

Key

 Dynamic Sample Borehole

Hole ID	Easting (mE)	Northing (mN)	Level (mOD)
WS01	388131.2	417968.4	224.69
WS02	388126.6	417947.4	224.73
WS03	388116.4	417979.3	225.15
WS04	388109.1	417954.7	225.69
WS05	388117.8	417925.0	224.57
WS06	388120.9	417903.5	224.77
WS07	388089.6	417918.0	227.43
WS08	388097.6	417876.3	226.46
WS09	388062.8	417927.2	227.47
WS09A	388060.9	417924.8	227.67
WS10	388051.4	417896.7	227.53

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Project:
Whitworth Community High School, Rochdale

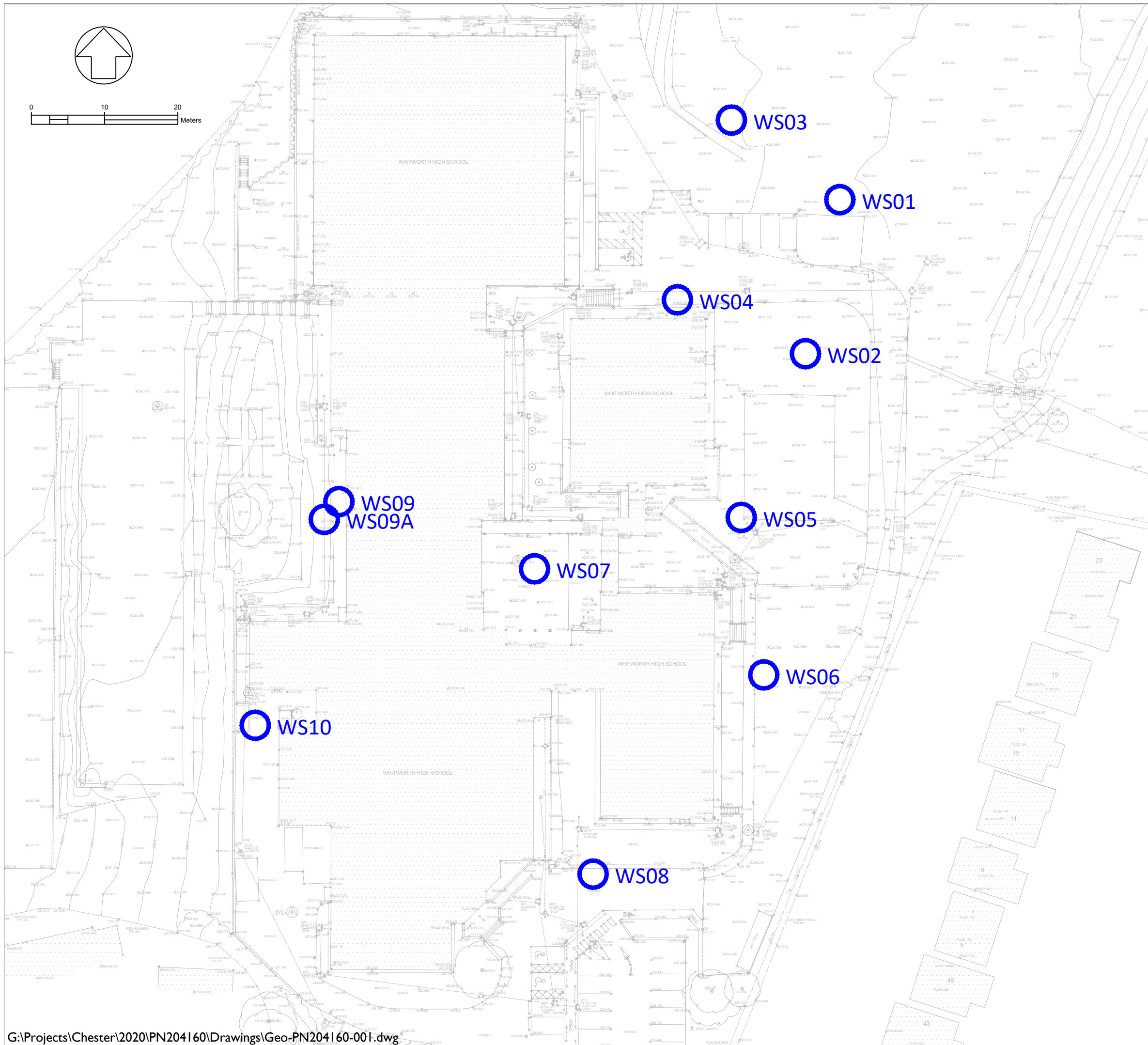
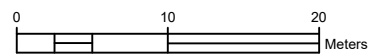
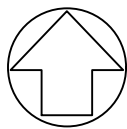
Drawing Title:
Exploratory Hole Location Plan

Scale: 1:500@A3

Date:
November 2020

Project No:
PN204160

File Name:
Geo-PN204160-001(I)



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APPENDIX 8

Investigation Techniques and General Notes

INTRODUCTION

The following brief review of Ground Investigation techniques, generally used as part of most Site Investigations in the UK, summarises their methodology, advantages and limitations. Detailed descriptions of the techniques are available and can be provided on request. This review should be read in conjunction with the accompanying General Notes.

TRIAL PITS

The trial pit is amongst the simplest yet most effective means of identifying shallow ground conditions on a site. Its advantages include simplicity, speed, potential accuracy and cost-effectiveness. The trial pit is most commonly formed using a back-acting excavator which can typically determine ground conditions to some 4 metres below ground level. Hand excavation is often used to locate, expose and detail existing foundations, features or services. In general, it is difficult to extend pits significantly below the water table in predominantly granular soils, where flows can cause instability. Unless otherwise stated, the trial pits will not have been provided with temporary side support during their construction. Under such circumstances, entrance into the pit is not permitted and hence observations will have been made from the ground surface and samples taken from the excavator bucket.

Where access for personnel is required to allow close observation of the exposed strata, the taking of samples and the carrying out of in situ tests, the sides of the trial pits (Observation Pits in BS 5930:2015) will be made safe using temporary supports or the sides battered back to a stable angle. Some limited access to such Trial Pits (Observation Pits) at depths less than 1m may be allowed in stable conditions or where the sides are benched or battered back to a safe angle.

Trends in strata type, level and thickness can be determined, shear surfaces identified and the behaviour of plant, excavation sides and excavated materials can be related to the construction process. They are particularly valuable in land slip investigations. Some types of in situ test can be undertaken in such pits and large disturbed or block samples obtained.

CABLE PERCUSSION BORING

The light Cable Percussion technique of soft ground boring, typically at a diameter of 150mm, is a well-established simple and flexible method of boring vertical holes and generally allows data to be obtained in respect of strata conditions other than rock. A tubular cutter (for cohesive soils) or shell with a flap valve (for granular soils) is repeatedly lifted and dropped using a winch and rope operating from an "A" frame. Soil which enters these tools is regularly removed and either sampled for subsequent examination or test, or laid to one side for later removal off site and licensed disposal or, if permitted by the Client, use as backfill. Steel casing will have been used to prevent collapse of the borehole sides where necessary. A degree of disturbance of soil and mixing of layers is inevitable and the presence of very thin layers of different soils within a particular stratum may not be identified. Changes in strata type can only be detected on recognition of a change in soil samples at the surface, after the interface has been passed. For the foregoing reasons, depth measurements should not be considered to be more accurate than 0.10 metre. The technique can determine ground conditions to depths in excess of 30 metres under suitable circumstances and usually causes less surface disturbance than trial pitting.

In cohesive soils cylindrical samples are retrieved by driving or pushing in 100mm nominal diameter tubes. In soft soils, piston sampling or vane testing may be undertaken. In granular soils and often in cohesive materials, in situ Standard Penetration Tests (SPT's) are performed. The SPT records the number of standard blows required to drive a 50mm diameter open or cone ended probe for 300mm after an initial 150mm penetration. A modified method of recording is used in denser strata. Small disturbed samples are obtained throughout.

ROTARY DRILLING

Rotary Drilling to produce cores by rotating an annular diamond-impregnated tube or barrel into the ground is the technique most appropriate to the forming of site investigation boreholes through rock or other hard strata. It has the advantage of being able to be used vertically or at an angle. Core diameters of less than 100mm are most common for site investigation purposes. Core is normally retrieved in plastic lining tubes. A flushing fluid such as air, water or foam is used to cool the bit and carry cuttings to the surface. Depths in excess of 60 metres can be achieved under suitable circumstances using rotary techniques, with minimal surface disturbance.

Examination of cores allows detailed rock description and generally enables angled discontinuity surfaces to be observed. However, vertical holes do not necessarily reveal the presence of vertical or near-vertical fissures or joint discontinuities. The core type and/or techniques used will depend on the ground conditions. Where open hole rotary drilling is employed, descriptions of strata result from examination at the surface of small particles ejected from the borehole in the flushing medium. In consequence, no indication of fissuring, bedding, consistency or degree of weathering can be obtained.

DYNAMIC SAMPLING

This technique involves the driving of an open-ended tube into the ground and retrieval of the soil which enters the tube. It was previously called window or windowless sampling. The term "window sample" arose from the original device which had a "window" or slot cut into the side of the tube through which samples were taken. This was superseded by the use of a thin-walled plastic liner to retrieve the soil sample from within a sampler (windowless sampling) which has a solid wall. Line diameters range from 36 to 86mm. Such samples can be used for qualitative logging, selection of samples for classification and chemical analysis and for obtaining a rudimentary assessment of strength.

Driving devices can be hand-held or machine mounted and the drive tubes are typically in 1m lengths. Depending on the type of rig used, the hole formed can be cased to prevent collapse of the borehole sides. Where the type of rig does not allow the insertion of casing, the success of this technique can be limited when soils and groundwater conditions are such that the sides of the hole collapse on withdrawal of the sampler. Obstructions within the ground, the density of the material or its strength can also limit the depth and rate of penetration of this light-weight investigation technique. Nevertheless, it is a valuable tool where access is constrained such as within buildings or on embankments. Depths of up to 10m can be achieved in suitable circumstances depending on the rig type but depths of 5m to 6m are more common.

EXPLORATORY HOLE RECORDS

The data obtained by these techniques are generally presented on Trial Pit, Borehole, Drillhole or Dynamic Sample Records. The descriptions of strata result from information gathered from a number of sources which may include published geological data, preliminary field observations and descriptions, in situ test results, laboratory test results and specimen descriptions. A key to the symbols and abbreviations used accompanies the records. The descriptions on the exploratory hole records accommodate but may not necessarily be identical to those on any preliminary records or the laboratory summaries.

The records show ground conditions at the exploratory hole locations. The degree to which they can be used to represent conditions between or beyond such holes, however, is a matter for geological interpretation rather than factual reporting and the associated uncertainties must be recognised.

DYNAMIC PROBING

This technique typically measures the number of blows of a standard weight falling over a standard height to advance a cone-ended rod over sequential standard distances (typically 100mm). Some devices measure the penetration of the probe per standard blow. It is essentially a profiling tool and is best used in conjunction with other investigation techniques where site-specific correlation can be used to delineate the distribution of soft or loose soils or the upper horizon of a dense or strong layer such as rock.

Both machine-driven and hand-driven equipment is available, the selection depending upon access restrictions and the depth of penetration required. It is particularly useful where access for larger equipment is not available, disturbance is to be minimised or where there are cost constraints. No samples are recovered and some techniques leave a sacrificial cone head in the ground. As with other lightweight techniques, progress is limited in strong or dense soils. The results are presented both numerically and graphically. Depths of up to 10m are commonly achieved in suitable circumstances.

The hand-driven DCP probing device has been calibrated by the Highways Agency to provide a profile of CBR values over a range of depths.

INSTRUMENTATION

The most common form of instrument used in site investigation is either the standpipe or else the standpipe piezometer which can be installed in investigation holes. They are used to facilitate monitoring of groundwater levels and water sampling over a period of time following site work. Normally a standpipe would be formed using rigid plastic tubing which has been perforated or slotted over much of its length whilst a standpipe piezometer would have a filter tip which would be placed at a selected level and the hole sealed above and sometimes below to isolate the zone of interest. Groundwater levels are determined using an electronic "dip meter" to measure the depth to the water surface from ground level. Piezometers can also be used to measure permeability. They are simple and inexpensive instruments for long term monitoring but response times can limit their use in tidal areas and access to the ground surface at each instrument is necessary. Remote reading requires more sophisticated hydraulic, electronic or pneumatic equipment.

Settlement can be monitored using surface or buried target plates whilst lateral movement over a range of depths is monitored using slip indicator or inclinometer equipment.

1. The report is prepared for the exclusive use of the Client named in the document and copyright subsists with Geotechnics Limited. Prior written permission must be obtained to reproduce all or part of the report. It is prepared on the understanding that its contents are only disclosed to parties directly involved in the current investigation, preparation and development of the site.
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4. The assessment of the significance of the factual data, where called for, is provided to assist the Client and their Engineer and/or Advisers in the preparation of their designs.
5. The report is based on the ground conditions encountered in the exploratory holes together with the results of field and laboratory testing in the context of the proposed development. The data from any commissioned desk study and site reconnaissance are also drawn upon. There may be special conditions appertaining to the site, however, which are not revealed by the investigation and which may not be taken into account in the report.
6. Methods of construction and/or design other than those proposed by the designers or referred to in the report may require consideration during the evolution of the proposals and further assessment of the geotechnical and any geoenvironmental data would be required to provide discussion and evaluations appropriate to these methods.
7. The accuracy of results reported depends upon the technique of measurement, investigation and test used and these values should not be regarded necessarily as characteristics of the strata as a whole (see accompanying notes on Investigation Techniques). Where such measurements are critical, the technique of investigation will need to be reviewed and supplementary investigation undertaken in accordance with the advice of the Company where necessary.
8. The samples selected for laboratory test are prepared and tested in accordance with the relevant Clauses and Parts of BS EN ISO 17892 and BS 1377 Parts 1 to 8, where appropriate, in Geotechnics Limited's UKAS accredited Laboratory, where possible. A list of tests is given.
9. Tests requiring the use of another laboratory having UKAS accreditation where possible are identified.
10. Any unavoidable variations from specified procedures are identified in the report.
11. Specimens are cut vertically, where this is relevant and can be identified, unless otherwise stated
12. All the data required by the test procedures are recorded on individual test sheets but the results in the report are presented in summary form to aid understanding and assimilation for design purposes. Where all details are required, these can be made available.
13. Whilst the report may express an opinion on possible configurations of strata between or beyond exploratory holes, or on the possible presence of features based on either visual, verbal, written, cartographical, photographic or published evidence, this is for guidance only and no liability can be accepted for its accuracy.
14. The Code of Practice for Ground Investigations – BS 5930:2015 calls for man-made soils to be described as Anthropogenic Ground with soils placed in an un-controlled manner classified as Made Ground and soils placed in a controlled manner as Fill. In view of the difficulty in always accurately determining the origin of man-made soils in exploratory holes, Geotechnics Limited classify such materials as Made Ground. Where soils can be clearly identified as being placed in a controlled manner then further classification of the soils as Fill has been added to the Exploratory Hole Records.
15. Classification of man-made soils is based on the inspection of retrieved samples or exposed excavations. Where it is obvious that foreign matter such as paper, plastic or metal is present, classification is clear. Frequently, however, for man-made soils that arise from the adjacent ground or from the backfilling of excavations, their visual characteristics can closely resemble those of undisturbed ground. Other evidence such as site history, exploratory hole location or other tests may need to be drawn upon to provide clarification. For these reasons, classification of soils on the exploratory hole records as either Made Ground or naturally occurring strata, the boundary between them and any interpretation that this gives rise to should be regarded as provisional and subject to re-evaluation in the light of further data.
16. The classification of materials as Topsoil is generally based on visual description and should not be interpreted to mean that the material so described complies with the criteria for Topsoil used in BS 3882:2015. Specific testing would be necessary where such a definition is a requirement.
17. Ground conditions should be monitored during the construction of the works and the report should be re-evaluated in the light of these data by the supervising geotechnical engineers.
18. Any comments on groundwater conditions are based on observations made at the time of the investigation, unless specifically stated otherwise. It should be noted, however, that the observations are subject to the method and speed of boring, drilling or excavation and that groundwater levels will vary due to seasonal or other effects.
19. Any bearing capacities for conventional spread foundations which are given in the report and interpreted from the investigation are for bases at a minimum depth of 1m below finished ground level in naturally occurring strata and at broadly similar levels throughout individual structures, unless otherwise stated. Typically they are based on serviceability criteria taking account of an assessment of the shear strength and/or density data obtained by the investigation. The foundations should be designed in accordance with the good practice embodied in BS 8004:2015 - Foundations, supplemented for housing by NHBC Standards. Foundation design is an iterative process and bearing pressures may need adjustment or other measures may need to be taken in the context of final layouts and levels prior to finalisation of proposals.
20. Unless specifically stated, the investigation does not take account of the possible effects of mineral extraction or of gases from fill or natural sources within, below or outside the site.
21. The costs or economic viability of the proposals referred to in the report, or of the solutions put forward to any problems encountered, will depend on very many factors in addition to geotechnical or geoenvironmental considerations and hence their evaluation is outside the scope of the report.

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