

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
CHEAPSIDE
WALTHAM, HUMBERSIDE
PROPOSED GOLF COURSE AND
HOUSING DEVELOPMENT
FEBRUARY 1994

ADAS
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SUMMARY

An Agricultural Land Classification of land adjoining Cheapside, Waltham was originally carried out in September 1993. An additional area was surveyed in February 1994 to cover amendments to the site location.

Of the total revised site area of 29.2ha only 10.3ha is in agricultural use of which 2.5ha falls within Grade 2. Soils in this grade consist of deep well drained (Wetness Class I) sandy clay loam or sandy loam topsoils and subsoils, sometimes passing to heavy clay loam at depth. They are limited to Grade 2 by slight droughtiness.

Subgrade 3a land covers 3.4ha. Soils within most of this Subgrade are imperfectly drained (Wetness Class III) and consist of medium clay loam topsoils and upper subsoils over slowly permeable heavy clay loam lower subsoils. Profiles of this type are limited to Subgrade 3a by slight wetness. Also included within this subgrade is an area of disturbed land on the western side of Cheapside where profiles contain builders' rubble and are limited to Subgrade 3a by topsoil stone content.

Subgrade 3b land covers 4.4ha. Most soils within this subgrade are poorly drained (Wetness Class IV) and are formed of heavy textured topsoils and subsoils limited to Subgrade 3b by wetness. A small area adjoining the road, which contains a high proportion of rubble, is also included within this subgrade because of topsoil stoniness.

The remainder of the site falls within the Urban and Non-Agricultural categories and consists of the partially constructed golf course and a derelict camp site.

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1. INTRODUCTION AND SITE

1.1 Location and Survey Methods

The site lies between Waltham and the disused airfield and is centred on National Grid Reference TA 265031. It covers a total of 29.2ha. Survey work, on the original application area, was carried out in September 1993 when soils, in the undisturbed parts of the site, were examined by hand auger borings at a density of approximately one every two hectares. Further work was carried out in February 1994 to cover the revised application area. This excluded some of the land, including all of the agricultural land, on the north eastern side of Cheapside, but now extended onto an area of arable land on the south western side of the road. This new area was surveyed at a density of one auger boring per hectare. Extra borings were made, where necessary, to refine grade boundaries and two inspection pits were dug to determine subsoil structure. Land quality was assessed using the methods described in "Agricultural Land Classification of England and Wales: Revised criteria for grading the quality of agricultural land" (MAFF, 1988).

1.2 Land Use and Relief

At the time of survey 35.3% of the site was in agricultural use, all of which was arable land. The remainder consisted of the partially constructed and excavated golf course, along with smaller areas of non agricultural land.

Site altitude is 20m AOD and the land is level to gently sloping (0 - 3°).

1.3 Climate

Grid Reference	: TA 265031
Altitude (m)	: 20
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C (January - June)	: 1386 day°C
Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	: 654
Climatic Grade	: 1
Field Capacity Days	: 146
Moisture Deficit (mm) Wheat	: 106
Moisture Deficit (mm) Potatoes	: 98

1.4 Geology, Soils and Drainage

The site is underlain by chalk over which there is a thick over of till and glaciofluvial drift.

Two soil types occur on the undisturbed parts of the site. On the lower ground near the road and in the south western corner, soils consist of well drained (Wetness Class I) medium or light textured topsoils (medium clay loam, sandy clay loam or medium sandy loam) over similar textured subsoils. In the area adjoining the road, these soils are contaminated by builders' rubble.

The second soil type which occurs on the higher western part of the arable field consists of imperfectly or poorly drained (Wetness Classes III or IV) medium or heavy clay loam topsoils and sometimes upper subsoils, over gleyed slowly permeable heavy clay loam or clay subsoils. These soils are similar to those in the Holderness Association as mapped by the Soil Survey and Land Research Centre.

2. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

The ALC grades occurring on this site are as follows:

<u>Grade/Subgrade</u>	<u>Hectares</u>	<u>Percentage of Total Area</u>
1		
2	2.5	8.6
3a	3.4	11.6
3b	4.4	15.1
4		
5		
(Sub total)	(10.3)	(35.3)
Urban	12.7	43.5
Non Agricultural	5.5	18.8
Woodland - Farm		
- Commercial		
Agricultural Buildings		
Open Water	0.7	2.4
Land not Surveyed		
(Sub total)	(18.9)	(64.7)
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TOTAL	29.2	100
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2.1 Grade 2

Almost one quarter of the agricultural land on the site falls within Grade 2. Profiles are well drained (Wetness Class I) and consist of sandy clay loam or medium sandy loam topsoils and subsoils, some of which pass into heavy clay loam (boulder clay) at depth. They are limited to Grade 2 by slight droughtiness.

2.2 Subgrade 3a

Most land within this subgrade occurs in the central and eastern parts of the site. Undisturbed profiles are imperfectly drained (Wetness Class III) and consist of medium clay loam topsoils and upper subsoils over at 45-50cm depth heavy clay loam lower subsoils. Weathered chalk stones occur in places below about 80cm depth. This land is limited to Subgrade 3a by wetness. Also included within this subgrade is an area near the road where builders' rubble in the topsoil imposes a stoniness limitation.

2.3 Subgrade 3b

Subgrade 3b land (42.7% of the agricultural land) occurs in the higher western part of the site and adjoining the road. Soils on the higher ground are poorly drained (Wetness Class IV) and consist of heavy clay loam topsoils over gleyed slowly permeable heavy clay loam or clay subsoils. This land is limited to Subgrade 3b by soil wetness and workability problems. The area adjoining the road consists of well drained medium textured soils. These contain a high proportion of builders' rubble in topsoil and subsoil and are limited to Subgrade 3b for this reason.

2.4 Urban

This category consists largely of land that has been disturbed, stripped or excavated during the partially completed construction of the golf course.

2.5 Non Agricultural

This consists of a derelict camp site.

2.6 Open Water

This consists of a pond dug during the golf course construction.

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