

27 August 2026

Dear

ATISN 27307 Agricultural Land Classification

Information requested

Thank you for your request received on 12 August.

You asked for:

1. In Dec 2025, what were the dates of all soil, subsoil and land testing for the 2 sites for proposed solar arrays at White House Farm, Moorland Rd, Haverfordwest SA62 4LE.
2. The weather and soil wetness rating for all samples taken (with the grade according to the Hodgson 2022 grading system). Please include photographs of the land and soils conditions before and during sampling activities.
3. The accurate positions of each sample taken, preferably by a map of the 2 sites showing all sample positions. Please differentiate between samples taken in February 2025 and samples taken in December 2025 with all sample positions clearly marked for each sampling session.
4. Please describe accurately the topography of the two sites, showing gradient and aspect details.
5. Please describe under what climatic and ground conditions LQAS consider it unsuitable to take soil and subsoils samples whereby to assess agricultural land classification.
6. The laboratory analysis data of the mechanical analyses of the soil samples. How many samples were analysed in the laboratory for each sampling session in February 2025 and December 2025?
7. The LQAS letter of 01 July 2026 describes the ALC grading of the land as sampled and assessed in December 2025. Therefore, disclose an accurate map of each ALC grade as described in the letter. For clarity the letter states that 22.00ha is ALC Grade 3B land and 30.00ha is ALC Grade 5 land. Please identify the actual area and location of each ALC grade of land on the map.

Our response

1. In Dec 2025, what were the dates of all soil, subsoil and land testing for the 2 sites?

Welsh Government holds the requested information, and it is contained within:

- **Annex 2:** 2025-12-29 - Environmental Statement - Vol 4 - Appendix 6-1 - Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) Survey Report (published 12-05-2026).
- **Annex 3:** 2025-12-29 - Environmental Statement - Vol 4 - Appendix 6-2 - ALC Survey Report Correspondence.

Annex 2 is too large a file to send by email. The document is published and may be located on the [PEDW Planning Casework Portal](#). Annex 3 is also on the PEDW Casework Portal and has been included in the cover email for ease of reference.

2. The weather and soil wetness rating for all samples taken (with the grade according to the Hodgson 2022 grading system). Please include photographs of the land and soils conditions before and during sampling activities.

Welsh Government holds the requested information, and it is contained within:

- **Annex 2:** 2025-12-29 - Environmental Statement - Vol 4 - Appendix 6-1 - Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) Survey Report (published 12-05-2026)”

Annex 2 is too large a file to send by email. The document is published and may be located on the [PEDW Planning Casework Portal](#).

The following published material may assist:

The methodology for assessing wetness class is provided for in Appendix 3 of [Agricultural Land Classification of England and Wales: Guidelines for grading the quality of agricultural land - JP069](#). Included as Annex 3 for ease of reference.

3. The accurate positions of each sample taken, preferably by a map of the 2 sites showing all sample positions. Please differentiate between samples taken in February 2025 and samples taken in December 2025 with all sample positions clearly marked for each sampling session.

Welsh Government holds the requested information, and it is contained within:

- **Annex 2:** 2025-12-29 - Environmental Statement - Vol 4 - Appendix 6-1 - Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) Survey Report (published 12-05-2026).
- **Annex 4:** ALC Survey Report dates 11 March 2025 contained within 2025-07-04 - EIA Scoping Request - Appendix B - Agricultural Land Classification Report.

Annex 2 is too large a file to send by email. The document is published and may be located on the [PEDW Planning Casework Portal](#). Annex 4 is also on the PEDW Casework Portal and has been included in the cover email for ease of reference.

4. Please describe accurately the topography of the two sites, showing gradient and aspect details.

Welsh Government holds the requested information, and it is contained within:

- **Annex 2:** 2025-12-29 - Environmental Statement - Vol 4 - Appendix 6-1 - Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) Survey Report (published 12-05-2026).

Annex 2 is too large a file to send by email. The document is published and may be located on the [PEDW Planning Casework Portal](#).

5. Please describe under what climatic and ground conditions LQAS consider it unsuitable to take soil and subsoils samples whereby to assess agricultural land classification.

The Welsh Government does not hold this information, but the following published material may assist:

- **Annex 5:** [Agricultural Land Classification of England and Wales: Guidelines for grading the quality of agricultural land - JP069](#)

The Environmental Information Regulations 2004 only provide a right to request information held as recorded information at the time the request is made. There is no requirement on us to create new information.

6. The laboratory analysis data of the mechanical analyses of the soil samples. How many samples were analysed in the laboratory for each sampling session in February 2025 and December 2025?

Welsh Government holds the requested information, and it is contained within

- **Annex 1:** LQAS White House Farm Review of Laboratory Analysis (2026-07-01) (within this letter).
- **Annex 2:** 2025-12-29 - Environmental Statement - Vol 4 - Appendix 6-1 - Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) Survey Report (published 12-05-2026).

Annex 2 is too large a file to send by email. The document is published and may be located on the [PEDW Planning Casework Portal](#).

7. The LQAS letter of 01 July 2026 describes the ALC grading of the land as sampled and assessed in December 2025. Therefore disclose an accurate map of each ALC grade as described in the letter. For clarity the letter states that 22.00ha is ALC Grade 3B land and 30.00ha is ALC Grade 5 land. Please identify the actual area and location of each ALC grade of land on the map.

Welsh Government holds the requested information, and it is contained within

- **Annex 2:** 2025-12-29 - Environmental Statement - Vol 4 - Appendix 6-1 - Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) Survey Report (published 12-05-2026).

Annex 2 is too large a file to send by email. The document is published and may be located on the [PEDW Planning Casework Portal](#).

Next steps

If you are dissatisfied with the Welsh Government's handling of your request, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this response. Requests for an internal review should be addressed to the Welsh Government's Freedom of Information Officer at:

Information Rights Unit,
Welsh Government,
Cathays Park,
Cardiff,
CF10 3NQ

or Email: Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales

Please remember to quote the ATISN reference number above.

You also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office,
Wycliffe House,
Water Lane,
Wilmslow,
Cheshire,
SK9 5AF.

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

Yours sincerely,

Annex 1: LQAS White House Farm Review of Laboratory Analysis (2026-07-01)

Annex 2: 2025-12-29 - Environmental Statement - Vol 4 - Appendix 6-1 - Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) Survey Report (published 12-05-2026)

Annex 3: 2025-12-29 - Environmental Statement - Vol 4 - Appendix 6-2 - ALC Survey Report Correspondence

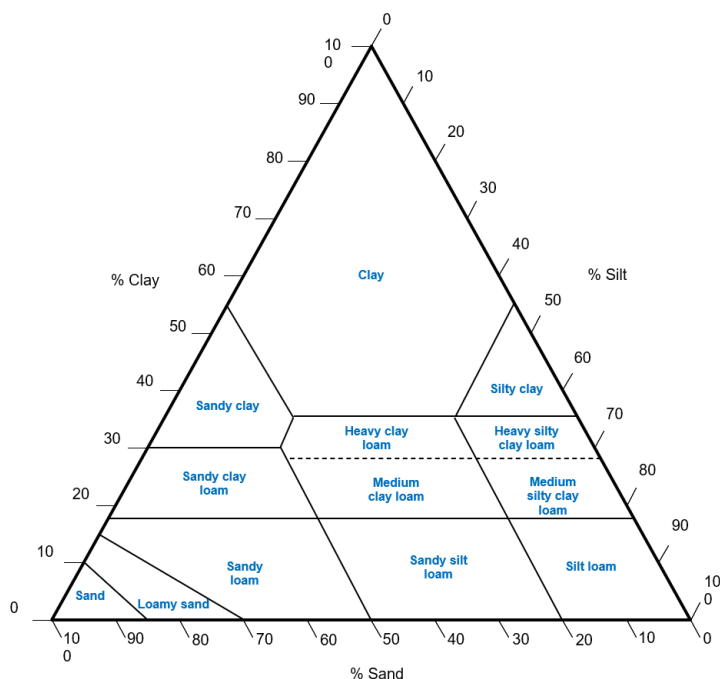
Annex 4: 2025-07-04 - EIA Scoping Request - Appendix B - Agricultural Land Classification Report.

Annex 5: [Agricultural Land Classification of England and Wales: Guidelines for grading the quality of agricultural land - JP069](#)

Annex 1: LQAS White House Farm Review of Laboratory Analysis (2026-07-01)

Table 10: Particle size fractions

		(mm)
Clay		<0.002
Silt		0.002 – 0.063
Sand	fine	0.063 – 0.200
	medium	0.200 – 0.600
	coarse	0.600 – 2.000



Analyse the attached soil particle size distribution analysis results. Compare against the attached Table 10 using only the fine earth fraction (<2.00mm). Determine what the soil texture is.

Note – Site is at 230FCD

If Gley in 40cm:

- SPL between 25cm and 62cm = WCIV (Fig. 7)
- SPL +62cm = WC III

If C, SC, ZL and WCIV @230FCD = Grade 5 (Wet&Work)

Summary Table:

Compared against Table 10 using only the fine earth fraction (<2.00mm).

Pit No:	Texture
TP1	SC
TP2	C

TP3	C
TP4	C
TP5	SC
TP6	C
TP7	C
P8	C

TP01 =

Sieving		Sedimentation	
Particle Size mm	% Passing	Particle Size mm	% Passing
125	100	0.0200	34
90	100	0.0060	29
75	100	0.0020	26
63	100		
50	100		
37.5	93		
28	91		
20	91		
14	89		
10	87		
6.3	85		
5	85		
3.35	82		
2	78		
1.18	71		
0.63	61		
0.425	59		
0.30	56		
0.20	52		
0.15	49		
0.063	41		

Using the fine earth fraction — normally meaning the material <2.00 mm — the soil texture is:

Sandy clay

1. Key particle-size results from the attached PSD table

From the analysis:

Particle size	% passing
2.00 mm	78%
0.063 mm	41%
0.002 mm	26%

So, 78% of the whole sample is fine earth <2 mm. The remaining 22% is >2 mm coarse material/gravel, which is excluded from the texture calculation.

2. Fine earth calculation

Texture should be calculated as a percentage of the <2 mm fraction, so each fraction is divided by 78.

Clay: <0.002 mm

$$\frac{26}{78} \times 100 = 33.3\%$$

Silt: 0.002–0.063 mm

$$\frac{41 - 26}{78} \times 100 = 19.2\%$$

Sand: 0.063–2.000 mm

$$\frac{78 - 41}{78} \times 100 = 47.4\%$$

3. Fine earth particle-size composition

Fraction	Size range from Table 10	Fine earth %
Clay	<0.002 mm	33.3%
Silt	0.002–0.063 mm	19.2%
Sand	0.063–2.000 mm	47.4%
Total		100%

4. Sand sub-fractions

Using the Table 10 sand divisions:

Sand fraction	Size range	Approx. fine earth %
Fine sand	0.063–0.200 mm	14.1%
Medium sand	0.200–0.600 mm	c. 11.2%
Coarse sand	0.600–2.000 mm	c. 22.2%

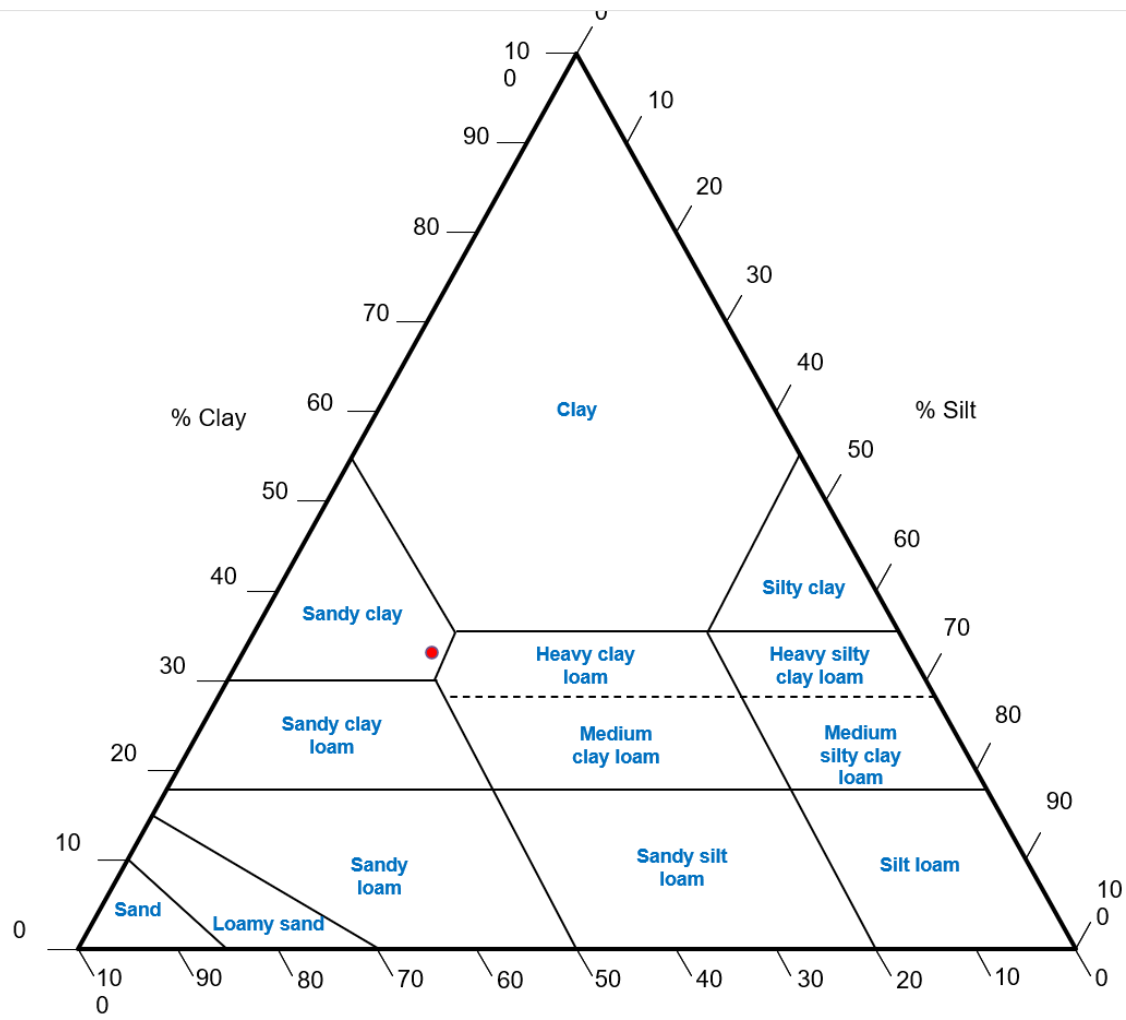
The medium/coarse split is approximate because the PSD table gives 0.63 mm, not exactly 0.600 mm. I interpolated between 0.425 mm and 0.63 mm.

Conclusion

The fine earth fraction is approximately:

- 33% clay
- 19% silt
- 47% sand

That places the soil in a sandy clay texture class.



TP02

Using only the fine earth fraction (<2.00 mm), the soil texture is:

Clay

The key point is that the PSD results must be renormalised to the <2 mm fraction, because the sample contains a substantial amount of material coarser than 2 mm.

1. Values taken from the PSD table

From the attached particle-size distribution table:

Particle size	% passing
2.00 mm	60%
0.063 mm	40%
0.002 mm	25%

So:

- 60% of the whole sample is fine earth <2.00 mm
- 40% of the whole sample is coarse material >2.00 mm, which is excluded from the soil texture calculation

2. Calculate texture fractions within the fine earth only

Clay: <0.002 mm

$$\frac{25}{60} \times 100 = 41.7\%$$

Silt: 0.002–0.063 mm

$$\frac{40 - 25}{60} \times 100 = 25.0\%$$

Sand: 0.063–2.000 mm

$$\frac{60 - 40}{60} \times 100 = 33.3\%$$

3. Resulting fine earth texture composition

Fraction	Size range from Table 10	Fine earth %
Clay	<0.002 mm	41.7%
Silt	0.002–0.063 mm	25.0%
Sand	0.063–2.000 mm	33.3%
Total		100%

4. Sand sub-fractions

Using Table 10's sand size divisions:

Sand fraction	Size range	Approx. fine earth %
Fine sand	0.063–0.200 mm	10.0%
Medium sand	0.200–0.600 mm	c. 12.9%
Coarse sand	0.600–2.000 mm	c. 10.5%

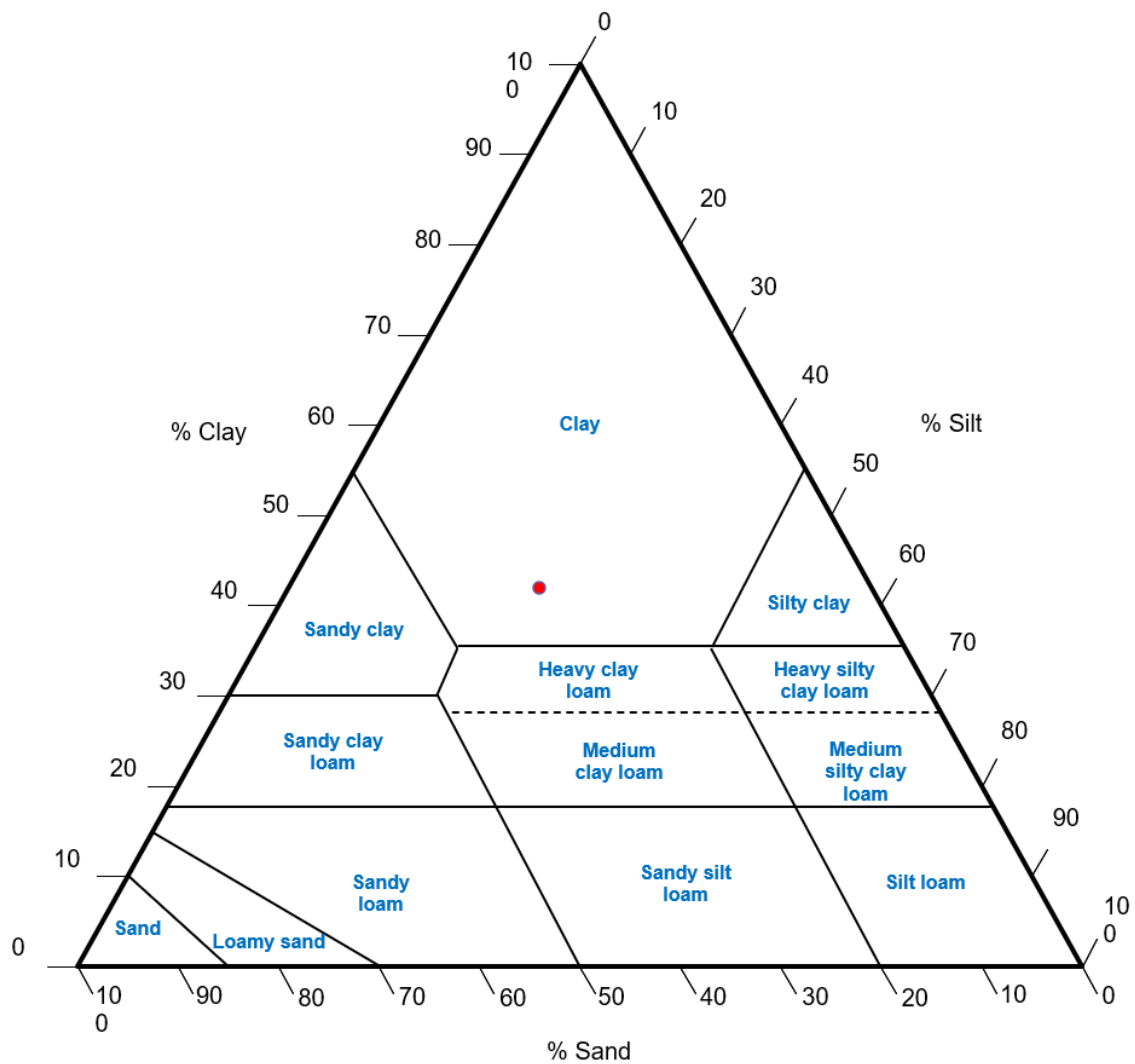
The medium/coarse split is approximate because the PSD table gives 0.630 mm, not exactly 0.600 mm, so I used a simple interpolation.

Conclusion

The fine earth fraction is approximately:

- 42% clay
- 25% silt
- 33% sand

This places the soil in the Clay texture class.



Sieving		Sedimentation	
Particle Size mm	% Passing	Particle Size mm	% Passing
125	100	0.0200	50
90	100	0.0060	44
75	100	0.0020	38
63	100		
50	100		
37.5	100		
28	100		
20	98		
14	97		
10	96		
6.3	94		
5	93		
3.35	90		
2	86		
1.18	81		
0.63	75		
0.425	71		
0.30	68		
0.20	65		
0.15	62		
0.063	56		

Using the attached PSD results and normalising only to the fine earth fraction <2.00 mm, the soil texture plots as:

Clay

1. PSD values used

From the attached analysis table:

Particle size	% passing
2.00 mm	86%
0.063 mm	56%
0.002 mm	38%

So the fine earth fraction is:

- <2.00 mm = 86%
- >2.00 mm coarse material = 14%

The 14% >2 mm material is excluded from the texture calculation.

2. Fine earth texture calculation

Clay: <0.002 mm

$$\frac{38}{86} \times 100 = 44.2\%$$

Silt: 0.002–0.063 mm

$$\frac{56 - 38}{86} \times 100 = 20.9\%$$

Sand: 0.063–2.000 mm

$$\frac{86 - 56}{86} \times 100 = 34.9\%$$

3. Fine earth particle-size composition

Fraction	Table 10 size range	Fine earth %
Clay	<0.002 mm	44.2%
Silt	0.002–0.063 mm	20.9%
Sand	0.063–2.000 mm	34.9%
Total		100%

4. Position on the attached soil texture triangle

Plotting approximately:

- 44% clay
- 21% silt
- 35% sand

on the attached soil texture triangle places the sample in the Clay textural class.

It does not fall into:

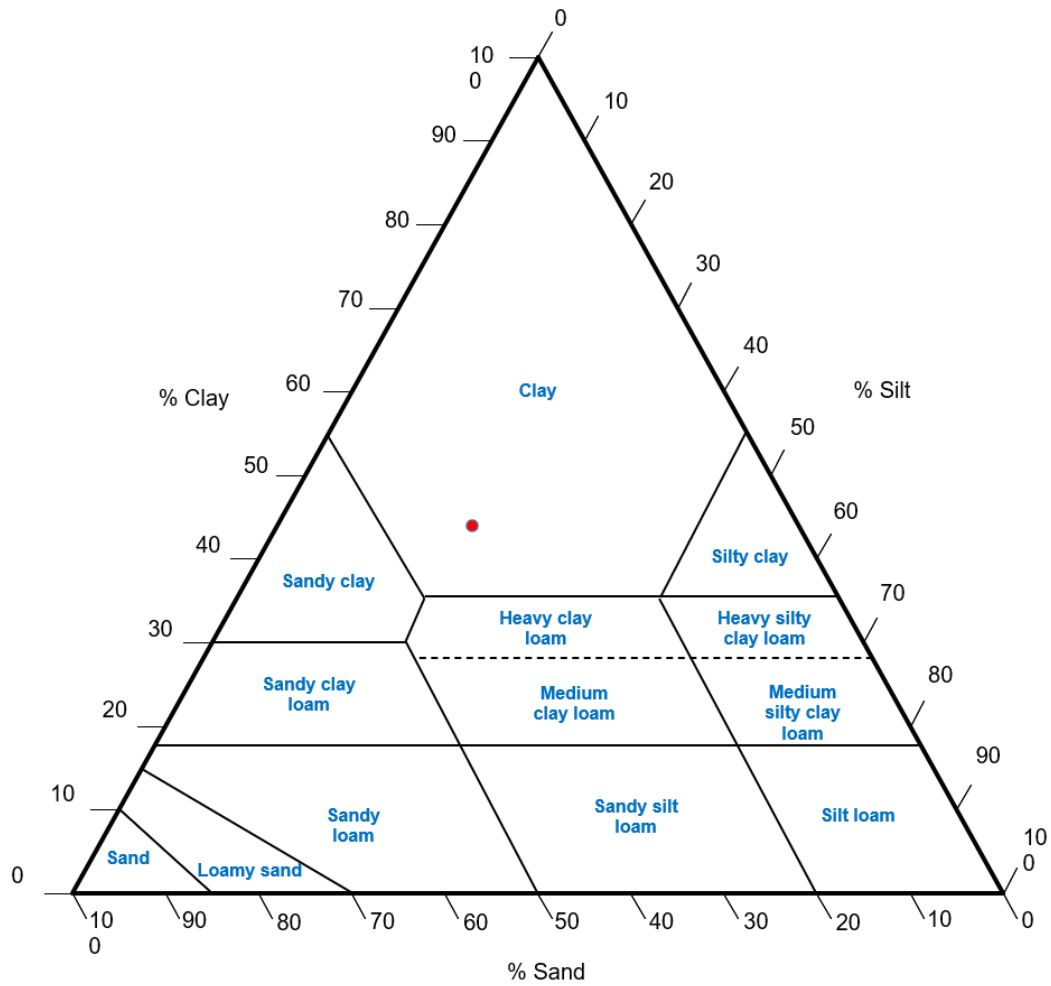
- Sandy clay, because the sand content is not high enough relative to the clay content.
- Silty clay, because the silt content is too low.
- Heavy clay loam, because the clay content is above the clay-loam band and sits within the clay field.

Conclusion

The soil texture, calculated using only the fine earth fraction <2.00 mm, is:

Clay

In plain terms, although the whole sample contains 14% coarse material >2 mm, the fine earth component itself is strongly clayey, with approximately 44% clay.



Sieving		Sedimentation	
Particle Size mm	% Passing	Particle Size mm	% Passing
125	100	0.0200	59
90	100	0.0060	48
75	100	0.0020	37
63	100		
50	100		
37.5	100		
28	100		
20	100		
14	99		
10	99		
6.3	98		
5	97		
3.35	96		
2	95		
1.18	93		
0.63	90		
0.425	89		
0.30	86		
0.20	79		
0.15	76		
0.063	71		

Using the attached PSD results and the attached particle-size definitions in Table 10, calculated on the fine earth fraction only (<2.00 mm), the soil texture is:

Clay

1. Values read from the PSD table

Particle size	% passing
2.00 mm	95%
0.063 mm	71%
0.002 mm	37%

So:

- Fine earth fraction <2.00 mm = 95%
- Coarse material >2.00 mm = 5%

The 5% coarse material is excluded from the soil texture calculation.

2. Texture fractions normalised to the fine earth fraction

Clay: <0.002 mm

$$\frac{37}{95} \times 100 = 38.9\%$$

Silt: 0.002–0.063 mm

$$\frac{71 - 37}{95} \times 100 = 35.8\%$$

Sand: 0.063–2.000 mm

$$\frac{95 - 71}{95} \times 100 = 25.3\%$$

3. Fine earth texture composition

Fraction	Table 10 size range	Fine earth %
Clay	<0.002 mm	38.9%
Silt	0.002–0.063 mm	35.8%
Sand	0.063–2.000 mm	25.3%
Total		100%

4. Position on the soil texture triangle

Plotting approximately:

- 39% clay
- 36% silt
- 25% sand

on the attached soil texture triangle places the sample in the:

Clay texture class

It sits close to the boundary with the clay loam/heavy clay loam area, but because the clay content is close to 39% and the sand and silt proportions are not high enough to move it into sandy clay or silty clay, the correct class on the attached triangle is Clay.

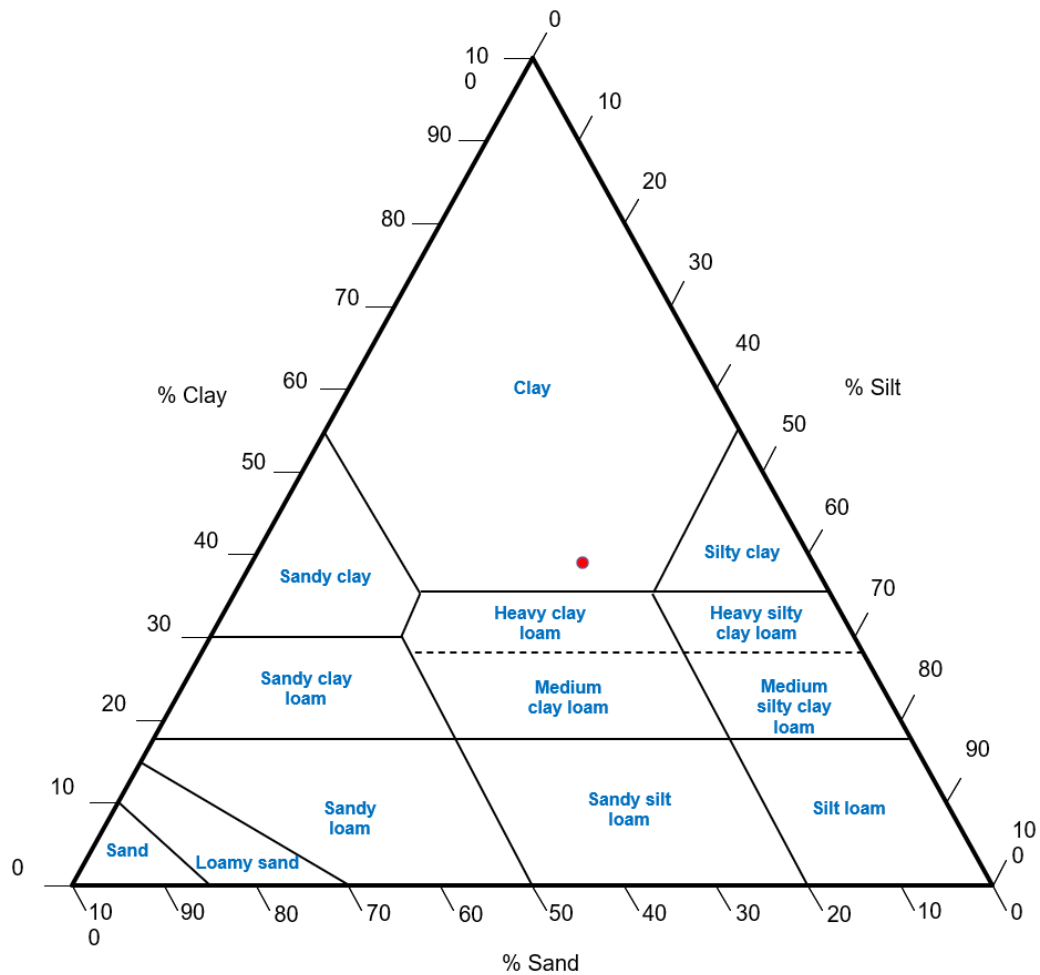
Sand sub-fractions, for completeness

Using Table 10's sand divisions:

Sand fraction	Size range	Fine earth %
Fine sand	0.063–0.200 mm	8.4%
Medium sand	0.200–0.600 mm	c. 11.4%
Coarse sand	0.600–2.000 mm	c. 5.4%

The medium/coarse split is approximate because the PSD table gives 0.630 mm rather than exactly 0.600 mm, so interpolation is needed.

Final texture classification: Clay.



TP05

Sieving		Sedimentation	
Particle Size mm	% Passing	Particle Size mm	% Passing
125	100	0.0200	40
90	100	0.0060	37
75	100	0.0020	36
63	100		
50	100		
37.5	100		
28	100		
20	100		
14	100		
10	100		
6.3	98		
5	97		
3.35	95		
2	94		
1.18	86		
0.63	65		
0.425	62		
0.30	58		
0.20	51		
0.15	49		
0.063	45		

Using the attached PSD results, the soil texture calculated only on the fine earth fraction <2.00 mm plots on the attached texture triangle as:

Sandy clay

1. Values used from the PSD table

From the particle size distribution table:

Particle size	% passing
2.00 mm	94%
0.063 mm	45%
0.002 mm	36%

So:

- Fine earth fraction <2.00 mm = 94%
- Coarse material >2.00 mm = 6%

The 6% coarse fraction is excluded from the texture calculation.

2. Fine earth texture calculation

Clay: <0.002 mm

$$\frac{36}{94} \times 100 = 38.3\%$$

Silt: 0.002–0.063 mm

$$\frac{45 - 36}{94} \times 100 = 9.6\%$$

Sand: 0.063–2.000 mm

$$\frac{94 - 45}{94} \times 100 = 52.1\%$$

3. Fine earth particle-size composition

Fraction	Table 10 size range	Fine earth %
Clay	<0.002 mm	38.3%
Silt	0.002–0.063 mm	9.6%
Sand	0.063–2.000 mm	52.1%
Total		100%

4. Position on the soil texture triangle

Plotting approximately:

- 38% clay
- 10% silt
- 52% sand

on the attached soil texture triangle places the sample in the:

Sandy clay texture class

This is because the sample has:

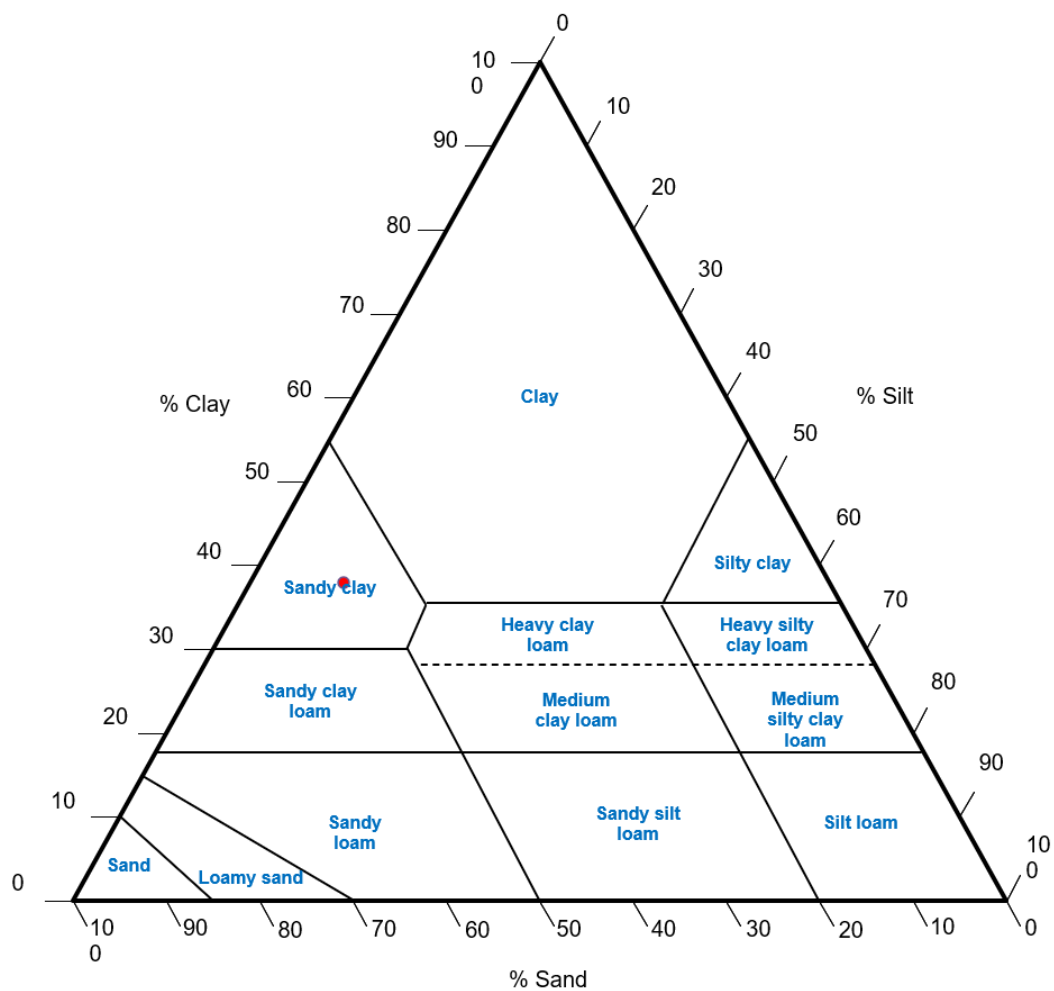
- a high sand content, over 50%;
- a substantial clay content, around 38%;
- a low silt content, around 10%.

It is therefore too clay-rich to be sandy clay loam, and too sandy/low in silt to be simply clay or silty clay

Conclusion

The soil texture, based on the fine earth fraction <2.00 mm, is:

Sandy clay



Sieving		Sedimentation	
Particle Size mm	% Passing	Particle Size mm	% Passing
125	100	0.0200	65
90	100	0.0060	61
75	100	0.0020	59
63	100		
50	100		
37.5	100		
28	100		
20	100		
14	100		
10	100		
6.3	98		
5	97		
3.35	95		
2	93		
1.18	92		
0.63	87		
0.425	85		
0.30	83		
0.20	77		
0.15	75		
0.063	72		

Using the attached PSD results and comparing them with Table 10 particle-size fractions, using only the fine earth fraction <2.00 mm, the soil texture is:

Clay

1. Values read from the PSD table

Particle size	% passing
2.00 mm	93%
0.063 mm	72%
0.002 mm	59%

Therefore:

- Fine earth fraction <2.00 mm = 93%
- Coarse material >2.00 mm = 7%

The 7% coarse material is excluded from the soil texture calculation.

2. Fine earth texture calculation

Clay: <0.002 mm

$$\frac{59}{93} \times 100 = 63.4\%$$

Silt: 0.002–0.063 mm

$$\frac{72 - 59}{93} \times 100 = 14.0\%$$

Sand: 0.063–2.000 mm

$$\frac{93 - 72}{93} \times 100 = 22.6\%$$

3. Fine earth particle-size composition

Fraction	Table 10 size range	Fine earth %
Clay	<0.002 mm	63.4%
Silt	0.002–0.063 mm	14.0%
Sand	0.063–2.000 mm	22.6%
Total		100%

4. Position on the soil texture triangle

Plotting approximately:

- 63% clay
- 14% silt
- 23% sand

on the attached soil texture triangle places the sample clearly within the:

Clay texture class

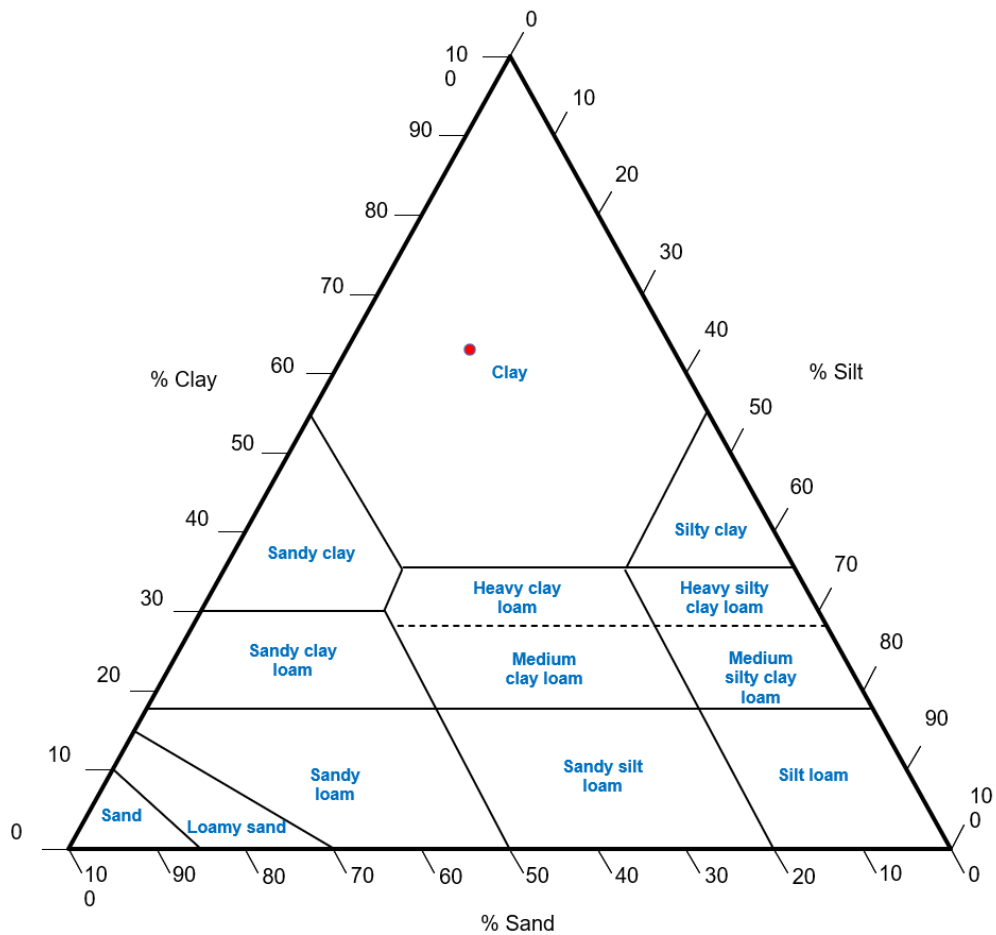
The clay content is well above the boundary for the lower clay-loam classes. The silt and sand contents are not sufficiently high to move the result into silty clay or sandy clay.

Conclusion

The soil texture, based on the fine earth fraction <2.00 mm, is:

Clay

This is a strongly clayey fine earth material, with over 60% clay once the >2 mm coarse fraction is excluded.



Sieving		Sedimentation	
Particle Size mm	% Passing	Particle Size mm	% Passing
125	100	0.0200	26
90	100	0.0060	23
75	100	0.0020	22
63	100		
50	100		
37.5	89		
28	78		
20	69		
14	65		
10	63		
6.3	59		
5	58		
3.35	55		
2	51		
1.18	46		
0.63	39		
0.425	37		
0.30	35		
0.20	31		
0.15	30		
0.063	29		

Using the attached PSD results, compared with Table 10 particle-size fractions and using only the fine earth fraction <2.00 mm, the soil texture plots as:

Clay

It is very close to the sandy clay boundary, but based on the calculated percentages it falls within the Clay class on the attached texture triangle.

1. PSD values used

From the attached particle size distribution table:

Particle size	% passing
2.00 mm	51%
0.063 mm	29%
0.002 mm	22%

Therefore:

- Fine earth fraction <2.00 mm = 51%
- Coarse material >2.00 mm = 49%

The 49% coarse material >2.00 mm is excluded from the soil texture calculation.

2. Fine earth texture calculation

Clay: <0.002 mm

$$\frac{22}{51} \times 100 = 43.1\%$$

Silt: 0.002–0.063 mm

$$\frac{29 - 22}{51} \times 100 = 13.7\%$$

Sand: 0.063–2.000 mm

$$\frac{51 - 29}{51} \times 100 = 43.1\%$$

3. Fine earth particle-size composition

Fraction	Table 10 size range	Fine earth %
Clay	<0.002 mm	43.1%
Silt	0.002–0.063 mm	13.7%
Sand	0.063–2.000 mm	43.1%
Total		100%

4. Position on the soil texture triangle

Plotting approximately:

- 43% clay
- 14% silt
- 43% sand

on the attached soil texture triangle places the soil in the:

Clay texture class

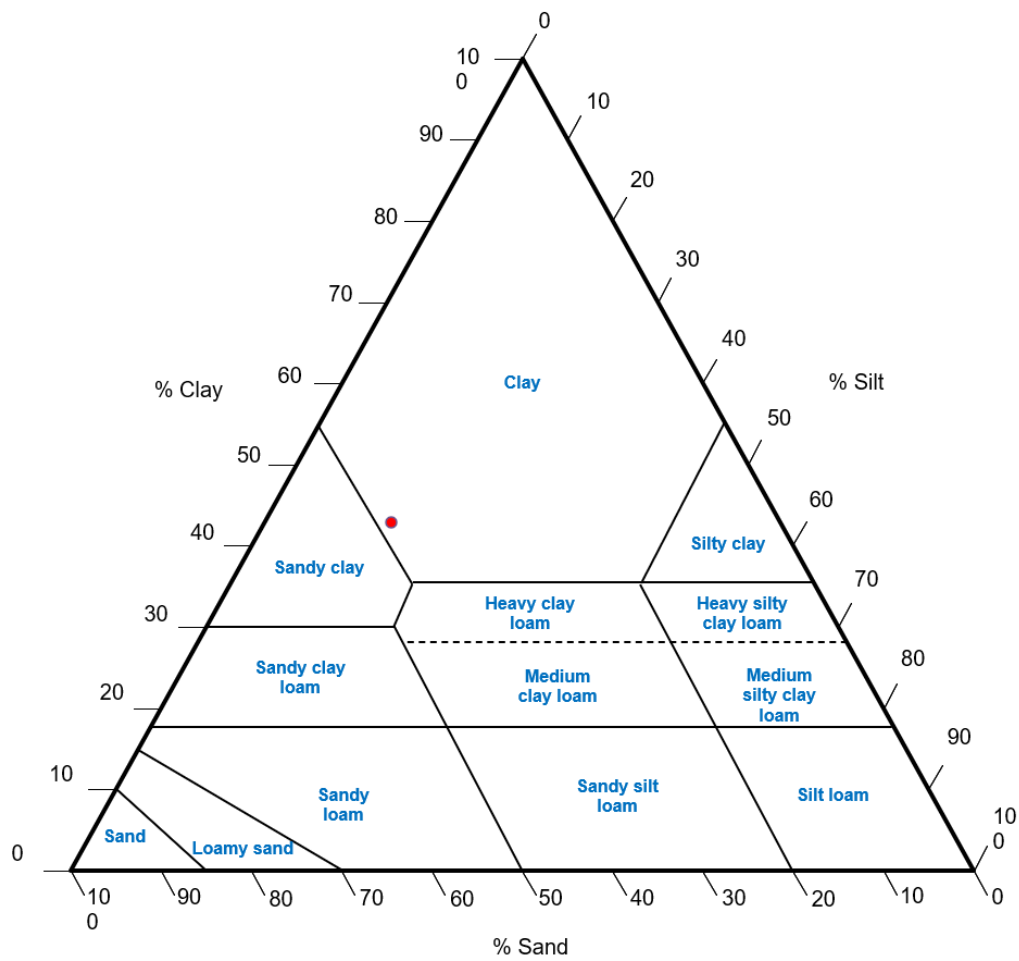
The point sits close to the sandy clay area because the sand content is also high, but the sand percentage is not quite high enough to move it into the sandy clay class on the attached triangle.

Conclusion

The soil texture, based on the fine earth fraction <2.00 mm, is:

Clay

With a note that this is a clay soil with a high sand component, and it lies close to the sandy clay boundary.



TP08

Sieving		Sedimentation	
Particle Size mm	% Passing	Particle Size mm	% Passing
125	100	0.0200	42
90	100	0.0060	40
75	100	0.0020	39
63	100		
50	100		
37.5	100		
28	94		
20	83		
14	82		
10	82		
6.3	81		
5	80		
3.35	79		
2	77		
1.18	70		
0.63	60		
0.425	58		
0.30	56		
0.20	51		
0.15	49		
0.063	45		

Using the attached PSD results, normalised to the fine earth fraction only (<2.00 mm) and compared against the attached Table 10 and soil texture triangle, the soil texture is:

Clay

It is a clay soil with a relatively high sand content, but the sand percentage is not high enough to move it into the sandy clay class on the attached triangle.

1. Values used from the PSD table

From the attached particle size distribution results:

Particle size	% passing
2.00 mm	77%
0.063 mm	45%
0.002 mm	39%

Therefore:

- Fine earth fraction <2.00 mm = 77%
- Coarse fraction >2.00 mm = 23%

The 23% coarse fraction is excluded from the soil texture classification.

2. Fine earth texture calculation

Clay: <0.002 mm

$$\frac{39}{77} \times 100 = 50.6\%$$

Silt: 0.002–0.063 mm

$$\frac{45 - 39}{77} \times 100 = 7.8\%$$

Sand: 0.063–2.000 mm

$$\frac{77 - 45}{77} \times 100 = 41.6\%$$

3. Fine earth particle-size composition

Fraction	Table 10 size range	Fine earth %
Clay	<0.002 mm	50.6%
Silt	0.002–0.063 mm	7.8%
Sand	0.063–2.000 mm	41.6%
Total		100%

4. Position on the soil texture triangle

Plotting approximately:

- 51% clay
- 8% silt
- 42% sand

on the attached texture triangle places the sample in the:

Clay texture class

The point sits close to the sandy clay boundary, but the sand content is below the level needed to classify it as sandy clay on the attached triangle.

Conclusion

The soil texture, based on the fine earth fraction <2.00 mm, is:

Clay

with a note that the soil has a substantial sand component and 23% coarse material >2 mm in the whole sample.

