

Geotechnical Assessment

Project: Alterations & Additions 12 Capua Place, Avalon Beach NSW

Prepared for: Bernhard Hurzeler & Barbara Meister

> **Ref:** AG 24301 2 August 2024





WHAT TO DO WITH THIS REPORT

While your geotechnical assessment report may be a statutory requirement from council in support of your development application, it also contains information important to the structural design and construction methodology of your project. Therefore, it is critical that all relevant parties are provided with a copy of this report.

We suggest you give a copy of your geotechnical assessment report to:

Your Architect/Building Designer Your Certifier Your Excavation Contractor Your Structural/Stormwater/Civil Engineer Your Project Manager Your Builder

We would also suggest that if any of your project team have questions regarding the contents of this report, that we be contacted for clarification.

NEXT CRITICAL STAGES

Keep in mind that you will need AscentGeo again at different stages of your project. This may include:

Review or endorsement of structural plans/architectural plans for a Construction Certificate Foundation/Footing inspection during construction Excavation hold point inspection, usually at hold points not exceeding 1.5m drops Final inspection and certification for an Occupation Certificate upon completion of works

GENERAL ADVICE

If after reading this report you have any questions, are unsure what to do next or when you need to get in touch, please reach out to us.

Given AscentGeo can't be on site the whole time, we recommend that you or/and your builder take a lot of progress photos, especially during excavation. Many of the potential problems that may pop up can be resolved if we have clear photos of the work that's been done.

A lot can change on site during a construction project: some of these changes are normal and innocuous, while others can be symptoms of larger or more serious issues. For this reason, it's important to contact us to discuss any changes you notice on site that you aren't sure about. This could include but not be limited to changes to ground or surface water, movement of structures, and settlement of paths or landscaping elements.

We're here to help.

The AscentGeo Team

🖂 admin@ascentgeo.com.au 🛛 🔌 9913 3179

ascentgeo.com.au



Geotechnical Assessment

For Alterations & Additions at

12 Capua Place, Avalon Beach NSW

Document Status		Approved for Issue		
Version	Aut	hor	Reviewer	Date
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	Document Distribution			
Version	Copies	Format	То	Date
1	1	PDF	JJ Drafting Australia	02.08.2024

Limitations

This report has been prepared for Bernhard Hurzeler & Barbara Meister c/ JJ Drafting in accordance with AscentGeo's fee proposal dated 25 July 2024.

The report is provided for the exclusive use of the property owner and their nominated agents for the specific development and purpose as described in the report. This report must not be used for purposes other than those outlined in the report or applied to any other projects.

The information contained within this report is considered accurate at the time of issue with regard to the current conditions on site as identified by AscentGeo and the documentation provided by others.

The report should be read in its entirety and should not be separated from its attachments or supporting notes. It should not have sections removed or included in other documents without the express approval of AscentGeo.



Contents

1	Overvi	ew		.3
	1.1	Background	I	.3
	1.2	Proposed D	evelopment	.3
	1.3	Relevant In:	struments	.3
2	Site De	escription		.4
	2.1	Summary		.4
	2.2	Site Descrip	tion	.5
	2.3	Geology an	d Geological Interpretation	.5
	2.3	Fieldwork		.6
3	Geote	chnical Asses	sment	.6
	3.1	Geological I	Model	.6
	3.2	Site Classifi	cation	.7
	3.3	Groundwat	er	.8
	3.4	Surface Wa	ter	. 8
	3.5	Slope Instal	pility	.8
	3.6	Geotechnic	al Hazards and Risk Analysis	.9
	3.7	Conclusion	and Recommendations	10
4	Refere	nces		14
5	Appen	dices		
	Appen	dix A:	Site plan/ground test locations and geological cross section	
	Appen	dix B:	Site photos	
	Appen	dix C:	Engineering logs	
	Appen	dix D:	General notes	
			CSIRO Publishing, 2012. 'Foundation Maintenance and Footing Performance: A Homeowners Guide', Sheet BTF-18.	
			Australian GeoGuide LR8, 2007. 'Examples of Good/Bad Hillside Construction Practice'.	
			Australian Geomechanics, 2007. 'Practice Note Guidelines for Landslide Management', Appendix C: Qualitative Terminology.	
	Appen	dix E:	Northern Beaches Council – Pittwater Geotechnical Forms 1 & 1A	



1 Overview

1.1 Background

This report presents the findings of a geotechnical assessment carried out at 12 Capua Place, Avalon Beach (the 'Site'), by AscentGeo. This geotechnical assessment has been prepared to meet Northern Beaches Council lodgement requirements for a Development Application (DA), as well as informing detailed structural design and construction methodology.

1.2 Proposed Development

The proposed development will take place on Lot 2 in DP 528345, being 12 Capua Place, Avalon Beach as per plan by CMS Surveyors Pty Ltd, dated 7 June 2024.

Details of the proposed development are outlined in a series of architectural drawings prepared by JJ Drafting Australia Pty Ltd, job number 1267/24, drawing numbers PRELIM.01–0.6, revision A, dated 22.7.24

The works comprise the following:

- Partial demolition of the existing timber deck on the north-eastern side of the house and preparation of new footings.
- Construction of a double garage with granny-flat under on the north-eastern side of the house.
- Construction of stair access from Capua Place to the house.
- Associated landscaping detail.

1.3 Relevant Instruments

This geotechnical assessment has been prepared in accordance with the following relevant guidelines and standards:

- Northern Beaches Council Pittwater Local Environment Plan (LEP) 2014 and Pittwater Development Control Plan (DCP) 2014
- Appendix 5 (to Pittwater P21) Geotechnical Risk Management Policy for Pittwater 2009
- Australian Geomechanics Society's 'Landslide Risk Management Guidelines' (AGS 2007)
- Australian Standard 1726–2017 Geotechnical Site Investigations
- Australian Standard 2870–2011 Residential Slabs and Footings
- Australian Standard 1289.6.3.2–1997 Methods of Testing Soils for Engineering Purposes
- Australian Standard 3798–2007 Guidelines on Earthworks for Commercial and Residential Developments.



2 Site Description

2.1 Summary

A summary of site conditions identified at the time of our assessment is provided in Table 1.

Parameter	Description
Site visit	Cameron Young, Engineering Geologist – 30/7/2024
Site address	12 Capua Place, Avalon Beach – Lot 2 in DP 528345
Site area m ² (approx.)	770.6m ² (by calc.)
Existing development	1 & 2 storey concrete block & clad house, metal roof. Timber deck.
Slope Aspect	South-west
Average gradient	~25 degrees. Vertical sandstone escarpment at southern boundary.
Vegetation	Small, medium and large shrubs and trees.
Retaining structures	Vertical timber pole landscaping walls in reasonable condition. Stack rock landscaping walls in reasonable condition.
Neighbouring environment	Residentially developed to the East and west. Capua Place to the south. Shared access driveway to the north.

 Table 1. Summary of site conditions



Figure 1. Site location – 12 Capua Place, Avalon Beach NSW (© SIX Maps NSW Gov)



2.2 Site Description

The subject site is situated in a residential area, has an irregular rectangular shape and is bound by residential dwellings to east and west, Capua Place to the south and a shared access driveway / right of carriageway to the north. The site is on a steeply sloping ground with a gradient of ~25 degrees, with southerly aspect. A site plan is included in Appendix A.

The existing building at the site is a two-storey house concrete block & clad house with timber deck on the north-eastern side. Figure One (above) shows a swimming pool built into the deck which has since been removed. Based on our observations, we infer that the removed pool was likely to have been constructed predominantly above ground.

At the southern boundary of the site is a vertical escarpment that drops to Capua Place, the outcropping rock in the escarpment is inferred to be Hawkesbury Sandstone, low to medium strength, with generally widely spaced horizontal bedding defects and limited localised vertical fractures. Bedrock is also visible outcropping in limited areas on the subject site towards the western boundary and at the upslope cut batter for the house.

The six photos presented in Appendix B show the general conditions of the site on the day of the site visit conducted by AscentGeo.

2.3 Geology and Geological Interpretation

The Sydney 1:100,000 Geological Sheet 9130 (NSW Dept. Mineral Resources, 1983) indicates the site is located near the stratigraphic boundary between the Middle Triassic Hawkesbury Sandstone (Rh) and Newport Formation of the Narrabeen Group (Rnn). The Hawkesbury Sandstone rocks are comprised of medium- to course-grained quartz sandstones, minor shale and laminite lenses. The Newport Formation bedrock is typically comprised of interbedded laminite, shale and quartz to lithic quartz sandstones. The Hawkesbury Sandstone forms capping units in this area, with the Newport Formation Geology being found at lower stratigraphic locations. Based on visual assessment of the site and neighbouring properties, it is likely that this site is underlain predominately by lower Hawkesbury Sandstone.

The soil profile consists of shallow uncontrolled silty fill and silty topsoil (O & A Horizons), clayey sand (B Horizon) and low-medium strength sandstone bedrock (C Horizon). There are numerous partially detached and potentially fully detached joint blocks and sandstone boulders in the upper profile at the upslope side of the existing house and in the area of the proposed works. These vary from large (>3m) to small (<1m). Based on our observations and the results of testing on site, we would expect weathered bedrock to be found within 2.0 metres below current surface levels across the area of the proposed works, where not already outcropping and potentially deeper where filling has been carried out.

Note: The local geology is comprised predominantly of sandstone with detached sandstone boulders and joint blocks present at the surface and embedded in the soil profile. The sandstone bedrock is often found in benched terraces, subsequently ground conditions on site may alter significantly across short distances. This variability should be anticipated and accounted for in the design and construction of any new foundations.



2.3 Fieldwork

A site visit and investigation was undertaken on 30 July 2024, which included a geotechnically focused visual assessment of the property and its surrounds; geotechnical mapping; photographic documenting; and a limited subsurface investigation including hand auger borehole and dynamic cone penetrometer (DCP) testing.

Hand Auger Borehole Testing

Two hand auger boreholes (BH01 & BH02) tests were drilled at the approximate locations shown on the site plan (Appendix A) to visually identify the subsurface material. Engineering logs of the hand auger boreholes are presented in Appendix C.

Dynamic Cone Penetrometer (DCP) Testing

Four (4) DCP tests were carried out to assess the in situ relative density of the shallow soils and the depth to weathered rock. These tests were carried out in accordance with the Australian Standard for ground testing: AS 1289.6.3.2–1997 'Methods of testing soils for engineering purposes'. Test locations were constrained by existing structures, sandstone floaters, hard surfaces and the presence of utilities.

The location of these tests is shown on the site plan provided in Appendix A and a summary of the test results is presented below in Table 2, with the full details presented in the engineering logs in Appendix C.

Test	DCP 1	DCP 2
Summary	Refusal @ 1.2m Bouncing on inferred bedrock. Brown sand grains on moist tip.	Refusal @ 0.3m Bouncing on bedrock or boulder. Brown sand on dry tip.

Table 2. Summary of DCP test results

Note: The equipment chosen to undertake ground investigations provides the most cost-effective method for understanding the subsurface conditions given site access constraints. Our interpretation of the subsurface conditions is limited to the results of testing undertaken and the known geology in the area. While care is taken to identify the subsurface conditions on site, variation between the interpreted model presented herein and the actual conditions on site may occur. Should actual ground conditions vary from those anticipated, we recommend that the geotechnical consultant at AscentGeo is informed as soon as possible to advise if modifications to our recommendations are required.

3 Geotechnical Assessment

3.1 Geological Model

Based on the results of our site assessment, ground testing, geological mapping and our experience in the area, the subsurface conditions encountered on site may be summarised as follows in Table 3.



Table 3. Interpreted geological model

Unit	Material	Comments
1	Topsoil / Fill	Silty topsoil, gravel and fill material. Unit 1 is inferred to be uncontrolled and poorly compacted.
2	2 Clayey Sand Fine to medium grained sand with a minor clay and gravel content.	
3	Sandstone	Low strength or greater sandstone bedrock (Class IV+*) expected to be found below a weathered crust (Class IV-V*).

* Pells, PJN, Mostyn, G & Walker, F, 1998 (Dec). 'Foundations on sandstone and shale in the Sydney region'. *Australian Geomechanics Journal*, vol. 33, no. 3, pp. 17–29.

3.2 Site Classification

Due to the presence of large, detached sandstone boulders/joint blocks, the Site is classified as **"P"** in accordance with AS 2870–2011. A classification of "A" may be adopted for footings taken to confirmed sandstone bedrock.

Site Classification	Soil description	Expected range of movement
A	Most sand and rock sites with little or no ground movement from moisture changes.	
S	Slight reactive clay sites, which may experience only slight ground movement from moisture changes.	0–20mm
м	Moderately reactive clay or silt sites, which may experience moderate ground movement from moisture changes.	20–40mm
H1	Highly reactive clay sites, which may experience high ground movement from moisture changes.	40–60mm
H2	Highly reactive clay sites, which may experience very high ground movement from moisture changes.	60–75mm
E	Extremely reactive sites, which may experience extreme ground movement from moisture changes.	>75mm
Р	May consist of any of the above soil types, but in combination with site conditions produce undesirable foundations. P sites may also include fill, soft soils, mine subsidence, collapsing soils, prior or potential landslip, soils subject to erosion, reactive sites subject to abnormal moisture conditions, or sites which cannot be classified otherwise.	

 Table 4. Site classification table for residential slabs and footings (AS2870-2011)



3.3 Groundwater

No groundwater was encountered during testing at the time of our inspection. Whilst dedicated groundwater monitoring was not within the scope of this assessment, due to the site elevation and position of the site relative to the slope and the underlying geology, no significant standing water table is expected to influence the site. The groundwater regime is not expected to be significantly affected by the proposed works and it is considered unnecessary to undertake preconstruction or construction stage groundwater monitoring.

Groundwater seepage during and after periods of inclement weather should be anticipated through permeable soil layers, close to the interface with weathered rock and from joints and discontinuities deeper in the weathered rock. Appropriate ground support measures should be utilised in soils overlying rock to manage any localised groundwater inflows and prevent ground loss due to saturated/fluidised sands.

3.4 Surface Water

Overland or surface flows entering the site from the adjoining areas were not identified at the time of our inspection; however, normal overland runoff could enter the site from adjacent areas during heavy or extended rainfall.

3.5 Slope Instability

A landslide hazard assessment of the existing slope has been undertaken in general accordance with Australian Geomechanics Society's 'Practice Note Guidelines for Landslide Risk Management', published in March 2007.

- No evidence of significant soil creep, tension cracks or landslip instability were identified across the site or on adjacent properties as viewed from the subject site at the time of our inspection.
- There are heavily weathered sandstone boulders at various locations in the slope across the site. The sandstone boulders may have been originally mobilised by a large-scale historical (>100 years) rockfall/landslip event that no longer poses a stability risk to the site.
- There are no significant stability risk defects within the observable sandstone escarpment along the southern boundary.
- Based on reference to the plan entitled "Geotechnical Hazard Mapping" (Ref. P21DCP-BC-MDCP2002, dated 2007) prepared by GHD LONGMAC on behalf of Northern Beaches Council (Pittwater), the site is mapped in a **Geotechnical Hazard H1** zone.





Image 2. PLEP Geotechnical Hazard Map – 12 Capua Place, Avalon Beach NSW © NBC Maps LEGEND Pittwater Geotechnical Hazard Map Geotechnical Hazard H1 Geotechnical Hazard H2

3.6 Geotechnical Hazards and Risk Analysis

No significant geotechnical hazards were identified above, beside or below the subject site, including but not limited to the immediately adjoining residential properties, and the road reserve.

There are several sandstone floaters on the slope in the area of the proposed works that may be destabilised during construction works.

The proposed excavations are limited to those required for new footings.

Based on observation made during our site assessment the following geological/geotechnical hazards have been identified in relation to the proposed works:

- Hazard One: The potential mobilisation of detached sandstone boulders on site.
- **Hazard Two:** The steep slope that falls across the property, and continues above and below, failing and impacting on the property.

HAZARDS	HAZARD ONE	HAZARD TWO
ТҮРЕ	The potential mobilisation of detached sandstone boulders on site	The steep slope that falls across the property, and continues above and below, failing and impacting on the property
LIKELIHOOD	'Possible' (10 ⁻³)	'Unlikely' (10 ⁻⁴)

Table 5. Risk analysis summary



CONSEQUENCES TO PROPERTY	'Medium' (15%)	'Medium' (12%)
RISK TO PROPERTY	'Moderate' (2 x 10 ⁻³)	'Low' (2 x 10 ⁻⁵)
RISK TO LIFE	5.5 x 10 ⁻⁴ /annum	8.3 x 10 ⁻⁷ /annum
COMMENTS	Following implementation of the recommendations outlined in Section 3.7, the above risk levels would reduce to ' Acceptable ' levels within the site.	This level of risk to life and property is 'ACCEPTABLE'.

3.7 Conclusion and Recommendations

The proposed development is considered to be suitable for the site. The existing conditions and proposed development are considered to constitute an 'ACCEPTABLE' risk to life and a 'LOW' risk to property *provided that the recommendations outlined in Table 6 are adhered to during design and construction*.

Table 6. Geotechnical rec	ommendations
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Recommendation	Description
Soil Excavation	Soil excavation will be required to establish new footings for the garage / granny flat structure. It is anticipated that these excavations will encounter shallow uncontrolled fill and silty topsoil, clayey sand, weathered sandstone bedrock and with sandstone boulders in the upper soil profile. The excavation of soil, clay and extremely weathered rock should be possible with the use of bucket excavators and rippers, or for piered footings, traditional auger attachments.
	For shallow excavations (<1.0m), provided the residual soil is battered back to a minimum of 45 degrees and covered, they should remain stable without support for a short period until permanent support is in place. Permanent batters are not considered appropriate for this site.
Rock Excavation	All excavation recommendations as outlined below should be read in conjunction with Safe Work Australia's <i>Code of Practice: Excavation Work</i> , published in October 2018.
	Whilst significant hard rock excavation is not anticipated, it is essential that any excavation through rock that cannot be readily achieved with a bucket excavator or ripper should be carried out initially using a rock saw to minimise the vibration impact and disturbance on the adjoining properties, existing structures and any previously installed supporting systems. Any rock breaking must be carried out only after the rock has been sawed, and in short bursts



Deserves detien	Description		
Recommendation	Description		
			The break in the rock from and the closest adjoining
	All excavated material is current Office of Environn		e site in accordance with egulations.
VibrationsThe Australian Standard AS2670.1–2001 'Evaluation of human exp whole-body vibration General requirements. Part 1: General requ suggests a daytime limit of 5mm/s component PPV for human c acceptable. In general, vibration criteria for human disturbance a stringent than vibration criteria for effects on building contents and structural damage. Hence, compliance with the more stringent limits for human exposure, would ensure that compliance is also achieve 		1: General requirements, PV for human comfort is an disturbance are more ling contents and building re stringent limits dictated the is also achieved for the this approach satisfies the losives – storage and use', ngs.	
	Maximum Peak Particle Velocity 5mm/sec		cle Velocity 5mm/sec
	Distance from adjoining structure (m)	Equipment	Operating Limit (% of Maximum Capacity)
		Equipment Hand operated jackhammer only	
	structure (m)	Hand operated jackhammer	Maximum Capacity)
	structure (m) 1.5 – 2.5	Hand operated jackhammer only	Maximum Capacity) 100
	structure (m) 1.5 - 2.5 2.5 - 5.0 5.0 - 10.0 It may be necessary to me	Hand operated jackhammer only 300kg rock hammer 300kg rock hammer or 600kg rock hammer ove to smaller rock hammer ts cannot be met. (Manufa	Maximum Capacity) 100 50 100 (300kg) or 50 (600kg) ers or to rotary grinders or actures of the plant should
	structure (m) 1.5 - 2.5 2.5 - 5.0 5.0 - 10.0 It may be necessary to more rock saws if vibrations limit be contacted for information	Hand operated jackhammer only 300kg rock hammer 300kg rock hammer or 600kg rock hammer ove to smaller rock hammer ts cannot be met. (Manufa ion regarding peak vibrati tions can be mitigated b	Maximum Capacity) 100 50 100 (300kg) or 50 (600kg) ers or to rotary grinders or actures of the plant should on output.) y pulsing the use of rock
	structure (m) 1.5 - 2.5 2.5 - 5.0 5.0 - 10.0 It may be necessary to more rock saws if vibrations limits be contacted for informate the propagation of vibrations limits hammers, i.e., short burst It is essential that at all for the propagation of vibrations limits hammers, i.e., short burst	Hand operated jackhammer only 300kg rock hammer 300kg rock hammer or 600kg rock hammer ove to smaller rock hammer ts cannot be met. (Manufa ion regarding peak vibrati tions can be mitigated b s, utilising line sawing alou times excavation equipm ccording to the manufact	Maximum Capacity) 100 50 100 (300kg) or 50 (600kg) ers or to rotary grinders or actures of the plant should on output.) y pulsing the use of rock ng boundaries. ent must be operated by curer's instructions and in



Recommendation	Description
	Pier liners may be useful to prevent the collapse of soft soils and to maintain a clean pier basal surface.
Footings	All pad, strip or piered footings should be founded on the in situ underlying sandstone bedrock. For fully cleaned footings in at least low strength bedrock, the allowable bearing pressure is 600kPa . Higher allowable bearing capacities may be achievable subject to inspection and certification of excavated footings by AscentGeo.
	Pier footings should be of sufficient diameter to enable effective base cleaning to be carried out during construction. Small diameter piers that cannot be cleaned should be designed for shaft friction, resulting in a longer rock socket.
	To mitigate the risk of differential settlement, it is essential that all footings are founded on competent bedrock of similar consistency. This may require excavation through sandstone boulders or the relocation of planned footings.
	Rock bolts may be required to construct the stair access up the vertical escarpment, these should be anchored within competent sections of bedrock and designed for an allowable bond strength of 150kPa. Rock bolt drill holes must be methodically flushed clean prior to bolt installation, this may require repeated flushing. All anchors must be proof loaded to no less than 125% of the design load before locking off the bolt. All anchors should be installed by insured and experienced specialist contractors on a design and construct basis. Design detail is to be provided by the structural engineer and certification of bolt installation must be provided by the specialist contractor.
	It is essential that the foundation materials of all footing excavations be inspected and approved by AscentGeo before steel reinforcement and concrete is placed. This inspection should be scheduled while excavation plant and operators are still on site, and before steel reinforcement has been fixed or the concrete booked.
Fills	Any fill that may be required is to comprise local sand, clay, and weathered rock. Existing organic topsoil is to be cleared in preparation for the introduction of fill.
	Any new fill material is to be placed in layers not more than 250mm thick and compacted to not less than 95% of Standard Optimum Dry Density at plus or minus 2% of Standard Optimum Moisture Content. If supporting pavements or slabs, any new fill must be compacted to not less than 98% of Standard Optimum Dry Density at plus or minus 2% of Standard Optimum Dry Density at plus or minus 2% of Standard Optimum Moisture Content for the uppermost 300mm.
	All new fill placement is to be carried out in accordance with AS 3798–2007 'Guidelines on earthworks for commercial and residential developments.'



Recommendation	Description
	Fill should not be placed on the site outside of the lateral extent of new engineered retaining walls. The retaining walls should be in place prior to the placement of new fill, with suitable permanent and effective drainage of backfill.
Sediment and Erosion Control	Appropriate design and construction methods shall be required during site works to minimise erosion and provide sediment control. In particular, siltation fencing and barriers will be required and are to be designed by others.
	Stockpiling of soil is not considered appropriate for this site.
Stormwater Disposal	The effective management of ground and surface water on site may be the most important factor in the long-term performance of built structures, and the stability of the block more generally.
	It is essential that gutters, downpipes, drains, pipes and connections are appropriately sized, functioning effectively, and discharging appropriately via non-erosive discharge.
	All stormwater collected from hard surfaces is to be collected and piped directly to the council stormwater network through any storage tanks or on- site detention that may be required by the regulating authorities, and in accordance with all relevant Australian Standards and the detailed stormwater management plan by others.
	Saturation of soils is one of the key triggers for many landslide events and a significant factor in destabilisation of structures over time. As such, the review and design of stormwater systems must consider climate change and the increased potential for periods of concentrated heavy rainfall.
Inspections	It is essential that the foundation materials of all footing excavations be visually assessed and approved by AscentGeo before steel reinforcement and concrete is placed.
	Failure to engage AscentGeo for the required hold point/ excavation/ foundation material inspections will negate our ability to provide final geotechnical sign off or certification.
Conditions Relating to Design and Construction Monitoring	 To comply with Northern Beaches Council conditions and enable the completion of Forms 2B and 3, as required by Council's Geotechnical Risk Management Policy, it may be necessary at the following stages for Ascent to: Review the geotechnical content of all structural engineer designs prior to the issue of Construction Certificate – Form 2B.



Recommendation	Description
	 Complete the abovementioned excavation hold point and foundation material inspections during construction to ensure compliance to design with respect to stability and geotechnical design parameters.
	• By Occupation Certificate stage (project completion), AscentGeo must have inspected and certified excavation/foundation materials. A final site inspection will be required at this stage before the issue of the Form 3 .

Should you have any queries regarding this report, please do not hesitate to contact the author of this report, undersigned.

For and on behalf of AscentGeo,

? young

Cameron Young BEnvSci Geol MAIG Engineering Geologist

Ben Morgan BScGeol MAIG RPGeo Managing Director | Engineering Geologist





4 References

Australian Geomechanics Society Landslide Taskforce, Landslide Practice Note Working Group 2007 (Mar). 'Practice Note Guidelines for Landslide Risk Management 2007'. *Australian Geomechanics Journal*, vol. 42, no. 1, pp. 63–114.

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Standards Australia 1997, *Methods of Testing Soils for Engineering Purposes*, AS1289.6.3.2:1997, Standards Australia, NSW.

Standards Australia 2001, Evaluation of human exposure to whole-body vibration. Part 1: General requirements, AS2670.1:2001, Standards Australia, NSW.

Standards Australia 2002, *Earth-retaining structures*, AS4678:2002, Standards Australia, NSW.

Standards Australia 2007, *Guidelines for Earthworks for Commercial and Residential Developments*. AS3798:2007, Standards Australia, NSW.

Standards Australia 2011, *Residential Slabs and Footings*, AS2870:2011, Standards Australia, NSW.

Standards Australia 2017, Geotechnical Site Investigations, AS1726:2017, Standards Australia, NSW.



Appendix A

Site plans

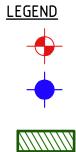


SITE PLAN/GROUND TEST LOCATIONS

SCALE NTS

2

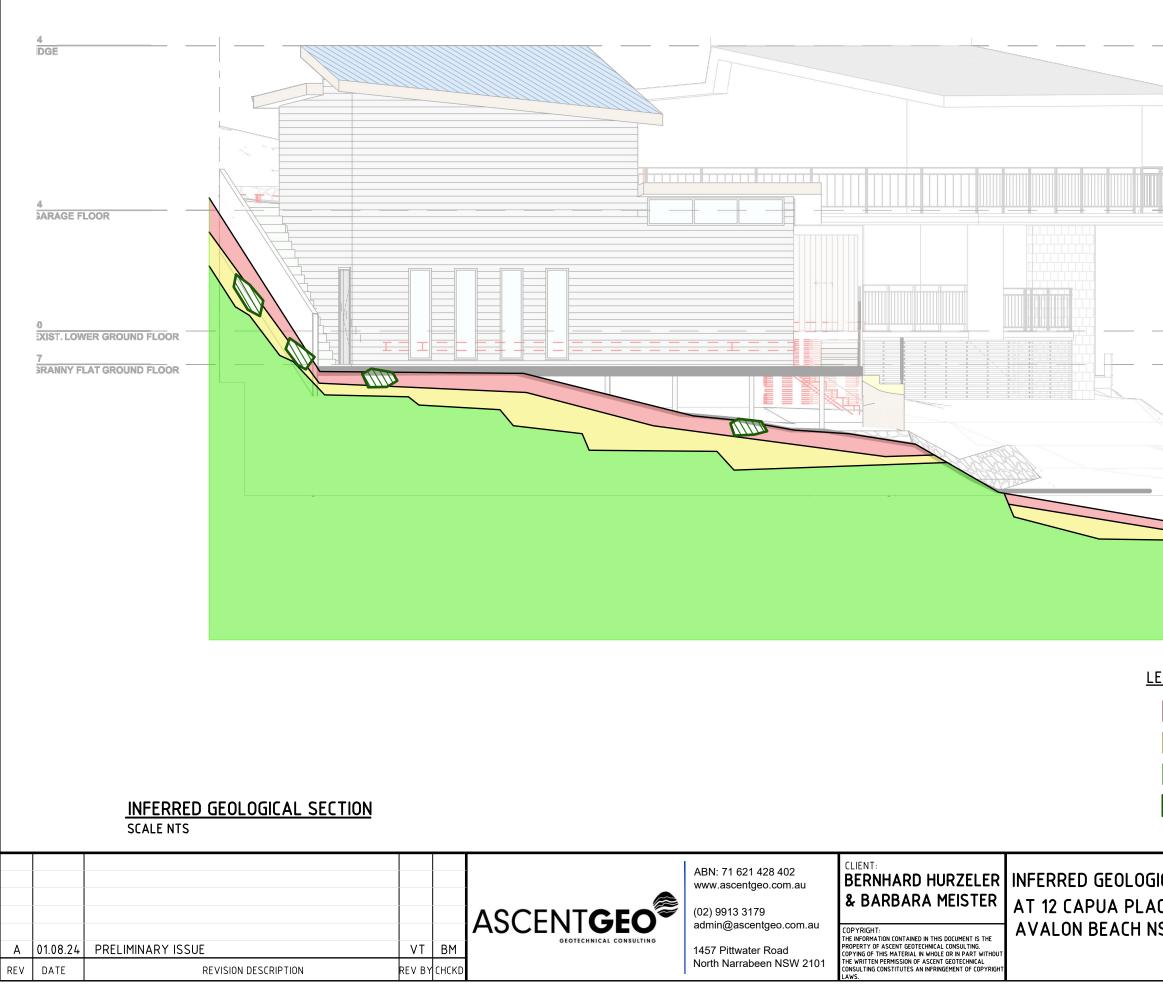
								DATE:	01/08/2024
					5		SITE PLAN/GROUND TEST LOCATIONS	SCALE:	AS SHOWN @ A3
					(02) 9913 3179 admin@ascentgeo.com.au		AT 12 CAPUA PLACE	DRAWING TI	
					admin@ascentgeo.com.au	COPYRIGHT: THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS DOCUMENT IS THE	AVALON BEACH NSW		SITE FLAN
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DCP LOCATIONS

BOREHOLE LOCATIONS

OUTCROPPING SANDSTONE BEDROCK



CLAYEY	BURY SANDSTONE BEDROCK DNE BOULDERS
CAL SECTION CE SW	DATE: 01/08/2024 SCALE: AS SHOWN @ A3 DRAWING TITLE: SECTION DRAWING NO: AG 24301- S2

INTERPRETED SUBSURFACE SECTION ONLY. ACTUAL GROUND CONDITIONS MAY VARY.



Appendix B

Site photos





Photo 1: Right of carriageway access and residence frontage



Photo 2: Sandstone outcropping on the northern side of the residence



Photo 3: Timber deck & general area of the proposed works



Photo 4: Underside of timber deck in the general area of the proposed works.



Photo 5: Rear of the residence



Photo 6: Vertical sandstone escarpment at Capua Avenue boundary



Appendix C

Bore Logs | DCP Test Results

	<u></u>				ent Geo	Geote	chnical	Log -	Borel	nole	
ASC	EN	GEC)~		Pittwater Road, North Narrabeen 2101 e: (02) 9913 3179	BH	1				
Easting Northing Total Dep				Location Logged By Date	: 12 Capua Place, Avalon Beach NSW : Cameron Young : 31/07/2024	Job Number Client Project	: AG 24301 : Bernhard Hui : Alterations &		oara Meiste	er	
Depth (m)	Water	Graphic Log	Drilling Method		Material Description			Consistency	Moisture	Classification Code	DCP graph
-				Fill Clayey SANE gravel, slightly n	SC: low plasticity clay, orange brown, medium grain ooist, clay content increasing with depth.	ned, with medium to coar	se sized		SLM	SC	
-					BH1 refusal at 0.8m						
					DELL FEIUSAL AU U.OIII						
— 1											
-											
-											
<u> </u>											
-											
-											
-											
										Page	

	051-				ent Geo	C	Geote	chnical	Log -	Borel	nole	
ASC	CENT	GEC)~		Pittwater Road, North Narrabeen 2101 e: (02) 9913 3179		BH	2				
Easting Northing Total Dep	: 0.00 : 0.00 oth:: 0.4 m	1		Location Logged By Date	: 12 Capua Place, Avalon Beach NSW : Cameron Young : 31/07/2024	Job Clie Proj	nt	: AG 24301 : Bernhard Hur : Alterations & J		oara Meiste	er	
Depth (m)	Water	Graphic Log	Drilling Method		Material Description				Consistency	Moisture	Classification Code	DCP graph
				Fill Silty SAND S	M: grey brown, medium grained, with fine sized gra	avel, slightly moist				SLM	SM	
		~~~~~~			BH2 refusal at 0.4m (scraping on bedrock o	or boulder)						
- 1												
- 2												



### **Dynamic Cone Penetration Test Report**

Client:		Bernhard H	urzeler &	Barbara Mei	ster	Job No:	AG 24301		
Project: Alterations & Addition:				าร		Date:	30/7/2024		
Location: 12 Capua Place, Avalor				n Beach NS	W	Operator:	CY		
Test Proce	dure:	AS 1289.6.3.	2 – 1997						
				Test	Data				
Test No	: DCP 1	Test No:	DCP 2	Test	No:	Test	No:	Test	No:
Test Lo	cation:	Test Lo	cation:	Test Lo	cation:	Test Lo	ocation:	Test Lo	cation:
Refer to	Site Plan	Refer to S	Site Plan						
RI		RL		RI			L:	R	
Soil Class	sification:	Soil Class	ification:	Soil Class	ification:	Soil Clas	sification:	Soil Class	sification:
F	0	P							
Depth (m)	Blows	Depth (m)	Blows	Depth (m)	Blows	Depth (m)	Blows	Depth (m)	Blows
0.0 - 0.3	3	0.0 - 0.3	5 Rs						
0.3 - 0.6	4	0.3 - 0.6							
0.6 - 0.9	7	0.6 - 0.9							
0.9 - 1.2	15 Rs	0.9 - 1.2							
1.2 - 1.5		1.2 - 1.5							
1.5 - 1.8		1.5 - 1.8							
1.8 - 2.1		1.8 - 2.1							
2.1 - 2.4		2.1 - 2.4							
2.4 - 2.7		2.4 - 2.7							
2.7 - 3.0		2.7 - 3.0							
3.0 - 3.3		3.0 - 3.3							
3.3 - 3.6		3.3 - 3.6							
3.6 - 3.9		3.6 - 3.9							
3.9 - 4.2		3.9 - 4.2							
4.2 - 4.5		4.2 - 4.5							
4.5 - 4.8		4.5 - 4.8							
DCP 1: Refusal @DCP 2: Refusal @1.2m Bouncing on0.3m Bouncing oninferred bedrock.bedrock or boulder.Brown sand grainsBrown sand on dryon moist tip.tip.									
		st locations e boulders .				Dr	eight: op: od Diameter	510	kg mm mm

Rs = Solid ring/Hammer bouncing



### Appendix D

Information Sheets



### INTRODUCTION

These notes have been prepared by Ascent Geotechnical Consulting Pty Ltd (Ascent) to help our Clients interpret and understand the limitations of this report. Not all sections below are necessarily relevant to all reports.

### SCOPE OF SERVICES

This report has been prepared in accordance with the scope of services set out in Ascent's proposal under Ascent's Terms and Conditions, or as otherwise agreed with the Client. The scope of work may have been limited by a range of factors including time, budget, access and/or site constraints.

### **RELIANCE ON INFORMATION PROVIDED**

In preparing the report, Ascent has necessarily relied upon information provided by the Client and/or their Agents. Such data may include surveys, analyses, designs, maps and design plans. Ascent has not verified the accuracy or completeness of the data except as stated in this report.

### GEOTECHNICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTING

Geotechnical and environmental reporting relies on the interpretation of factual information, based on judgment and opinion, and is far less exact than other engineering or design disciplines.

Geotechnical and environmental reports are prepared for a specific purpose, development, and site, as described in the report, and may not contain sufficient information for other purposes, developments, or sites (including adjacent sites), other than that described in the report.

### SUBSURFACE CONDITIONS

Subsurface conditions can change with time and can vary between test locations. For example, the actual interface between the materials may be far more gradual or abrupt than indicated.

Therefore, actual conditions in areas not sampled may differ from those predicted, since no subsurface investigation, no matter how comprehensive, can reveal all subsurface details and anomalies.

Construction operations at or adjacent to the site and natural events such as floods, earthquakes or groundwater fluctuations can also affect subsurface conditions, and thus the continuing adequacy of a geotechnical report. Ascent should be kept informed of any such events, and should be retained to identify variances, conduct additional tests if required, and recommend solutions to problems encountered on site.

### GROUNDWATER

Groundwater levels indicated on borehole and test pit logs are recorded at specific times. Depending on ground permeability, measured levels may or may not reflect actual levels if measured over a longer time period. Also, groundwater levels and seepage inflows may fluctuate with seasonal and environmental variations and construction activities.

### INTERPRETATION OF DATA

Data obtained from nominated discrete locations, subsequent laboratory testing and empirical or external sources are interpreted by trained professionals in order to provide an opinion about overall site conditions, their likely impact with respect to the report purpose and recommended actions in accordance with any relevant industry standards, guidelines or procedures.

### SOIL AND ROCK DESCRIPTIONS

Soil and rock descriptions are based on AS 1726 – 1993, using visual and tactile assessment, except at discrete locations where field and / or laboratory tests have been carried out. Refer to the accompanying soil and rock terms sheet for further information.

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This report shall not be reproduced either totally or in part without the permission of Ascent. Where information from this report is to be included in contract documents or engineering specification for the project, the entire report should be included in order to minimise the likelihood of misinterpretation.

### FURTHER ADVICE

Ascent would be pleased to further discuss how any of the above issues could affect a specific project. We would also be pleased to provide further advice or assistance including:

- Assessment of suitability of designs and construction techniques;
- Contract documentation and specification; Construction advice (foundation assessments, excavation support).

### Abbreviations, Notes & Symbols

### SUBSURFACE INVESTIGATION

METHOE Borehole AS#		<b>Excavati</b> BH	Backhoe/excavator
AD#	Auger drilling (#-bit)	NE	bucket Natural exposure
B	Blank bit	HE	Hand excavation
V	V-bit	Х	Existing excavation
Т	TC-bit		<b>U</b>
HA	Hand auger	Cored B	orehole Logs
R	Roller/tricone	NMLC	NMLC core drilling
W	Washbore	NQ/HQ	Wireline core drilling
AH	Air hammer		
AT	Air track		
LB	Light bore push tube		
MC	Macro core push tube		
DT	Dual core push tube		
SUPPOR	RT		
Borehole		Excavati	on Logs
С	Casing	S	Shoring
М	Mud	В	Benched
B D U# ES EW	Bulk sample Disturbed sample Thin-walled tube sample Environmental sample Environmental water sam		neter)
FIELD TI	ESTING		
PP	Pocket penetrometer (kF	Pa)	
DCP	Dynamic cone penetrom		
PSP	Perth sand penetromete	r	
SPT	Standard penetration tes	st	
PBT	Plate bearing test		
SU			(kPa) and vane size (mm)
N*	SPT (blows per 300mm)		
Nc	SPT with solid cone		
R	Refusal		
*denotes	sample taken		
BOUNDA	ARIES		
	Known		
	Probable		

### SOIL

### MOISTURE CONDITION

D	Dry					
М	Moist					
W	Wet					
Wp	Plastic Limit					
WI	Liquid Limit					
MC	Moisture Content					

### CONSISTENCY

VS	Very Soft
S	Soft
F	Firm
St	Stiff
VSt	Very Stiff
н	Hard
Fb	Friable

### DENSITY INDEX VL Very Loose L Loose MD Medium Dense D Dense VD Very Dense

### USCS SYMBOLS

GW	Well graded gravels and gravel-sand mixtures, little or no fines
GP	Poorly graded gravels and gravel-sand mixtures, little or no
	fines
~ • •	

Silty gravels, gravel-sand-silt mixtures GM

GC Clayey gravels, gravel-sand-clay mixtures

- SW Well graded sands and gravelly sands, little or no fines
- SP Poorly graded sands and gravelly sands, little or no fines
- SM Silty sand, sand-silt mixtures
- SC Clayey sand, sand-clay mixtures
- ML Inorganic silts of low plasticity, very fine sands, rock flour, silty or clayey fine sands
- CL Inorganic clays of low to medium plasticity, gravelly clays,
- Inorganic clays of low to medium plasticity, gravery sandy clays, silty clays Organic silts and organic silty clays of low plasticity Inorganic silts of high plasticity Inorganic clays of high plasticity Organic clays of medium to high plasticity Peat muck and other highly organicsoils OL MH
- СН
- ОН
- PT

### ROCK

### WEATHERING

WEATHE	RING	STRENGTH			
RS	Residual Soil	EL	Extremely Low		
XW	Extremely Weathered	VL	Very Low		
HW	Highly Weathered	L	Low		
MW	Moderately Weathered	М	Medium		
DW*	Distinctly Weathered	н	High		
SW	Slightly Weathered	VH	Very High		
FR	Fresh	EH	Extremely High		
*covers both HW & MW					

### **ROCK QUALITY DESIGNATION (%)**

= <u>sum of intact core pieces > 100mm</u> x 100 total length of section being evaluated

### CORE RECOVERY (%)

= <u>core recovered</u> x 100 core llft

### NATURAL FRACTURES

Туре	
JT	Joint
BP	Bedding plane
SM	Seam
FZ	Fractured zone
SZ	Shear zone
VN	Vein

### Infill or Coating

Cn	Clean
St	Stained
Vn	Veneer
Co	Coating
CI	Clay
Ca	Calcite
Fe	Iron oxide
Mi	Micaceous
Qz	Quartz

### Shape

pl	Planar
cu	Curved
un	Undulose
st	Stepped
ir	Irregular

### Roughness

pol	Polished
slk	Slickensided
smo	Smooth
rou	Rough

### Soil & Rock Terms

### SOIL

### MOISTURE CONDITION

Term	Description
Dry	Looks and feels dry. Cohesive and cemented soils are hard, friable or powdery. Uncemented granular soils run freely through the hand.
Moist	Feels cool and darkened in colour. Cohesive soils can be moulded. Granular soils tend to cohere.
Wet	As for moist, but with free water forming on hands when handled.

For cohesive soils, moisture content may also be described in relation to plastic limit ( $W_P$ ) or liquid limit ( $W_L$ ). [>> much greater than, > greater than, <

less than, << much less than].

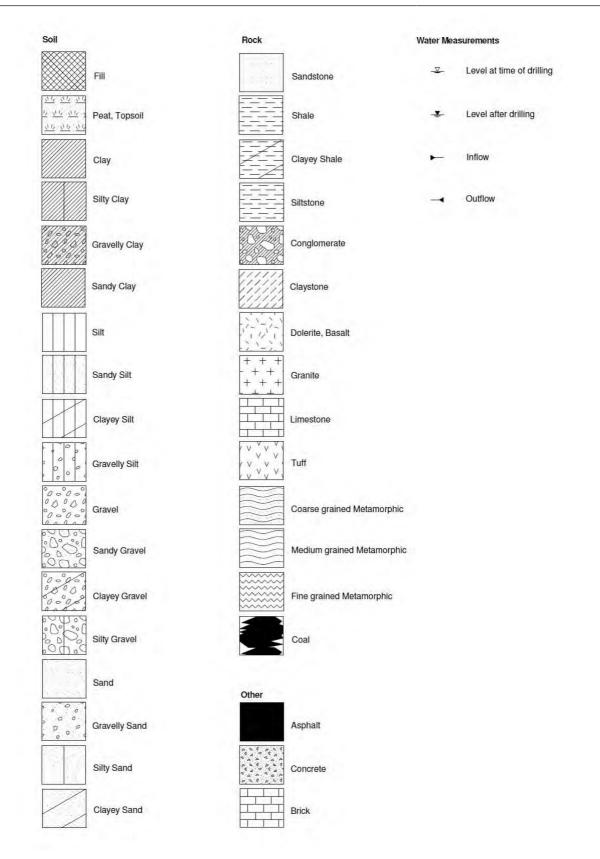
CONSISTENCY Term	c (kPa)	Term	c (kPa)
Very Soft Soft Firm Stiff	< 12 12 - 25 25 - 50 50 - 100	Very Stiff Hard Friable	100 200 > 200 -
<b>DENSITY INDEX</b> <b>Term</b> Very Loose Loose	<b>I⊳ (%)</b> < 15 15 – 35	<b>Term</b> Dense Very Dense	<b>I</b> ₀ <b>(%)</b> 65 – <b>8</b> > 85
Medium Dense	35 – 65		
PARTICLE SIZE Name Boulders Cobbles Gravel Sand	Subdivision coarse medium fine coarse	Size (mm) > 200 63 - 200 20 - 63 6 - 20 2.36 - 6 0.6 -2.36	
	medium fine	0.2 - 06 0.075 0.2	
Silt & Clay		< 0.075	
MINOR COMPON	ENTS		
Term	Proportion by Mass coarse grained	fine grained	
Trace Some	≤ 5% 5 - 2%	≤ 15% 15 - 30%	
SOIL ZONING Layers Lenses Pockets	Irregular inclusions	ures ers of lenticular shap s of different materia	
SOIL CEMENTING	G Easily broken up b	y hand	
Moderately	Effort is required to	o break up the soil b	y hand
SOIL STRUCTUR Massive	Coherent, with any	/ partings both vertion d at greater than 100	
Weak	Peds indistinct and	l barely observable of 30% consist of peds	on pit face. When
Strong		tinct in undisturbed sonsists of peds smal	
ROCK			
	OCK TYPE DEFINI	TIONS	

ł
;

STRENGTH Term Extremely Low Very Low Low Medium	<b>Is50 (MPa)</b> < 0.03 0.03 – 0.1 0.1 – 0.3 0.3 – 1	<b>Term</b> High Very High Extremely High	<b>Is50 (MPa)</b> 1 – 3 3 – 10 > 10
WEATHERING Term Residual Soil		on extremely weather ubstance fabric are n	
Extremely Weathered	properties, i.e.	ared to such an extent it either disintegrates vater. Fabric of origin	or can be
Highly Weathered		usually highly change ghly discoloured	d by weathering;
Moderately Weathered		usually moderately ch k may be moderately	
Distinctly Weathered	See 'Highly We	athered' or 'Moderate	ely Weathered'
Slightly Weathered		discoloured but show ngth from fresh rock	vs little or no
Fresh	Rock shows no	signs of decomposit	ion or staining
NATURAL FRAC	TURES		
Туре	Description		
Joint	or no tensile str	or crack across whicl ength. May be open	orclosed
Bedding plane	or composition	layers of mineral gra	
Seam	insitu rock (XW	osited soil (infill), extro ), or disoriented usua e host rock (crushed)	lly angular
Shear zone	material interse	hly parallel planar bou acted by closely space nd /or microscopic fra	ed (generally <
	planes		
Vein	Intrusion of any mass. Usually i	r shape dissimilar to t gneous	he adjoining rock
Shape	Description		
Planar	Consistent orier	ntation	
Curved	Gradual change	e in orientation	
Undulose	Wavy surface	-    -   - 6	
Stepped Irregular		ell defined steps anges in orientation	
Infill or Coating	Description		
Clean	No visible coati	ng or discolouring	
Stained		ng but surfaces are d	
Veneer	A visible coating may be patchy	g of soil or mineral, to	o thin to measure
Coating	Visible coating described as se	≤ 1mm thick. Tickers eam	oil material
Roughness	Description		
Polished	Shiny smooth s	surface	
Slickensided		ated surface, usually	•
Smooth		h. Few or no surface	•
Rough		face irregularities (am e fine to coarse sand	

Note: soil and rock descriptions are generally in accordance with AS1726-1993 Geotechnical Site Investigations

### **Graphic Symbols Index**



### Foundation Maintenance and Footing Performance: A Homeowner's Guide



BTF 18 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, 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 He 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 boglike 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
Α	Most sand and rock sites with little or no ground movement from moisture changes
S	Slightly reactive clay sites with only slight ground movement from moisture changes
М	Moderately reactive clay or silt sites, which can experience moderate ground movement from moisture changes
Н	Highly reactive clay sites, which can experience high ground movement from moisture changes
Е	Extremely reactive sites, which can experience extreme ground movement from moisture changes
A to P	Filled sites
Р	Sites which include soft soils, such as soft clay or silt or loose sands; landslip; mine subsidence; collapsing soils; soils subject to erosion; reactive sites subject to abnormal moisture conditions or sites which cannot be classified otherwise

GENERAL DEFINITIONS OF SITE CLASSES

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 sunk 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 montar 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 comice 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.

### 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 mason ry 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 cause 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 nubble is used as fill. Water that runs along these trenches can be responsible for serious crosion, 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.

AS 2870 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.

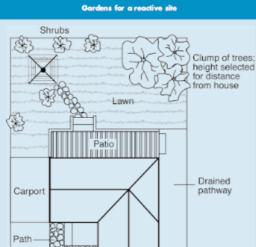
It is, however, sometimes necessary when attempting to prevent water migration that testing be carried out to establish watertable height and subsoil water flows. This subject is referred to in BTF 19 and may properly be regarded as an area for an expert consultant.

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

Description of typical damage and required repair	Approximate crack width limit (see Note 3)	Damage category
Hairline cracks	<0.1 mm	0
Hne 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 depend on number of cracks	4



should 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.

Medium

height tree

It is prudent to relocate drainage pipes away from this paving, if possible, to avoid complications from future leakage. If this is not practical, earthen ware 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 paying on the uphill side of the building. If subsoil drainage is needed this can be installed under the surface drain.

### Condensation

Driveway

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

Garden bed

covered with mulch 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.

The information in this and other issues in the series was derived from various sources and was believed to be correct when published.

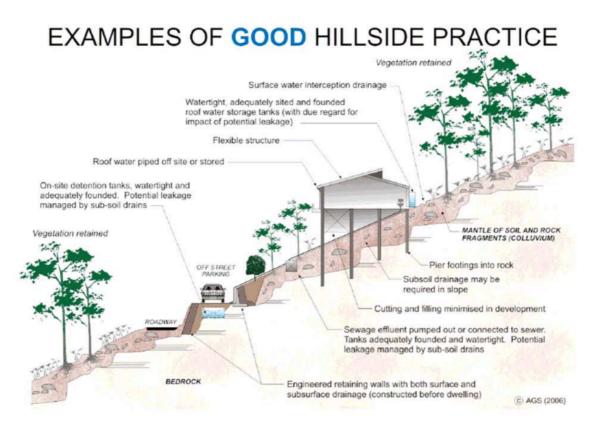
The information is advisory. It is provided in good faith and not claimed to be an exhaustive treatment of the relevant subject.

Further professional advice needs to be obtained before taking any action based on the information provided.

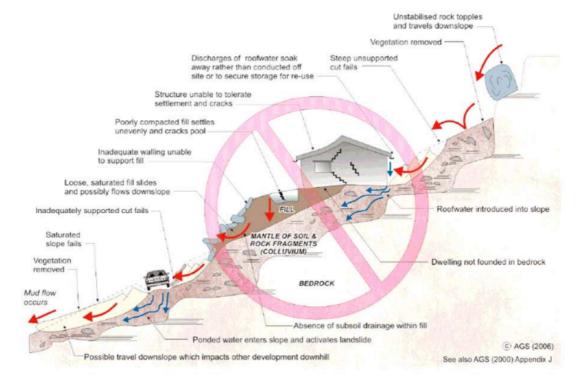
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### EXAMPLES OF POOR HILLSIDE PRACTICE



## PRACTICE NOTE GUIDELINES FOR LANDSLIDE RISK MANAGEMENT 2007 **APPENDIX C: LANDSLIDE RISK ASSESSMENT**

# **QUALITATIVE TERMINOLOGY FOR USE IN ASSESSING RISK TO PROPERTY**

## **QUALITATIVE MEASURES OF LIKELIHOOD**

Approximate A	Approximate Annual Probability	Implied Indicativ	ndicative Landslide			
Indicative Value	Notional Boundary	Recurrence Interval	nterval	Description	Descriptor	Level
10 ⁻¹	5×10 ⁻²	10 years	:	The event is expected to occur over the design life.	ALMOST CERTAIN	Α
10 ⁻²	01AU	100 years	20 years	The event will probably occur under adverse conditions over the design life.	LIKELY	В
$10^{-3}$	DIXC	1000 years	2000 years	The event could occur under adverse conditions over the design life.	POSSIBLE	С
10 ⁻⁴	5x10"	10,000 years		The event might occur under very adverse circumstances over the design life.	UNLIKELY	D
10 ⁻⁵	5x10 ⁻⁶	100,000 years	200 000 June	The event is conceivable but only under exceptional circumstances over the design life.	RARE	Е
$10^{-6}$	01XC	1,000,000 years	200,000 years	The event is inconceivable or fanciful over the design life.	BARELY CREDIBLE	н

The table should be used from left to right; use Approximate Annual Probability or Description to assign Descriptor, not vice versa. Ξ Note:

## **QUALITATIVE MEASURES OF CONSEQUENCES TO PROPERTY**

Approxima	Approximate Cost of Damage		-	-
Indicative Value	Notional Boundary	Description	nescriptor	Геле
200%		Structure(s) completely destroyed and/or large scale damage requiring major engineering works for stabilisation. Could cause at least one adjacent property major consequence damage.	CATASTROPHIC	1
%09	100%	Extensive damage to most of structure, and/or extending beyond site boundaries requiring significant stabilisation works. Could cause at least one adjacent property medium consequence damage.	MAJOR	2
20%	40%	Moderate damage to some of structure, and/or significant part of site requiring large stabilisation works. Could cause at least one adjacent property minor consequence damage.	MEDIUM	3
5%	10%	Limited damage to part of structure, and/or part of site requiring some reinstatement stabilisation works.	MINOR	4
0.5%	0/1	Little damage. (Note for high probability event (Almost Certain), this category may be subdivided at a notional boundary of 0.1%. See Risk Matrix.)	INSIGNIFICANT	5
Notes: (2)	(2) The Approximate Cost of Damage	Cost of Damage is expressed as a percentage of market value, being the cost of the improved value of the unaffected property which includes the land plus the	property which includes the	land plus the

unaffected structures.

The Approximate Cost is to be an estimate of the direct cost of the damage, such as the cost of reinstatement of the damaged portion of the property (land plus structures), stabilisation works required to render the site to tolerable risk level for the landslide which has occurred and professional design fees, and consequential costs such as legal fees, temporary accommodation. It does not include additional stabilisation works to address other landslide which may affect the property. <u>ত</u>

The table should be used from left to right; use Approximate Cost of Damage or Description to assign Descriptor, not vice versa

4

APPENDIX C: - QUALITATIVE TERMINOLOGY FOR USE IN ASSESSING RISK TO PROPERTY (CONTINUED) PRACTICE NOTE GUIDELINES FOR LANDSLIDE RISK MANAGEMENT 2007

LIKELIHOOD	00	CONSEQUI	CONSEQUENCES TO PROPERTY (With Indicative Approximate Cost of Damage)	<b>RTY</b> (With Indicativ	ve Approximate Cost	of Damage)
	Indicative Value of Approximate Annual Probability	1: CATASTROPHIC 200%	2: MAJOR 60%	3: MEDIUM 20%	4: MINOR 5%	5: INSIGNIFICANT 0.5%
A - ALMOST CERTAIN	10 ⁻¹	НЛ	НЛ	НЛ	Н	M or L (5)
B - LIKELY	10 ⁻²	НЛ	НЛ	Н	М	Γ
C - POSSIBLE	10 ⁻³	НЛ	Н	М	М	ΛΓ
D - UNLIKELY	10-4	Н	М	Γ	L	٨L
E - RARE	10 ⁻⁵	М	L	L	VL	٨L
F - BARELY CREDIBLE	10 ⁻⁶	L	٨L	٨L	٨L	٨L

QUALITATIVE RISK ANALYSIS MATRIX – LEVEL OF RISK TO PROPERTY

ତ୍ତ Notes:

For Cell A5, may be subdivided such that a consequence of less than 0.1% is Low Risk. When considering a risk assessment it must be clearly stated whether it is for existing conditions or with risk control measures which may not be implemented at the current time.

### **RISK LEVEL IMPLICATIONS**

	Risk Level	Example Implications (7)
НЛ	VERY HIGH RISK	Unacceptable without treatment. Extensive detailed investigation and research, planning and implementation of treatment options essential to reduce risk to Low; may be too expensive and not practical. Work likely to cost more than value of the
		property.
Н	HIGH RISK	Unacceptable without treatment. Detailed investigation, planning and implementation of treatment options required to reduce risk to Low. Work would cost a substantial sum in relation to the value of the property.
W	MODERATE RISK	May be tolerated in certain circumstances (subject to regulator's approval) but requires investigation, planning and implementation of treatment options to reduce the risk to Low. Treatment options to reduce to Low risk should be
		implemented as soon as practicable.
L	LOW RISK	Usually acceptable to regulators. Where treatment has been required to reduce the risk to this level, ongoing maintenance is required.
٨L	VERY LOW RISK	Acceptable. Manage by normal slope maintenance procedures.

The implications for a particular situation are to be determined by all parties to the risk assessment and may depend on the nature of the property at risk; these are only given as a general guide. Note: (7)



### Appendix E

Geotechnical Forms 1 & 1A Northern Beaches Council – Pittwater LEP

### **GEOTECHNICAL RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY FOR PITTWATER** FORM NO. 1 – To be submitted with Development Application

	Development Application for		Bernhard Hurzeler & Barbara Meister Name of Applicant
	Address of site	12 Capua F	Place, Avalon Beach NSW
laration mo			ineering geologist or coastal engineer (where applicable) as part of a geotechnical rep
aration mu	ade by geotechnical e Ben Morgan	ngineer or engi	
aration mu			

### Please mark appropriate box

]	Prepared the detailed Geotechnical Report referenced below in accordance with the Australia Geomechanics Society's Landslide Risk Management
	Guidelines (AGS 2007) and the Geotechnical Risk Management Policy for Pittwater - 2009

- $\boxtimes$ I am willing to technically verify that the detailed Geotechnical Report referenced below has been prepared in accordance with the Australian Geomechanics Society's Landslide Risk Management Guidelines (AGS 2007) and the Geotechnical Risk Management Policy for Pittwater - 2009
- Have examined the site and the proposed development in detail and have carried out a risk assessment in accordance with paragraph 6.0 of the Geotechnical Risk Management Policy for Pittwater - 2009. I confirm the results of the risk assessment for the proposed development are in compliance with the Geotechnical Risk Management Policy from Pittwater - 2009 and further detailed geotechnical reporting is not required for the subject site.
- Have examined the site and the proposed development/alteration in detail and am of the opinion that the Development Application only involves Minor Development/Alterations that do not require a Detailed Geotechnical Risk Assessment and hence my report is in accordance with the Geotechnical Risk Management Policy for Pittwater – 2009 requirements for Minor Development/Alterations.
- Have examined the site and the proposed development/alteration is separate form and not affected by a Geotechnical Hazard and does not require a Geotechnical report or Risk Assessment and hence my Report is in accordance with the Geotechnical Risk Management Policy for Pittwater - 2009 requirements
- Provided the coastal process and coastal forces analysis for inclusion in the Geotechnical Report

### **Geotechnical Report Details:**

Report Title: Geotechnical Assessment Report for alterations and additions at 12 Capua Place, Avalon Beach (AG 24301)

Report Date: 2 August 2024

Author: Cameron Young

Signature

Author's Company/Organisation: AscentGeo Geotechnical Consulting

### Documentation which relate to or are relied upon in report preparation:

JJ Drafting Australia Pty Ltd, job number 1267/24, drawing numbers PRELIM.01–0.6, revision A, dated 22.7.24

I am aware that the above Geotechnical Report, prepared for the abovementioned site is to be submitted in support of a Development Application for this site and will be relied on by Northern Beaches Council as the basis for ensuring that the Geotechnical Risk Management aspects of the proposed development have been adequately addressed to achieve an "Acceptable Risk Management" level for the life of the structure, taken as at least 100 years unless otherwise stated and justified in the Report and that reasonable and practical measures have been identified to remove foreseeable risk.

A

•	
Name	Ben Morgan
Chartered Professional Status	MAIG RPGeo (Geotechnical & Engineering)
Membership No.	10269
Company	AscentGeo Geotechnical Consulting



**Policy of Operations and Procedures** 

### GEOTECHNICAL RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY FOR PITTWATER FORM NO. 1(a) - Checklist of Requirements for Geotechnical Risk Management Report for Development Application

Name of Applicant

Development Application for Bernhard Hurzeler & Barbara Meister

Address of site 12 Capua Place, Avalon Beach NSW

-	lowing checklist covers the minimum requirements to be addressed in a Geotechnical Risk Management hnical Report. This checklist is to accompany the Geotechnical Report and its certification (Form No. 1).
	Geotechnical Report Details:
	Report Title: Geotechnical Assessment Report for alterations and additions at 12 Capua Place, Avalon Beach (AG 24301)
	Report Date: 2 August 2024
	Author: Cameron Young
	Author's Company/Organisation: AscentGeo Geotechnical Consulting
Please	mark appropriate box
$\boxtimes$	Comprehensive site mapping conducted 30.7.24 (date)
$\boxtimes$	Mapping details presented on contoured site plan with geomorphic mapping to a minimum scale of 1:200 (as appropriate) Subsurface investigation required No Justification
$\boxtimes$	<ul> <li>☑ Yes Date conducted <u>30.7.24</u></li> <li>Geotechnical model developed and reported as an inferred subsurface type-section</li> <li>Geotechnical hazards identified</li> <li>☐ Above the site</li> <li>☑ On the site</li> <li>☐ Below the site</li> <li>☐ Beside the site</li> </ul>
$\boxtimes$	Geotechnical hazards described and reported Risk assessment conducted in accordance with the Geotechnical Risk Management Policy for Pittwater - 2009 Consequence analysis Frequency analysis
X X X X X	Risk calculation Risk assessment for <u>property</u> conducted in accordance with the Geotechnical Risk Management Policy for Pittwater - 2009 Risk assessment for <u>loss of life</u> conducted in accordance with the Geotechnical Risk Management Policy for Pittwater - 2009 Assessed risks have been compared to "Acceptable Risk Management" criteria as defined in the Geotechnical Risk Management Policy for Pittwater - 2009
$\boxtimes$	Opinion has been provided that the design can achieve the "Acceptable Risk Management" criteria provided that the specified
$\boxtimes$	conditions are achieved. Design Life Adopted:
	⊠100 years □Other
$\boxtimes$	specify Geotechnical Conditions to be applied to all four phases as described in the Geotechnical Risk Management Policy for
$\boxtimes$	Pittwater – 2009 have been specified Additional action to remove risk where reasonable and practical have been identified and included in the report. Risk Assessment within Bushfire Asset Protection Zone

I am aware that Pittwater Council will rely on the Geotechnical Report, to which this checklist applies, as the basis for ensuring that the geotechnical risk management aspects of the proposal have been adequately addressed to achieve an "Acceptable Risk Management" level for the life of the structure, taken as at least 100 years unless otherwise stated, and justified in the Report and that reasonable and practical measures have been identified to remove foreseeable risk.

Signature	A	_
Name	Ben Morgan	_
Chartered Professional Status	MAIG RPGeo (Geotechnical & Engineering)	EDRO
Membership No.	10269	ISTER
Company	AscentGeo Geotechnical Consulting	

