

Point of Beginning

GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEERING REPORT



MAPLE RIDGE ROAD IMPROVEMENT KRONENWETTER, WISCONSIN

OCTOBER 20, 2025 | PROJECT NO. 25.2046

ROTH PROFESSIONAL SOLUTIONS

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Point of Beginning

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October 20, 2025

Roth Professional Solutions
Attn: Robert Roth, P.E.
317 DeWitt Street
Portage, WI 53901

RE: Maple Ridge Road Improvement – Kronenwetter, WI

Dear Mr. Roth:

We appreciate the opportunity to perform the subsurface exploration and provide this geotechnical engineering report for the above-referenced project.

This report has been prepared in accordance with our understanding of the project requirements and within the scope of our geotechnical services.

We trust the information and recommendations presented will assist in the design and development of the project. Please contact us if further clarification or additional services are needed.

Sincerely,

Michael Frede, P.E.

Michael Frede, P.E.
Director of Geotechnical Engineering

Enclosure

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report summarizes the findings of our geotechnical engineering services associated with the proposed Maple Ridge Road Reconstruction project for Roth Professional Solutions in the Village of Kronenwetter, Wisconsin.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project consists of the following:

- Reconstructing 2.37 miles of Maple Ridge Road
- Maximum grade changes are estimated to be less than 1 foot.

STRUCTURAL CONSIDERATIONS

- There are no structures planned for the project.
- There are no retaining walls planned for the project.

CIVIL CONSIDERATIONS

- Minimum asphalt pavement section should consist of the following:
 - Traffic Class II = 5 inches of asphalt over 10 inches of base course
- No stormwater management systems are planned for the project.

CONSTRUCTION CONSIDERATIONS

- Undocumented fills exist within the project area that are a concern for pavement support.
- The soils exhibit variable strengths that can produce differential settlements.
- Fills containing organic matter (wood) exist in sporadic locations, which can be unsuitable for the support of pavements.
- Soil improvement should be planned, consisting of removing any unsuitable soils, below pavements.
- Loose, clean sands exist near the ground surface that will be sensitive to construction activity, and actions to minimize disturbance during construction should be planned.



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Point of Beginning is assisting Roth Professional Solutions with the design of new asphalt pavement for Maple Ridge Road in Kronenwetter, Wisconsin. The location of the project is illustrated in Figure 1 in Appendix A.

The proposed project consists of the following:

- New Asphalt Pavement
 - Maple Ridge Road
 - 2.37 miles in length
 - East of the I-39 Frontage Road to County Road X
 - The total vehicle count over a 20-day period in 2024 was 10,554.
 - The estimated Equivalent Single Axle Load (ESAL) is 80,000.
- Underground utilities
 - Occasional culverts
- The grading plan for the project has not been provided.
 - Maximum grade changes are estimated to be less than 1 foot.
- No retaining walls are planned for the project.
- No stormwater management system is planned for the project.

SITE DESCRIPTION

- The project is located in Marathon County.
- The land is currently owned by the Village of Kronenwetter.
- The ground surface slopes downward from the east to the west with an elevation difference of about 140 feet across the project area.

SCOPE OF SERVICES

SUBSURFACE EXPLORATION

- The drilling program consisted of eight borings (B-1 through B-8).
 - The borings were drilled to depths of 5 feet.
- The boring locations are identified in the Boring Location Diagram (Figure 2) in Appendix A.
- The drilling and sampling procedures are described in Appendix D.

ADDITIONAL FIELD TESTING

No additional field testing was conducted.

LABORATORY TESTING

The laboratory testing program consisted of the following:

- Water content testing on all samples.
- Calibrated hand penetrometer testing on intact fine-grained (clay and silt) samples.



- All samples were visually examined and classified based on their physical characteristics as defined by the Unified Soil Classification System (USCS).

Typical laboratory test results are presented on logs included in Appendix B. The USCS summary is included in Appendix B following the logs. Additional laboratory results, if appropriate, are presented in reports in Appendix C. Typical laboratory procedures are described in Appendix D.

SUBSURFACE CONDITIONS

SOIL CONDITIONS

The subsurface conditions encountered at the borings are summarized below. For detailed descriptions of the geologic conditions encountered at the boring locations, please refer to the attached logs in Appendix B. The size of the project and typical geologic variability between boring locations warrants considering all soil conditions when designing the various civil elements of the development.

General Soil Conditions

The general soil profile consisted of the following:

- Undocumented sand fill materials to depths of about 3.5 to more than 5 feet at all eight borings.
 - The fills were likely placed when the road was originally constructed.
 - The fills are “undocumented” because no reports were provided to indicate they were placed and compacted sufficiently to support structural elements.
 - The sand fills varied in their fines (silt) content, with most having very few.
- Native clay, sand, and weathered bedrock underlaying the fill materials.
 - The native soils vary in their clay, silt, and gravel content.
 - Weathered bedrock was encountered below the fill materials at B-5 and B-8.
 - It exhibited characteristics similar to soil.

Fill Soils

- Eleven coarse-grained fill samples (excluding two weathered bedrock samples).
 - Loose to dense relative density.
 - N-values ranged from 6 to 36.
 - The average N-value was 21.
 - One sample (9%) was less than 10 (loose).
 - Two samples (18%) were 30 or higher (dense).
 - The moisture content ranged from 2.0% to 12.3%.
 - Typically, moisture contents are considered high if they are above 15% in coarse-grained soil.
 - One sample (9%) was described as wet, suggesting the presence of perched water.
- One sample contained organic matter (wood).



Native Fine-Grained Soils

- One native coarse-grained sample.
 - The sample was disturbed and could not be tested for its strength.
 - The N-value was 14, which is consistent with very stiff consistency.
 - The moisture content was 12.3%.
 - Typically, moisture contents are considered high if they are above 20% in fine-grained soil.
 - The sample was described as moist.

Native Coarse-Grained Soils

- Two native coarse-grained samples (excluding two weathered bedrock samples).
 - Loose and medium dense relative density.
 - N-values of 7 and 12.
 - The moisture contents were 11.7% and 13.8%.
 - Typically, moisture contents are considered high if they are above 15% in coarse-grained soil.
 - The two samples (100%) were described as wet, suggesting the presence of perched water.

BEDROCK CONDITIONS

- Two weathered bedrock samples.
- The samples were described silty sand and gravel.
 - Dense and very dense relative density.
 - N-values of 42 and 50 for 4 inches of sampler penetration (sampler refusal).
 - The moisture contents were 6.2% and 7.0%.
 - Typically, moisture contents are considered high if they are above 15% in coarse-grained soil.

GROUNDWATER CONDITIONS

- Free groundwater was not encountered during drilling.
- Perched water was noted at depths of 3.5 feet at three borings (B-2, B-3, and B-4).
- Fluctuations in the groundwater table elevation occur with variations in precipitation, evapotranspiration, surface runoff, etc.
- Shallow perched groundwater conditions should be expected where relatively permeable coarse-grained soils are underlain by relatively impermeable fine-grained soils, especially following precipitation events.



ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

There are five primary issues that should be considered when planning this project.

- Undocumented fills exist within the project area.
 - Undocumented fills are a concern for pavement support because they could have been placed inconsistently and not sufficiently compacted, potentially causing excessive total and/or differential settlements.
- The soils exhibit variable strengths that can produce differential settlements.
- Fill materials containing organic matter exist in sporadic locations, which can be unsuitable for the support of pavements.
- Soil improvement should be planned, consisting of removing any unsuitable soils, below pavements.
- Clean sand (small quantities of fines) soils exist that could pose excavating and construction challenges.

STRUCTURAL CONSIDERATIONS

Foundation Design

- No foundations are planned for the project.

Seismic Design

- Seismic Site Classification is not required for the project.

Floor Slab Design

- No floor slabs are planned for the project.

Retaining Wall Design

- No retaining walls are planned for the project.

CIVIL CONSIDERATIONS

Pavement Design

- The following design values are appropriate for the subgrade soils:
 - AASHTO Classification = A-3
 - Soil Support Value = 5.1
 - Wisconsin Design Group Index = 6.0
 - CBR Value = 9
 - Subgrade Modulus (k) = 200
 - Soil Resilient Modulus M_R = 4,700
 - Frost Index = F-2
- The Wisconsin Asphalt Pavement Association (WAPA) Design Guide should be utilized to design the new asphalt surface pavements.



- The minimum pavement section should consist of the following:

<i>Material</i>	<i>Traffic Class II</i>	<i>WisDOT Specification</i>
Asphalt Surface Course	2 inches	Section 460
Asphalt Binder Course	3 inches	Section 460
Dense Graded Base Course	10 inches	Section 305

- Hot Mix Asphalt (HMA) and base course materials should be placed and compacted following the project requirements and guidelines of WisDOT Standard Specifications for Highway and Structure Construction, section 460.3.
- The pavement section above is not intended to support on-going construction traffic.
- These recommendations assume the subgrade is prepared as described in this report.
 - Additional corrective action may be warranted at the time of construction, depending on the site conditions.

Stormwater Management Design

- No stormwater management systems are planned for the project.

CONSTRUCTION CONSIDERATIONS

Subgrade Preparation

- All loose, wet, disturbed, or otherwise unsuitable surface soils should be stripped from structural and engineered fill areas prior to any construction activities.
- All pavement areas should be proof-rolled to identify low-strength or disturbed areas that need to be removed or improved.
- Clean sand soils will be sensitive to disturbances from construction activity.
 - Care should be taken during construction to protect exposed soils from disturbance from equipment.
- Placing a working subbase layer of 3-inch crushed stone or utilizing a cement stabilization program could be beneficial in areas subjected to construction traffic and to reduce the potential need to strip disturbed soils.

Engineered Fill and Backfill

- Engineered (compacted and tested) Fill
 - Inorganic Materials
 - Free of Deleterious Debris
 - Non-Frozen
 - Maximum 3 inches in Size
 - Placed in 8 to 10-inch Loose Lifts
 - Minimum Compaction
 - Structural Areas= 95 percent of the Maximum Dry Density (Modified Proctor)



- Non-Structural Areas
 - Moisture Content = $3 \pm$ percent of the Optimum Moisture
 - Placed on Tested and Passing Subgrade Soils
 - Testing Frequency (where not specified by local ordinance)
 - One test per lift for every 2,500 square feet of compacted fill in building areas.
 - One test per lift for every 5,000 square feet of compacted fill in pavement areas.
 - One test per 100 linear feet of compacted utility trench backfill.
- Imported Fill
 - Fine-Grained Soil (Clay, Clayey Silt)
 - Suitable for mass grading only.
 - Silt soil should not be used.
 - Coarse-Grained Soil (Sand, Gravel)
 - Suitable for utility and foundation backfill and mass grading.
 - Processed Aggregate (Crushed Stone)
 - Suitable for foundation and subgrade undercut areas, utility and foundation backfill, and mass grading.
- Bedding of pipes should be performed in accordance with normally accepted procedures for the class of utility being placed.
 - Backfilling of excavations should be done in such a way as to provide relatively uniform lateral support until the backfill extends over the utility, accomplished by alternating fill placement at approximately 1-foot intervals to both sides.
 - Bedding and initial backfill requirements may be specified by the Owner based on planned utility types, bedding conditions, and other factors beyond the scope of this study.
- On-site soil can be reused as engineered fill if they meet the specifications in this report.
 - Due to the moisture sensitive nature of fine-grained soils, their use could pose construction challenges regarding achieving the required compaction requirements. Therefore, their use should be avoided.

Foundation Evaluation

- No foundation construction is planned for the project.

Utility Construction

- No utility construction is planned for the project.

Groundwater Management

- Excavations below 3 feet could encounter perched water.
- If excavations extend into limited perched water conditions, filtered sump pumps or other conventional means should be sufficient.



Surface Water Management

- Surface water should not be allowed to collect in excavations or on prepared subgrades during or after construction.
- Areas should be sloped to facilitate removal of collected surface runoff.
- Positive site drainage should be provided to reduce infiltration of surface water around the perimeter of structures and within pavement areas.

Excavation Safety

- Excavation walls may need to be sloped or braced for stability and safety reasons.
- The Owner and Contractor should be aware of, and become familiar with, applicable local, state, and federal safety regulations, including current OSHA Excavation and Trench Safety Standards.
- Construction-site safety generally is the responsibility of the Contractor, who should also be responsible for the means, methods, and sequencing of construction operations.
- The Contractor should be aware that slope height, slope inclination, or excavation depths should in no case exceed those specified in local, state, or federal safety regulations, (e.g., OSHA Health and Safety Standards for Excavations, 29 CFR Part 1926), or successor regulations.
- The prevalent soils encountered in the borings are Type C when applying the OSHA regulations.
- OSHA regulations are strictly enforced, and if they are not followed, the Owner, Contractor, and/or earthwork Subcontractor(s) could be liable for substantial penalties.

GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS

- Our services for this project are intended for the sole benefit and exclusive use of our client and for the specific application to the project described and are provided in accordance with generally accepted geotechnical engineering practices, with no third-party beneficiaries intended. Any use or reliance of the information by third parties is done solely at their own risk. No warranties, either expressed or implied, are intended or made.
- The findings, analysis, and recommendations presented in this report are based on our understanding of the project, a reasonable geotechnical scope approved by the client, and our engineering judgment.
- Should the details of the project change, Point of Beginning should be notified and provided with the opportunity to review the applicability of the collected information and modify our recommendations, as needed.
- The nature and extent of geologic variations may not become evident during or after construction. If the actual site subsurface conditions differ from the inferred conditions described in this report, the recommendations in this report may need to be revised.
- The recommendations in this report are only valid for the exact and specific locations at which field investigation or laboratory testing was completed. All other areas and regions of the site that are not evaluated will be at the risk of the individual or entity using this Report.
- Site characteristics as provided are for design purposes and not to estimate construction costs. Any party charged with estimating construction costs should seek their own site characterization for specific purposes to obtain the specific level of detail necessary for costing.



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- Site safety, excavation support, and dewatering requirements/design are the responsibility of others.
- Construction and site development activities have the potential to affect adjacent properties. Such impacts can include damage due to vibration, modification of groundwater/surface water flow during construction, foundation movement due to undermining or subsidence from excavation, and noise or air-quality concerns. Evaluation of these items on nearby properties are commonly associated with contractor means and methods and are not addressed in this report. The owner and contractor should consider a preconstruction/precondition survey of surrounding developments.



APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

Diagrams

APPENDIX B

Logs

APPENDIX C

Laboratory Reports

APPENDIX D

General Notes & Procedures

APPENDIX E

Additional Documents





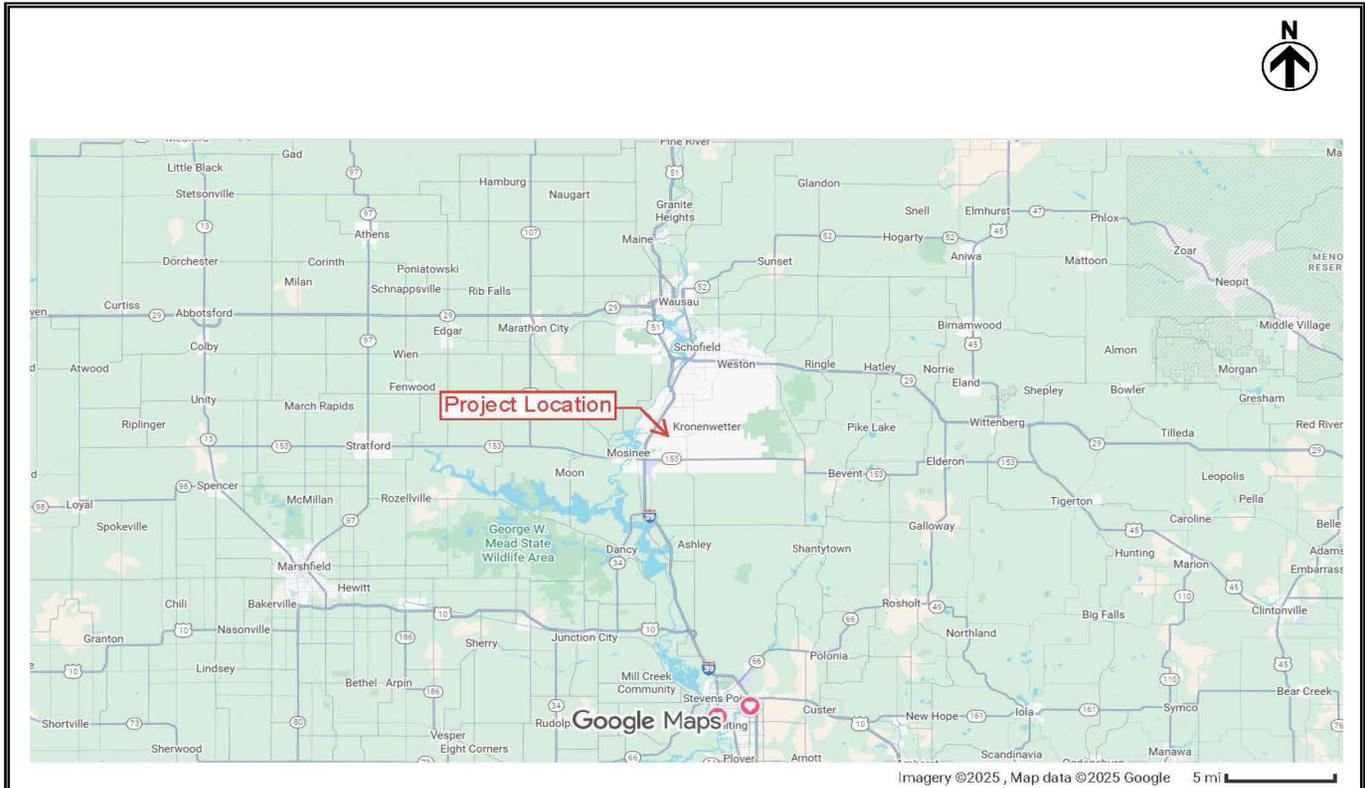
APPENDIX A

FIGURE 1 – PROJECT LOCATION DIAGRAM

FIGURE 2 – BORING LOCATION DIAGRAM



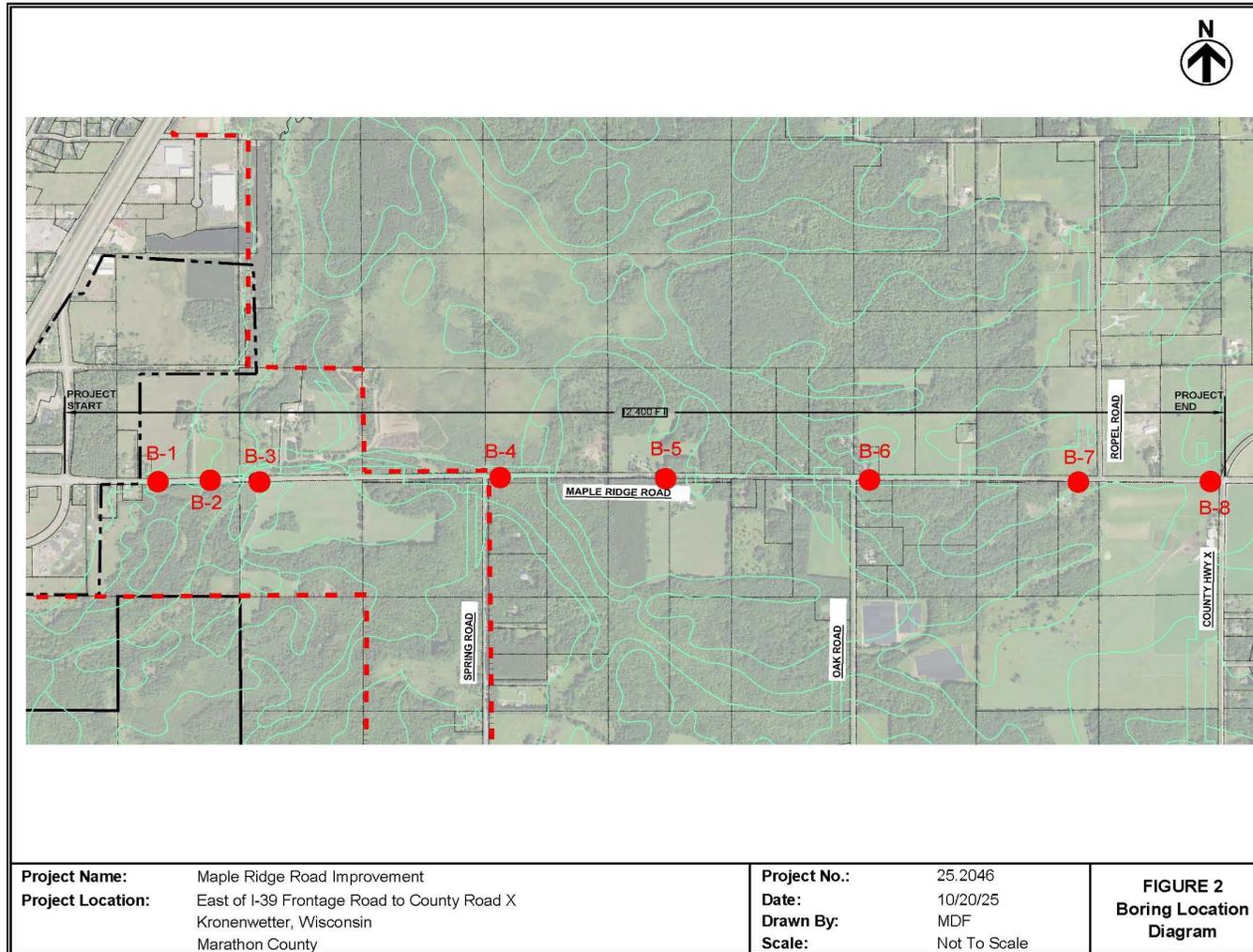
Point of Beginning



Project Name:	Maple Ridge Road Improvement	Project No.:	25.2046	FIGURE 1 Project Location Diagram
Project Location:	East of I-39 Frontage Road to County Road X Kronenwetter, Wisconsin Marathon County	Date:	10/20/25	
		Drawn By:	MDF	
		Scale:	Not To Scale	



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APPENDIX B

BORING LOGS

All Borings (B-1 through B-8)

USCS



SOIL BORING LOG

Boring By: Point of Beginning Inc.

Project: Maple Ridge Rd. Reconstruction

Location: See Map

Rig: Mobile B57 ATV

Boring: 1
Auger: 4" SSA
Page: 1 of 1
Drillers: DC/TH
Date: 7/30/25
Elevation: 1162.77

Depth (ft.)	Classification/Description	#	Sample Depth (ft.)	N	Rec (in.)	M	Qp (tsf)	Notes
1	Asphalt -----2.5"----- Brown F-M Sand and Gravel w/ Little Silt (CABC)	1	1 - 2.5	27	15"	M		MC 2.2%
2	-----7.0"----- Brown F-M w/ Little Gravel and Trace Silt (Fill) USCS - SP	2	3.5 - 5	6	14"	M		MC 2.9%
3								
4								
5	-----E.O.B. 5'----- -----Dry @ Ccompletion -----Backfilled w/ Bentonite Chips-----							
6								
7								
8								
9								
10								

SOIL BORING LOG

Boring By: Point of Beginning Inc.

Project: Maple Ridge Rd. Reconstruction

Location: See Map

Rig: Mobile B57 ATV

Boring: 2

Auger: 4" SSA

Page: 1 of 1

Drillers: DC/TH

Date: 7/30/25

Elevation: 1162.61

Depth (ft.)	Classification/Description	#	Sample Depth (ft.)	N	Rec (in.)	M	Qp (tsf)	Notes
1	Asphalt -----4.5'----- Brown F-M Sand and Gravel w/ Little Silt (CABC)	1	1 - 2.5	20	14"	M		MC 2.3%
2	-----8.0'----- Brown F-M Sand w/ Little Silt and Some Gravel (Fill) USCS - SP	2	3.5 - 5	12	16"	W		MC 13.8%
3	-----3.5'----- Brown F-M Silty Clayey Sand w/ Little Gravel							
4								
5	-----E.O.B. 5'----- -----Dry @ Completion -----Backfilled w/ Bentonite Chips-----							
6								
7								
8								
9								
10								

SOIL BORING LOG

Boring By: Point of Beginning Inc.

Project: Maple Ridge Rd. Reconstruction

Location: See Map

Rig: Mobile B57 ATV

Boring: 3

Auger: 4" SSA

Page: 1 of 1

Drillers: DC/TH

Date: 7/30/25

Elevation: 1169.55

Depth (ft.)	Classification/Description	#	Sample Depth (ft.)	N	Rec (in.)	M	Qp (tsf)	Notes
1	Asphalt -----4.0"----- Brown F-M Sand and Gravel w/ Little Silt (CABC)	1	1 - 2.5	30	16"	M		MC 5.5%
2	-----7.0"----- Brown F-M Sand and Gravel w/ Trace Silt (Fill) USCS - SP	2	3.5 - 5	7	17"	W		MC 11.7%
3	-----3.5'----- Dark Brown F-M Silty Clayey Sand w/ Trace Gravel USCS - SC							
4								
5	-----E.O.B. 5'----- -----Dry @ Completion -----Backfilled w/ Bentonite Chips-----							
6								
7								
8								
9								
10								

SOIL BORING LOG

Boring By: Point of Beginning Inc.

Project: Maple Ridge Rd. Reconstruction

Location: See Map

Rig: Mobile B57 ATV

Boring: 4

Auger: 4" SSA

Page: 1 of 1

Drillers: DC/TH

Date: 7/30/25

Elevation: 1172.35

Depth (ft.)	Classification/Description	#	Sample Depth (ft.)	N	Rec (in.)	M	Qp (tsf)	Notes
1	Asphalt -----4.5"----- Brown F-M Sand and Gravel w/ Little Silt (CABC)	1	1 - 2.5	26	15"	M		MC 2.0%
2	-----8.0"----- Brown F-M Sand w/ Trace Silt Some Gravel and Wood (Fill) USCS - SP	2	3.5 - 5	11	7"	W		MC 12.3%
3								
4								
5	-----E.O.B. 5'----- -----Dry @ Completion -----Backfilled w/ Bentonite Chips-----							
6								
7								
8								
9								
10								

SOIL BORING LOG

Boring By: Point of Beginning Inc.

Project: Maple Ridge Rd. Reconstruction

Location: See Map

Rig: Mobile B57 ATV

Boring: 5

Auger: 4" SSA

Page: 1 of 1

Drillers: DC/TH

Date: 7/30/25

Elevation: 1242.56

Depth (ft.)	Classification/Description	#	Sample Depth (ft.)	N	Rec (in.)	M	Qp (tsf)	Notes
1	Asphalt -----3.5'----- Brown F-M Sand and Gravel w/ Little Silt (CABC) -----7.0'-----	1	1 - 2.5	36	15"	M		MC 7.5%
2	Brown F-M Sand w/ Trace Silt Some Gravel (Fill) USCS - SP	2	3.5 - 5	50/4"	12"	M		MC 6.2%
3								
4	-----3.5'----- Brown/Red F-M Silty Sand and Gravel (Weathered Bedrock) USCS - SP-SM							
5	-----E.O.B. 5'----- -----Dry @ Completion -----Backfilled w/ Bentonite Chips-----							
6								
7								
8								
9								
10								

SOIL BORING LOG

Boring By: Point of Beginning Inc.

Project: Maple Ridge Rd. Reconstruction

Location: See Map

Rig: Mobile B57 ATV

Boring: 6
Auger: 4" SSA
Page: 1 of 1
Drillers: DC/TH
Date: 7/30/25
Elevation: 1256.09

Depth (ft.)	Classification/Description	#	Sample Depth (ft.)	N	Rec (in.)	M	Qp (tsf)	Notes
1	Asphalt -----4.5'----- Brown F-M Sand and Gravel w/ Little Silt (CABC)	1	1 - 2.5	17	16"	M		MC 8.7
2	-----1.0'----- Brown F-M Sand w/ Trace Silt Some Gravel (Fill) USCS - SP	2	3.5 - 5	15	17"	M		MC 7.8%
3								
4	-----4.5'----- Brown/Gray F-M Silty Sand w/ Little Gravel (Fill) USCS - SP-SM							
5	-----E.O.B. 5'----- -----Dry @ Completion -----Backfilled w/ Bentonite Chips-----							
6								
7								
8								
9								
10								

SOIL BORING LOG

Boring By: Point of Beginning Inc.

Project: Maple Ridge Rd. Reconstruction

Location: See Map

Rig: Mobile B57 ATV

Boring: 7

Auger: 4" SSA

Page: 1 of 1

Drillers: DC/TH

Date: 7/30/25

Elevation: 1284.41

Depth (ft.)	Classification/Description	#	Sample Depth (ft.)	N	Rec (in.)	M	Qp (tsf)	Notes
1	Asphalt -----5.0"----- Brown F-M Sand and Gravel w/ Little Silt (CABC)	1	1 - 2.5	16	13"	M		MC 4.9%
2	-----1.5'----- Brown F-M Sand w/ Trace Silt Some Gravel (Fill) USCS - SP	2	3.5 - 5	14	10"	M		MC 12.3%
3								
4	-----3.5'----- Brown Silty Sandy Clay w/ Little Gravel USCS - CL							
5	-----E.O.B. 5'----- -----Dry @ Completion -----Backfilled w/ Bentonite Chips-----							
6								
7								
8								
9								
10								

SOIL BORING LOG

Boring By: Point of Beginning Inc.

Project: Maple Ridge Rd. Reconstruction

Location: See Map

Rig: Mobile B57 ATV

Boring: 8

Auger: 4" SSA

Page: 1 of 1

Drillers: DC/TH

Date: 7/30/25

Elevation: 1318.74

Depth (ft.)	Classification/Description	#	Sample Depth (ft.)	N	Rec (in.)	M	Qp (tsf)	Notes
1	Asphalt -----4.5'----- Brown F-M Sand and Gravel w/ Little Silt (CABC)	1	1 - 2.5	29	16"	M		MC 9.5%
2	-----1.5'----- Brown Mostly Fine Silty Sand w/ Trace Gravel (Fill) USCS - SP-SM	2	3.5 - 5	42	15"	M		MC 7.0%
3								
4	-----3.5'----- Brown F-M Silty Sand and Gravel (Weathered Granite Bedrock) USCS - SP-SM							
5	-----E.O.B. 5'----- -----Dry @ Completion -----Backfilled w/ Bentonite Chips-----							
6								
7								
8								
9								
10								

Major Component of Sample	Size Range	Description of Components Present in Sample	Percent of Dry Weight
Boulders	Over 8" (200 mm)	Trace	<5
Cobbles	8" to 3" (200 to 75 mm)	Few	5 - 10
Gravel	3" to #4 sieve (75 to 4.76 mm)	Little	15 - 25
Sand	#4 to #200 sieve (4.76 to 0.074 mm)	Some	30 - 45
Silt	Passing #200 sieve (0.074 to 0.005 mm)		
Clay	Smaller than 0.005 mm		

Consistency of Fine-Grained Soils

Unconfined Compressive Strength, Qu, tsf	Consistency
<0.25	Very Soft
0.25 - 0.49	Soft
0.50 - 0.99	Medium Stiff
1.00 - 1.99	Stiff
2.00 - 3.99	Very Stiff
>4.00	Hard

Relative Density of Coarse-Grained Soils

N, Blows per 12 inches	Relative Density
0 - 3	Very Loose
4 - 9	Loose
10 - 29	Medium Dense
30 - 49	Dense
50 - 80	Very Dense
>80	Extremely Dense

UNIFIED SOIL CLASSIFICATION AND SYMBOL CHART

COARSE-GRAINED SOILS (more than 50% of material is larger than No. 200 sieve size.)		
Clean Gravels (Less than 5% fines)		
GRAVELS More than 50% of coarse fraction larger than No. 4 sieve size	GW	Well-graded gravels, gravel-sand mixtures, little or no fines
	GP	Poorly-graded gravels, gravel-sand mixtures, little or no fines
	Gravels with fines (More than 12% fines)	
	GM	Silty gravels, gravel-sand-silt mixtures
GC	Clayey gravels, gravel-sand-clay mixtures	
Clean Sands (Less than 5% fines)		
SANDS 50% or more of coarse fraction smaller than No. 4 sieve size	SW	Well-graded sands, gravelly sands, little or no fines
	SP	Poorly graded sands, gravelly sands, little or no fines
	Sands with fines (More than 12% fines)	
	SM	Silty sands, sand-silt mixtures
SC	Clayey sands, sand-clay mixtures	
FINE-GRAINED SOILS (50% or more of material is smaller than No. 200 sieve size.)		
SILTS AND CLAYS Liquid limit less than 50%	ML	Inorganic silts and very fine sands, rock flour, silty or clayey fine sands or clayey silts with slight plasticity
	CL	Inorganic clays of low to medium plasticity, gravelly clays, sandy clays, silty clays, lean clays
	OL	Organic silts and organic silty clays of low plasticity
SILTS AND CLAYS Liquid limit 50% or greater	MH	Inorganic silts, micaceous or diatomaceous fine sandy or silty soils, elastic silts
	CH	Inorganic clays of high plasticity, fat clays
	OH	Organic clays of medium to high plasticity, organic silts
HIGHLY ORGANIC SOILS	PT	Peat and other highly organic soils

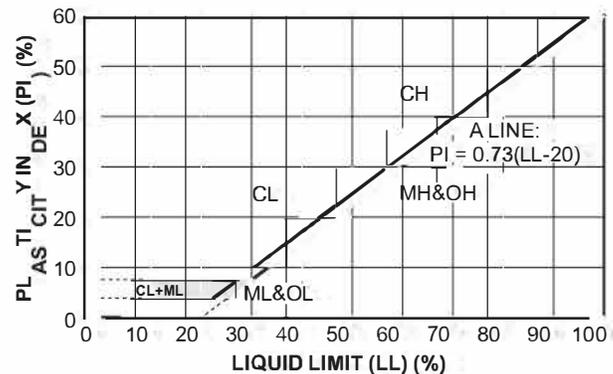
LABORATORY CLASSIFICATION CRITERIA

GW	$C_u = \frac{D_{60}}{D_{10}}$ greater than 4; $C_c = \frac{D_{30}}{D_{10} \times D_{60}}$ between 1 and 3	
GP	Not meeting all gradation requirements for GW	
GM	Atterberg limits below "A" line or P.I. less than 4	Above "A" line with P.I. between 4 and 7 are borderline cases
GC	Atterberg limits above "A" line with P.I. greater than 7	requiring use of dual symbols
SW	$C_u = \frac{D_{60}}{D_{10}}$ greater than 4; $C_c = \frac{D_{30}}{D_{10} \times D_{60}}$ between 1 and 3	
SP	Not meeting all gradation requirements for GW	
SM	Atterberg limits below "A" line or P.I. less than 4	Limits plotting in shaded zone with P.I. between 4 and 7 are borderline cases
SC	Atterberg limits above "A" line with P.I. greater than 7	requiring use of dual symbols.

Determine percentages of sand and gravel from grain-size curve. Depending on percentage of fines (fraction smaller than No. 200 sieve size), coarse-grained soils are classified as follows:

Less than 5 percent GW, GP, SW, SP
 More than 12 percent GM, GC, SM, SC
 5 to 12 percent Borderline cases requiring dual symbols

PLASTICITY CHART



UNIFIED SOIL CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

APPENDIX C

LABORATORY REPORTS

None



APPENDIX D

GENERAL NOTES & PROCEDURES

Drilling Procedures

Borings are drilled with a track- or truck-mounted rotary drill rig using one of a variety of drilling methods, depending on the soil conditions.

After each boring is completed, the open boreholes are either backfilled with the auger cuttings or bentonite chips, depending on government regulations or project specifications. The boreholes at the ground surface may also be capped with asphalt or concrete.

Hand-Auger Drilling (HA) - A fluted sampling device on the end of a T-Probe is advanced into the soil to the desired sample depth and then manually extracted to recover a disturbed sample. Sampling to depths greater than 3 to 5 feet can be difficult, depending on the soils encountered.

Solid-Stem Auger Drilling (AD) - Continuous flight augers are advanced to create a borehole. With solid-stem auger drilling, casing and drilling fluids are not used to maintain an open borehole. Therefore, this method is suitable in soils that will maintain an open borehole when the augers are removed. Typically, soil-stem drilling is not appropriate below the groundwater table. Soil samples can be collected at any interval.

Hollow-Stem Auger Drilling (HS) - Continuous flight augers are advanced by a truck- or track-mounted drill rig to create a borehole. Hollow-stem augers have open stems that allow a soil sampling tool to be used without removing the augers from the borehole. This drilling method is not appropriate below the groundwater table when sand soils are encountered.

Rotary Drilling (RD) - Various auger bits attached to drill rod, in conjunction with circulating drilling fluid, are used to advance the borehole. Surface casing is used to maintain borehole stability and to facilitate the circulation of the drilling fluid. The borehole will remain open due to the presence of dense drilling fluid (mud) when the auger bit and drill rod are removed. This drilling method is appropriate in soils that do not maintain an open borehole during drilling.

Diamond Core Drilling (DD) - A double-tube or triple-tube core barrel with a diamond bit is advanced through bedrock or cemented material to create an in-situ cylinder material that can be extracted. When the core barrel has proceeded to the desired core run length, the core sample is retained by a core catcher and retrieved.

Soil Sampling Procedures

Representative soil samples are collected during the drilling process using one of a variety of sampling methods. Typically, soil samples are obtained in the upper 10 feet of each boring and at intervals of 5 feet thereafter.



Field logs for each boring, which describe the method of borehole advancement, sampling methods, sample depths, and other observations regarding soil and groundwater conditions, are prepared at the time of drilling. The field logs are utilized by geotechnical staff as an aid in preparing the final boring logs.

Auger Sampling (AS) - Soil samples are obtained as cuttings from the auger flights as they are lifted from the borehole. Auger samples provide a general indication of subsurface conditions; however, they do not provide undisturbed samples, nor do they provide samples from specific depths. Due to the possible loss of soil components, or the mixing of soil components from various elevations, auger samples may not be representative of in-situ soil conditions.

Split-Barrel Sampling (SS) - ASTM Standard D-1586 - A 2-inch-O.D. split-barrel sampler is driven into the soil 18 inches by a 140-pound weight free-falling 30 inches. The first 6 inches of penetration is usually considered a seating drive. The Standard Penetration Resistance (SPT) value (N-Value) is the number of blows over the final 12 inches of driving. This value provides an indication of the in-place relative density of coarse-grained (sand and gravel) soils. The N-Value should be considered qualitative, since many variables can affect the results. A representative portion of the soil sample is recovered from the split-barrel sampler, placed in a sample jar, and delivered to a laboratory for further examination and possible testing. The ASTM standard is attached.

Shelby Tube Sampling Procedure (ST) - ASTM Standard D-1587 - A 2- or 3-inch-diameter thin-walled seamless steel tube having a sharp cutting edge is hydraulically pushed into the soil to obtain a relatively undisturbed sample. This procedure is generally used for fine-grained (clay and silt) soils. The Shelby tubes are carefully handled to minimize sample disturbance and delivered to a laboratory where the soil is extruded from the tube for further examination and possible testing. The ASTM standard is attached.

Miscellaneous Procedures

Soil Classification - The samples collected were evaluated in accordance with the Unified Soil Classification System (USCS). A summary of the USCS is included in Appendix B.

The descriptions presented on the boring logs are a representation of the subsurface conditions, based on visual soil classifications of soil samples and laboratory test results. The stratigraphic lines on the logs are approximate and the transition between the layers may be gradual rather than distinct.

Boring Location Layout - If the boring locations are not staked by the project civil engineer ahead of drilling, geotechnical staff will lay out the borings either by visibly referencing site features or utilizing handheld GPS equipment. The boring location accuracy, if not pre-staked, will be 10 feet.

Boring Surface Elevations - If the surface elevations at the boring locations are not provided by the project civil engineer, they will be obtained using a variety of methods, including topographic survey interpolation, the USGS website database, government GIS websites, or handheld GPS equipment. The accuracy of the surface elevations will be ½ foot if surveyed and 1 foot if interpolated from website/plan resources.



Point of Beginning

Subsurface Water Observation - Subsurface water (groundwater and perched water) observations will be recorded during drilling and at the completion of drilling. Any recorded observations will be approximate and accurate to 2 feet. Water level measurements refer only to those observed at the times and locations indicated and may vary with time.





Standard Test Method for Penetration Test and Split-Barrel Sampling of Soils¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D 1586; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reapproval. A superscript epsilon (ϵ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

This standard has been approved for use by agencies of the Department of Defense.

1. Scope *

1.1 This test method describes the procedure, generally known as the Standard Penetration Test (SPT), for driving a split-barrel sampler to obtain a representative soil sample and a measure of the resistance of the soil to penetration of the sampler.

1.2 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety problems, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.* For a specific precautionary statement, see 5.4.1.

1.3 The values stated in inch-pound units are to be regarded as the standard.

NOTE 1—Practice D 6066 can be used when testing loose sands below the water table for liquefaction studies or when a higher level of care is required when drilling these soils. This practice provides information on drilling methods, equipment variables, energy corrections, and blow-count normalization.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:

- D 2487 Practice for Classification of Soils for Engineering Purposes (Unified Soil Classification System)²
- D 2488 Practice for Description and Identification of Soils (Visual-Manual Procedure)²
- D 4220 Practices for Preserving and Transporting Soil Samples²
- D 4633 Test Method for Stress Wave Energy Measurement for Dynamic Penetrometer Testing Systems²
- D 6066 Practice for Determining the Normalized Penetration Resistance Testing of Sands for Evaluation of Liquefaction Potential³

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:

3.1.1 *anvil*—that portion of the drive-weight assembly

which the hammer strikes and through which the hammer energy passes into the drill rods.

3.1.2 *cathead*—the rotating drum or windlass in the rope-cathead lift system around which the operator wraps a rope to lift and drop the hammer by successively tightening and loosening the rope turns around the drum.

3.1.3 *drill rods*—rods used to transmit downward force and torque to the drill bit while drilling a borehole.

3.1.4 *drive-weight assembly*—a device consisting of the hammer, hammer fall guide, the anvil, and any hammer drop system.

3.1.5 *hammer*—that portion of the drive-weight assembly consisting of the 140 ± 2 lb (63.5 ± 1 kg) impact weight which is successively lifted and dropped to provide the energy that accomplishes the sampling and penetration.

3.1.6 *hammer drop system*—that portion of the drive-weight assembly by which the operator accomplishes the lifting and dropping of the hammer to produce the blow.

3.1.7 *hammer fall guide*—that part of the drive-weight assembly used to guide the fall of the hammer.

3.1.8 *N-value*—the blowcount representation of the penetration resistance of the soil. The *N-value*, reported in blows per foot, equals the sum of the number of blows required to drive the sampler over the depth interval of 6 to 18 in. (150 to 450 mm) (see 7.3).

3.1.9 ΔN —the number of blows obtained from each of the 6-in. (150-mm) intervals of sampler penetration (see 7.3).

3.1.10 *number of rope turns*—the total contact angle between the rope and the cathead at the beginning of the operator's rope slackening to drop the hammer, divided by 360° (see Fig. 1).

3.1.11 *sampling rods*—rods that connect the drive-weight assembly to the sampler. Drill rods are often used for this purpose.

3.1.12 *SPT*—abbreviation for standard penetration test, a term by which engineers commonly refer to this method.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 This test method provides a soil sample for identification purposes and for laboratory tests appropriate for soil obtained from a sampler that may produce large shear strain disturbance in the sample.

4.2 This test method is used extensively in a great variety of geotechnical exploration projects. Many local correlations and

¹ This method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D-18 on Soil and Rock and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D18.02 on Sampling and Related Field Testing for Soil Investigations.

Current edition approved Jan. 10, 1999. Published March 1999. Originally published as D 1586 – 58 T. Last previous edition D 1586 – 98.

² *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 04.08.

³ *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 04.09.

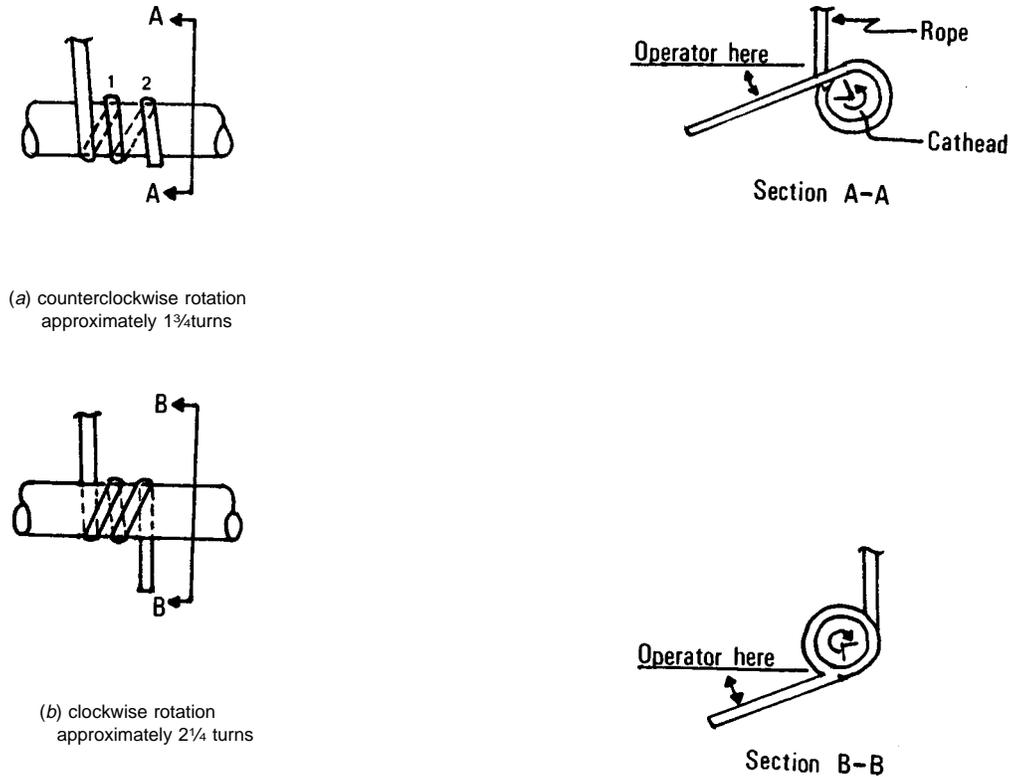


FIG. 1 Definitions of the Number of Rope Turns and the Angle for (a) Counterclockwise Rotation and (b) Clockwise Rotation of the Cathead

widely published correlations which relate SPT blowcount, or *N*-value, and the engineering behavior of earthworks and foundations are available.

5. Apparatus

5.1 *Drilling Equipment*—Any drilling equipment that provides at the time of sampling a suitably clean open hole before insertion of the sampler and ensures that the penetration test is performed on undisturbed soil shall be acceptable. The following pieces of equipment have proven to be suitable for advancing a borehole in some subsurface conditions.

5.1.1 *Drag, Chopping, and Fishtail Bits*, less than 6.5 in. (162 mm) and greater than 2.2 in. (56 mm) in diameter may be used in conjunction with open-hole rotary drilling or casing-advancement drilling methods. To avoid disturbance of the underlying soil, bottom discharge bits are not permitted; only side discharge bits are permitted.

5.1.2 *Roller-Cone Bits*, less than 6.5 in. (162 mm) and greater than 2.2 in. (56 mm) in diameter may be used in conjunction with open-hole rotary drilling or casing-advancement drilling methods if the drilling fluid discharge is deflected.

5.1.3 *Hollow-Stem Continuous Flight Augers*, with or without a center bit assembly, may be used to drill the boring. The inside diameter of the hollow-stem augers shall be less than 6.5 in. (162 mm) and greater than 2.2 in. (56 mm).

5.1.4 *Solid, Continuous Flight, Bucket and Hand Augers*, less than 6.5 in. (162 mm) and greater than 2.2 in. (56 mm) in

diameter may be used if the soil on the side of the boring does not cave onto the sampler or sampling rods during sampling.

5.2 *Sampling Rods*—Flush-joint steel drill rods shall be used to connect the split-barrel sampler to the drive-weight assembly. The sampling rod shall have a stiffness (moment of inertia) equal to or greater than that of parallel wall “A” rod (a steel rod which has an outside diameter of 1 5/8 in. (41.2 mm) and an inside diameter of 1 1/8 in. (28.5 mm).

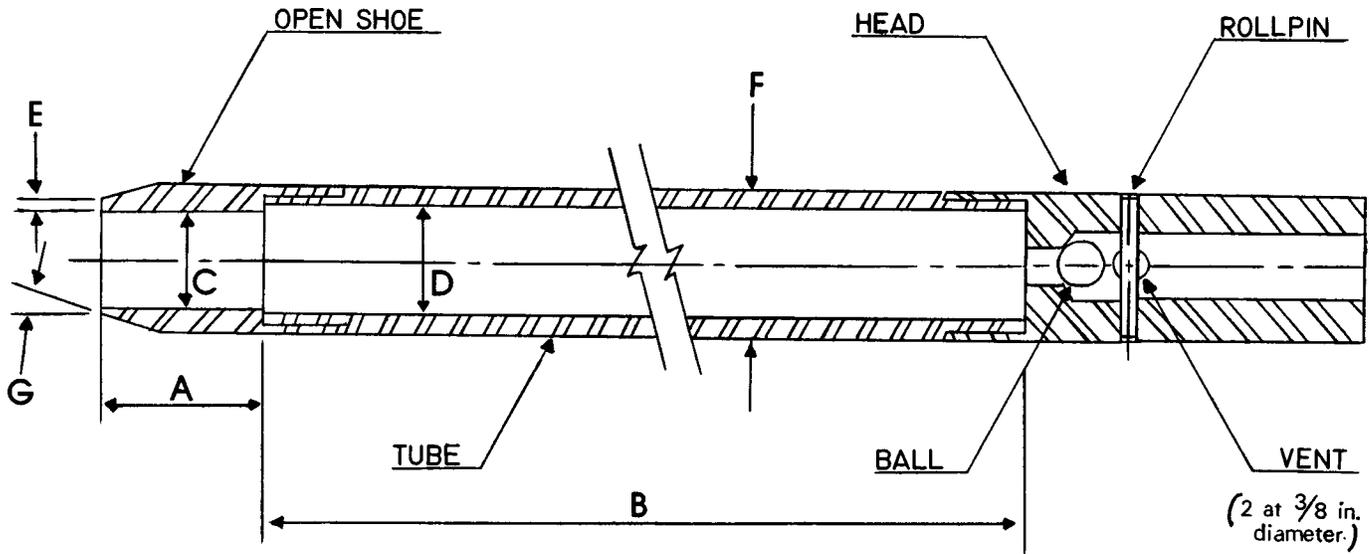
NOTE 2—Recent research and comparative testing indicates the type rod used, with stiffness ranging from “A” size rod to “N” size rod, will usually have a negligible effect on the *N*-values to depths of at least 100 ft (30 m).

5.3 *Split-Barrel Sampler*—The sampler shall be constructed with the dimensions indicated in Fig. 2. The driving shoe shall be of hardened steel and shall be replaced or repaired when it becomes dented or distorted. The use of liners to produce a constant inside diameter of 1 3/8 in. (35 mm) is permitted, but shall be noted on the penetration record if used. The use of a sample retainer basket is permitted, and should also be noted on the penetration record if used.

NOTE 3—Both theory and available test data suggest that *N*-values may increase between 10 to 30 % when liners are used.

5.4 Drive-Weight Assembly:

5.4.1 *Hammer and Anvil*—The hammer shall weigh 140 ± 2 lb (63.5 ± 1 kg) and shall be a solid rigid metallic mass. The hammer shall strike the anvil and make steel on steel contact when it is dropped. A hammer fall guide permitting a free fall



- A = 1.0 to 2.0 in. (25 to 50 mm)
- B = 18.0 to 30.0 in. (0.457 to 0.762 m)
- C = 1.375 ± 0.005 in. (34.93 ± 0.13 mm)
- D = $1.50 \pm 0.05 - 0.00$ in. ($38.1 \pm 1.3 - 0.0$ mm)
- E = 0.10 ± 0.02 in. (2.54 ± 0.25 mm)
- F = $2.00 \pm 0.05 - 0.00$ in. ($50.8 \pm 1.3 - 0.0$ mm)
- G = 16.0° to 23.0°

The 1½ in. (38 mm) inside diameter split barrel may be used with a 16-gage wall thickness split liner. The penetrating end of the drive shoe may be slightly rounded. Metal or plastic retainers may be used to retain soil samples.

FIG. 2 Split-Barrel Sampler

shall be used. Hammers used with the cathead and rope method shall have an unimpeded overlift capacity of at least 4 in. (100 mm). For safety reasons, the use of a hammer assembly with an internal anvil is encouraged.

NOTE 4—It is suggested that the hammer fall guide be permanently marked to enable the operator or inspector to judge the hammer drop height.

5.4.2 *Hammer Drop System*—Rope-cathead, trip, semi-automatic, or automatic hammer drop systems may be used, providing the lifting apparatus will not cause penetration of the sampler while re-engaging and lifting the hammer.

5.5 *Accessory Equipment*—Accessories such as labels, sample containers, data sheets, and groundwater level measuring devices shall be provided in accordance with the requirements of the project and other ASTM standards.

6. Drilling Procedure

6.1 The boring shall be advanced incrementally to permit intermittent or continuous sampling. Test intervals and locations are normally stipulated by the project engineer or geologist. Typically, the intervals selected are 5 ft (1.5 m) or less in homogeneous strata with test and sampling locations at every change of strata.

6.2 Any drilling procedure that provides a suitably clean and stable hole before insertion of the sampler and assures that the penetration test is performed on essentially undisturbed soil shall be acceptable. Each of the following procedures have proven to be acceptable for some subsurface conditions. The subsurface conditions anticipated should be considered when selecting the drilling method to be used.

- 6.2.1 Open-hole rotary drilling method.
- 6.2.2 Continuous flight hollow-stem auger method.
- 6.2.3 Wash boring method.
- 6.2.4 Continuous flight solid auger method.

6.3 Several drilling methods produce unacceptable borings.

The process of jetting through an open tube sampler and then sampling when the desired depth is reached shall not be permitted. The continuous flight solid auger method shall not be used for advancing the boring below a water table or below the upper confining bed of a confined non-cohesive stratum that is under artesian pressure. Casing may not be advanced below the sampling elevation prior to sampling. Advancing a boring with bottom discharge bits is not permissible. It is not permissible to advance the boring for subsequent insertion of the sampler solely by means of previous sampling with the SPT sampler.

6.4 The drilling fluid level within the boring or hollow-stem augers shall be maintained at or above the in situ groundwater level at all times during drilling, removal of drill rods, and sampling.

7. Sampling and Testing Procedure

7.1 After the boring has been advanced to the desired sampling elevation and excessive cuttings have been removed, prepare for the test with the following sequence of operations.

7.1.1 Attach the split-barrel sampler to the sampling rods and lower into the borehole. Do not allow the sampler to drop onto the soil to be sampled.

7.1.2 Position the hammer above and attach the anvil to the top of the sampling rods. This may be done before the sampling

rods and sampler are lowered into the borehole.

7.1.3 Rest the dead weight of the sampler, rods, anvil, and drive weight on the bottom of the boring and apply a seating blow. If excessive cuttings are encountered at the bottom of the boring, remove the sampler and sampling rods from the boring and remove the cuttings.

7.1.4 Mark the drill rods in three successive 6-in. (0.15-m) increments so that the advance of the sampler under the impact of the hammer can be easily observed for each 6-in. (0.15-m) increment.

7.2 Drive the sampler with blows from the 140-lb (63.5-kg) hammer and count the number of blows applied in each 6-in. (0.15-m) increment until one of the following occurs:

7.2.1 A total of 50 blows have been applied during any one of the three 6-in. (0.15-m) increments described in 7.1.4.

7.2.2 A total of 100 blows have been applied.

7.2.3 There is no observed advance of the sampler during the application of 10 successive blows of the hammer.

7.2.4 The sampler is advanced the complete 18 in. (0.45 m) without the limiting blow counts occurring as described in 7.2.1, 7.2.2, or 7.2.3.

7.3 Record the number of blows required to effect each 6 in. (0.15 m) of penetration or fraction thereof. The first 6 in. is considered to be a seating drive. The sum of the number of blows required for the second and third 6 in. of penetration is termed the “standard penetration resistance,” or the “*N*-value.” If the sampler is driven less than 18 in. (0.45 m), as permitted in 7.2.1, 7.2.2, or 7.2.3, the number of blows per each complete 6-in. (0.15-m) increment and per each partial increment shall be recorded on the boring log. For partial increments, the depth of penetration shall be reported to the nearest 1 in. (25 mm), in addition to the number of blows. If the sampler advances below the bottom of the boring under the static weight of the drill rods or the weight of the drill rods plus the static weight of the hammer, this information should be noted on the boring log.

7.4 The raising and dropping of the 140-lb (63.5-kg) hammer shall be accomplished using either of the following two methods:

7.4.1 By using a trip, automatic, or semi-automatic hammer drop system which lifts the 140-lb (63.5-kg) hammer and allows it to drop 30 ± 1.0 in. ($0.76 \text{ m} \pm 25 \text{ mm}$) unimpeded.

7.4.2 By using a cathead to pull a rope attached to the hammer. When the cathead and rope method is used the system and operation shall conform to the following:

7.4.2.1 The cathead shall be essentially free of rust, oil, or grease and have a diameter in the range of 6 to 10 in. (150 to 250 mm).

7.4.2.2 The cathead should be operated at a minimum speed of rotation of 100 RPM, or the approximate speed of rotation shall be reported on the boring log.

7.4.2.3 No more than $2\frac{1}{4}$ rope turns on the cathead may be used during the performance of the penetration test, as shown in Fig. 1.

NOTE 5—The operator should generally use either $1\frac{3}{4}$ or $2\frac{1}{4}$ rope turns, depending upon whether or not the rope comes off the top ($1\frac{3}{4}$ turns) or the bottom ($2\frac{1}{4}$ turns) of the cathead. It is generally known and accepted that $2\frac{3}{4}$ or more rope turns considerably impedes the fall of the hammer and should not be used to perform the test. The cathead rope should be maintained in a relatively dry, clean, and unfrayed condition.

7.4.2.4 For each hammer blow, a 30-in. (0.76-m) lift and drop shall be employed by the operator. The operation of pulling and throwing the rope shall be performed rhythmically without holding the rope at the top of the stroke.

7.5 Bring the sampler to the surface and open. Record the percent recovery or the length of sample recovered. Describe the soil samples recovered as to composition, color, stratification, and condition, then place one or more representative portions of the sample into sealable moisture-proof containers (jars) without ramming or distorting any apparent stratification. Seal each container to prevent evaporation of soil moisture. Affix labels to the containers bearing job designation, boring number, sample depth, and the blow count per 6-in. (0.15-m) increment. Protect the samples against extreme temperature changes. If there is a soil change within the sampler, make a jar for each stratum and note its location in the sampler barrel.

8. Report

8.1 Drilling information shall be recorded in the field and shall include the following:

8.1.1 Name and location of job,

8.1.2 Names of crew,

8.1.3 Type and make of drilling machine,

8.1.4 Weather conditions,

8.1.5 Date and time of start and finish of boring,

8.1.6 Boring number and location (station and coordinates, if available and applicable),

8.1.7 Surface elevation, if available,

8.1.8 Method of advancing and cleaning the boring,

8.1.9 Method of keeping boring open,

8.1.10 Depth of water surface and drilling depth at the time of a noted loss of drilling fluid, and time and date when reading or notation was made,

8.1.11 Location of strata changes,

8.1.12 Size of casing, depth of cased portion of boring,

8.1.13 Equipment and method of driving sampler,

8.1.14 Type sampler and length and inside diameter of barrel (note use of liners),

8.1.15 Size, type, and section length of the sampling rods, and

8.1.16 Remarks.

8.2 Data obtained for each sample shall be recorded in the field and shall include the following:

8.2.1 Sample depth and, if utilized, the sample number,

8.2.2 Description of soil,

8.2.3 Strata changes within sample,

8.2.4 Sampler penetration and recovery lengths, and

8.2.5 Number of blows per 6-in. (0.15-m) or partial increment.

9. Precision and Bias

9.1 *Precision*—A valid estimate of test precision has not been determined because it is too costly to conduct the necessary inter-laboratory (field) tests. Subcommittee D18.02 welcomes proposals to allow development of a valid precision statement.

9.2 *Bias*—Because there is no reference material for this test method, there can be no bias statement.

9.3 Variations in *N*-values of 100 % or more have been

observed when using different standard penetration test apparatus and drillers for adjacent borings in the same soil formation. Current opinion, based on field experience, indicates that when using the same apparatus and driller, *N*-values in the same soil can be reproduced with a coefficient of variation of about 10 %.

9.4 The use of faulty equipment, such as an extremely massive or damaged anvil, a rusty cathead, a low speed cathead, an old, oily rope, or massive or poorly lubricated rope sheaves can significantly contribute to differences in *N*-values obtained between operator-drill rig systems.

9.5 The variability in *N*-values produced by different drill rigs and operators may be reduced by measuring that part of the hammer energy delivered into the drill rods from the sampler and adjusting *N* on the basis of comparative energies. A method for energy measurement and *N*-value adjustment is given in Test Method D 4633.

10. Keywords

10.1 blow count; in-situ test; penetration resistance; split-barrel sampling; standard penetration test

SUMMARY OF CHANGES

(1) Added note to Section 1, Scope. The note refers to a related standard, Practice D 6066.

(2) Added Practice D 6066 to Section 2 on Referenced Documents.

The American Society for Testing and Materials takes no position respecting the validity of any patent rights asserted in connection with any item mentioned in this standard. Users of this standard are expressly advised that determination of the validity of any such patent rights, and the risk of infringement of such rights, are entirely their own responsibility.

This standard is subject to revision at any time by the responsible technical committee and must be reviewed every five years and if not revised, either reapproved or withdrawn. Your comments are invited either for revision of this standard or for additional standards and should be addressed to ASTM Headquarters. Your comments will receive careful consideration at a meeting of the responsible technical committee, which you may attend. If you feel that your comments have not received a fair hearing you should make your views known to the ASTM Committee on Standards, 100 Barr Harbor Drive, West Conshohocken, PA 19428.



Standard Practice for Thin-Walled Tube Sampling of Soils for Geotechnical Purposes¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D 1587; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reapproval. A superscript epsilon (ϵ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

This standard has been approved for use by agencies of the Department of Defense.

1. Scope *

1.1 This practice covers a procedure for using a thin-walled metal tube to recover relatively undisturbed soil samples suitable for laboratory tests of engineering properties, such as strength, compressibility, permeability, and density. Thin-walled tubes used in piston, plug, or rotary-type samplers should comply with Section 6.3 of this practice which describes the thin-walled tubes.

NOTE 1—This practice does not apply to liners used within the samplers.

1.2 This Practice is limited to soils that can be penetrated by the thin-walled tube. This sampling method is not recommended for sampling soils containing gravel or larger size soil particles cemented or very hard soils. Other soil samplers may be used for sampling these soil types. Such samplers include driven split barrel samplers and soil coring devices (D 1586, D 3550, and D 6151). For information on appropriate use of other soil samplers refer to D 6169.

1.3 This practice is often used in conjunction with fluid rotary drilling (D 1452/D 5783) or hollow-stem augers (D 6151). Subsurface geotechnical explorations should be reported in accordance with practice (D 5434). This practice discusses some aspects of sample preservation after the sampling event. For information on preservation and transportation process of soil samples, consult Practice D 4220. This practice does not address environmental sampling; consult D 6169 and D 6232 for information on sampling for environmental investigations.

1.4 The values stated in inch-pound units are to be regarded as the standard. The SI values given in parentheses are provided for information purposes only. The tubing tolerances presented in Table 2 are from sources available in North America. Use of metric equivalent is acceptable as long as thickness and proportions are similar to those required in this standard.

1.5 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the*

responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.

1.6 This practice offers a set of instructions for performing one or more specific operations. This document cannot replace education or experience and should be used in conjunction with professional judgment. Not all aspects of this practice may be applicable in all circumstances. This ASTM standard is not intended to represent or replace the standard of care by which the adequacy of a given professional service must be judged, nor should this document be applied without consideration of a project's many unique aspects. The word "Standard" in the title of this document means only that the document has been approved through the ASTM consensus process.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:

- D 653 Standard Terminology Relating to Soil, Rock, and Contained Fluids²
- D 1452 Practice for Soil Investigation and Sampling by Auger Borings²
- D 1586 Penetration Resistance and Split Barrel Sampling of Soils²
- D 2488 Practice for Description and Identification of Soils (Visual-Manual Procedure)²
- D 3550 Practice for Ring-Lined Barrel Sampling of Soils²
- D 3740 Minimum Requirements for Agencies Engaged in the Testing and/or Inspection of Soil and Rock as Used in Engineering Design and Construction²
- D 4220 Practices for Preserving and Transporting Soil Samples²
- D 5434 Guide for Field Logging of Subsurface Explorations of Soil and Rock³
- D 5783 Guide for Use of Rotary Drilling with Water-Based Drilling Fluid for Geoenvironmental Exploration and the Installation of Subsurface Water-Quality Monitoring Devices³
- D 6151 Practice for Using Hollow-Stem Augers for Geotechnical Exploration and Soil Sampling³
- D 6169 Guide for Selection of Soil and Rock Sampling

¹ This practice is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D18 on Soil and Rock and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D18.02 on Sampling and Related Field Testing for Soil Investigations.

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² Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Vol 04.08.

³ Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Vol 04.09.

*A Summary of Changes section appears at the end of this standard.

TABLE 1 Suitable Thin-Walled Steel Sample Tubes^A

Outside diameter (D_o):			
in.	2	3	5
mm	50.8	76.2	127
Wall thickness:			
Bwg	18	16	11
in.	0.049	0.065	0.120
mm	1.24	1.65	3.05
Tube length:			
in.	36	36	54
m	0.91	0.91	1.45
Inside clearance ratio, %	<1	<1	<1

^A The three diameters recommended in Table 1 are indicated for purposes of standardization, and are not intended to indicate that sampling tubes of intermediate or larger diameters are not acceptable. Lengths of tubes shown are illustrative. Proper lengths to be determined as suited to field conditions.

TABLE 2 Dimensional Tolerances for Thin-Walled Tubes

Size Outside Diameter	Nominal Tube Diameters from Table 1 ^A Tolerances					
	2 in.	50.8 mm	3 in.	76.2 mm	5 in.	127 mm
Outside diameter, D_o	+0.007 -0.000	+0.179 -0.000	+0.010 -0.000	+0.254 -0.000	+0.015 -0.000	0.381 -0.000
Inside diameter, D_i	+0.000 -0.007	+0.000 -0.179	+0.000 -0.010	+0.000 -0.254	+0.000 -0.015	+0.000 -0.381
Wall thickness	±0.007	±0.179	±0.010	±0.254	±0.015	±0.381
Ovality	0.015	0.381	0.020	0.508	0.030	0.762
Straightness	0.030/ft	2.50/m	0.030/ft	2.50/m	0.030/ft	2.50/m

^A Intermediate or larger diameters should be proportional. Specify only two of the first three tolerances; that is, D_o and D_i , or D_o and Wall thickness, or D_i and Wall thickness.

Devices Used With Drill Rigs for Environmental Investigations³

D 6232 Guide for Selection of Sampling Equipment for Waste and Contaminated Media Data Collection Activities⁴

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions:

3.1.1 For common definitions of terms in this standard, refer to Terminology D 653.

3.2 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:

3.2.1 *inside clearance ratio, %*—the ratio of the difference in the inside diameter of the tube, D_i , minus the inside diameter of the cutting edge, D_e , to the inside diameter of the tube, D_i expressed as a percentage (see Fig. 1).

3.2.2 *ovality*—the cross section of the tube that deviates from a perfect circle.

4. Summary of Practice

4.1 A relatively undisturbed sample is obtained by pressing a thin-walled metal tube into the in-situ soil at the bottom of a boring, removing the soil-filled tube, and applying seals to the soil surfaces to prevent soil movement and moisture gain or loss.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 This practice, or Practice D 3550 with thin wall shoe, is used when it is necessary to obtain a relatively undisturbed

specimen suitable for laboratory tests of engineering properties or other tests that might be influenced by soil disturbance.

NOTE 2—The quality of the result produced by this standard is dependent on the competence of the personnel performing it, and the suitability of the equipment and facilities used. Agencies that meet the criteria of Practice D 3740 are generally considered capable of competent and objective sampling. Users of this practice are cautioned that compliance with Practice D 3740 does not in itself assure reliable results. Reliable results depend on many factors; Practice D 5740 provides a means of evaluating some of those factors.

6. Apparatus

6.1 *Drilling Equipment*—When sampling in a boring, any drilling equipment may be used that provides a reasonably clean hole; that minimizes disturbance of the soil to be sampled; and that does not hinder the penetration of the thin-walled sampler. Open borehole diameter and the inside diameter of driven casing or hollow stem auger shall not exceed 3.5 times the outside diameter of the thin-walled tube.

6.2 *Sampler Insertion Equipment*, shall be adequate to provide a relatively rapid continuous penetration force. For hard formations it may be necessary, although not recommended, to drive the thin-walled tube sampler.

6.3 *Thin-Walled Tubes*, should be manufactured to the dimensions as shown in Fig. 1. They should have an outside diameter of 2 to 5 in. (50 to 130 mm) and be made of metal having adequate strength for the type of soil to be sampled. Tubes shall be clean and free of all surface irregularities including projecting weld seams. Other diameters may be used but the tube dimensions should be proportional to the tube designs presented here.

6.3.1 *Length of Tubes*—See Table 1 and 7.4.1.

6.3.2 *Tolerances*, shall be within the limits shown in Table 2.

6.3.3 *Inside Clearance Ratio*, should be not greater than 1 % unless specified otherwise for the type of soil to be sampled. Generally, the inside clearance ratio used should increase with the increase in plasticity of the soil being sampled, except for sensitive soils or where local experience indicates otherwise. See 3.2.1 and Fig. 1 for definition of inside clearance ratio.

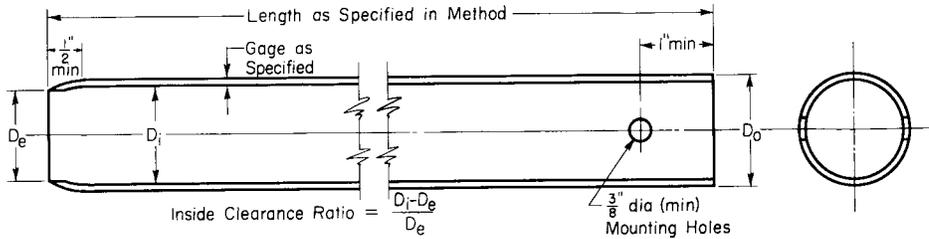
6.3.4 *Corrosion Protection*—Corrosion, whether from galvanic or chemical reaction, can damage or destroy both the thin-walled tube and the sample. Severity of damage is a function of time as well as interaction between the sample and the tube. Thin-walled tubes should have some form of protective coating, unless the soil is to be extruded less than 3 days. The type of coating to be used may vary depending upon the material to be sampled. Plating of the tubes or alternate base metals may be specified. Galvanized tubes are often used when long term storage is required. Coatings may include a light coat of lubricating oil, lacquer, epoxy, Teflon, zinc oxide, and others.

NOTE 3—Most coating materials are not resistant to scratching by soils that contain sands. Consideration should be given for prompt testing of the sample because chemical reactions between the metal and the soil sample can occur with time.

6.4 *Sampler Head*, serves to couple the thin-walled tube to the insertion equipment and, together with the thin-walled tube,

⁴ Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Vol 11.04.

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NOTE 1—Minimum of two mounting holes on opposite sides for D_o smaller than 4 in. (101.6 mm).

NOTE 2—Minimum of four mounting holes equally spaced for D_o 4 in. (101.6 mm) and larger.

NOTE 3—Tube held with hardened screws or other suitable means.

NOTE 4—2-in (50.8 mm) outside-diameter tubes are specified with an 18-gage wall thickness to comply with area ratio criteria accepted for “undisturbed samples.” Users are advised that such tubing is difficult to locate and can be extremely expensive in small quantities. Sixteen-gage tubes are generally readily available.

Metric Equivalent Conversions

in.	mm
3/8	9.53
1/2	12.7
1	25.4
2	50.8
3	76.2
4	101.6
5	127

FIG. 1 Thin-Walled Tube for Sampling

comprises the thin-walled tube sampler. The sampler head shall contain a venting area and suitable check valve with the venting area to the outside equal to or greater than the area through the check valve. In some special cases, a check valve may not be required but venting is required to avoid sample compression. Attachment of the head to the tube shall be concentric and coaxial to assure uniform application of force to the tube by the sampler insertion equipment.

7. Procedure

7.1 Remove loose material from the center of a casing or hollow stem auger as carefully as possible to avoid disturbance of the material to be sampled. If groundwater is encountered, maintain the liquid level in the borehole at or above ground water level during the drilling and sampling operation.

7.2 Bottom discharge bits are not permitted. Side discharge bits may be used, with caution. Jetting through an open-tube sampler to clean out the borehole to sampling elevation is not permitted.

NOTE 4—Roller bits are available in downward-jetting and diffused-jet configurations. Downward-jetting configuration rock bits are not acceptable. Diffuse-jet configurations are generally acceptable.

7.3 Lower the sampling apparatus so that the sample tube’s bottom rests on the bottom of the hole and record depth to the bottom of the sample tube to the nearest 0.1-ft (.03 m)

7.3.1 Keep the sampling apparatus plumb during lowering, thereby preventing the cutting edge of the tube from scraping the wall of the borehole.

7.4 Advance the sampler without rotation by a continuous relatively rapid downward motion and record length of advancement to the nearest 1 in. (25 mm).

7.4.1 Determine the length of advance by the resistance and condition of the soil formation, but the length shall never

exceed 5 to 10 diameters of the tube in sands and 10 to 15 diameters of the tube in clays. In no case shall a length of advance be greater than the sample-tube length minus an allowance for the sampler head and a minimum of 3-in. (75 mm) for sludge and end cuttings.

NOTE 5—The mass of sample, laboratory handling capabilities, transportation problems, and commercial availability of tubes will generally limit maximum practical lengths to those shown in Table 1.

7.5 When the soil formation is too hard for push-type insertion, the tube may be driven or Practice D 3550 may be used. If driving methods are used, the data regarding weight and fall of the hammer and penetration achieved must be shown in the report. Additionally, that tube must be prominently labeled a “driven sample.”

7.6 Withdraw the sampler from the soil formation as carefully as possible in order to minimize disturbance of the sample. The tube can be slowly rotated to shear the material at the end of the tube, and to relieve water and/or suction pressures and improve recovery. Where the soil formation is soft, a delay before withdraw of the sampler (typically 5 to 30 minutes) may improve sample recovery.

8. Sample Measurement, Sealing and Labeling

8.1 Upon removal of the tube, remove the drill cuttings in the upper end of the tube and measure the length of the soil sample recovered to the nearest 0.25 in. (5 mm) in the tube. Seal the upper end of the tube. Remove at least 1 in. (25 mm) of material from the lower end of the tube. Use this material for soil description in accordance with Practice D 2488. Measure the overall sample length. Seal the lower end of the tube. Alternatively, after measurement, the tube may be sealed without removal of soil from the ends of the tube.

8.1.1 Tubes sealed over the ends, as opposed to those sealed

with expanding packers, should be provided with spacers or appropriate packing materials, or both prior to sealing the tube ends to provide proper confinement. Packing materials must be nonabsorbent and must maintain their properties to provide the same degree of sample support with time.

8.1.2 Depending on the requirements of the investigation, field extrusion and packaging of extruded soil samples can be performed. This allows for physical examination and classification of the sample. Samples are extruded in special hydraulic jacks equipped with properly sized platens to extrude the core in a continuous smooth speed. In some cases, further extrusion may cause sample disturbance reducing suitability for testing of engineering properties. In other cases, if damage is not significant, cores can be extruded and preserved for testing (D 4220). Bent or damaged tubes should be cut off before extruding.

8.2 Prepare and immediately affix labels or apply markings as necessary to identify the sample (see Section 9). Assure that the markings or labels are adequate to survive transportation and storage.

NOTE 6—Top end of the tube should be labeled “top”.

9. Field Log

9.1 Record the information that may be required for preparing field logs in general accordance to ASTM D 5434 “Guide for Field Logging of Subsurface Explorations of Soil and Rock”. This guide is used for logging explorations by drilling and sampling. Some examples of the information required include;

- 9.1.1 Name and location of the project,
 - 9.1.2 Boring number,
 - 9.1.3 Log of the soil conditions,
 - 9.1.4 Surface elevation or reference to a datum to the nearest foot (0.5 m) or better,
 - 9.1.5 Location of the boring,
 - 9.1.6 Method of making the borehole,
 - 9.1.7 Name of the drilling foreman and company, and
 - 9.1.8 Name of the drilling inspector(s).
 - 9.1.9 Date and time of boring-start and finish,
 - 9.1.10 Depth to groundwater level: date and time measured,
- 9.2 Recording the appropriate sampling information is required as follows:
- 9.2.1 Depth to top of sample to the nearest 0.1 ft. (.03 m) and number of sample,
 - 9.2.2 Description of thin-walled tube sampler: size, type of metal, type of coating,
 - 9.2.3 Method of sampler insertion: push or drive,
 - 9.2.4 Method of drilling, size of hole, casing, and drilling fluid used,
 - 9.2.5 Soil description in accordance with Practice D 2488,
 - 9.2.6 Length of sampler advance (push), and
 - 9.2.7 Recovery: length of sample obtained.

10. Keywords

10.1 geologic investigations; sampling; soil exploration; soil investigations; subsurface investigations; undisturbed

SUMMARY OF CHANGES

In accordance with committee D18 policy, this section identifies the location of changes to this standard since the last edition, 1994, which may impact the use of this standard.

(1) Editorial corrections to various sections based on comments received from Committee Balloting

- (2) Added D 6232 to Section 2.
- (3) Changed Note 7 to Section 8.1.2.
- (4) Renumbered Note 8.

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APPENDIX E

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS

None

