AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

Warren Farm, Pocklington
North Humberside

Proposed Golf Course

MAFF
Leeds Regional Office

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CONTENTS

MAP

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT ON THE PROPOSED GOLF COURSE AT WARREN FARM, POCKLINGTON

1.1 Introduction

The proposed Golf Course (Central Grid Reference SE 815497) lies about 1½ Km north east of Pocklington immediately north of the B1246 road near Kilnwick Percy. It covers a total area of 51.1 hectares all of which was surveyed in early November 1989. Soils were examined by hand auger borings at 50 points predetermined by the National Grid. Land quality assessments were made using the revised guidelines published by MAFF in 1988.

1.2 Climate and Relief

Salient climatic parameters at Warren Farm are as follows:-

Average Annual Rainfall (mm)		694
Accumulated Temperature Above 0°C (Jan-June)		1331
Field Capacity Days		168
Moisture Deficit (mm)	Wheat	95
	Potatoes	84

These factors indicate that there is no overall climatic limitation on ALC grade. Light textured soils, however, will be subject to a droughtiness limitation.

Most of the site is gently or moderately sloping although strong slopes do occur south of Hunger Hill. Altitude ranges from 45 m aod at The Lodge to over 80 m aod west of the Park Plantation. Average altitude is about 65 m aod.

1.3 Geology Soils and Drainage

Soils are formed on a mixture of solid and drift deposits. Solid Lias clays and Head deposits derived from the clay, along with a few flint and chalk stones from the nearby chalk outcrop, form a basal layer across much of the site. This has weathered to produce heavy fine loamy topsoils over gleyed slightly stony, clayey, slowly permeable subsoils (Wetness Class IV). The principal drift deposit is blown sand which forms a covering of variable thickness over the Lias clay in the area west of Hunger Hill. Here, topsoils are usually of medium sandy loam or loamy medium sand over a similar upper subsoil. This usually passes onto a clayey, slowly permeable, Lias clay lower subsoil at about 60 cm depth (Wetness Class II or III). Although topsoil wetness and workability is not a problem on these soils, they are likely to be limited slightly by droughtiness.

1.4 Land Use

All the farmland is currently in arable use. Two small areas of woodland are the only non agricultural use.

1.5 Agricultural Land Classification

Grade	Area (ha)	% of area
2	9.0	18
3a	1.0	2
3b	40.6	79
Non Agricultural	0.5	1
Total	51.1	100

1.5.1 Grade 2

Land of this grade occurs in the area west of Hunger Hill. Top and upper subsoils both consist of stoneless medium sandy loam or loamy medium sand. The lower subsoil is formed of gleyed, slowly permeable clay derived from the Lias. The principal limiting factor is slight summer droughtiness.

1.5.2 Subgrade 3a

This small area at the western edge of the site contains heavy clay loam topsoils over a clayey upper subsoil. Bedrock or very stony drift occurs below 50 cm depth and improves drainage enough for this area to be placed within Wetness Classes II and III. The main limiting factors here are topsoil workability and slight droughtiness.

1.5.3 Subgrade 3b

All remaining parts of the site are placed within subgrade 3b. Soils consist of heavy clay loam or clay topsoils over clayey, slowly permeable (Wetness Class IV) subsoils. Topsoil wetness and workability are major limiting factors on this land which will be difficult to cultivate in winter and early spring.

1.5.4 Non Agricultural

Two small wooded areas are included within this category.

Resource Planning Group
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