

TAUNTON STATUTORY UNI

FOOD, FARMING, LAND & LEISURE

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Dear Rhian.

Re: ALC GRADE OF LAND AT GLASTONBURY HEATH

From the just less than three years dipwell data you provided for the site it is not possible to give a firm grading. The wetness definitions in the ALC system refer to the profile being wet within critical depths for periods of time "in most years". However, data supplied by the agromet section indicates that in all 3 years the rainfall was below average.

Both transects met the definitions for wetness class IV in 1986/87, and wetness class III in the following two years. The sites are therefore at best wetness class III.

Interpolated climatic data for the site shows mean days at field capacity (FCD) of 167. The ALC grade for peat soils with 126-175 FCD, wetness class III and peat topsoil (top 25cm) is Grade 2. The same soil with wetness class IV is graded as Grade 3a.

On the basis of the data to hand, I would grade the sites as Grade 3a at worst, possibly grade 2. In any case they are Best and Most Versatile.

Please record 6 hours spent by me on the LURS form.

With best wishes

Peter Wood

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