AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

PROPOSED GOLF COURSE AT
KEIGHLEY ROAD
SILSDEN
WEST YORKSHIRE

MAFF June 1991

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AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT ON THE PROPOSED GOLF COURSE AT KEIGHLEY ROAD, SILSDEN, WEST YORKSHIRE

Introduction

The proposed golf course which covers 35.4 hectares around Grid Reference SE 044450, lies between the village of Silsden and the River Aire, immediately east of the A6034. Survey work was carried out in May 1991 when soils were examined by hand auger borings at 32 points predetermined by the National Grid.

Climate and Relief

Salient climatic parameters at the site are as follows:-

Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	914
Accumulated Temperature Above 0°C (Jan-June)	1316
Field Capacity Days	222
Moisture Deficit (mm) wheat	76
potatoes	60

The above temperature and rainfall figures indicate that there is an overall climatic limitation of grade 2 on land across the site.

Slopes are level west of Holme Lane, but become moderate and gentle further east. Average altitude is 90 m a.o.d.

Geology, Soils and Drainage

Soils are developed on a mixture of drift deposits. West of Holme Lane alluvial deposits occur, and soils are mainly light textured with some evidence of gleying, but no slowly permeable horizons (Wetness Class I to III).

On the remaining land east of Holme Lane soils are formed on heavier textured drift, mainly boulder clay and Head deposits which contain slowly permeable horizons in which wetness is a major limiting factor (Wetness Class IV).

Land close to the River Aire and Silsden Beck is prone to occasional and frequent short term winter flooding.

Agricultural Land Classification

Subgrade 3a (20.0 hectares; 57% of total area)

This area corresponds with the better drained alluvial soils. Topsoils are usually of medium sandy loam or sandy clay loam over similar textured often gleyed subsoils. Soil wetness and workability are the principal limiting factors.

Subgrade 3b (15.3 hectares; 43% of total area)

The subgrade 3b land is limited by soil wetness and workability problems, which are much more severe than in the adjoining subgrade 3a area.

Topsoils consist usually of medium clay loam or sandy clay loam over clayey slowly permeable subsoils (Wetness Class IV).

Resource Planning Group Leeds Regional Office June 1991