

PLYMOUTH, Site 2, Vinery Lane West
Soil Pit Descriptions

Pit No 1

Topsoil: 0-16/22 cm
Heavy clay loam
10YR63; pale brown
No evidence of wetness except for few rusty roots
Approx 5% slate; 2 mm - 2 cm; visual estimate

+22 cm Very thinly bedded soft slate (shillet); >70% stone.
Difficult to assess the rooting depth into the almost
vertically bedded shillet.

Wetness Class I
3B on Soil Depth
3B on Workability (FCD => 225)

ALC Grade = 3B

Pit No 2

Topsoil: 0-20 cm
Heavy clay loam
10YR63/54
No evidence of wetness
Stone content negligible

Subsoil: Transition from Topsoil to Subsoil at 20/25 cm
Clay
10YR63/54
No evidence of wetness
Stone content negligible
Structure below 25 cm is Moderately Developed, Medium
Subangular Blocky; firm (ie good subsoil structure
conditions)
Porosity good (>0.5%, >0.5 mm)
Roots evident to depth

Pit dug to 52 cm; augering to 62 cm revealed similar subsoil conditions.
Impenetrable from 62 cm; Geology uncertain.
AP Wheat (stopping calculation early at 62 cm) = 117 mm = +20 mm
(= potential Grade 2)
Workability = 3A (for WCI, FCD 217 and HCL)

ALC Grade = 3A

Pit No 3

Soil Pit Description took the form of an examination of a recently excavated
drainage trench.

Topsoil: 0-20 cm
Clay
10YR72
Common distinct ochreous mottles
Approx 2% stone >2 cm; visual

Subsoil 1: 20-36 cm
Clay
2.5Y74
Very many prominent ochreous mottles
Moderately developed Coarse Angular Blocky
Good porosity (>0.5%, >0.5 mm), ie Non SPL

Subsoil 2: 36-90+ cm
Clay
2.5Y74
Very many prominent ochreous mottles
Moderately developed Coarse Angular Blocky (becoming
coarser and prismatic with depth)
Low porosity (< 0.5%, >0.5 mm), ie SPL
Approx 10% shillet > 2 cm; visual estimate

Soil Wetness: Gleyed < 40 cm; SPL from 36 cm; WCIV
Workability: WCIV; 225 FCD; Clay topsoil = Grade 4

ALC Grade = 4

(Note: This wet description straddles the important 225 FCD isoline. Technically, given an FCD value greater than 225, for the above soil profile, will produce an ALC Grade of 5. However, the whole of the depression has been assigned to Grade 4 in order to produce a meaningful map unit on the ground).

B[RPG.22/CC]