FYLDE BOROUGH LOCAL PLAN

North View Farm
Wrea Green

Agricultural Land Classification
ALC Map and Report
February 1999

Anya J Spalding
Resource Planning Team
Northern Region
FRCA Wolverhampton

RPT Reference: 031/98 & 25/RPT/0797
FRCA Reference: EL 21/11805
LURET Job Number: ME1AQN8

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT
FYLDE BOROUGH LOCAL PLAN
North View Farm, Wrea Green

INTRODUCTION

1. This report presents the findings of a detailed Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) survey on 2.9 hectares of land. The results of this survey supersede any previous ALC information for this land. The land is located to the north east of Wrea Green, centred on grid reference SD 400 318. The site is bounded to the north by agricultural land and by residential development on all other sides.

2. The survey was undertaken on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF) in January 1999 by the Resource Planning Team of the Farming and Rural Conservation Agency (FRCA)- Northern region of FRCA.

3. The land has been graded in accordance with the publication "Agricultural Land Classification of England and Wales - Revised guidelines and criteria for grading the quality of agricultural land" (MAFF 1988) .

4. At the time of survey the agricultural land on this site was under grass.

SUMMARY

5. The findings of the survey are shown on the enclosed ALC map. The map has been drawn at a scale of 1:5000 with an average auger boring density of 2 per hectare. The ALC map is only accurate at this base map scale and any enlargement would be misleading.

6. The area and proportions of the ALC grades and subgrades on the surveyed land are summarised in Table 1.

Table 1: Area of grades and other land

Grade/Other land	*Area (hectares)*	*% surveyed area*	*% site area*
1	-	-	-
2	-	-	-
3a	2.2	100	76
3b	-	-	-
4	-	-	-
5	-	-	-
Agricultural land not surveyed	0.5	N/A	17
Other land	0.2	N/A	7
Total surveyed area	2.2	100	-
Total site area	2.9		100

7. The agricultural land on this site has been classified as Subgrade 3a (good quality). The key limitation to the agricultural use of this land is soil wetness.

8. Good quality land is found throughout the site. The soils commonly comprise either a medium clay loam, sandy clay loam, sandy silt loam or sandy loam topsoil, overlying either a medium clay loam or sandy clay loam subsoil onto clay at depth. Occasionally sandier textured subsoils are present.

FACTORS INFLUENCING ALC GRADE

Climate

9. Climate affects the grading of land through the assessment of an overall climatic limitation and also through interactions with soil characteristics.

10. The key climatic variables used for grading this site are given in Table 2 and were obtained from the published 5km grid datasets using standard interpolation procedures (Meteorological Office, 1989).

Table 2: Climatic and altitude data

Factor	Units	Values
Grid reference	N/A	SD 400 318
Altitude	m, AOD	25
Accumulated Temperature	day°C (Jan-June)	1411
Average Annual Rainfall	mm	936
Field Capacity Days	days	208
Moisture Deficit, Wheat	mm	79
Moisture Deficit, Potatoes	mm	64
Overall climatic grade	N/A	Grade 1

11. The climatic criteria are considered first when classifying land as climate can be overriding in the sense that severe limitations will restrict land to low grades irrespective of favourable site or soil conditions.

12. The main parameters used in the assessment of an overall climatic limitation are average annual rainfall (AAR), as a measure of overall wetness, and accumulated temperature (ATO, January to June), as a measure of the relative warmth of a locality.

13. The combination of rainfall and temperature at this site means that there is no overall climatic limitation. The site is climatically Grade 1.

Site

14. The site lies at an altitude of 25 metres AOD. The topography of the site is generally flat in nature, gently falling towards the northern boundary of the site.

15. The three site factors of gradient, microrelief and flooding are considered when classifying the land.

16. These factors do not impose any limitations to the agricultural use of the land.

Geology and Soils

17. The solid geology of the area comprises of Kirkham Mudstones - British Geological Survey (1982). The drift geology of the site comprises of Glacial Clay - British Geological Survey (1971.

18. The soils that have developed on this geology are generally of a clay loam topsoil passing to clay.

Agricultural Land Classification

19. The details of the classification of the site are shown on the enclosed ALC map and the area statistics of each grade are given in Table 1, page 1.

Subgrade 3a

20. Land of good quality occupies 2.2 hectares (76%) of the site area.

21. The soils commonly have either a medium clay loam, sandy clay loam, sandy silt loam or a sandy loam topsoil, overlying either a medium clay loam or sandy clay loam subsoil onto clay at depth. Occasionally sandier textured subsoils are present. The depths to gleying and the slowly permeable layer place these soils in Wetness Class III.

22. The main limitation to the agricultural use of this land is soil wetness.

Other land

23. Other land occupies 0.2 hectares (17%) of the site area and is found as North View Farm.

Agricultural land not surveyed

24. Agricultural land not surveyed occupies 0.5 hectares (7%) of the site and is found as grassland. Access was not given for this part of the site to be surveyed.

Resource Planning Team
Northern Region
FRCA Wolverhampton

SOURCES OF REFERENCE

British Geological Survey (1982) Sheet 75, Preston, Solid Edition.
1:50 000 Scale.
BGS: London.

British Geological Survey (1971) Sheet 75, Preston, Drift Edition.
1:63 360 Scale.
BGS: London.

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (1988) Agricultural Land Classification of England and Wales: Revised guidelines and criteria for grading the quality of agricultural land.
MAFF: London.

Meteorological Office (1989) Climatological Data for Agricultural Land Classification.
Meteorological Office: Bracknell.