

LATERAL SPREADING ASSESSMENT

Rangitikei Line & Flygers Line, Palmerston North

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Executive Summary

Total Ground Engineering Ltd (TGE) have been engaged to carry out supplementary investigations and analysis to support a plan change for the proposed residential subdivision at the intersection of Rangitikei Line and Flygers Line Roads, Palmerston North.

Riley Consultants (Riley)carried out detailed investigations and analyses which identified that the site was subject to liquefaction under the ultimate limit state seismic loads. The surface effects of the liquefaction were considered minor and foundation recommendations were made. However, there was some uncertainty about the depth of groundwater and the subsequent risk and possible extent of lateral spreading and Riley recommended further investigation and analysis of the lateral spreading issue.

TGE have carried out supplementary investigations which confirm the depth of groundwater adopted by Riley Consultants and their analysis of liquefaction triggering and induced settlements. We have analysed the extent of lateral spreading adopting accepted liquefied strength ratios and concluded that lateral spreading is confined to a 55 m wide zone from the centreline of the proposed watercourse. Three options are proposed that prevent lateral spreading from affecting subdivided lots.

This report should be considered supplementary to the original Riley Consultants report.



1. Introduction

Total Ground Engineering Ltd (TGE) have been engaged by Flygers Investment Group Limited (the client) to carry out a supplementary geotechnical investigations and analysis of lateral spreading at Flygers Line Road, Palmerston North. The location of the site is shown in Figure 1.

This report provides supplementary analysis recommended in the Geotechnical Assessment by Riley Consultants (Riley ref 170672-D) prepared to support the proposed re-zoning and residential subdivision of the site. The proposed subdivision comprises realigning the existing drainage system and formation of a multi-lot subdivision. A proposed scheme plan has been provided and is attached in Appendix A.



Figure 1, Locality Plan

The Riley report investigated the geotechnical risks at the site. Riley carried out detailed investigations including cone penetrometer testing to evaluate liquefaction risk. Their analysis indicated that liquefaction was likely under the ultimate limit state loads but the surface damage and likely differential settlement was minor. They concluded that the site was suitable for residential development with provided additional investigation and analysis of lateral spreading was undertaken which would clarify the foundation types which could be adopted across the subdivision (TC2 or TC3).

We have now carried out the additional investigation and analyses to confirm the extent of lateral spreading. We present three options allowing the residential lots to be isolated from the effects of lateral spreading under the ULS event.

This report should be read in conjunction with the Riley Report.



2. Site Description

The site is legally described as Lot 2 DP 389924 and is located approximately 2 km north of the Palmerston North Central Business District. Residential housing and farmland boarder the site with access via the western side of State Highway three, Rangatikei Line.

Currently, the site is used for cropping as shown in Figure 2. The site is near-level to gently-sloping toward the southeast with several natural and manmade shallow drainage channels transecting the site.



Figure 2, Google Earth image showing approximate extend of development and drainage systems

3. Site geology and regional liquefaction risk

A detailed description of the site geology and subsoil conditions is contained in the Riley Report. We summarise the geological conditions below, however, for a full description of the ground conditions the reader should refer to the Riley Report.

Reference has been made to the New Zealand Geology Web Map on the GNS website, <u>http://data.gns.cri.nz/geology/</u>, accessed 10th November 2020.

The site geology has been mapped as Holocene aged River Deposits (coloured light yellow in Figure 3) bounded to the east of the site by Late Pleistocene river deposits (coloured yellow in Figure 3) These Alluvial Deposits are described as Alluvial gravel, sand, silt, mud and clay with local peat, including modern riverbeds.





Figure 3, Snapshot of NZ Geological Map

GNS Science produced a report titled "Assessment of liquefaction and related ground failure hazards in Palmerston North, New Zealand" (GNS Report 2011/108, July 2011) which identifies the site within a broad area encompassing much of suburban Palmerston North in a zone at moderate risk of liquefaction.

4. Investigations and ground conditions

4.1 Original Investigations by Riley

The site was investigated by Riley Consultants Ltd between June 2018 and January 2019 comprising twelve CPTs to refusal at a maximum depth of 6.5m. Three sonic machine boreholes to depths ranging between 10.0m and 15.0m were carried out to investigate the dense gravels below the Holocene sediments.

Fourteen shallow hand augered boreholes where carried out as part of their ground contamination investigation.

The Riley investigation encountered groundwater at levels varying between 0.8m and 4.2m and referred to the GNS report which indicated a groundwater depth of 3m to 4m. For analysis of liquefaction, Riley adopted a conservative estimate of 1m depth.

4.2 Supplementary Investigations by TGE

Liquefaction assessment is sensitive to groundwater level. In order to confirm the groundwater levels, TGE carried out a field investigation on 23 September 2020 comprising the following:

- Three hand augured boreholes and associated in-situ soil testing (i.e. vane shear strength and scala penetrometer testing); and
- Installation of three piezometers for the purpose of ground water monitoring.

The location of the Riley boreholes (black icons) and the TGE hand augers (orange icons) and the location of developed cross sections are shown in Figure 4 extracted from the Test Location Plan attached in Appendix B.





Figure 4, TGE test locations shown as orange icons

Soil conditions were logged by a TGE Engineering Geologist, in accordance with the New Zealand Geotechnical Society's, *Guideline for the Description of Soil and Rock for Engineering Purposes* (2005).

In-situ shear vane tests were carried out at 0.5 m intervals to measure the undrained shear strength of fine-grained cohesive materials. Vane shear tests were carried out in accordance with the New Zealand Geotechnical Society Guideline for handheld shear vane test, (2001). Peak and remoulded shear strength values shown on field logs have been factored in terms of BS1377.

Dynamic Cone Penetrometer (Scala) testing was carried out at selected depths in the boreholes to determine soil density. Scala testing was carried out in accordance with NZS 4402:1988, Test 6.5.2, Dynamic Cone Penetrometer.

Handauger borelogs and scala penetrometer logs are attached in Appendix B.

4.3 Ground Conditions

The subsurface conditions encountered during our field investigation generally comprised a layer of Holocene aged river deposits being stiff to very stiff silts with subordinate fractions of sands and clays interbedded with lenses of medium dense to dense sands, overlying dense to very dense river gravels at depth, in general accordance with the mapped geology and previous field investigations. The geological profile is shown in Figure 5 extracted from cross section A-A' attached in Appendix C.





Figure 5, Cross section A-A' showing approx 4.0m-5.0m of silts and sands overlying dense river gravels

A summary of the geological profile is provided below;

Topsoil Topsoil was encountered to a depth of 0.2 m to 0.3 m.

Holocene aged River Deposits Alluvial soils were encountered below topsoil to a depth of 4.0m to 5.0m. These Alluvial soils comprised of stiff to very stiff silts with subordinate fractions of sand and clays, interbedded with layers of fine to medium silty sand to sand. The fine-grained alluvial soils are generally described as slightly to moderately plastic and moist to saturated. Peak vane shear strengths ranged between 69 kPa to greater than 200 kPa within the fine grain cohesive material while Scala penetrometer testing in the non-cohesive material returned values ranging between 3 blows to 29 blows per 100mm penetration, and where generally above 4 blows per 100mm penetration.

Scala Penetrometer testing conducted from the base of the hand augers encountered effective refusal at depths between 3.8 m and 5.6 m, inferred to be the contact with dense river gravels at depth.

Groundwater Groundwater was encountered in the augered boreholes on the day of drilling and subsequently measured in the piezometers ranging between 0.85 m and 1.3 m depth.

5. Lateral Spreading Analysis

5.1 Liquefaction

Riley Consultants classified the site as Class D (deep soil site) resulting in a ULS peak ground acceleration of 0.34g. They went on to analyse the risk of liquefaction and concluded that layers of saturated sands and silts in the upper layer of alluvium would liquefy in the ULS event.

Liquefaction Severity Numbers were calculated indicating moderate expression of liquefaction at the surface with sand boils likely and minor differential settlement of structures. Riley considered that residential dwellings with foundations in accordance with MBIE's TC2 category would be appropriate.

Riley used empirical methods to evaluate lateral spread which yielded set-back distances of 100 m from the water-course. Lesser set-backs were considered possible but were contingent on elevating the dwelling foundations to TC3 category. The conclusion was that more in-depth lateral spreading analysis should be carried out.

We concur with the liquefaction analysis methodology and results obtained by Riley and generally concur with their conclusions. We have completed the additional investigations and describe our in-depth analysis of lateral spreading below.



5.2 Lateral Spreading

We have analysed the risk of lateral spread after the ULS event using the slope stability package Slope/w. We have assumed that the upper layer of Holocene alluvial sediments, beneath a 1 m deep groundwater level, liquefies. Olson and Stark (2002) proposed a liquefied strength ratio s_u/σ'_{vo} ranging from 0.05 to 0.12 (Figure 6) with an average of 0.09. For analysis we have conservatively adopted a ratio of $s_u/\sigma'_{vo} = 0.075$.



Figure 6. Liquefied strength ratio from back-analysed flow failures.

Figure 7 shows the factor of safety for shallow laterally spreading failure surfaces through the widest section of the proposed channel on Section A-A'.



Figure 7. Section A-A'. Factor of safety for lateral spreading.

Analysis shows that at Section A-A' where the proposed overland flow channel is broad, and the gradient of the surface is shallow, the factor of safety for lateral spreading exceeds 1.0 and there is little risk of lateral spreading, especially beyond the flood protection line.



At Section B-B' the overland flow channel narrows with a consequently steeper gradient. Figure 8 indicates that lateral spreading would encroach beyond the flood protection line into the subdivision. Adopting a factor of safety of 1.2 as the minimum criteria under ULS seismic loading would result in a building restriction line being imposed within the propose subdivision. We refer to this as Option 1 whereby the lots would need to be reconfigured with a likely reduction in the number of lots, all remaining outside the building restriction line.



Figure 8. Section B-B'. Lateral Spreading; Option 1.

In order for potential lateral spreading to remain within the flood protection zone, we have widened the overland flow path, reducing the slope gradient until the slip-surface associated with the minimum factor of safety is within the flood zone. Figure 9 shows the results of this scenario which we refer to as Option 2.



Figure 9. Section B-B'. Lateral Spreading; Option 2.



For Option 3, we have re-analysed the proposed narrow floodpath, with an 8m wide zone of "improved" soil which remains un-liquefied. The improved zone is obscured by the green shaded zone of analysis results shown in Figure 10. The analysis demonstrates that the zone of improved material acts as a shear-key preventing lateral spreading extending into the proposed subdivision.



Figure 10. Section B-B'. Lateral Spreading; Option 3.

Options for improving the soil to provide the shear key against lateral spreading are discussed below.

In summary, analysis shows that lateral spreading under the ULS seismic loading encroaches into the proposed subdivision where the overland flow channel becomes narrow to the northeast of the site. We propose three options for mitigating this risk below.

6. Conclusions and Recommendations

Riley Consultants concluded that shallow subsoils at the site could liquefy to depths of approximately 6m under the ULS seismic loading. The effects at the surface would be minor and the site would be equivalent to the TC2 land category adopted by MBIE in Christchurch. However, additional analysis of lateral spreading was recommended.

Our investigations confirm the groundwater levels assumed by Riley Consultants and our analysis indicates that under the current earthworks scheme, Option 1 would comprise a building exclusion line, 55 m from the limit of earthworks as shown in Figure 11.





Figure 11. Option 1. Impose Building Restriction Line.

Option 2 would comprise widening the overland flow channel to a minimum width of 55 m from the flood protection line as shown in Figure 12. This would allow the current lot layout to be maintained.



Figure 12. Option 2. Translate extent of earthworks. Maintain lot arrangement.

Figure 13 shows Option 3 comprising an 8 m wide band of ground improvement which would isolate the proposed subdivision from lateral spread by acting as a shear key.





Figure 13. Install ground improvement. Maintain lot arrangement.

For Option 3, there are several methods which could be adopted as follows:

- 1. Excavate and replace the sediments with river gravels. Temporary stability of the saturated alluvial soils could result in a wide excavation and some excavation trials would be prudent.
- 2. Dynamic compaction. Densifying the materials could be achieved by heavy dynamic compaction. Square or triangular "rollers" have been used successfully, but trials and testing would be required to demonstrate the effectiveness of this method through the entire column of alluvial sands and silts. There is a high degree of uncertainty attached to this option.
- 3. Stone columns. Installing stone columns through the alluvial sands and silts, would provide a high-shear composite zone with capacity for high pore pressures to be rapidly relieved by the stone columns.

We trust this report meets your requirements. Please contact the undersigned if you have any questions.

Yours Faithfully

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Limitation

This report has been prepared by Total Ground Engineering for our client's use in accordance with the proposed development plans and agreed scope of work. Any use or reliance by any other person, to which Total Ground Engineering has not given its prior written consent, is at that person's own risk.

The findings, recommendations and comments presented in this report are based on common methods of site investigation. The site investigation has been undertaken at discrete locations and ground conditions away from these locations could vary.

Appendices

Appendix A.	Reference Information
Appendix B.	Investigation Plan and Borelogs
Appendix C.	Geological Sections
Appendix D.	Analysis Outputs
Appendix E.	Remediation Options



Appendix A Reference Information



Appendix B Investigation Plan and Borelogs



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0.1	3									
0.2	3									
0.3	3									
0.4	6									
0.5	23									
0.6	40+									
0.7										
0.8										
0.9										
1.0										
1.1										
1.2										
1.3										
1.4										
1.5										
1.6										
1.7										
1.8										
1.9										
2.0										
Test depth (m)	5.6									
In-situ field testi	ng in accord	lance with S	Scala Penet	rometer Te	sting: NZS 4	4402:1988,	Test 6.5.2,	Dynamic C	one Penetro	ometer

Appendix C Geological Sections



				0 20	40 Scale 1: 500	
DATE 06/11/202	REV) A	AMENDMENTS / DESCRIPTION Report Issue	Check all dimensions and levels on site before commencing construction. This drawing and design remains the property of Total Ground Engineering	Cross Section A - A'	TOTAL	F 2
	_		Ltd. and may not be reproduced without approval and permission from Total Ground Engineering Ltd.	Flygers Line Road PALMERSTON NORTH	ENGINEERING	P A V

 .04 27.5	16	0.13
 .04 <u>27.</u> 6	œ	0.17
<u>104 27.8</u>	2	0.18
1.04 27.9	5	0.09
	10	0.03





0.30	0.15	0.07	0.01	0.00
28.19	28.34	28.42	28.48	28.56
28.49	28.49	28.49	28.49	28.56
140.00	150.00	160.00	170.00	180.00

	///////		
40 ale 1: 500	60		80m
Physical Address: 27D Wainareira Ave. Henderson, 0610	J00367/ 3	J Healey	Date: 09-Nov-2020
Postal Address: PO Box 27294, Glen Eden, 0604	Scale: 1: 500 (A3)	Checked b N Jacka	y: Revision: a A

: Glen Eden, 0604 / Zealand	1: 500 (A3) H:V = 1:1	N Jacka
totalgroundengineering.com		
	Filename: J00367-Drav	vings.dwg

Appendix D Analysis Outputs









Appendix E Remediation Options





