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SOIL & LANDSCAPE CONSULTANCY

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11<sup>th</sup> February 2021  
Our Ref: TOHA/21/9792/1/SS  
Your Ref: PO 2002142717

Dear Sirs

**Topsoil Analysis Report: Eaton Hall Topsoil**

We have completed the analysis of the soil sample recently submitted, referenced *Eaton Hall 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, this 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 or validation testing or waste designation purposes, especially after the topsoil has left the Tarmac Trading Limited site.

**SAMPLE EXAMINATION**

The sample was described as a dark greyish brown (Munsell Colour 10YR 4/2), slightly moist, friable, very slightly calcareous, stone free SAND with a single grain structure\*. The sample contained a moderate proportion of organic fines and occasional woody fragments. 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:

- detailed particle size analysis (% 5 sands, 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**

### **Detailed Particle Size Analysis and Stone Content**

The sample fell into the *sand* texture class and the particle size distribution falls outside of the specified range indicated in *Figure 1 of BS3882:2015*. However, further detailed particle size analysis revealed the sample to have a sufficiently narrow particle size distribution and a large proportion of sand falling into the *fine sand* (0.15-0.25mm) and *medium sand* (0.25-0.50mm) classes. This, along with the organic matter content of the soil, should offset the high sand content and provide a suitable growing medium for general landscape applications.

The sample was 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 strongly alkaline in reaction (pH 8.6), with a pH value that slightly exceeded the maximum specified value given in *BS3882:2015 – Table 1* (pH 8.5).

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

The electrical conductivity value by CaSO<sub>4</sub> extract (3339 µS/cm - *BS3882* requirement) slightly exceeded the maximum specified value (3300 µS/cm) given in *BS3882:2015 – Table 1*.

### **Exchangeable Sodium Percentage**

The exchangeable sodium percentage result for the sample was moderately high. This indicates that the soil contains significant levels of sodium ('sodic'), which could impede plant growth due to effects of sodicity and cause toxic effects on sensitive plants and seedlings

### **Organic Matter and Fertility Status**

The sample was adequate to well supplied with organic matter and all major plant nutrients.

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 homegrown 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 was found at levels that exceeded their guideline values.

### **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 sample for general landscape purposes (trees, shrubs, amenity grass). In addition, this 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*).

From the soil examination and subsequent laboratory analysis, the sample was described as a strongly alkaline, moderately saline, very slightly calcareous, stone free sand with a single grain structure. The sample contained sufficient reserves of organic matter and all major plant nutrients. Of the potential contaminants determined, none exceeded their respective guideline values.

Based on our findings, the topsoil represented by this sample would not be considered suitable for general landscape purposes due to the high exchangeable sodium percentage.

In this instance, we suggest that a further 5 no. 'spot' samples are submitted from the topsoil source to be tested to determine their exchangeable sodium percentage (ESP). This additional data should indicate the possible range of ESP values present within the topsoil and the significance of sodium salts in relation to the re-use of the topsoil for landscape purposes.

The topsoil 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 elevated total sand content and slightly high pH value. On this occasion and in the context of the other results, these would be considered minor non-compliances.

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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



**Tilly Kimble-Wilde**  
BSc MSc  
Graduate Soil Scientist



**Rebecca Hollands**  
BSc MSc MISOilSci  
Senior Soil Scientist

For & on behalf of Tim O'Hare Associates LLP



Client:	Tarmac Trading Limited
Project:	Eaton Hall
Job:	Topsoil Analysis - BS3882:2015
Date:	11/02/2021
Job Ref No:	TOHA/21/9792/1/SS

Sample Reference		Accreditation
Clay (<0.002mm)	%	UKAS
Silt (0.002-0.063mm)	%	UKAS
Very Fine Sand (0.05-0.15mm)	%	UKAS
Fine Sand (0.15-0.25mm)	%	UKAS
Medium Sand (0.25-0.50mm)	%	UKAS
Coarse Sand (0.50-1.0mm)	%	UKAS
Very Coarse Sand (1.0-2.0mm)	%	UKAS
Total 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

**Eaton Hall Topsoil**

5
1
12
41
36
3
2
94
S
0
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 <sub>4</sub> 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

8.6
1243
3339
15.3
5.4
0.20
16
58
1031
125

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

2
< 0.2
3
< 4.0
17
8
< 0.3
4
< 1.0
40
2.5
< 1
< 1

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
Benzo(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
< 0.05
< 0.05
< 0.05
< 0.05
< 0.05
< 0.05
< 0.05
< 0.05
< 0.05
< 0.05
< 0.05
< 0.05
< 0.05
< 0.8

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
< 1.0
< 2.0
< 8.0
< 8.0
< 10
< 0.001
< 0.001
< 0.001
< 1.0
< 2.0
< 10
< 10

Benzene	mg/kg	MCERTS
Toluene	mg/kg	MCERTS
Ethylbenzene	mg/kg	MCERTS
o-xylene	mg/kg	MCERTS
p&m-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	ND/D	ISO 17025
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Not-detected
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S = SAND

**Visual Examination**

The sample was described as a dark greyish brown (Munsell Colour 10YR 4/2), slightly moist, friable, very slightly calcareous, stone free SAND with a single grain structure. The sample contained a moderate proportion of organic fines and occasional woody fragments. No unusual odours, deleterious materials, roots or rhizomes of pernicious weeds were observed.

*Tilly Kumble-Wilde*

Tilly Kumble-Wilde  
BSc MSc  
Graduate Soil Scientist

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

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