AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

AND

STATEMENT OF PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

COMMON LANE, ROSSINGTON, DONCASTER

PROPOSED GOLF COURSE

MAFF

LEEDS REGIONAL OFFICE

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CONTENTS

MAP

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT ON THE PROPOSED GOLF COURSE DEVELOPMENT AT COMMON LANE, ROSSINGTON, DONCASTER

1. INTRODUCTION AND SITE CHARACTERISTICS

The site is located around grid reference Sk 633975 approximately 1 km East of New Rossington. It covers 69.2 hectares, 89% of which is in agricultural use.

Survey work was carried out in August 1990 when soils were examined by hand auger borings at 100 metre intervals pre-determined by the National Grid. Soil profile pits were also dug at representative locations to examine soil morphology in greater detail, and to collect samples for laboratory analysis.

A land quality assessments were made using the methods described in the "Revised Guidelines and Criteria for Grading the Quality of Agricultural Land" (MAFF 1988).

1.1 LAND USE

At the time of survey all agricultural land was under arable use, the principal crop being cereals.

1.2 CLIMATE

Salient climatic parameters at Common Lane are as follows:-

Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	594
Accumulated Temperature Above 0°C (Jan-June)	1409
Field Capacity Days	~~2370~~ 117
Moisture Deficit Wheat (mm)	111
Potatoes (mm)	104

These factors indicate that there is no overall climatic limitation on ALC grade although light textured soils will be droughty.

1.3 RELIEF

Altitude varies between 10 m and 20 m above Ordnance Datum, and relief is gently to moderately sloping towards the pond located in the central part of the site. Slopes rarely exceed 6° and do not restrict the use of agricultural machinery.

1.4 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

Site geology consists largely of superficial glacial and post glacial deposits of sand and gravel. Solid Strata does not occur within one metre of the surface. Topsoils generally consist of loamy sand (topsoil stoniness ranging from very slightly stony to moderately stony) over sand or loamy sand subsoils (subsoil stoniness ranging from slightly stony to very stony). All profiles are freely drained and fall into Wetness Class 1. Most are severely restricted by droughtiness due to their small water holding capacity.

2. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

The ALC grades occurring on the site are as follows:

Grade	Hectares	Per cent of Total Site Area
3A	6.9	10%
3B	55.0	79%
Non Agric	1.3	2%
Woodland	4.7	7%
Open Water	1.3	2%
	69.2	100%

Subgrade 3A

Land in this subgrade occurs in the north western part of the site around Churchfield. Fine and occasionally medium sandy loam topsoils overlie similar textured upper subsoils. Both horizons are only very slightly stony (1-5% stones). The lower subsoil consists of medium sand or loamy sand textured material with abundant (40-55% stones)

mixed stones. All profiles fall into Wetness Class I and are restricted to subgrade 3A by droughtiness which is the main feature limiting ALC grade.

Subgrade 3B

Most of the site is restricted to subgrade 3B. Medium loamy sand and occasionally loamy fine sand topsoils overlie similar light textured sandy subsoils. These profiles fall within Wetness Class I but, due to their small water holding capacity are restricted to subgrade 3B by droughtiness which is limiting for both wheat and potatoes. Although a moderately stony (16-35% stones) topsoil content also limits soils to subgrade 3B in places, droughtiness is the overriding restriction on ALC grade across most of the site.

Non-Agricultural

This consists of derelict land adjoining the lagoon and an area of uncultivated land to the north-east of Gravel Hill Plantation which also contains a derelict concrete building.

Woodland

This category consists of small areas of farm woodland scattered across the site.

Open Water

This is the lagoon which probably represents the remains of an old gravel working which extended into the underlying ground water.

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Leeds Regional Office
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