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PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT: Acid Sulfate

Alterations and Additions and New Pool at 2131 Pittwater Road, Church Point

Class of land as shown on Acid Sulfate Soils Planning Maps		Type of Works	
	1	Any works	
	2	Works below the natural ground surface.	
	2	Works by which the water table is likely to be lowered.	
		Works beyond 1m below the natural ground surface.	
	3	Works by which the water table is likely to be lowered beyond 1m below the natural ground surface.	
	_	Works beyond 2m below the natural ground surface.	
	4	Works by which the water table is likely to be lowered beyond 2m below the natural ground surface.	
	Works on land below 5m AHD and within 500m of adjacent Class1, 2, 3 or 4 land which are likely to lower the watertable below 1m AHD on adjacent Class 1, 2, or 4 land.		
	The class of the site is highlighted in red; it should be noted that the classification does not mean acid sulfate soils are present on site but that there is a risk they could be present.		

1. Proposed Development

- **1.1** Demolish most of the existing internal and external walls of the house.
- **1.2** Extend the lower ground floor of the house upslope and install a lift by excavating to a maximum depth of ~2.8m.
- **1.3** Extend the ground floor of the house to the NW by excavating to a maximum depth of ~1.7m.
- **1.4** Demolish the existing pool and install a new pool in the same location.
- **1.5** Minor internal and external alterations and additions.
- Details of the proposed development are shown on 24 drawings prepared by Archisoul Architects, project 2251, drawings numbered DA01 to DA24, dated 28.10.2024.



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2. **Site Description**

The site was inspected on the 18th November, 2024 and previously on the 1st August, 2024.

The block encompasses the lower reaches of a hillslope that rises near the waterfront at Pittwater. The Sydney 1:100 000 Geological Sheet indicates the contact of Hawkesbury Sandstone and the Narrabeen Group Rocks cuts through the middle of the property, although at a residential scale the map is not always accurate. Ground testing indicates that the

property is underlain by geology which is consistent with the Narrabeen Group. This is

described as interbedded laminite, shale, and quartz to lithic quartz sandstone.

The NSW Environment and Heritage mapping program (eSpade) maps the soil landscape of

the property as 'Erina'. The ground tests indicate the upper ~1.0m is a yellowish-brown sandy

clay (er3). This is underlain by dull yellow-orange mottled clays (er5) that merge into the

underlying weathered shale of the Narrabeen Group. Their documentation indicates these

soils range in pH from 4.0 to 7.0.

The Narrabeen Group of Rocks are Middle Triassic in age (~250 million years).

No visible signs of acid sulfate soils such as corrosion on man-made surfaces, or unusually

clear, milky, or iron-stained surface water were observed on the property.

3. **Earthworks**

An excavation to a maximum depth of ~2.8m will be required to construct the alterations and

additions. The excavations will cover an area of ~23m². The excavations are entirely through

the rising slope near the waterfront that consists of the Narrabeen Group Rocks that do not

generate acid sulfate conditions.

4. **Water Table**

The water table was not encountered during testing. The base of the excavation for the

alterations and additions is at RL3.9m and will be above the water table.



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5. Field Testing

Four hand Auger Holes (AH) were put down in the location shown on the site plan attached. Field pH and peroxide testing was carried out on samples taken from the Auger Holes at regular intervals. The logs of the Auger Holes and the test results are as follows.

AUGER HOLE 1 (~RL8.4) – AH1 (Photo 1)

Depth (m)	Material Encountered
0.0 to 0.1	FILL, brown, Dense, dry, fine to medium grained.
0.1 to 0.3	FILL, mottled grey clay, dry, fine to medium grained.
0.3 to 0.7	SANDY CLAY, derived from weathered shale, mottled maroon, orange,
	and grey, Hard, dry, fine to medium grained.

End of test @ 0.7m in clay derived from weathered shale. No water table encountered.

TEST: AH1	FIELD pH & PEROXIDE RESULTS				
Sample depth (m)	pH₅	30% Peroxide reaction	pH _{FOX}	pH _{F-} pH _{FOX}	SS=Shell J=Jarosite R=Roots
0.2	5.6	L	5.2	-0.4	-
0.5	6.0	M	6.0	0.0	-

AUGER HOLE 2 (~RL8.4) – AH2 (Photo 2)

Depth (m)	Material Encountered
0.0 to 0.1	FILL, brown, Dense, dry, fine to medium grained.
0.1 to 0.3	FILL, mottled grey clay, dry, fine to medium grained.
0.3 to 0.7	SANDY CLAY, derived from weathered shale, mottled maroon, orange,
	and grey, Hard, dry, fine to medium grained.

End of test @ 0.7m in clay derived from weathered shale. No water table encountered.



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TEST: AH2	FIELD pH & PEROXIDE RESULTS				
Sample depth (m)	pH₅	30% Peroxide reaction	рН _{гох}	pH _F . pH _{FOX}	SS=Shell J=Jarosite R=Roots
0.2	5.7	M	5.6	0.1	-
0.5	4.6	M	4.7	-0.1	-

AUGER HOLE 3 (~RL3.7) – AH3 (Photo 3)

Depth (m)	Material Encountered		
0.0 to 0.2	FILL, dark brown, Medium Dense, damp, medium grained		
0.2 to 0.8	CLAYEY FILL, brown, Soft, damp, fine to medium grained, cla		
	fragments included.		
0.8 to 0.9	CLAYEY SANDY SOIL , dark brown, Soft, damp, fine to medium grained.		
0.9 to 1.6	CLAYEY SAND, brown to light brown, Medium Dense to Dense, damp,		
	fine to medium grained.		
1.6 to 1.8 CLAY , mottled maroon, orange, yellow, grey, Very Stiff, damp,			
	inclusions.		

End of test @ 1.8m in clay derived from weathered shale. No water table encountered.

TEST: AH3	FIELD pH		I & PEROXIDE RESULTS		
Sample depth (m)	pH₅	30% Peroxide reaction	pH _{FOX}	pH _F . pH _{FOX}	SS=Shell J=Jarosite R=Roots
0.3	5.7	M	5.7	0.0	-
0.7	6.1	M	5.8	0.3	-
1.3	7.1	M	6.7	0.4	-

AUGER HOLE 4 (~RL3.7) – AH4 (Photo 4)

Depth (m)	Material Encountered
0.0 to 0.1	FILL, dark brown soil, Medium Dense, damp, medium grained
0.1 to 0.7	FILL, clay, and gravel, dry, fine to medium grained.
0.7 to 0.9	CLAYEY SANDY SOIL, dark brown, Soft, damp, fine to medium grained.



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0.9 to 1.1 **SAND**, brown to light brown, Medium Dense to Dense, damp, fine to medium grained.

1.1 to 1.3 **CLAY**, derived from weathered shale, mottled orange, Stiff, damp.

End of test @ 1.3m in clay. No water table encountered.

TEST: AH4	FIELD pH		I & PEROXIDE RESULTS		
Sample depth (m)	pH₅	30% Peroxide reaction	рН _{гох}	pH _F - pH _{FOX}	SS=Shell J=Jarosite R=Roots
0.3	6.7	M	6.1	0.6	-
0.7	6.3	M	5.8	0.5	-
1.1	6.9	M	6.9	0.0	-

6. Conclusions

This report was carried out in accordance with the Field pH and Peroxide Test guidelines (ASSMAC, 1998).

No Acid Sulfate Soils were identified in the test holes. The pH_F levels tested in all Auger Holes did not fall lower than 4.6. This is above a PH of 4.0 that is an indicator of acid sulfate soils. No Potential Acid Sulfate Soils were identified in the test holes. The measured pH_F levels varied up to 0.4 from the measured pH_{FOX} levels. A movement of 1 unit or more is an indicator of potential acid sulfate soils. In addition, the measured pH_{FOX} for all tests did not fall lower than 4.7. A pH_{FOX} <3 is a strong indicator of potential acid sulfate soils. No observable colour change or sulphurous odours were identified during the peroxide testing. No reactions to peroxide testing were observed. It is likely the varying weak reactions to peroxide testing were due to inclusions in the soil other than sulphides as, where the reaction was strongest, pH_{FOX} changed little from pH_F as it did in most tests.

This preliminary assessment indicates that an Acid Sulfate Soils management plan is not required for the proposed works.



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White Geotechnical Group Pty Ltd.

Tyler Jay Johns BEng (Civil)(Hons),

Geotechnical Engineer.

Reviewed By:

Nathan Gardner B.Sc. (Geol. & Geophys. & Env. Stud.)

AIG., RPGeo Geotechnical & Engineering.

No. 10307

Engineering Geologist & Environmental Scientist.



Appendix 1: Soil Reaction Rating Scale

Rate of Reaction	Reaction Scale
Low	L
Medium	M
High	Н
Extreme	X
Volcanic	V

Source: DER (2015a)



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Photo 1: AH1 – Downhole is from top to bottom.



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Photo 1: AH2 – Downhole is from top to bottom.



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Photo 3: AH3 – Downhole is from bottom to top.



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Photo 4: AH4 – Downhole is from top to bottom.

