



CONSULTING GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEERS

Geotechnical Assessment

Project: Alterations & Additions

1120 Barrenjoey Road, Palm Beach NSW

Prepared for:
Bruce Forster
1120 Barrenjoey Road
Palm Beach, NSW 2108

Ref: AG 22148
29 June 2022

Geotechnical Assessment

For Alterations & Additions at

1120 Barrenjoey Road, Palm Beach NSW

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Limitations

This report has been prepared for Bruce Forster in accordance with AscentGeo Consulting Geotechnical Engineers' ('Ascent') Fee Proposal dated 11 April 2022.

The report is provided for the exclusive use of the property owners 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 Ascent 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 Ascent.

Overview

Background

This report presents the findings of a geotechnical investigation carried out at 1120 Barrenjoey Road, Palm Beach NSW, undertaken by Ascent. This assessment has been prepared to accompany an application for DA with Northern Beaches Council.

Proposed Development

Details of the development are outlined in a series of architectural drawings prepared by Drafting Help, sheet numbers A01-A16, dated 26 April 2022.

The works comprise the following:

- Construction of new second floor addition to existing dwelling
- Various internal modifications.

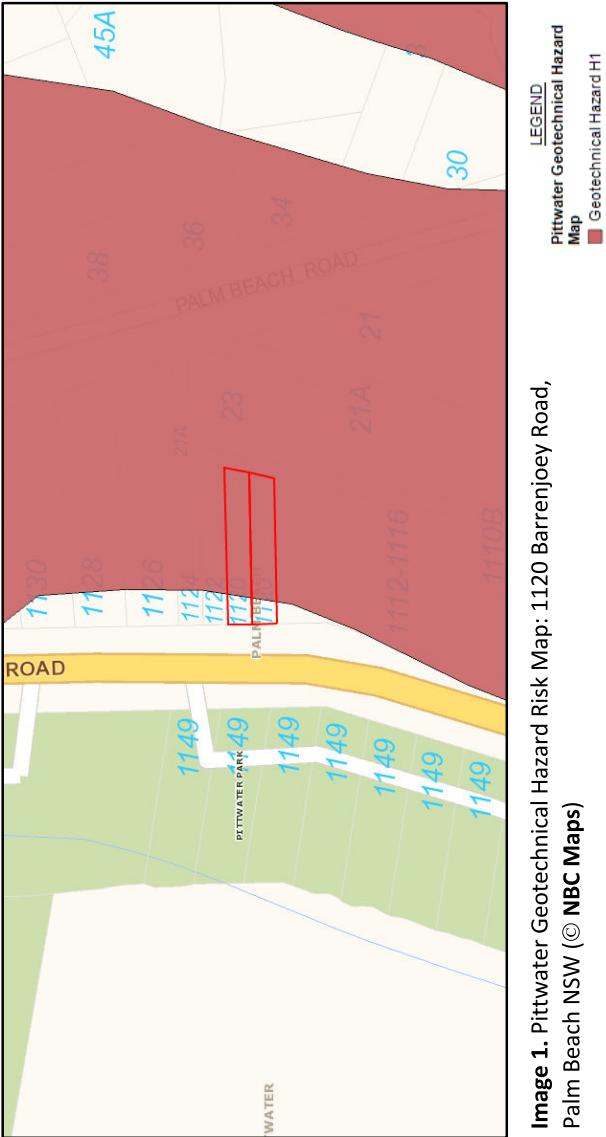
Relevant Instruments

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

- Northern Beaches Council – Pittwater Local Environment Plan (PLEP) 2014 and Pittwater Development Control Plan (PDCP) 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.

PDCP & PLEP Geotechnical Hazard Class

Based on reference to the plan entitled 'Geotechnical Hazard Mapping' (Ref. P21DCP-BC-MDCP2002, dated 2007) prepared by GHD LONGMAC on behalf of Pittwater Council, the site is located within **Geotechnical Hazard Zone H1**.



Site Description

Summary

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

Table 1. Summary of site conditions

Parameter	Description
Site Visit	Tom England, Engineering Geologist – 22/4/2022
Address	1120 Barrenjoey Road, Palm Beach NSW – Lot 7 & 8 in DP 14538
Site Area m ² (approx.)	457.70m ² (by title)
Existing development	One and two storey rendered residence with metal roof
Slope Aspect	West
Average gradient & RL (AHD)	~15 degrees
Vegetation	Lawns, garden beds, small medium and large shrubs and trees
Retaining Structures	Sandstone block and masonry walls in reasonable condition for their ages.

Parameter	Description
Neighbouring environment	Residentially developed to the north, south and east. Pittwater Road to the west.
Geology	The Sydney 1:100,000 Geological Sheet 9130 (NSW Dept. Mineral Resources, 1983) indicates that the site is underlain by the Newport Formation of the upper Narrabeen Group (Rm). The Newport formation geology is typically comprised of interbedded laminitic, shale and quartz, to lithic quartz sandstones. Newport bedrock outcrops in the slope on the neighbouring property (1124 Barrenjoey Road)
Geotechnical observations	No evidence of significant settlement, slope instability, undercutting, jointing or other geotechnical hazards were identified at the time of our assessment.

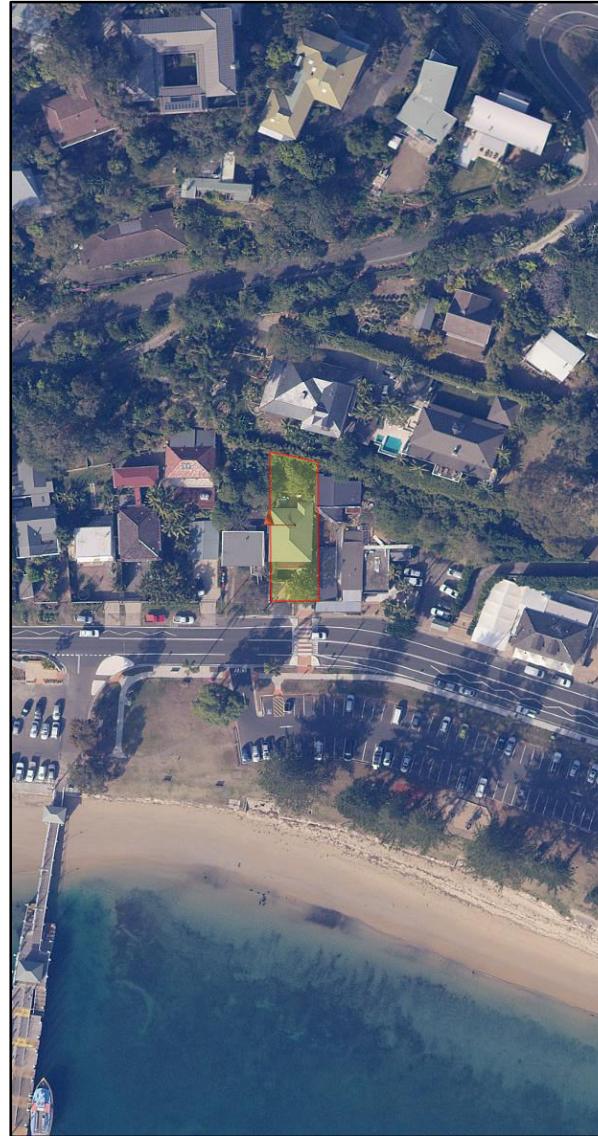


Image 2. Site location: 1120 Barrenjoey Road, Palm Beach NSW (© SIX Maps NSW Gov)

Recommendations

With reference to the Australian Geomechanics Society's definitions, 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 2** are adhered to.

Table 2. Geotechnical Recommendations

Recommendation	Description
Excavation	Excavations are not anticipated with the proposed works.
Vibrations	Vibrations are not anticipated with the construction of the proposed works.
Fill	<p>While not proposed, any new fill on the Site is to be comprised of local sand, clay, and weathered rock. Existing organic topsoil should be cleared and stockpiled for later use, prior to the placement of any new fill.</p> <p>All 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.</p> <p>All fill is to be placed in accordance with AS 3798–2007 ‘Guidelines on earthworks for commercial and residential developments’,</p> <p>Fill should not be placed on the site outside of the lateral extends 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.</p>
Retaining Structures	<p>If required, any retaining structures to be constructed as part of the site works are to be backfilled with suitable free-draining materials wrapped in a non-woven geotextile fabric (i.e. Bidim A34 or similar) to prevent the clogging of the drainage with sediment.</p> <p>Bulk unit weights of 20kN/m³ and 22kN/m³ should be adopted for the retained soil and weathered rock, respectively.</p>
Sediment and Erosion Control	Appropriate design and construction methods shall be required during site works to minimise erosion and provide sediment control. In particular, any stockpiled soil will require erosion control measures, such as siltation fencing and barriers, to be designed by others.
Footings	<p>Ground testing may be required to provide accurate information on existing ground conditions if new footings are proposed.</p> <p>It is essential that the foundation materials of any new footing excavations be inspected and approved 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 concrete booked.</p>

Recommendation	Description
Stormwater	<p>All stormwater collected from hard surfaces is to be collected and piped to the council stormwater network through adequately designed pipe networks, easements and 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.</p>
Inspections	<p>It is essential that the foundation materials of any new footing excavations be inspected and approved by Ascent before steel reinforcement and concrete is placed.</p> <p>Failure to engage Ascent for the required hold point/excavation/foundation material inspections may negate our ability to provide final geotechnical sign off or certification.</p>
Conditions Relating to Design and Construction Monitoring	<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● review the geotechnical content of all structural engineer designs prior to the issue of Construction Certificate – Form 2B ● 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 ● at Occupation Certificate stage (project completion), Ascent must have inspected and certified excavations and foundation materials. A final site inspection will be required at this stage – 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 Consulting Geotechnical Engineers,



Ben Morgan BSc, MAIG RPGeo
Managing Director | Engineering Geologist



References

- Australian Geomechanics Society (March 2007), Landslide Risk Management, Australian Geomechanics 42(1).
- Australian Standard 1289.6.3.2-1997 Methods of Testing Soils for Engineering Purposes.
- Australian Standard 1726-2017 Geotechnical Site Investigations.
- Australian Standard AS2670.1-2001 Evaluation of human exposure to whole-body vibration. Part 1: General requirements.
- Australian Standard 2870-2011 Residential Slabs and Footings.
- Australian Standard 3798-2007 Guidelines for Earthworks for Commercial and Residential Developments.
- GHD Geotechnics, 2007. 'Geotechnical Hazard Mapping of the Pittwater LGA-2007'. Pittwater Council's Geotechnical Risk Management Map P21CDP-BC-MDCP083.
- Herbert C., 1983, Sydney 1:100 000 Geological Sheet 9130, 1st edition. Geological Survey of New South Wales, Sydney.
- NSW Department of Finance, Services and Innovation, Spatial Information Viewer, maps.six.nsw.gov.au.
- Safe Work Australia (October 2018). Code of Practice: Excavation Work.



Appendix A

Information Sheets

General Notes About This Report

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

METHOD	Borehole Logs	Excavation Logs	WEATHERING	STRENGTH
AS#	Auger screwing (#-bit)	BH Backhoe/excavator bucket	RS Residual Soil	EL Extremely Low
AD#	Auger drilling (#-bit)	NE Natural exposure	XW Extremely Weathered	VL Very Low
B	Blank bit	HE Hand excavation	HW Highly Weathered	L Low
V	V-bit	X Existing excavation	MW Moderately Weathered	M Medium
T	TC-bit		DW* Distinctly Weathered	H High
HA	Hand auger		SW Slightly Weathered	VH Very High
R	Rollertricone	NMLC NMLC core drilling	FR Fresh	EH Extremely High
W	Washbore	NQ/HQ Wireline core drilling	*covers both HW & MW	
AH	Air hammer		= sum of intact core pieces > 100mm × 100 total length of section being evaluated	
AT	Air track			
LB	Light bore push tube			
MC	Macro core push tube			
DT	Dual core push tube			
SUPPORT	Borehole Logs	Excavation Logs	CORE RECOVERY (%)	NATURAL FRACTURES
C	Casing	S Shoring	= core recovered × 100 core lft	Type
M	Mud	B Benching		Joint
SAMPLING	B	Bulk sample		BP Bedding plane
D		Disturbed sample		SM Seam
U#		Thin-walled tube sample (#mm diameter)		FZ Fractured zone
ES		Environmental sample		SZ Shear zone
EW		Environmental water sample		VN Vein
FIELD TESTING	PP	Pocket penetrometer (kPa)	Infill or Coating	
	DCP	Dynamic cone penetrometer	Cn Clean	
	PSP	Perth sand penetrometer	St Stained	
	SPT	Standard penetration test	Vn Veneer	
	PBT	Plate bearing test	Co Coating	
	su	Vane shear strength peak/residual (kPa) and vane size (mm)	Cl Clay	
	N*	SPT (blows per 300mm)	Ca Calcite	
	Nc	SPT with solid cone	Fe Iron oxide	
	R	Refusal	Mi Micaeous	
	*denotes sample taken			
BOUNDARIES	Known		Shape	
	—		pl Planar	
	— — —	Probable	cu Curved	
	-----	Possible	un Undulose	
			st Stepped	
			ir Irregular	
SOIL	MOISTURE CONDITION	DENSITY INDEX	ROUGHNESS	
D	Dry	VL Very Loose	pol Polished	
M	Moist	L Loose	sik Slickensided	
W	Wet	MD Medium Dense	smo Smooth	
Wp	Plastic Limit	D Dense	rou Rough	
WL	Liquid Limit	VD Very Dense		
MC	Moisture Content			
CONSISTENCY	VS			USCS SYMBOLS
S	Very Soft	VL Very Loose		GW Well graded gravels and gravel-sand mixtures, little or no fines
F	Soft	L Loose		GP Poorly graded gravels and gravel-sand mixtures, little or no fines
St	Firm	MD Medium Dense		GM Silty gravels, gravel-sand-silt mixtures
VSt	Stiff	D Dense		GC Clayey gravels, gravel-sand-clay mixtures
H	Very Stiff	VD Very Dense		
Fb	Hard			
	Friable			

Soil & Rock Terms

SOIL

MOISTURE CONDITION		Description	Term	Is50 (MPa)	Term	Is50 (MPa)
Dry		Looks and feels dry. Cohesive and cemented soils are hard, friable or powdery. Uncemented granular soils run freely through the hand.	Very Low	< 0.03	High	1 – 3
Moist		Feels cool and darkened in colour. Cohesive soils can be moulded. Granular soils tend to cohere. As for moist, but with free water forming on hands when handled.	Low	0.03 – 0.1	Very High	3 – 10

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	^u < 12	Very Stiff	^u 100 – 200
Soft	12 – 25	Hard	> 200
Firm	25 – 50	Friable	–
Stiff	50 – 100		

DENSITY INDEX

Term	I _b (%)	Term	I _b (%)
Very Loose	< 15	Dense	65 – 8
Loose	15 – 35	Very Dense	> 85

PARTICLE SIZE

Name	Subdivision	Size (mm)	Type	Description
Boulders		> 200	Joint	A discontinuity or crack across which the rock has little or no tensile strength. May be open or closed
Cobbles	coarse	63 – 200	Bedding plane	Arrangement in layers of mineral grains of similar sizes
Gravel	medium	20 – 63		
	fine	6 – 20		
Sand	coarse	2.36 – 6	Seam	Seam with deposited soil (infill), extremely weathered in situ rock (XW), or disoriented usually angular fragments of the host rock (crushed)
	medium	0.6 – 2.36		
	fine	0.2 – 0.6		
Silt & Clay		0.075 – 0.2	Shear zone	Zone with roughly parallel planar boundaries, of rock material intersected by closely spaced (generally < 50mm) joints and/or microscopic fracture (cleavage) planes
		< 0.075		

MINOR COMPONENTS

Term	Proportion by mass	fine grained	Term	vein
Trace	≤ 5%	≤ 15%	Shape	Planar
Some	5 – 2%	15 – 30%		Curved

SOIL CEMENTING

Weakly	Easily broken up by hand	Shape	Consistent orientation
Moderately	Effort is required to break up the soil by hand	Curved	Gradual change in orientation
Strong	Peds are quite distinct in undisturbed soil. When disturbed >60% consists of peds smaller than 100mm	Undulose	Wavy surface
	Peds indistinct and barely observable on pit face. When disturbed approx. 30% consist of peds smaller than 100mm	Stepped	One or more well defined steps
	Peds are quite distinct in undisturbed soil. When disturbed >60% consists of peds smaller than 100mm	Irregular	Many sharp changes in orientation

SOIL STRUCTURE

Massive	Coherent, with any partings both vertically and horizontally spaced at greater than 100mm	Infill or Coating	Roughness
Lenses	Peds indistinct and barely observable on pit face. When disturbed approx. 30% consist of peds smaller than 100mm	Clean	Polished
Pockets	Peds are quite distinct in undisturbed soil. When disturbed >60% consists of peds smaller than 100mm	Stained	Slickensided

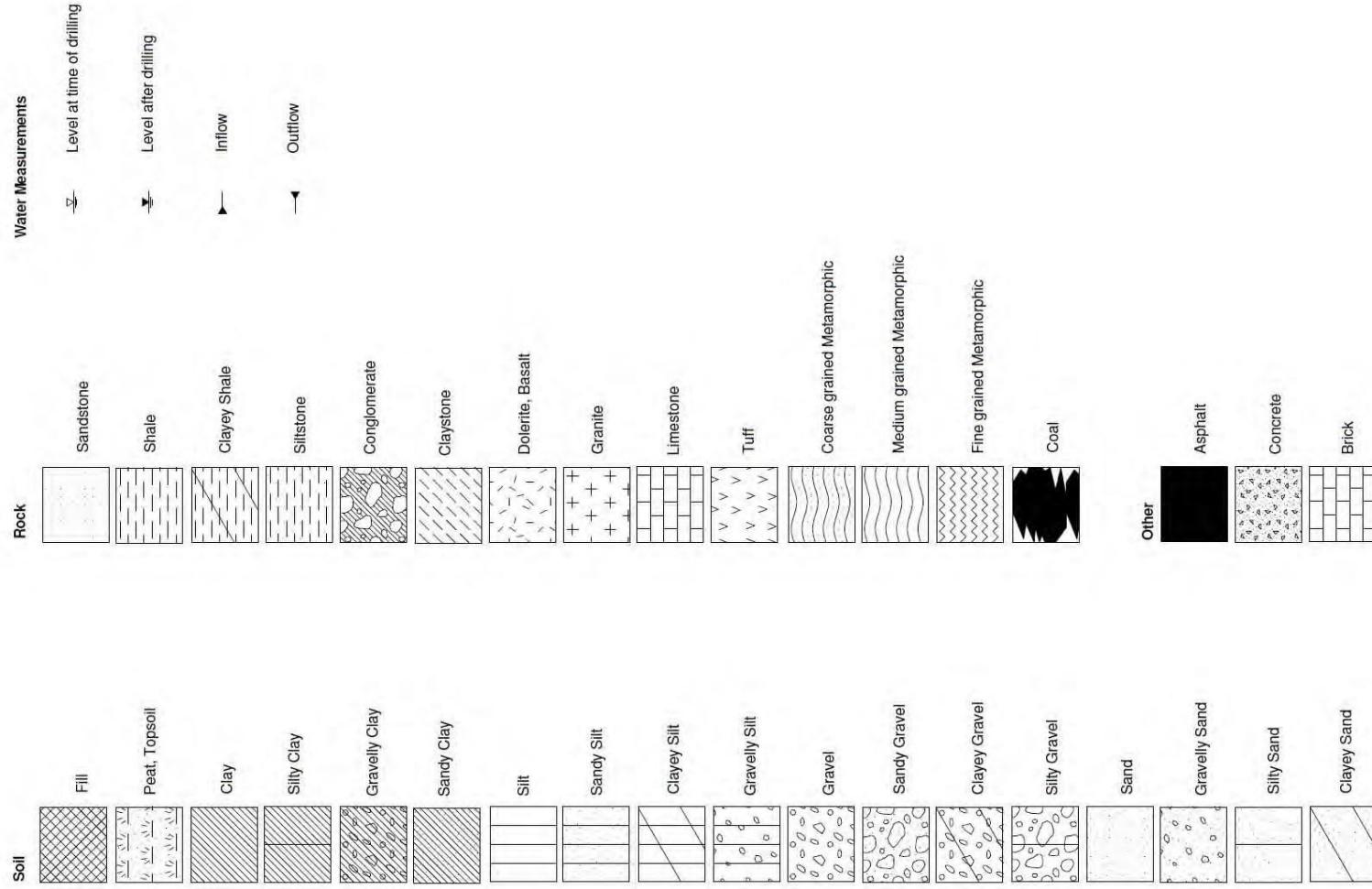
ROCK

Rock Type	Definition (more than 50% of rock consists of ...)	Description
Conglomerate	... gravel sized (> 2mm) fragments	Shiny smooth surface
Sandstone	... sand sized (0.06 to 2mm) grains	Grooved or striated surface, usually polished
Siltstone	... silt sized (< 0.06mm) particles, rock is not laminated	Smooth to touch. Few or no surface irregularities
Claystone	... clay, rock is not laminated	Many small surface irregularities (amplitude generally < 1mm). Feels like fine to coarse sandpaper
Shale	... silt or clay sized particles, rock is laminated	

SEDIMENTARY ROCK TYPE DEFINITIONS

Rock Type	Definition (more than 50% of rock consists of ...)	Note: soil and rock descriptions are generally in accordance with AS 1726-1993 Geotechnical Site Investigations
Conglomerate	... gravel sized (> 2mm) fragments	
Sandstone	... sand sized (0.06 to 2mm) grains	
Siltstone	... silt sized (< 0.06mm) particles, rock is not laminated	
Claystone	... clay, rock is not laminated	
Shale	... silt or clay sized particles, rock is laminated	

Graphic Symbols Index



Foundation Maintenance and Footing Performance: A Homeowner's Guide



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.

Classification 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 File 19 (BT 19) deals with these problems.

Erosion

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

Saturation

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

Seasonal swelling and shrinkage of soil

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

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

Shear failure

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

- Significant load increase.
 - Reduction of lateral support of the soil under the footing due to erosion or excavation.
 - In clay soil, shear failure can be caused by saturation of the soil adjacent to or under the footing.

GENERAL DEFINITIONS OF SITE CLASSES

Class	Foundation
A	Most sand and rock sites with little or no ground movement from moisture changes
S	Slightly reactive clay sites with only slight ground movement from moisture changes
M	Moderately reactive clay or silt sites, which can experience moderate ground movement from moisture changes
H	Highly reactive clay sites, which can experience high ground movement from moisture changes
E	Extremely reactive sites, which can experience extreme ground movement from moisture changes
A to P	Filled sites
P	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

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

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

Unevenness of Movement

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

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

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

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

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

Effects of Uneven Soil Movement on Structures

Erosion and saturation

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

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

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.

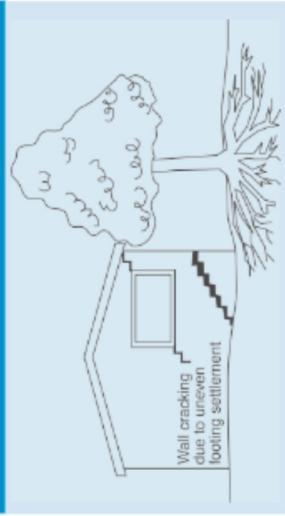
Seasonal swelling/shrinkage in clay

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 dish'd. This is often accompanied by some doors binding on the floor or on the door head, together with some cracking of cornice mitres. In buildings with timber flooring supported by bearers and joists, the floor can be bouncy. Externally there may be visible cracking 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 piers, the isolated piers will rise more easily than the strip footings or piers under walls, creating noticeable doming of flooring.

Trees can cause shrinkage and damage



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 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 vertical member. A common symptom is binding of doors on the vertical member of the frame.

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

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

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

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

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

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

The normal structural arrangement is that the inner leaf of brick-work 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 soil 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 in a similar way to the external leaf of a full masonry structure.

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

Water Service and Drainage

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

Bear 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 C.1 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 drain 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 graded 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 BTTF 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

CLASSIFICATION OF DAMAGE WITH REFERENCE TO WALLS

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

- 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.

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

Existing trees

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

Information on trees, plants and shrubs

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

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.

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

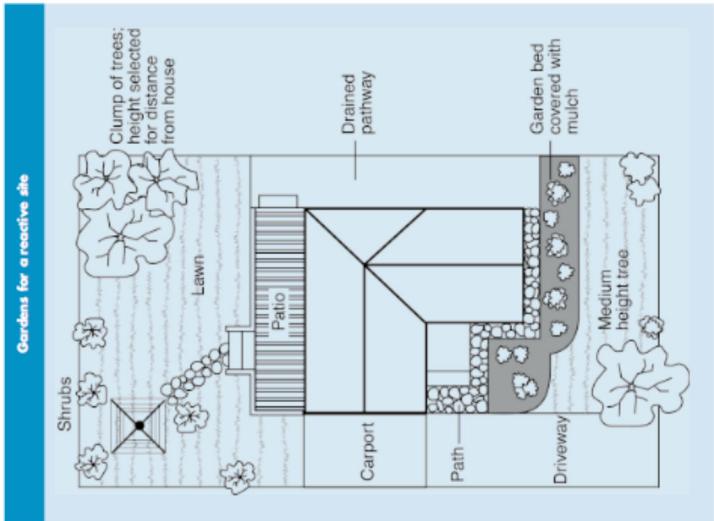
Except in areas where freezing of water is an issue, it is wise to remove taps in the building area and relocate them well away from the building – preferably not uphill from it (see BTF 19).

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

Condensation

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

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



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, MAMIA, 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.

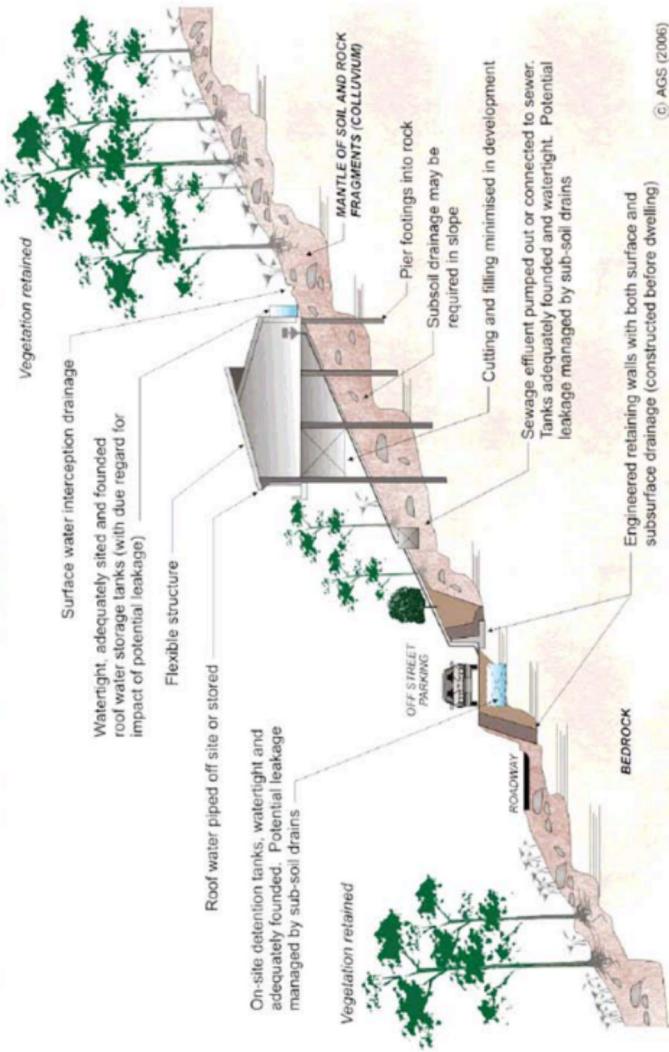
Further professional advice needs to be obtained before taking any action based on the information provided.

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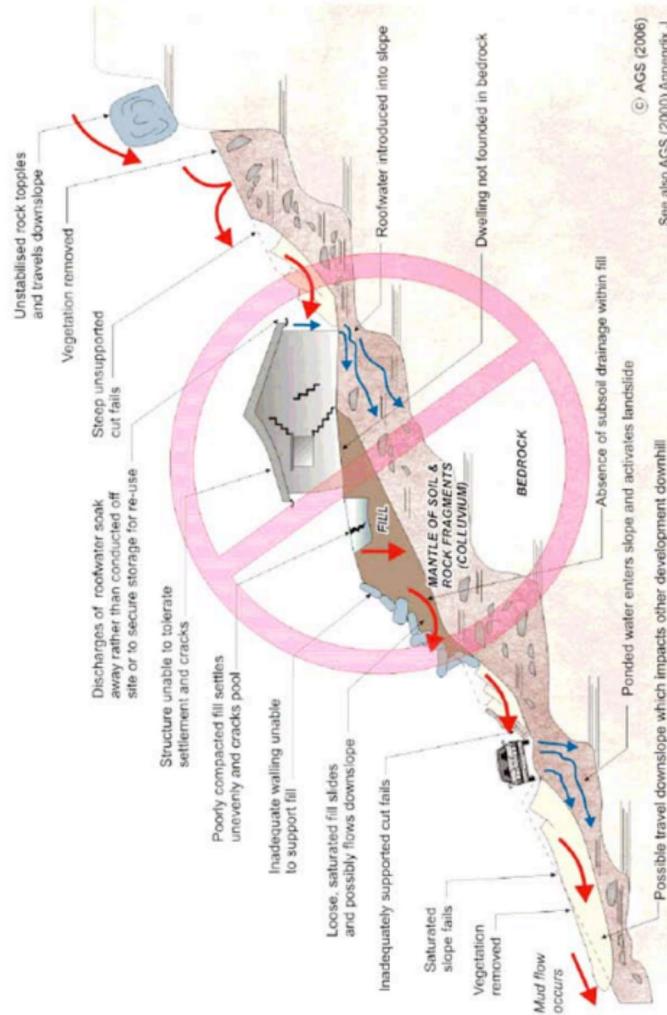
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EXAMPLES OF GOOD HILLSIDE PRACTICE



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 Annual Probability	Indicative Value	Reurrence Interval	Description	Level
10^{-1}	5×10^{-2}	10 years	The event is expected to occur over the design life.	ALMOST CERTAIN
10^{-2}	5×10^{-3}	100 years	The event will probably occur under adverse conditions over the design life.	B
10^{-3}	5×10^{-4}	1000 years	The event could occur under adverse conditions over the design life.	C
10^{-4}	5×10^{-5}	10,000 years	The event might occur under very adverse circumstances over the design life.	D
10^{-5}	5×10^{-6}	100,000 years	The event is conceivable but only under exceptional circumstances over the design life.	RARE
10^{-6}	5×10^{-6}	1,000,000 years	The event is inconceivable over the design life.	BARRELY CREDIBLE

Note: (1) The table should be used from left to right; use Approximate Annual Probability or Description to assign Descriptor, not vice versa.

Approximate Cost of Damage	Indicative Value	National Boundary	Description	Level
200%	100%	Structure(s) completely destroyed and/or large scale damage requiring major engineering works for stabilisation.	CATASTROPHIC	1
60%	40%	Extensive damage to most of structure, and/or extending beyond site boundaries requiring significant stabilisation works.	MAJOR	2
20%	10%	Moderate damage to least one adjacent property beyond medium consequence damage.	MEDIUM	3
5%	1%	Could cause at least one adjacent property minor consequence damage.	MINOR	4
0.5%	0.1%	Little damage. (Note for high probability event (Almost Certain), this category may be subdivided at a national boundary of 0.1%. See Risk Matrix.)	INSIGNIFICANT	5

Note: (2) The Approximate 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 unaffected structures.

(3) 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 tolerance, address other landslides which may affect the property, accommodation, it does not include additional stabilisation works to address other landslides which may affect the property.

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

QUALITATIVE MEASURES OF CONSEQUENCES TO PROPERTY

The Approximate 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 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 tolerance, address other landslides which may affect the property, accommodation, it does not include additional stabilisation works to address other landslides which may affect the property.

The Approximate Cost of Damage 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 tolerance, address other landslides which may affect the property, accommodation, it does not include additional stabilisation works to address other landslides which may affect the property.

APPENDIX C: - QUALITATIVE TERMINOLOGY FOR USE IN ASSESSING RISK TO PROPERTY (CONTINUED)

PRACTICE NOTE GUIDELINES FOR LANDSLIDE RISK MANAGEMENT 2007

QUALITATIVE RISK ANALYSIS MATRIX - LEVEL OF RISK TO PROPERTY						
LIKELIHOOD						
CONSEQUENCES TO PROPERTY (With Indicative Approximate Cost of Damage)						
A - ALMOST CERTAIN	Indicative Value of Probability	1: CATASTROPHIC	2: MAJOR	3: MEDIUM	4: MINOR	5: INSIGNIFICANT
0.1	Approximate Annual Probability	200%	60%	20%	5%	0.5%
B - LIKELY	VH	VH	VH	H	L	M or L (5)
10 ²	VH	VH	VH	H	L	M or L (5)
C - POSSIBLE	10 ³	VH	H	M	M	VH
D - UNLIKELY	10 ⁻⁴	H	M	M	L	VH
E - RARE	10 ⁻⁵	M	L	L	VH	VH
F - BARRELY CREDIBLE	10 ⁻⁶	L	VH	VH	VH	VH

Notes: (5) For Cell A5, may be subdivided such that a consequence of less than 0.1% is Low Risk.
 Notes: (6) 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	Example Implications (7)						
VH	Unacceptable without treatment. Extreme detailed investigation and research, planning and implementation of treatment options required to reduce property risk to Low. Work would cost a substantial sum in relation to the value of the property.						
H	Unacceptable without treatment. Detailed investigation, planning and implementation of treatment options required to reduce risk to Low. Work likely to cost more than value of the property.						
M	May be tolerated in certain circumstances (subject to regulator's approval) but requires investigation, planning and implementation as soon as practicable.						
L	Usually acceptable to regulators. Where treatment has been required to reduce the risk to this level, ongoing maintenance is required.						
VL	Acceptable. Manage by normal slope maintenance procedures.						

Note: (7) 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.



Appendix B

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	Bruce Forster	
	Name of Applicant	
Address of site	1120 Barrenjoey Road, Palm Beach NSW	

Declaration made by geotechnical engineer or engineering geologist or coastal engineer (where applicable) as part of a geotechnical report

I, Ben Morgan on behalf of AscentGeo Consulting Geotechnical Engineers
(insert name) (Trading or Company Name)

on this the 29.06.2022 certify that I am a geotechnical engineer or engineering geologist or coastal engineer

as defined by the Geotechnical Risk Management Policy for Pittwater - 2009 and I am authorised by the above organisation/company to issue this document and to certify that the organisation/company has a current professional indemnity policy of at least \$2 million.

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
- 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 & Additions at 1120 Barrenjoey Road, Palm Beach NSW (AG 22148)

Report Date: 29 June 2022

Author: Ben Morgan

Author's Company/Organisation: AscentGeo Consulting Geotechnical Engineers

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

Architectural design plans prepared by Drafting Help, sheet numbers A01-A16, dated 26 April 2022.

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.


Signature

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

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

Development Application for	Bruce Forster	Name of Applicant
Address of site	1120 Barrenjoey Road, Palm Beach NSW	

The following checklist covers the minimum requirements to be addressed in a Geotechnical Risk Management Geotechnical 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 & Additions at 1120 Barrenjoey Road, Palm Beach NSW (AG 22148)
Report Date:	29 June 2022
Author:	Ben Morgan
Author's Company/Organisation:	AscentGeo Consulting Geotechnical Engineers

Please mark appropriate box

- Comprehensive site mapping conducted 22/04/2022 (date)
 Mapping details presented on contoured site plan with geomorphic mapping to a minimum scale of 1:200 (as appropriate)
 Subsurface investigation required
 No Justification 22/04/2022
 Yes Date conducted
 Geotechnical model developed and reported as an inferred subsurface type-section
 Geotechnical hazards identified
 Above the site
 On the site
 Below the site
 Beside the site
 Geotechnical hazards described and reported
 Risk assessment conducted in accordance with the Geotechnical Risk Management Policy for Pittwater - 2009
 Consequence analysis
 Frequency analysis
 Risk calculation
 Risk assessment for property conducted in accordance with the Geotechnical Risk Management Policy for Pittwater - 2009
 Risk assessment for loss of life 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
 Opinion has been provided that the design can achieve the "Acceptable Risk Management" criteria provided that the specified conditions are achieved.
 Design Life Adopted:
 100 years
 Other specify
 Geotechnical Conditions to be applied to all four phases as described in the Geotechnical Risk Management Policy for 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	
Name	Ben Morgan
Chartered Professional Status	MAIG RPGeo (Geotechnical & Engineering)
Membership No.	10269
Company	AscentGeo Consulting Geotechnical Engineers