

Geotechnical  
Engineering

Environmental  
Engineering

Hydrogeology

Geological  
Engineering

Materials Testing

Building Science

Archaeological Services

**Geotechnical Investigation**  
Proposed Residential Buildings  
1800 Baseline Road  
Ottawa, Ontario

Prepared For

Minto Communities

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November 7, 2013

Report PG3107-1

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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

Paterson Group (Paterson) was commissioned by Minto Communities to conduct a geotechnical investigation for a proposed residential buildings to be located at 1800 Baseline Road, in the City of Ottawa, Ontario (refer to Figure 1 - Key Plan in Appendix 2).

The investigation objectives were to:

- determine the subsurface soil and groundwater conditions by means of boreholes.
- provide geotechnical recommendations for the design of the proposed development including construction considerations which may affect the design.

The following report has been prepared specifically and solely for the aforementioned project which is described herein. This report contains our findings and includes geotechnical recommendations pertaining to the design and construction of the subject development as understood at the time of writing this report.

## **2.0 PROPOSED PROJECT**

It is understood that the proposed project consists of three (3) terrace home style residential buildings to be located within a landscaped area of the existing development. It should be noted that two (2) existing underground parking structures servicing the current development are located to the south and east of the proposed building locations.

### **3.0 METHOD OF INVESTIGATION**

#### **3.1 Field Investigation**

##### **Field Program**

The field program for the investigation was conducted on November 4, 2013. Three (3) boreholes were advanced to a maximum 6.0 m depth. The locations of the boreholes are shown on Drawing PG3107-1 - Test Hole Location Plan included in Appendix 2.

The boreholes were drilled with a track-mounted rig operated by a two-person crew. All fieldwork was conducted under the full-time supervision of our personnel under the direction of a senior engineer from our geotechnical department. The drilling procedures consisted of advancing each test hole to the required depths at the selected locations and sampling the overburden.

##### **Sampling and In Situ Testing**

Soil samples were recovered from auger flights or a 50 mm diameter split-spoon sample. The soil samples were classified on site, placed in sealed bags and transported to our laboratory. The depths at which the auger and split-spoon samples were recovered from the boreholes are shown as AU and SS, respectively, on the Soil Profile and Test Data sheets.

The Standard Penetration Test (SPT) was conducted in conjunction with the recovery of the split-spoon samples. The SPT results are recorded as "N" values on the Soil Profile and Test Data sheets. The "N" value is the number of blows required to drive the split-spoon 300 mm into the soil after a 150 mm initial penetration using a 63.5 kg hammer falling from a height of 760 mm.

Overburden thickness was evaluated by a dynamic cone penetration test (DCPT) at BH 2. The DCPT consists of driving a steel drill rod, equipped with a 50 mm diameter cone tip, using a 63.5 kg hammer falling from a height of 760 mm. The number of blows required to drive the cone into the soil is recorded every 300 mm increment.

Undrained shear strength tests were completed in cohesive soils with a shear vane apparatus.

The subsurface conditions observed in the boreholes were recorded in detail in the field. The soil profiles are logged on the Soil Profile and Test Data sheets in Appendix 1.

## **Groundwater**

Flexible polyethylene standpipes were installed in all boreholes to permit monitoring and sampling of the groundwater subsequent to the completion of the geotechnical drilling program.

### **3.2 Field Survey**

The test hole locations were determined in the field by Paterson personnel with consideration of underground and aboveground services. The location and ground surface elevation at each borehole location was surveyed by Paterson personnel. The boreholes were surveyed with respect to a temporary benchmark (TBM), consisting of the top spindle of the fire hydrant located at the northwest corner of the intersection of Baseline Road and Navaho Drive. An assumed elevation of 100.00 m has been assigned to the TBM.

Borehole locations and ground surface elevations at the borehole locations are presented on Drawing PG3107-1 - Test Hole Location Plan in Appendix 2.

### **3.3 Laboratory Testing**

Soil samples were recovered from the subject site and visually examined in our laboratory to review the field logs.

#### **Sample Storage**

All samples will be stored in the laboratory for a period of one month after issuance of this report. They will then be discarded unless we are otherwise directed.

## **4.0 OBSERVATIONS**

### **4.1 Surface Conditions**

The subject site is currently occupied by multi-storey residential apartment buildings located within the south and east portions of the subject site. The proposed building locations are located within a landscaped area of the subject site. The ground surface was noted to be grass covered with mature trees throughout. A pathway runs east-west through the proposed building locations and the ground surface is noted to be undulated with several berm piles noted to be approximately 1 m high.

### **4.2 Subsurface Profile**

Generally, the subsurface profile at the borehole locations consists of topsoil over a silty clay to silty sand fill layer followed by a stiff silty clay deposit. A glacial till layer was encountered at a 5.2 m depth at BH 3 and practical refusal to DCPT was encountered at BH 2 at a 6.9 m depth.

### **4.3 Groundwater**

Based on field observations and the recovered soil samples' moisture levels, consistency and colouring, the long-term groundwater level is anticipated at a 3 to 4 m depth.

Groundwater is subject to seasonal fluctuations and therefore, groundwater could vary at the time of construction.

## **5.0 DISCUSSION**

### **5.1 Geotechnical Assessment**

From a geotechnical perspective, the subject site is adequate for the proposed development. The proposed buildings could be founded by conventional shallow footings placed on an undisturbed, compact silty clay bearing surface.

The above and other considerations are discussed in the following paragraphs.

### **5.2 Site Grading and Preparation**

#### **Stripping Depth**

Topsoil and deleterious fill, such as those containing organic materials, should be stripped from under the proposed building and other settlement sensitive structures.

#### **Fill Placement**

Fill used for grading beneath the proposed buildings, unless otherwise specified, should consist of clean imported granular fill, such as Ontario Provincial Standard Specifications (OPSS) Granular A or Granular B Type II. The fill should be tested and approved prior to delivery to the site. The granular material should be placed in lifts at a maximum of 300 mm thick and compacted using suitable compaction equipment for the lift thickness. Fill placed beneath the buildings should be compacted to 98% of the Standard Proctor Maximum Dry Density (SPMDD).

Non-specified existing fill along with site-excavated soil could be used as general landscaping fill where settlement of the ground surface is of minor concern. These materials should be spread in thin lifts and compacted by the tracks of the spreading equipment to minimize voids. If these materials are to be placed to build up the subgrade level for areas to be paved, the material should be compacted in thin lifts to of 95% of the SPMDD. Non-specified existing fill and site-excavated soils are not suitable for use as backfill against foundation walls unless a composite drainage blanket connected to a perimeter drainage system is provided.



### 5.3 Foundation Design

#### **Bearing Resistance Values**

Strip footings, up to 3 m wide, and pad footings, up to 5 m wide, placed on an undisturbed, stiff silty clay bearing surface can be designed using a bearing resistance value at serviceability limit states (SLS) of **150 kPa** and a factored bearing resistance value at ultimate limit states (ULS) of **225 kPa**.

Footings designed using the above-noted bearing resistance value at SLS will be subjected to potential post-construction total and differential settlements of 25 and 20 mm, respectively.

An undisturbed soil bearing surface consists of a surface from which all topsoil and deleterious materials, such as loose, frozen or disturbed soil, whether in situ or not, have been removed, in the dry, prior to the placement of concrete for footings.

#### **Lateral Support**

The bearing medium under footing-supported structures is recommended to be provided with adequate lateral support with respect to excavations and different foundation levels. Adequate lateral support is provided to a silty clay medium when a plane extending, a minimum of 1.5H:1V, from the bottom edge of the footing to the founding soil/engineered fill.

#### **Permissible Grade Raise Recommendations**

A permissible grade raise restriction of **2 m** is recommended for the subject site.

### 5.4 Design for Earthquakes

The site class for seismic site response is a **Class C** for the foundations considered. The soils underlying the subject site are not susceptible to liquefaction. Reference should be made to the latest revision of the Ontario Building Code for a full discussion of the earthquake design requirements.

## **5.5 Basement Slab**

With the removal of all topsoil and deleterious fill, such as those containing organic materials, within the footprint of the proposed buildings, the native soil surface or existing fill approved by the geotechnical consultant at the time of construction will be considered to be an acceptable subgrade on which to commence backfilling for floor slab construction.

Any soft areas should be removed and backfilled with appropriate backfill material prior to placing any fill. OPSS Granular B Type II are recommended for backfilling below the floor slab. It is recommended that the upper 200 mm of sub-floor fill consists of 19 mm clear crushed stone for a basement slab. All backfill material within the footprint of the proposed buildings should be placed in maximum 300 mm thick loose layers and compacted to at least 98% of the SPMDD.

## **6.0 DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION PRECAUTIONS**

### **6.1 Foundation Drainage and Backfill**

A perimeter drainage system is recommended to be provided for the proposed structures. The system should consist of a 100 to 150 mm diameter perforated corrugated plastic pipe, surrounded on all sides by 150 mm of 10 mm clear crushed stone, placed at the footing level around the exterior perimeter of the structure. The pipe should have a positive outlet, such as a gravity connection to the storm sewer.

Backfill against the exterior sides of the foundation walls should consist of free-draining non frost susceptible granular materials. Imported granular materials, such as clean sand or OPSS Granular B Type I, should be placed. The greater part of the site excavated materials will be frost susceptible and are not recommended for re-use as backfill against the foundation walls, unless used in conjunction with a composite drainage blanket, such as MiraDrain G100N or Delta Drain 6000.

### **6.2 Protection of Footings Against Frost Action**

Perimeter footings, of heated structures are required to be insulated against the deleterious effect of frost action. A minimum of 1.5 m thick soil cover (or equivalent) should be provided.

A minimum of 2.1 m thick soil cover (or equivalent) should be provided for other exterior unheated footings.

### **6.3 Excavation Side Slopes**

The side slopes of excavations in the soil and fill overburden materials should either be excavated to acceptable slopes or should be retained by shoring systems from the beginning of the excavation until the structure is backfilled. It is assumed that sufficient room will be available for the greater part of the excavation to be constructed by open-cut methods (i.e. unsupported excavations).

The excavation side slopes above the groundwater level extending to a maximum depth of 3 m should be excavated at 1H:1V or flatter. The flatter slope is recommended for excavation below groundwater level. The subsurface soils are considered to be a Type 2 and 3 soil according to the Occupational Health and Safety Act and Regulations for Construction Projects.

Excavated soil should not be stockpiled directly at the top of excavations and heavy equipment should maintain a safe distance from the excavation sides.

Slopes in excess of 3 m in height should be periodically inspected by the geotechnical consultant in order to detect if the slopes are exhibiting signs of distress.

A trench box is recommended to protect personnel working in trenches with steep or vertical sides. Services are expected to be installed by “cut and cover” methods and excavations will not be left open for extended periods of time.

#### **6.4 Pipe Bedding and Backfill**

The pipe bedding for sewer and water pipes should consist of at least 150 mm of OPSS Granular A material. The material should be placed in a maximum loose lift thickness of 300 mm and compacted to 95% of the SPMDD. The bedding material should extend at least to the spring line of the pipe.

The cover material, which should consist of OPSS Granular A, should extend from the spring line of the pipe to at least 300 mm above the obvert of the pipe. The material should be placed in maximum 300 mm thick lifts and compacted to a minimum of 95% of the SPMDD.

Where hard surface areas are considered above the trench backfill, the trench backfill material within the frost zone (about 1.8 m below finished grade) should match the soils exposed at the trench walls to minimize differential frost heaving. The trench backfill should be placed in maximum 300 mm thick loose lifts and compacted to 95% of the SPMDD.

#### **6.5 Groundwater Control**

It is anticipated that groundwater infiltration into the excavations should be low and controllable using open sumps. Pumping from open sumps should be sufficient to control the groundwater influx through the sides of shallow excavations. The contractor should be prepared to direct water away from all bearing surfaces and subgrades, regardless of the source, to prevent disturbance to the founding medium.

A temporary MOE permit to take water (PTTW) may be required for this project if more than 50,000 L/day is to be pumped during the construction phase. At least 4 to 5 months should be allowed for completion of the application and issuance of the permit by the MOE.

## **6.6 Winter Construction**

If winter construction is considered for the project specific precautions should be implemented. The subsurface soil conditions consist of frost susceptible materials. In the presence of water and freezing conditions, ice could form within the soil mass. Heaving and settlement upon thawing could occur.

In the event of construction during below zero temperatures, the founding stratum should be protected from freezing temperatures by the use of straw, propane heaters and tarpaulins or other suitable means. The base of the excavations should be insulated from sub-zero temperatures immediately upon exposure and until such time as heat is adequately supplied to the building and the footings are protected with sufficient soil cover to prevent freezing at founding level.

Trench excavations and pavement construction are difficult activities to complete during freezing conditions without introducing frost in the subgrade or in the excavation walls and bottoms. Precautions should be taken if such activities are to be completed during freezing conditions.

## **7.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

A materials testing and observation services program is a requirement for the provided foundation design data to be applicable. The following aspects of the program should be performed by the geotechnical consultant:

- Observation of all bearing surfaces prior to the placement of concrete.
- Sampling and testing of the concrete and fill materials used.
- Periodic observation of the condition of unsupported excavation side slopes in excess of 3 m in height, if applicable.
- Observation of all subgrades prior to backfilling.
- Field density tests to determine the level of compaction achieved.
- Sampling and testing of the bituminous concrete including mix design reviews.

A report confirming these works have been completed in general accordance with our recommendations could be issued following the completion of a satisfactory materials testing and observation program by the geotechnical consultant.

## 8.0 STATEMENT OF LIMITATIONS

The recommendations provided in this report are in accordance with our present understanding of the project.

A geotechnical investigation of this nature is a limited sampling of a site. The recommendations are based on information gathered at the specific test locations and can only be extrapolated to an undefined limited area around the test locations. Should any conditions at the site be encountered which differ from those at the test locations, we request notification immediately in order to permit reassessment of our recommendations.

The present report applies only to the project described in this document. Use of this report for purposes other than those described herein or by person(s) other than Minto Communities, or their agent(s) is not authorized without review by Paterson Group for the applicability of our recommendations to the altered use of the report.

### **Paterson Group Inc.**



Joe Forsyth, P.Eng.



David J. Gilbert, P.Eng

### **Report Distribution:**

- Minto Communities (3 copies)
- Paterson Group (1 copy)

# **APPENDIX 1**

**SOIL PROFILE AND TEST DATA SHEETS**

**SYMBOLS AND TERMS**



**DATUM** TBM - Top spindle of fire hydrant located on the northwest corner of Baseline Road and Navaho Drive. An arbitrary elevation of 100.00m was assigned to the TBM.

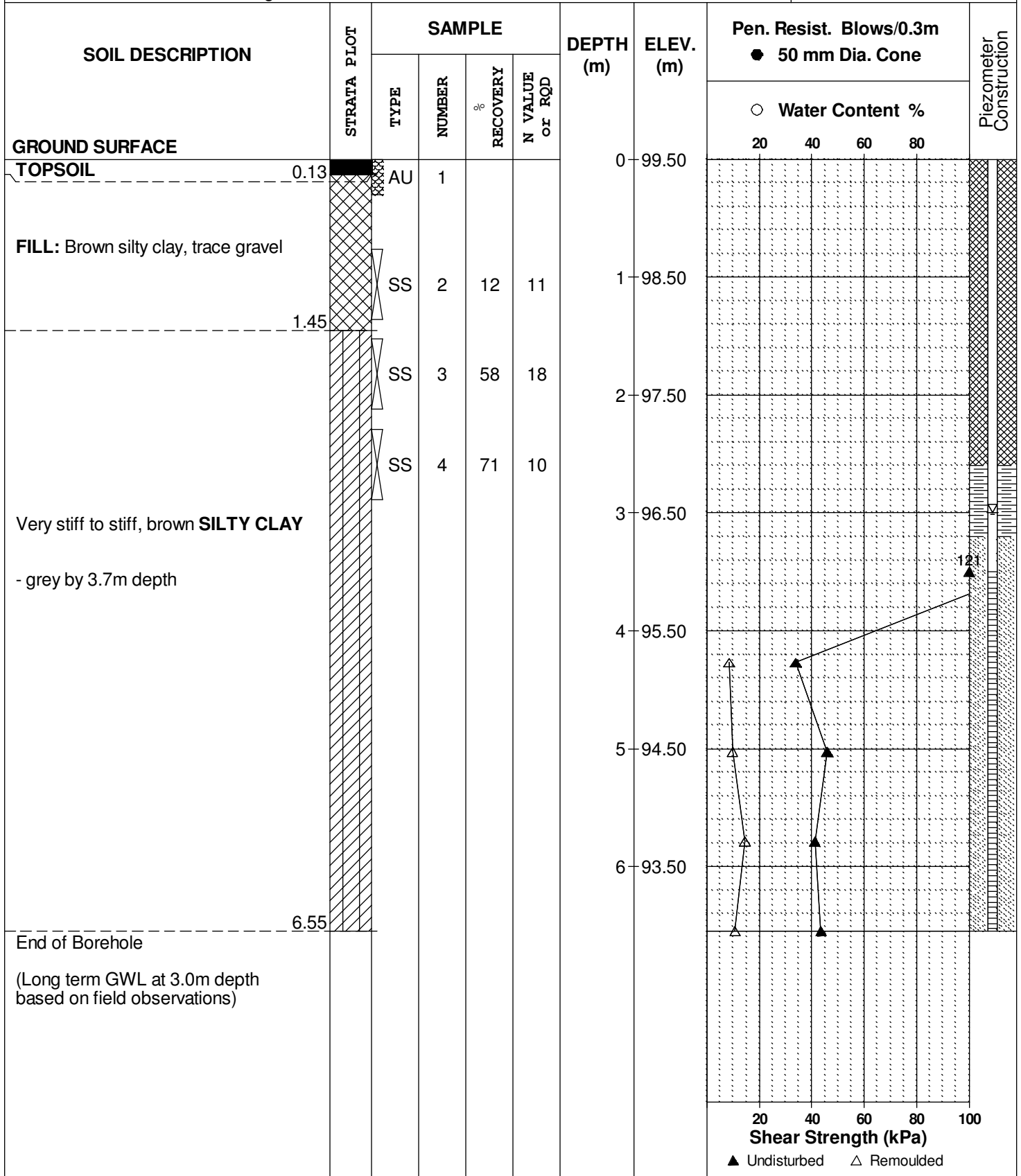
**FILE NO.** PG3107

**REMARKS**

**HOLE NO.** BH 1

**BORINGS BY** CME 55 Power Auger

**DATE** November 4, 2013



**DATUM** TBM - Top spindle of fire hydrant located on the northwest corner of Baseline Road and Navaho Drive. An arbitrary elevation of 100.00m was assigned to the TBM.

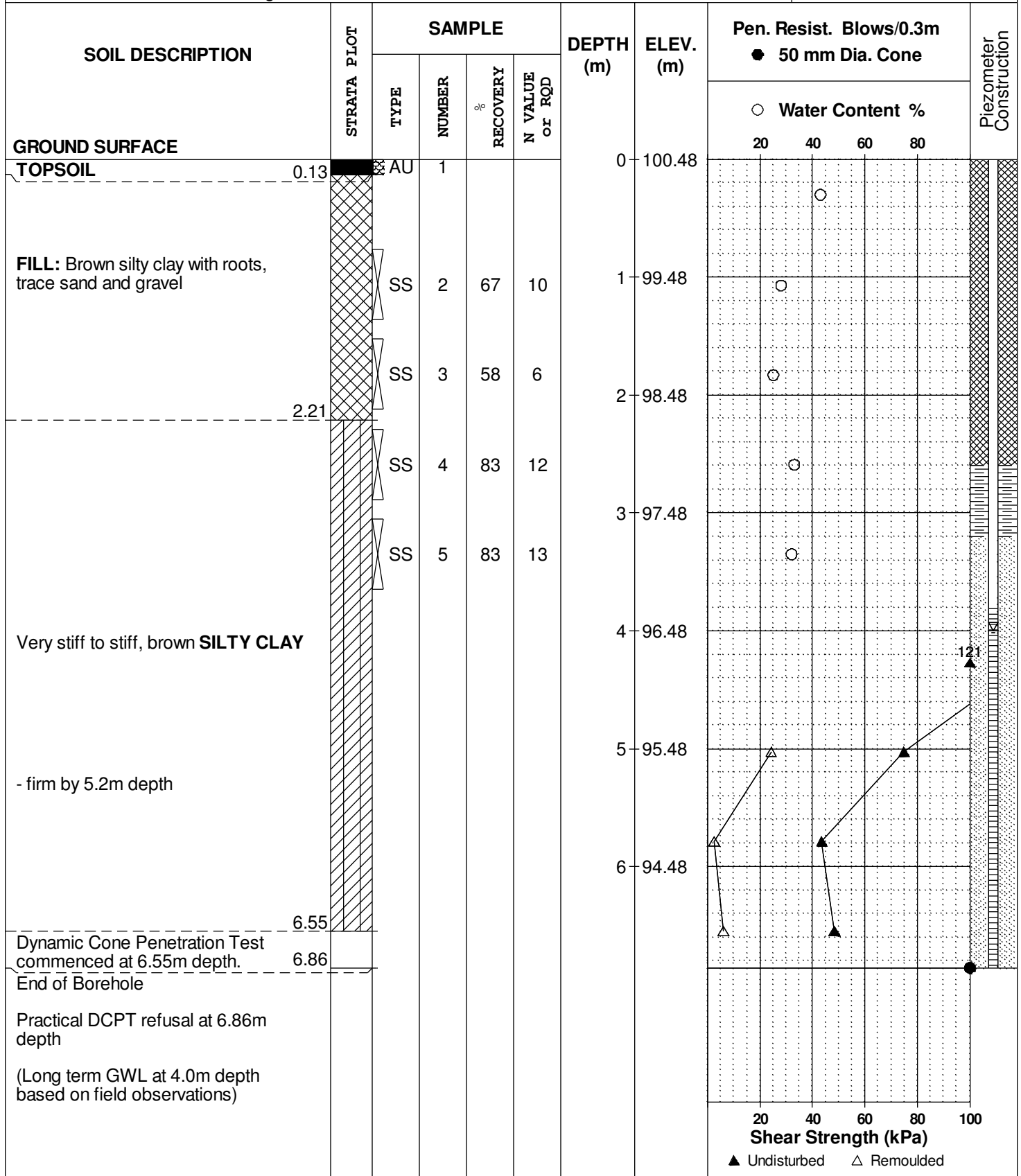
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**REMARKS**

**HOLE NO.** BH 2

**BORINGS BY** CME 55 Power Auger

**DATE** November 4, 2013



**DATUM** TBM - Top spindle of fire hydrant located on the northwest corner of Baseline Road and Navaho Drive. An arbitrary elevation of 100.00m was assigned to the TBM.

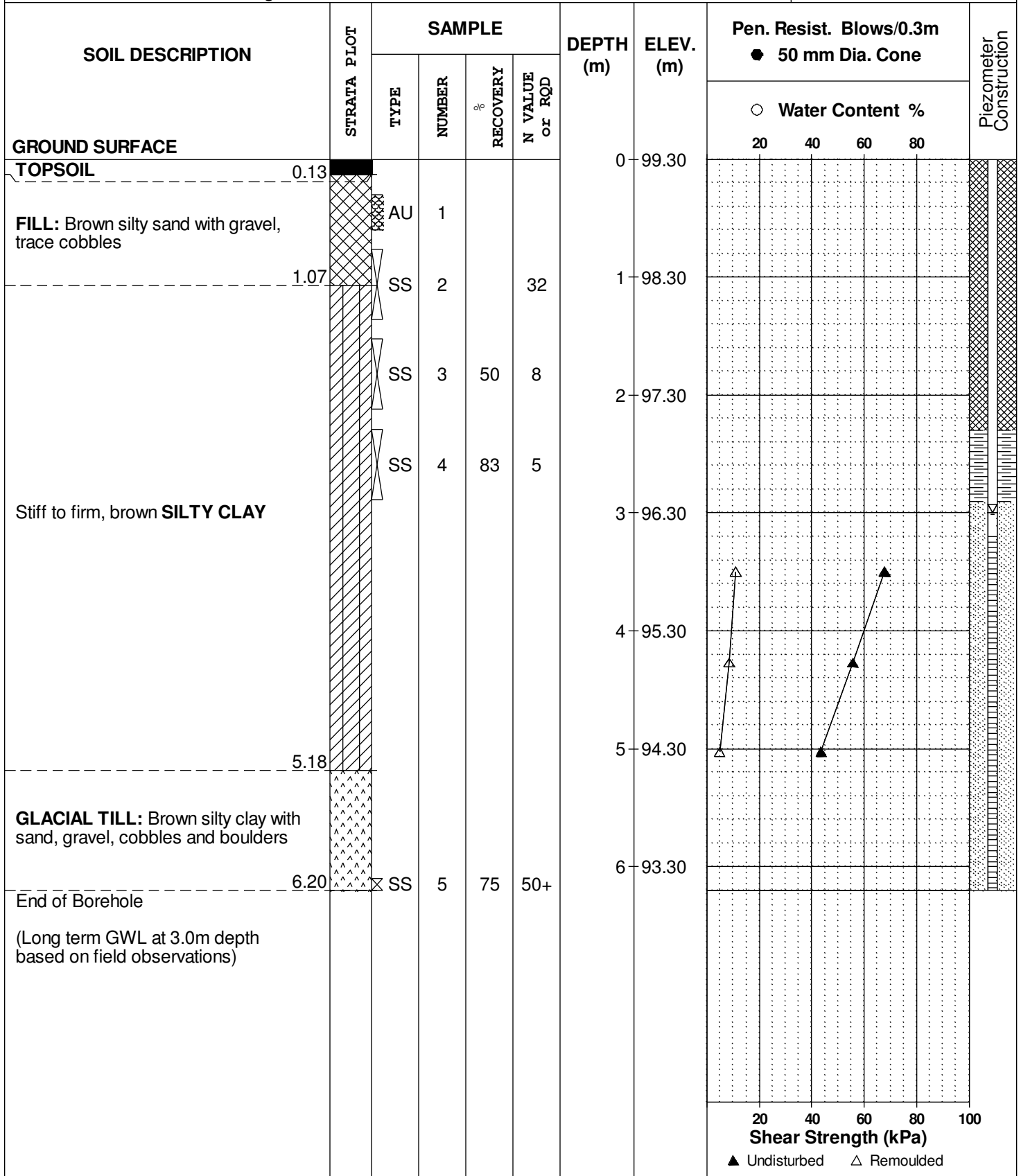
**FILE NO.** PG3107

**REMARKS**

**HOLE NO.** BH 3

**BORINGS BY** CME 55 Power Auger

**DATE** November 4, 2013



# SYMBOLS AND TERMS

## SOIL DESCRIPTION

Behavioural properties, such as structure and strength, take precedence over particle gradation in describing soils. Terminology describing soil structure are as follows:

Desiccated	-	having visible signs of weathering by oxidation of clay minerals, shrinkage cracks, etc.
Fissured	-	having cracks, and hence a blocky structure.
Varved	-	composed of regular alternating layers of silt and clay.
Stratified	-	composed of alternating layers of different soil types, e.g. silt and sand or silt and clay.
Well-Graded	-	Having wide range in grain sizes and substantial amounts of all intermediate particle sizes (see Grain Size Distribution).
Uniformly-Graded	-	Predominantly of one grain size (see Grain Size Distribution).

The standard terminology to describe the strength of cohesionless soils is the relative density, usually inferred from the results of the Standard Penetration Test (SPT) 'N' value. The SPT N value is the number of blows of a 63.5 kg hammer, falling 760 mm, required to drive a 51 mm O.D. split spoon sampler 300 mm into the soil after an initial penetration of 150 mm.

Relative Density	'N' Value	Relative Density %
Very Loose	<4	<15
Loose	4-10	15-35
Compact	10-30	35-65
Dense	30-50	65-85
Very Dense	>50	>85

The standard terminology to describe the strength of cohesive soils is the consistency, which is based on the undisturbed undrained shear strength as measured by the in situ or laboratory vane tests, penetrometer tests, unconfined compression tests, or occasionally by Standard Penetration Tests.

Consistency	Undrained Shear Strength (kPa)	'N' Value
Very Soft	<12	<2
Soft	12-25	2-4
Firm	25-50	4-8
Stiff	50-100	8-15
Very Stiff	100-200	15-30
Hard	>200	>30

## SYMBOLS AND TERMS (continued)

### SOIL DESCRIPTION (continued)

Cohesive soils can also be classified according to their "sensitivity". The sensitivity is the ratio between the undisturbed undrained shear strength and the remoulded undrained shear strength of the soil.

Terminology used for describing soil strata based upon texture, or the proportion of individual particle sizes present is provided on the Textural Soil Classification Chart at the end of this information package.

### ROCK DESCRIPTION

The structural description of the bedrock mass is based on the Rock Quality Designation (RQD).

The RQD classification is based on a modified core recovery percentage in which all pieces of sound core over 100 mm long are counted as recovery. The smaller pieces are considered to be a result of closely-spaced discontinuities (resulting from shearing, jointing, faulting, or weathering) in the rock mass and are not counted. RQD is ideally determined from NXL size core. However, it can be used on smaller core sizes, such as BX, if the bulk of the fractures caused by drilling stresses (called "mechanical breaks") are easily distinguishable from the normal in situ fractures.

RQD %	ROCK QUALITY
90-100	Excellent, intact, very sound
75-90	Good, massive, moderately jointed or sound
50-75	Fair, blocky and seamy, fractured
25-50	Poor, shattered and very seamy or blocky, severely fractured
0-25	Very poor, crushed, very severely fractured

### SAMPLE TYPES

SS	-	Split spoon sample (obtained in conjunction with the performing of the Standard Penetration Test (SPT))
TW	-	Thin wall tube or Shelby tube
PS	-	Piston sample
AU	-	Auger sample or bulk sample
WS	-	Wash sample
RC	-	Rock core sample (Core bit size AXT, BXL, etc.). Rock core samples are obtained with the use of standard diamond drilling bits.

## SYMBOLS AND TERMS (continued)

### GRAIN SIZE DISTRIBUTION

MC%	-	Natural moisture content or water content of sample, %
LL	-	Liquid Limit, % (water content above which soil behaves as a liquid)
PL	-	Plastic limit, % (water content above which soil behaves plastically)
PI	-	Plasticity index, % (difference between LL and PL)
Dxx	-	Grain size which xx% of the soil, by weight, is of finer grain sizes These grain size descriptions are not used below 0.075 mm grain size
D10	-	Grain size at which 10% of the soil is finer (effective grain size)
D60	-	Grain size at which 60% of the soil is finer
Cc	-	Concavity coefficient = $(D_{30})^2 / (D_{10} \times D_{60})$
Cu	-	Uniformity coefficient = $D_{60} / D_{10}$

Cc and Cu are used to assess the grading of sands and gravels:

Well-graded gravels have:  $1 < Cc < 3$  and  $Cu > 4$

Well-graded sands have:  $1 < Cc < 3$  and  $Cu > 6$

Sands and gravels not meeting the above requirements are poorly-graded or uniformly-graded.

Cc and Cu are not applicable for the description of soils with more than 10% silt and clay (more than 10% finer than 0.075 mm or the #200 sieve)

### CONSOLIDATION TEST

$p'_o$	-	Present effective overburden pressure at sample depth
$p'_c$	-	Preconsolidation pressure of (maximum past pressure on) sample
Ccr	-	Recompression index (in effect at pressures below $p'_c$ )
Cc	-	Compression index (in effect at pressures above $p'_c$ )
OC Ratio		Overconsolidation ratio = $p'_c / p'_o$
Void Ratio		Initial sample void ratio = volume of voids / volume of solids
Wo	-	Initial water content (at start of consolidation test)

### PERMEABILITY TEST

k	-	Coefficient of permeability or hydraulic conductivity is a measure of the ability of water to flow through the sample. The value of k is measured at a specified unit weight for (remoulded) cohesionless soil samples, because its value will vary with the unit weight or density of the sample during the test.
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## SYMBOLS AND TERMS (continued)

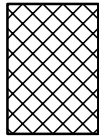
### STRATA PLOT



Topsoil



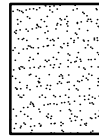
Asphalt



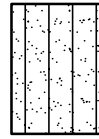
Fill



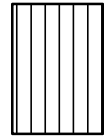
Peat



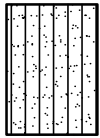
Sand



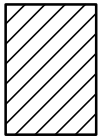
Silty Sand



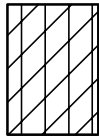
Silt



Sandy Silt



Clay



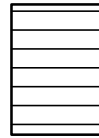
Silty Clay



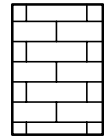
Clayey Silty Sand



Glacial Till



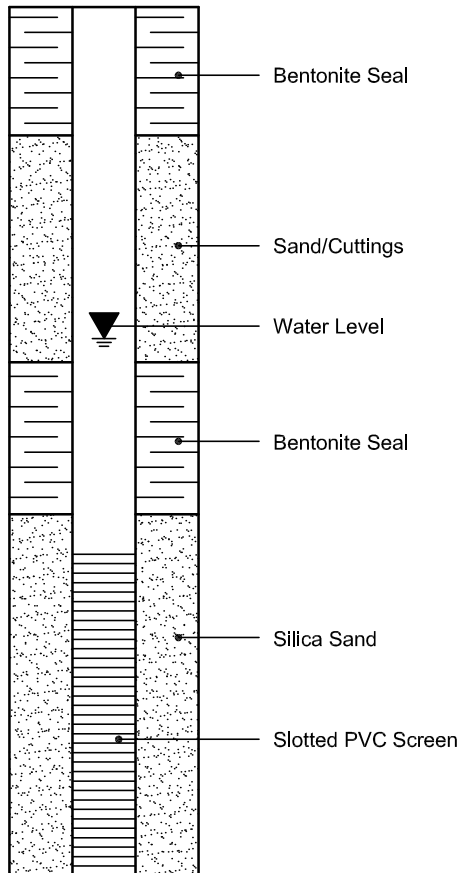
Shale



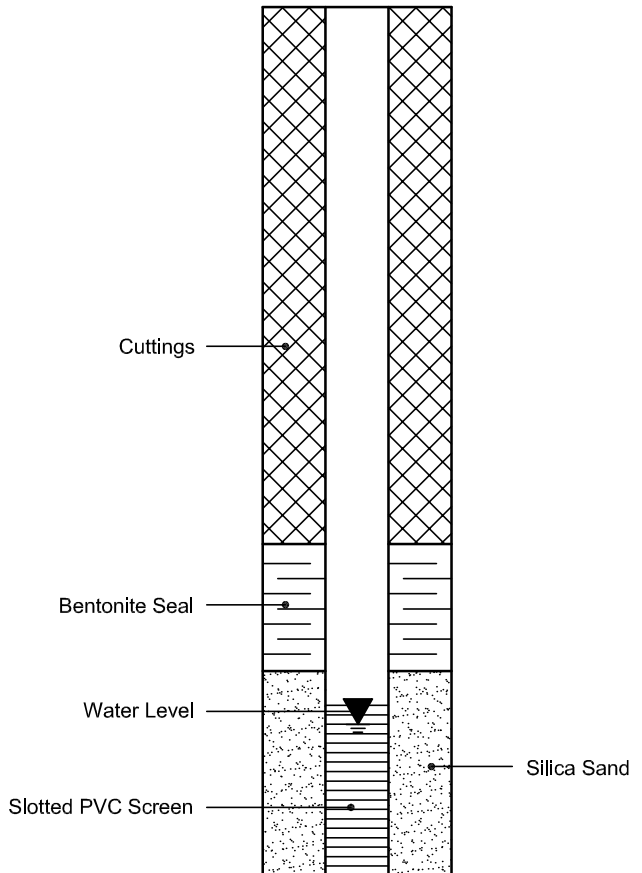
Bedrock

### MONITORING WELL AND PIEZOMETER CONSTRUCTION

#### MONITORING WELL CONSTRUCTION



#### PIEZOMETER CONSTRUCTION



# **APPENDIX 2**

**FIGURE 1 - KEY PLAN**

**DRAWING PG3107-1 - TEST HOLE LOCATION PLAN**



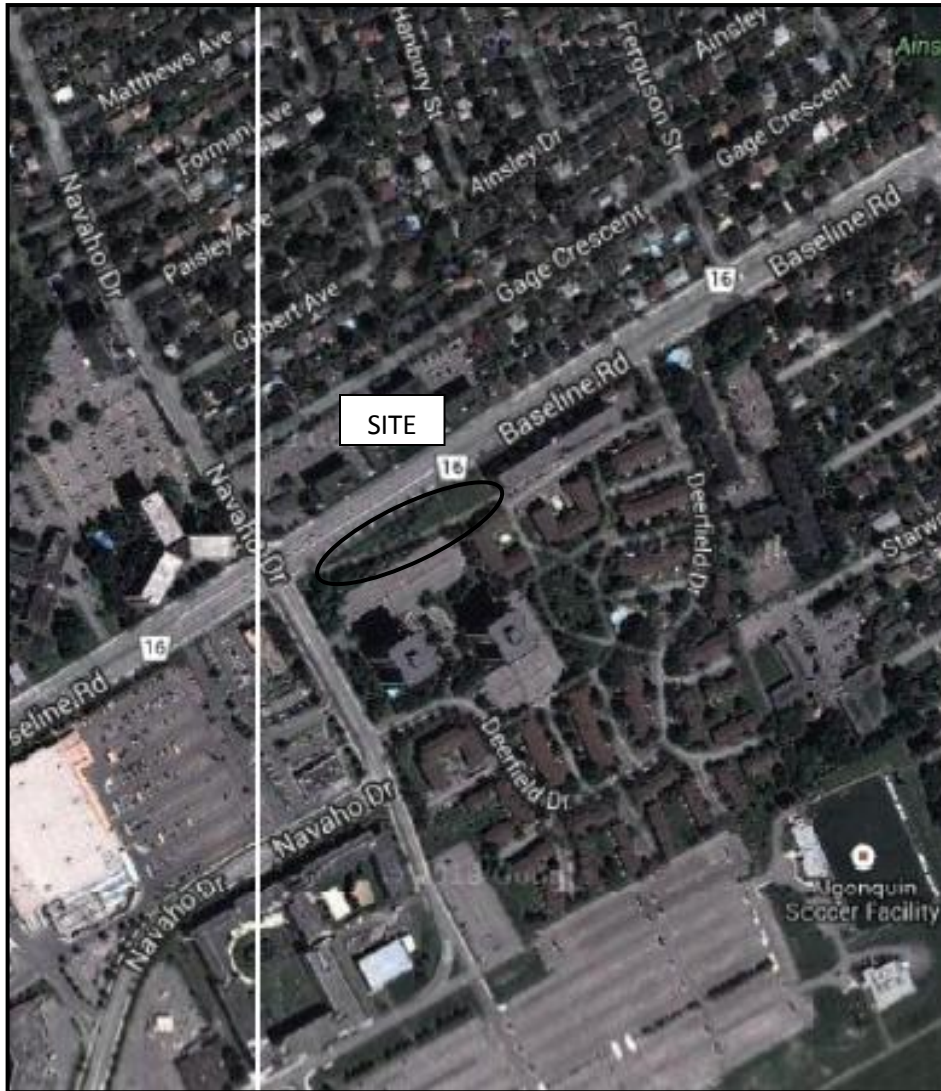
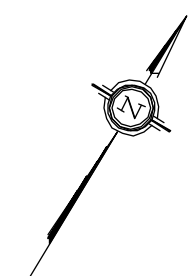


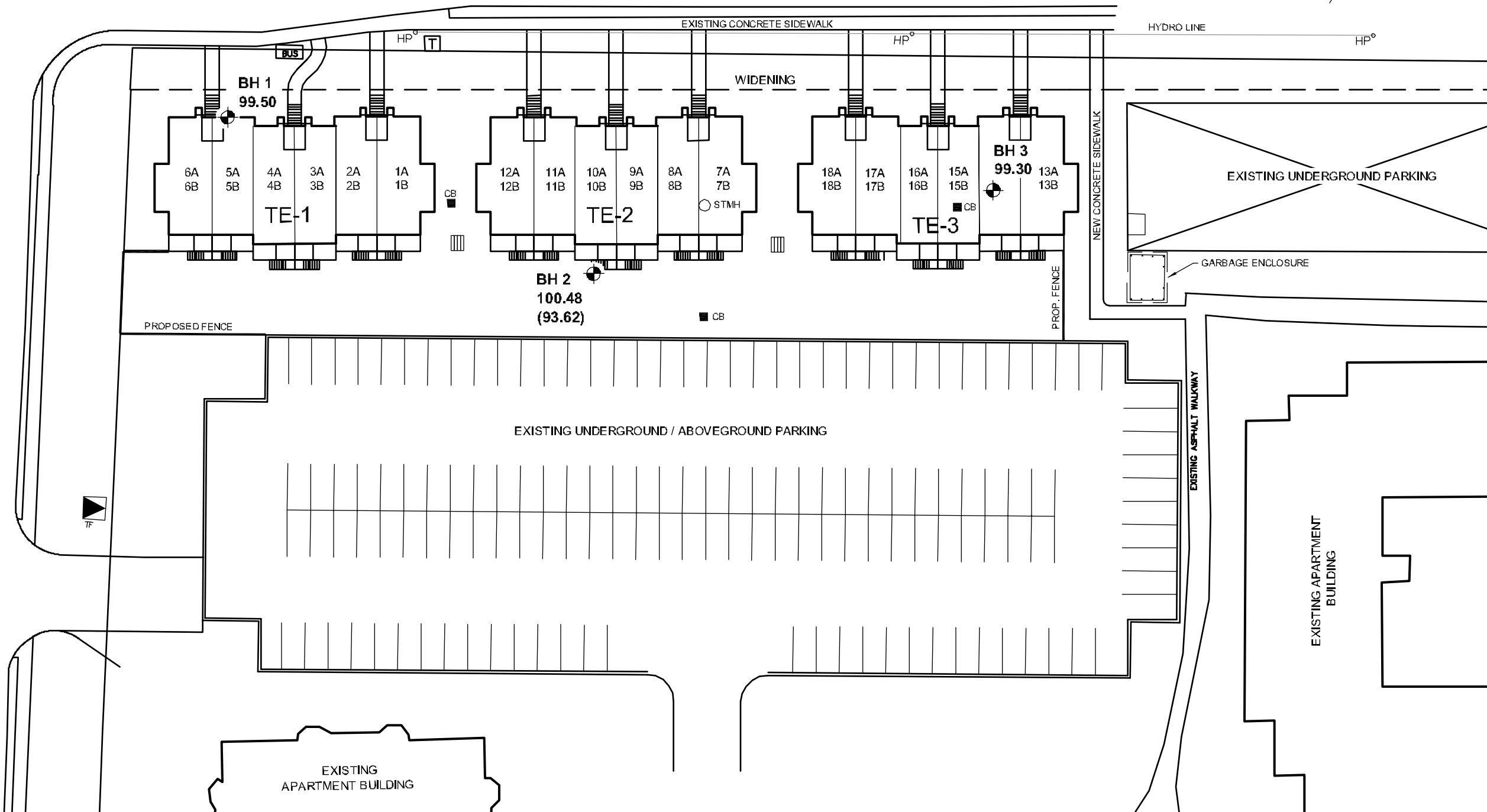
FIGURE 1  
KEY PLAN

F.H. - TBM



# BASELINE ROAD

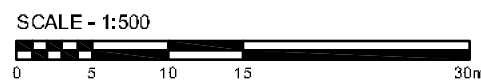
NAVAHO DRIVE



**LEGEND:**

- BOREHOLE LOCATION
- 100.48 GROUND SURFACE ELEVATION (m)
- (93.62) PRACTICAL DCPT REFUSAL ELEVATION (m)

TBM - TOP SPINDLE OF FIRE HYDRANT. AN ARBITRARY ELEVATION OF 100.00m WAS ASSIGNED TO THE TBM.



**paterson group**  
 consulting engineers  
 154 Colonnade Road South, Ottawa, Ontario K2E 7J5

Scale:	1:500
Des.:	DG
Dwn:	MPG
Chkd:	DG

MINTO COMMUNITIES INC.  
 GEOTECHNICAL INVESTIGATION  
 PROP. RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS - 1800 BASELINE ROAD  
 OTTAWA, ONTARIO

## TEST HOLE LOCATION PLAN

Dwg. No.	PG3107-1
Report No.:	PG3107-1
Date:	11/2013