

Geotechnical Soil and Rock Laboratory Testing

Company Overview

2023



Geolabs Limited

GEOLABS LIMITED - QUALITY ASSURANCE

Geolabs Limited was formed in 1995 and has testing facilities and resources to undertake an extensive range of soils and rock testing including classification; earthworks, total stress, consolidation, shearbox, permeability, effective stress and advanced testing, as well as research oriented and bespoke testing to meet customer-specific project requirements.

We ensure that the highest level of quality is achieved and maintained in our operations through the application of a robust Quality Management system and quality assurance procedures across all laboratory activities.

The Geolabs Limited Quality Management system and associated documentation is reviewed and audited at least annually by the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS), which is the sole national accreditation body recognised by the UK government to assess organisations that provide certification, testing inspection and calibration services against published international standards for technical competence.

UKAS assess our compliance with relevant National Standards, test and project-specific specifications in accordance with the requirements of International Standard *BS EN ISO/IEC* 17025: 2017 - General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories.

This recently revised standard is the international reference for testing and calibration laboratories wishing to give confidence to their customers in their capability to deliver reliable results, and enables laboratories accredited to this standard to demonstrate their technical competence both nationally and around the world. Closely aligned to the requirements of BS EN ISO 9001:2015, UKAS accreditation to BS EN ISO 17025: 2017 also confirms a commitment to impartiality, protection of customer confidentiality, staff training and development and continuous improvement throughout the organisation.

Customers using a UKAS BS EN ISO 17025:2017 accredited laboratory can be assured that the accredited services that the laboratory provides will be recognised internationally, as BS EN ISO/IEC 17025:2017 was developed through the liaison of 18 internationally renowned organisations such as the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC). This international recognition further reduces the need for multiple assessments and third-party audit by customers seeking to guarantee the quality of their required laboratory services.

Geolabs Limited actively organises and participates in a Proficiency and Interlaboratory Comparison Testing Scheme (PICTS), which provides geotechnical laboratories with the opportunity to monitor and assess their performance and validity of their test results through comparison with other laboratories in accordance with the requirements of clause 7.7.2 of BS EN ISO/IEC 17025:2017.

GEOLABS



Geotechnical Soils & Rocks Testing Facilities

Geolabs Limited is a leading independent geotechnical soils, rocks and associated materials testing laboratory with state-of-the-art, inhouse testing facilities.

Based in the in the United Kingdom with laboratories in Watford and Birmingham, our facilities enable us to perform a wide range of test procedures to British and other National and International Standards as well as in-house and bespoke methods.

We perform a wide range of geotechnical tests for civil engineering and construction projects, including exploration and testing for mineral resources, all types of advanced and routine testing relating to the development of renewable energy resources (offshore and onshore), tunnelling, embankment construction, pipeline projects

GEOLABS Limited

Head Office

Bucknalls Lane, Garston Watford, Hertfordshire **WD25 9XX**

Tel: +44 (0)1923 892 190

web: www.geolabs.co.uk email: admin@geolabs.co.uk

Birmingham Office

Units D3/D3A, HRS Business Park Granby Avenue, Birmingham B33 OSJ

Tel: 0121 296 4600



and major construction projects requiring high quality testing. We regularly undertake testing commissions from clients and projects from all over the world as well as providing essential technical support when required.

Staff

Our staff are knowledgeable and have expertise in all routine and advanced geotechnical laboratory testing with a combined geotechnical testing experience in excess of 500 years.

With staff serving on numerous National and International Standards committees, working groups and technical panels, often in the capacity of Chairmen or Working Group Coordinators we keep at the forefront of developments in the geotechnical and testing world. Our staff also lecture and present technical papers throughout the world.



Resonant Column

Our Hardin Type Resonant Column apparatus (H-RCA) allows elastic moduli to be determined over a wide range of strains, including the damping properties of the soil.

Advanced and Standard Triaxial

Our Advanced triaxial testing capabilities comprises up to eleven stress path stations each with their own dedicated stepless, computer-controlled compression frames. We routinely test both 70mm and 100mm diameter specimens. Each cell is capable of being

equipped with three pairs of bender elements to determine shear wave velocities in up to three directions, mid-plane pore pressure transducer, and local axial and radial strain measurements in

compression and extension. All stress path cells can perform tests to greater than 10 % axial strain on 100mm diameter specimens.

Our Dynamic Triaxial equipment can provide cyclic loading tests on 70 mm and 100 mm specimens with both strain and stress control capability, together with additional instrumentation including mid-plane pore pressure, local axial strain, and local radial strain transducers, as well as bender elements.

We can run concurrently up to 60 standard effective stress tests from 38 mm to 150 mm diameter using thirty-two compression machines from 1 tonne to 10 tonne capacity dedicated to effective stress testing. Eleven high-pressure cells and high-pressure maintainers allow tests to be undertaken with effective pressures in excess of 1000 kPa and confining pressures of up to 3500 kPa.

Dynamic Cyclic Simple Shear

Our three sets of state-of-the-art Dynamic Cyclic Simple Shear (DCSS) apparatus, two of 10 kN capacity and one 5 kN capacity, use their dedicated high-speed closed-loop computer control to enable both static and dynamic (cyclic) measurements to be made. We use low friction PTFE coated precision ground stainless steel rings to confine the 66mm diameter specimen.



Routine Testing

Our extensive equipment resources enable us to perform a wide range of testing of a routine nature (all BS1377 and BS EN ISO 17892 tests including classification, durability, compactions, CBR's, MCV's and total stress shear strength). We also perform the Fall Cone and other tests to other specifications and National Standards. We have jointly developed a new, proven, in-house method for determining maximum dry density of sands which gives high densities with minimal grain crushing.



Rock Testing

Our facilities allow us to perform a wide range of rock testing including: Unconfined and Triaxial Compressive Strength tests (which can include Young's Modulus and Poisson's Ratio determinations with load/unload cycles and utilise stress or strain controlled loading); Indirect Tensile Strength (Brazilian); Sound Velocity (P&S waves); Cerchar Abrasivity; Shore Scleroscope; Shearbox tests (on specimens up to 150 mm diameter); Petrographic analysis; Angularity; Swelling Pressure; Swelling Strain; Free Unconfined Swelling Strain; Volumetric Strain etc.

Direct Shear and Ringshear

We have eighteen 60 mm x 60 mm shearbox apparatus (two capable of also performing 100 mm x 100 mm specimens and one capable of testing at higher normal stresses); two 300 mm x 300 mm shearboxes (one capable of also performing 150 mm x 150 mm specimens and both capable of performing soil v Geofabric, Geomembrane, Geotextiles, Geosynthetic etc. tests to BS and ASTM Standards); three Ringshear apparatus (for performing both BS1377 and custom interface tests); one Hoek shearbox apparatus (for rock testing). These extensive resources enable us to provide many combinations of direct shear testing.



Consolidation Testing

Geolabs have forty-three one-dimensional consolidation stations capable of performing tests on samples from 38 mm to 150 mm diameter. We also have six 76 mm, one 100 mm and six 250 mm diameter hydraulic consolidation (Rowe) cells; these cells can also be used for Permeability tests. In addition, we have Floating Ring and three Constant Rate of Strain (CRS) apparatus capable of applying back pressure and monitoring pore pressures.

Permeability Tests

We have the capacity to perform in excess of fifty triaxial permeability tests simultaneously, to BS1377, BS EN ISO 17892 and Environment Agency Procedures. We have the resources to perform Constant Head permeability tests in 76 mm and 112 mm diameter cells, Falling Head and Highways Agency permeability tests for graded aggregates. We also have apparatus to perform permeability tests on one-dimensional consolidation tests at each stage of incremental loading.

Quality

Quality is our mission!



Geolabs Limited is accredited in accordance with BS EN ISO/IEC 17025:2017 - *General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories*. We are audited annually by independent UKAS Technical Assessors to ensure that we comply with the BS EN ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Standard as well as complying with the National Testing Standards and/or documented Technical Procedures that we hold accreditation for. Our accreditation demonstrates that we are technically competent and have the necessary technical expertise and experience to perform our extensive scope of accredited tests. Our accreditation and annual surveillance and monitoring is certificated by the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) which is the recognised national body in the United Kingdom responsible for assessing the competence of organisations in the fields of calibration, testing, inspection and certification of systems, products or services. We have been a UKAS Accredited laboratory since 1999 and have held accreditation for effective stress testing since 2000.



















www.geolabs.co.uk



Sample Preparation and Logging

Independent Soil and Rock Geotechnical Laboratory Testing

Liner Cutting

Cutting core liners without causing disturbance

The Geolabs liner cutter has been custom designed for horizontally cutting PVC or similar liners which contain undisturbed soil samples.

The powerful, motorised cutting head precisely and safely cuts along both sides of the plastic liner causing no disturbance to the soil inside. This allows the top half of the now neatly split liner to be easily removed to expose the pristine core within for description and photography, as well as permitting easy sub-sampling for other laboratory testing.

The sharp cutting blades are adjustable to allow for different liner thicknesses between 1 mm to 5 mm and can accommodate core liner lengths up to 1.5 m and core diameters from 60 mm to 125 mm.







Horizontal & Vertical Extruding

Extruding undisturbed soil samples

Geolabs have two 1.5 m electro-hydraulic, horizontal extruders for extruding undisturbed samples from 70 mm to 110 mm in diameter. As well as horizontal extruders, we have vertical extruders that can extrude undisturbed samples from different core sizes from 38 mm to 250 mm diameter.

Soil lathing and other sub-sampling

Preparing quality soil and rock specimens

Geolabs have a wide range of other subsampling apparatus to obtain undisturbed samples from block samples or to reduce the diameter of specimens to comply with required standards or specifications.

We have soil lathes to obtain specimens from 38mm, 50mm, 70mm and 100mm.

Our precision water-lubricated recoring and end-grinding equipment can core hard soils, rocks and concrete to provide specimens from 38 mm to 145 mm in diameter.





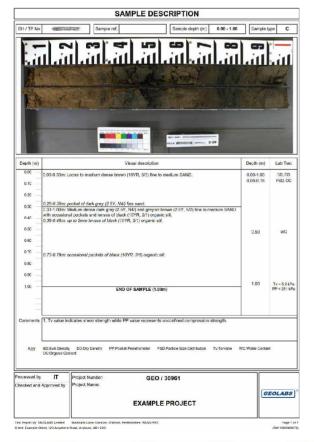
Sample Description & Photography

Geolabs have a dedicated team of experienced, degreequalified Laboratory Engineers and Geologists to conduct examination and description of soil samples and rock cores in accordance with BS5930. We are also capable of logging chalk to CIRIA C574 (2002). All samples are photographed with a colour chart, grey scale and specimen identification.





Our team can perform index testing (such as Torvane and pocket penetrometer) for rapid assessment of shear strength and unconfined compression strength of cohesive soils. We can also undertake undisturbed and disturbed sub-sample preparation for other laboratory testing requirements (such as Triaxial, Oedometer, Laboratory Vane, Shearbox, Particle Size Distribution and Atterberg limits etc).



Logging

Logs are presented using our in-house sample description sheet containing the following information as a minimum:

- Project name
- Core reference number
- Sample depth and type
- Photograph of the sample in JPEG format with colour chart, grey scale and specimen identification
- Visual description of the material
- Depth of any changes in the sample
- Geological classification of the material
- Depth of any sub-sample collected and corresponding laboratory test

If you have any particular requirements that are not listed above, please do contact us; we would be happy to discuss adapting our sheet to produce a custom format that would exactly meet your needs.



















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In addition to our vast scope of routine soil and rock testing, Geolabs also offers an impressive range of advanced soil testing capabilities. These make Geolabs a one-stop solution for all your geotechnical testing needs, irrespective of the size or complexity of your project.

We are always willing to discuss how we can adapt and customise our methods to suit your particular needs.

Advanced Triaxial Testing



- Stress path control
- Anisotropic capability
- Small strain stiffness
- Shear Modulus (G)
- · Stiffness decay curve
- K₀
- Custom modelling
- · Slow cyclic behaviour

8 advanced triaxial cells with computer controlled stress path capability allow the fitting of **Piezo Bender Elements** for measuring shear wave velocities in 3 orientations for deriving G_{max} . **Local Strain** using submersible LVDTs enables axial and radial strains to be measured to assess parameters such as small strain stiffness decay curves and Poisson's Ratio. **Mid-Height Flushable Probes** ensure accurate pore pressure determination.

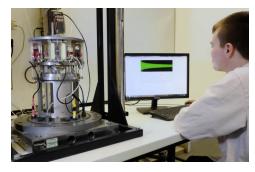
CRS Consolidation



- Pre-consolidation pressure based on continuous curve
- Continuous e v log(p')
- Continuous c_{v}
- Continuous m_{ν}
- Continuous k (calculated)

3 Closed-loop controlled **Constant Rate of Strain** (**CRS**) oedometers measure permeability and allow consolidation parameters and permeability to be calculated **seamlessly** over the **whole stress range** tested.

Resonant Column



- Shear Modulus (G) and Damping (D) •
- Very small strains (typically 10⁻⁵ to 10⁻² %)
 - Defines the early stiffness decay curve •

The **Resonant Column** test provides shear moduli over a range of **very small strains** which can link with local strain data from advanced triaxial tests to give a broad picture of the material's **stiffness characteristics**. Induced vibrations can be either **torsional** or **flexural**

Cyclic Direct Simple Shear

Shear Modulus (G) •

Shear Stress (τ) •

Shear Strain (γ) •

Up to 5 Hz (cycles/second) •

Specimens can be • pre-prepared by consolidating from 1.5 x LL material



Our **Direct Simple Shear (DSS)** apparatus can perform both **static** and **cyclic** tests with sinusoidal or custom loading profile. Tests can be carried out controlling either the **shear load** or the **shear strain**. Platens are available with **pins** or **ridges** to best prevent slippage





















Tailings tests are an important tool for understanding the behaviour of the fine materials that are often pluviated into holding ponds and dams as part of the extraction processes performed at ore and precious metals processing plants. Geolabs provides a range of tests that measure how these materials settle under various conditions and their physical properties once settled.

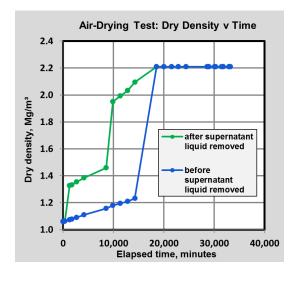


- Drained Settling
- · Undrained Settling
- Permeability (constant head and falling head)
- · Coefficient of Consolidation
- · Air-Drying
- Pulp Density
- · Marsh Cone Viscosity
- · Particle Settling Velocity



Undrained Settling measures how the fines settle out of a homogenous slurry that has been either supplied by the client, or mixed by Geolabs to a specified pulp density from dried materials. Where permitted by the materials, two properties are measured over time during the test: the gradually rising height of the settled materials, and the gradually lowering height of the fines above which there is clear water.

The **Drained Settling** test is similar to the Undrained Settling test except that water is allowed to drain out of the base through the settling material. This simulates how water levels would drop in tailings ponds by permeating through the surrounding soil.



Once the tailings have settled out of the slurry and reached a constant height, water can be percolated through them to determine their **Permeability.**

Alternatively, the head of water can be maintained and water allowed to drain from the base. This allows the **Coefficient of Consolidation** to be determined.

The **Air-Drying** test replicates the desiccation of a tailings slurry as it dries naturally once no more slurry is being added to the pond or dam. The bulk and dry densities, together with the water content, are measured during the drying.

Geolabs can measure a sample's **Pulp Density** - how much solids there are in a slurry - or mix a sample to a specific Pulp Density to perform a test.

Often required to assess pumping requirements, the **Marsh Cone Viscosity** test measures how easily the slurry flows.

The **Particle Settling Velocity** measures how fast differently sized fractions of particles settle through a column of water.























Testing Facilities

Geolabs Limited have a dedicated team of experienced petrographers to conduct petrographic examination in rock,

aggregate, sand, concrete, mortar, bricks, plaster and other building and

construction materials. Some of the examples are:

- ISRM 1974 2006 Suggested Method for Petrographic Description of Rocks.
- BS EN 1997-2:2007 Eurocode, Part 2 / BS 5930:2015+A1:2020 Code of Practice for Site Investigation.
- ISO 14689:2017 Identification and classification of rock.
- **BS EN 12407: 2019** Natural Stone tests Methods Petrographic Examination.
- BS EN 12670: 2019 Natural Stone tests Methods Petrographic

 Examination
- BS EN 12620:2002 Aggregates for concrete.
- ASTM C295/C295M: 2020 Standard Guide for Petrographic Examination of Aggregates for Concrete.
- BS EN 932-3-1997 Tests for general properties of aggregates Part 3: Procedure and terminology for simplified petrographic description.
- BS 7943: 1999 Guide to the Interpretation of Petrographical Examinations for Alkali-Silica Reactivity.
- ASTM C856/C856M: 2020 Standard Practice for Petrographic Examination of Hardened Concrete.
- ASTM C1324: 20a Standard Test Method for Examination and Analysis of Hardened Masonry Mortar.
- Other Documented In-house procedures for specific building and construction materials.

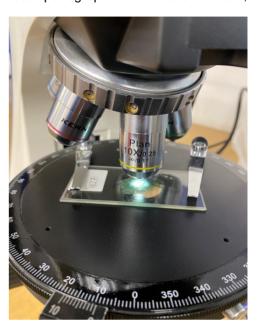
Our laboratory has the latest equipment for the full range of petrographic examination including a Leica microscope, cameras and software to inspect, analyse, measure and document a variety of different type of samples. The system has ergonomically designed high-quality imaging systems to tackle everything from everyday routine analyses to the most challenging materials' research applications.



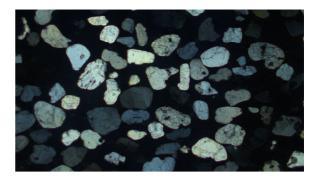


Rock, Aggregate & Sand

Petrographic analysis provides in-depth investigation of the physical features of a particular rock sample and a complete analysis covers macroscopic to microscopic investigations of the rock sample. Aggregate testing plays a vital role in the construction project by providing owners, designers and contractors with valuable information throughout a project's progress.



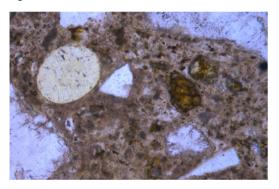


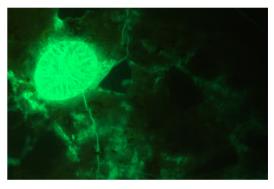


In concrete aggregates, petrographic examinations are used to characterize the rock type, name, and its suitability for use as a concrete aggregate. This helps to identify the constituents that are susceptible to alkali silica reactions in concrete and also when used in freeze/thaw environments.

Concrete, Mortar & Plaster

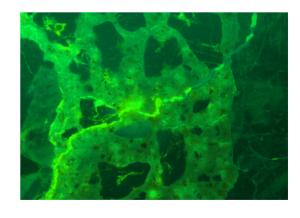
Petrographic examination that follows ASTM C856 can be applied to verify that the product was mixed as designed and that the appropriate or specified materials were used. Concrete petrography also helps to identify the nature of deterioration or defects, determine the degree of damage, and to evaluate whether the damage will continue. Perhaps most critically, petrographic analyses aid repair versus replace decisions, making them an integral part of evaluation strategies.





Geolabs Limited can also investigate hardened concrete by looking at the following:

- Aggregate type (mineralogical), characteristics, size & distribution
- Cement type
- Mineral additives (ground granulated blast furnace slag, fly ash, silica fume, etc.)
- Micro-crackings
- Degree of cement hydration, air void content and Water-cement (w/c) ratio
- Micro-porosity
- Carbonation depth
- Alkali-silica reaction (ASR), Alkali-carbonate reaction (ACR)
- Sulphate attack (ettringite & thaumasite), Delayed Ettringite Formation (DEF)
- Fire damage























Thermal conductivity under steady-state conditions is an important parameter in the design of infrastructure for the transport of electricity though high voltage cables and high temperature oil through pipelines. Geolabs provides a range of thermal property measurements of soils and rocks for both offshore and land-based projects.

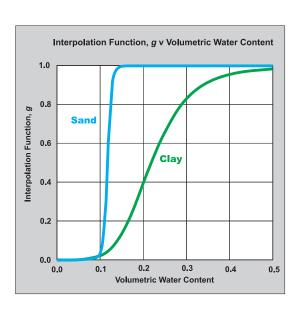


- Thermal conductivity by needle probe procedure (ASTM D5334-14)
- Thermal resistivity (IEEE 442-03 heat transfer theory)
- · Volumetric specific heat capacity
- · Thermal diffusivity

Thermal conductivity is the intrinsic ability of a material to transfer or conduct heat. **Thermal resistivity** is the capability of a material to resist the flow of heat and is the reciprocal of thermal conductivity.

The **volumetric specific heat capacity** of a material is the amount of energy in the form of heat that has to be added to one unit volume of the material in order to cause an increase of one unit temperature.

Thermal diffusivity is the rate of temperature change through a material or, alternatively, how quickly a material reacts to a change in temperature.



Thermal Dryout Curves

Thermal conductivity of a soil depends strongly on the water content.

Thermal dryout curves represent the effect on the conductivity of this variability.

Geolabs can provide dryout curves for various soil types by modelling, testing or a combination of both.





















Soils Testing for the Geotechnical Community Hydraulic (Rowe) Cell Testing

The cornerstone of independent excellence

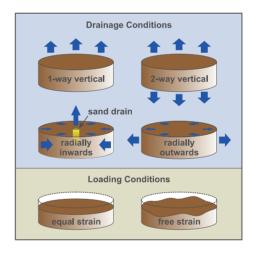


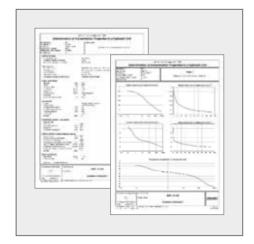
The Facility

- Independent testing company exclusively devoted to commercial, research and client-specific geotechnical laboratory testing, whose mulltidisciplinary staff are experienced in all aspects of soil and rock testing.
- Dedicated facility for hydraulic (Rowe) cell consolidation and permeability testing.
- UKAS accredited laboratory with staff having significant knowledge and experience of many national and international standards and Eurocode requirements.
- Rapid processing of test data using in-house developed software to provide clients with reports in printed, PDF and electronic formats.

The Analysis

- Capability to determine consolidation and permeability parameters of specimens of 75, 100 and 250 mm diameter.
- Comprehensive variety of drainage paths include: one-way and two-way vertical, and outwards and inwards horizontal (radially outwards to the periphery, and radially inwards from the periphery to a central sand drain).
- Specimens can be consolidated with equal strain (as with an oedometer), or with free strain (where specimen height can change variably across its top surface under uniform vertical stress, so accommodating any non-uniform compressibility).
- Height change, volume change and base pore pressure are monitored and logged throughout the test allowing flexibility when analysing the test data.
- An unlimited number of test stages can be performed, including loading and unloading loops, up to a maximum confining pressure of 3500 kPa.





The Benefits

- The wide range of drainage and loading conditions compared to traditional oedometer apparatus allows for closer modelling of in-situ conditions making the derived parameters much more applicable (such as measuring the horizontal permeability of laminated materials).
- Capability to test larger, more representative specimens which are particularly suitable for material incorporating coarser particles, and variable materials such as peats.
- The test methods and report presentation can be tailored to clients' specific requirements...
- In-house project management systems ensure an efficient process through to reporting within agreed timescales.

GEOLABS Limited **Bucknalls Lane** Garston Watford Hertfordshire **WD25 9XX** United Kingdom

Tel: +44 (0)1923 892 190 Fax: +44 (0)1923 892 191 email: admin@geolabs.co.uk

visit our website for prices and useful information: www.geolabs.co.uk

Soils Testing for the Geotechnical Community *Effective Stress Testing**



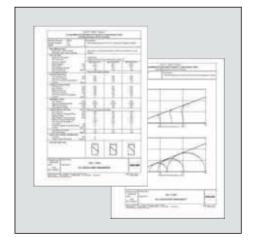
The Facility

- A temperature controlled laboratory (maintained to better than ± 2°C) using the latest electronic data aquisition for 24 hours-a-day, 365 days-a-year testing.
- Multidisciplinary staff experienced in all aspects of soil and rock testing.
- Rapid processing of raw test data using our own in-house developed software to generate reports in printed, PDF and AGS formats.

The Analysis

- Anisotropically and isotropically consolidated undrained triaxial compression testing, single or multistage.
- Anisotropically and isotropically consolidated drained triaxial compression testing, single or multistage.
- Capable of testing a wide range of sample sizes (from 38 mm to 150 mm) and sample types (U100's, Shelby, MOSTAP, piston, Delft, windowless etc.) as well as lathing down from intact block samples.
- Facilities for high pressure testing using cell pressures in excess of 1700 KPa.





The Benefits

- Independent testing facility exclusively devoted to commercial and research geotechnical laboratory testing.
- An all-round service of the highest standard backed by a fully documented quality management system.
- High quality testing and results presentation, both of which can be tailored to your requirements.
- UKAS Accredited for both consolidated drained and undrained tests, in single stage and multistage test types, as well as a wide range of other other specialist and routine tests.

GEOLABS Limited Bucknalls Lane Garston Watford Hertfordshire WD25 9XX United Kingdom Tel: +44 (0)1923 892 190 Fax: +44 (0)1923 892 191 email: admin@geolabs.co.uk

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Soils Testing for the Geotechnical Community Consolidation Testing



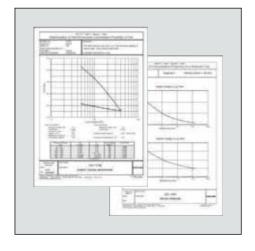
The Facility

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- Rapid processing of raw test data using our own in-house developed software to generate reports in printed, PDF and AGS formats.

The Analysis

- Oedometer Consolidation and swelling tests on samples from 50 mm to 100 mm diameter.
- Isotropic Consolidation in a triaxial cell on samples from 38 mm to 150 mm diameter as well as the conventional 100 mm diameter. This can be augmented with direct measurement of permeability at each effective pressure.
- Hydraulic (Rowe Cell) Consolidation on samples from 76 mm to 250 mm to allow either vertical drainage or horizontal drainage (either radially inwards or outwards), and also free or fixed vertical strain. As with the Isotropic Consolidation, this test can have permeability stages added to it.





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- High quality testing and results presentation, both of which can be tailored to your requirements.
- We are UKAS Accredited for the Oedometer Consolidation and follow fully documented procedures for the other test methods.

GEOLABS Limited Bucknalls Lane Garston Watford Hertfordshire WD25 9XX United Kingdom Tel: +44 (0)1923 892 190 Fax: +44 (0)1923 892 191 email: admin@geolabs.co.uk

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Soils Testing for the Geotechnical Community *Permeability Testing*

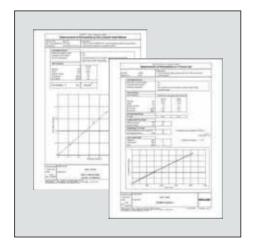


The Facility

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- Multidisciplinary staff experienced in all aspects of soil and rock testing.
- Rapid processing of raw test data using our own in-house developed software to generate reports in printed, PDF and AGS formats.

The Analysis

- Triaxial Permeability (BS1377:Part 6:Clause 6 and WRc Accelerated Method). Particularly suited for landfill site clay liners, BES and other bentonite enriched materials.
- Constant Head Permeability in a Permeameter for noncohesive material up to 10 mm particle size.
- Horizontal Permeameter (DoT: HA41/90). Used for drainage layer material up to 37½ mm particle size.
- Hydraulic (Rowe) Cell from 76 mm to 250 mm sizes.
 Permeability can be measured in either vertical or horizontal directions - excellent for laminated soils.
- Contaminated Materials. A dedicated section can measure contaminated materials and flow liquids other than water (such as sea water, leachates or other permeants).
- Falling Head Permeability.





The Benefits

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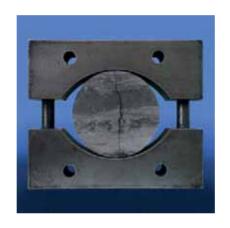
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- Rock permeability
- Rock swelling pressure
- Swelling Strain Index
- · Cherchar Abrasivity
- · Slake Durability Index
- Point Load Test (PLT)
- Thermal Conductivity
- · Specific Heat Capacity
- · Electrical Resistivity/Conductivity

- Unconfined Compressive Strength (UCS)
- Young's Modulus, E, and Poisson's Ratio, v
- Stress-controlled or strain-controlled loading for compression tests
- · Hoek Triaxial up to 70 MPa confining pressure
- Hoek Triaxial can have E and v determinations
- Sophisticated preparation techniques to allow testing at any orientation in relation to foliation/drilling angle
- · Rock Shear Box (Direct Shear)
- Indirect Tensile Strength by Brazilian Disc method







- Petrography analysis of rocks in thin section
- · Thin section preparation
- Petrographic optical microscopy analyses
- Grain shape, sphericity and angularity determination
- Schmidt Hammer
- · Shore Scleroscope





























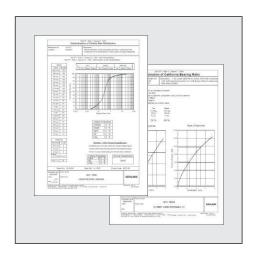


The Facility

- A laboratory resource conducive to high quality, high quantity, testing for each of the main disciplines within our Routine Section (comprising Classification, Earthworks, Total Stress Triaxial testing etc).
- Multidisciplinary staff experienced in all aspects of soil and rock testing.
- Rapid processing of raw test data using our own in-house developed software to generate reports in printed, PDF and AGS formats.

The Analysis

- Particle Size Distribution by wet and dry sieve and sedimentation by pipette or hydrometer.
- Atterberg Limits including Shrinkage and Liquidity Index
- Filter Paper Suction on intact and remoulded specimens.
- Earthworks testing, including: MCV, CCV, CBR and Compaction testing (2.5kg, 4.5kg and Vibro).
- Undrained Shear Strength by Quick Undrained Triaxial. Capable of testing a wide range of sample sizes (from 38 mm to 150 mm) and sample types (U100's, Shelby, MOSTAP, piston, Delft, windowless etc.)
- Particle Density by pyknometer or gas jar methods.
- Wet and Dry Densities by direct measurement and immersion techniques (including SMC determination).





The Benefits

- Independent testing facility exclusively devoted to commercial and research geotechnical laboratory testing.
- An all-round service of the highest standard backed by a fully documented quality management system.
- High quality testing and results presentation, both of which can be tailored to your requirements.
- We are UKAS Accredited for a wide range of geotechnical testing, including: Moisture Content, Atterberg Limits, Wet & Dry Sieves, Sedimentation by Pipette, Compaction related testing, CBR and Particle Densities etc.

GEOLABS Limited **Bucknalls Lane** Garston Watford Hertfordshire **WD25 9XX** United Kingdom

Tel: +44 (0)1923 892 190 Fax: +44 (0)1923 892 191 email: admin@geolabs.co.uk





Soils Testing for the Geotechnical Community Shearbox & Ringshear Testing

The cornerstone of independent excellence

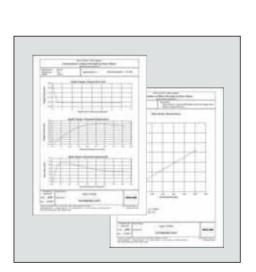


The Facility

- A temperature controlled laboratory (maintained to better than ± 2°C) using the latest electronic data aquisition for 24 hours-a-day, 365 days-a-year
- Multidisciplinary staff experienced in all aspects of soil and rock testing.
- Rapid processing of raw test data using our own in-house developed software to generate reports in printed, PDF and AGS formats.

The Analysis

- Direct shear strength determination (peak and residual) using 60 mm, 100 mm and 300 mm square shearboxes for specimens with up to 20 mm largest particle size.
- Samples can be prepared from many sources (including remoulded bulk samples, U100's, core cutters, piston tubes and intact block samples).
- Ringshear apparatus for residual shear strength determination of fine grained material, both to BS1377 and the ICP Design Methods (particularly suitable for pile design).
- Geotextile/soil interface angle of friction testing.





The Benefits

- Independent testing facility exclusively devoted to commercial and research geotechnical laboratory testing.
- An all-round service of the highest standard backed by a fully documented quality management system.
- High quality testing and results presentation, both of which can be tailored to your requirements.
- We are UKAS Accredited for testing to BS1377 Part 7 for the small and large shearboxes and the ringshear apparatus, as well as a wide range of other other specialist and routine tests.

Tel: +44 (0)1923 892 190 Fax: +44 (0)1923 892 191 email: admin@geolabs.co.uk

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www.geolabs.co.uk



GEOLABS Limited
Bucknalls Lane
Garston
Watford
Hertfordshire
WD25 9XX

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