

Agricultural Land Classification
Proposed Golf Course Practice Area Land off Saltcotes Road, Lytham

Resource Planning Team
ADAS Statutory Group
WOLVERHAMPTON

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**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR
PROPOSED GOLF COURSE PRACTICE AREA LAND OFF SALTCOTES ROAD,
LYTHAM**

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) Survey for this site shows that the following proportions of ALC grades are present:

Grade/Other Land	Area (hectares)	% of surveyed area
3a	12.1	93.0
3b	0.7	5.5
Other land	0.2	1.5

Total Survey Area	13.0	100.0
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- 1.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of Subgrade 3a is soil wetness.
- 1.3 The main limitation to the agricultural use of land in Subgrade 3b is soil wetness.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The site was surveyed by the Resource Planning Team in September 1996. An Agricultural Land Classification survey was undertaken according to the guidelines laid down in the "Agricultural Land Classification of England and Wales - Revised Guidelines and Criteria for Grading the Quality of Agricultural Land" (MAFF 1988).
- 2.2 The 13 ha site is situated to the north of Lytham. The land immediately to the north and east of the site is predominantly in agricultural use. The land immediately to the south is predominantly in urban use. The land immediately to the west is occupied by a golf course.
- 2.3 The survey was requested by MAFF in connection with the ad hoc development proposal for an extension to a golf course.
- 2.4 At MAFF Land Use Planning Unit's request this was a detailed grid survey at 1:10000 with a minimum auger boring density of 1 per hectare. The attached map is only accurate at the base map scale and any enlargement would be misleading.
- 2.5 At the time of the survey the site was under permanent grass.

3 CLIMATE

3.1 The following interpolated data are relevant for the site (Grid Ref SD 375 285) :

Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	875
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C January to June (day °C)	1437

3.2 There is no overall climatic limitation on the site.

3.3 Other relevant data for classifying land include:

Field Capacity Days (days)	198
Moisture Deficit Wheat (mm)	85
Moisture Deficit Potatoes (mm)	72

4 SITE

4.1 Three site factors of gradient, micro relief and flooding are considered when classifying land.

4.2 These factors do not impose any limitations on the agricultural use of the land.

5 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

5.1 The solid geology of the area is comprised of Triassic Kirkham and Singleton Mudstone - British Geological Survey Sheet 74 Southport 1:50,000. This is overlain with deposits of Marine and Estuarine alluvium and Quaternary Glacial Drift and Till.

5.2 The underlying geology influences the soils which have either a clay loam or peaty loam texture over the site.

6 AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

6.1 Subgrade 3a - occupies 12.1 ha (93%) of the survey area and is found over the majority of the site .

6.1.1 In the southern half of the site the soil has an organic medium clay loam texture overlying heavy clay loam or clay to depth, with few or no stones within the profile. Observations of gleying and the depth to the slowly permeable layer place these soils in Wetness Class III.

6.1.2 In the northern half of the site the soil has either a peaty loam or organic clay loam texture overlying peat and silty clay to depth. The profile is waterlogged below 70 cm. Observations of gleying and the depth to the slowly permeable layer place these soils in Wetness Class III.

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

6.2 Subgrade 3b - occupies 0.7 ha (5.5%) of the survey area and is found in the centre of the site.

6.2.1 The soil typically has a clay loam texture overlying clay to depth. Observations of gleying and the depth to the slowly permeable layer place these soils in Wetness Class IV.

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

6.3 Other land includes two ponds which occupy 0.2 ha (1.5 %) of the survey area and are found in the centre of the site.

6.4 SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

Grade/Other Land	Area (hectares)	% of surveyed area
3a	12.1	93.0
3b	0.7	5.5
Other land	0.2	1.5
Total Survey Area	13.0	100