

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR SEFTON UNITARY DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Introduction

The site was visited by the Resource Planning Team in May 1992 and an Agricultural Land Classification Survey was carried out on a 100 metre grid with soils augered up to 120 cms.

Location, Altitude and Relief

Six sites were surveyed. Sites 'A' to 'E' were to the south and east of Formby, adjoining or close to the Formby by-pass. Site 'F' was 7 kilometres to the east at Lydiate, adjoining the A59 (T). Altitude is less than 20 metres on all the sites, and sites 'A' to 'E' are level, with site 'F' gently sloping. Altitude and relief are non-limiting in the classification of these sites.

Climate and Rainfall

The main parameters used in the assessment of the climatic limitations are average annual rainfall (AAR) and accumulated temperature (ATO). For these sites the figures are 833mm and 1447°C respectively, indicating that there are no climatic limitations on the sites. The field capacity days figure is 197, and the mean last frost is in late April.

Geology and Soils

Sites 'C', 'D' and 'E' are underlain by Freshwater Alluvium overlying Marl. The associated soils are typically loamy sands, or sometimes sandy loams and sandy silt loams, overlying sand, with clay at depth, particularly on site 'D'. Site 'C' was similar but peat bands also occurred at depth.

Sites 'A' and 'B' are underlain by Blown Sand overlying Marl. The associated soils are typically loamy sands over sands.

Site 'F' is underlain by Shirley Hill Sand overlying Bunter Sandstone. The associated soils are typically loamy sands over sands.

Land Use

At the time of survey sites 'A' and 'B' were permanent pasture and site 'C' a mixture of bare ground and rough grazing. Cereals were being grown on sites 'D', 'E' and 'F'.

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION - AREA AND PERCENTAGES OF EACH GRADE

Grade	Site A		Site B		Site C	
	Area (ha)	% of site	Area(ha)	% of site	Area (ha)	% of site
2	-	-	-	-	-	-
3a	0.5	25.	22.8	82	-	-
3b	-	-	0.8	3	10.7	100.0
5	-	-	1.6	6	-	-
Non-Agric	1.5	75	-	-	-	-
Woodland	-	-	1.7	6	-	-
Urban	-	-	0.9	3	-	-
Total	<u>2.0</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>27.8</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>10.7</u>	<u>100.0</u>

Grade	Site D		Site E		Site F	
	Area (ha)	% of site	Area(ha)	% of site	Area (ha)	% of site
2	6.9	36.3	3.9	31.2	2.1	50.0
3a	8.3	43.7	4.6	36.8	2.1	50.0
3b	-	-	4.0	32.0	-	-
5	1.1	5.8	-	-	-	-
Non-Agric	2.0	10.5	-	-	-	-
Woodland	-	-	-	-	-	-
Urban	<u>0.7</u>	<u>3.7</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total	19.0	100.0	12.5	100.0	4.2	100.0

Resource Planning Team
Wolverhampton Office
May 1992