

General Construction Advice

GENERAL GEOTECHNICAL CONSTRUCTION ADVICE

1. The locations of all buried services should be accurately determined prior to detailed design in order that zones of influence, easements, diversions etc. can be considered. Care should be undertaken that any field drains encountered are carefully and satisfactorily blocked to prevent water seeping through the drains and into any excavations.
2. A site strip should be undertaken with all surface vegetation and topsoil either stockpiled for future re-use or disposed at a suitable licensed facility. In particular, all areas of Japanese Knotweed should be excavated and disposed in accordance with published guidelines.
3. All areas of hardstandings or old foundations, basements or other substructures should be broken out and either processed for re-use on site or disposed of at a suitable licensed landfill facility.
4. For all spread foundation options, formations should be cleaned, and subsequently inspected by a suitably qualified engineer prior to placing concrete. Should any soft, compressible or otherwise unsuitable materials be encountered they should be removed and replaced by lean mix concrete or suitable compacted granular material. A blinding layer of concrete should be placed after excavation and inspection in order to protect the formation against softening and disturbance.
5. Generally, all foundations should be placed wholly within the same material type, unless specific geotechnical inspection and assessment has been undertaken.
6. The location of the exploratory holes undertaken as part of this report should be accurately surveyed in order that their precise location is known and that appropriate precautions can be taken when building over or near to these locations.
7. Appropriate precautions should be adopted to prevent the disturbance of foundations or services by roots associated with trees or hedges where shallow foundations are considered within the influence zone of such trees and hedges. Any such roots should be removed from foundation excavations and the foundations located below such disturbance strata. Where the natural soil bounded by the foundations could increase in volume greater than that outside the foundations (e.g. where a shallow foundation is sited over a previous tree or severed major roots) a compressible material / loose backfill should be placed on the faces of the footing.
8. Where the distance from foundations to existing trees/hedgerows is less than twice the foundation depth, as determined by NHBC Practice Note 3 (1985), a compressible material or loose backfill shall be placed on the outside of the foundation to absorb potential forces.