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SHEPWAY LOCAL PLAN
SITE 33: SELLINDGE, KENT
AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
ALC MAP & REPORT
SEPTEMBER 1993

2.0 Climate

2.1 The climatic criteria are considered first when classifying land as climate can be overriding in the sense that severe limitations will restrict land to low grades irrespective of favourable site or soil conditions.

2.2 The main parameters used in the assessment of an overall climatic limitation are average annual rainfall, as a measure of overall wetness, and accumulated temperature (degree days Jan-June), as a measure of the relative warmth of a locality.

2.3 A detailed assessment of the prevailing climate was made by interpolation from a 5km gridpoint dataset (Met. Office 1989). The details are given in the table below and these show that there is no overall climatic limitation affecting the site. However climatic factors do interact with soil properties to influence soil wetness and droughtiness limitations.

2.4 No local climatic factors such as exposure or frost risk affect the site.

Climatic Interpolation

Grid Reference :	TR 102 382
Altitude (m) :	65
Accumulated Temperature (days) :	1432
Average Annual Rainfall (mm) :	778
Field Capacity (days) :	162
Moisture Deficit, Wheat (mm) :	114
Moisture Deficit, Potatoes (mm) :	108
Overall Climatic Grade :	1

3.0 Relief

3.1 The site lies at an altitude of 65m AOD and slopes gently to the north.

4.0 Geology and Soil

4.1 British Geological Survey (1978), sheet 305 and 306, Folkestone and Dover shows that the entire site is underlain by head brickearth.

4.2 The soils have been mapped as the Parkgate Association as shown on the Soil Survey map of South East England (SSEW, 1983, 1:25,000). The soil is described as 'deep stoneless silty soils variably affected by groundwater.' (SSEW). Detailed examination of these soils on the site broadly confirms this.

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1.0 Summary

1.1 In September, 1993, a detailed Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) was made on 0.9 hectares of land on the north-western edge of Sellindge in Kent.

1.2 The work was conducted under ADAS sub-contracting arrangements by Nick Duncan and Associates and was in response to a commission by MAFF's Land Use Planning Unit to provide information on the quality of agricultural land affected by the potential inclusion of this land in the Shepway District Local Plan.

1.3 The classification has been made using MAFF's revised guidelines and criteria for grading the quality of agricultural land. 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 use for agriculture.

1.4 Two soil borings and one soil pit were examined.

1.5 All of the agricultural area (0.7 ha) has been classified as Grade 2 due to a minor wetness limitation. The soils show evidence of shallow seasonal waterlogging and this restricts the utilisation of the land. The rest of the site (0.2 ha) is classified as Urban.

1.6 The ALC information is shown on the attached map. The information is presented at a scale of 1:5,000; it is accurate at this level but any enlargement would be misleading. This map supercedes any previous ALC information for this site.

1.7 A general description of the grades and sub-grades is provided as an appendix. The main classes are described in terms of the type of limitation that can occur, the typical cropping range and the expected level and consistency of yield.

5.0 Agricultural Land Classification

5.1 The attached ALC map provides details of the area measurements and distribution of each grade and the distribution of each grade.

5.2 The location of the soil observation points are shown on the attached sample point map.

5.3 Grade 2

The soils found in this survey correlate well with the Parkgate series having a silt loam topsoil over a mottled yellowish brown medium silty clay loam upper subsoil. The soils become slightly greyer and more mottled below 60cm and have a heavy clay loam texture. The subsoil is porous throughout with $> 0.5\%$ biopores and is also stoneless. Although there is no slowly permeable layer, the soils are sufficiently gleyed to qualify for Wetness Class II. Soil wetness adversely affects crop growth and development and restricts opportunities for land work. Thus restricting the land to Grade 2.

ADAS REFERENCE : 2010/185/93
MAFF REFERENCE : EL 20/109

Resource Planning Team
Guildford Statutory Group
ADAS Reading

REFERENCES

* British Geological Survey (1978), Sheet No.305 & 306, Folkestone and Dover A, 1:50,000

* MAFF (1988), Agricultural Land Classification of England And Wales : revised guidelines and criteria for grading the quality of agricultural land.

* Meteorological Office (1989), Climatological Data for Agricultural Land Classification.

* Soil Survey of England and Wales (1983), Sheet No.6, Soils of South East England, 1:250,000. And accompanying legend.