

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

HANNS HALL ROAD, NESTON (PROPOSED GOLF COURSE)

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AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR HANNS HALL ROAD (PROPOSED GOLF COURSE)

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) Survey for this site shows that the following proportions of ALC grades are present:

| Grade/Subgrade | ha | % of site |
|----------------|-----|-----------|
| 3a | 4.9 | 55 |
| 3b | 3.8 | 43 |
| Other Land | | |
| Wood | 0.2 | 2 |

- 1.2 The main limitations to the agricultural use of land in Grade 3a are soil wetness and soil droughtiness.

- 1.3 The main limitation to the agricultural use of land in Grade 3b is soil wetness.

2. INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The site was surveyed by the Resource Planning Team in January 1995. An Agricultural Land Classification survey was undertaken according to the guidelines laid down in the "Agricultural Land Classification of England and Wales - Revised Guidelines and Criteria for Grading the Quality of Agricultural Land" (MAFF 1988).
- 2.2 The 8.9 ha site is situated to the north east of Neston, near Willaston (Wirral). The land immediately to the north, east and south west of the site is predominantly in agricultural use. The land immediately to the south east and west is occupied by housing.
- 2.3 The survey was requested by MAFF in connection with an ad-hoc development proposal to golf course.
- 2.4 At the request of the MAFF Land Use Planning Unit this was a detailed grid survey at 1: 10 000 scale with a minimum auger boring density of 1 per hectare. The attached map is only accurate at the base map scale and any enlargement would be misleading.
- 2.5 At the time of the survey the site was under cereal stubble from a previous crop.

3. CLIMATE

3.1 The following interpolated data are relevant for the site (SJ 313 780):

| | |
|------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| Average Annual Rainfall (mm) | 765 |
| Accumulated Temperature above 0°C January to June (day °C) | 1400 |

3.2 There is no overall climatic limitation on the site.

3.3 Other relevant data for classifying land include:

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| Field Capacity Days (days) | 176 |
| Moisture Deficit Wheat (mm) | 93 |
| Moisture Deficit Potatoes (mm) | 81 |

4. SITE

4.1 Three site factors of gradient, micro-relief and flooding are considered when classifying land.

4.2 These factors do not impose any limitations on the agricultural use of this land.

5. GEOLOGY AND SOILS

5.1 The geology of the area is comprised of Bunter Pebble Beds (British Geological Survey, Sheet 96 Liverpool 1 : 50 000). This is overlain with deposits of boulder clay.

5.2 The underlying geology influences the soils which have either a sandy loam or a sandy clay loam texture.

6. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

6.1 Subgrade 3a - occupies 4.9 ha (55 %) of the survey area and covers the centre of the site.

6.1.1 These soils typically have a medium sandy loam or sandy clay loam texture overlying sandy clay loam (with occasional sandy loam lenses) over clay to depth, with few stones within the profile. Observations of gleying and the depth to the slowly permeable layer place these soils in to Wetness Class III.

6.1.2 The main limitations to the agricultural use of this land are soil wetness and soil droughtiness.

6.2 Subgrade 3b - occupies 3.8 ha (43 %) of the survey area and is found in the north east and south west of the site. These soils are of two distinct types.

6.2.1 Firstly there are the soils that have a medium sandy loam texture overlying loamy medium sand and sand over sandstone. The lower subsoil is extremely stony. The moisture balance places these soils in to Subgrade 3b.

6.2.2 Secondly there are the soils in the north east of the site which have been disturbed and contain much foreign material which varies in texture, depth and brick content.

6.2.3 The main limitation to the agricultural use of the land is soil droughtiness.

6.3 Other land includes woodland which occupies 0.2 ha (2 %) of the survey area and is found in the south west and the north east of the site.

6.4 **SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES**

| Grade/Subgrade | Area (Ha) | % of survey area | % of agricultural land |
|-----------------------|------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 3a | 4.9 | 55 | 56 |
| 3b | 3.8 | 43 | 44 |
| Other Land | | | |
| Woodland | 0.2 | 2 | - |
| <hr/> | | | |
| Totals | 8.9 | 100 | 100 |
| <hr/> | | | |