AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
GREAT GRIMSBY LOCAL PLAN
SITE AG 5, SCARTHO
AUGUST 1993

ADAS
Leeds Statutory Group

Job No:- 132/93
MAFF Ref:- EL 51/5

SUMMARY

An Agricultural Land Classification survey of 37.5ha of land at Scartho (Site AG 5, Great Grimsby Local Plan) was carried out in July 1993.

At the time of survey all of the site was in agricultural use of which 5.6ha falls in Grade 2. Profiles are moderately well drained (Wetness Class II) and typically consist of medium clay loam topsoils and upper subsoils overlying slowly permeable heavy clay loam lower subsoils. This land is restricted to Grade 2 by a slight soil wetness limitation.

9.9ha of Subgrade 3a land occurs on the site. Profiles are imperfectly drained (Wetness Class III) and generally consist of non-calcareous medium clay loam topsoils overlying similarly textured upper subsoils and slowly permeable heavy clay loam lower subsoils. The ALC grade of this land is restricted by a moderate soil wetness limitation.

The remainder of the site (22ha) falls in Subgrade 3b. Profiles are poorly drained (Wetness Class IV) and typically consist of medium clay loam or heavy clay loam topsoils overlying slowly permeable heavy clay loam or clay subsoils at around 30cm depth. The soil wetness limitation is more severe than on the other land on the site and this land is, thus, limited to Subgrade 3b by soil wetness and workability problems.

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AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT ON LAND AT SCARTHO, GRIMSBY, HUMBERSIDE

1. INTRODUCTION AND SITE CHARACTERISTICS

1.1 Location and Survey Methods

The site lies approximately 2½Km south of Grimsby town centre and is located around Grid Reference TA 272065. Survey work was carried out in July 1993 when soils were examined by hand auger borings at 100m intervals predetermined by the National Grid. Land quality was assessed using the methods described in "Agricultural Land Classification of England and Wales: Revised guidelines and criteria for grading the quality of agricultural land" (MAFF, 1988).

1.2 Land Use and Relief

At the time of survey the north and centre of the site was under winter cereals and the south of the site was sown to oilseed rape. The site lies at an average altitude of 15m AOD and is flat to gently sloping (typically 1-3°) with a variable aspect.

1.3 Climate

Grid Reference	: TA 272065
Altitude (m)	: 15
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C (January-June)	: 1396 day °C
Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	: 622
Climatic Grade	: 1
Field Capacity Days	: 138
Moisture Deficit (mm) Wheat	: 111
Moisture Deficit (mm) Potatoes	: 104

1.4 Geology, Soils and Drainage

The site is underlain by chalk deposits of the Cretaceous period overlying which are deep deposits of boulder clay. Profiles in the north and centre of the site are generally imperfectly or poorly drained (falling in Wetness Classes III or IV) and consist of medium clay loam or heavy clay loam topsoils (and, in places, upper subsoils) overlying slowly permeable heavy clay loam or clay lower subsoils at between 30cm and 50cm depth. Profiles in the south of the site are generally moderately well drained (Wetness Class II) and typically consist of medium clay loam topsoils and upper subsoils overlying slowly permeable heavy clay loam lower subsoils at between 50cm and 75cm depth.

The soils on the site are similar to the Holderness Series as mapped by the Soil Survey and Land Resource Centre.

2. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

The ALC grades occurring on this site are as follows:-

Grade/Subgrade	Hectares	Percentage of Total Area
1		
2	5.6	14.8
3a	9.9	26.4
3b	22.0	58.8
4		
5		
(Sub total)	(37.5)	(100)
Urban		
Non Agricultural		
Woodland - Farm		
- Commercial		
Agricultural Buildings		
Open Water		
Land not surveyed		
(Sub total)		
TOTAL	37.5	100

2.1 Grade 2

Grade 2 land occurs in the south of the site. Profiles are moderately well drained (falling in Wetness Class II) and typically consist of very slightly stony medium clay loam topsoils and upper subsoils overlying gleyed, slowly permeable heavy clay loam lower subsoils at between 50cm and 75cm depth. A slight soil wetness limitation is the factor which restricts this land to Grade 2.

2.2 Subgrade 3a

Land in this subgrade occurs in the north-west of the site. Profiles are imperfectly drained (falling in Wetness Class III) and generally consist of non-calcareous medium clay loam topsoils overlying medium clay loam or sandy clay loam upper subsoils and heavy clay loam lower subsoils. The lower subsoils are slowly permeable and generally begin at around 50cm depth. This land is, therefore, restricted to Subgrade 3a by soil wetness.

2.3 Subgrade 3b

Subgrade 3b land covers the central part of the site. Profiles are poorly drained (falling in Wetness Class IV) and typically consist of medium clay loam or heavy clay loam topsoils overlying gleyed slowly permeable heavy clay loam or clay subsoils at around 30cm depth.

The soil wetness and workability restrictions are more limiting than on the adjoining Subgrade 3a land and this land is, thus, restricted to Subgrade 3b.

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