



TIM O'HARE ASSOCIATES  
SOIL & LANDSCAPE CONSULTANCY

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5<sup>th</sup> September 2023  
Our Ref: TOHA/23/1074/9/SS  
Your Ref: PO 428730

Dear Sirs

**Topsoil Analysis Report: Barnsdale Landscape Grade Topsoil**

We have completed the analysis of the soil sample recently collected from site, referenced *Barnsdale Landscape Grade 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 and requirements for use – Table 1, Multipurpose Topsoil*).

This report presents the results of analysis for the sample collected on 15/08/2023, 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, especially after the topsoil has left the Green-tech Ltd site.

**SAMPLING**

The topsoil was examined and sampled at the Green-tech Ltd source at Barnsdale Bar Quarry on 15/08/2023 by Zoe Duffin of Tim O'Hare Associates LLP. A representative composite soil sample was collected in accordance with Section 5 (*Sampling of topsoil*) of the British Standard for Topsoil (*BS3882:2015 Specification for Topsoil*).

At the time of our visit, the soil was stored in 1 no. stockpile.

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Plate 1: Stockpiled Topsoil



Plate 2: Landscape Grade Topsoil

### **Visual Examination**

The soil was stored in a small loosely heaped stockpile on site.

The topsoil was described as a brown (Munsell Colour 4/3) slightly moist, friable, very slightly calcareous SANDY LOAM with a weakly developed, fine to medium granular structure. The soil was virtually stone-free and contained frequent organic fines and medium to coarse woody fibres. No unusual odours, deleterious materials, roots or rhizomes of pernicious weeds were observed.

### **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, Cd, Cr, Cu, Pb, Hg, Ni, Se, Zn, B);
- total cyanide and total (mono) phenols;
- aromatic and aliphatic TPH (C5-C35 banding);
- speciated PAHs (US EPA16 suite);
- 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 *sandy loam* texture class.

Further detailed particle size analysis revealed the sample to have a higher proportion of *medium sand* (0.25-0.50mm) followed by relatively equal proportions of the remaining mineral fractions. This would be considered suitable for topsoil in general landscape applications, provided the soil's physical condition is satisfactory and compaction is avoided.

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 alkaline in reaction (pH 7.9). This pH value would be considered suitable for general landscape purposes provided species with a wide pH tolerance or those known to prefer alkaline soils are selected for planting, turfing and seeding.

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 (*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 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 requirement 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 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 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 and requirements for use – Table 1, Multipurpose Topsoil*).

From the soil examination and subsequent laboratory analysis, the sample was described as an alkaline, non-saline, very slightly calcareous sandy loam with a weakly developed structure and very low stone content. The sample was adequately to well supplied with 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 be considered suitable for general landscape purposes provided only species with a wide pH tolerance or those known to prefer alkaline soils are selected for planting, turfing and seeding and the soil's physical condition is satisfactory.

The topsoil was also fully compliant with the requirements of the British Standard for Topsoil (*BS3882:2015 – Specification for Topsoil – Table 1, Multipurpose Topsoil*).

### **General Landscape Environments**

#### **Rootballed Trees**

The most demanding planting environment is semi-mature, pit planted trees. Trees of this size and age have grown accustomed to optimum growing conditions in the nursery, and these need to be replicated when the rootballed or containerised tree is planted in the pit. In particular, aeration and drainage around the rootball are critical. Without these properties, trees will very quickly suffer and possibly die during their first few growing seasons after planting.

The topsoil can be used as backfill in tree pits to a maximum depth of 400mm, provided the topsoil is kept dry and non-plastic during planting.

#### **Shrubs**

Containerised shrubs are generally more tolerant of a wider range of soil-types, and they require less topsoil to root into than trees. The topsoil would be suited to a range of shrubs typically used in commercial and domestic landscaping.

#### *Forestry Stock*

Less demanding planting habitats include indigenous woodland planting, planted as small whips and feathered trees. The topsoil would be suitable for such planting environments.

#### *Amenity Grass*

This soil would be considered suitable for amenity grass seeding and turfing.

#### *Sports Pitches*

This soil is suited for sports pitch construction given its high sand content. However, all materials to be used for sports pitch construction, including topsoil, should be carefully considered in relation to the required performance and standard of the sports pitch.

#### *Domestic Gardens*

The horticultural properties of the soil would be suitable for domestic garden applications. In addition, of the potential contaminants determined, none was found at levels that would be considered elevated. However, permissible levels for potential contaminants do vary from site to site. Therefore, the suitability of topsoil represented by this sample for any particular project or development should be confirmed by comparing the results against the site's specific assessment criteria.

#### **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, respreading, 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



**Zoe Duffin**  
MBiol  
Graduate Soil Scientist



**Matthew Heins**  
BSc (Hons) MISOilSci  
Senior Soil Scientist

For & on behalf of Tim O'Hare Associates LLP



Client:	Green-tech Ltd
Project:	Barnsdale Landscape Grade Topsoil
Job:	Topsoil Analysis - BS3882:2015
Date:	05/09/2023
Job Ref No:	TOHA/23/1074/9/SS

Sample Reference		Accreditation	
Clay (<0.002mm)	%	UKAS	
Silt (0.002-0.05mm)	%	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 (0.05-2.0mm)	%	UKAS	
Texture Class (UK Classification)	--	UKAS	
Stones (2-20mm)	% DW	GLP	
Stones (20-50mm)	% DW	GLP	
Stones (>50mm)	% DW	GLP	

Landscape Grade  
Topsoil

14
13
8
9
37
11
8
73
SL
1
1
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

7.9
1105
3262
4.5
5.8
0.35
10
69
1243
199

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

4
0.3
7
< 1.8
19
20
< 0.3
8
< 1.0
50
1.1
< 1.0
< 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
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
0.12
0.11
0.05
0.05
< 0.05
< 0.05
< 0.05
< 0.05
< 0.05
< 0.05
< 0.05
< 0.05
< 0.05
< 0.80

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

< 0.10
< 0.10
< 0.10
1.5
4.2
< 8.0
20
29
< 0.10
< 0.10
< 0.10
< 1.0
< 2.0
< 10
< 10
< 10

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

< 0.005
< 0.005
< 0.005
< 0.005
< 0.005
< 0.005

Asbestos	ND/D	ISO 17025
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Not-detected
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SL = SANDY LOAM

Visual Examination

The topsoil was described as a brown (Munsell Colour 4/3) slightly moist, friable very slightly calcareous SANDY LOAM with a weakly developed, fine to medium granular structure. The soil was virtually stone-free and contained frequent organic fines and medium to coarse woody fibres. No unusual odours, deleterious materials, roots or rhizomes of pernicious weeds were observed.

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

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Zoe Duffin  
MBiol  
Graduate Soil Scientist