



TIM O'HARE ASSOCIATES
SOIL & LANDSCAPE CONSULTANCY

Mr Mark Bennett
MB Soils & Groundworks Limited
46-52 Richmond Hill
Wigan
WN5 8AA

14th September 2020
Our Ref: TOHA/20/9639/SS
Your Ref: see below.

Dear Sirs

Topsoil Analysis Report: Victoria Park, Warrington

We have completed the analysis of the soil sample recently submitted, referenced *Victoria Park Topsoil*, and have pleasure reporting our findings.

The purpose of the analysis was to determine the suitability of the sample for general landscape purposes (trees, shrubs, amenity grass). In addition, the sample has been assessed to determine its compliance with the requirements of the British Standard for Topsoil (*BS3882:2015 – Specification for Topsoil - Table 1, Multipurpose Topsoil*).

This report presents the results of analysis for the sample submitted to our office, and it should be considered 'indicative' of the topsoil source. The report and results should therefore not be used by third parties as a means of verification testing, validation testing or waste designation purposes.

SAMPLE EXAMINATION

The sample was described as a very dark brown (Munsell Colour 10YR 3/2), slightly moist, friable, non-calcareous SANDY LOAM with a moderately developed, very fine to medium granular and sub-angular blocky structure*. The sample was virtually stone free and no unusual odours, deleterious materials, roots or rhizomes of pernicious weeds were observed.

*This appraisal of soil structure was made from examination of a disturbed sample(s). Structure is a key soil characteristic that may only be accurately assessed by examination in an in-situ state.

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ANALYTICAL SCHEDULE

The sample was submitted to a UKAS and MCERTS accredited laboratory for a range of physical and chemical tests to confirm the composition and fertility of the soil, and the concentration of selected potential contaminants. The following parameters were determined:

- particle size analysis (sand, silt, clay);
- stone content (2-20mm, 20-50mm, >50mm);
- pH and electrical conductivity values;
- exchangeable sodium percentage;
- major plant nutrients (N, P, K, Mg);
- organic matter content;
- C:N ratio;
- heavy metals (As, B, Cd, Cr, Cu, Pb, Hg, Ni, Se, Zn);
- total cyanide and total (mono) phenols;
- speciated PAHs (US EPA16 suite);
- aromatic and aliphatic TPH (C5-C35 banding);
- benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, xylene (BTEX);
- asbestos screen.

The results are presented on the attached Certificate of Analysis and an interpretation of the results is given below.

RESULTS OF ANALYSIS

Particle Size Analysis and Stone Content

The sample fell into the *sandy loam* texture class, which is usually considered suitable for general landscape applications provided the soil's physical condition is satisfactory.

The sample was virtually stone-free and as such, stones should not restrict the use of the soil for general landscape purposes.

pH and Electrical Conductivity Values

The sample was slightly acid in reaction (pH 6.2), with a pH value that would be considered ideal for general landscape purposes.

The electrical conductivity (salinity) value (water extract) was low, which indicates that soluble salts should not be present at levels that would be harmful to plants.

The electrical conductivity value by CaSO₄ extract (BS3882 requirement) fell below the maximum specified value (3300 µS/cm) given in BS3882:2015 – Table 1.

Organic Matter and Fertility Status

The sample was adequately supplied with organic matter, total nitrogen and extractable phosphorus, but was deficient in extractable potassium and extractable magnesium. These deficiencies can be remedied by an appropriate fertiliser application.

The C:N ratio of the sample was acceptable for general landscape purposes.

Potential Contaminants

With reference to BS3882:2015 - Table 1: Notes 3 and 4, there is a recommendation to confirm levels of potential contaminants in relation to the topsoil's proposed end use. This includes human health, environmental protection and metals considered toxic to plants. In the absence of site-specific assessment criteria, the concentrations that affect human health have been compared with the *residential with home-grown produce* land use in the Suitable For Use Levels (S4ULs) presented in *The LQM/CIEH S4ULs for Human Health Risk Assessment* (2015) and the DEFRA SP1010: *Development of Category 4 Screening Levels (C4SLs) for Assessment of Land Affected by Contamination – Policy Companion Document* (2014).

Of the potential contaminants determined, none exceeded their respective guideline values for *residential with home-grown produce* land use. The result for total lead (130 mg/kg) exceeds the DEFRA C4SL value for *allotment* end use (80 mg/kg). Confirmation should be sought from an environmental consultant, or the Local Authority Contaminated Land Officer, on the acceptability of the soil prior to its use if there is any doubt.

Phytotoxic Contaminants

Of the phytotoxic (toxic to plants) contaminants determined (copper, nickel, zinc), none was found at levels that exceeded the maximum permissible levels specified in *BS3882:2015 – Table 1*.

CONCLUSION

The purpose of the analysis was to determine the suitability of the topsoil sample for general landscape purposes. The analysis has also been undertaken to determine the sample's compliance with the requirements of the British Standard for Topsoil (*BS3882:2015 – Specification for Topsoil - Table 1, Multipurpose Topsoil*).

From the soil examination and subsequent laboratory analysis, the sample was described as a slightly acid, non-saline, non-calcareous sandy loam with a moderately developed structure and very low stone content. The sample was adequately supplied with organic matter, total nitrogen and extractable phosphorus, but was deficient in extractable potassium and extractable magnesium. Of the potential contaminants determined, none exceeded their respective guideline values for *residential with home-grown produce* land use.

Based on our findings, the topsoil represented by this sample would be considered suitable for general landscape purposes (trees, shrubs, amenity grass), provided the deficiencies in extractable potassium and extractable magnesium are remedied by an appropriate application of fertiliser and the soil's physical condition is satisfactory.

The sample was largely compliant with the requirements of the British Standard for Topsoil (*BS3882:2015 – Specification for Topsoil – Table 1, Multipurpose Topsoil*) with the exception of the deficiencies in extractable potassium and extractable magnesium. On this occasion, these non-compliances would be considered minor provided they are addressed by an appropriate fertiliser application prior to planting, seeding or turfing.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Fertiliser for Planting

To address the nutrient deficiencies and to help promote effective plant establishment, we recommend applying and incorporating the compound, controlled release fertiliser *ICL Osmocote PrePlant* (17%N:9%P₂O₅:10%K₂O:2%MgO+TE) at a rate of 70 g/m² for planting beds and/or 180 g/tree pit, and to a depth of 200mm.

Fertiliser for Amenity Grass Establishment

To address the nutrient deficiencies and to help promote effective grass establishment, we recommend applying and incorporating the pre-seeding grass fertiliser *ICL Sportsmaster Pre-seeder* (8%N:12%P₂O₅:8%K₂O+3%MgO) prior to seeding or turfing at a rate of 35 g/m² and to a depth of 100mm.

Soil Handling Recommendations

It is important to maintain the physical condition of the soil and avoid structural damage during all phases of soil handling (e.g. stockpiling, resspreading, cultivating, planting, seeding or turfing). As a consequence, soil handling operations should be carried out when soil is reasonably dry and non-plastic (friable) in consistency.

It is important to ensure that the soil is not unnecessarily compacted by trampling or trafficking by site machinery, and soil handling should be stopped during and after heavy rainfall and not continued until the soil is friable in consistency. If the soil is structurally damaged and compacted at any stage during the course of soiling or landscaping works, it should be cultivated appropriately to relieve the compaction and to restore the soil's structure prior to any planting, turfing or seeding.

Further details on soil handling are provided in Annex A of *BS3882:2015*.

We hope this report meets with your approval and provides the necessary information. Please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned if we can be of further assistance.

Yours faithfully



Aaron Cross
BSc MSc
Soil Scientist



Ceri Spears
BSc MSc MISOilSci
Senior Associate

For & on behalf of Tim O'Hare Associates LLP



TIM O'HARE ASSOCIATES
SOIL & LANDSCAPE CONSULTANCY

Client:	MB Soils & Groundworks Ltd
Project:	Victoria Park, Warrington
Job:	Topsoil Analysis - BS3882:2015
Date:	14/09/2020
Job Ref No:	TOHA/20/9639/SS

Sample Reference		
		Accreditation
Clay (<0.002mm)	%	UKAS
Silt (0.002-0.063mm)	%	UKAS
Sand (0.063-2.0mm)	%	UKAS
Texture Class (UK Classification)	--	UKAS
Stones (2-20mm)	% DW	GLP
Stones (20-50mm)	% DW	GLP
Stones (>50mm)	% DW	GLP

Victoria Park Topsoil
13
15
72
SL
1
0
0

pH Value (1:2.5 water extract)	units	UKAS
Electrical Conductivity (1:2.5 water extract)	uS/cm	UKAS
Electrical Conductivity (1:2 CaSO ₄ extract)	uS/cm	UKAS
Exchangeable Sodium Percentage	%	UKAS
Organic Matter (LOI)	%	UKAS
Total Nitrogen (Dumas)	%	UKAS
C : N Ratio	ratio	UKAS
Extractable Phosphorus	mg/l	UKAS
Extractable Potassium	mg/l	UKAS
Extractable Magnesium	mg/l	UKAS

6.2
101
2021
1.0
6.9
0.32
13
27
91
45

Total Arsenic (As)	mg/kg	MCERTS
Total Cadmium (Cd)	mg/kg	MCERTS
Total Chromium (Cr)	mg/kg	MCERTS
Hexavalent Chromium (Cr VI)	mg/kg	MCERTS
Total Copper (Cu)	mg/kg	MCERTS
Total Lead (Pb)	mg/kg	MCERTS
Total Mercury (Hg)	mg/kg	MCERTS
Total Nickel (Ni)	mg/kg	MCERTS
Total Selenium (Se)	mg/kg	MCERTS
Total Zinc (Zn)	mg/kg	MCERTS
Water Soluble Boron (B)	mg/kg	MCERTS
Total Cyanide (CN)	mg/kg	MCERTS
Total (mono) Phenols	mg/kg	MCERTS

14
0.3
17
< 4.0
40
130
0.6
18
< 1.0
110
0.5
< 1
< 1.0

Naphthalene	mg/kg	MCERTS
Acenaphthylene	mg/kg	MCERTS
Acenaphthene	mg/kg	MCERTS
Fluorene	mg/kg	MCERTS
Phenanthrene	mg/kg	MCERTS
Anthracene	mg/kg	MCERTS
Fluoranthene	mg/kg	MCERTS
Pyrene	mg/kg	MCERTS
Benz(a)anthracene	mg/kg	MCERTS
Chrysene	mg/kg	MCERTS
Benzo(b)fluoranthene	mg/kg	MCERTS
Benzo(k)fluoranthene	mg/kg	MCERTS
Benzo(a)pyrene	mg/kg	MCERTS
Indeno(1,2,3-cd)pyrene	mg/kg	MCERTS
Dibenzo(a,h)anthracene	mg/kg	MCERTS
Benzo(g,h,i)perylene	mg/kg	MCERTS
Total PAHs (sum USEPA16)	mg/kg	MCERTS

< 0.05
< 0.05
< 0.05
< 0.05
2.00
0.37
3.90
3.80
2.10
1.80
2.20
1.20
2.50
0.96
< 0.05
1.00
21.7

Aliphatic TPH >C5 - C6	mg/kg	MCERTS
Aliphatic TPH >C6 - C8	mg/kg	MCERTS
Aliphatic TPH >C8 - C10	mg/kg	MCERTS
Aliphatic TPH >C10 - C12	mg/kg	MCERTS
Aliphatic TPH >C12 - C16	mg/kg	MCERTS
Aliphatic TPH >C16 - C21	mg/kg	MCERTS
Aliphatic TPH >C21 - C35	mg/kg	MCERTS
Aliphatic TPH (C5 - C35)	mg/kg	MCERTS
Aromatic TPH >C5 - C7	mg/kg	MCERTS
Aromatic TPH >C7 - C8	mg/kg	MCERTS
Aromatic TPH >C8 - C10	mg/kg	MCERTS
Aromatic TPH >C10 - C12	mg/kg	MCERTS
Aromatic TPH >C12 - C16	mg/kg	MCERTS
Aromatic TPH >C16 - C21	mg/kg	MCERTS
Aromatic TPH >C21 - C35	mg/kg	MCERTS
Aromatic TPH (C5 - C35)	mg/kg	MCERTS

< 0.001
< 0.001
< 0.001
4.4
5.5
< 8.0
14
27
< 0.001
< 0.001
< 0.001
< 1.0
13
19
44
76

Benzene	mg/kg	MCERTS
Toluene	mg/kg	MCERTS
Ethylbenzene	mg/kg	MCERTS
p & m-xylene	mg/kg	MCERTS
o-xylene	mg/kg	MCERTS
MTBE (Methyl Tertiary Butyl Ether)	mg/kg	MCERTS

< 0.001
< 0.001
< 0.001
< 0.001
< 0.001
< 0.001

Asbestos	--	ISO 17025
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Not-detected

SL = SANDY LOAM

Visual Examination

The sample was described as a very dark brown (Munsell Colour 10YR 3/2), slightly moist, friable, non-calcaerous SANDY LOAM with a moderately developed, very fine to medium granular and sub-angular blocky structure. The sample was virtually stone free and no unusual odours, deleterious materials, roots or rhizomes of pernicious weeds were observed.

Aaron Cross

Aaron Cross
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Results of analysis should be read in conjunction with the report they were issued with

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