VALIDATION OF READING AGRICULTURAL CONSULTANTS REPORT ON LAND QUALITY AND SOILS PREPARED FOR THE EXTENSION TO GRIFF 5 QUARRY GYPSY LANE NUNEATON:(PIONEER AGGREGATES LTD) EL 43/11359

INTRODUCTION

Reading Agricultural Consultants(RAC) prepared a report on behalf of Pioneer Aggregates(UK) Ltd in February, amended in July 1996, covering land at Griff no 5 Quarry Nuneaton.

An Agricultural Land Classification(ALC) survey identified the following:

Grade/subgrade	Area(ha)	%
3a	8.9	40
3b	8.8	40
4	0.8	4
Other land	3.5	16
TOTAL	22.0	100

The main limitations to the agricultural use of the land include soil wetness, soil droughtiness and in places topsoil stone content.

Soil Units have been prepared and four units are mapped:

- Unit 1- typically medium clay loam over clay
- Unit 2- typically medium clay loam to depth
- Unit 3- typically medium clay loam over medium clay loam matrix with broken rock
- Unit 4- typically heavy clay loam over clay

Soil resources in terms of topsoil and subsoil have been identified and mapped.

ADAS STATUTORY RPT OBSERVATIONS- AGRICULTURAL LAND QUALITY

A site visit was made in November 1996 following receipt of RAC's report. Several auger borings were made across the site and one soil pit was dug. Annotated plans are attached to this report.

There is general agreement with the RAC ALC map, but minor differences were found in several areas as shown on RPT plan 1 and 2.

- In the vicinity of RAC borings 2 and 5 either the presence of rock or a slowly permeable layer placed the borings into Subgrade 3b. ADAS Statutory RPT recorded neither at the time of their survey and consider this area to be Subgrade 3a (RPT 1a).

- In the locality of RAC boring 11 a heavy clay loam topsoil was not observed by ADAS Statutory RPT who found soils of a medium clay loam texture and slightly more Subgrade 3a rather than Subgrade 3b(RPT 1b).

- The ALC map prepared by RAC in general is a fair representation of the land quality.

ADAS STATUTORY RPT OBSERVATIONS- SOIL UNITS AND RESOURCES

There is general agreement with the boundaries of the soil units, topsoil and subsoil types identified by RAC. However ADAS Statutory did identify differences which are outlined below:

- North western corner of site- close to RAC boring 11 where ADAS Statutory RPT did not identify a heavy clay loam soil as recorede in RAC soil notes and shown on RAC plan 3.
  This area is mapped as Soil Unit 4(heavy clay loam topsoil over clay) RPT 3a, but included in topsoil type A of Soil Unit 1 (RPT4) and subsoil type B(RPT 5).
  ADAS Statutory would place this area into Soil Unit 1 and subsoil type A.

- Subsoil types south western part of site adjoining western rock area-
  to the north a block of A1 subsoil- clay loam with broken rock is mapped on Plan RAC 5. ADAS Statutory RPT did not find it to be as extensive in a westward direction and would consider subsoil type A to be present here.(RPT 5a)

- To the south of this quarry area topsoil type A1 over subsoil type A2 with topsoil type A and subsoil type A1 on the western boundary is mapped. ADAS Statutory RPTconsider the area of A1 over A2 to have fewer stones and be less extensive and soil type A over A1 to extend further eastward (RPT 5b)

- A block of A1 subsoil type is mapped within type A in the centre of the site. ADAS Statutory RPT did not identify any difference and would place this area within type A.(RPT 5c)

- All topsoil types identified should be stripped, stored and replaced separately

- Subsoils identified for separation include type A upper subsoil.

- Use should be made of subsoil type A1 and A2- broken rock subosil as a soil forming material .

CONCLUSION

The ALC map prepared by RAC is generally a fair representation of the land quality on the site. Minor differences have been identified in two small areas.
The soils units and types identified are generally a fair representation of the site and stripping proposals are outlined. Minor differences in boundaries of soil types are noted in three areas.

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