AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

SPRING PARK FARM, COTTINGHAM
PROPOSED GOLF COURSE

ADAS
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AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT.
LAND AT SPRING PARK FARM (PROPOSED GOLF COURSE SITE)

1. INTRODUCTION AND GENERAL SITE CHARACTERISTICS

The site is located around National Grid Reference TAO 030344 on the north western edge of Cottingham approximately 9 Km north west of Hull city centre. It covers 72.2 hectares nearly all of which is in agricultural use.

Survey work was carried out in October 1989 when soils were examined by hand auger borings at 100 metre intervals at points pre-determined by the National Grid. Soil profile pits were also dug where necessary to assess stoniness, rooting depths and structure.

All assessments of land quality were made using the methods described in "Agricultural Land Classification: Revised Guidelines and Criteria for grading the quality of agricultural land". 9MAFF 1988)

1.1 Land Use

Most of the site is used for cereal production along with smaller amounts of oil seed rape and near Spring Park Farm, some permanent grass used for horse grazing.

1.2 Climate

Average Annual Rainfall (AAR) in the area is approximately 667 mm. Accumulated temperature (ATO) above 0°C between January and June is 1378 day °C and the land is at field capacity for 149 days a year. The temperature and rainfall figures indicate that there are no overall climatic restrictions on ALC grades.

Summer moisture deficits are 105 mm for winter wheat and 96 mm for potatoes. These figures suggest that, depending on stoniness and soil depth, there is likely to be a slight drought risk on the coarse and fine loamy soils which are common on the site.

1.3 Relief

Altitude varies between 13 and 44 metres above ordnance datum. Slopes rarely exceed 7° except in a few places in the south west where they are a significant limitation on ALC grade.

1.4 Geology and Soils and Drainage

The area is underelain by chalk over most of which there is a thick cover of light textured, fine to coarse loamy, boulder clay. Patches of heavier clayey drift also occur, especially in the eastern part of the site. Solid chalk is rarely encountered within 1 metre of the surface except in a few places on the higher land around Wood Hill at the western end of the site.

Soils reflect the underlying nature of the boulder clay and on the higher ground consist mainly of sandy loam, sandy clay loam, or medium clay loam topsoils over similar or slightly heavier subsoils. Soils in these areas are usually well or moderately well drained (Wetness class I and II). Wetter and heavier slowly permeable soils (Wetness classes III and IV) are more common on the lower ground around and to the east of Spring Park Farm. Shallow loamy soils over chalk occur in a few places near Wood Hill Farm.

2. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

The ALC grades occurring on the site are as follows:

Grade	Hectares	Percent of total site area
2	20.7	28.7
3a	31.8	44.0
3b	17.1	23.7
Farm Buildings	1.4	1.9
Other Non Agricultural Land	1.2	1.7
Total	72.2	100%

2.1 Grade 2

Grade 2 land is widespread in the north western part of the site and on the southern boundary west of Spring Park Farm.

Soils consist mainly of sandy loam or sandy clay loam topsoils over similar subsoils to depth. All profiles fall within Wetness Class I and are limited to Grade 2 by slight droughtiness.

2.2 Subgrade 3a

Land in this subgrade occurs around Spring Park Farm and along parts of the northern and southern edges of the site.

Soils consist mainly of sandy clay loam or clay loam topsoils and upper subsoils which pass into slowly permeable clay at depth. Most soils fall within Wetness Class III and are limited by topsoil wetness and workability problems.

2.3 Subgrade 3b

Around Spring Park Farm soils consist of sandy clay loam or clay loam topsoils over gleyed and slowly permeable clay. These profiles fall within Wetness Class IV and are limited by wetness and workability problems more restricting than on the adjoining 3a land. Also placed within this subgrade are areas near the old chalk pit and Wood Hill Farm where the main limitation on ALC grade is slopes of between 7° and 11°.

2.4 Non Agricultural

This consists mainly of woodland and scrub vegetation on disturbed ground near the disused chalk pit.

2.5 Farm Buildings

These consist of buildings and fixed equipment at Woodhill and Spring Park Farms.

Resource Planning Group
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