

WEST DORSET LOCAL PLAN: EASTERN AREA CONSULTATION: MAIDEN NEWTON
SOIL PIT DESCRIPTIONS

Pit No 1

Location: Between ASPs 10 and 11 on a flat floodplain site. This right hand bank is 5-6 feet above the watercourse and is separated from the river by a minor lower floodplain (shown as 'Non-Agricultural' on the ALC map). The area suffers from a flood risk, but the risk is much lower than that on the left hand bank which locks the "first" floodplain and is therefore at a lower level and would be inundated first.

Topsoil: 0-28
Medium Sandy Silt Loam
10YR43
No evidence of wetness

Subsoil, Upper: 28-52 cm
Medium Sandy Silt Loam
10YR44
Approx 18% flint (2-6cm); sieve method (this layer extends to 44 cm)
No evidence of wetness
Structure: Weakly developed
Fine Subangular Blocky
Very Friable
(Good Conditions)
Good Porosity

Subsoil, Lower: 52-80+ cm
Medium Sandy Loam
10YR54
Structure: Weakly developed
Coarse Angular Blocky
Friable
(Good Conditions)
No evidence of Wetness
Good Porosity

Wetness Class I; Grade according to Wetness = 1
Grade according to droughtiness = 1

(Adjacent profiles showed clear evidence of shallow gleying and no SPL, making WC II and Grade 2 a more appropriate wetness assessment).

Pit 2

Location: Adjacent to ASP No 4 (See ASP Map) on gently sloping land above the floodplain.

Topsoil: 0-22 cm
Heavy Silty Clay Loam
10YR42; Grey
10-12% flint (2-6 cm); sieve
No evidence of wetness
Structure: moderately developed
Medium Subangular Blocky
Friable

Upper Subsoil: 22-50 cm
Clay
10YR43; brown 10YR53 on ped faces (ie pale)
10-12% (similar to topsoil) flint; visual
No evidence of wetness apart from pale ped faces
Structure: weakly developed (affected by the presence and nature of the stones)
Coarse Subangular Blocky (difficult to assess because of stone content)
Firm
(ie Poor Structure, as ped faces are pale)
Good Porosity

Lower Subsoil: 50-60+ cm
Clay
10YR43; brown 10YR53 on ped faces (ie pale)
Approx 50% flint (most +60cm)
No mottling
No structural assessment made as this layer proved impenetrable by spade.

Grade according to Workability (WC I or II) is Sub-grade 3A