

Table 2.10 The British Soil Classification System (Dumbleton 1981)

Subgroups and laboratory identification							
Soil groups (see note 1)	Group symbol (see notes 2 & 3)		Subgroup symbol (see note 2)	Fines (% less than 0.06 mm)	Liquid limit %	Name	
GRAVELS More than 50% of coarse material is of gravel size (coarser than 2mm)	Slightly silty or clayey GRAVEL	G	GW	GW	0 to 5	Well graded GRAVEL	
	Silty GRAVEL	G-F	GP	GPu	GPg	Poorly graded/Uniform/Gap graded GRAVEL	
			G-M	GWM	GPM	Well graded/Poorly graded silty GRAVEL	
	Clayey GRAVEL		G-C	GWC	GPC	Well graded/Poorly graded clayey GRAVEL	
	Very silty GRAVEL		GM	GML, etc		Very silty GRAVEL; subdivide as for GC	
			GCL			<35	Very clayey GRAVEL (clay of low, intermediate,
	Very clayey GRAVEL	GF	GCI			35 to 50	high,
			GCH			50 to 70	very high,
			GCV			70 to 90	extremely high plasticity)
			GCE			>90	
SANDS More than 50% of coarse material is of sand size (finer than 2mm)	Slightly silty or clayey SAND	S	SW	SW	0 to 5	Well graded SAND	
	Silty SAND	S-F	SP	SPu	SPg	Poorly graded/Uniform/Gap graded SAND	
			S-M	SWM	SPM	Well graded/Poorly graded silty SAND	
	Clayey SAND		S-C	SWC	SPC	Well graded/Poorly graded clayey SAND	
	Very silty SAND		SM	SML, etc		Very silty SAND, subdivide as for SC	
			SCL			<35	Very clayey SAND (clay of low, intermediate,
	Very clayey SAND	SF	SCI			35 to 50	high,
			SCH			50 to 70	very high
			SCV			70 to 90	extremely high plasticity)
			SCE			>90	

COARSE SOILS
less than 35% of the material is finer than 0.06 mm

Table 2.10 *continue* (Dumbleton 1981)

Soil groups (see note 1)		Subgroups and laboratory identification		
GRAVEL and SAND may be qualified Sandy GRAVEL and Gravelly SAND, etc. where appropriate	Group symbol (see notes 2 & 3)	Subgroup symbol (see note 2)	Fines (% less than 0.06 mm)	Liquid limit % Name
Gravelly or sandy SILTS & CLAYS 35% to 65% fines	Gravelly SILT	MG	MLG, etc	Gravelly SILT: subdivide as for CG
			CLG	<35 Gravelly CLAY of low plasticity
		FG	CIG	35 to 50 of intermediate plasticity
	Gravelly CLAY (see note 4)	CG	CHG	50 to 70 of high plasticity
			CVG	70 to 90 of very high plasticity
			CEG	>90 of extremely high plasticity
	Sandy SILT (see note 4)	MS	MLS, etc	Sandy SILT; subdivide as for CG
	Sandy CLAY	CD	CLS, etc	Sandy CLAY; subdivide as for CG
	SILT (M-SOIL)	M	ML, etc	SILT: subdivide as for CG
	CLAY (see note 5 & 6)		CL	<35 CLAY of low plasticity
SILTS & CLAYS 65% to 100% fines		CI	35 to 50	of intermediate plasticity
	F	CH	65 to 100	50 to 70 of high plasticity
		CV	70 to 90	of very high plasticity
		CE	>90	of extremely high plasticity
ORGANIC SOILS	Descriptive letter 'O' suffixed to any group or sub-group symbol.			Organic matter suspected to be a significant constituent. Example MHO. Organic SILT of high plasticity.
PEAT	Pt	Peat soils consist predominantly of plant remains which may be fibrous or amorphous.		

FINE SOILS
more than 35% of the material is finer than 0.06 mm