

**REPORT ON**  
Preliminary Geotechnical Investigation  
Proposed Residential Development  
Palermo (Bartman)  
3278 Bronte Road  
Oakville, Ontario

**PREPARED FOR:**  
Palermo Village Corp (PVC)

**Project No:** 19-323-101  
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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

DS Consultants Ltd. (DS) was retained by Palermo Village Corp (PVC) to carry out a preliminary geotechnical investigation for the proposed residential development located at 3278 Bronte Road, Oakville, Ontario.

It is understood that the proposed subdivision will consist of residential development (housing) with one level of basement or more. The finish floor elevation of the proposed construction, and the invert of the site services is not known to us at the time of writing this report.

The purpose of this geotechnical investigation was to obtain information about the subsurface conditions at three (3) borehole locations and from the findings in the boreholes to make preliminary engineering recommendations pertaining to the geotechnical design of residential development including underground utilities, roads and to comment on the foundation conditions for the building construction.

This report is provided on the basis of the terms of reference presented above and, on the assumption, that the design will be in accordance with the applicable codes and standards. If there are any changes in the design features relevant to the geotechnical analyses, or if any questions arise concerning the geotechnical aspects of the codes and standards, this office should be contacted to review the design. It may then be necessary to carry out additional borings and reporting before the recommendations of this office can be relied upon.

The format and contents are guided by client specific needs and economics and do not conform to generalized standards for services. Laboratory testing for most part follows ASTM or CSA Standards or modifications of these standards that have become standard practice.

This report has been prepared for Palermo Village Corp (PVC) and its architect and designers. Third party use of this report without DS consent is prohibited.

## **2. FIELD AND LABORATORY WORK**

Three (3) boreholes (MW21-1, MW21-2 and MW21--3, see Drawing 1 for borehole locations) were drilled at the subject site by DS, to a depth of 6.7m, in shale bedrock.

The boreholes were drilled with solid stem continuous flight augers equipment by a drilling sub-contractor under the direction and supervision of DS personnel. Samples were retrieved at regular intervals with a 50 mm O.D. split-barrel sampler driven with a hammer weighing 624 N and dropping 760 mm in accordance with the Standard Penetration Test (SPT) method.

The samples were logged in the field and returned to the DS laboratory for detailed examination by the project engineer and for laboratory testing.

As well as visual examination in the laboratory, all soil samples from geotechnical boreholes were tested for moisture contents.

Water level observations were made during and upon completion of drilling. Three (3) monitoring wells of 50mm diameter were installed in boreholes MW21-1 to MW21-3 for the long-term groundwater levels monitoring.

The elevation surveying of the borehole locations was undertaken by DS Consultants Ltd. personnel, using the differential GPS unit.

### **3. SUBSURFACE CONDITIONS**

The borehole location plan is shown on **Drawing 1**. General notes on sample description are provided on **Drawing 1A**. The subsurface conditions in the boreholes by DS are presented in the individual borehole logs presented on **Drawings 2 to 4**.

#### **3.1 Soil and Bedrock Conditions**

##### **Fill Soils:**

Fill materials were observed at the surface of all the boreholes and extended to approximate depths ranging from 1.8 to 2.4m below ground surface. The fill layer consisted of sand and gravel and silty sand in the upper 0.8m and clayey silt material below the sand and gravel. The brown to reddish brown fill contained some to trace of clay, sand, gravel, stone fragments and debris such as brick, asphalt and concrete pieces. The moisture content of this fill layer varied from 11 to 20%.

The type/quantity and extent of the existing fill layer can be explored by further borehole and test pit investigations prior to excavations.

##### **Clayey Silt Till:**

Below the fill, clayey silt till deposit was encountered in all the boreholes, overlying till/shale complex, to an approximate depth of 4.6m below ground surface. The clayey silt till deposit was found to have a very stiff to hard consistency, with measured SPT 'N' values ranging from 18 to 41 blows per 300 mm of penetration. This clayey silt till contained some to trace of sand, gravel and cobbles. The moisture content of this clayey silt till deposit varied from 12 to 17%.

##### **Clayey Silt Till/ Shale Complex:**

Below the clayey silt till in all the Borehole locations, at approximate depth of 4.6m and extending to an approximate depth of 6.0m, a deposit of clayey silt till/shale complex was found overlying shale bedrock. This deposit generally consisted of clayey silt till mixed with highly weathered shale.

This deposit was found to have generally a hard consistency, with measured SPT 'N' values more than 50 blows per 300 mm of penetration. The moisture content of this clayey silt till/shale complex varied from 8 to 14%.

### **Shale Bedrock:**

Shale bedrock of Queenston Formation was encountered in all the boreholes. The shale bedrock was encountered at approximate depth of 6.0m below the existing grade, corresponding to Elevations varying from 158.3 to 159.4m. Shale bedrock was not proven by rock coring. The depth and elevation of the shale bedrock surface in the boreholes are presented on the borehole records attached to this report. The depth of shale bedrock should be explored by further borehole investigation and be confirmed during excavations.

Because of the method of drilling and sampling, the surface elevations of the bedrock can be different than indicated on the borehole logs. With augering, the auger may penetrate some of the more weathered shale and the coring may therefore begin below the bedrock surface. Commonly the overburden overlying the shale contains slabs of limestone which would give a false indication of the bedrock level. Similarly, the depth of weathering cannot be determined accurately due to the presence of limestone layers.

The shale bedrock generally contains layers of siltstone, limestone and dolostone. Typically, the hard layers comprise about 15 to 20 percent of the unit. However, higher concentrations of hard layers can be present. The hard layers are usually less than 100 to 150 mm thick, but some layers are much thicker. The thicker layers have been observed to be as much as 750 to 900 mm at other sites. The layers are actually lenses and they can vary significantly in thickness over short distance.

Methane gas is anticipated in the bedrock. Appropriate care and monitoring is essential in all confined bedrock excavations. Stress relief features such as folds and faults are common in the shale bedrock. **Appendix A** presents more details and general comments about the shale bedrock.

## **3.2 Groundwater Conditions**

Groundwater levels in the monitoring wells were recorded at depths of 2.4 and 5.3m below the existing grade in boreholes MW21-1 and MW21-2, corresponding to Elevations 161.9 to 159.3 m. Borehole MW21-3 remained dry. The groundwater levels measured in the monitoring wells are summarized in **Table 2**.

**Table 2: Summary of Groundwater Level Measurements in Monitoring Wells**

<b>Borehole No.</b>	<b>Ground Surface Elev. (m)</b>	<b>Date of Observation</b>	<b>Depth of Groundwater (m)</b>	<b>Elevation of Groundwater (m)</b>
MW21-1	164.3	June 16/21	2.4	161.9
MW21-2	164.8	June 16/21	5.3	159.3
MW21-3	165.4	June 16/21	Dry	Dry

It should be noted that the groundwater levels can vary and are subject to seasonal fluctuations in response to major weather events.

Therefore, reference should be made to the hydrogeology study report for further details on the volume flow and groundwater control.

#### **4. DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is proposed to develop the site as a residential subdivision. The lots will therefore be serviced by a network of roads, storm and sanitary sewers and watermains.

##### **4.1 SITE GRADING & ENGINEERED FILL**

The site will be developed as residential subdivision with residential lots, roads and driveways, it is recommended that all fill to be placed for grading purposes be constructed as engineered fill to provide competent subgrade below house foundations, roads, boulevards, etc.

Prior to placement of engineered fill, all existing topsoil, fill materials and weathered/disturbed native soils containing topsoil/organics and other unsuitable materials should be stripped to expose the inorganic subgrade. The exposed subgrade should then be proof rolled with a heavy sheepsfoot roller to identify weak areas. Any weak or excessively wet zones identified during proof-rolling should be sub-excavated and replaced with compacted competent material to establish stable and uniform conditions. Prior to placement of engineered fill, the subgrade should be inspected and approved by a geotechnical engineer.

General guidelines for the placement and preparation of engineered fill are presented on **Appendix B**. Bearing capacity values of 150 kPa at SLS and 225 kPa at ULS can be used on engineered fill, provided that all requirements on **Appendix B** are adhered to. To reduce the risk of improperly placed engineered compacted fill, full-time supervision of the contractor is essential.

The following is a recommended procedure for an engineered fill:

1. Prior to site work involving engineered fill, a site meeting to discuss all aspects must be convened. The surveyor, contractor, design engineer and geotechnical engineer must attend the meeting. At this meeting, the limits of the engineered fill will be defined. The contractor must make known where all fill material will be obtained and samples must be provided to the geotechnical engineer for review, and approval before filling begins.
2. Detailed drawings indicating the lower boundaries as well as the upper boundaries of the engineered fill must be available at the site meeting and be approved by the geotechnical engineer.
3. The building footprint and base of the pad, including basements, garages, etc. must be defined by offset stakes that remain in place until the footings and service connections are all constructed. Confirmation that the footings are within the pad, service lines are in place, and that the grade conforms to drawings, must be obtained by the owner in writing from the surveyor and DS. Without this confirmation no responsibility for the performance of the structure can be accepted by DS. Survey drawing of the pre and post fill location and elevations will also be required.
4. The area must be stripped of all topsoil and fill materials. Subgrade must be proof-rolled. Soft spots must be dug out. The stripped native subgrade must be examined and approved by a DS engineer prior to placement of fill.
5. The approved engineered fill must be compacted to 100% Standard Proctor Maximum Dry Density throughout. Granular Fill preferred. Engineered fill should not be placed (where it will support footings) during the winter months. Engineered fill compacted to 100% SPMDD will settle under its own weight approximately 0.5% of the fill height and the structural engineer must be aware of this settlement. In addition to the settlement of the fill, additional settlement due to consolidation of the underlying soils from the structural and fill loads will occur.
6. Full-time geotechnical inspection by DS during placement of engineered fill is required. Work cannot commence or continue without the presence of the DS representative.
7. The fill must be placed such that the specified geometry is achieved. Refer to sketches for minimum requirements. Take careful note that the projection of the compacted pad beyond the footing at footing level is a minimum of 2 m. The base of the compacted pad extends 2 m plus the depth of excavation beyond the edge of the footing.
8. Bearing capacity values of 150 kPa at SLS and 225 kPa at ULS may be used provided that all conditions outlined above are adhered to. A minimum footing width of 500 mm (20 inches) is suggested and footings should be provided with nominal steel reinforcement.
9. All excavations must be done in accordance with the Occupational Health and Safety Regulations of Ontario.

10. After completion of the pad a second contractor may be selected to install footings. All excavations must be backfilled under full time supervision by DS to the same degree as the engineered fill pad. Surface water cannot be allowed to pond in excavations or to be trapped in clear stone backfill. Clear stone backfill can only be used with the approval of DS.

11. After completion of compaction, the surface of the pad must be protected from disturbance from traffic, rain and frost.

12. If there is a delay in construction, the engineered fill pad must be inspected and accepted by the geotechnical engineer. The location of the structure must be reconfirmed that it remains within the pad.

The native soils and existing fill materials free from topsoil and organics to be excavated are considered suitable for re-use as engineered fill, provided that their moisture contents at the time of construction are at or near optimum. Clayey tills are likely to be excavated in cohesive chunks or blocks and will be difficult to compact. They should be pulverized and placed in thin layers not exceeding 200 mm and compacted using heavy equipment suitable for these types of soils (e.g. heavy sheepsfoot compactors).

## **4.2 ROADS/PAVEMENTS**

The investigation has shown that the predominant subgrade soil, after stripping the topsoil (if encountered), fill and otherwise unsuitable subsoil, will generally consist of clayey silt till, clayey silt till/shale complex and shale bedrock.

Based on the above and assuming that traffic usage will be residential, the following minimum pavement thickness is recommended for roads to be constructed within the development:

### **For Minor Local or Local Roads**

- 40 mm HL3 Asphaltic Concrete
- 60 mm HL8 Asphaltic Concrete
- 150 mm Granular 'A'
- 350 mm Granular 'B'

### **For Collector Roads**

- 40 mm HL3 Asphaltic Concrete
- 80 mm HL8 Asphaltic Concrete
- 150 mm Granular 'A'
- 350 mm Granular 'B'



These values may need to be adjusted according to the Town of Oakville Standards. The site subgrade and weather conditions (i.e. if wet) at the time of construction may necessitate the placement of thicker granular sub-base layer in order to facilitate the construction. Furthermore, heavy construction equipment may have to be kept off the newly constructed roads before the placement of asphalt and/or immediately thereafter, to avoid damaging the weak subgrade by heavy truck traffic.

Driveway pavements should be constructed as per the Town of Oakville standards.

#### **4.2.1 STRIPPING, SUB-EXCAVATION AND GRADING**

The site should be stripped of all topsoil (if encountered), fill materials and weathered/disturbed soils containing topsoil/organics or otherwise unsuitable soils to the full depth of the roads, both in cut and fill areas. Following stripping, the site should be graded to the subgrade level and approved. The subgrade should then be proof rolled, in the presence of the Geotechnical Engineer, by at least several passes of a heavy compactor having a rated capacity of at least 8 tonnes. Any soft spots thus exposed should be removed and replaced by select fill material, similar to the existing subgrade soil and approved by the Geotechnical Engineer. The subgrade should then be re-compacted from the surface to at least 98% of its Standard Proctor Maximum Dry Density (SPMDD). The final subgrade should be cambered or otherwise shaped properly to facilitate rapid drainage and to prevent the formation of local depressions in which water could accumulate.

Owing to the clayey (i.e. impervious) nature of some subsoils at the site, proper cambering and allowing the water to escape towards the sides (where it can be removed by means of subdrains) is considered to be beneficial for this project. Otherwise, any water collected in the granular sub-base materials could be trapped thus causing problems due to softened subgrade, differential frost heave, etc. For the same reason damaging the subgrade during and after placement of the granular materials by heavy construction traffic should be avoided. If the moisture content of the local material cannot be maintained at  $\pm 2\%$  of the optimum moisture content, imported granular material may need to be used.

Any fill required for re-grading the site or backfill should be select, clean material, free of topsoil, organic or other foreign and unsuitable matter. The fill should be placed in thin layers and compacted to at least 98% of its SPMDD. The compaction of the new fill should be checked by frequent field density tests.

#### **4.2.2 CONSTRUCTION**

Once the subgrade has been inspected and approved, the granular base and sub-base course materials should be placed in layers not exceeding 200 mm (uncompacted thickness) and should

be compacted to at least 100% of their respective SPMD. The grading of the material should conform to current OPS Specifications.

The placing, spreading and rolling of the asphalt should be in accordance with OPS Specifications or, as required by the local authorities.

Frequent field density tests should be carried out on both the asphalt and granular base and sub-base materials to ensure that the required degree of compaction is achieved.

### **4.2.3 DRAINAGE**

The Town of Oakville requires the installation of full-length subdrains on all roads. The subdrains should be properly filtered to prevent the loss of (and clogging by) soil fines.

All paved surfaces should be sloped to provide satisfactory drainage towards catch-basins. As discussed in Section 4.2.1, by means of good planning any water trapped in the granular sub-base materials should be drained rapidly towards subdrains or other interceptors.

## **4.3 UNDERGROUND UTILITIES**

As a part of the site development, a network of new water mains, storm and sanitary sewers will be constructed. It is assumed that the trenches will generally be within 4 to 5 m below the existing grade.

### **4.3.1 TRENCHING**

The boreholes show that below the existing topsoil (if encountered) and fill, the trenches will be predominantly dug through the glacial tills (clayey silt till, till/shale complex and shale bedrock. Excavations can be carried out with heavy hydraulic backhoe. Groundwater levels in the monitoring wells were recorded at depths ranging from 2.4 to 5.3 m below the existing grade in boreholes MW21-1 and MW21-2, corresponding to Elevations 161.9 to 153.3 m. No major problems due to groundwater seepage are anticipated during construction in trenches dug through the clayey soils and shale bedrock. It is expected that any seepage, which occurs during wet periods or from the wet sand seams/layers in the till, can be removed by pumping from sumps.

Excavation of the shale can be carried out using heaviest available single tooth ripper equipment. The limestone beds are present and may overly the shale bedrock surface at some locations. It may be necessary at some locations to utilize jackhammer type equipment to “open” the limestone layers for the ripper.

The sides of excavations in the natural strata can be expected to be temporarily stable at relatively steep side slopes for short periods of time but they should be cut back at slopes no steeper than

1:1 in order to comply with the safety regulations. Where wet sand and sandy silt layers in the till are encountered, flattened slopes will be required.

All excavations must be carried out in accordance with the most recent Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA). In accordance with OHSA, fill material can be classified as Type 3 Soil above the groundwater table and Type 4 Soil in perched water conditions. The very stiff to hard clayey silt till can be classified as Type 2 Soil above the groundwater table and Type 3 Soil below the groundwater table.

It should be noted that the till is a non-sorted sediment and therefore contain cobble and boulders. Possible large obstructions such as buried concrete pieces are also anticipated in the fill material. Provisions must be made in the excavation contract for the removal of possible boulders in the till, obstructions in the fill material and limestone layers in shale bedrock.

### **4.3.2 BEDDING**

The boreholes show that the pipes will predominantly be laid within the native soils which will provide adequate support for the sewer pipes and allow the use of normal Class B type bedding. The bedding should conform to the current Ontario Provincial Standard specifications (OPSS 401/OPSD 802) and/or standards set by the local municipality.

The recommended minimum thickness of granular bedding below the invert of the pipes is 150 mm. The thickness of the bedding may, however, have to be increased depending on the pipe diameter or in accordance with local standards or if wet or weak subgrade conditions or fill materials are encountered at the trench base level. The bedding material should consist of well graded granular material such as Granular 'A' or equivalent. After installing the pipe on the bedding, a granular surround of approved bedding material, which extends at least 300 mm above the obvert of the pipe, or as set out by the local Authority, should be placed. Where the bedding falls below the anticipated water table, the bedding stone must be surrounded with a geotextile filter cloth.

To avoid the loss of soil fines from the subgrade, uniformly graded clear stone should not be used unless, below the granular bedding material, a suitable, approved filter fabric (geotextile) is placed. The geotextile should extend along the sides of the trench and should be wrapped all around the poorly graded bedding material.

For deep trenches (if any), i.e. more than 2.0 m below the shale surface, a minimum 50 mm thick polystyrene etc. layer will be required at both sides of the pipe to avoid rock squeezing. The polystyrene layer should extend vertically to at least 0.3 m above the pipe. The rock trench should be wide enough so that at each side, the horizontal distance between the pipe side and the cut rock surface is at least 0.3 m.

### **4.3.3 BACKFILLING OF TRENCHES**

Based on visual and tactile examination, the on-site excavated inorganic native soils are considered to be suitable for re-use as backfill in the service trenches provided their moisture contents at the time of construction are within 2 percent of their optimum moisture content.

The clayey deposits especially when its consistency is hard is likely to be excavated in cohesive chunks or blocks and will be difficult to compact in confined areas. For use as backfill, the clayey material will have to be pulverized and placed in thin layers. The clayey soils will have to be compacted using heavy equipment suitable for these soils which may be difficult to operate in the narrow confines of the trenches. Unless the clayey materials are properly pulverized and compacted in sufficiently thin lifts post-construction settlements could occur. Their use in narrow trenches such as laterals (where heavy compaction equipment cannot be operated) may not be feasible.

Selected inorganic fill and the native soils free from topsoil and organics can be used as general construction backfill where it can be compacted with sheep's foot type compactors. Loose lifts of soil, which are to be compacted, should not exceed 200 mm. Depending on the time of construction and weather, some excavated material may be too wet to compact and will require aeration prior to its use.

Imported granular fill, which can be compacted with handheld equipment, should be used in confined areas.

The excavated soils are not considered to be free draining. Where free draining backfill is required, imported granular fill such as OPSS Granular B should be used.

The backfill should be placed in maximum 200 mm thick layers at or near ( $\pm 2\%$ ) their optimum moisture content and each layer should be compacted to at least 95% SPMDD. In the upper 1.5 m of subgrade, underneath the road base, the compaction should be increased to 98% SPMDD. Unsuitable materials such as organic soils, boulders, cobbles, frozen soils, etc. should not be used for backfilling.

The on-site excavated soils and especially the clayey soils should not be used in confined areas (e.g. around catch-basins and laterals under roadways) where heavy compaction equipment cannot be operated. The use of imported granular fill together with an appropriate frost taper would be preferable in confined areas and around structures, such as catch-basins.

It should be noted that the excavated soils are subject to moisture content increase during wet weather which would make these materials too wet for adequate compaction. Stockpiles should be compacted at the surface or be covered with tarpaulins to minimize moisture uptake.

#### 4.3.4 ANTI SEEPAGE COLLARS/TRENCH PLUGS

For sewer installed under the groundwater table, seepage between the trench backfill material and the trench wall may cause erosion of the backfill materials. It is recommended that nominal anti-seepage collars (maximum spacing 50m) be provided to prevent erosion of the backfill materials. Anti seepage collar should not be located at pipe joint.

The anti-seepage collar may consist of a clay plug surrounding the sewer pipe. A typical clay plug will be about 1 m thick and extends laterally to a minimum distance of 0.5 m from the pipe circumference with a minimum of 0.3 m embedment into the shale or native sub-grade.

#### 4.3.5 THRUST BLOCKS AND JOINT RESTRAINTS

For the design of thrust blocks on undisturbed native soils or engineered fill, an allowable (or SLS) bearing resistance of 150 kPa and factored ULS bearing resistance of 225 kPa can be used.

### 4.4 FOUNDATION CONDITIONS

It is understood that the proposed subdivision will consist of single-family homes (detached, and townhomes) with one level of basement.

The native soils encountered in the boreholes are competent to support the proposed houses on conventional footings. The spread and strip footings founded on the undisturbed native soils can be designed for a bearing capacity of 200 kPa at SLS (Serviceability Limit State), and for a factored geotechnical resistance of 300 kPa at ULS (Ultimate Limit State), at or below the existing fill materials, to a depth of 1.8 to 2.4 m below existing grades.

Subject to design grades, higher bearing capacity values are available for hard native soils, if required.

**Should the proposed footings be founded above the competent native soils**, subject to design grades, the proposed houses can also be supported by spread and strip footings founded on engineered fill for a bearing capacity of 150 kPa at the serviceability limit states (SLS) and for a factored geotechnical resistance of 225 kPa at the ultimate limit states (ULS), provided all requirements in Section 4.1 and **Appendix B** are adhered to.

Foundations designed to the specified bearing capacities at the serviceability limit states (SLS) are expected to settle less than 25 mm total and 19 mm differential.

All footings exposed to seasonal freezing conditions must have at least 1.2 metres of soil cover for frost protection.

Where it is necessary to place footings at different levels, the upper footing must be founded below an imaginary 10 horizontal to 7 vertical line drawn up from the base of the lower footing. The lower footing must be installed first to help minimize the risk of undermining the upper footing.

It should be noted that the recommended bearing capacities have been calculated by DS from the borehole information for the design stage only. The investigation and comments are necessarily on-going as new information of the underground conditions becomes available. For example, more specific information is available with respect to conditions between boreholes when foundation construction is underway. The interpretation between boreholes and the recommendations of this report must therefore be checked through field inspections provided by DS to validate the information for use during the construction stage.

#### 4.5 FLOOR SLAB

The house floor slab can be supported on grade provided all topsoil (if encountered), fill and surficially weathered/disturbed native soils are removed and the base thoroughly proof rolled.

The fill required to raise the grade can consist of inorganic soil, placed in shallow lifts and compacted to 98 percent of Standard Proctor Maximum Dry Density (SPMDD).

Where engineered fill is used to support the foundations, the floor slab can also be supported by engineered fill.

A moisture barrier consisting of at least 200 mm of 19 mm clear crushed stone should be installed under the floor slab.

A perimeter and underfloor drainage system will be required, as shown on **Drawing 5**.

#### 4.6 EARTH PRESSURES

The lateral earth pressures acting on retaining walls or underground structures may be calculated from the following expression:

$$p = k(\gamma h + q)$$

where,  $p$  = Lateral earth pressure in kPa acting at depth  $h$

$K$  = Earth pressure coefficient, assumed to be 0.40 for vertical walls and horizontal backfill for permanent construction

$\gamma$  = Unit weight of backfill, a value of 21 kN/m<sup>3</sup> may be assumed

$h$  = Depth to point of interest in metres

$q$  = Equivalent value of surcharge on the ground surface in kPa

The above expression assumes that the perimeter drainage system prevents the build up of any hydrostatic pressure behind the wall.

#### **4.7 EARTHQUAKE CONSIDERATIONS**

Based on the borehole information and according to Table 4.1.8.4.A of OBC 2012, the subject site for the proposed buildings can be classified as ‘Class C’ for seismic site response

### **5. GENERAL COMMENTS AND LIMITATIONS OF REPORT**

DS Consultants Ltd. (DS) should be retained for a general review of the final design and specifications to verify that this report has been properly interpreted and implemented. If not accorded the privilege of making this review, DS will assume no responsibility for interpretation of the recommendations in the report.

This report is intended solely for the Client named. The material in it reflects our best judgment in light of the information available to DS at the time of preparation. Unless otherwise agreed in writing by DS, it shall not be used to express or imply warranty as to the fitness of the property for a particular purpose. No portion of this report may be used as a separate entity, it is written to be read in its entirety.

The conclusions and recommendations given in this report are based on information determined at the test hole locations. The information contained herein in no way reflects on the environment aspects of the project, unless otherwise stated. Subsurface and groundwater conditions between and beyond the test holes may differ from those encountered at the test hole locations, and conditions may become apparent during construction, which could not be detected or anticipated at the time of the site investigation. The benchmark and elevations used in this report are primarily to establish relative elevation differences between the test hole locations and should not be used for other purposes, such as grading, excavating, planning, development, etc.

The design recommendations given in this report are applicable only to the project described in the text and then only if constructed substantially in accordance with the details stated in this report.

The comments made in this report on potential construction problems and possible methods are intended only for the guidance of the designer. The number of test holes may not be sufficient to determine all the factors that may affect construction methods and costs. For example, the thickness of surficial topsoil or fill layers may vary markedly and unpredictably. The contractors bidding on this project or undertaking the construction should, therefore, make their own interpretation of the factual information presented and draw their own conclusions as to how the subsurface conditions may affect their work. This work has been undertaken in accordance with normally accepted geotechnical engineering practices.



Any use which a third party makes of this report, or any reliance on or decisions to be made based on it, are the responsibility of such third parties. DS accepts no responsibility for damages, if any, suffered by any third party as a result of decisions made or actions based on this report. We accept no responsibility for any decisions made or actions taken as a result of this report unless we are specifically advised of and participate in such action, in which case our responsibility will be as agreed to at that time.

We trust that the information contained in this report is satisfactory. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact this office.

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Project No.: 21-323-101- Geotechnical Investigation  
Proposed Residential Development  
3278 Bronte Road, Oakville, Ontario



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# Drawings



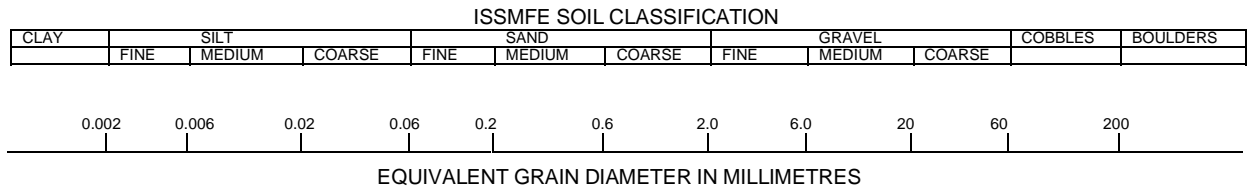
Legend

-  Approx Property Boundary
-  Sample Location

 <p><b>DS CONSULTANTS LTD.</b> 6221 Highway 7, UNIT 16 Vaughan, Ontario L4H 0K8 Telephone: (905) 264-9393 www.dsconsultants.ca</p>	Project: GEOTECHNICAL INVESTIGATION 3278 Bronte Road, Oakville, ON			
	Title: <b>SAMPLE LOCATION PLAN</b>			
Client:  ARGO DEVELOPMENT CORP.	Size: 8.5 x 11	Approved By: L.M	Drawn By: S.Y	Date: June 2021
	Rev: 0	Scale: As Shown	Project No.: 19-323-101	Figure No.: <b>1</b>
	Image/Map Source: Google Satellite Image			

## Drawing 1A: Notes On Sample Descriptions

- All sample descriptions included in this report generally follow the Unified Soil Classification. Laboratory grain size analyses provided by DS also follow the same system. Different classification systems may be used by others, such as the system by the International Society for Soil Mechanics and Foundation Engineering (ISSMFE). Please note that, with the exception of those samples where a grain size analysis and/or Atterberg Limits testing have been made, all samples are classified visually. Visual classification is not sufficiently accurate to provide exact grain sizing or precise differentiation between size classification systems.



CLAY (PLASTIC) TO	FINE	MEDIUM	CRS.	FINE	COARSE
SILT (NONPLASTIC)	SAND			GRAVEL	

UNIFIED SOIL CLASSIFICATION

- Fill:** Where fill is designated on the borehole log it is defined as indicated by the sample recovered during the boring process. The reader is cautioned that fills are heterogeneous in nature and variable in density or degree of compaction. The borehole description may therefore not be applicable as a general description of site fill materials. All fills should be expected to contain obstruction such as wood, large concrete pieces or subsurface basements, floors, tanks, etc., none of these may have been encountered in the boreholes. Since boreholes cannot accurately define the contents of the fill, test pits are recommended to provide supplementary information. Despite the use of test pits, the heterogeneous nature of fill will leave some ambiguity as to the exact composition of the fill. Most fills contain pockets, seams, or layers of organically contaminated soil. This organic material can result in the generation of methane gas and/or significant ongoing and future settlements. Fill at this site may have been monitored for the presence of methane gas and, if so, the results are given on the borehole logs. The monitoring process does not indicate the volume of gas that can be potentially generated nor does it pinpoint the source of the gas. These readings are to advise of the presence of gas only, and a detailed study is recommended for sites where any explosive gas/methane is detected. Some fill material may be contaminated by toxic/hazardous waste that renders it unacceptable for deposition in any but designated land fill sites; unless specifically stated the fill on this site has not been tested for contaminants that may be considered toxic or hazardous. This testing and a potential hazard study can be undertaken if requested. In most residential/commercial areas undergoing reconstruction, buried oil tanks are common and are generally not detected in a conventional preliminary geotechnical site investigation.
  - Till:** The term till on the borehole logs indicates that the material originates from a geological process associated with glaciation. Because of this geological process the till must be considered heterogeneous in composition and as such may contain pockets and/or seams of material such as sand, gravel, silt or clay. Till often contains cobbles (60 to 200 mm) or boulders (over 200 mm). Contractors may therefore encounter cobbles and boulders during excavation, even if they are not indicated by the borings. It should be appreciated that normal sampling equipment cannot differentiate the size or type of any obstruction. Because of the horizontal and vertical variability of till, the sample description may be applicable to a very limited zone; caution is therefore essential when dealing with sensitive excavations or dewatering programs in till materials.
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<b>PROJECT:</b> Preliminary Geotechnical Investigation <b>CLIENT:</b> ARGO Development Corporation <b>PROJECT LOCATION:</b> 3278 Bronte Road- Palermo (Bartman), Oakville, ON <b>DATUM:</b> Geodetic <b>BOREHOLE LOCATION:</b> See Drawing 1 N 4810624.573 E 598167.034	<b>DRILLING DATA</b> Method: Solid Stem Auger Diameter: 150 mm Date: Jun-14-2021	<b>REF. NO.:</b> 19-323-101 <b>ENCL NO.:</b> 2
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SOIL PROFILE		SAMPLES			GROUND WATER CONDITIONS	ELEVATION	DYNAMIC CONE PENETRATION RESISTANCE PLOT				POCKET PEN. (Cu) (kPa)	NATURAL UNIT WT (kN/m <sup>3</sup> )	METHANE AND GRAIN SIZE DISTRIBUTION (%)	
(m) ELEV DEPTH	DESCRIPTION	NUMBER	TYPE	"N" BLOWS 0.3 m			SHEAR STRENGTH (kPa)							WATER CONTENT (%)
164.3	0.0 <b>FILL:</b> sand and gravel, trace clay, reddish brown, moist, compact  163.5 0.8 <b>FILL:</b> clayey silt, trace sand, trace gravel, brownish grey, moist, very stiff  162.5 1.8 <b>CLAYEY SILT TILL:</b> some sand to sandy, some gravel, occasional cobble, grey, moist, very stiff to hard	1	SS	14	W. L. 161.9 m Jun 16, 2021	20	40	60	80	100	10	20	30	GR SA SI CL
163.5		2	SS	23		163								
162.5		3	SS	27		162								
	4	SS	41	161										
	5	SS	40	161										
159.7	4.6 <b>CLAYEY SILT TILL/SHALE COMPLEX:</b> trace sand, trace gravel, occasional cobble, reddish brown, moist, hard	6	SS	50/100mm		159								
158.3		7	SS	50/130mm		158.3								
156.9	6.2 <b>SHALE BEDROCK:</b> weathered, reddish brown <b>END OF BOREHOLE:</b> Notes: 1) 50mm dia. monitoring well installed upon completion. 2) Water Level Readings:  Date:      Water Level(mbg): June 16, 2021   2.41													

DS SOIL LOG 19-323-101 3278 BRONTE -GEO COPY.GPJ DS.GDT 21-6-23

**GROUNDWATER ELEVATIONS**  
 Measurement 1st 2nd 3rd 4th

**GRAPH NOTES** + 3 , × 3 : Numbers refer to Sensitivity      ○ ● = 3% Strain at Failure

<b>PROJECT:</b> Preliminary Geotechnical Investigation <b>CLIENT:</b> ARGO Development Corporation <b>PROJECT LOCATION:</b> 3278 Bronte Road- Palermo (Bartman), Oakville, ON <b>DATUM:</b> Geodetic <b>BOREHOLE LOCATION:</b> See Drawing 1 N 4810623.67 E 598188.17	<b>DRILLING DATA</b> Method: Solid Stem Auger Diameter: 150 mm Date: Jun-14-2021 REF. NO.: 19-323-101 ENCL NO.: 3
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SOIL PROFILE		SAMPLES			GROUND WATER CONDITIONS	ELEVATION	DYNAMIC CONE PENETRATION RESISTANCE PLOT				POCKET PEN. (Cu) (kPa)	NATURAL UNIT WT (kN/m <sup>3</sup> )	METHANE AND GRAIN SIZE DISTRIBUTION (%)	
(m) ELEV DEPTH	DESCRIPTION	NUMBER	TYPE	"N" BLOWS 0.3 m			SHEAR STRENGTH (kPa)							W <sub>p</sub>
164.6 0.0	<b>FILL:</b> sand and gravel, trace clay, pieces of brick, reddish brown, compact	1	SS	36		164								
163.8 0.8	<b>FILL:</b> clayey silt, trace gravel, trace sand, pieces of asphalt, pieces of bricks, pieces of stone, brown, moist, stiff to very stiff	2	SS	12		163								
		3	SS	22		163								
162.2 2.4	<b>CLAYEY SILT TILL:</b> some sand to sandy, trace gravel, occasional cobble, brown, moist, hard	4	SS	31		162								
		5	SS	41		161								
160.0 4.6	<b>CLAYEY SILT TILL/SHALE COMPLEX:</b> trace sand, trace gravel, occasional cobble, reddish brown, moist, hard	6	SS	50/75mm		160								
158.6 6.2	<b>SHALE BEDROCK:</b> weathered, reddish brown	7	SS	50/100mm		159.3								
	<b>END OF BOREHOLE:</b> Notes: 1) 50mm dia. monitoring well installed upon completion. 2) Water Level Readings:  Date:      Water Level(mbg): June 16, 2021   5.31													

DS SOIL LOG 19-323-101 3278 BRONTE -GEO COPY.GPJ DS.GDT 21-6-23

**GROUNDWATER ELEVATIONS**  
Measurement 1st 2nd 3rd 4th

**GRAPH NOTES** + 3 , × 3 : Numbers refer to Sensitivity      ○ ● =3% Strain at Failure



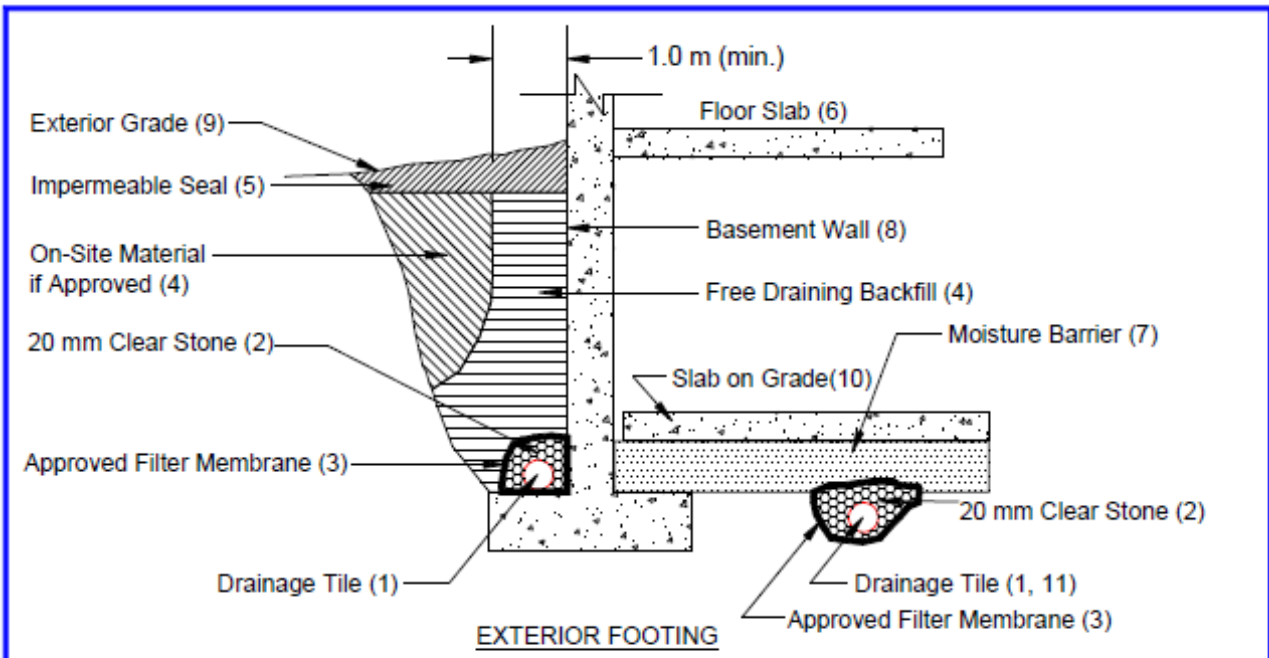
<b>PROJECT:</b> Preliminary Geotechnical Investigation <b>CLIENT:</b> ARGO Development Corporation <b>PROJECT LOCATION:</b> 3278 Bronte Road- Palermo (Bartman), Oakville, ON <b>DATUM:</b> Geodetic <b>BOREHOLE LOCATION:</b> See Drawing 1 N 4810660.769 E 598211.635	<b>DRILLING DATA</b> Method: Solid Stem Auger Diameter: 150 mm Date: Jun-14-2021 REF. NO.: 19-323-101 ENCL NO.: 4
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SOIL PROFILE		SAMPLES			GROUND WATER CONDITIONS	ELEVATION	DYNAMIC CONE PENETRATION RESISTANCE PLOT				POCKET PEN. (Cu) (kPa)	NATURAL UNIT WT (kN/m <sup>3</sup> )	METHANE AND GRAIN SIZE DISTRIBUTION (%)
(m) ELEV DEPTH	DESCRIPTION	NUMBER	TYPE	"N" BLOWS 0.3 m			20	40	60	80			
165.4 0.0	<b>FILL:</b> silty sand, trace clay, trace gravel, brown, pieces of asphalt, pieces of concrete, reddish brown, moist, loose	1	SS	9							○		
164.6 0.8	<b>FILL:</b> clayey silt, trace sand, trace gravel, brown, moist, firm	2	SS	7							○		
163.6 1.8	<b>CLAYEY SILT TILL:</b> some sand to sandy, trace gravel, occasional cobble, brown, moist, very stiff to hard	3	SS	18							○		
		4	SS	30								○	
		5	SS	32								○	
160.8 4.6	<b>CLAYEY SILT TILL/ SHALE COMPLEX:</b> trace sand, trace gravel, occasional cobble, reddish brown, moist, hard	6	SS	50/30mm							○		
159.4 5.6	<b>SHALE BEDROCK:</b> weathered, reddish brown	7	SS	50/25mm									
<b>END OF BOREHOLE:</b> Notes: 1) 50mm dia. monitoring well installed upon completion. 2) Water Level Readings:  Date:      Water Level(mbg): June 16, 2021      Dry													

DS SOIL LOG 19-323-101 3278 BRONTE -GEO COPY.GPJ DS.GDT 21-6-23

**GROUNDWATER ELEVATIONS**  
 Measurement 1st 2nd 3rd 4th

**GRAPH NOTES** + 3 , × 3 : Numbers refer to Sensitivity      ○ ● =3% Strain at Failure



**Notes**

1. Drainage tile to consist of 100 mm (4") diameter weeping tile or equivalent perforated pipe leading to a positive sump or outlet.
2. 20 mm (3/4") clear stone - 150 mm (6") top and side of drain. If drain is not on footing, place 100 mm (4 inches) of stone below drain .
3. Wrap the clear stone with an approved filter membrane (Terrafix 270R or equivalent).
4. Free Draining backfill - OPSS Granular B or equivalent compacted to the specified density. Do not use heavy compaction equipment within 450 mm (18") of the wall. Use hand controlled light compaction equipment within 1.8 m (6') of wall. The minimum width of the Granular 'B' backfill must be 1.0 m.
5. Impermeable backfill seal - compacted clay, clayey silt or equivalent. If original soil is free-draining, seal may be omitted. Maximum thickness of seal to be 0.5 m.
6. Do not backfill until wall is supported by basement and floor slabs or adequate bracing.
7. Moisture barrier to be at least 200 mm (8") of compacted clear 20 mm (3/4") stone or equivalent free draining material. A vapour barrier may be required for specialty floors.
8. Basement wall to be damp proofed /water proofed.
9. Exterior grade to slope away from building.
10. Slab on grade should not be structurally connected to the wall or footing.
11. Underfloor drain invert to be at least 300 mm (12") below underside of floor slab.
12. Drainage tile placed in parallel rows 6 to 8 m (20 to 25') centers one way. Place drain on 100 mm (4") clear stone with 150 mm (6") of clear stone on top and sides. Enclose stone with filter fabric as noted in (3).
13. The entire subgrade to be sealed with approved filter fabric (Terrafix 270R or equivalent) if non-cohesive (sandy) soils below ground water table encountered.
14. Do not connect the underfloor drains to perimeter drains.
15. Review the geotechnical report for specific details.

**DRAINAGE AND BACKFILL RECOMMENDATIONS  
Basement with Underfloor Drainage**

(not to scale)

# Appendix A

## General Comments on Bedrock in Toronto Area



### **General Comments – Bedrock in Greater Toronto Area**

The bedrock that makes spread footings or caissons a popular choice for high-rise foundation support is a shale or shale limestone composition. The highest member, the Queenston Formation, is generally found west of Toronto, while the Georgian Bay Formation underlies most of Metro Toronto, with the Collingwood and Whitby Formations east of Toronto. The Queenston is, relatively speaking, the weaker of the four formations that are likely to support caissons or footings.

The Georgian Bay as well as the Queenston and Collingwood/Whitby Formation are of Middle Ordovician Age. It is defined as the rock unit that overlies the bluish grey shales of the Collingwood Formation and is in turn overlain by the red shale of the Queenston Formation. The Georgian Bay Formation consists of bluish and grey shale with interbeds of sandstone, limestone and dolostone. Towards the west where the Georgian Bay formation underlies the Queenston Formation, the limestone content increases significantly and limestone and/or sandstone may comprise as much as 70 to 90 percent of the bedrock. The hard layers are usually less than about 100 to 150 mm thick but some layers are much thicker. The thicker layers have been observed to be as much as 750 to 900 mm at some sites. The layers are actually lenses and they can vary significantly in thickness over short distances.

The upper portion of the bedrock is commonly weathered for a depth of 600 to 1000 mm and within this weathered zone hard limestone layers or lenses are common. These hard limestone layers can result in contractual problems for augers, and can provide misleading bedrock elevations. Where the weathering is more extensive a shale till layer may be found above the bedrock. In the sound bedrock, the limestone, sandstone, dolostone is hard to very hard.

Stress relief features such as folds and faults are common in the bedrock. In these features, the rock is heavily fractured and sheared, and contains layers of shale rubble and clay. Weathering is much deeper than the surrounding rock in these features and often there is a lateral migration of the stress relief features resulting in sound unweathered bedrock overlying fractured and weather bedrock. The stress relief features are usually in the order of 4 to 6 m wide, but the depth can vary from 4 to 5 m to in excess of 10 m. These features occur randomly.

The bedrock contains significant high locked in horizontal stresses. These stresses can impose significant loads on tunnel walls but the slower rate of construction for basements allows for a relaxation of these stresses and they are not normally a problem for basement construction.

Groundwater seepage below the top 1000 mm is generally small, however, at several locations in Toronto and Mississauga large quantities have been encountered.

Bedding joints in the bedrock are very close-to-close, smooth planar in the shale and rough planar in the limestone. Significant vertical jointing is common.

Where the bedrock was cored, a detailed description of the rock core is appended to the borehole log.

Design features related to the bedrock are discussed in other sections of this report, and these general comments must be considered with these comments.

Methane gas exists in the bedrock, normally below the top 1000 mm and more concentrated with depth. Appropriate care and monitoring is essential in all confined bedrock excavations, particularly caissons and tunnels.

## Appendix B

### General Requirements for Engineered Fill

### **GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ENGINEERED FILL**

Compacted imported soil that meets specific engineering requirements and is free of organics and debris and that has been continually monitored on a full-time basis by a qualified geotechnical representative is classified as engineered fill. Engineered fill that meets these requirements and is bearing on suitable native subsoil can be used for the support of foundations.

Imported soil used as engineered fill can be removed from other portions of a site or can be brought in from other sites. In general, most of Ontario soils are too wet to achieve the 100% Standard Proctor Maximum Dry Density (SPMDD) and will require drying and careful site management if they are to be considered for engineered fill. Imported non-cohesive granular soil is preferred for all engineered fill. For engineered fill, we recommend use of OPSS Granular 'B' sand and gravel fill material.

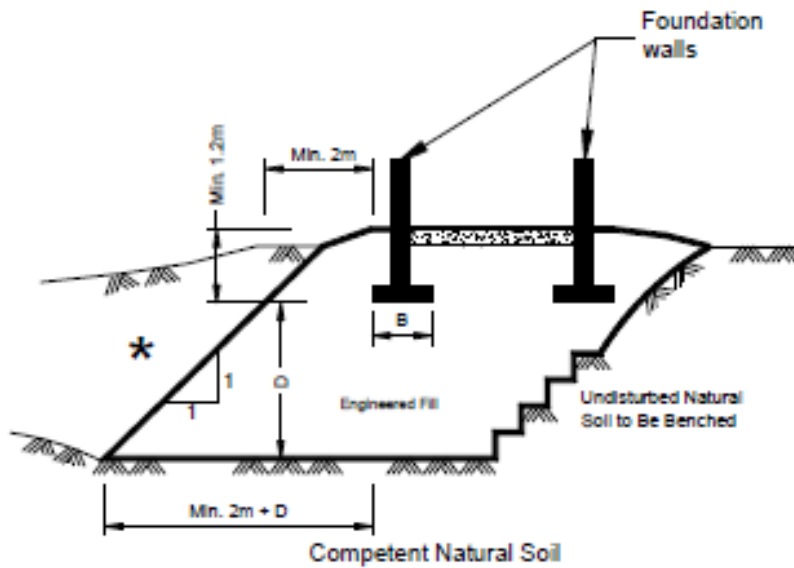
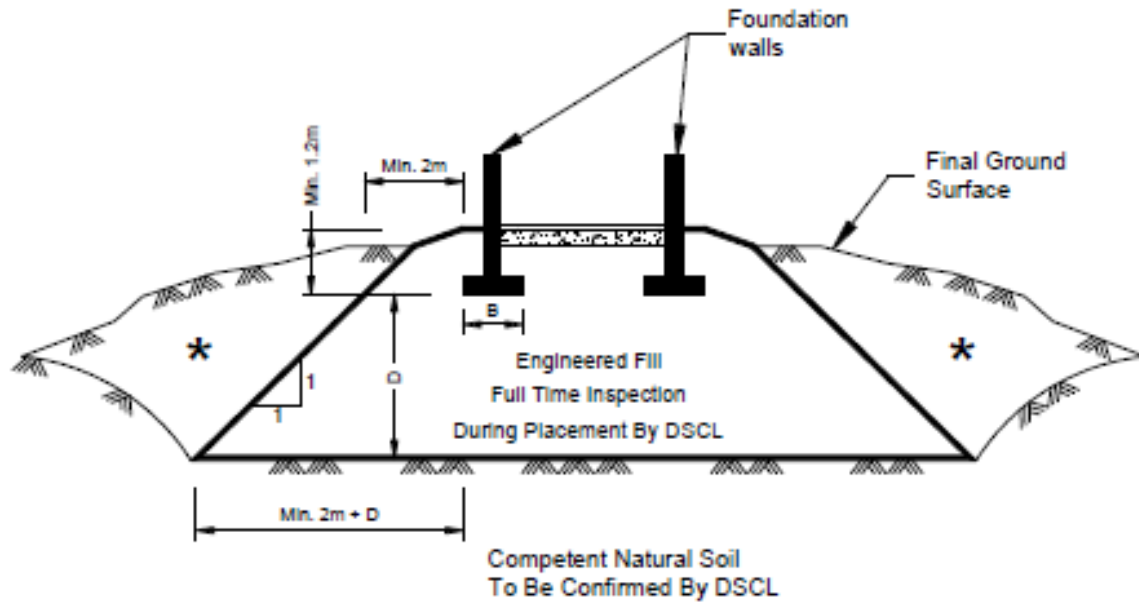
Adverse weather conditions such as rain make the placement of engineered fill to the required degree of density difficult or impossible; engineered fill cannot be placed during freezing conditions, i.e. normally not between December 15 and April 1 of each year.

The location of the foundations on the engineered fill pad is critical and certification by a qualified surveyor that the foundations are within the stipulated boundaries is mandatory. Since layout stakes are often damaged or removed during fill placement, offset stakes must be installed and maintained by the surveyors during the course of fill placement so that the contractor and engineering staff are continually aware of where the engineered fill limits lie. Excavations within the engineered fill pad must be backfilled with the same conditions and quality control as the original pad.

To perform satisfactorily, engineered fill requires the cooperation of the designers, engineers, contractors and all parties must be aware of the requirements. The minimum requirements are as follows; however, the geotechnical report must be reviewed for specific information and requirements.

1. Prior to site work involving engineered fill, a site meeting to discuss all aspects must be convened. The surveyor, contractor, design engineer and geotechnical engineer must attend the meeting. At this meeting, the limits of the engineered fill will be defined. The contractor must make known where all fill material will be obtained from and samples must be provided to the geotechnical engineer for review, and approval before filling begins.
2. Detailed drawings indicating the lower boundaries as well as the upper boundaries of the engineered fill must be available at the site meeting and be approved by the geotechnical engineer.
3. The building footprint and base of the pad, including basements, garages, etc. must be defined by offset stakes that remain in place until the footings and service connections are all constructed. Confirmation that the footings are within the pad, service lines are in place, and that the grade conforms to drawings, must be obtained by the owner in writing from the surveyor and DS Consultants Ltd (DSCL). Without this confirmation no responsibility for the performance of the structure can be accepted by DSCL. Survey drawing of the pre and post fill location and elevations will also be required.
4. The area must be stripped of all topsoil and fill materials. Subgrade must be proof-rolled. Soft spots must be dug out. The stripped native subgrade must be examined and approved by a DSCL engineer prior to placement of fill.

5. The approved engineered fill material must be compacted to 100% Standard Proctor Maximum Dry Density throughout. Engineered fill should not be placed during the winter months. Engineered fill compacted to 100% SPMDD will settle under its own weight approximately 0.5% of the fill height and the structural engineer must be aware of this settlement. In addition to the settlement of the fill, additional settlement due to consolidation of the underlying soils from the structural and fill loads will occur and should be evaluated prior to placing the fill.
6. Full-time geotechnical inspection by DSCL during placement of engineered fill is required. Work cannot commence or continue without the presence of the DSCL representative.
7. The fill must be placed such that the specified geometry is achieved. Refer to the attached sketches for minimum requirements. Take careful note that the projection of the compacted pad beyond the footing at footing level is a minimum of 2 m. The base of the compacted pad extends 2 m plus the depth of excavation beyond the edge of the footing.
8. A bearing capacity of 150 kPa at SLS (225 kPa at ULS) can be used provided that all conditions outlined above are adhered to. A minimum footing width of 500 mm (20 inches) is suggested and footings must be provided with nominal steel reinforcement.
9. All excavations must be done in accordance with the Occupational Health and Safety Regulations of Ontario.
10. After completion of the engineered fill pad a second contractor may be selected to install footings. The prepared footing bases must be evaluated by engineering staff from DSCL prior to footing concrete placements. All excavations must be backfilled under full time supervision by DSCL to the same degree as the engineered fill pad. Surface water cannot be allowed to pond in excavations or to be trapped in clear stone backfill. Clear stone backfill can only be used with the approval of DSCL.
11. After completion of compaction, the surface of the engineered fill pad must be protected from disturbance from traffic, rain and frost. During the course of fill placement, the engineered fill must be smooth-graded, proof-rolled and sloped/crowned at the end of each day, prior to weekends and any stoppage in work in order to promote rapid runoff of rainwater and to avoid any ponding surface water. Any stockpiles of fill intended for use as engineered fill must also be smooth-bladed to promote runoff and/or protected from excessive moisture take up.
12. If there is a delay in construction, the engineered fill pad must be inspected and accepted by the geotechnical engineer. The location of the structure must be reconfirmed that it remains within the pad.
13. The geometry of the engineered fill as illustrated in these General Requirements is general in nature. Each project will have its own unique requirements. For example, if perimeter sidewalks are to be constructed around the building, then the projection of the engineered fill beyond the foundation wall may need to be greater.
14. These guidelines are to be read in conjunction with DS Consultants Ltd report attached.



\* Backfill in this area to be as per the DSCL report.