

DEPARTMENT OF SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH
ROAD RESEARCH LABORATORY

ROAD RESEARCH TECHNICAL PAPER No. 15

SOIL SURVEY PROCEDURE

ONE SHILLING NET

THE ROAD RESEARCH LABORATORY of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research is a government organization for studying problems that arise in designing, building and maintaining public highways. The primary objectives of the work, which is undertaken in close co-operation with the Ministry of Transport, are to improve the road as a channel for traffic, to reduce the overall costs of construction and maintenance and to promote safety and comfort in travel. The work is organized in two divisions; Materials and Methods of Construction, and Road Safety and Traffic Flow. The principal subjects of study in the former are (a) soils and stones, (b) concrete roads, (c) bituminous surfacings, (d) road plant and machinery. Road safety researches include (a) road layout, (b) surface characteristics, (c) traffic flow and movement control, (d) vehicle characteristics, (e) road user characteristics, (f) accident statistics. The Medical Research Council is collaborating in the work on road user characteristics.

Advice on the conduct of the investigations is given by the Road Research Board and by committees of the Board appointed to deal with specific subjects. Certain parts of the programme are undertaken co-operatively with trade associations who contribute financially to the cost of the work and appoint representatives to joint advisory committees. Special investigations, for which a fee is charged, are undertaken on request in certain cases.

The facilities of the Laboratory, including a reference library, are available to road engineers and others who desire information, and visits may be arranged by appointment. Suggestions regarding problems requiring attention are welcomed. Correspondence should be addressed to the Director of Road Research at the address given below.

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LONDON: HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

1949

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FOREWORD

IN 1946 the Laboratory published, as Road Research Bulletin No. 4, "Soil Survey Procedure and its Application in Road Construction", a brief description of a method of conducting a soil survey, the equipment required for it and the means by which the results could be interpreted.

A new edition is now necessary since the Bulletin series has been discontinued. This is being met by the present Technical Paper, which consists of the original note, revised in certain minor respects, together with some new material. The principal additions are sections dealing with the problem of exploration in gravelly soils and with geophysical methods such as those based on electrical resistivity and seismic soundings. An illustrated description has been included of a simple type of mobile laboratory which is thought to be more in line with the requirements of local authorities than the one described in the earlier edition.

W. H. GLANVILLE,
Director of Road Research

ROAD RESEARCH LABORATORY,
November, 1949.

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