

ASHFIELD LOCAL PLAN - SITE Kd 8

FILE NOTE

Site Kd 8 has been removed from consideration in the Local Plan study and therefore no report has been prepared. This note provides information on the soils and ALC grading for the file.

Soils

Two distinct soil types have been mapped on this site with the majority of the site occupied by deep sandy soils. These soils typically have a dark brown loamy medium sand or medium sandy loam topsoil with few small and medium rounded Bunter pebbles overlying a reddish brown loamy medium sand upper subsoil with few rounded pebbles. Below 50-75 cm depth the lower subsoil is typically a reddish brown stoneless medium sand. The soils are free draining, Wetness Class I. Where this soil type occurs on the lower slopes and valley bottom that runs north south through the central part of the site, topsoils are typically medium sandy loam, whilst on the higher ground loamy medium sand topsoils predominate.

Soil Type 2 has been mapped along the eastern side of the site and comprises fine loamy over clayey profiles. These soils have a dark brown medium clay loam topsoil with few rounded Bunter pebbles overlying a reddish brown clay with common distinct ochreous mottles and grey streaks. Subsoil structure is typically coarse prismatic or very coarse angular blocky. These soils are generally slowly permeable immediately below the topsoil and are assessed as Wetness Class IV.

Agricultural Land Classification

Grade 2 land occurs in the valley bottom and on the lower slopes, where deep coarse textured soils with medium sandy loam topsoils have been mapped. These soils have a slight droughtiness limitation under the prevailing climatic conditions restricting the land quality to Grade 2. Subgrade 3a has been mapped on the slightly higher land where soil textures are generally sandier, having loamy medium sand topsoils. Moisture balance calculations indicate that these soils are moderately droughty especially for deeper rooting crops, restricting the land quality to Subgrade 3a.

Subgrade 3b has been mapped along the eastern side of the site where the heavier textured soils referred to above have been mapped. These soils are assessed as Wetness Class IV, which in association with the medium clay loam topsoil textures, gives rise to a moderately severe wetness and workability limitation under the prevailing climatic conditions. Two other small areas of Subgrade 3b have been mapped, which occur in the area of deep sandy soils. These areas however are moderately steeply sloping with gradients in the range of 7-10.5° thereby restricting these areas to Subgrade 3b as a result of a gradient limitation.

No irrigation is available on this site.