



TIM O'HARE ASSOCIATES
SOIL & LANDSCAPE CONSULTANCY

Mr Alan Morris
Charles Morris Fertilizers Ltd
Hythe End Farm
Hythe End Road
Wraysbury
Middlesex
TW19 5AW

1st June 2015
Our Ref: TOHA/15/6307/SS
Your Ref: as below

Dear Sirs

Soil Analysis Report: GP Soil

We have completed the analysis of the soil sample recently submitted, referenced *GP Soil*, 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 (*BS3882:2007 – Specification for topsoil and requirements for use – 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 soil source. The report and results should therefore not be used by third parties as a means of verification or validation testing, especially after the soil has left the Charles Morris Fertilizers Ltd site.

SAMPLE EXAMINATION

The sample was described as a dark brown (Munsell colour: 7.5yr 3/4), slightly moist, friable SANDY LOAM with a weakly developed, fine granular structure*. The sample was virtually stone-free and contained occasional woody fragments and organic fines and very small fragments of brick. No unusual odours, 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.

Tim O'Hare Associates LLP
Howbery Park Wallingford Oxfordshire OX10 8BA
T:01491 822653 E:info@toha.co.uk
www.toha.co.uk

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);
- soluble sulphate, elemental sulphur, acid volatile sulphide;
- 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 *loamy sand* 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 6.9), with a pH value that would be considered ideal for general landscape purposes.

The electrical conductivity (salinity) value (water extract) was moderately high. Although the growth of many plant species (including amenity turf) are unlikely to be affected by this level of salinity, it is possible that salt sensitive species, including emergent seedlings, could show reduced growth potential.

The electrical conductivity value by CaSO₄ extract (BS3882 requirement) exceeded the maximum specified value (2800 µS/cm). Further testing found the sample to possess a low Exchangeable Sodium Percentage (ESP) value, indicating a low sodium risk and compliance with BS3882:2007 – Table 1 in this respect.

Organic Matter and Fertility Status

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

The C:N ratio was high (23:1) and exceeded the maximum upper limit set by BS3882:2007 - Table 1 (20:1). This could cause in 'nitrogen lock up' and result in growth restriction in sensitive plants in particular.

Potential Contaminants

With reference to BS3882:2007 - Table 1: Notes 2, 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 criteria, the concentrations that affect human health have been assessed for *residential* end-use against 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 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 BS3882:2007 – 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 (BS3882:2007 – *Specification for topsoil and requirements for use – Table 1, Multipurpose Topsoil*).

From the soil examination and subsequent laboratory analysis, the sample was described as a slightly acidic, moderately saline loamy sand with a weakly developed structure and low stone content. The sample was adequately supplied with organic matter, and all major plant nutrients. Of the potential contaminants determined, none exceeded their respective guideline values.

To conclude, based on our findings, the topsoil represented by this sample would be considered suitable for general landscape purposes (trees, shrubs and amenity grass), provided the physical condition of the soil is maintained.

The topsoil was also largely compliant with the requirements of the British Standard for Topsoil (BS3882:2007 – *Specification for topsoil and requirements for use – Table 1, Multipurpose Topsoil*), with the exception of the slightly elevated C:N ratio.

On this occasion, this non-compliance is considered minor and insignificant when reviewed in the context of all the other results and considering the proposed end-use of this soil.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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.



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Client:	Charles Morris Fertilizers Ltd
Project:	GP Soil
Job:	Topsoil Analysis - BS3882:2007
Date:	June 2015
Job Ref No:	TOHA/15/6307/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

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

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
Elemental Sulphur (S)	mg/kg	MCERTS
Acid Volatile Sulphide (S)	mg/kg	MCERTS
Water Soluble Sulphate (SO ₄)	g/l	MCERTS

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

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

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

Asbestos Screen	D/ND	ISO 17025
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GP Soil
7
11
62
LS
3
1
0

6.9
1950
3296
3.2

8.7
0.22
23
57
324
187

4
< 0.2
8
< 4.0
9
72
1
3
< 1.0
52
0.9
< 1
< 1.0
< 20
< 1.0
1.30

0.08
0.18
0.19
0.34
2.6
0.6
3.9
3
1.6
1.4
1.5
1.1
1.4
0.68
0.14
0.8
19.5

< 0.1
< 0.1
< 0.1
< 1.0
< 2.0
< 8.0
12
12
< 0.1
< 0.1
< 0.1
< 1.0
< 2.0
< 10
< 10
< 10

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

Not-detected

LS = LOAMY SAND

Visual Examination

The sample was described as a dark brown (Munsell colour: 7.5Yr 3/4), slightly moist, friable LOAMY SAND with a weakly developed, fine granular structure. The sample was virtually stone-free and contained occasional woody fragments and organic fines and very small fragments of brick. No unusual odours, roots or rhizomes of pernicious weeds were observed.