



Soil Classification				
Basic Soil Type	Sub Group	Compaction/Strength	SPT-N	ASTM Class
Sands	Sand	Very Loose	0-3	0
		Loose	3-8	3
Compact Cemented		8-30	4	
Sands	Sandy Clay/Sandy Silt	Soft	3-8	3
		Firm	8-30	4
Sands	Sandy Clay/Sandy Silt	Stiff	30-58	5
		Silty	Very Soft	7-14
Soft	14-25		3	
Firm	25-60		4	
Silt	Silty Clay	Soft	7-14	2
		Firm	14-25	3
Silt	Silty Clay	Stiff	25-60	4
		Clays	Clays	Very Soft
Soft	4-8			1
Firm	7-14			2
Stiff	14-25			3
Very Stiff	35-60			5
Clays	Clays	Hard	>60	7
		Peats	Organic Clay Silt or Sand	Firm
Peats	Peat		Spongy	0-5
		Plastic	0-5	0
Chalks		Very Weak	0-25	3
		Weak	25-100	6
		Moderately Weak	100-250	7
		Moderately strong to very strong	>250	8

Notes:

The above classifications are outlined in BS5930 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 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

