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Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan
Site 14: East of Station Road
Oakley
Agricultural Land Classification
ALC Map and Report
March 1993

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION BASINGSTOKE AND DEANE BOROUGH LOCAL PLAN SITE 14: EAST OF STATION ROAD, OAKLEY

1. Summary

- 1.1 ADAS was commissioned by MAFF's Land Use Planning Unit to provide information on land quality on 22 sites around Basingstoke in Hampshire. The work forms part of MAFF's input to the Basingstoke and Deane Borough Local Plan.
- 1.2 14.9 hectares of land relating to site 14 at Oakley in Hampshire were surveyed during March 1993. The survey was undertaken at a detailed level of approximately one boring per hectare. A total of 15 borings and two soil inspection pits were described in accordance with MAFF's revised guidelines and criteria for grading the quality of agricultural land (MAFF, 1988). These guidelines provide a framework for classifying land according to the extent to which its physical or chemical characteristics impose long term limitations on its agricultural use.

At the time of survey, the land was under permanent pasture, being grazed by horses.

1.3 The distribution of the grades and sub-grades is shown on the attached ALC map and the areas are given in the table below. The map has been drawn at a scale of 1:5000. It is accurate at this scale, but any enlargement may be misleading.

Distribution of Grades and Subgrades

	<u>Area(</u> ha)	% total agricultural land
Grade 2	5.9	39.9
3a	6.4	43.2
3b	2.5	<u>16,9</u>
Total agricultural area	<u>14.8</u>	100
Urban	<u>0.1</u>	
Total area of site	<u>14.9</u> ha	

- 1.4 Appendix 1 gives a general description of the grades and land use categories identified in this survey.
- 1.5 A range of land classification grades were found to occur on the site, from very good quality grade 2 land, to moderate quality grade 3b land. Land assigned to grade 2 is subject to very slight workability and/or droughtiness limitations. Grade 3a land suffers from the same limitations, the difference being that heavier topsoil textures cause more severe workability problems, whilst shallower soil depth over chalk acts to impose a greater drought risk on the land. Grade 3b has been mapped where soils are very shallow over chalk, thereby being severely limited by droughtiness.

2. Climate

2.1 Estimates of climatic variables relevant to the assessment of agricultural land quality were obtained by interpolation from a 5km grid point dataset (Met. Office, 1989) for a representative location in the survey area.

Climatic Interpolation

Grid Reference	SU571507
Altitude, (m, AOD)	110
Accumulated Temperature	
(°days, Jan-June)	1411
Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	821
Field Capacity Days	178
Moisture deficit, wheat (mm)	97
Moisture deficit, potatoes (mm)	86

- 2.2 Climatic factors are considered first when classifying land since climate can be overriding in the sense that adverse climatic conditions may restrict land quality irrespective of favourable site and soil conditions. The details in the table above show that there is no overall climatic limitation affecting this site. In addition, no local climatic factors such as exposure or frost risk affect the land quality.
- 2.3 However, climatic factors do interact with soil factors to influence soil wetness and droughtiness limitations. At this locality, field capacity days are relatively high whilst moisture deficits are low, in a regional context. This cool, moist climate will mean a reduced likelihood of soil droughtiness problems and, correspondingly, an enhanced possibility of soil wetness restrictions.

3. Relief

3.1 The site lies at an altitude of approximately 110m AOD, falling gently from the highest point towards the north of the site, to the lowest around Park Farm.

4. Geology and Soils

- 4.1 British Geological Survey, (1978), Sheet 284, Basingstoke shows most of the site to be underlain by Upper Chalk with small areas of Clay-with-Flints mapped along the northern and southern-most site boundaries and in a small unit to the east.
- 4.2 Soil Survey of England and Wales, (1983), Sheet 6, Soils of South-East England shows the majority of the site to comprise soils of the Carstens Association, 'fine silty over clayey typical paleo-argillic brown earths, usually with reddish clayey subsoils and freely draining', (SSEW, 1984). A small area of Andover 1 association soils is mapped in the far southern part of the site, south of Park Farm and adjacent to Rectory Road. These soils are described as, 'variably flinty and chalky silty brown rendzinas over chalk', (SSEW, 1984).

4.3 Detailed field examination of the soils on the site broadly confirmed the presence of two main soil types similar to those described by the Soil Survey although the distribution was not as expected. Shallow chalky soils were observed across the mid slopes of the site, whilst deeper, variably flinty clayey soils were found either side of these.

5. Agricultural Land Classification

- 5.1 Table 1 provides the details of the area measurements for each grade and the distribution of each grade is shown on the attached ALC map.
- 5.2 The location of the soil observation points are shown on the attached sample point map.

Grade 2

Very good quality land has been mapped across the north-eastern and south-western parts of the site in association with relatively deep, clayey soils with variable stone contents which have developed over Clay-with-Flints. Profiles typically comprise calcareous, or more usually non-calcareous, medium clay loam or occasionally, medium silty clay loam topsoils. These may contain between 0 and 10% total stones, usually flints but sometimes chalk fragments. Similarly stony upper subsoils of heavy clay loam overlie clay in the lower subsoil. Occasionally these may be impenetrable, (to soil auger) due to slight stoniness and around Park Farm, profiles rest over chalk between 50 and 80 cm.

The land is well drained, soils being assigned to Wetness Class I, but its use for agriculture is slightly restricted due to minor soil droughtiness and/or workability limitations. Profiles may have slightly inadequate reserves of available water for crop demand due to only moderate depth over chalk or slight profile stoniness. In addition, the interaction of medium topsoil textures with climatic factors, (specifically relatively high field capacity days) gives rise to minor restrictions in terms of workability. Soils may be prone to structural damage or poaching if the land is cultivated or grazed at the wettest times of the year.

Subgrade 3a

5.4 Good quality agricultural land has been mapped where the limitations to agricultural use are slightly greater than those described in para 5.3 above. The use of the land is restricted by soil droughtiness and/or soil workability limitations. Occasionally the drainage of land is slightly impeded and it is therefore limited by soil wetness. This applies to a small area of land adjacent to the eastern site boundary. Profiles are similar to those described for Grade 2 land, the difference being either that soils are shallower over chalk or more stony throughout, or that topsoils have heavier textures or profiles have slightly impeded drainage. As a result the soil droughtiness, workability or wetness limitations (respectively), are more evident. However, this good quality land is capable of producing moderate yields of a wide range of crops.

Subgrade 3b

5.5 Moderate quality land has been mapped across the mid-slopes of the site where chalk outcrops close to the surface. The resulting soils are shallow and suffer from a significant soil droughtiness limitation. Calcareous medium clay loam topsoils directly overlie chalk from approximately 25-30 cm depth. Profile available water is severely restricted due to shallow soil depth and poor rooting into the chalk substrate. As a consequence crops are likely to be prone to severe drought stress during the drier parts of the year. The range of crops which can tolerate such droughty conditions is small and will be limited mainly to grass.

ADAS Ref: 1501/029/93 MAFF Ref: EL 15/144 Resource Planning Team Guildford Statutory Group ADAS Reading

SOURCES OF REFERENCE

- * British Geological Survey (1978) Sheet 284, Basingstoke.
- * MAFF (1988) Agricultural Land Classification of England and Wales: Revised guidelines and criteria for grading the quality of agricultural land.
- Meteorological Office (1989) Climatic datasets for Agricultural Land Classification.
- * Soil Survey of England and Wales (1983) Sheet 6, Soils of South-East England.
- * Soil Survey of England and Wales (1984) Bulletin 15, Soils and their use in South-East England

APPENDIX I

DESCRIPTION OF THE GRADES AND SUBGRADES

The ALC grades and subgrades are described below in terms of the types of limitation which can occur, typical cropping range and the expected level and consistency of yield. In practice, the grades are defined by reference to physical characteristics and the grading guidance and cut-offs for limitation factors in Section 3 enable land to be ranked in accordance with these general descriptions. The most productive and flexible land falls into Grades 1 and 2 and Subgrade 3a and collectively comprises about one-third of the agricultural land in England and Wales. About half the land is of moderate quality in Subgrade 3b or poor quality in Grade 4. Although less significant on a national scale such land can be locally valuable to agriculture and the rural economy where poorer farmland predominates. The remainder is very poor quality land in Grade 5, which mostly occurs in the uplands.

Descriptions are also given of other land categories which may be used on ALC maps.

Grade 1 - excellent quality agricultural land

Land with no or very minor limitations to agricultural use. A very wide range of agricultural and horticultural crops can be grown and commonly includes top fruit, soft fruit, salad crops and winter harvested vegetables. Yields are high and less variable than on land of lower quality.

Grade 2 - very good quality agricultural land

Land with minor limitations which affect crop yield, cultivations or harvesting. A wide range of agricultural and horticultural crops can usually be grown but on some land in the grade there may be reduced flexibility due to difficulties with the production of the more demanding crops such as winter harvested vegetables and arable root crops. The level of yield is generally high but may be lower or more variable than Grade 1.

Grade 3 - good to moderate quality agricultural land

Land with moderate limitations which affect the choice of crops, timing and type of cultivation, harvesting or the level of yield. Where more demanding crops are grown yields are generally lower or more variable than on land in Grades 1 and 2.

Subgrade 3a - good quality agricultural land

Land capable of consistently producing moderate to high yields of a narrow range of arable crops, especially cereals, or moderate yields of a wide range of crops including cereals, grass, oilseed rape, potatoes, sugar beet and the less demanding horticultural crops.

Subgrade 3b - moderate quality agricultural land

Land capable of producing moderate yields of a narrow range of crops, principally cereals and grass or lower yields of a wider range of crops or high yields of grass which can be grazed or harvested over most of the year.

Grade 4 - poor quality agricultural land

Land with severe limitations which significantly restrict the range of crops and/or level of yields. It is mainly suited to grass with occasional arable crops (eg. cereals and forage crops) the yields of which are variable. In moist climates, yields of grass may be moderate to high but there may be difficulties in utilisation. The grade also includes very droughty arable land.

Grade 5 - very poor quality agricultural land

Land with very severe limitations which restrict use to permanent pasture or rough grazing, except for occasional pioneer forage crops.

Descriptions of other land categories used on ALC maps

Urban

Built-up or 'hard' uses with relatively little potential for a return to agriculture including: housing, industry, commerce, education, transport, religious buildings, cemeteries. Also, hard-surfaced sports facilities, permanent caravan sites and vacant land; all types of derelict land, including mineral workings which are only likely to be reclaimed using derelict land grants.

Non-agricultural

'Soft' uses where most of the land could be returned relatively easily to agriculture, including: private parkland, public open spaces, sports fields, allotments and soft-surfaced areas on airports/airfields. Also active mineral workings and refuse tips where restoration conditions to 'soft' after-uses may apply.

Woodland

Includes commercial and non-commercial woodland. A distinction may be made as necessary between farm and non-farm woodland.

Agricultural buildings

Includes the normal range of agricultural buildings as well as other relatively permanent structures such as glasshouses. Temporary structures (eg. polythene tunnels erected for lambing) may be ignored.

Open water

Includes lakes, ponds and rivers as map scale permits.

Land not surveyed

Agricultural land which has not been surveyed.

Where the land use includes more than one of the above land cover types, eg buildings in large grounds, and where map scale permits, the cover types may be shown separately. Otherwise, the most extensive cover type will usually be shown.

APPENDIX II

FIELD ASSESSMENT OF SOIL WETNESS CLASS

Definition of Soil Wetness Classes

Wetness Class	Duration of Waterlogging ¹
I	The soil profile is not wet within 70 cm depth for more than 30 days in most years ² .
II	The soil profile is wet within 70 cm depth for 31-90 days in most years <u>or</u> , if there is no slowly permeable layer within 80 cm depth, it is wet within 70 cm for more than 90 days, but not wet within 40 cm depth for more than 30 days in most years.
Ш	The soil profile is wet within 70 cm depth for 91-180 days in most years <u>or</u> , if there is no slowly permeable layer within 80 cm depth, it is wet within 70 cm for more than 180 days, but only wet within 40 cm depth for between 31 and 90 days in most years.
IV	The soil profile is wet within 70 cm depth for more than 180 days but not within 40 cm depth for more than 210 days in most years <u>or</u> , if there is no slowly permeable layer within 80 cm depth, it is wet within 40 cm depth for 91-210 days in most years.
v	The soil profile is wet within 40 cm depth for 211-335 days in most years.
VI	The soil profile is wet within 40 cm depth for more than 335 days in most years.

¹ The number of days specified is not necessarily a continuous period.

² 'In most years' is defined as more than 10 out of 20 years.

APPENDIX III

SOIL BORING AND SOIL PIT DESCRIPTIONS

Contents:

- * Soil boring descriptions
- * Soil pit descriptions
- * Soil Abbreviations : Explanatory Note

SOIL PROFILE DESCRIPTIONS: EXPLANATORY NOTE

Soil profile and pit information obtained during ALC surveys is held on a database. This has commonly used notations and abbreviations as set out below.

BORING HEADERS

- 1. GRID REF: National grid square followed by 8 figure grid reference.
- 2. USE: Land-use at the time of survey.

 The following abbreviations are used.

ARA - arable PAS/PGR - permanent pasture WHT - wheat RGR - rough grazing LEY - ley grassland BAR - barley CFW - coniferous woodland CER - cereals OAT - oats DCW - deciduous woodland MZE - maize SCR - scrub OSR - oilseed rape HTH - heathland BEN - field beans BOG - bog or marsh BRA - brassicae FLW - fallow POT - potatoes PLO - ploughed SBT - sugarbeet SAS - set-aside FDC - fodder crops OTH - other FRT - soft and top fruit LIN - linseed

HOR/HRT - horticultural crops

- 3. GRDNT: Gradient as measured by optical reading clinometer.
- 4. GLEY/SPL: Depth in centimetres (cm) to gleyed and/or slowly permeable horizons.
- 5. AP (WHEAT/POTS) : Crop-adjusted available water capacity. The amount of soil water (in millimetres) held in the soil profile that is available to a growing crop (wheat and potatoes are used as reference crops).
- 6. MB (WHEAT/POTS): The moisture balance for wheat and potatoes obtained by subtracting the soil moisture deficit from the crop-adjusted available water capacity.
- 7. DRT: Grade according to soil droughtiness assessed against soil moisture balances.

8. M REL : Micro-relief
FLOOD : Flood risk
EROSN : Soil erosion
EXP : Exposure
FROST : Frost prone
DIST : Disturbed land
CHEM : Chemical limitation)

If any of these factors are considered
significant in terms of the assessment of agricultural land quality a 'y' will be entered in the relevant column.

LIMIT: Principal limitation to agricultural land quality. 9. The following abbreviations are used:

OC - overall climate

CH - chemical limitations

AE - aspect

WE - wetness

EX - exposure

WK - workability

FR - frost

DR - drought

GR - gradient

ER - erosion

MR- micro-relief

WD - combined soil wetness/soil

FL - flooding

TX - soil texture

droughtiness

ST - topsoil stoniness

DP - soil depth

PROFILES & PITS

TEXTURE: Soil texture classes are denoted by the following abbreviations:

S - sand

LS - loamy sand

SL - sandy loam

SZL - sandy silt loam

- silt loam ZL

MZCL - medium silty clay loam

MCL - medium clay loam

SCL - sandy clay loam

HZCL - heavy silty clay loam

HCL - heavy clay loam

SC - sandy clay

ZC - silty clay

- clay

For the sand, loamy sand, sandy loam and sandy silt loam classes, the predominant size of sand fraction may be indicated by the use of prefixes.

F - fine (more than $\frac{2}{3}$ of the sand less than 0.2 mm)

C - coarse (more than 1/3 of sand greater than 0.6 mm)

M - medium (less than ²/₃ fine sand and less than ¹/₃ coarse sand)

The sub-divisions of clay loam and silty clay loam classes according to clay content are indicated as follows:

M - medium (less than 27% clay)

H - heavy (27-35% clay)

Other possible texture classes include:

OL - organic loam

P - peat

SP - sandy peat

LP - loamy peat

PL - peaty loam

PS - peaty sand

MZ- marine light silts

- 2. MOTTLE COL: Mottle colour
- 3. MOTTLE ABUN: Mottle abundance

F - few - less than 2% of matrix or surface described

C - common - 2-20% of the matrix

M - many - 20-40% of the matrix

VM - very many - 40% + of the matrix

- 4. MOTTLE CONT: Mottle continuity
 - F faint indistinct mottles, evident only on close examination
 - D- distinct mottles are readily seen
 - P prominent mottling is conspicuous and one of the outstanding features of the horizon
- 5. PED.COL: Ped face colour
- 6. STONE LITH: Stone lithology. One of the following is used.

HR - all hard rocks or stones

MSST - soft, medium or coarse grained sandstone

SI - soft weathered igneous or metamorphic

SLST - soft oolitic or dolomitic limestone

FSST - soft, fine grained sandstone

ZR - soft, argillaceous, or silty rocks

CH - chalk

GH - gravel with non-porous (hard) stones

GS - gravel with porous (soft) stones

Stone contents (>2cm, >6cm and total) are given in percentages (by volume).

- 7. STRUCT: the degree of development, size and shape of soil peds are described using the following notation.
 - degree of development

WK - weakly developed

MD - moderately developed

ST - strongly well developed

ped size

F - fine

M - medium

C - coarse

VC - very coarse

- ped shape

S - single grain

M - massive

GR - granular

SB/SAB - sub-angular blocky

AB - angular blocky

PR - prismatic

PL - platy

8. CONSIST: Soil consistence is decribed using the following notation:

L - loose

VF - very friable

FR - friable

FM - firm

VM - very firm

EM - extremely firm

EH - extremely hard

9. SUBS STR: Subsoil structural condition recorded for the purpose of calculating profile droughtiness.

G - good

M - moderate

P - poor

- 10. POR: Soil porosity. If a soil horizon has less than 0.5% biopores >0.5 mm, a 'y' will appear in this column.
- 11. IMP: If the profile is impenetrable a 'y' will appear in this column at the appropriate horizon.
- 12. SPL: Slowly permeable layer. If the soil horizon is slowly permeable a 'y' will appear in this column.
- 13. CALC: If the soil horizon is calcareous, a 'y' will appear in this column.

14. Other Notations

APW - available water capacity (in mm) adjusted for wheat

APP - available water capacity (in mm) adjusted for potatoes

MBW - moisture balance, wheat

MBP - moisture balance, potatoes

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	65-70	c	75YR56 00						0		HR	10		M				Y	Imp 1	70
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,	40-80	hc1	10YR54 00						0	0 CH	5		M		Υ	
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	4	SU57205080						1	2	117	20	115	29	2				DR	2	IMP 93
	5	SU57005070	PGR	N	01	60		1	ЗА	137	40	114	28	1				WK	ЗА	IMP 90
	6	SU57105070	PGR		01			1	3A	112	15	115	29	2				WK	ЗА	IMP 85
,	7	SU57205070						1	2	131	34	115	29	1				WK	2	
	8	SU57005060	PGR	S	02			1	2	80	-17	83	-3	3A				DR	ЗА	CHALK 30
	9	SU57105060	PGR	S	. 01			1	3A	112	15	109	23	2				WK	ЗА	CHALK 60
	10	SU57205060	PGR	S		50	50	3	ЗА	139	42	115	29	1				WE	ЗА	SLGLEY50
	11	SU56905050	PGR	S	02			1	2	133	36	114	28	1				WK	2	
	12	SU57005050	PGR	s	02			1	2	109	12	108	22	2				WK	2	CHALK 50
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SOIL PIT DESCRIPTION

Site Name: BASINGSTOKE LP SITE 14 Pit Number: 1P

Grid Reference: SU57005060 Average Annual Rainfall: 821 mm

Accumulated Temperature: 1411 degree days

Field Capacity Level : 178 days

Land Use : Permanent Grass
Slope and Aspect : 02 degrees N

o tope and Aspects 1

TEXTURE	COLOUR	STUNES >Z	TOT STONE	POTTLES	STRUCTURE
MCL	10YR54 00	0	2		
MCL	10YR54 00	0	80		
CH	10YR81 00	0	0		
	MCL MCL	MCL 10YR54 00 MCL 10YR54 00		MCL 10YR54 00 0 2 MCL 10YR54 00 0 80	MCL 10YR54 00 0 80

Wetness Grade: 2 Wetness Class: I

Gleying : cm

. SPL : No SPL

FINAL ALC GRADE : 3B

MAIN LIMITATION : Droughtiness

SOIL PIT DESCRIPTION

Site Name: BASINGSTOKE LP:SITE 14

Pit Number: 2P

Grid Reference: SU57005070 Average Annual Rainfall: 821 mm

Accumulated Temperature: 1411 degree days

Field Capacity Level : 178 days

: Permanent Grass

Slope and Aspect

: 02 degrees N

HORIZON	TEXTURE	COLOUR	STONES >2	TOT.STONE	MOTTLES	STRUCTURE
0- 10	HCL	10YR33 00	0	2		
10- 23	C .	10YR44 00	0	2		STMSAB
23-120	C	75YR44 00	0	5	С	STMDAB

Wetness Grade : 3A

Wetness Class : I

Gleying

: No SPL

Drought Grade: 1

APW: 139mm MBW: 42 mm

APP: 116mm MBP:

30 mm

FINAL ALC GRADE : 3A

MAIN LIMITATION : Workability