

Agricultural Land Classification Report for Land at Range Lane, Formby

Introduction:

This 55.3 ha site was visited by the Resource Planning Team in September 1992. An Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) survey was undertaken using the guidelines laid down in the ALC Revised Guidelines/Criteria Booklet (MAFF, 1988).

Location, Altitude and Relief:

The site is situated to the southwest of Formby (SD 278 059), east of the Formby-Crosby railway. The land is bounded by St Luke's Church Road and Range Lane to the north with dunes and woodland to the west. The site is divided into two blocks. The land lies at an altitude of 8m and is almost level. Altitude and relief are non-limiting in the classification of this site.

Climate and Rainfall:

The main parameters used to assess climatic limitations are average annual rainfall (AAR) as a measure of the overall wetness and accumulated temperature (ATO), as a measure of the relative warmth of the locality. The figures for both are 829 mm and 1444°C respectively indicating no climatic limitations. The field capacity days are 191 with the last mean frost occurring in late April.

Geology and Soils:

The underlying solid geology is mapped as Keuper Marl with drift deposits of blown sand (predominantly in the west) and freshwater alluvium occurring as a block in the east. The associated soils are typically medium sands over sand, loamy sands over sands, and sandy loam over loamy sands or clays with sand at depth.

Land Use:

At the time of the survey the eastern block was under cereals with potatoes and cauliflowers growing in the NE. The western block is predominantly non-agricultural but for one small unit under pasture.

Agricultural Land Quality

Grade 2

Land in the grade covers 9.5 ha and 17.2% of the site and is situated in the eastern block. The topsoil typically has a sandy loam texture overlying a loamy sand with sand at depth. The main limitation to the agricultural use of this land is droughtiness.

Subgrade 3a

Land in this grade accounts for 10.5 ha and 18.9% of the survey area. This grade occurs as a central part in the eastern block of the site. Typically the soils have a loamy sand topsoil overlying a sandy subsoil. Droughtiness is the main limitation to these soils.

Subgrade 3b

This area accounts for 21.1 ha and 38.2% of the site, occurring along the southwestern and northwestern parts of the eastern block. A small area of 3b is present in the north of the western block. The soils are typically medium sands to depth. Occasionally fine sands occur as the topsoils. The main limitation in this area are the sandy topsoils which are not eligible for grades 1, 2 and 3a.

Grade 4

This area accounts for 1.4 ha and 2.5% of the site and is found as a narrow strip in the northwest corner of the eastern block. Micro-irregularities within the field, potentially limit mechanical operations, and limit the agricultural use of this land.

Non-agricultural Land

Land in this grade accounts for 12.8 ha and 23.2% of the site, dominating the western block. This land is presently under woodland and scrub, with dunes along the western edge.

Summary of Agricultural Land Quality

Grade/ Subgrade	Ha	as % of total	% of Agricultural land
2	9.5	17.2	22.4
3a	10.5	18.9	24.6
3b	21.1	38.2	49.7
4	1.4	2.5	3.3
Non-agricultural	12.8	23.2	-
Total Area	55.3	100.0%	100.0

RESOURCE PLANNING TEAM
Wolverhampton
October 1992

Subject to an agreed statement with
Reading Agricultural Consultants March 1994



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23rd March 1994

Dear Mr Williams,

Re: Marsh Fm, Range Lane , Formby

The final agreed figures are as follows:

	Grade Area (ha)	% of whole site
2	9.50	17.25
3a	8.50	15.5
3b	23.25	42.0
4	1.25	2.25
Non Ag	12.80	23.0
Total	55.30	100.0

Please let me know if these meet with your approval.

Yours sincerely,

Richard M. Rallings

cc. Mr Worthington