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Ministry of
Agriculture
Fisheries
and Food

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
LINDEN HALL HOTEL, LONGHORSLEY
PROPOSED GOLF COURSE
NORTHUMBERLAND
JANUARY 1995

ADAS
Leeds Statutory Group

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SUMMARY

A detailed Agricultural Land Classification survey of 78.5 ha of land at the Linden Hall Hotel, Longhorsley, Northumberland was carried out in January 1995, for a proposed golf course.

At the time of survey 75.5 ha of the land was in agricultural use and 58.5 ha falls into Subgrade 3b. Soils consist of poorly drained (Wetness Class IV) medium clay loam topsoils over slowly permeable clay subsoils, with occasional gleyed, permeable sandy clay loam upper subsoils. Soil wetness limits this land to Subgrade 3b.

17.0 ha of land falls into Grade 4. Soils consist of poorly drained (Wetness Class IV) heavy clay loam topsoils over slowly permeable clay subsoils. A more severe soil wetness and topsoil workability restriction limit this land to Grade 4.

The remainder of the site is Urban land and consists of 3 ha of a new housing development currently under construction.

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AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT ON LAND AT LINDEN HALL HOTEL, LONGHORSLEY, NORTHUMBERLAND, PROPOSED GOLF COURSE

1. INTRODUCTION AND SITE CHARACTERISTICS

1.1 Location and Survey Methods

The site lies approximately 2km north of Longhorsley, east of the A697, and is centred around National Grid Reference NZ 152 966. The site covers a total of 78.5 ha. Survey work was carried out in January 1995 when the soils were examined by hand auger borings at 140m intervals predetermined by the National Grid. One soil pit was dug to allow the profile to be described in greater detail. The land quality was assessed using the methods described in "Agricultural Land Classification of England and Wales. Revised guidelines and criteria for grading the quality of agricultural land". (MAFF, 1988).

1.2 Land Use and Relief

At the time of survey 75.5 ha of the site were under permanent grass and oilseed rape, with the remaining 3.0 ha being Urban. The site is level to moderately sloping (0-4°) and lies between 80m and 130m AOD.

1.3 Climate

Grid Reference	: NZ 152 966
Altitude (m)	: 100
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C (January - June)	: 1236 day °C
Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	: 770
Climatic Grade	: 2
Field Capacity Days	: 206
Moisture Deficit (mm) Wheat	: 80
Moisture Deficit (mm) Potatoes	: 63

1.4 Geology, Soils and Drainage

The site is underlain by Lower Carboniferous Limestone with a drift cover of boulder clay. Soils formed on the boulder clay are poorly drained (Wetness Class IV), and consist of medium and heavy clay loam topsoils over gleyed, slowly permeable clay subsoils, with occasional permeable gleyed sandy clay loam upper subsoils.

2. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

The ALC grades occurring on this site are as follows:

Grade/Subgrade	Hectares	Percentage of Total Area
1		
2		
3a		
3b	58.5	74.5
4	17.0	21.7
5		
(Sub total)	(75.5)	(96.2)
Urban	3.0	3.8
Non Agricultural		
Woodland - Farm		
- Commercial		
Agricultural Buildings		
Open Water		
Land not surveyed		
(Sub total)	(3.0)	(3.8)
TOTAL	78.5	100

2.1 Subgrade 3b

Land within this Subgrade occurs over the majority of the site, apart from the north east. Soils generally consist of very slightly stony medium clay loam topsoils over poorly drained (Wetness Class IV) gleyed, slowly permeable clay subsoils. Occasionally profiles will have a gleyed, permeable, sandy clay loam upper subsoil. Slowly permeable layers occur within 40cm depth and the land is limited to Subgrade 3b by severe soil wetness and topsoil workability restrictions.

2.2 Grade 4

The remaining agricultural land in the north east of the site falls within this grade. Soils are poorly drained (Wetness Class IV), consisting of very slightly stony heavy clay loam topsoils over gleyed, slowly permeable clay subsoils. These soils are limited to Grade 4 by very severe soil wetness and topsoil workability restrictions.

2.3 Urban

This category consists of an area of new housing, presently under development.

MAP