

SUBSURFACE GEOLOGY OF IPOH, PERAK

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An examination of data from some 340 boreholes covering about 50 project sites in the Ipoh area revealed that:

- the subsurface profile consists of complex layerings of alluvial sands, silts and clays on top of pinnacled limestone bedrock,
- most of the clays in the alluvium/mine tailings comprise inorganic clays with high plasticity (CH),
- the Standard Penetration Test (S.P.T) values for the alluvium/mine tailings are generally low (S.P.T. = 0 – 10), indicating very soft slimes or very loose sands,
- the depths to limestone bedrock range from 0 – 35 m, with most values falling between 5 – 15 m,
- some 50 occurrences of cavities in the limestone bedrock were detected, and they range in size from 0.2 m – 5.6 m, with the majority having sizes of <3.0 m. Cavities can and often occur at multiple levels.
- A weak soil zone (S.P.T. \approx 0) occurs immediately above the limestone bedrock at some of the sites. This weak soil zone represents collapsed soil materials or cavities within the soil.