AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

KIRBY MISPERTON, PICKERING

NORTH YORKSHIRE

PROPOSED GOLF COURSE

ADAS

LEEDS REGIONAL OFFICE

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AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT
KIRBY MISPERTON, NORTH YORKSHIRE

1. GENERAL INFORMATION AND SITE CHARACTERISTICS

The site is located 8 km north of Malton to the west of the A169 immediately west of the Flamingo Land Zoo at around National Reference SE NZ 77279. It covers approximately 37 ha.

Survey work was carried out in April 1991 when soils were examined by hand auger borings at 100 metre intervals at points pre-determined by the National Grid.

All assessments at land quality were made using the methods described in "Agricultural Land Classification, Revised Guidelines and Criteria for Grading the Quality of Agricultural Land", (MAFF 1988).

1.1 Land Use

All land on the site is in arable use and at the time of the survey consisted of a cereal crop, recently sown land and on oilseed rape crop.

1.2 Climate

Average annual rainfall (AAR) in the area is approximately 683 mm. Accumulated temperature above 0°C is 1341 day°C and the land is at field capacity for 171 days a year. The temperature and rainfall figures indicate there is no climatic limitation on agricultural land quality within this area.

1.3 Relief

Altitude on the site varies from 20 to 40 metres above ordnance datum. Slopes do not exceed 7° and thus do not impose any restriction on ALC grade.

1.4 Geology and Soils

The site is covered by till and glaciolacustrine clay derived largely from Jurassic strata. Soils are formed on glaciolacustrine clay in the lower lying northern part of the site and on heavy boulder clay in the higher southern area. Soils in both areas consist mainly of medium or heavy clay loam topsoils over poorly drained (Wetness Class IV) slowly permeable clay subsoils. The glaciolacustrine derived soils are stoneless; those on boulder clay are slightly stony. There is also a small area of somewhat lighter better drained land near the south eastern corner of the site. Soils here are slowly permeable only at depth and fall within Wetness Class III.

2. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

The ALC grades occurring on the site are as follows:

Grade	Hectares	Percentage of Total Area
3a	2.3	6.3%
3b	34.4	93.7%
Total	36.7	100%

2.1 Subgrade 3a

Land in this subgrade consists of soils with medium clay loam topsoils over similar upper subsoils passing to slowly permeable clay at depth. These soils are imperfectly drained and fall within Wetness Class III. Slight soil wetness and workability problems are the main limitations on land within this subgrade.

2.2 Subgrade 3b

Subgrade 3b land predominates over the site. Soils consist of medium to heavy clay loam topsoils lying directly over slowly permeable clay to silty clay subsoils. These soils are poorly drained and fall within Wetness Class IV. Severe soil wetness and workability problems are the main limitations on ALC grade.

Resource Planning Group
Leeds Regional Office
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