3304-001-90.

BOWLING GREEN FARM, FARINGDON, OXFORDSHIRE

4. STATEMENT OF PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

[Sections 1-3 are contained in the Agricultural Land Classification report, (MAFF, January 1986) which should be read in conjunction with this Statement).

4.1 The site was originally surveyed during 1986 under the previous system of Agricultural Land Classification, (MAFF, 1966 and 1976). This has subsequently been revised. [MAFF (January 1989), Agricultural Land Classification of England and Wales. Revised guidelines and criteria for grading the quality of agricultural land]. A review of the agricultural land quality on the site, in the light of the revised criteria, using the information available from the 1986 survey, indicates that there is a broadly similar distribution of grades. However, it is thought that some slight upgrading may occur, particularly across the northern half of the site.

Soil Resources

4.2 Overlays accompanying the ALC map illustrate the pattern of topsoil and subsoil resources on the site. It should be emphasized that this is not a soil stripping map, but merely an illustration of soil resources available for restoration on the site.

Two topsoil units were identified:

4.3 Unit 1

This unit typically comprises about 26 cm, (ie. between 22 and 28 cm) of dark grey-brown or brown silt loam, which is occasionally mottled and usually slightly stony.

4.4 Unit 2

This unit occurs over the majority of the site and typically comprises about 30 cm, (with a range of 26-45 cm), of dark grey-brown or brown fine or very fine, sandy loam. These topsoils are generally stoneless, or occasionally very slightly stony, (sub-angular weathered limestone fragments).

Two subsoil units were identified, these broadly corresponding to the geology of the site, (see Section 2.3 of the ALC report).

4.5 Unit 1

This unit occurs across the southern part of the site in association with the Corallian limestone deposits. It typically comprises between about 20 and 45 cm of orange-brown clay loam, frequently brashy, (limestone fragments), which becomes progressively more brashy with depth, and commonly becoming impenetrable over brashy limestone at variable depths between 45 and 75 cm.

Occasionally the topsoil rests directly over brashy limestone at about 25-30 cm depth and the subsoil resource is therefore of limited extent.

4.6 Unit 2

This unit occurs towards the north of the site in association with Corallian sand deposits. They are generally deeper than these soils over limestone, being between 75 and 93 cm in extent and passing to a depth of at least 120 cm. They typically comprise orange brown or dark orange grey brown fine or very fine, sandy clay loam textures.

Overall these soils are well drained, although occasional profiles are mottled and gleyed at variable depths below about 30-45 cm indicating some drainage imperfections.

These subsoils have moderately good structures* being composed of well developed medium angular blocky peds.

* Structural information is inferred from descriptions of similar soils on an adjacent site which was surveyed during August 1985. (MAFF Ref: 6RL 1967A - 3304/006/85).

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