



Soil Classification				
Basic Soil Type	Sub Group	Compaction/Strength	SPT-N	ASTM Class
Sands	Sand	Very Loose	0-3	8
		Loose	3-8	5
	Sandy Clay/Sandy Silt	Compact	8-30	3
		Cemented	30-58	1
Silt	Silts	Soft	3-8	5
		Firm	8-30	3
	Silty Clay	Stiff	30-58	1
		Very Soft	7-14	6
Clays	Clay	Soft	14-25	5
		Firm	25-60	4
		Stiff	7-14	6
	Organic Clay Silt or Sand	Very Soft	0-5	8
		Soft	4-8	7
		Firm	7-14	6
Peats	Peat	Stiff	14-25	5
		Hard	35-60	3
Chalks	Very Weak Weak Moderately Weak Moderately strong to very strong	Hard	>60	1
		Firm	0-5	8
		Spongy	0-5	8
		Plastic	0-5	8

Notes:

The above classifications are outlined in BS 5930 with the exception of chalk and the "Sands" and "Clays" sections have been expanded. Also chalk is not covered in the ASTM classification, but for the purposes of predicting loads it has been assigned values. The range of pull out loads in strong chalks and tarmac can be considerably higher than shown on the chart and field tests need to be carried out to obtain accurate values.

The Standard Penetration Test (SPT) N values quoted above are in accordance with BS1377:1990 Part9, ASTM Standard D1586-84 and AS 1289.6.3.1-1993

