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WHATLEY QUARRY EXTENSION, FROME, SOMERSET

Report of Survey

1. Introduction

-CS 3994

In August 1990, members of the Resource Planning Group (South West Region) conducted a survey of the soil resources of 79.2 hectares adjacent to Finger Farm, north of Chantry near Frome in Somerset. The survey was requested in connection with the application to extend Whatley Quarry westwards and to extract hard rock. MAFF was consulted under the Town and Country Planning Act as the proposed after-use was non-agricultural; the RPG was therefore concerned to determine the quality of the land that would be taken out of agricultural use and to verify the volumes of soil materials identified in the planning application statement and Environmental Appraisal that would be used in landscaping and the creation of bunds.

The application area affects two agricultural blocks. The majority of the area is adjacent to Finger Farm, a second area, a possible reservoir site, is located to the north at Snatch Bottom. The latter area was not surveyed as this is predominantly non-agricultural and of little agricultural use. The comments below relate to the Finger Farm site.

2. Agricultural Land Classification (ALC)

2.1 A total of 65 auger borings and 4 soil pits were examined, and the distribution of the grades found is illustrated in the accompanying ALC map and detailed in Table 1 below. The location of the pits and auger borings is shown on the Auger Sample Point Map.

Table 1: Distribution of ALC Grades and Sub-grades

Grade	Area (ha)	% of Survey Area	% of Agricultural Area
3A	61.3	77.4	84.9
3B	10.9	13.8	15.1
Non-Agric	3.9	4.9	$\overline{1008}$ (72.2 ha)
Urban	1.6	2.0	
Farm Bldgs	1.5	1.9	
	79.2 (ha)	100%	

- 2.2 In determining the grade of land, emphasis has been placed on the information observed at each of the four soil pits as opposed to the auger borings. The timing of MAFF's survey meant that the site was examined under very dry soil conditions. The prolonged lack of rainfall in preceding weeks had resulted in drought conditions and made surveying by auger very difficult. Only limited information was therefore available by auger survey (mainly topsoil texture and depth); the presence of even low percentages of hard stone prevented auger penetration below 30-45 cm over much of the site.
- Climate: detailed estimates of the prevailing climate were obtained 2.3 by interpolation from a Met Office/MAFF 5-km grid database for two representative locations. These are shown in Table 2 below and reveal that an overall climatic limitation restricts the whole of the

site to Grade 2 at best. The two parameters used to assess overall climate are average annual rainfall (a measure of overall wetness) and accumulated temperature (a measure of the relative warmth of a locality); in combination they produce a climatic limitation for the site.

Table 2: Climatic Interpolations

Grid Reference	:	37121473	37161479
Altitude (m)	:	165	150
Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	:	1073	1065
Accumulated Temperature (⁰ days)	:	1370	1386
Field Capacity (days)	:	220	219
Moisture Deficit, Wheat (mm)	:	70	72
Moisture Deficit, Potatoes (mm)	:	53	55
Overall Climatic Grade	:	2	2

No additional local climatic factors such as exposure were noted.

- 2.4 **Sub-grade 3A:** the majority of the site has been placed in this grade, with three of the four soil pits showing 3A characteristics. The pits reveal a similar profile sequence, with medium silty clay loam topsoils and an increasing clay content down the profile, with the textures changing into clays or heavy clay loams below approximately 40 cm. The lower subsoils contain slowly permeable layers that restrict the drainage of excess rainfall through the profile and cause waterlogging in and above these horizons. These soils are consequently placed in Wetness Class III (ie the soil profile is wet within 70 cm depth for 3-6 months in most years). Wetness is the most limiting physical factor and restricts the soils to sub-grade 3A (see the attached general description of 3A land).
- 2.5 Sub-grade 3B: two areas of this sub-grade have been identified all of the land to the north of Lime Kiln Lane, and a small map unit on a ridge on the south west boundary of the site. One soil pit has been described in the larger of the two areas and is typical of this 3B land. These soils have similar MZCL topsoil textures to the 3A land but have a significantly different subsoil - a red clay subsoil which shows no evidence of gleying in the top 70 cm but which has a slowly permeable layer with coarse prismatic structure that starts within 60 cm and extends to at least 100 cm. These soils are therefore one wetness class worse than the adjacent 3A land (ie WC IV) and are therefore downgraded to 3B (see the attached general description of 3B land).

[a:RPG0060/JR]

DESCRIPTION OF THE GRADES AND SUBGRADES

The ALC grades and subgrades are described below in terms of the types of limitation which can occur, typical cropping range and the expected level and consistency of yield. In practice, the grades are defined by reference to physical characteristics and the grading guidance and cut-offs for limitation factors in Section 3 enable land to be ranked in accordance with these general descriptions. The most productive and flexible land falls into Grades 1 and 2 and Subgrade 3a and collectively comprises about one-third of the agricultural land in England and Wales. About half the land is of moderate quality in Subgrade 3b or poor quality in Grade 4. Although less significant on a national scale such land can be locally valuable to agriculture and the rural economy where poorer farmland predominates. The remainder is very poor quality land in Grade 5, which mostly occurs in the uplands.

Descriptions are also given of other land categories which may be used on ALC maps.

Grade 1 - excellent quality agricultural land

Land with no or very minor limitations to agricultural use. A very wide range of agricultural and horticultural crops can be grown and commonly includes top fruit, soft fruit, salad crops and winter harvested vegetables. Yields are high and less variable than on land of lower quality.

Grade 2 - very good quality agricultural land

Land with minor limitations which affect crop yield, cultivations or harvesting. A wide range of agricultural and horticultural crops can usually be grown but on some land in the grade there may be reduced flexibility due to difficulties with the production of the more demanding crops such as winter harvested vegetables and arable root crops. The level of yield is generally high but may be lower or more variable than Grade 1.

Grade 3 – good to moderate quality agricultural land

Land with moderate limitations which affect the choice of crops, timing and type of cultivation, harvesting or the level of yield. Where more demanding crops are grown yields are generally lower or more variable than on land in Grades 1 and 2.

Subgrade 3a - good quality agricultural land

Land capable of consistently producing moderate to high yields of a narrow range of arable crops, especially cereals, or moderate yields of a wide range of crops including cereals, grass, oilseed rape, potatoes, sugar beet and the less demanding horticultural crops.

Subgrade 3b – moderate quality agricultural land

Land capable of producing moderate yields of a narrow range of crops, principally cereals and grass or lower yields of a wider range of crops or high yields of grass which can be grazed or harvested over most of the year.

Grade 4 – poor quality agricultural land

Land with severe limitations which significantly restrict the range of crops and/or level of yields. It is mainly suited to grass with occasional arable crops (eg cereals and forage crops) the yields of which are variable. In moist climates, yields of grass may be moderate to high but there may be difficulties in utilisation. The grade also includes very droughty arable land.

Grade 5 - very poor quality agricultural land

Land with very severe limitations which restrict use to permanent pasture or rough grazing, except for occasional pioneer forage crops.

Descriptions of other land categories used on ALC maps

Urban

Built-up or 'hard' uses with relatively little potential for a return to agriculture including: housing, industry, commerce, education, transport, religious buildings, cemeteries. Also, hard-surfaced sports facilities, permanent caravan sites and vacant land; all types of derelict land, including mineral workings which are only likely to be reclaimed using derelict land grants.

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Non-agricultural

'Soft' uses where most of the land could be returned relatively easily to agriculture, including: golf courses, private parkland, public open spaces, sports fields, allotments and soft-surfaced areas on airports/airfields. Also active mineral workings and refuse tips where restoration conditions to 'soft' after-uses may apply.

Woodland

Includes commercial and non-commercial woodland. A distinction may be made as necessary between farm and non-farm woodland.

Agricultural buildings

Includes the normal range of agricultural buildings as well as other relatively permanent structures such as glasshouses. Temporary structures (eg polythene tunnels erected for lambing) may be ignored.

Open water

Includes lakes, ponds and rivers as map scale permits.

Land not surveyed

Agricultural land which has not been surveyed.

Where the land use includes more than one of the above land cover types, eg buildings in large grounds, and where map scale permits, the cover types may be shown separately. Otherwise, the most extensive cover type will usually be shown.

SOIL PROFILE DESCRIPTIONS: EXPLANATORY NOTE

(i) TEXTURE:-

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Soil texture classes are denoted by the following abbreviations (all Upper case*):

S LS SL ZL MZCL MCL SCL HZCL HCL SC ZC C	Sand Loamy Sand Sandy Loam Sand Silt Loam Medium Silty Clay Loam Medium Clay Loam Sandy Clay Loam Heavy Silty Clay Loam Heavy Clay Loam Sandy Clay Silty Clay Clay						
	sand, loamy sand, sandy loam and sandy silt loam classes the predominant sand fraction may be indicated by the use of prefixes, thus:						
F C M	fine (more than $\frac{2}{3}$ of sand less than 0.2 mm) coarse (more than $\frac{1}{3}$ of sand greater than 0.6 mm) medium (less than $\frac{2}{3}$ fine sand and less than $\frac{1}{3}$ coarse sand)						
	-divisions of <u>clay loam</u> and <u>silty clay loam</u> classes according to clay are indicated as follows:-						
M H	medium (less than 27% clay): heavy (27-35% clay)						
Other po	ssible texture classes include:						
Р	Peat						
SP	Sandy Peat						
LP	Loamy Peat						
PL	Peaty Loam						
PS	Peaty Sand						
MZ.	Marine Light Silts						
* There	are two exceptions to the Upper Case rule:-						
-	The prefix " Calc " is used to identify naturally calcareous soils containing more than 1% Calcium Carbonate						
-	For organic mineral soils, the texture of the mineral fraction is prefixed by " Org ".						

(ii) STRUCTURE:-

Nature and size of structural units are denoted by the following abbreviations:

SAB	Subangular Blocky
AB	Angular Blocky
Р	Prismatic

(single grain, granular and platy are not abbreviated)

FFineMMediumCCoarseVCVery Coarse

eg Weak **MSAB** = Weakly developed medium subangular blocky

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(iii) OTHER
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f c m vm	= = =	commom = many = very many =	commom = $2-20\%$ of the matrix or surface described many = $20-40\%$ of the matrix or surface described very many = $+40\%$ of the matrix or surface described							
f	=		indistinct mottles, evident only on close examination							
d	2	disinct =								
р	=	prominent =	<pre>prominent = the mottles are conspicuous, and the mottling is one of the outstanding features of the horizon</pre>							
gm	=	grey mottling								
om	•	ochreous mottling								
ppf mn	=	eg cdom = common distinct ochreous mottles pale ped faces manganese								
st		stones 6 cm								
sst		stones 2-6 c								
vssi	C=	stones 2 cm								
WC SPL WT I IMP (IMI ASP	= = = P 2 x 4	<pre>Slowly Permeable Layer Water Table Impenetrable if used in Depth Column Impenetrable if used in soil profile notes 2 x 40 cm = 2 additional borings, both impenetrable at 40 cm)</pre>								

[RPG-47]SJ

SITE NAME PROFILE NUMBER 1 Whatley Quarry Frome, Somerset DATE 8FCS 3994 21/8/90		GRID RE	SLOPE AND ASPECT 0° GRID REFERENCE 37131478		GRASS FC D		Av Rainfall :- 1065 ATO :- 1386 FC Days :- 219 Climatic grade:- 2		PARENT MATERIAL				
Horizon Number	Lowest Av Depth	Matrix and Ped Face Colours	Texture	Stoniness: Size, Shape, Type, and Field Method	Mottling Abundance, Contrast Size and Colour	Structure: Development Size and Shape	Pores and Fissures	Structural Condition	Consistence	Roots Abundance Size and Nature	Calcium Carbonate Content	Mangan Concs etc	Horizon Boundary: Distinctness and Form
Topsoil	0-20	10YR43	MZCL	None	cdom	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Clear
	1			None (One large limestone left in situ in pit) ed continuation o		Moderate CP	< 0.5%	Poor	Firm	Common through peds		v common	-
		d within /U cm	; SPL with		nding to at least 100cr	n 							
Depth to Permeable	i Horizon :	- 35 cm		Available Water	r Wheat :- N/A Potatoes :-				Final ALC Gra	lde	:- 38		
Wetness C	Class :	- IV		Moisture Defic					Main Limiting	Factor(s)	:- Wetness		
Wetness G	irade :	- 3B		Moisture Balan	Potatoes :- ce Wheat :-								
RPG0023/h	nc			Droughtiness G	Potatoes :- rade :-				cx Pr dr	nto the subs casional ha ofile exami	ioil (<45 cm) ind stones; si ned after pro	as a resu everal bor plonged su	ilt of ings <30 cm.

SITE NAME Whatley O		PROFILE 2		f	ND ASPECT 3° NE	LAND USE	ble	Av Rainf ATO FC Days	all :- 1073 :- 1575 :- 220		PARENT MATER	IAL	
Whatley Quarry Frome, Somerset DATE BFCS 3994 22/8/90		/90	GRID RE	GRID REFERENCE				Climatic grade:- 2					
Horizon Number	Lowest Av Depth	Matrix and Ped face Colours	Texture	Stoniness: Size, Shape, Type, and Field Method	Mottling Abundance, Contrast Size and Colour	Structure: Development Size and Shape	Pores and Fissures	Structural Condition	Consistence	Roots Abundance Size and Nature	Calcium Carbonate Content	Mangan Concs etc	Horizon Boundary: Distinctness and Form
Topsoil	0-23	10YR43	MZCL	Negligible	cdom	Not compacted				Common good penetratic	bn		Clear
Subsoil 1	23-42	10YR44	MZCL	-	not mottled	Moderate CSAB	<0.5 %	Ì		Common through peds		Few	
 Subsoil 2	42-55	10YR46	HCL	5-7% stone; +2 cm; sieve; hard	not mottled	Difficult to ass conditions and s		=				Few	
Subso1] 3	55-80+	10YR54 (not pale, not red)	с	-	cdogm	CAB (Difficult to as to dry soil cond				Few through peds		Abundan	t
Depth to Permeable	-	Slightly gle - 40-70 cm SPL at 55 cm		Available Wate	r Wheat :- N/A Potatoes :-		<u> </u>		Final ALC Gr	l	:- 3A	I	<u> </u>
Wetness C	lass :	- WC III (using Fig 8)	Moisture Defic	it Wheat :- Potatoes :-				Main Limitin	g Factor(s)	:- Wetness		
Wetness G	rade :	- 3A		Moisture Balan	ce Wheat :-						. <u></u>	<u></u>	
					Potatoes :-					sing interna	l guidance or	n slightly	y gleyed
RPG0023/W	JC]	Droughtiness G	rade :-				1				

SITE NAME PROFILE NUMBER 3 Whatley Quarry			SLOPE AND ASPECT 3° NNE		LAND USE Av Rainf ATO P Grass FC Days		a11 :- 1073 :- 1370 :- 220		PARENT MATER	IAL			
Frome, So BFCS 3994	merset	DATE 22/8	3/90	GRID RE	GRID REFERENCE				Climatic grade:- 2				
lorizon Number	Lowest Av Depth	Matrix and Ped Face Colours	Texture	Stoniness: Size, Shape, Type, and Field Method	Mottling Abundance, Contrast Size and Colour	Structure: Development Size and Shape	Pores and F1ssures	Structural Condition	Consistence	Roots Abundance Size and Nature	Calcium Carbonate Content	Mangan Concs etc	Horizon Boundary Distinctne and Form
Topsoil	0-23	10YR43	MZCL	Free	cdom	Not compacted				Common		Few	Clear
 Subsoil 1 	23-34	10YR44	MZCL	Negligible	Not mottled	-				Common good penetratic	n 1	Few	
Subsoil 2	34-70	10yr66	HCL	12% stone; +2 cm; sieve (15 cm size) 12-25% range in horizon	vindom	Moderate CAB	<0.5%		Firm			Abundant	
	+ 70 cm	= +70 % harc	l rock										
Pepth to	! Slowly	Slightly gle	aved	Available Wate	r Wheat :- N/A		<u>i i</u>		Final ALC Gr	ade	:- 3A	<u> </u>	l
Permeable	Horizon :				Potatoes :-								
, Wetness Class :- III (using Fig 8)		Moisture Defic	it Wheat :→				Main Limiting Factor(s) :- Wetness						
					Potatoes :-								
Wetness G	irade :	- 3A		Moisture Baland	ce Wheat :-							· ····	
					Potatoes :-				Remarks :- Us he	sing interna prizons	l guidelines	on slight	ly gleyed
RPG0023/W	JC			Droughtiness G	rade :-								

SITE NAME PROFILE NUMBER		SLOPE AND ASPECT 0°		LAND USE		Av Rainf ATO	all :- 1065 :- 1386 :- 219		PARENT MATER	IAL		
Whatley Quarry Frome, Somerset BFCS 3994	DATE 23/8	3/90	GRID REFERENCE		Grass		FC Days Climatic	Climatic grade:- 2		Limestone		
Lowest Horizon Av Number Depth	Matrix and Ped Face Colours	Texture	Stoniness: Size, Shape, Type, and Field Method	Mottling Abundance, Contrast Size and Colour	Structure: Development Size and Shape	Pores and Fissures	Structural Condition	Consistence	Roots Abundance Size and Nature	Calcium Carbonate Content	Mangan Concs etc	Horizon Boundary Distinctne and Form
Topso11 0-25	10YR43	MZCL	Free	Not mottled	Not compacted	-	-	-	Good common penetration		None	Clear
Subso11 1 25-40	10YR44	MZCL	Occasional stone which stops auger (<5%)	Not mottled	Moderate CSAB	<0.5 %			Good common penetration	1		
Subsoil 2 40-68	7.5YR56	С	Free	cdgm; poss cdom but masked by ochreous matrix	Moderate CAB	>0.5 % Common ea	rthworm chann	els	Common		Few	
Subso11 3 68-85+	7. 5YR56	С	Free	cdgm; poss cdom but masked by ochreous matrix	Moderate CAB	<0.5 X			Few		Few	
Depth to Slowly Slightly gleyed Available Water Wheat :- N/A Permeable Horizon :- 40-70 cm SPL at 68 cm Potatoes :-					<u></u>	Final ALC Gr	ade :	- 34	- <u></u>			
Wetness Class :- III Moisture Deficit Wheat :- (using Fig 8) Potatoes :-				Main Limiting Factor(s) :- Wetne					- Wetness			
Wetness Grade	:- 3A		Moisture Balan									
				Potatoes :-				Remarks :- U	sing internal prizons	guidance or	n slightly	/gleyed

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Whatley Quarry; additional fieldwork (5.11.90)

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ASP No.	Texture	Colour	Depth	Notes
66	MZCL MCL	10YR43 7.5YR54	0-20 20-40	fdom; 5% vsst; towards 7.5YR slight greying of matrix with cfom and cmn; cdogm from 35 cm
	HCL	7.5YR54	40–55	cdogm; cmn; 5YR variation in matrix colour
	С	7.5YR54	55-75+	reddening of matrix; 5YR56 from 60 cdogm, cmn; SPL form 60 5% vsst but not connected, low pores WC III
67	MZCL MCL	10YR43 7.5YR54	0–20 20–50	cfom slight greying of matrix colour
	MCL HCL C	7.5YR54 7.5YR54 7.5YR54	50–65 65–70 70–85+	cmn; 10YR64 on ped face from 40 cm cdogm; cmn cdogm; cmn; poss SPL cdogm; cmn; SPL WC III
68	FSZL MCL HCL HCL	10YR53 10YR54 10YR54 7.5YR56	0-30 30-45 45-55 55-85+	ffom; fm cdgm cdogm; cmn vmdogm; cmn; SPL from 70 cm 5YR variation from 70 cm WC III
69	FSZL MCL MCL HCL	10YR53 10YR54 7.5YR54 7.5YR54	0-30 30-45 45-70 70-90+	grey matrix variation grey mottles or ppf cdogm; cmn ditto; no SPL WC II
70	FSZL MCL C	10YR43 10YR43 7.5YR54	0–25 25–60 60–85+	fdom; grey matrix variation slight colour change; towards 7.5YR; cmn cdom; cmn; SPL; 5YR patches in matrix WC III
71	MCL MCL C	10YR54 7.5YR54 2.5Y64	0–25 25–70 70–85+	cdogm; cmn cdogm; cmn; HCL from 40 cm abundant mn; cdogm, SPL WC III
72	FSZL MCL HCL C	10YR54 7.5YR56 7.5YR56 10YR53	0-25 25-50 50-60 60-75+	cdom; cmn; 5% vsst cdom; cmn; 5% vsst cdgm, cmn; SPL WC III

ASP No.	Texture	Colour	Depth	Notes
73	FSZL MCL HCL	10YR53 7.5YR54 7.5YR54	0–25 25–50 50–70 I	fdogm cdgm; cmn cdgm; 10% vsst (3 Imp less than 70 cm) WC II (at best)
74	FSZL MCL C	10YR53 10YR54 10YR56	0–25 25–50 50–70+	fdom; greying of matrix cdom; cmn cdogm; 2.5Y62 mottles cmn; SPL WC III
75	FSZL MZCL HCL C	10YR53 10YR54 10YR54 10YR56	0-20 20-40 40-50 50-70+	cdom; greying of matrix cmn poss grey ppf; cmn; poss cdom cmn; grey ppf; cdom SPL; red matrix variation WC III
76	FSZL MZCL HCL C	10YR53 10YR54 10YR54 7.5YR56	0–25 25–42 42–60 60–80+	cdom; greying of matrix cmn cmn; common feint mottles cmn; poss grey ppf; poorly developed cdom; 5YR matrix variation; SPL from 65 cm WC III

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Whatley Quarry; additional fieldwork (5.11.90)

ASP No.	Texture	Colour	Depth	Notes
66	MZCL MCL	10YR43 7.5YR54	0–20 20–40	fdom; 5% vsst; towards 7.5YR slight greying of matrix with cfom and cmn; cdogm from 35 cm
	HCL	7.5YR54	4055	cdogm; cmn; 5YR variation in matrix colour
	С	7.5YR54	55~75+	reddening of matrix; 5YR56 from 60 cdogm, cmn; SPL form 60 5% vsst but not connected, low pores WC III
67	MZCL MCL	10YR43 7.5YR54	0–20 20–50	cfom slight greying of matrix colour cmn; 10YR64 on ped face from 40 cm
	MCL	7.5YR54	50-65	cdogm; cmn
	HCL C	7.5YR54 7.5YR54	65-70 70-85+	cdogm; cmn; poss SPL cdogm; cmn; SPL WC III
68	FSZL MCL HCL HCL	10YR53 10YR54 10YR54 7.5YR56	0–30 30–45 45–55 55–85+	ffom; fm cdgm cdogm; cmn vmdogm; cmn; SPL from 70 cm 5YR variation from 70 cm WC III
69	FSZL MCL MCL HCL	10YR53 10YR54 7.5YR54 7.5YR54	0-30 30-45 45-70 70-90+	grey matrix variation grey mottles or ppf cdogm; cmn ditto; no SPL WC II
70	FSZL MCL C	10YR43 10YR43 7.5YR54	0–25 25–60 60–85+	fdom; grey matrix variation slight colour change; towards 7.5YR; cmn cdom; cmn; SPL; 5YR patches in matrix WC III
71	MCL MCL C	10YR54 7.5YR54 2.5Y64	0-25 25-70 70-85+	cdogm; cmn cdogm; cmn; HCL from 40 cm abundant mn; cdogm, SPL WC III
72	FSZL MCL HCL C	10YR54 7.5YR56 7.5YR56 10YR53	0–25 25–50 50–60 60–75+	cdom; cmn; 5% vsst cdom; cmn; 5% vsst cdgm, cmn; SPL WC III

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ASP No.	Texture	Colour	Depth	Notes
73	FSZL MCL HCI	10YR53 7.5YR54 7.5YR54	0-25 25-50 50-70 I	fdogm cdgm; cmn cdgm; 10% vsst (3 Imp less than 70 cm) WC II (at best)
74	FSZL MCL C	10YR53 10YR54 10YR56	0–25 25–50 50–70+	fdom; greying of matrix cdom; cmn cdogm; 2.5Y62 mottles cmn; SPL WC III
75	FSZL MZCL HCL C	10YR53 10YR54 10YR54 10YR56	0–20 20–40 40–50 50–70+	cdom; greying of matrix cmn poss grey ppf; cmn; poss cdom cmn; grey ppf; cdom SPL; red matrix variation WC III
76	FSZL MZCL HCL C	10YR53 10YR54 10YR54 7.5YR56	0-25 25-42 42-60 60-80+	cdom; greying of matrix cmn cmn; common feint mottles cmn; poss grey ppf; poorly developed cdom; 5YR matrix variation; SPL from 65 cm WC III