

SYMBOLS AND TERMS USED ON BOREHOLE AND TEST PIT RECORDS

SOIL DESCRIPTION

Terminology describing common soil genesis:

<i>Topsoil</i>	- mixture of soil and humus capable of supporting vegetative growth
<i>Peat</i>	- mixture of visible and invisible fragments of decayed organic matter
<i>Till</i>	- unstratified glacial deposit which may range from clay to boulders
<i>Fill</i>	- material below the surface identified as placed by humans (excluding buried services)

Terminology describing soil structure:

<i>Desiccated</i>	- having visible signs of weathering by oxidization of clay minerals, shrinkage cracks, etc.
<i>Fissured</i>	- having cracks, and hence a blocky structure
<i>Varved</i>	- composed of regular alternating layers of silt and clay
<i>Stratified</i>	- composed of alternating successions of different soil types, e.g. silt and sand
<i>Layer</i>	- > 75 mm in thickness
<i>Seam</i>	- 2 mm to 75 mm in thickness
<i>Parting</i>	- < 2 mm in thickness

Terminology describing soil types:

The classification of soil types are made on the basis of grain size and plasticity in accordance with the Modified Unified Soil Classification System (MUSCS) and in accordance with the Canadian Foundation Engineering Manual 4th Edition (Canadian Geotechnical Society, 2006). The classification excludes particles larger than 75 mm (3 inches). The MUSCS provides a group symbol (e.g. SM) and group name (e.g. silty sand) for identification.

Terminology describing cobbles, boulders, and non-matrix materials (organic matter or debris):

Terminology describing materials outside the USCS, (e.g. particles larger than 76 mm, visible organic matter, construction debris) is based upon the proportion of these materials present:

<i>Trace, or occasional</i>	Less than 10%
<i>Some</i>	10-20%
<i>Frequent</i>	> 20%

Terminology describing compactness of cohesionless soils:

The standard terminology to describe cohesionless soils includes compactness (formerly "relative density"), as determined by the Standard Penetration Test N-Value (also known as N-Index). A relationship between compactness condition and N-Value is shown in the following table.

Compactness Condition	SPT N-Value
<i>Very Loose</i>	<4
<i>Loose</i>	4-10
<i>Compact</i>	10-30
<i>Dense</i>	30-50
<i>Very Dense</i>	>50

Terminology describing consistency of cohesive soils:

The standard terminology to describe cohesive soils includes the consistency, which is based on undrained shear strength as measured by *in situ* vane tests, penetrometer tests, or unconfined compression tests.

Consistency	Undrained Shear Strength	
	kips/sq.ft.	kPa
<i>Very Soft</i>	<0.25	<12.5
<i>Soft</i>	0.25 - 0.5	12.5 - 25
<i>Firm</i>	0.5 - 1.0	25 - 50
<i>Stiff</i>	1.0 - 2.0	50 - 100
<i>Very Stiff</i>	2.0 - 4.0	100 - 200
<i>Hard</i>	>4.0	>200



ROCK DESCRIPTION

Terminology describing rock quality:

RQD	Rock Mass Quality
0-25	<i>Very Poor</i>
25-50	<i>Poor</i>
50-75	<i>Fair</i>
75-90	<i>Good</i>
90-100	<i>Excellent</i>

Rock quality classification is based on a modified core recovery percentage (RQD) in which all pieces of sound core over 100 mm long are counted as recovery. The smaller pieces are considered to be due to close shearing, jointing, faulting, or weathering in the rock mass and are not counted. RQD was originally intended to be done on NW core; however, it can be used on different core sizes if the bulk of the fractures caused by drilling stresses are easily distinguishable from *in situ* fractures. The terminology describing rock mass quality based on RQD is subjective and is underlain by the presumption that sound strong rock is of higher engineering value than fractured weak rock.

Terminology describing rock mass:

Spacing (mm)	Joint Classification	Bedding, Laminations, Bands
> 6000	<i>Extremely Wide</i>	-
2000-6000	<i>Very Wide</i>	<i>Very Thick</i>
600-2000	<i>Wide</i>	<i>Thick</i>
200-600	<i>Moderate</i>	<i>Medium</i>
60-200	<i>Close</i>	<i>Thin</i>
20-60	<i>Very Close</i>	<i>Very Thin</i>
<20	<i>Extremely Close</i>	<i>Laminated</i>
<6	-	<i>Thinly Laminated</i>

Terminology describing rock strength:

Strength Classification	Unconfined Compressive Strength (MPa)
<i>Extremely Weak</i>	< 1
<i>Very Weak</i>	1 – 5
<i>Weak</i>	5 – 25
<i>Medium Strong</i>	25 – 50
<i>Strong</i>	50 – 100
<i>Very Strong</i>	100 – 250
<i>Extremely Strong</i>	> 250

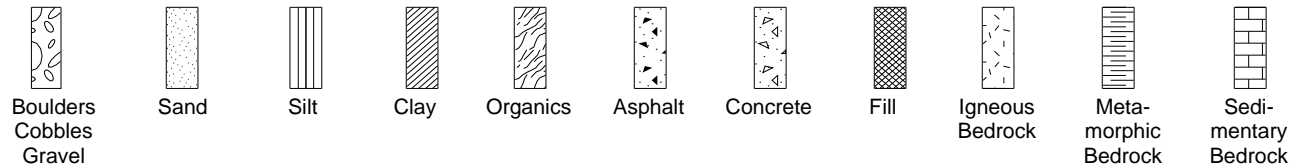
Terminology describing rock weathering:

Term	Description
<i>Fresh</i>	No visible signs of rock weathering. Slight discoloration along major discontinuities
<i>Slightly Weathered</i>	Discolouration indicates weathering of rock on discontinuity surfaces. All the rock material may be discoloured.
<i>Moderately Weathered</i>	Less than half the rock is decomposed and/or disintegrated into soil.
<i>Highly Weathered</i>	More than half the rock is decomposed and/or disintegrated into soil.
<i>Completely Weathered</i>	All the rock material is decomposed and/or disintegrated into soil. The original mass structure is still largely intact.



STRATA PLOT

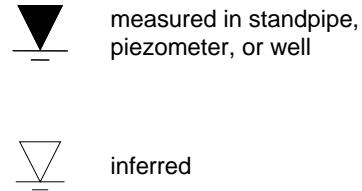
Strata plots symbolize the soil or bedrock description. They are combinations of the following basic symbols. The dimensions within the strata symbols are not indicative of the particle size, layer thickness, etc.



SAMPLE TYPE

SS	Split spoon sample (obtained by performing the Standard Penetration Test)
ST	Shelby tube or thin wall tube
DP	Direct-Push sample (small diameter tube sampler hydraulically advanced)
PS	Piston sample
BS	Bulk sample
WS	Wash sample
HQ, NQ, BQ, etc.	Rock core samples obtained with the use of standard size diamond coring bits.

WATER LEVEL MEASUREMENT



RECOVERY

For soil samples, the recovery is recorded as the length of the soil sample recovered. For rock core, recovery is defined as the total cumulative length of all core recovered in the core barrel divided by the length drilled and is recorded as a percentage on a per run basis.

N-VALUE

Numbers in this column are the field results of the Standard Penetration Test: the number of blows of a 140 pound (64 kg) hammer falling 30 inches (760 mm), required to drive a 2 inch (50.8 mm) O.D. split spoon sampler one foot (305 mm) into the soil. For split spoon samples where insufficient penetration was achieved and N-values cannot be presented, the number of blows are reported over sampler penetration in millimetres (e.g. 50/75). Some design methods make use of N value corrected for various factors such as overburden pressure, energy ratio, borehole diameter, etc. No corrections have been applied to the N-values presented on the log.

DYNAMIC CONE PENETRATION TEST (DCPT)

Dynamic cone penetration tests are performed using a standard 60 degree apex cone connected to A size drill rods with the same standard fall height and weight as the Standard Penetration Test. The DCPT value is the number of blows of the hammer required to drive the cone one foot (305 mm) into the soil. The DCPT is used as a probe to assess soil variability.

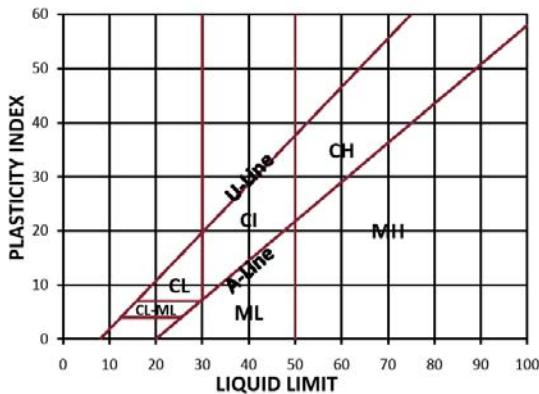
OTHER TESTS

S	Sieve analysis
H	Hydrometer analysis
k	Laboratory permeability
γ	Unit weight
G_s	Specific gravity of soil particles
CD	Consolidated drained triaxial
CU	Consolidated undrained triaxial with pore pressure measurements
UU	Unconsolidated undrained triaxial
DS	Direct Shear
C	Consolidation
Q_u	Unconfined compression
I_p	Point Load Index (I_p on Borehole Record equals $I_p(50)$ in which the index is corrected to a reference diameter of 50 mm)

	Single packer permeability test; test interval from depth shown to bottom of borehole
	Double packer permeability test; test interval as indicated
	Falling head permeability test using casing
	Falling head permeability test using well point or piezometer



MAJOR DIVISION		MUCS	TYPICAL DESCRIPTION	LABORATORY CLASSIFICATION CRITERIA		
COARSE GRAINED SOILS	GRAVELS (MORE THAN HALF COARSE GRAINS LARGER THAN 4.75 mm)	CLEAN GRAVELS (LITTLE OR NO FINES)	GW	WELL GRADED GRAVELS, LITTLE OR NO FINES	$C_u - \frac{D_{60}}{D_{10}} > 4$ $C_c - \frac{(D_{30})^2}{D_{10} \times D_{60}} = 1$ to 3	
			GP	POORLY GRADED GRAVELS AND GRAVEL-SAND MIXTURES, LITTLE OR NO FINES	NOT MEETING ABOVE REQUIREMENTS	
		GRAVELS WITH FINES	GM	SILTY GRAVELS, GRAVEL-SAND-SILT MIXTURES	CONTENT OF FINES EXCEEDS 12%	ATTERBERG LIMITS BELOW 'A' LINE W_p LESS THAN 4
			GC	CLAYEY GRAVELS, GRAVEL-SAND-CLAY MIXTURES		ATTERBERG LIMITS ABOVE 'A' LINE W_p MORE THAN 7
	SANDS (MORE THAN HALF COARSE GRAINS SMALLER THAN 4.75 mm)	CLEAN SANDS (LITTLE OR NO FINES)	SW	WELL GRADED SANDS, GRAVELLY SANDS, LITTLE OR NO FINES	$C_u - \frac{D_{60}}{D_{10}} > 6$ $C_c - \frac{(D_{30})^2}{D_{10} \times D_{60}} = 1$ to 3	
			SP	POORLY GRADED SANDS, LITTLE OR NO FINES	NOT MEETING ABOVE REQUIREMENTS	
		SANDS WITH FINES	SM	SILTY SANDS, SAND-SILT MIXTURES	CONTENT OF FINES EXCEEDS 12%	ATTERBERG LIMITS BELOW 'A' LINE W_p LESS THAN 4
			SC	CLAYEY SANDS, SAND-CLAY MIXTURES		ATTERBERG LIMITS ABOVE 'A' LINE W_p MORE THAN 7
FINE GRAINED SOILS	SILTS (BELOW 'A' LINE NEGLIGIBLE ORGANIC CONTENT)	$W_L < 50$	ML	INORGANIC SILTS AND VERY FINE SANDS, ROCK FLOUR, SILTY SANDS OF SLIGHT PLASTICITY	CLASSIFICATION IS BASED UPON PLASTICITY CHART (SEE BELOW) WHENEVER THE NATURE OF THE FINE CONTENT HAS NOT BEEN DETERMINED, IT IS DESIGNATED BY THE LETTER 'F'. E.G. SF IS A MIXTURE OF SAND WITH SILT OR CLAY	
		$W_L > 50$	MH	INORGANIC SILTS, MICACEOUS OR DIATOMACEOUS FINE SANDY OR SILTY SOILS		
	CLAYS (ABOVE 'A' LINE NEGLIGIBLE ORGANIC CONTENT)	$W_L < 30$	CL	INORGANIC CLAYS OF LOW PLASTICITY, GRAVELLY, SANDY, OR SILTY CLAYS, LEAN CLAYS		
		$30 < W_L < 50$	CI	INORGANIC CLAYS OF MEDIUM PLASTICITY, SILTY CLAYS		
		$W_L > 50$	CH	INORGANIC CLAYS OF HIGH PLASTICITY, FAT CLAYS		
	ORGANIC SILTS & CLAYS (BELOW 'A' LINE)	$W_L < 50$	OL	ORGANIC SILTS AND ORGANIC SILTY CLAYS OF LOW PLASTICITY		
		$W_L > 50$	OH	ORGANIC CLAYS OF HIGH PLASTICITY		
	HIGHLY ORGANIC SOILS		Pt	PEAT AND OTHER HIGHLY ORGANIC SOILS		STRONG COLOUR OR ODOR, AND OFTEN FIBROUS TEXTURE
BEDROCK		BR	SEE REPORT DESCRIPTION			



NOTE:
1. BOUNDARY CLASSIFICATION POSSESSING CHARACTERISTICS OF TWO GROUPS ARE GIVEN GROUP SYMBOLS, E.G. GW-GC IS A WELL GRADED GRAVEL MIXTURE WITH CLAY BINDER BETWEEN 5% AND 12%

SOIL COMPONENTS

FRACTION	SIEVE SIZE (mm)		DEFINING RANGES OF PERCENTAGE BY WEIGHT OF MINOR COMPONENTS		
	PASSING	RETAINED	PERCENT	IDENTIFIER	
GRAVEL	COARSE	75	19	50 - 35	AND
	FINE	19	4.75		
SAND	COARSE	4.75	2.00	35 - 20	Y
	MEDIUM	2.00	0.425		
	FINE	0.425	0.080		
SILT (non-plastic) or CLAY (plastic)	0.080		20 - 10	10 - 1	SOME TRACE
OVERSIZE MATERIALS					
ROUNDED OR SUB-ROUNDED COBBLES 75 mm TO 200 mm BOULDERS >200 mm			ANGULAR ROCK FRAGMENTS ROCKS > 0.75 m ³ IN VOLUME		

MODIFIED UNIFIED CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM FOR SOILS

