

SOUTH WARWICKSHIRE LOCAL PLAN

LONG MARSTON

The site which covers 64 hectares, lies about 4 miles south west of Stratford upon Avon. It is bounded by the A46 to the east; the county boundary (Hereford and Worcester/Gloucestershire/Warwickshire) to the south; a minor road through Long Marston village to the west and extends to the northern end of the disused airfield. The southern half of the site is taken up by the Central Engineer Park and is mainly in urban or non-agricultural uses. The old airfield is in agricultural use, with other enterprises occupying the runways and other hard standings and surrounding areas. At the time of survey in May 1990 the land in agricultural use was under cereals, beans, grass for silage and permanent pasture.

Climate

Average annual rainfall is between about 620mm and 655mm, with August and November being the wettest months and February to April the driest. The accumulated temperature above 0°C for the period January to June is about 1450 day °C, and there is no overall climatic limitation. The balance between summer rainfall and evapotranspiration gives moisture deficits of about 100mm for winter wheat and 104mm for potatoes. The median duration of field capacity is about 138 days and the mean date of the last frost is late April.

Site

The site lies at an altitude of 40-45m and is level or only very gently sloping. Pronounced ridge and furrow is a feature of a number of fields, notably to the west of Doctor's Farm.

Geology

The solid geology of this area comprises Lower Lias clay, which gives rise to very uniform heavy clay soils.

Agricultural Land Classification

Grade 3b. All the agricultural land which has been surveyed is Grade 3b. The soils are very uniform over the whole site with stoneless, medium or heavy clay loam (and occasionally clay) topsoils over clay subsoils. Most are in Wetness Class IV or are in Wetness Class III with heavy topsoil. Some profiles on or around the edge of the airfield are disturbed and stony and compacted.

The non-agricultural land comprises woodland, sports ground and other amenity areas within the Central Engineer Park and some non farmed areas on the airfield. The hard standing and runways of the airfield are classified as Urban. Certain areas where ownership was not known have not been surveyed. The extent of the agricultural land around the Central Engineer Park has been mapped from aerial photographs without ground checking because of access difficulties.

Resource Planning Group

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