A1 Hart District Replacement Local Plan Site 1023 - Marsh Lane, Eversley Cross Agricultural Land Classification Report And Map October 1996.

- '

Resource Planning Team Guildford Statutory Group ADAS Reading ADAS Reference: 1506/080/96 MAFF Reference: EL 15/01383 LUPU Commission: 02393

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION SURVEY

HART DISTRICT REPLACEMENT LOCAL PLAN SITE 1023 - MARSH LANE, EVERSLEY CROSS

Introduction

1. This report presents the findings of a detailed Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) survey on approximately 12 hectares of land at Eversley Cross, Hampshire. The survey was carried out during October 1996.

2. The survey was commissioned by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF) from its Land Use Planning Unit in Reading, in connection with the Hart District Replacement Local Plan. The results of this survey supersede any previous ALC information for this land.

3. The work was conducted by members of the Resource Planning Team in the Guildford Statutory Group of ADAS. The land has been graded in accordance with the published MAFF ALC guidelines and criteria (MAFF, 1988). A description of the ALC grades and subgrades is given in Appendix I.

4. At the time of survey the majority of land was in permanent pasture except for the field to the extreme south of the site which was in ley grassland. Rare breeds of animals were grazing in certain areas of the site, which led to a small field to the far north of the site not being surveyed. The areas shown as 'Other Land' comprised numerous farm buildings.

Summary

5. The findings of the survey are shown on the enclosed ALC map. The map has been drawn at a scale of 1:10,000. It is accurate at this scale, but any enlargement would be misleading.

6. The area and proportions of the ALC grades and subgrades on the surveyed land are summarised in Table 1 below.

Grade/Other land	Area (hectares)	% site area	% surveyed area
2	0.8	6.8	7.9
3a	9.3	78.8	92.1
Other Land	0.6	5.0	
Not Surveyed	1.1	9.4	
Total surveyed area	10.1	-	100.0
Total site area	11.8	100.0	-

Table 1: Area of grades and other land

7. The fieldwork was conducted at an average density of 1 boring per hectare. A total of 12 borings and two soil pits were described.

8. The soils generally comprise medium sandy loam topsoils overlying similar or lighter (medium sand) subsoils. To the north of the site the soils are impenetrable to the auger as they are stonier but well drained. To the south of the site, profiles are less stony and not as well drained, occasionally becoming heavier at depth.

The combination of soil textures, structures, and stone contents acts to restrict the amount of profile available water for crops. As a result the level and consistency of crop yields is restricted. All of the land at this site has been classified as 'best and most versatile'. Grade 2 (very good quality) land is mapped to the south east of the site and Subgrade 3a (good quality) covers the remainder. The key limitation is therefore slight or moderate soil droughtiness.

Factors Influencing ALC Grade

Climate

9. Climate affects the grading of land through the assessment of an overall climatic limitation and also through interactions with soil characteristics.

10. The key climatic variables used for grading this site are given in Table 2 and were obtained from the published 5km grid datasets using the standard interpolation procedures (Met. Office, 1989).

Factor	Units	Values
Grid reference	N/A	SU 796 612
Altitude	m, AOD	60
Accumulated Temperature	day°C	1459
Average Annual Rainfall	mm	669
Field Capacity Days	days	141
Moisture Deficit, Wheat	mm	113
Moisture Deficit, Potatoes	mm	107

Table 2: Climatic and altitude data

11. The climatic criteria are considered first when classifying land as climate can be overriding in the sense that severe limitations will restrict land to low grades irrespective of favourable site or soil conditions.

12. The main parameters used in the assessment of an overall climatic limitation are average annual rainfall (AAR), as a measure of overall wetness, and accumulated temperature (AT0, January to June), as a measure of the relative warmth of a locality.

13. The combination of rainfall and temperature at this site mean that there is no overall climatic limitation. The site is climatically Grade 1. The site is believed to be rather frost prone (Met Office, 1971). However, there was no evidence of this at the site so it was not taken into account in the survey. Exposure is not thought likely to affect the area.

the land at the site is very gently sloping with slight undulations. Nowhere does gradient or microrelief affect agricultural land quality.

Geology and soils

15. The published geological information for the site (B.G.S., 1971 and 1981) shows the site to be underlain mainly by Bagshot Beds, with low level terrace deposits (valley gravel) to the north.

The agricultural land at this site lies at an altitude of 55-65m AOD. The majority of

16. The most recently published soil information for the area (SSEW, 1983) shows the Efford 1 Association mapped across the site. This is described as 'well drained fine loamy soils over gravel, associated with similar permeable soils variably affected by groundwater.' (SSEW, 1983).

17. Detailed field survey broadly confirms the existence of such soils but with slightly coarser textural classes. Well drained moderately stony sandy loam profiles that show signs of wetness predominate at this site.

Agricultural Land Classification

18. The details of the classification of the site are shown on the attached ALC map and the area statistics of each grade are given in Table 1, page 1.

19. The location of the auger borings and pits is shown on the attached sample location map and the details of the soils data are presented in Appendix III.

20. Approximately half of the soils are impenetrable to the auger at variable depths. The pits indicate that this was caused by dry soil conditions and a high proportion of flints in the profiles.

Grade 2

21. A small area of very good quality agricultural land (Grade 2) occurs in the south east corner of the site. A minor soil droughtiness limitation exists.

22. The topsoils in this unit consist of non-calcareous, slightly stony (7-10% total, 3-4% > 2cm flint) medium sandy loams. Continuing down the profile the upper and lower subsoils consist of similar textures but occasionally pass to coarser material (medium sand) or clay at depth (90 cm). These subsoils are moderately structured. The subsoils show signs of impeded drainage in the form of mottling caused by fluctuating groundwater. Despite this, all the soils across the site are assessed as Wetness Class I due to their coarse textures and relatively freely draining nature.

23. Due to the combination of soil characteristics and the local climate regime, these soils have restricted amounts of profile available water, such that the land suffers from a slight droughtiness limitation. As a result crop growth and yields may be adversely affected.

Site

14.

24. The majority of the site is mapped as good quality agricultural land (Sub-grade 3a). Here, a moderate soil droughtiness limitation exists.

Subgrade 3a

25. The topsoils in this unit again consist of non-calcareous, slightly stony (5-15% total, 2-7% > 2cm flint) medium sandy loams. Upper and lower subsoils also consist of textures and occasionally pass into coarser (medium sand) or sometimes finer (clay) material with depth. These subsoils vary in stoniness from being stoneless to being moderately stony (0-40% flint) and are moderately well or well structured. The occasional soil observation which becomes heavier at a significant depth tends to be slowly permeable and poorly structured which restricts water movement further up the profile. In many profiles across the site, signs of impeded drainage occur in the form of mottling but as in the Grade 2 unit, the soils are still assessed as Wetness Class I as a result from fluctuating groundwater.

26. The soils in this mapping unit suffer from a more significant droughtiness limitation than those described in the Grade 2 unit. This is mainly due to the coarser textured subsoils (medium sand) occurring further up the profile which significantly affects the amount of profile water available for crop uptake. The land suffers a moderate droughtiness limitation and crop growth and yield will be adversely affected.

Sharron Cauldwell, Resource Planning Team, Guildford Statutory Centre, ADAS, Reading.

SOURCES OF REFERENCE

British Geological Survey (1971) Sheet 268 (1:50,000 Scale).

British Geological Survey (1978) Sheet 284 (1:50,000 Scale).

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (1988) Agricultural Land Classification of England and Wales: Revised guidelines and criteria for grading the quality of agricultural land. MAFF: London.

Met. Office (1971) Climatological Data for Agricultural Land Classification. Met. Office: Bracknell.

Soil Survey of England and Wales (1983) Sheet 6, Soils of South East England. SSEW: Harpenden.

Soil Survey of England and Wales (1984) Soils and their Use in South East England.. SSEW: Harpenden.

APPENDIX I

DESCRIPTION OF THE GRADES AND SUBGRADES

Grade 1: Excellent Quality Agricultural Land

Land with no or very minor limitations to agricultural use. A very wide range of agricultural and horticultural crops can be grown and commonly includes top fruit, soft fruit, salad crops and winter harvested vegetables. Yields are high and less variable than on land of lower quality.

Grade 2: Very Good Quality Agricultural Land

Land with minor limitations which affect crop yield, cultivations or harvesting. A wide range of agricultural or horticultural crops can usually be grown but on some land of this grade there may be reduced flexibility due to difficulties with the production of the more demanding crops such as winter harvested vegetables and arable root crops. The level of yield is generally high but may be lower or more variable than Grade 1 land.

Grade 3: Good to Moderate Quality Land

Land with moderate limitations which affect the choice of crops, the timing and type of cultivation, harvesting or the level of yield. When more demanding crops are grown, yields are generally lower or more variable than on land in Grades 1 and 2.

Subgrade 3a: Good Quality Agricultural Land

Land capable of consistently producing moderate to high yields of a narrow range of arable crops, especially cereals, or moderate yields of a wide range of crops including cereals, grass, oilseed rape, potatoes, sugar beet and the less demanding horticultural crops.

Subgrade 3b: Moderate Quality Agricultural Land

Land capable of producing moderate yields of a narrow range of crops, principally cereals and grass, or lower yields of a wider range of crops or high yields of grass that can be grazed or harvested over most of the year.

Grade 4: Poor Quality Agricultural Land

Land with severe limitations which significantly restrict the range of crops and/or the level of yields. It is mainly suited to grass with occasional arable crops (e.g. cereals and forage crops) the yields of which are variable. In moist climates, yields of grass may be moderate to high but there may be difficulties in utilisation. The grade also includes very droughty arable land.

Grade 5: Very Poor Quality Agricultural Land

Land with severe limitations that restricts use to permanent pasture or rough grazing, except for occasional pioneer forage crops.

APPENDIX II

SOIL WETNESS CLASSIFICATION

Definitions of Soil Wetness Classes

Soil wetness is classified according to the depth and duration of waterlogging in the soil profile. Six soil wetness classes are identified and are defined in the table below.

Duration of waterlogging ¹
The soil profile is not wet within 70 cm depth for more than 30 days in most years. ²
The soil profile is wet within 70 cm depth for 31-90 days in most years or, if there is no slowly permeable layer within 80 cm depth, it is wet within 70 cm for more than 90 days, but only wet within 40 cm depth for 30 days in most years.
The soil profile is wet within 70 cm depth for 91-180 days in most years or, if there is no slowly permeable layer present within 80 cm depth, it is wet within 70 cm for more than 180 days, but only wet within 40 cm depth for between 31-90 days in most years.
The soil profile is wet within 70 cm depth for more than 180 days but not wet within 40 cm depth for more than 210 days in most years or, if there is no slowly permeable layer present within 80 cm depth, it is wet within 40 cm depth for 91-210 days in most years.
The soil profile is wet within 40 cm depth for 211-335 days in most years.
The soil profile is wet within 40 cm depth for more than 335 days in most years.

Assessment of Wetness Class

n

Soils have been allocated to wetness classes by the interpretation of soil profile characteristics and climatic factors using the methodology described in Agricultural Land Classification of England and Wales: Revised guidelines and criteria for grading the quality of agricultural land (MAFF, 1988).

¹ The number of days is not necessarily a continuous period.

² 'In most years' is defined as more than 10 out of 20 years.

APPENDIX III

SOIL DATA

Contents:

Sample location map Soil abbreviations - Explanatory Note Soil Pit Descriptions Soil boring descriptions (boring and horizon levels) Database Printout - Horizon Level Information

SOIL PROFILE DESCRIPTIONS: EXPLANATORY NOTE

Soil pit and auger boring information collected during ALC fieldwork is held on a computer database. This uses notations and abbreviations as set out below.

Boring Header Information

- 1. GRID REF: national 100 km grid square and 8 figure grid reference.
- 2. USE: Land use at the time of survey. The following abbreviations are used.

ARA:	Arable	WHT:	Wheat	BAR: Barley
CER:	Cereals	OAT:	Oats	MZE: Maize
OSR:	Oilseed rape	BEN:	Field Beans	BRA: Brassicae
POT:	Potatoes	SBT:	Sugar Beet	FCD: Fodder Crops
LIN:	Linseed	FRT:	Soft and Top Fruit	FLW: Fallow
PGR:	Permanent Pasture	eLEY:	Ley Grass	RGR: Rough Grazing
SCR:		Scrub	CFW:	Coniferous Woodland
DCW:	Deciduous Wood			
HTH:	Heathland	BOG:	Bog or Marsh	FLW: Fallow
PLO:	Ploughed	SAS:	Set aside	OTH: Other
HRT:	Horticultural Crop	os		

- 3. GRDNT: Gradient as estimated or measured by a hand-held optical clinometer.
- 4. GLEY/SPL: Depth in centimetres (cm) to gleying and/or slowly permeable layers.
- 5. AP (WHEAT/POTS): Crop-adjusted available water capacity.
- 6. **MB (WHEAT/POTS)**: Moisture Balance. (Crop adjusted AP crop adjusted MD)
- 7. **DRT**: Best grade according to soil droughtiness.
- 8. If any of the following factors are considered significant, 'Y' will be entered in the relevant column.

MREL: Microrelief limitation FLOOD: Flood risk EROSN: Soil erosion risk EXP: Exposure limitation FROST: Frost prone DIST: Disturbed land CHEM: Chemical limitation

9. LIMIT: The main limitation to land quality. The following abbreviations are used.

OC :	Overall Climate	AE:	Aspect	EX:	Exposure
FR:	Frost Risk	GR:	Gradient	MR:	Microrelief
FL:	Flood Risk	TX:	Topsoil Texture	DP:	Soil Depth
CH:	Chemical	WE:	Wetness	WK:	Workability
DR:	Drought	ER:	Erosion Risk	WD:	Soil Wetness/Droughtiness
ST:	Topsoil Stonines	SS			

Soil Pits and Auger Borings

1. **TEXTURE**: soil texture classes are denoted by the following abbreviations.

S :	Sand	LS:	Loamy Sand	SL:	Sandy Loam
SZL:	Sandy Silt Loam	CL:	Clay Loam	ZCL:	Silty Clay Loam
ZL:	Silt Loam	SCL:	Sandy Clay Loam	C :	Clay
SC:	Sandy Clay	ZC:	Silty Clay	OL:	Organic Loam
P :	Peat	SP:	Sandy Peat	LP:	Loamy Peat
PL:	Peaty Loam	PS:	Peaty Sand	MZ:	Marine Light Silts

For the sand, loamy sand, sandy loam and sandy silt loam classes, the predominant size of sand fraction will be indicated by the use of the following prefixes:

- **F**: Fine (more than 66% of the sand less than 0.2mm)
- M: Medium (less than 66% fine sand and less than 33% coarse sand)
- C: Coarse (more than 33% of the sand larger than 0.6mm)

The clay loam and silty clay loam classes will be sub-divided according to the clay content: M: Medium (<27% clay) H: Heavy (27-35% clay)

- 2. MOTTLE COL: Mottle colour using Munsell notation.
- 3. MOTTLE ABUN: Mottle abundance, expressed as a percentage of the matrix or surface described.

F: few <2% C: common 2-20% M: many 20-40% VM: very many 40% +

- 4. **MOTTLE CONT:** Mottle contrast
 - F: faint indistinct mottles, evident only on close inspection
 - D: distinct mottles are readily seen
 - P: prominent mottling is conspicuous and one of the outstanding features of the horizon
- 5. **PED. COL**: Ped face colour using Munsell notation.
- 6. GLEY: If the soil horizon is gleyed a 'Y' will appear in this column. If slightly gleyed, an 'S' will appear.
- 7. **STONE LITH**: Stone Lithology One of the following is used.

HR:all hard rocks and stonesSLST:soft oolitic or dolomitic limestoneCH:chalkFSST:soft, fine grained sandstoneZR:soft, argillaceous, or silty rocksGH:gravel with non-porous (hard) stonesMSST:soft, medium grained sandstoneGS:gravel with porous (soft) stonesSI:soft weathered igneous/metamorphic rock

Stone contents (>2cm, >6cm and total) are given in percentages (by volume).

8.STRUCT: the degree of development, size and shape of soil peds are described using the following notation:

degree of development	WK: weakly developed ST: strongly developed	MD: moderately developed
<u>ped size</u>	F: fine C: coarse	M: medium VC: very coarse
<u>ped shape</u>	S : single grain GR: granular SAB: sub-angular blocky PL: platy	M: massive AB: angular blocky PR: prismatic

9. CONSIST: Soil consistence is described using the following notation:

firm	L: loose	VF: very friable	FR: friable	FM: firm	VM :	very
	EM: extremely fin	m	EH: extremely	hard		

10.SUBSSTR:Subsoilstructural condition recorded for the purpose of calculating
good M: moderate P: poorprofile droughtiness:G:

- 11. POR: Soil porosity. If a soil horizon has less than 0.5% biopores >0.5 mm, a 'Y' will appear in this column.
- 12. IMP: If the profile is impenetrable to rooting a 'Y' will appear in this column at the appropriate horizon.
- 13. SPL: Slowly permeable layer. If the soil horizon is slowly permeable a 'Y' will appear in this column.
- 14. CALC: If the soil horizon is calcareous, a 'Y' will appear in this column.

15. Other notations

- APW: available water capacity (in mm) adjusted for wheat
- APP: available water capacity (in mm) adjusted for potatoes
- MBW: moisture balance, wheat
- MBP: moisture balance, potatoes

SOIL PIT DESCRIPTION

Site Name : HART LP - SITE 1023 Pit Number : 1P										
Grid Refe	erence: SU	79606120	Average Annu Accumulated Field Capaci Land Use Slope and As	Temperature ty Level	: 1459					
HORIZON 0- 30 30- 63	texture MSL MSL	COLOUR 10yr31 3 10yr43 0	-	TOT.STONE 15 25	LITH HR HR	MOTTLES	STRUCTURE MDCSAB	CONSIST FR	SUBSTRUCTURE	CALC
63- 85 85-120	ms Ms	10YR64 6 10YR73 7			HR		G M			
Wetness (Grade : 1		Wetness Clas Gleying SPL	:	cīi cīi					
-	Grade : 3A	_	APW : 100mm APP : 085mm		3 mm 2 mm					

FINAL ALC GRADE : 3A MAIN LIMITATION : Droughtiness

,

SOIL PIT DESCRIPTION

Site Nam	e : HART LI	P - SITE 1	023	Pit Number	• : 2	2P				
Grid Ref	erence: SU	79506100	Average Annu Accumulated Field Capaci Land Use Slope and As	Temperature ity Level	: 145 : 141 : Ley	59 degree days	days			
HORIZON	TEXTURE	COLOUR	STONES >2	TOT.STONE	LITH	MOTTLES	STRUCTURE	CONSIST	SUBSTRUCTURE	CALC
0- 30	MSL	10YR32 0		7	HR		•			
30-45	MSL	10YR42 5		18	HR	F	MDCSAB	FR	м	
45- 70	MSL	10YR53 6		12	HR	M	MDCSAB	FR	M	
70- 87	MSL	10YR62 6		20	HR	M	WDCSAB	VF	G	
87-100	MS	10YR62 6		40	HR	M	S	L	M	
Wetness (Grade : 1		Wetness Clas Gleying SPL	:045	cn cn					
-	Grade : 3A	, 24	AP₩ : 114mm APP : 110mm		1 mm 7 mm					

FINAL ALC GRADE : 3A MAIN LIMITATION : Droughtiness

program: ALCO12 LIST OF BORINGS HEADERS 25/11/96 HART LP - SITE 1023

	SAMP NO.	LE GRID REF	a USE	SPECT	GRDNT	GLE¥	SPL		NESS GRADE		EAT- MB		MB	M. DRT	rel Flood	EROSN Ex	FROST P DIST	CHEM LIMIT	ALC	COMMENTS
	1P 2	SU79606120 SU79606150						1 1	1 1	100 029		085 029	-22 -78	3A 4				DR DR	3A 3A	I23 SEE PIT 1
-		SU79506100 SU79706150				045		1	1	114 025		110 025	-7 -82					DR DR	3A 3A	DUG TO 100 CM 120 SEE PIT 1
	4	SU79606140						1	1	025		025	-82					DR	3A	120 SEE PIT 1
-	5	SU79706140	PGR					1	1	028	-85		-79	4				DR	3A	I22 SEE PIT 1
	6	SU79606130						1	1	035		035	-72					DR	3A	I28 SEE PIT 1
	7	SU79606120				085 (105	1	1	032 134		032 104	-75 -3					DR DR	3A 2	I25 SEE PIT 1
	8 9	SU79506110 SU79606110		E	2	065 (1	1	053		053	-54					DR	-	I45 SEE PIT 1
	10	SU79506100	LEY			040		1	1	112	-1	105	-2	3A				DR	3A	195 SEE PIT 2
	11	SU79606100	LEY	Ε	2	030		1	1	064	-49	064	-43	3B				DR	3A	145 SEE PIT 2
	12	SU79706100	LEY			082		1	1	116		103	-4	3A				DR	3A	190 PROB GR 2
	13	SU79706090	LEY			055		1	1	122	9	103	-4	2				DR	2	

page 1

program: ALCOll

ms 1

nns 1

ms]

ms 1

ms 1

90-120 ms

10YR31 32

10YR31 32

10YR42 53 05Y 56 58 F

10YR41 42 05Y 56 58 F

10YR53 00 10YR56 58 C

10YR53 00 10YR56 58 C

10YR53 00 10YR56 58 C

					MOTTLE	s	PED			S'	TONES		STRUCT/	SUBS	3				
SAMPLE	DEPTH	TEXTURE	COLOUR										CONSIST			IMP SPI	L CALC		
1P	0-30	ms]	10YR31 32	2					7	1	HR	15							
	30-63	ms]	10YR43 00	כ					0	0	HR	25	MDCSAB I	RM					
	63-85	ms	10YR64 68	3					0	0	HR	7	WDCSAB I	RG					
	85-120	ms	10YR73 74	1					0	0		0	S I	. M					
2	0-23	ms)	10YR31 00) 10YR5	8 00 F				0	0	HR	14						123 SE	EPIT 1
2P	0-30	msl	10YR32 00)							HR	7							
	30-45	ms ໄ	10YR42 53	3 10YR5	8 00 F				0	0			MDCSAB F						
-	45-70	ms Ì	10YR53 63	3 10YR5	658M			Y					MDCSAB F						
	7087	msl	10YR62 63					Y			HR		WDCSAB \						
	87–100	ms	10YR62 63	3 10YR5	8 00 M			Y	0	0	HR	40	S I	. M				PIT TO	10004
3	0-20	ms]	10YR31 00)					0	0	HR	14						120 SE	EPIT 1
			100001 00																
4	0-20	msl	10YR31 32	2					U	Ų	HR	15						120 SE	EPILI
	0.22	1	10YR31 00						~	•	un	14						122 55	
5	0-22	ms]		,					U	v	HR	14						122 SE	
6	0-28	msl	10YR31 32	,					0	٥	HR	13						128 SE	FDIT 1
Ū	0-20	11151	1011131 32	•					Ŭ	v	TIX.	13						120 50	6,11,1
7	0-25	msl	10YR31 00)					0	0	HR	12						125 SE	EPIT 1
	0 25								Č	Ŭ								120 02	
8	0-35	ms l	10YR31 32	2					3	2	HR	6							
	35-65		10YR43 53		F	c	00MN00 0	0			HR	10		м					
	65-85	msl	10YR53 63								HR	3		м					
•	85-95	msl	10YR63 00					Y	0	0	HR	4		м					
	95-110	с	25Y 62 63	3 10YR5	6 58 C			Y	0	0	HR	3		Ρ	Y	Y			
9	0-28	ms l	10YR32 42	2					3	0	HR	7							
	28-35	ms 1	10YR43 53	3					0	0	HR	20		м				145 SE	EPIT 1
10	0-30	msl	10YR32 00	1					2	0	HR	5							
	30-40	ms]	10YR32 44	Ļ					0	0	HR	8		Μ					
	40-70	ms]	10YR63 64	10YR5	558M	0	OMNOO O	0 Y	0	0	HR	5		М					
	70-80	msl	10YR63 64	10YR5	5 58 M	0	DOMINOO O	0 Y				20		G					
-	80-95	ms	10YR63 64	10YR5	558 M			Y	0	0	HR	20		м				195 SE	EPIT 2
, 11	0-30	ണടി	10YR31 32									12							
•	30-45	msl	10YR41 42	05Y 5	5 58 C			¥	0	0	HR	20		M				145 SE	EPIT 2

4 0 HR 10

7

4

7

5

20

30

М

М

М

м

М

190 PROB GR2

Y

0 0 HR

3 0 HR

0 0 HR

Y 0 0 HR

Y 0 0 HR

000M00 00 Y 0 0 HR

page 1