

An Agricultural Land Classification Survey for Harewood End, Nr Ross-on-Wye

The site was surveyed by the Resource Planning Team in November 1992. It is situated approximately 6 miles North West of Ross-on-Wye and East of the A49 (T) road. The site covers approximately 50 hectares, most of which was in agricultural use at the time of the survey with grassland, cereals, potatoes, maize, fodder crops and sugar beet. It is bounded on all sides by agricultural land.

Climate

Average annual rainfall (AAR) - 742 mm

Accumulated temperature above °C January to June - 1418 day °C.

Field capacity days - 163 days.

Moisture deficit wheat - 98 mm.

Moisture deficit potatoes - 87 mm.

There is no overall climatic limitation to the agricultural use of this land.

Site

The site is of an undulating nature with a valley trending from the South West to the North East. It ranges in altitude from 125 m in the South to 65m in the North. In places steep slopes impose a limitation on the agricultural use of the land.

Soil

The underlying reddish brown medium grained sandstones have given rise to red soils with sandy loam and sandy clay loam textures, with occasional clay rich subsoils. In places the underlying sandstone occurs within 100 cm depth and some profiles contain fragments of weathered sandstone.

Agricultural Land Classification

Grade 2 - accounts for 29.4 ha and 58.8% of the site and occurs throughout the majority of the area surveyed.

Typically, these soils have sandy loam topsoils over sandy loams and sandy clay loams to depth, with few or no stones. Occasionally horizons of clay or loamy sand are found in the subsoil. Within the area mapped as grade 2, there are a number of auger borings of grade 1 quality. The main limiting factor on these soils is droughtiness.

Grade 3a - accounts for 4.7 ha and 9.4% of the site, occurring to the North West and South East of St Denis's Church.

Soils are mainly sandy loams and/or sandy clay loams to depth. The main limitation upon this soil is droughtiness resulting from the fact that sandstone bedrock (encountered at 40 - 65 cm) limits the overall depth of the profile.

Grade 3b - accounts for 7 ha and 14% of the site. These soils are very similar to those described above with sandy loam and/or sandy clay loam to depth. Occasionally bedrock is encountered within 100 cm depth. The main limitation upon these soils is that of gradient with slopes steeper than 7°.

Grade 4 - accounts for 2 ha and 4% of the site. These soils are similar to those above but are limited to this grade by slopes of >11°.

Non Agricultural - accounts for 3.9 ha and 7.8% of the site. It occurs as woodland at Upper Horse Rough and around the periphery of St Denis's Church.

Farm Buildings - account for 2.9 ha and 5.8% of the site.

	Hectares	% of Site	% of Agric Land
Grade			
2	29.4	59	68
3a	4.7	9	11
3b	7.0	14	16
4	2.0	4	5
Non Agric	3.9	8	-
Farm buildings	<u>2.9</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>-</u>
Total	49.9	100	100

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