

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

CANROW FARM KNOWSLEY UDP

The site, which covers about 55 hectares, was surveyed by the Resource Planning Team in December 1992. It is situated to the north of Knowsley and is bounded by the A580 road to the north, the B5202 and Ormskirk Road to the west and by agricultural land and plantations of the Knowsley Park Estate to the south and east. At the time of survey most of the site was in agricultural use with cereals and vegetables including sprouts, carrots and potatoes. Areas of non-agricultural land include woodland at Goring Plantation and a small wet hollow adjacent to Knowsley Lane.

Climate

Average annual rainfall - 925 mm.

Accumulated temperature above 0°C for the period January to June - 1398 day°C.

Field capacity days - 215.

Moisture deficit wheat - 79mm.

Moisture deficit potatoes - 64mm.

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

Site

The site is very gently undulating and ranges in altitude from 34m at its western end on Knowsley Lane to 53m at its eastern end.

Soils

The underlying solid geology in the vicinity of the site is Bunter sandstone and this is overlain by drift deposits of Shirdley Hill Sand. This has given rise to light textured soils with dark coloured loamy medium sand topsoils over grey sand. Over parts of the site a heavier sandy clay or clay loam subsoil is encountered below 50cm. The major limitations to the use of these soils are droughtiness and topsoil texture.

Agricultural Land Classification

Grade 2. Most of the site has been mapped as Grade 2. Within this area there is some variation for profiles of or approaching Grade 1 quality to individual borings of Grade 3a. Much of the land mapped as Grade 2 is restricted to this grade by loamy medium sand topsoil textures. Droughtiness is also a major limiting factor. Soils have black medium sandy loam or more commonly loamy medium sand topsoils over

greyish coloured medium sand, with sandy clay loam in some profiles usually at depths of 50-80cm.

Grade 3a. Three areas of Grade 3a have been mapped. South of Tingle Peg Farm the soils appear to have been disturbed and/or mixed. Adjacent to the A580 and just south of New Road Farm is a slight hollow in the ground where the soils have heavier textured subsoils and are restricted by wetness. The north east corner of the site has loamy medium sands over medium sand depths below 30cm and is restricted to this grade by droughtiness.

GRADE	HECTARES	% OF TOTAL AREA	% OF AGRICULTURAL AREA
Grade 2	44.6	80	84
Grade 3a	8.7	16	16
Non-Agricultural	1.3	2	-
Agricultural Buildings	1.2	2	-
TOTAL	55.8	100	100

**RESOURCE PLANNING TEAM
WOLVERHAMPTON**