

# Launching **BS 3882:2007** Specification for topsoil and requirements for use



Pictured above is the Championship Golf Course at Stockley Park. The topsoil was constructed to BS3882:1994 and has been phenomenally successful.

**Location:** SCI, 14/15 Belgrave Square, London,  
SW1X 8PS

**Date:** Monday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2007

**Timings:** 12.30 – 4.15pm

**Organisers:** BSi, SCI Environment Group and RSC  
Water Science Forum

## Synopsis

Topsoil can be both naturally-occurring and manufactured. Naturally-occurring topsoil is the product of dynamic chemical, physical and biological processes acting on weathered mineral matter. Topsoil can also be manufactured by combining organic matter, mineral material and lime and/or fertiliser as appropriate to provide a medium that can develop properties similar to naturally-occurring topsoil. Topsoil is a living material that must be handled and used appropriately otherwise it will be degraded.

The last revision of BS3882 “specification for topsoil” was in 1994, it was a huge improvement on the original. This new revision has been made in the light of the lessons learnt in working with BS3882:1994. It maintains the objectives of conserving the country’s soils and of being practical and verifiable.

The revised British Standard 3882:2007 specifies requirements for topsoils that are moved or traded. It describes variations to the main requirements relevant to specialist applications and gives requirements for the use and handling of topsoil. It also provides guidance on sampling and analysis to ensure compliance with the specifications given in the standard.

- The grade system from the previous 1994 version of the standard is replaced by new categories of topsoil: - “Multipurpose” and “Specific purpose” topsoil. Specific purpose topsoil comprises topsoils with characteristics appropriate for specialist applications, e.g. supporting the growth of certain plants or plant communities by applying descriptive qualifiers acidic, low fertility and calcareous.
- Consideration of manufactured topsoil is brought up to date and given equal standing with natural topsoil in the 2007 standard
- It is hoped that BS3882:2007 will be the core of a Quality Protocol for Topsoil that will release qualifying materials from the legal classification of “waste”.

Suppliers, specifiers and users of topsoil should take into account the intended use so that the particular properties are fit for purpose in specifying multipurpose or specialist purpose soils.

This meeting to aid the launch of this revised standard has three presentations. The first presentation outlines the background to the revision of BS 3882; the reasons why a revision was urgently required and the key issues that had to be addressed in the revision process.

The second presentation by WRAP (Waste & Resources Action Programme) explains the use of BS3882:2007 as the core of a Quality Protocol for topsoil and how the key issues have been addressed. WRAP works in partnership to encourage and enable businesses and consumers to be more efficient in their use of materials and recycle more things more often. This helps to minimise landfill, reduce carbon emissions and improve our environment. \* Please see below for information regarding *The Waste Protocols Project* that is a joint project of The Environment Agency and WRAP.

The third presentation stresses the need for fit for purpose analysis to ensure compliance with the revised standard and how this can be incorporated into the existing MCERTS performance standard for laboratories undertaking the chemical testing of soil. Some examples of unfit for purpose analysis results on sludges, soils and composts will be highlighted.

The meeting will conclude with an open discussion session with the speaker panel, chairman and BSi to answer any queries or raise any relevant issues.

***\* The Waste Protocols Project is a joint Environment Agency and WRAP (Waste & Resources Action Programme) initiative in collaboration with industry, funded by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), Business Resource Efficiency and Waste (BREW) Programme. The project was set up to provide more certainty over the point at which 'waste' is fully recovered, to stop materials being landfilled unnecessarily and to increase the use of waste as a resource.***

## Programme

12.30 **Buffet Lunch**

13.20 **Welcome**

Prof Stephen Nortcliff (Chairman) University of Reading

13.25 **The importance of British Standards**

Prof Stephen Nortcliff (Chairman) University of Reading

13.30 **Introduction and background to the development of the revision of BS 3882**

Dr Tim Evans, Chairman BSi AW/20 Topsoil and other growing media

14.00 **Using BS3882:2007 as the core of a Quality Protocol for topsoil**

Dr David Tompkins, WRAP (Waste & Resources Action Programme)

14.30 **MCERTS accreditation and the importance of obtaining fit for purpose analysis results**

Prof K Clive Thompson, ALcontrol Laboratories

15.00 **Coffee break**

15.25 **Open discussion with speaker panel, BSi and Chairman**

16.15 **Close**

## Registration Form - Launching BS 3882:2007

Please post or FAX completed registration forms (including full payment details) to:

**Charlotte Armstrong, BSi**  
**389 Chiswick High Road**  
**London, W4 4AL**  
**Fax: 0208 996 7143**  
**Tel: 0208 996 7565**

For the attention of Charlotte Armstrong

**Registration Fees – please tick**

**Fee includes a copy of BS 3882:2007 (to be provided on the day), coffee & a buffet lunch**  
(Prices displayed are inclusive of VAT)

Non Member - £134

Member\* - £109

\*Members of British Society of Soil Science, SCI, RSC or from a local authority.  
(RSC-WSF £40 vouchers accepted as part payment. - Max 12 vouchers).

BSI Member (Y or N)  If Yes then BSI Membership Number \_\_\_\_\_

If you are a member of BSI please note you will be invoiced for the cost of this seminar.  
All other delegates must pay by either cheque or credit card.

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Special requirements \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Please register me for the above conference (Internal reference - 30171746).**

**Payment Options**

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