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PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT: Acid Sulfate

New House and Pool at 73 Wimbledon Avenue, North Narrabeen

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

1. Proposed Development

- **1.1** Demolish the existing house and construct a new house.
- 1.2 Construct a new pool on the downhill side of the property by excavating to a maximum depth of ~1.9m.
- 1.3 Various other minor external alterations and additions.
- 1.4 Details of the proposed development are shown on 22 drawings prepared by Archisoul, job number 2110, drawings numbered DA00 to DA08, DA10 to DA12, and DA15 to DA21 dated 30/11/21, and DA09, DA13, and DA14, dated 3/12/21.

2. Site Description

The site was inspected on the 16th March, 2022.



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The block is located on the near level terrain adjacent to Narrabeen Lagoon. The surface varies

between "RL0.0 and "RL2.2. The Sydney 1:100 000 Geological sheet indicates the site is

underlain by silty to peaty quartz sand, silt and clay with ferruginous and humic cementation

in places and common shell layers (Qha), which was encountered during testing.

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

the property as 'Warriewood'. The ground tests indicate the upper ~1.5m of the soil is a light

grey or dull yellow bleached massive sand (wa2). These are underlain by pale mottled sand

(wa3) and brown soft iron pan (wa5). Their documentation indicates these soils range in pH

from 5.5 to 7.0.

Ground testing indicates that sand sediments extend to a depth of at least ~1.9m. The

sediments are Holocene in age (spanning in time from present to $\sim 10~000$ years ago).

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

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

3. **Earthworks**

An excavation to a maximum depth of ~1.9m is required to install the pool on the downhill

side of the property. This excavation will cover a total area of ~20m². Other earthworks

include footing excavations for the proposed house. The excavations are only a risk in regards

to potential acid sulfate soils while they are open. On completion of the footings, they will be

sealed with the foundation, preventing access of oxygen to the soil and therefore greatly

reducing the potential for acid generation.

Watertable 4.

The watertable was encountered at an average depth of ~1.4m (~RLO.4 - RLO.6) below the

current surface. The watertable fluctuates with the tide and climatic changes. It should be

noted by the pool builders that the presence of the water table will likely cause the proposed

pool excavation (which is through sand) to collapse if it is not shored. Our office can be

contacted for further information.



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5. Field Testing

Four hand Auger Holes (AH) were put down in the locations shown on the site plan attached. Field pH and peroxide testing was carried out on samples taken from the auger holes at regular intervals. The logs of the auger holes and the test results are as follows. The soil reaction rating scale for the pH_{FOX} test is shown in Appendix 1.

AUGER HOLE 1 (~RL1.6) – AH1 (Photo 1)

Depth (m)	Material Encountered
0.0 to 0.1	TOPSOIL, dark brown sandy soil, dry, fine to medium grained with fine
	trace organic matter.
0.1 to 0.7	SAND, light brown and grey, dry, medium grained.
0.7 to 1.3	SAND, yellow and grey, damp, medium grained.
1.3 to 1.9	SAND, white and grey, wet, medium grained.

End of Hole @ 1.9m in sand. Water table encountered at ~1.2m.

TEST: AH1		FIELD p	H & PEROXIC	DE RESULTS	
Sample depth (m)	pH₅	30% Peroxide reaction	рН _{ғох}	pH _F - pH _{FOX}	SS=Shell J=Jarosite R=Roots
0.3	7.2	-	7.2	0	R
0.7	7.2	L	7.4	-0.2	-
1.3	7.4	L	7.5	-0.1	-
1.9	7.4	L	7.5	-0.1	-

AUGER 2 ON THE NEXT PAGE



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AUGER HOLE 2 (~RL1.7) – AH2 (Photo 2)

Depth (m)	Material Encountered
0.0 to 0.4	TOPSOIL, dark brown, sandy, dry, fine to medium grained with fine
	trace organic matter.
0.4 to 0.9	SAND, grey and brown, dry, medium grained.
0.9 to 1.3	SAND, yellow and grey, damp, medium grained.
1.3 to 1.8	SAND , white, grey, and yellow, wet, medium to coarse grained.

End of Hole @ 1.8m in sand. Water table encountered at ~1.3m.

TEST: AH2		FIELD pl	H & PEROXID	E RESULTS	
Sample depth (m)	pH₅	30% Peroxide reaction	рН _{FOX}	pH _F . pH _{FOX}	SS=Shell
(m)		reaction			J=Jarosite R=Roots
0.3	6.3	-	6.3	0	R
0.7	7.4	-	7.5	-0.1	-
1.3	7.3	-	7.4	-0.1	-
1.8	7.3	-	7.4	-0.1	-

AUGER HOLE 3 (~RL2.0) – AH3 (Photo 3)

Depth (m)	Material Encountered
0.0 to 0.4	TOPSOIL, dark brown and grey, sandy, dry, fine to medium grained with
	fine trace organic matter.
0.4 to 0.8	SAND, white and grey, dry, medium grained.
0.8 to 1.5	SAND, yellow and brown, dry, fine to coarse grained.
1.5 to 1.8	SAND, grey, wet, medium grained.

End of hole @ 1.8m in sand. Water table encountered at ~1.5m.

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TEST: AH3		FIELD pl	H & PEROXID	E RESULTS	
Sample depth (m)	pH₅	30% Peroxide reaction	pH _{FOX}	pH _F . pH _{FOX}	SS=Shell J=Jarosite R=Roots
0.3	6.3	-	6.4	-0.1	R
0.9	7.7	-	7.7	0	-
1.3	7.9	-	7.8	0.1	-
1.8	7.3	-	7.5	-0.2	-

AUGER HOLE 4 (~RL2.2) – AH4 (Photo 4)

Depth (m)	Material Encountered
0.0 to 0.2	TOPSOIL, dark brown, sandy, dry, fine to medium grained with fine
	trace organic matter.
0.2 to 1.5	SAND, light brown and orange, dry, medium grained.
1.5 to 1.8	SAND, light brown and orange, wet, medium grained.

End of Hole @ 1.8m in sand. Water table encountered at 1.6m.

TEST: AH4		FIELD p	H & PEROXIC	E RESULTS	
Sample depth (m)	pH₅	30% Peroxide reaction	pH _{FOX}	pH _{F-} pH _{FOX}	SS=Shell J=Jarosite R=Roots
0.3	7.0	-	7.0	0	R
1.0	7.3	-	7.2	0.1	-
1.5	7.5	-	7.6	-0.1	-
1.8	7.4	-	7.5	-0.1	-

6. Conclusions

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



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No Acid Sulfate Soils were identified in the test holes. The pH_F levels tested in all auger holes did not fall lower than 6.3. This is above a PH of 4.0 that is an indicator of acid sulfate soils. No Potential Acid Sulfate Soils were identified in the test holes. The measured pH_F levels varied up to 0.2 from the measured pH_{FOX} levels. A movement of 1 unit or more is an indicator of potential acid sulfate soils. In addition, the measured pH_{FOX} for all tests did not fall lower than 6.3. A pH_{FOX} <3 is a strong indicator of potential acid sulfate soils. No observable colour change or sulphurous odours were identified during the peroxide testing. It is likely the varying weak reactions to peroxide testing were due to inclusions in the soil other than sulphides as, where the reaction was strongest, pH_{FOX} changed little from pH_F as it did in most tests.

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

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Appendix 1: Soil Reaction Rating Scale

Reaction Scale
L
М
Н
X
V

Source: DER (2015a)



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



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Photo 2: AH2 – Downhole is from top to bottom.



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



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

