information. For information on plant roots and drains, see Building Technology File 17.

Excavation

Excavation around footings must be properly engineered. Soil supporting footings can only be safely excavated at an angle that allows the soil under the footing to remain stable. This angle is called the angle of repose (or friction) and varies significantly between soil types and conditions. Removal of soil within the angle of repose will cause subsidence.

Remediation

Where erosion has occurred that has washed away soil adjacent to footings, soil of the same classification should be introduced and compacted to the same density. Where footings have been undermined, augmentation or other specialist work may be required. Remediation of footings and foundations is generally the realm of a specialist consultant.

Where isolated footings rise and fall because of swell/shrink effect, the homeowner may be tempted to alleviate floor bounce by filling the gap that has appeared between the bearer and the pier with blocking. The danger here is that when the next swell segment of the cycle occurs, the extra blocking will push the floor up into an accentuated dome and may also cause local shear failure in the soil. If it is necessary to use blocking, it should be by a pair of fine wedges and monitoring should be carried out fortnightly.

This BTF was prepared by John Lewer FAIB, MIAMA, Partner, Construction Diagnosis.

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Tel (03) 9545 8400 1300 788 000 www.publish.csiro.au

Email: publishing.sales@csiro.au