

## AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

### BARGYLOO FARM, BOLD HEATH, ST HELENS

#### 1. Summary

1.1 The Agricultural Land Classification survey for this site shows that the following proportions of ALC grades are present :

Grade 2 :	8.2 hectares, 16% of the site
Sub grade 3a :	19.8 hectares, 38% of the site
Sub grade 3b :	21.8 hectares, 42% of the site
Woodland :	2.2 hectares, 4% of the site
Open Water :	0.22 hectares, > 1% of the site.

1.2 The Grade 2 land is limited by wetness and the sub grade 3a land by wetness and droughtiness.

1.3 The sub grade 3b land is heavier and limited by wetness.

#### 2. Introduction

2.1 The site was visited by the Resource Planning Team in July 1993. An ALC survey was undertaken according to the guidelines laid down in the "Agricultural Land Classification of England and Wales - Revised Guidelines and Criteria for Grading the Quality of the Land" (MAFF 1988).

2.2 The 52 hectare site is situated at NGR, SJ 544891 immediately to the north of the A57 and approximately 4 miles south of St Helen's. The surrounding land is currently in agricultural use.

2.3 The survey was requested by MAFF in connection with an ad-hoc development proposal for a golf course. No previous detailed survey information was available for this area.

2.4 At LUPU's request this was a detailed grid survey at 1 : 10,000 with a minimum auger boring density of 1 per hectare. The attached map is only accurate at the base map scale, any enlargement would be misleading.

2.5 At the time of the survey the site was under cereals, oilseed rape, beans and setaside.

#### 3. CLIMATE

3.1 Climate has a major, and in places overriding influence on land quality irrespective of favourable soil or site conditions. Climate therefore is considered first in grazing land.

3.2 The following information was obtained for the site.

Average annual rainfall	834 mm
Accumulated temperature above 0°C January to June	1429 day°C
Field capacity days	197 days
Moisture deficit wheat	87 mm
Moisture deficit potatoes	75 mm

3.3 There is no overall climatic limitation on this site.

#### 4. SITE LIMITATIONS

4.1 The assessment of site factors is primarily concerned with the way in which topography influences the use of agricultural machinery. These include gradient, micro relief and flooding.

4.2 The site is level with shallow hollows in places. There are no site limitations.

#### 5. GEOLOGY AND SOILS

5.1 The 1" geological survey map of the area (sheet 97Kuncorn) figures shows that the solid geology of the area comprises Upper Mottled Sandstone and Bunter Pebble Beds. This is overlain by deposits of boulder clay.

5.2 All of these factors have contributed to the development of soils which are mixed and include sandy loams, clay loams, clay and sand.

#### 6. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

6.1 Grade 2 occupies 8.2 hectares (16%) of the survey area and is found in two blocks across the centre of the site.

6.1.1 Soil profiles have sandy loam topsoils over mixed subsoils which can include sandy clay loam, loamy sand and sand horizons. Lenses of clay were found in places. These soils are limited by wetness.

6.2 Sub grade 3a occupies 19.8 hectares (38%) of the survey area. It is found as a central bandy through the site.

6.2.1 This land mainly comprises a sandy clay loam or medium clay loam topsoil over a mixed sandy clay loam subsoil with clay at depth in places. There are few stones within the profile. These soils are limited by wetness.

6.2.2 Within this grade there are occasional profiles of a lighter texture with sandy loam topsoils over a mixed loamy sand, sand and/or sandy clay loam subsoil. These profiles are limited by droughtiness.

6.3 Sub grade 3b occupies 21.8 hectares (42%) of the survey area. It is found in the north and south of the site.

- 6.3.1 Profiles within this grade have a clay loam topsoil with few stones over a subsoil of sandy clay loam and clay. Occasionally topsoils may be of a sandy clay loam texture.
- 6.3.2 The main limitation is wetness.
- 6.4 Woodland occupies 2.2 hectares (4%) of the survey area. It is found to the west of the site.
- 6.5 Open water occupies 0.22 hectares (less than 1%) of the survey area. It occurs as a series of small ponds throughout the site.

**RESOURCE PLANNING TEAM  
WOLVERHAMPTON**

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