Soils Description Chart

SOIL TYPE		PARTICLE SIZE (mm)	COMPACTN							
arse	BOULDERS	200	Term	Field identification of compactness for very coarse soils						
Very coarse	COBBLES	60	Loose Dense	By inspection of voids and particle packing.	Description generally in accordance with BS 5930:1999. For further information see British Standard.					
Coarse soils (over 65% sand and gravel sizes	GRAVELS	Coarse 20	Term	Field identification of compliance for coarse soils	Density / SPT 'N' Value Correlation					
				Excavated by spade; 50mm peg driven easily. Requires pick for excavation; 50mm peg hard to drive. Visual examination; pick removes soil in lumps which can be abraded.	Density		'N' Value		Ø	
		Medium 6	Loose		Very Loose Loose Medium dense Dense Very Dense		4-10 2 10-30 3 30-50 3		<28° 28-30° 30-36° 36-41°	
		Fine 2	Dense						>41°	
	SANDS	Coarse	Slightly cemented		Secondary constituent of coarse soils Prefix Suffix Proportion (%)					
		0.6 Medium			Slightly (Sandy) (Sandy) Very (Sandy)	With a little Occasional With some Much / many		COARSE	FINE	
		0.2 Fine 0.06						<5 5-20 20-40	<5 5-15 15-35	
Fine soils (over 35% sand and gravel sizes)	SILTS	Coarse	Term	Field identification of	Secondary o					
		0.02 Medium	Soft or Loose	compactness / strength for Silts Easily moulded or crushed in the fingers.	Prefix Slightly	With a little Occasional With some Much / many		Proportion (%)		
		0.006	Firm or	Can be moulded or crushed by strong	(Sandy) (Sandy)					
		Fine 0.0002	Dense		Very (Sandy)			35-65 >65		
			Term	Field identification of Strength for Clays	Strength <20 kN/m² 20-40 kN/m² 40-75 kN/m² 75-150 kN/m² >150 kN/m²					
	CLAYS		Very Soft Soft Firm Stiff Very Stiff	Exudes between fingers when squeezed. Moulded by light finger pressure. Moulded by strong finger pressure. Cannot be moulded - indented by thumb. Indented by thumb nail ('hard'>300 kN/m²)						
Organic soils	ORGANIC CLAY SILT	Varies	Term	Field identification of Consistency for Peats	Structure					
	SAND	Varies	Firm Spongy	Fibres already compressed together. Very compressible and open structure. Can be moulded in hand and smears	Fibrous; Plant remains recognisable and retains some strength Amorphous:					
			Plastic	on fingers	Recognisable		emains a	bsent.		
			NTIFICATION OF SOIL TYPES							
COBBLES			Only seen complete in pits or exposures. Often difficult to recover from boreholes.							
GRAVELS SANDS			Easily visible to naked eye; particle shape can be described; grading can be described. Visible to naked eye; very little or no cohesion when dry; grading can be described.							
SILTS			Only coarse silt barely visible to naked eye; exhibits little plasticity; slightly granular or silky to the touch. Disintegrates in water; lumps dry quickly; possess cohesion but can be powdered easily between fingers.							
			Dry lumps can be broken but not powdered between fingers; they also disintegrate under water but more slowly than silt; smooth to the touch; exhibits plasticity; sticks to the fingers and dries slowly; shrinks appreciably on drying usually showing cracks.							
ORGANIC SOILS				Contains substantial amounts or organic vegetable matter.						
PEAT	5		Predominantly plant remains usually dark brown in colour, often with distinctive smell; low bulk density.							

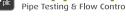




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