### FIELD DESCRIPTION OF SOILS in accordance with BS5930:2015

#### SOIL GROUP

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Principal Soil Type</th>
<th>Very Coarse Soils</th>
<th>Coarse Soils</th>
<th>Silty Clay</th>
<th>Fine Soils</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Boulders</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Fine</td>
<td>Coarse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cobble</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Fine</td>
<td>Coarse</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gravel</td>
<td>Fine</td>
<td>Coarse</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Fine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sand</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Fine</td>
<td>Coarse</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silty Clay</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clay</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Particle size (mm)

- >630: 630 - 200 200 - 63
- >63: 63 - 20 20 - 6.3
- >2.0: 2.0 - 0.63
- >0.63: 0.63 - 0.2
- >0.2: 0.2 - 0.063
- >0.063: 0.063 - 0.02
- >0.02: 0.02 - 0.0063
- >0.0063: 0.0063 - 0.002
- >0.002: <0.002

#### Visual identification

- Only seen complete in pits or exposures.
- Easily visible to naked eye; particle shape can be described; grading can be described.
- Visibly to naked eye; cohesion when dry; grading can be described.
- Easily visible to hand; cohesion when dry; grading can be described.
- Only coarse silt visible with hand lens; exhibits little plasticity and marked dilatancy; slightly granular or silky to the touch; disintegrates in water; lumps dry quickly; possesses cohesion but can be powdered easily between fingers.
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#### Density/Consistency

- No terms defined. Qualitative description of packing by inspection and ease of excavation.
- Classification of relative density on the basis of N value (Table 10), or field assessment using hand tests may be made (Table 11).

#### Discontinuities

- Describe spacing of features such as fissures, shears, partings, isolated beds or laminae, desiccation cracks, rootlets etc.
- Sheared: Breaks into blocks along polished discontinuities.
- Described in accordance with geological definition. Alternating layers of materials are Inter-bedded or Inter-laminated and should be described by a thickness term if in equal proportions, or by a thickness of and spacing between subordinate layers where unequal.

#### Bedding

- Describe thickness of beds in accordance with geological definition.
- Mean thickness
  - Fully bedded: >2000
  - Medium bedded: 2000 - 600
  - Thinly bedded: 600 - 200
  - Very thinly bedded: 200 - 60
  - Minimal thickness: <6

#### Colour

- Can be preceded by lightness and/or chroma.
- Colours may be mottled.
- More than 3 colours is multi-coloured.

#### Secondary constituents

- For mixtures involving very coarse soils see Table 3.4.4.2
- Terms in coarse soils
  - Slightly (sandy) Note 2
  - Very (sandy) Note 2
  -Sand and gravel
  - About 50% Note 3
- Terms in fine soils
  - Slightly (sandy)Note 4
  - Very (sandy) Note 5
  - Silty clay
- Proportion secondary
  - Note 1
  - Note 3
  - Note 6

#### Mineralogy

- Terms can include: glauconitic / micaceous / shelly / organic / calcareous.
- For example: slightly (glauconitic) / (glauconitic) / very (glauconitic).
- Organic soils contain secondary finely divided particles of organic matter, often with distinctive smell, may oxidise rapidly.

#### Particle shape

- Very angular / Angular / Sub-angular / Sub-rounded / Rounded / Well rounded
- A dominant shape can be described, for example: Cubic / Flat / Elongated.

#### Geographical Unit

- Name in accordance with published geological maps, memoirs or sheet explanations.

### Notes

1. Percentage coarse or fine soil constituents excludes cobbles and boulders.
2. gravelly or sandy and/or silty or clayey.
3. Or described as fine soil depending on mass behaviour.
4. gravelly and/or sandy.
5. gravelly or sandy.
6. Or described as coarse soil depending on mass behaviour.