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Attention: Toby Browne and Liezl Dichoso

**PRELIMINARY (DESKTOP) ACID SULFATE SOIL ASSESSMENT AND CONCEPTUAL MANAGEMENT PLAN
PROPOSED BOAT SHED DEVELOPMENT
3 PANIMA PLACE, NEWPORT, NSW**

1 INTRODUCTION

Toby Browne ('the client') commissioned JK Environments (JKE) to undertake a preliminary (desktop) acid sulfate soil (ASS) assessment and prepare a conceptual acid sulfate soil management plan (ASSMP) for the proposed boatshed at 3 Panima Place, Newport, NSW. The site location is shown on Figure 1.

The assessment/management plan was undertaken/prepared generally in accordance with a JKE proposal (Ref: EP55507PD) of 18 November 2021 and written acceptance from the client by email of 22 November 2021.

The aims were to review available desktop information, provide a framework for inspections and sampling, and outline a contingency methodology for the management of ASS materials should such materials be identified.

A geotechnical assessment was previously undertaken for the proposed alterations and additions (including a new boat shed) by JK Geotechnics (JKG) and the results are presented in a separate report (Ref: 34266RDprt, dated 19 August 2021)¹. A summary of relevant information is included in Section 2.1.

1.1 Assessment Guidelines and Background

The ASS assessment and preparation of this report were undertaken with reference to the National Acid Sulfate Soil Guidance (2018) documents and the Acid Sulfate Soil Management Advisory Committee (ASSMAC) Acid Sulfate Soil Manual (1998)².

¹ JKG, (2021). Report to Toby Browne on Geotechnical Assessment for Proposed Alterations and Additions at 3 Panima Place, Newport, NSW (referred to as the 'JKG 2021')

² Acid Sulfate Soils Management Advisory Committee (ASSMAC), (1998). *Acid Sulfate Soils Manual* (ASS Manual 1998)



ASS materials include potential acid sulfate soils (PASS or sulfidic soil materials) and actual acid sulfate soils (AASS or sulfuric soil materials). These are often found in the same profile, with AASS overlying PASS. AASS and PASS are defined further as follows:

- PASS are soil materials which contain Reduced Inorganic Sulfur (RIS) such as pyrite. The field pH of these soils in their undisturbed state is usually more than pH 4 and is commonly neutral to alkaline (pH 7–9). These soil materials are invariably saturated with water in their natural state. Their texture may be peat, clay, loam, silt or sand and is often dark grey in colour and soft in consistence, but these materials may also exhibit colours that are dark brown, or medium to pale grey to white; and
- AASS are soil materials which contained RIS such as pyrite that have undergone oxidation. This oxidation results in low pH (that is pH less than 4) and often a yellow (jarosite) and/or orange to red mottling (ferric iron oxides) in the soil profile. Actual ASS contains Actual Acidity, and commonly also contains RIS (the source of Potential Sulfuric Acidity) as well as Retained Acidity.

Further background information on ASS and the assessment process is provided in the appendices.

1.2 Proposed Development Details

Based on the details provided, it is understood that the proposed development includes demolition of the existing boatshed including retaining walls, floor slab and footings. Excavation into the existing northern sloping site to a maximum depth of approximately 4m Below Ground Level (BGL) and construction of a new larger boat shed over a new concrete slab.

2 SITE INFORMATION AND ASS DESKTOP ASSESSMENT

2.1 Summary of Previous JKG Geotechnical Investigation (JKG 2021)

The JKG site inspection identified that the proposed boat shed is located in the north-western corner of the residential property and the area was occupied by a dilapidated boatshed with a concrete boat ramp leading to the northern foreshore. The lower approximately 1m portion of the brick walls of the boatshed were supporting the adjacent surface levels (including the neighbours to the west). The site typically sloped down to the north at approximately 38°.

The JKG 2021 report indicated that JKG had previously drilled one borehole (BH4) with a hand auger adjacent and to the north-east of the proposed boat shed and behind a retaining wall. Subsurface conditions encountered silty sand and silty clay fill material with traces of building rubble to approximately 1mBGL, where refusal was encountered on inferred shale bedrock. Groundwater seepage was encountered at a depth of 0.7mBGL during drilling BH4. A standing groundwater level was measured at 1.0m upon completion of drilling BH4. JKG anticipated that water encountered within the borehole is most likely influenced by tidal variations. JKGs sampling location plan and BH4 borehole log are attached in the appendices.

2.2 Site Identification

Table 2-1: Site Identification

Site Address:	3 Panima Place, Newport, NSW
Lot & Deposited Plan:	Part of Lot 6 in DP563641
Current Land Use:	Residential
Boatshed Development Area (m²):	Approximately 35m ²
Site Elevation (metres Australian Height Datum – mAHD approx.)	1.4m
Geographical Location (approx.):	Latitude: -33.663024 Longitude: 151.310141

2.3 Regional Geology

The geological map of Sydney (1983)³ indicates the site to be underlain by the Newport Formation of the Narrabeen Group which comprises “interbedded sandstone, shale and laminate”.

2.4 Aerial Imagery

JKE has reviewed the 2018 aerial image for the site available on SIX Maps⁴. The aerial photograph appears to show a bedrock outcrop to the north of the site extending into Old Mangrove Bay. The bedrock outcrop is also shown 2021 Nearmap base aerial image on Figure 1 attached in the appendices. The bedrock outcrop is clearer in the SIX Maps aerial image.

2.5 Acid Sulfate Soil Risk Map

A review of the ASS risk maps prepared by Department of Land and Water Conservation (1997)⁵ indicates that the landward portion of the site is classed as having “no known occurrence” of ASS materials, which is consistent with the geological mapping.

2.6 Pittwater Local Environmental Plan (LEP)

A review of the Pittwater (now part of Northern Beaches Council) LEP 2014 indicates that the landward area of the site is located in ASS risk Class 5. The adjoining portion of the work area to the north within Old Mangrove Bay is located in ASS risk Class 1 (refer to appendices for further details on each risk class).

³ Department of Mineral Resources, (1983). *1:100,000 Geological Map of Sydney (Series 9130)*

⁴ <https://maps.six.nsw.gov.au/>

⁵ Department of Land and Water Conservation, (1997). *1:25,000 Acid Sulfate Soil Risk Map (Series 9130N3, Ed 2)*

3 CONCEPTUAL SITE MODEL FOR PASS MATERIALS

Based on the desktop review the conceptual site model (CSM) for the occurrence of PASS is summarised below:

- The site slopes steeply towards the Old Mangrove Bay and review of aerial images appeared to show a bedrock outcrop extending into the bay;
- JKG borehole BH4 encountered fill to approximately 1.0mBGL, where hand auger refusal was encountered on inferred bedrock. There were no shell fragments or organic odours recorded on the borehole log;
- It is suspected that the existing boat shed is founded on fill/bedrock and that alluvial soils are not present within the proposed boatshed development area; and
- Dewatering will not be required to construct the boatshed, therefore the proposed development will not result in dewatering ASS materials in the adjoining shoreline/Class 1 area.

4 RECOMEDATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

Based on the information reviewed for this assessment, JKE is of the opinion that there is a relatively low potential for ASS materials to be disturbed during the proposed development works described in Section 1.2 of this report.

Following demolition of the existing dilapidated boat shed and removal of the existing concrete slab and retaining walls (i.e. exposure of fill soil and anticipated bedrock), a testpit should be excavated to the proposed maximum bulk excavation depth required for the proposed development. During the testpit excavation, a suitably qualified consultant should inspect the site and testpit to assess for PASS indicators (e.g. alluvial soils, dark soil, organic content, shell content, hydrogen sulfide odours etc).

In the unlikely event that PASS is suspected during the inspection, a representative sample/s should be collected by the suitably qualified consultant and analysed by a NATA registered laboratory using the Chromium Reducible Sulfur (S_{CR}) acid base accounting method. The purpose of the analysis is to establish whether the net acidity results exceed the relevant action criteria defined in the guidelines and, where applicable, provide a baseline liming rate for treatment of PASS associated with subsequent excavations at the site.

In the event that the inspection (and analysis, if required) confirms that the material to be disturbed is not PASS, a letter must be prepared by the consultant to document the inspection findings and draw a conclusion to this effect.

In the event that the inspection and analysis identify PASS, the ASSMP documented in the subsequent sections of this report must be implemented.

5 MANAGEMENT PLAN

The key assumption of this ASSMP is that the soils at the site are PASS.

5.1 Roles and Responsibilities

The primary role and responsibility for implementing this ASSMP is the construction contractor. The construction contractor is responsible for obtaining a copy of this ASSMP and taking reasonable steps so that it is adequately implemented.

The construction contractor (or the client) is to engage a validation consultant to monitor the works and validate the implementation of the ASSMP.

5.2 Preferred Strategies for Management

The preferred strategy for managing environmental risks associated with PASS is to eliminate disturbance of the PASS. Where this cannot occur, disturbance is to be limited to the extent practicable and the disturbance is to be managed under this ASSMP. The strategy for excavated PASS will include ex-situ treatment, followed by waste classification and off-site disposal. The strategy for exposed, in-situ PASS will include in-situ treatment of the surface of the exposed PASS.

Once the design and construction methodologies are finalised and prior to commencement of the works on site, the validation consultant is to undertake a review of these details in consultation with the client/construction contractor. If the scope of the ASSMP is not considered to be adequate to address the potential environmental risks associated with the disturbance of PASS during the development, an addendum or revised ASSMP is to be prepared.

5.3 Management of non-PASS

Non-PASS material does not require any treatment and can be managed appropriately in accordance with the project requirements.

5.4 Management of PASS

Treatment of PASS will occur via the application of an appropriate neutralising agent such as lime. A slightly alkaline, low solubility product such as agricultural lime should be used. This form of lime is chemically stable and any excess lime takes a significant period of time (years) to influence soil pH beyond the depth of application. The lime particles eventually become coated with an insoluble layer of ferrihydrite ($\text{Fe}(\text{OH})_3$) that inhibits further reaction. Long term alteration of groundwater conditions is not expected to occur as a result of the use of lime during the proposed development works.

The construction contractor is to ensure that an appropriate Work Health and Safety Plan (WHSP) is prepared prior to the use of lime.

5.4.1 Exposed PASS Surfaces (in-situ treatment)

For any excavations that expose PASS, treatment of exposed PASS surfaces for in-situ material (e.g. PASS exposed at the base and walls of excavations) is not necessary provided the PASS is maintained wet or is exposed for less than 8 hours. Where excavations expose PASS and these conditions cannot be met, the exposed PASS surfaces should be lightly 'dusted' with lime.

5.4.2 Excavated PASS (ex-situ treatment)

Excavated PASS will be managed by the addition of lime to neutralise acid that may be generated during and after the excavation works. The treated material is then be assigned a waste classification in accordance with the NSW EPA Waste Classification Guidelines - Part 1: Classifying Waste (2014)⁶ and NSW EPA Waste Classification Guidelines - Part 4: Acid Sulfate Soils (2014)⁷, and disposed off-site to landfill.

Reference is to be made to the following table for the ex-situ treatment and management procedure:

Table 5-1: Ex-situ Treatment/Management of PASS

Procedure	Details
Step 1: Lime selection and Liming Rate Calculations	A suitable lime product is to be selected. A neutralising value (NV), effective neutralising value (ENV) and overall liming rate for ex-situ treatment of PASS is to be calculated based on the type of lime (and its properties) selected, the acid base accounting results and in accordance with the ASS Manual 1998.
Step 2: Set up treatment area	The site will likely need to be accessed by a barge and only small quantities of PASS require treatment. Therefore, the treatment should be undertaken in a leak-proof skip bin, or within a similar container.
Step 3: Manage water run-off	Excavated PASS placed in the skip bin should be covered with builder's plastic so that water infiltration does not occur during rain events.
Step 4: Excavation & handling	PASS disturbed during development works should be immediately transferred to the designated treatment area and spread out in 100-150mm thick layers. If possible, the layers should be allowed to dry in order to aid the mixing process. The layers should then be interspersed with the appropriate amount of lime to aid in the effective mixing of lime and soil. Lime should be applied to the excavated material within the treatment area as soon as possible.
Step 5: Lime treatment & validation testing	An excavator or other suitable equipment (as deemed appropriate by the construction contractor) should be used to thoroughly mix the lime through the soil. Once treatment occurs, samples are to be collected from the treated soil at the rates required in the <i>National Acid Sulfate Soil Guidance: National acid sulfate soils sampling and</i>

⁶ NSW EPA, (2014). *Waste Classification Guidelines, Part 1: Classifying Waste*. (referred to as Part 1 of the Waste Classification Guidelines 2014)

⁷ NSW EPA, (2014). *Waste Classification Guidelines, Part 4: Acid Sulfate Soils*. (referred to as Part 4 of the Waste Classification Guidelines 2014)

Procedure	Details
	<i>identification methods manual</i> (2018). A minimum of one sample is required per batch of treated PASS prior to off-site disposal. Field pH may be used as a preliminary indicator where deemed appropriate by the validation consultant. Validation testing is to occur at a NATA accredited laboratory and will include acid base accounting using the chromium reducible sulfur method described in the <i>National Acid Sulfate Soil Guidance: National acid sulfate soils identification and laboratory methods manual</i> (2018). The validation net acidity results should be zero or less than the laboratory practical quantitation limits (PQL).
Step 6: Waste classification and off-site disposal	Following treatment, the material should be tested and assigned a waste classification in accordance with the Parts 1 and 4 of the Waste Classification Guidelines 2014. All neutralised material should be disposed of off-site to a facility licensed by the NSW EPA to accept treated PASS.

5.5 Contingency Plan

In the event of a validation failure for treated material, additional lime must be applied to the PASS in order to effectively neutralise the material, and the material must be re-validated.

5.6 Documentation

On completion of the works requiring management under this ASSMP, a validation report is to be prepared by the validation consultant. The validation report is to document the works completed, present the validation testing results and comment on the adequacy of the overall compliance with the ASSMP. Any other specific conditions imposed by Council on the development consent must also be adequately addressed.

6 LIMITATIONS

The report limitations are outlined below:

- JKE accepts no responsibility for any unidentified AASS or PASS issues at the site. Any unexpected problems/subsurface features that may be encountered during development works should be inspected by an environmental consultant as soon as possible;
- This report has been prepared based on site conditions which existed at the time of the investigation; scope of work and limitation outlined in the JKE proposal; and terms of contract between JKE and the client (as applicable);
- The conclusions presented in this report are based on investigation of conditions at specific locations, chosen to be as representative as possible under the given circumstances, visual observations of the site and immediate surrounds and documents reviewed as described in the report;

- Subsurface soil and rock conditions encountered between investigation locations may be found to be different from those expected. Groundwater conditions may also vary, especially after climatic changes;
- The investigation and preparation of this report have been undertaken in accordance with accepted practice for environmental consultants, with reference to applicable environmental regulatory authority and industry standards, guidelines and the assessment criteria outlined in the report;
- Where information has been provided by third parties, JKE has not undertaken any verification process, except where specifically stated in the report;
- JKE accept no responsibility for potentially asbestos containing materials that may exist at the site. These materials may be associated with demolition of pre-1990 constructed buildings or fill material at the site;
- JKE have not and will not make any determination regarding finances associated with the site;
- Additional investigation work may be required in the event of changes to the proposed development or landuse. JKE should be contacted immediately in such circumstances;
- This report has been prepared for the particular project described and no responsibility is accepted for the use of any part of this report in any other context or for any other purpose;
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- If the client, or any person, provides a copy of this report to any third party, such third party must not rely on this report except with the express written consent of JKE; and
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If you have any questions concerning the contents of this letter please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind Regards



Mitch Delaney
Senior Associate



Brendan Page
Principal Associate

Appendices:

Appendix A: Report Figure

Appendix B: JK Geotechnics Report Information

Appendix C: Information on Acid Sulfate Soils



Appendix A: Report Figure



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AERIAL IMAGE SOURCE: MAPS.AU.NEARMAP.COM - 4/10/21

Title:		SITE LOCATION PLAN	
Location:		3 PANIMA PLACE, NEWPORT, NSW	
Project No:		E34266PD	Figure No: 1
JKEnvironments			

This plan should be read in conjunction with the Environmental report.





Appendix B: JK Geotechnics Report Information

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REPORT EXPLANATION NOTES

INTRODUCTION

These notes have been provided to amplify the geotechnical report in regard to classification methods, field procedures and certain matters relating to the Comments and Recommendations section. Not all notes are necessarily relevant to all reports.

The ground is a product of continuing natural and man-made processes and therefore exhibits a variety of characteristics and properties which vary from place to place and can change with time. Geotechnical engineering involves gathering and assimilating limited facts about these characteristics and properties in order to understand or predict the behaviour of the ground on a particular site under certain conditions. This report may contain such facts obtained by inspection, excavation, probing, sampling, testing or other means of investigation. If so, they are directly relevant only to the ground at the place where and time when the investigation was carried out.

DESCRIPTION AND CLASSIFICATION METHODS

The methods of description and classification of soils and rocks used in this report are based on Australian Standard 1726:2017 'Geotechnical Site Investigations'. In general, descriptions cover the following properties – soil or rock type, colour, structure, strength or density, and inclusions. Identification and classification of soil and rock involves judgement and the Company infers accuracy only to the extent that is common in current geotechnical practice.

Soil types are described according to the predominating particle size and behaviour as set out in the attached soil classification table qualified by the grading of other particles present (eg. sandy clay) as set out below:

Soil Classification	Particle Size
Clay	< 0.002mm
Silt	0.002 to 0.075mm
Sand	0.075 to 2.36mm
Gravel	2.36 to 63mm
Cobbles	63 to 200mm
Boulders	> 200mm

Non-cohesive soils are classified on the basis of relative density, generally from the results of Standard Penetration Test (SPT) as below:

Relative Density	SPT 'N' Value (blows/300mm)
Very loose (VL)	< 4
Loose (L)	4 to 10
Medium dense (MD)	10 to 30
Dense (D)	30 to 50
Very Dense (VD)	> 50

Cohesive soils are classified on the basis of strength (consistency) either by use of a hand penetrometer, vane shear, laboratory testing and/or tactile engineering examination. The strength terms are defined as follows.

Classification	Unconfined Compressive Strength (kPa)	Indicative Undrained Shear Strength (kPa)
Very Soft (VS)	≤ 25	≤ 12
Soft (S)	> 25 and ≤ 50	> 12 and ≤ 25
Firm (F)	> 50 and ≤ 100	> 25 and ≤ 50
Stiff (St)	> 100 and ≤ 200	> 50 and ≤ 100
Very Stiff (VSt)	> 200 and ≤ 400	> 100 and ≤ 200
Hard (Hd)	> 400	> 200
Friable (Fr)	Strength not attainable – soil crumbles	

Rock types are classified by their geological names, together with descriptive terms regarding weathering, strength, defects, etc. Where relevant, further information regarding rock classification is given in the text of the report. In the Sydney Basin, 'shale' is used to describe fissile mudstone, with a weakness parallel to bedding. Rocks with alternating inter-laminations of different grain size (eg. siltstone/claystone and siltstone/fine grained sandstone) is referred to as 'laminite'.

SAMPLING

Sampling is carried out during drilling or from other excavations to allow engineering examination (and laboratory testing where required) of the soil or rock.

Disturbed samples taken during drilling provide information on plasticity, grain size, colour, moisture content, minor constituents and, depending upon the degree of disturbance, some information on strength and structure. Bulk samples are similar but of greater volume required for some test procedures.

Undisturbed samples are taken by pushing a thin-walled sample tube, usually 50mm diameter (known as a U50), into the soil and withdrawing it with a sample of the soil contained in a relatively undisturbed state. Such samples yield information on structure and strength, and are necessary for laboratory determination of shrink-swell behaviour, strength and compressibility. Undisturbed sampling is generally effective only in cohesive soils.

Details of the type and method of sampling used are given on the attached logs.

INVESTIGATION METHODS

The following is a brief summary of investigation methods currently adopted by the Company and some comments on their use and application. All methods except test pits, hand auger drilling and portable Dynamic Cone Penetrometers require the use of a mechanical rig which is commonly mounted on a truck chassis or track base.

Test Pits: These are normally excavated with a backhoe or a tracked excavator, allowing close examination of the insitu soils and 'weaker' bedrock if it is safe to descend into the pit. The depth of penetration is limited to about 3m for a backhoe and up to 6m for a large excavator. Limitations of test pits are the problems associated with disturbance and difficulty of reinstatement and the consequent effects on close-by structures. Care must be taken if construction is to be carried out near test pit locations to either properly recompact the backfill during construction or to design and construct the structure so as not to be adversely affected by poorly compacted backfill at the test pit location.

Hand Auger Drilling: A borehole of 50mm to 100mm diameter is advanced by manually operated equipment. Refusal of the hand auger can occur on a variety of materials such as obstructions within any fill, tree roots, hard clay, gravel or ironstone, cobbles and boulders, and does not necessarily indicate rock level.

Continuous Spiral Flight Augers: The borehole is advanced using 75mm to 115mm diameter continuous spiral flight augers, which are withdrawn at intervals to allow sampling and insitu testing. This is a relatively economical means of drilling in clays and in sands above the water table. Samples are returned to the surface by the flights or may be collected after withdrawal of the auger flights, but they can be very disturbed and layers may become mixed. Information from the auger sampling (as distinct from specific sampling by SPTs or undisturbed samples) is of limited reliability due to mixing or softening of samples by groundwater, or uncertainties as to the original depth of the samples. Augering below the groundwater table is of even lesser reliability than augering above the water table.

Rock Augering: Use can be made of a Tungsten Carbide (TC) bit for auger drilling into rock to indicate rock quality and continuity by variation in drilling resistance and from examination of recovered rock cuttings. This method of investigation is quick and relatively inexpensive but provides only an indication of the likely rock strength and predicted values may be in error by a strength order. Where rock strengths may have a significant impact on construction feasibility or costs, then further investigation by means of cored boreholes may be warranted.

Wash Boring: The borehole is usually advanced by a rotary bit, with water being pumped down the drill rods and returned up the annulus, carrying the drill cuttings. Only major changes in stratification can be assessed from the cuttings, together with some information from "feel" and rate of penetration.

Mud Stabilised Drilling: Either Wash Boring or Continuous Core Drilling can use drilling mud as a circulating fluid to stabilise the borehole. The term 'mud' encompasses a range of products ranging from bentonite to polymers. The mud tends to mask the cuttings and reliable identification is only possible from intermittent intact sampling (eg. from SPT and U50 samples) or from rock coring, etc.

Continuous Core Drilling: A continuous core sample is obtained using a diamond tipped core barrel. Provided full core recovery is achieved (which is not always possible in very low strength rocks and granular soils), this technique provides a very reliable (but relatively expensive) method of investigation. In rocks, NMLC or HQ triple tube core barrels, which give a core of about 50mm and 61mm diameter, respectively, is usually used with water flush. The length of core recovered is compared to the length drilled and any length not recovered is shown as NO CORE. The location of NO CORE recovery is determined on site by the supervising engineer; where the location is uncertain, the loss is placed at the bottom of the drill run.

Standard Penetration Tests: Standard Penetration Tests (SPT) are used mainly in non-cohesive soils, but can also be used in cohesive soils, as a means of indicating density or strength and also of obtaining a relatively undisturbed sample. The test procedure is described in Australian Standard 1289.6.3.1–2004 (R2016) *'Methods of Testing Soils for Engineering Purposes, Soil Strength and Consolidation Tests – Determination of the Penetration Resistance of a Soil – Standard Penetration Test (SPT)'*.

The test is carried out in a borehole by driving a 50mm diameter split sample tube with a tapered shoe, under the impact of a 63.5kg hammer with a free fall of 760mm. It is normal for the tube to be driven in three successive 150mm increments and the 'N' value is taken as the number of blows for the last 300mm. In dense sands, very hard clays or weak rock, the full 450mm penetration may not be practicable and the test is discontinued.

The test results are reported in the following form:

- In the case where full penetration is obtained with successive blow counts for each 150mm of, say, 4, 6 and 7 blows, as

N = 13
4, 6, 7

- In a case where the test is discontinued short of full penetration, say after 15 blows for the first 150mm and 30 blows for the next 40mm, as

N > 30
15, 30/40mm

The results of the test can be related empirically to the engineering properties of the soil.

A modification to the SPT is where the same driving system is used with a solid 60° tipped steel cone of the same diameter as the SPT hollow sampler. The solid cone can be continuously driven for some distance in soft clays or loose sands, or may be used where damage would otherwise occur to the SPT. The results of this Solid Cone Penetration Test (SCPT) are shown as 'N_c' on the borehole logs, together with the number of blows per 150mm penetration.

Cone Penetrometer Testing (CPT) and Interpretation:

The cone penetrometer is sometimes referred to as a Dutch Cone. The test is described in Australian Standard 1289.6.5.1–1999 (R2013) *'Methods of Testing Soils for Engineering Purposes, Soil Strength and Consolidation Tests – Determination of the Static Cone Penetration Resistance of a Soil – Field Test using a Mechanical and Electrical Cone or Friction-Cone Penetrometer'*.

In the tests, a 35mm or 44mm diameter rod with a conical tip is pushed continuously into the soil, the reaction being provided by a specially designed truck or rig which is fitted with a hydraulic ram system. Measurements are made of the end bearing resistance on the cone and the frictional resistance on a separate 134mm or 165mm long sleeve, immediately behind the cone. Transducers in the tip of the assembly are electrically connected by wires passing through the centre of the push rods to an amplifier and recorder unit mounted on the control truck. The CPT does not provide soil sample recovery.

As penetration occurs (at a rate of approximately 20mm per second), the information is output as incremental digital records every 10mm. The results given in this report have been plotted from the digital data.

The information provided on the charts comprise:

- Cone resistance – the actual end bearing force divided by the cross sectional area of the cone – expressed in MPa. There are two scales presented for the cone resistance. The lower scale has a range of 0 to 5MPa and the main scale has a range of 0 to 50MPa. For cone resistance values less than 5MPa, the plot will appear on both scales.
- Sleeve friction – the frictional force on the sleeve divided by the surface area – expressed in kPa.
- Friction ratio – the ratio of sleeve friction to cone resistance, expressed as a percentage.

The ratios of the sleeve resistance to cone resistance will vary with the type of soil encountered, with higher relative friction in clays than in sands. Friction ratios of 1% to 2% are commonly encountered in sands and occasionally very soft clays, rising to 4% to 10% in stiff clays and peats. Soil descriptions based on cone resistance and friction ratios are only inferred and must not be considered as exact.

Correlations between CPT and SPT values can be developed for both sands and clays but may be site specific.

Interpretation of CPT values can be made to empirically derive modulus or compressibility values to allow calculation of foundation settlements.

Stratification can be inferred from the cone and friction traces and from experience and information from nearby boreholes etc. Where shown, this information is presented for general guidance, but must be regarded as interpretive. The test method provides a continuous profile of engineering properties but, where precise information on soil classification is required, direct drilling and sampling may be preferable.

There are limitations when using the CPT in that it may not penetrate obstructions within any fill, thick layers of hard clay and very dense sand, gravel and weathered bedrock. Normally a 'dummy' cone is pushed through fill to protect the equipment. No information is recorded by the 'dummy' probe.

Flat Dilatometer Test: The flat dilatometer (DMT), also known as the Marchetti Dilometer comprises a stainless steel blade having a flat, circular steel membrane mounted flush on one side.

The blade is connected to a control unit at ground surface by a pneumatic-electrical tube running through the insertion rods. A gas tank, connected to the control unit by a pneumatic cable, supplies the gas pressure required to expand the membrane. The control unit is equipped with a pressure regulator, pressure gauges, an audio-visual signal and vent valves.

The blade is advanced into the ground using our CPT rig or one of our drilling rigs, and can be driven into the ground using an SPT hammer. As soon as the blade is in place, the membrane is inflated, and the pressure required to lift the membrane (approximately 0.1mm) is recorded. The pressure then required to lift the centre of the membrane by an additional 1mm is recorded. The membrane is then deflated before pushing to the next depth increment, usually 200mm down. The pressure readings are corrected for membrane stiffness.

The DMT is used to measure material index (I_D), horizontal stress index (K_D), and dilatometer modulus (E_D). Using established correlations, the DMT results can also be used to assess the 'at rest' earth pressure coefficient (K_0), over-consolidation ratio (OCR), undrained shear strength (C_u), friction angle (ϕ), coefficient of consolidation (C_h), coefficient of permeability (K_h), unit weight (γ), and vertical drained constrained modulus (M).

The seismic dilatometer (SDMT) is the combination of the DMT with an add-on seismic module for the measurement of shear wave velocity (V_s). Using established correlations, the SDMT results can also be used to assess the small strain modulus (G_0).

Portable Dynamic Cone Penetrometers: Portable Dynamic Cone Penetrometer (DCP) tests are carried out by driving a 16mm diameter rod with a 20mm diameter cone end with a 9kg hammer dropping 510mm. The test is described in Australian Standard 1289.6.3.2–1997 (R2013) *'Methods of Testing Soils for Engineering Purposes, Soil Strength and Consolidation Tests – Determination of the Penetration Resistance of a Soil – 9kg Dynamic Cone Penetrometer Test'*.

The results are used to assess the relative compaction of fill, the relative density of granular soils, and the strength of cohesive soils. Using established correlations, the DCP test results can also be used to assess California Bearing Ratio (CBR).

Refusal of the DCP can occur on a variety of materials such as obstructions within any fill, tree roots, hard clay, gravel or ironstone, cobbles and boulders, and does not necessarily indicate rock level.

Vane Shear Test: The vane shear test is used to measure the undrained shear strength (C_u) of typically very soft to firm fine grained cohesive soils. The vane shear is normally performed in the bottom of a borehole, but can be completed from surface level, the bottom and sides of test pits, and on recovered undisturbed tube samples (when using a hand vane).

The vane comprises four rectangular blades arranged in the form of a cross on the end of a thin rod, which is coupled to the bottom of a drill rod string when used in a borehole. The size of the vane is dependent on the strength of the fine grained cohesive soils; that is, larger vanes are normally used for very low strength soils. For borehole testing, the size of the vane can be limited by the size of the casing that is used.

For testing inside a borehole, a device is used at the top of the casing, which suspends the vane and rods so that they do not sink under self-weight into the 'soft' soils beyond the depth at which the test is to be carried out. A calibrated torque head is used to rotate the rods and vane and to measure the resistance of the vane to rotation.

With the vane in position, torque is applied to cause rotation of the vane at a constant rate. A rate of 6° per minute is the common rotation rate. Rotation is continued until the soil is sheared and the maximum torque has been recorded. This value is then used to calculate the undrained shear strength. The vane is then rotated rapidly a number of times and the operation repeated until a constant torque reading is obtained. This torque value is used to calculate the remoulded shear strength. Where appropriate, friction on the vane rods is measured and taken into account in the shear strength calculation.

LOGS

The borehole or test pit logs presented herein are an engineering and/or geological interpretation of the subsurface conditions, and their reliability will depend to some extent on the frequency of sampling and the method of drilling or excavation. Ideally, continuous undisturbed sampling or core drilling will enable the most reliable assessment, but is not always practicable or possible to justify on economic grounds. In any case, the boreholes or test pits represent only a very small sample of the total subsurface conditions.

The terms and symbols used in preparation of the logs are defined in the following pages.

Interpretation of the information shown on the logs, and its application to design and construction, should therefore take into account the spacing of boreholes or test pits, the method of drilling or excavation, the frequency of sampling and testing and the possibility of other than 'straight line' variations between the boreholes or test pits. Subsurface conditions between boreholes or test pits may vary significantly from conditions encountered at the borehole or test pit locations.

GROUNDWATER

Where groundwater levels are measured in boreholes, there are several potential problems:

- Although groundwater may be present, in low permeability soils it may enter the hole slowly or perhaps not at all during the time it is left open.
- A localised perched water table may lead to an erroneous indication of the true water table.
- Water table levels will vary from time to time with seasons or recent weather changes and may not be the same at the time of construction.
- The use of water or mud as a drilling fluid will mask any groundwater inflow. Water has to be blown out of the hole and drilling mud must be washed out of the hole or 'reverted' chemically if reliable water observations are to be made.

More reliable measurements can be made by installing standpipes which are read after the groundwater level has stabilised at intervals ranging from several days to perhaps weeks for low permeability soils. Piezometers, sealed in a particular stratum, may be advisable in low permeability soils or where there may be interference from perched water tables or surface water.

FILL

The presence of fill materials can often be determined only by the inclusion of foreign objects (eg. bricks, steel, etc) or by distinctly unusual colour, texture or fabric. Identification of the extent of fill materials will also depend on investigation methods and frequency. Where natural soils similar to those at the site are used for fill, it may be difficult with limited testing and sampling to reliably assess the extent of the fill.

The presence of fill materials is usually regarded with caution as the possible variation in density, strength and material type is much greater than with natural soil deposits. Consequently, there is an increased risk of adverse engineering characteristics or behaviour. If the volume and quality of fill is of importance to a project, then frequent test pit excavations are preferable to boreholes.

LABORATORY TESTING

Laboratory testing is normally carried out in accordance with Australian Standard 1289 *'Methods of Testing Soils for Engineering Purposes'* or appropriate NSW Government Roads & Maritime Services (RMS) test methods. Details of the test procedure used are given on the individual report forms.

ENGINEERING REPORTS

Engineering reports are prepared by qualified personnel and are based on the information obtained and on current engineering standards of interpretation and analysis. Where the report has been prepared for a specific design proposal (eg. a three storey building) the information and interpretation may not be relevant if the design proposal is changed (eg. to a twenty storey building). If this happens, the Company will be pleased to review the report and the sufficiency of the investigation work.

Reasonable care is taken with the report as it relates to interpretation of subsurface conditions, discussion of geotechnical aspects and recommendations or suggestions for design and construction. However, the Company cannot always anticipate or assume responsibility for:

- Unexpected variations in ground conditions – the potential for this will be partially dependent on borehole spacing and sampling frequency as well as investigation technique.
- Changes in policy or interpretation of policy by statutory authorities.
- The actions of persons or contractors responding to commercial pressures.
- Details of the development that the Company could not reasonably be expected to anticipate.

If these occur, the Company will be pleased to assist with investigation or advice to resolve any problems occurring.

SITE ANOMALIES

In the event that conditions encountered on site during construction appear to vary from those which were expected from the information contained in the report, the Company requests that it immediately be notified. Most problems are much more readily resolved when conditions are exposed rather than at some later stage, well after the event.

REPRODUCTION OF INFORMATION FOR CONTRACTUAL PURPOSES

Where information obtained from this investigation is provided for tendering purposes, it is recommended that all information, including the written report and discussion, be made available. In circumstances where the discussion or comments section is not relevant to the contractual situation, it may be appropriate to prepare a specially edited document. The Company would

be pleased to assist in this regard and/or to make additional report copies available for contract purposes at a nominal charge.

Copyright in all documents (such as drawings, borehole or test pit logs, reports and specifications) provided by the Company shall remain the property of Jeffery and Katauskas Pty Ltd. Subject to the payment of all fees due, the Client alone shall have a licence to use the documents provided for the sole purpose of completing the project to which they relate. Licence to use the documents may be revoked without notice if the Client is in breach of any obligation to make a payment to us.

REVIEW OF DESIGN

Where major civil or structural developments are proposed or where only a limited investigation has been completed or where the geotechnical conditions/constraints are quite complex, it is prudent to have a joint design review which involves an experienced geotechnical engineer/engineering geologist.

SITE INSPECTION

The Company will always be pleased to provide engineering inspection services for geotechnical aspects of work to which this report is related.

Requirements could range from:

- i) a site visit to confirm that conditions exposed are no worse than those interpreted, to
- ii) a visit to assist the contractor or other site personnel in identifying various soil/rock types and appropriate footing or pile founding depths, or
- iii) full time engineering presence on site.

SYMBOL LEGENDS

SOIL



FILL



TOPSOIL



CLAY (CL, CI, CH)



SILT (ML, MH)



SAND (SP, SW)



GRAVEL (GP, GW)



SANDY CLAY (CL, CI, CH)



SILTY CLAY (CL, CI, CH)



CLAYEY SAND (SC)



SILTY SAND (SM)



GRAVELLY CLAY (CL, CI, CH)



CLAYEY GRAVEL (GC)



SANDY SILT (ML, MH)



PEAT AND HIGHLY ORGANIC SOILS (Pt)

ROCK



CONGLOMERATE



SANDSTONE



SHALE/MUDSTONE



SILTSTONE



CLAYSTONE



COAL



LAMINITE



LIMESTONE



PHYLLITE, SCHIST



TUFF



GRANITE, GABBRO



DOLERITE, DIORITE



BASALT, ANDESITE



QUARTZITE

OTHER MATERIALS



BRICKS OR PAVERS



CONCRETE



ASPHALTIC CONCRETE

CLASSIFICATION OF COARSE AND FINE GRAINED SOILS

Major Divisions	Group Symbol	Typical Names	Field Classification of Sand and Gravel	Laboratory Classification	
Coarse grained soil (more than 65% of soil excluding oversize fraction is greater than 0.075mm)	GRAVEL (more than half of coarse fraction is larger than 2.36mm)	GW	Gravel and gravel-sand mixtures, little or no fines	Wide range in grain size and substantial amounts of all intermediate sizes, not enough fines to bind coarse grains, no dry strength	≤ 5% fines $C_u > 4$ $1 < C_c < 3$
		GP	Gravel and gravel-sand mixtures, little or no fines, uniform gravels	Predominantly one size or range of sizes with some intermediate sizes missing, not enough fines to bind coarse grains, no dry strength	≤ 5% fines Fails to comply with above
		GM	Gravel-silt mixtures and gravel-sand-silt mixtures	'Dirty' materials with excess of non-plastic fines, zero to medium dry strength	≥ 12% fines, fines are silty Fines behave as silt
		GC	Gravel-clay mixtures and gravel-sand-clay mixtures	'Dirty' materials with excess of plastic fines, medium to high dry strength	≥ 12% fines, fines are clayey Fines behave as clay
	SAND (more than half of coarse fraction is smaller than 2.36mm)	SW	Sand and gravel-sand mixtures, little or no fines	Wide range in grain size and substantial amounts of all intermediate sizes, not enough fines to bind coarse grains, no dry strength	≤ 5% fines $C_u > 6$ $1 < C_c < 3$
		SP	Sand and gravel-sand mixtures, little or no fines	Predominantly one size or range of sizes with some intermediate sizes missing, not enough fines to bind coarse grains, no dry strength	≤ 5% fines Fails to comply with above
		SM	Sand-silt mixtures	'Dirty' materials with excess of non-plastic fines, zero to medium dry strength	≥ 12% fines, fines are silty N/A
		SC	Sand-clay mixtures	'Dirty' materials with excess of plastic fines, medium to high dry strength	≥ 12% fines, fines are clayey N/A

Laboratory Classification Criteria

A well graded coarse grained soil is one for which the coefficient of uniformity $C_u > 4$ and the coefficient of curvature $1 < C_c < 3$. Otherwise, the soil is poorly graded. These coefficients are given by:

$$C_u = \frac{D_{60}}{D_{10}} \quad \text{and} \quad C_c = \frac{(D_{30})^2}{D_{10} D_{60}}$$

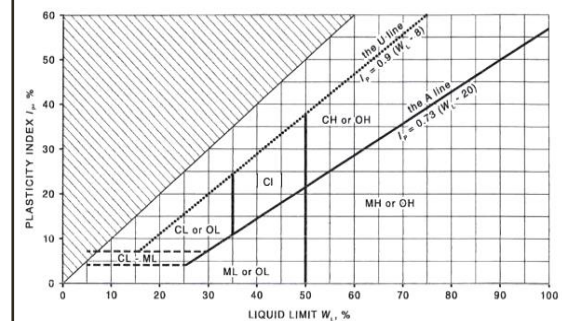
Where D_{10} , D_{30} and D_{60} are those grain sizes for which 10%, 30% and 60% of the soil grains, respectively, are smaller.

NOTES:

- For a coarse grained soil with a fines content between 5% and 12%, the soil is given a dual classification comprising the two group symbols separated by a dash; for example, for a poorly graded gravel with between 5% and 12% silt fines, the classification is GP-GM.
- Where the grading is determined from laboratory tests, it is defined by coefficients of curvature (C_c) and uniformity (C_u) derived from the particle size distribution curve.
- Clay soils with liquid limits $> 35\%$ and $\leq 50\%$ may be classified as being of medium plasticity.
- The U line on the Modified Casagrande Chart is an approximate upper bound for most natural soils.

Major Divisions		Group Symbol	Typical Names	Field Classification of Silt and Clay			Laboratory Classification
				Dry Strength	Dilatancy	Toughness	% < 0.075mm
ine grained soils (more than 35% of soil excluding oversize fraction is less than 0.075mm)	SILT and CLAY (low to medium plasticity)	ML	Inorganic silt and very fine sand, rock flour, silty or clayey fine sand or silt with low plasticity	None to low	Slow to rapid	Low	Below A line
		CL, CI	Inorganic clay of low to medium plasticity, gravelly clay, sandy clay	Medium to high	None to slow	Medium	Above A line
		OL	Organic silt	Low to medium	Slow	Low	Below A line
	SILT and CLAY (high plasticity)	MH	Inorganic silt	Low to medium	None to slow	Low to medium	Below A line
		CH	Inorganic clay of high plasticity	High to very high	None	High	Above A line
		OH	Organic clay of medium to high plasticity, organic silt	Medium to high	None to very slow	Low to medium	Below A line
	Highly organic soil	Pt	Peat, highly organic soil	–	–	–	–

Modified Casagrande Chart for Classifying Silts and Clays according to their Behaviour



LOG SYMBOLS

Log Column	Symbol	Definition
Groundwater Record	▼	Standing water level. Time delay following completion of drilling/excavation may be shown.
	C	Extent of borehole/test pit collapse shortly after drilling/excavation.
	▶	Groundwater seepage into borehole or test pit noted during drilling or excavation.
Samples	ES	Sample taken over depth indicated, for environmental analysis.
	U50	Undisturbed 50mm diameter tube sample taken over depth indicated.
	DB	Bulk disturbed sample taken over depth indicated.
	DS	Small disturbed bag sample taken over depth indicated.
	ASB	Soil sample taken over depth indicated, for asbestos analysis.
	ASS	Soil sample taken over depth indicated, for acid sulfate soil analysis.
	SAL	Soil sample taken over depth indicated, for salinity analysis.
Field Tests	N = 17 4, 7, 10	Standard Penetration Test (SPT) performed between depths indicated by lines. Individual figures show blows per 150mm penetration. 'Refusal' refers to apparent hammer refusal within the corresponding 150mm depth increment.
	N _c = 5 7 3R	Solid Cone Penetration Test (SCPT) performed between depths indicated by lines. Individual figures show blows per 150mm penetration for 60° solid cone driven by SPT hammer. 'R' refers to apparent hammer refusal within the corresponding 150mm depth increment.
	VNS = 25 PID = 100	Vane shear reading in kPa of undrained shear strength. Photoionisation detector reading in ppm (soil sample headspace test).
Moisture Condition (Fine Grained Soils) (Coarse Grained Soils)	w > PL	Moisture content estimated to be greater than plastic limit.
	w ≈ PL	Moisture content estimated to be approximately equal to plastic limit.
	w < PL	Moisture content estimated to be less than plastic limit.
	w ≈ LL	Moisture content estimated to be near liquid limit.
	w > LL	Moisture content estimated to be wet of liquid limit.
	D	DRY – runs freely through fingers.
	M	MOIST – does not run freely but no free water visible on soil surface.
	W	WET – free water visible on soil surface.
Strength (Consistency) Cohesive Soils	VS	VERY SOFT – unconfined compressive strength ≤ 25kPa.
	S	SOFT – unconfined compressive strength > 25kPa and ≤ 50kPa.
	F	FIRM – unconfined compressive strength > 50kPa and ≤ 100kPa.
	St	STIFF – unconfined compressive strength > 100kPa and ≤ 200kPa.
	VSt	VERY STIFF – unconfined compressive strength > 200kPa and ≤ 400kPa.
	Hd	HARD – unconfined compressive strength > 400kPa.
	Fr	FRIABLE – strength not attainable, soil crumbles.
	()	Bracketed symbol indicates estimated consistency based on tactile examination or other assessment.
Density Index/ Relative Density (Cohesionless Soils)	VL	VERY LOOSE
	L	LOOSE
	MD	MEDIUM DENSE
	D	DENSE
	VD	VERY DENSE
	()	Bracketed symbol indicates estimated density based on ease of drilling or other assessment.
Hand Penetrometer Readings	300	Measures reading in kPa of unconfined compressive strength. Numbers indicate individual test results on representative undisturbed material unless noted otherwise.
	250	



Log Column	Symbol	Definition
Remarks	'V' bit 'TC' bit T_{60} Soil Origin	Hardened steel 'V' shaped bit. Twin pronged tungsten carbide bit. Penetration of auger string in mm under static load of rig applied by drill head hydraulics without rotation of augers. The geological origin of the soil can generally be described as: RESIDUAL – soil formed directly from insitu weathering of the underlying rock. No visible structure or fabric of the parent rock. EXTREMELY WEATHERED – soil formed directly from insitu weathering of the underlying rock. Material is of soil strength but retains the structure and/or fabric of the parent rock. ALLUVIAL – soil deposited by creeks and rivers. ESTUARINE – soil deposited in coastal estuaries, including sediments caused by inflowing creeks and rivers, and tidal currents. MARINE – soil deposited in a marine environment. AEOLIAN – soil carried and deposited by wind. COLLUVIAL – soil and rock debris transported downslope by gravity, with or without the assistance of flowing water. Colluvium is usually a thick deposit formed from a landslide. The description 'slopewash' is used for thinner surficial deposits. LITTORAL – beach deposited soil.

Classification of Material Weathering

Term		Abbreviation		Definition
Residual Soil		RS		Material is weathered to such an extent that it has soil properties. Mass structure and material texture and fabric of original rock are no longer visible, but the soil has not been significantly transported.
Extremely Weathered		XW		Material is weathered to such an extent that it has soil properties. Mass structure and material texture and fabric of original rock are still visible.
Highly Weathered	Distinctly Weathered (Note 1)	HW	DW	The whole of the rock material is discoloured, usually by iron staining or bleaching to the extent that the colour of the original rock is not recognisable. Rock strength is significantly changed by weathering. Some primary minerals have weathered to clay minerals. Porosity may be increased by leaching, or may be decreased due to deposition of weathering products in pores.
Moderately Weathered		MW		The whole of the rock material is discoloured, usually by iron staining or bleaching to the extent that the colour of the original rock is not recognisable, but shows little or no change of strength from fresh rock.
Slightly Weathered		SW		Rock is partially discoloured with staining or bleaching along joints but shows little or no change of strength from fresh rock.
Fresh		FR		Rock shows no sign of decomposition of individual minerals or colour changes.

NOTE 1: The term 'Distinctly Weathered' is used where it is not practicable to distinguish between 'Highly Weathered' and 'Moderately Weathered' rock. 'Distinctly Weathered' is defined as follows: 'Rock strength usually changed by weathering. The rock may be highly discoloured, usually by iron staining. Porosity may be increased by leaching, or may be decreased due to deposition of weathering products in pores'. There is some change in rock strength.

Rock Material Strength Classification

Term	Abbreviation	Uniaxial Compressive Strength (MPa)	Guide to Strength	
			Point Load Strength Index $Is_{(50)}$ (MPa)	Field Assessment
Very Low Strength	VL	0.6 to 2	0.03 to 0.1	Material crumbles under firm blows with sharp end of pick; can be peeled with knife; too hard to cut a triaxial sample by hand. Pieces up to 30mm thick can be broken by finger pressure.
Low Strength	L	2 to 6	0.1 to 0.3	Easily scored with a knife; indentations 1mm to 3mm show in the specimen with firm blows of the pick point; has dull sound under hammer. A piece of core 150mm long by 50mm diameter may be broken by hand. Sharp edges of core may be friable and break during handling.
Medium Strength	M	6 to 20	0.3 to 1	Scored with a knife; a piece of core 150mm long by 50mm diameter can be broken by hand with difficulty.
High Strength	H	20 to 60	1 to 3	A piece of core 150mm long by 50mm diameter cannot be broken by hand but can be broken by a pick with a single firm blow; rock rings under hammer.
Very High Strength	VH	60 to 200	3 to 10	Hand specimen breaks with pick after more than one blow; rock rings under hammer.
Extremely High Strength	EH	> 200	> 10	Specimen requires many blows with geological pick to break through intact material; rock rings under hammer.

Abbreviations Used in Defect Description

Cored Borehole Log Column	Symbol Abbreviation	Description	
Point Load Strength Index	• 0.6	Axial point load strength index test result (MPa)	
	x 0.6	Diametral point load strength index test result (MPa)	
Defect Details	– Type		
	Be	Parting – bedding or cleavage	
	CS	Clay seam	
	Cr	Crushed/sheared seam or zone	
	J	Joint	
	Jh	Healed joint	
	Ji	Incipient joint	
	XWS	Extremely weathered seam	
	– Orientation	Degrees	Defect orientation is measured relative to normal to the core axis (ie. relative to the horizontal for a vertical borehole)
	– Shape	P	Planar
		C	Curved
		Un	Undulating
		St	Stepped
		Ir	Irregular
	– Roughness	Vr	Very rough
		R	Rough
		S	Smooth
		Po	Polished
		Sl	Slickensided
	– Infill Material	Ca	Calcite
		Cb	Carbonaceous
		Clay	Clay
		Fe	Iron
		Qz	Quartz
		Py	Pyrite
	– Coatings	Cn	Clean
		Sn	Stained – no visible coating, surface is discoloured
		Vn	Veneer – visible, too thin to measure, may be patchy
		Ct	Coating ≤ 1mm thick
		Filled	Coating > 1mm thick
	– Thickness	mm.t	Defect thickness measured in millimetres



Appendix C: Information on Acid Sulfate Soils

A. Background

Acid Sulfate Soil (ASS) is formed from iron rich alluvial sediments and sulfate (found in seawater) in the presence of sulfate reducing bacteria and plentiful organic matter. These conditions are generally found in mangroves, salt marsh vegetation or tidal areas and at the bottom of coastal rivers and lakes. ASS materials are distinguished from other soil or sediment materials (referred to as 'soil materials' throughout the National Acid Sulfate Soils Guidance) by having properties and behaviour that have either:

- 1) Been affected considerably by the oxidation of Reduced Inorganic Sulfur (RIS), or
- 2) The capacity to be affected considerably by the oxidation of their RIS constituents.

Acid sulfate soil materials include potential acid sulfate soils (PASS or sulfidic soil materials) and actual acid sulfate soils (AASS or sulfuric soil materials). These are often found in the same profile, with AASS overlying PASS. PASS and AASS are defined further below:

- PASS are soil materials which contain RIS such as pyrite. The field pH of these soils in their undisturbed state is usually more than pH 4 and is commonly neutral to alkaline (pH 7–9). These soil materials are invariably saturated with water in their natural state. Their texture may be peat, clay, loam, silt or sand and is often dark grey in colour and soft in consistence, but these materials may also exhibit colours that are dark brown, or medium to pale grey to white; and
- AASS are soil materials which contained RIS such as pyrite that have undergone oxidation. This oxidation results in low pH (that is pH less than 4) and often a yellow (jarosite) and/or orange to red mottling (ferric iron oxides) in the soil profile. Actual ASS contains Actual Acidity, and commonly also contains RIS (the source of Potential Sulfuric Acidity) as well as Retained Acidity.

B. The ASS Planning Maps

The ASS planning maps provide an indication of the relative potential for disturbance of ASS to occur at locations within the council area. These maps do not provide an indication of the actual occurrence of ASS at a site or the likely severity of the conditions.

The maps are divided into five classes dependent upon the type of activities/works that if undertaken, may represent an environmental risk through the development of acidic conditions associated with ASS:

Table 1: Risk Classes

Risk Class	Description
Class 1	All works.
Class 2	All works below existing ground level and works by which the water table is likely to be lowered.
Class 3	Works at depths beyond 1m below existing ground level or works by which the water table is likely to be lowered beyond 1m below existing ground level.
Class 4	Works at depths beyond 2m below existing ground level or works by which the water table is likely to be lowered beyond 2m below existing ground level.
Class 5	Works within 500m of adjacent Class 1, 2, 3, 4 land which are likely to lower the water table below 1m AHD on the adjacent land.

C. The ASS Risk Maps

The ASS risk maps provide an indication of the probability of occurrence of ASS materials at a particular location based on interpretation from geological and soil landscape maps. The maps provide classes based on high probability, low probability, no known occurrence and areas of disturbed terrain (site specific assessment necessary) and the likely depth at which ASS materials are likely to be encountered.

D. Interpretation of ASS Field Tests

Tables A1 and A2 below provide some guidance on the interpretation of pH_F and pH_{FOX} test results, as detailed in the *National Acid Sulfate Soil Guidance: National acid sulfate soils sampling and identification methods manual* (2018):

Table A1: Interpretation of some pH_F test ranges

pH value	Result	Comments
$pH_F \leq 4$, jarosite not observed in the soil layer/horizon	May indicate an AASS indicating previous oxidation of RIS or may indicate naturally occurring, non ASS soils.	Generally not conclusive as naturally occurring, non ASS soils, such as many organic soils (for example peats) and heavily leached soils, often also return $pH_F \leq 4$.
$pH_F \leq 4$, jarosite observed in the soil layer/horizon	The soil material is an AASS.	Jarosite and other iron precipitate minerals in ASS such as schwertmannite require a $pH < 4$ to form and indicate prior oxidation of RIS.
$pH_F > 7$	Expected in waterlogged, unoxidised, or poorly drained soils.	Marine muds commonly have a $pH > 7$ which reflects a seawater ($pH\ 8.2$) influence. Oxidation of samples with H_2O_2 can help indicate if the soil materials contain RIS.

Source: Adapted from DER (2015a).

Table A2: Interpretation of pH_{FOX} test results

pH value and reaction	Result	Comments
Strong reaction of soil with H_2O_2 (that is X or V)	Useful indicator of the presence of RIS but cannot be used alone	Organic rich substrates such as peat and coffee rock, and soil constituents like manganese oxides, can also cause a reaction. Care must be exercised in interpreting these results. Laboratory analyses are required to confirm if appreciable RIS is present.
pH_{FOX} value at least one unit below field pH_F and strong reaction with H_2O_2 (that is X or V)	May indicate PASS	The difference between pH_F and pH_{FOX} is termed the ΔpH . Generally the larger the ΔpH the more indicative of PASS. The lower the final pH_{FOX} the better the likelihood of an appreciable RIS content. For example, a change from pH_F of 8 to pH_{FOX} of 7 (that is a ΔpH of 1) would not indicate PASS, however, a unit change from pH_F of 3.5 to pH_{FOX} of 2.5 would be indicative of PASS. Laboratory analyses are required to confirm if appreciable RIS is present.
$pH_{FOX} < 3$, large pH and a strong reaction with H_2O_2 (that is X or V)	Strongly indicates PASS	The lower the pH_{FOX} below 3, the greater the likelihood that appreciable RIS is present. A combination of all three parameters – pH_{FOX} , ΔpH and reaction strength – gives the



pH value and reaction	Result	Comments
		best indication of PASS. Laboratory analyses are required to confirm that appreciable RIS is present.
A pH _{FOX} 3–4 and Low, Medium or Strong reaction with H ₂ O ₂	Inconclusive	RIS may be present; however, organic matter may also be responsible for the decrease in pH. Laboratory analyses are required to confirm the presence of RIS.
pH _{FOX} 4–5	Inconclusive	RIS may be present in small quantities, or poorly reactive under rapid oxidation, or the sample may contain shell/ carbonate which neutralises some or all acid produced on oxidation. Equally, the pH _{FOX} value may be due to the production of organic acids with no RIS present. Laboratory analyses are required to confirm if appreciable RIS is present.
pH _{FOX} > 5, small or no pH, but Low, Medium or Strong reaction with H ₂ O ₂	Inconclusive	For neutral to alkaline pH with shell or white concretions, the fizz test with 1 M HCl can be used to identify the presence of carbonates. Laboratory analyses are required to confirm if appreciable RIS is present and further testing is required to confirm that effective self-neutralising materials are present.

Source: Adapted from DER (2015a).