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Hart District Local Plan
Holt Lane, Hook
Agricultural Land Classification
ALC Map and Report
May 1995

#### AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT

# HART DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN HOLT LANE, HOOK

# 1. Summary

- 1.1 ADAS was commissioned by MAFF's Land Use Planning Unit to provide information on land quality for a number of sites in the Hart district of Hampshire. This forms part of MAFF's input to the preparation of the Hart District Local Plan.
- 1.2 The site comprises 11.5 hectares of land to the east of Holt Lane, Hook, in Hampshire which was surveyed during May 1995. The Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) survey was undertaken at a detailed level of approximately one boring per hectare. A total of 11 auger borings and 2 soil inspection pits were assessed 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 use for agriculture.
- 1.3 The work was carried out by members of the Resource Planning Team in the Guildford Statutory Group of ADAS.
- 1.4 At the time of the survey the majority of agricultural land on this site was under permanent pasture with some grassland ley. Urban land, comprising a private dwelling, and farm buildings is also mapped.
- 1.5 The distribution of grades and subgrades is shown on the attached ALC map and the areas are given in Table 1 below. The map has been drawn at a scale of 1:10,000. It is accurate at this scale, but any enlargement would be misleading. This map supersedes any previous ALC information for this site.

Table 1: Distribution of Grades and Subgrades

Grade	Area (ha)	% of Site		
3a	10.5	91.3		
Farm Buildings	0.5	4.3		
Urban	0.4	3.5		
Non-Agricultural	<u>0.1</u>	<u>0.9</u>		
Total area of site	11.5	100%		

- 1.6 Appendix I gives a general description of the grades, subgrades and land use categories identified in the survey. 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.
- 1.7 All of the agricultural land on this site has been classified as Subgrade 3a, good quality, the key limitation being either soil wetness or soil droughtiness. In the south of the site the land comprises poorly drained, medium clay loams over poorly structured clay subsoils which impede drainage and lead to a slight wetness limitation. In the north the soils are more freely draining due to lighter textures (sandy silt loams and sandy loams) and a higher

stone content which combine to restrict the amount of water available for extraction by crops.

#### 2. 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 (day degrees Celsius, Jan-June), as a measure of the relative warmth of a locality.
- 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, Field Capacity Days (FCD) range from 149-151 FCDs at this locality and therefore straddle the 150 FCD boundary used in Agricultural Land Classification. Nevertheless the soils are such that agricultural land quality is not affected by this boundary. Other climatic factors do, however, interact with soil properties to influence soil wetness and droughtiness limitations.
- 2.4 No local climatic factors such as exposure or frost risk are believed to affect the site.

**Table 2 : Climatic Interpolations** 

Grid Reference	SU 735 545	SU 735 542
Altitude (m)	65	75
Accumulated Temperature	1456	1445
(day degrees, Jan-June)		
Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	700	707
Field Capacity (days)	149	151
Moisture Deficit, Wheat (mm)	109	108
Moisture Deficit, Potatoes (mm)	103	101
Overall Climatic Grade	1	1

#### 3. Relief

3.1 The land on this site is relatively flat, lying at approximately 65-75m AOD. Nowhere on the site does altitude or relief impose limitations to agricultural land quality.

## 4. Geology and Soil

- 4.1 The relevant geological sheet (BGS, 1981) maps the entire site as London Clay.
- 4.2 The published soil information for the site (SSEW, 1983) shows the Wickham 4 association. These soils are described as 'Slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged fine loamy over clayey and fine silty over clayey soils, often with brown subsoils.' (SSEW, 1983).

4.3 Detailed field survey broadly confirms the existence of soils similar to those described as the Wickham 4 association in the south of the site. In the north the sandy silt loams, clay loams and clays were well drained with a high flint content.

#### 5. Agricultural Land Classification

- Table 1 provides the details of the area measurements for each grade and the distribution of 5.1 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.

# Subgrade 3a

- 5.3 Land classified as Subgrade 3a (good quality) has been mapped across the entire site. Pit 1 is representative of the soils in the south. These profiles comprise very slightly flinty (2-5% total stone) medium clay loam topsoils over moderately structured, gleyed, upper subsoils of similar texture and stone content. At between 45-60cm depth the poorly structured, slowly permeable, clay lower subsoil causes a moderate drainage impedence. This land has therefore been assessed as Wetness Class III, Subgrade 3a, as wet soils such as these may be susceptible to structural damage through trafficking by agricultural machinery and poaching by livestock. Root development and plant growth may also be restricted.
- 5.4 In the north of the site the profiles are free draining. The topsoils comprise slightly flinty (5-15% total stone & 2-7% >2cm) fine sandy silt loams over similarly textured, fine sandy loam or medium clay loam upper subsoils with 8-30% total flint. In the subsoil, between 25-70cm depth, the profiles become impenetrable to the soil auger. Pit 2 shows the flint content to be 55% by volume though this slightly decreases to 45% in the clay lower subsoil. A combination of this high flint content and the light soil textures acts to reduce the amount of water in the profile that is available for plants, thus restricting crop establishment and growth. This land has therefore been classified as Subgrade 3a on the basis of a moderate soil droughtiness limitation.

ADAS Ref: 1506/106/95

MAFF Ref: 15/347

Resource Planning Team Guildford Statutory Group

ADAS Reading

# **SOURCES OF REFERENCE**

British Geological Survey (1981): Sheet No. 284, Basingstoke, 1:50,000 Scale (solid & drift edition).

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 6, Soils of South East England, and accompanying legend.

#### APPENDIX I

#### DESCRIPTION OF THE GRADES AND SUBGRADES

#### 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 or horticultural crops can usually be grown but on some land of this 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 land.

## Grade 3: Good to Moderate Quality Land

Land with moderate limitations which affect the choice of crops, the timing and type of cultivation, harvesting or the level of yield. When 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 the 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 severe limitations which restrict use to permanent pasture or rough grazing, except for occasional pioneer forage crops.

#### Urban

Built-up or 'hard' uses with relatively little potential for a return to agriculture including: housing, industry, commerce, education, transport, religous buildings, cemetries. 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. 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, eg. buildings in large grounds, and where map scale permits, the cover types may be shown separately. Otherwise, the most extensive cover type will be shown.

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# APPENDIX II

# FIELD ASSESSMENT OF SOIL WETNESS CLASS

#### SOIL WETNESS CLASSIFICATION

Soil wetness is classified according to the depth and duration of waterlogging in the soil profile. Six soil wetness classes are identified and are defined in the table below.

# **Definition of Soil Wetness Classes**

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

Soils can be allocated to a wetness class on the basis of quantitative data recorded over a period of many years or by the interpretation of soil profile characteristics, site and climatic factors. Adequate quantitative data will rarely be available for ALC surveys and therefore the interpretative method of field assessment is used to identify soil wetness class in the field. The method adopted here is common to ADAS and the SSLRC.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>The number of days specified is not necessarily a continuous period.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>'In most years' is defined as more than 10 out of 20 years.

# APPENDIX III

# SOIL PIT AND SOIL BORING DESCRIPTIONS

# Contents:

Soil Abbreviations - Explanatory Note

**Soil Pit Descriptions** 

**Database Printout - Boring Level Information** 

**Database Printout - Horizon Level Information** 

# SOIL PROFILE DESCRIPTIONS: EXPLANATORY NOTE

Soil pit and auger boring information collected during ALC fieldwork is held on a computer database. This uses notations and abbreviations as set out below.

# **Boring Header Information**

- 1. GRID REF: national 100 km grid square and 8 figure grid reference.
- 2. USE: Land use at the time of survey. The following abbreviations are used.

ARA: Arable WHT: Wheat BAR: Barley
CER: Cereals OAT: Oats MZE: Maize
OSR: Oilseed rape BEN: Field Beans BRA: Brassicae
POT: Potatoes SBT: Sugar Beet FCD: Fodder Crops

LIN: Linseed FRT: Soft and Top Fruit FLW: Fallow

PGR: Permanent PastureLEY: Ley Grass RGR: Rough Grazing SCR: Scrub CFW: Coniferous Woodland DCW: Deciduous Wood

HTH: Heathland BOG: Bog or Marsh FLW: Fallow PLO: Ploughed SAS: Set aside OTH: Other

**HRT**: Horticultural Crops

- 3. GRDNT: Gradient as estimated or measured by a hand-held optical clinometer.
- 4. GLEY/SPL: Depth in centimetres (cm) to gleying and/or slowly permeable layers.
- 5. AP (WHEAT/POTS): Crop-adjusted available water capacity.
- 6. MB (WHEAT/POTS): Moisture Balance. (Crop adjusted AP crop adjusted MD)
- 7. **DRT**: Best grade according to soil droughtiness.
- 8. If any of the following factors are considered significant, 'Y' will be entered in the relevant column.

MREL: Microrelief limitation FLOOD: Flood risk EROSN: Soil erosion risk EXP: Exposure limitation FROST: Frost prone DIST: Disturbed land

**CHEM**: Chemical limitation

9. **LIMIT**: The main limitation to land quality. The following abbreviations are used.

OC : Overall Climate AE : Aspect EX : Exposure
FR : Frost Risk GR : Gradient MR : Microrelief
FL : Flood Risk TX : Topsoil Texture DP : Soil Depth
CH : Chemical WE : Wetness WK : Workability

**DR**: Drought **ER**: Erosion Risk **WD**: Soil Wetness/Droughtiness

ST: Topsoil Stoniness

## Soil Pits and Auger Borings

**TEXTURE**: soil texture classes are denoted by the following abbreviations.

S:Sand LS: Loamy Sand SL: Sandy Loam SZL: Sandy Silt Loam CL: Clay Loam **ZCL**: Silty Clay Loam

ZL:Silt Loam SCL: Sandy Clay Loam C: Clay

Silty Clay Organic Loam SC: Sandy Clay ZC: OL: **P**: Peat SP: Sandy Peat LP: Loamy Peat PL:

Peaty Sand MZ: Marine Light Silts Peaty Loam PS:

For the sand, loamy sand, sandy loam and sandy silt loam classes, the predominant size of sand fraction will be indicated by the use of the following prefixes:

 $\mathbf{F}$ Fine (more than 66% of the sand less than 0.2mm)

Medium (less than 66% fine sand and less than 33% coarse sand)  $\mathbf{M}$ :

Coarse (more than 33% of the sand larger than 0.6mm)

The clay loam and silty clay loam classes will be sub-divided according to the clay content:  $\mathbf{M}$ : Medium (<27% clay)  $\mathbf{H}$ : Heavy (27-35% clay)

- 2. MOTTLE COL: Mottle colour using Munsell notation.
- MOTTLE ABUN: Mottle abundance, expressed as a percentage of the matrix or 3. surface described.

M: many 20-40% VM: very many 40% + F: few <2% C: common 2-20%

**MOTTLE CONT**: Mottle contrast 4

> $\mathbf{F}$ : faint - indistinct mottles, evident only on close inspection

distinct - mottles are readily seen **D**:

prominent - mottling is conspicuous and one of the outstanding features of the **P** : horizon

- **PED. COL**: Ped face colour using Munsell notation. 5.
- 6. GLEY: If the soil horizon is gleyed a 'Y' will appear in this column. If slightly gleyed, an 'S' will appear.
- **STONE LITH**: Stone Lithology One of the following is used. 7.

HR: all hard rocks and stones SLST: soft oolitic or dolimitic limestone

**FSST**: soft, fine grained sandstone CH: chalk

soft, argillaceous, or silty rocks GH: gravel with non-porous (hard) stones ZR:

gravel with porous (soft) stones MSST : soft, medium grained sandstone GS :

soft weathered igneous/metamorphic rock SI:

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

STRUCT: the degree of development, size and shape of soil peds are described using 8. the following notation:

degree of development WK: weakly developed

ST: strongly developed

ped size

F: fine

M: medium

C: coarse

VC: very coarse

MD: moderately developed

ped shape

: single grain

M: massive

GR: granular

AB: angular blocky

SAB: sub-angular blocky

PR: prismatic

PL: platy

9. **CONSIST**: Soil consistence is described using the following notation:

VF: very friable FR: friable L: loose

FM: firm

VM: very firm

EM: extremely firm

EH: extremely hard

10. SUBS STR: Subsoil structural condition recorded for the purpose of calculating profile droughtiness: G: good M: moderate P: poor

11. POR: Soil porosity. If a soil horizon has less than 0.5% biopores >0.5 mm, a 'Y' will appear in this column.

12. IMP: If the profile is impenetrable to rooting a 'Y' will appear in this column at the appropiate horizon.

13. SPL: Slowly permeable layer. If the soil horizon is slowly permeable a 'Y' will appear in this column.

14. CALC: If the soil horizon is calcareous, a 'Y' will appear in this column.

15. Other notations

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

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

moisture balance, wheat MBW: MBP:

moisture balance, potatoes

SOIL PIT DESCRIPTION

Site Name: HART DLP, HOLT LANE, HOOK Pit Number: 1P

Grid Reference: SU73605420 Average Annual Rainfall: 707 mm

Accumulated Temperature: 1445 degree days

Field Capacity Level : 151 days

Land Use : Permanent Grass
Slope and Aspect : 01 degrees E

HORIZON **TEXTURE** COLOUR STONES >2 TOT.STONE LITH MOTTLES STRUCTURE CONSIST SUBSTRUCTURE CALC 10YR42 00 0- 23 MCL 2 5 HR С 23- 43 10YR62 00 0 8 HR MCL М MDCSAB FR М 43- 65 С 25Y 61 00 0 0 М MDCAB FM Ρ

Wetness Grade : 3A Wetness Class : III

Gleying : 0 cm SPL : 043 cm

Drought Grade: APW: mm MBW: 0 mm

APP: mm MBP: 0 mm

FINAL ALC GRADE : 3A
MAIN LIMITATION : Wetness

#### SOIL PIT DESCRIPTION

Site Name: HART DLP, HOLT LANE, HOOK Pit Number: 2P

Grid Reference: SU73505442 Average Annual Rainfall: 707 mm

Accumulated Temperature: 1445 degree days

Field Capacity Level : 151 days

Land Use : Permanent Grass Slope and Aspect : 01 degrees N

HORIZON	TEXTURE	COLOUR	STONES >2	TOT.STONE	LITH	MOTTLES	STRUCTURE	CONSIST	SUBSTRUCTURE	CALC
0- 30	FSZL	10YR41 42	2	5	HR	F				
30- 50	MCL	10YR62 53	0	30	HR	M		FR	М	
50- 62	MCL	10YR61 00	0	55	HR	С		FR	Р	
62- 72	С	25Y 61 00	0	45	HR	M		FM	Р	

Wetness Grade : 1 Wetness Class : II

Gleying :030 cm SPL : No SPL

Drought Grade: 3A APW: 094mm MBW: -14 mm

APP: 099mm MBP: -2 mm

FINAL ALC GRADE : 3A

MAIN LIMITATION : Droughtiness

program: ALC012

#### LIST OF BORINGS HEADERS 30/06/95 HART DLP, HOLT LANE, HOOK

page 1

--WETNESS-- -WHEAT- -POTS- M. REL EROSN FROST CHEM ALC ASPECT NO. GRID REF USE GRDNT GLEY SPL CLASS GRADE AP MB AP MB DRT FLOOD EXP DIST LIMIT COMMENTS 096 -12 097 -4 3A 1 SU73505450 PGR N DR 3A Imp flints 52 0 2 1 0 **0**43 3 **3**A 0 1P SU73605420 PGR E 01 0 WE 3A Pit at B9 1 1 047 -61 047 -54 4 DR 3A Imp flints 25 DR

2 SU73605450 PGR N 01 2P SU73505442 PGR N 01 030 2 1 094 -14 099 -2 3A 3A Imp flints 72 3 SU73505442 PGR N 01 DR 3A Imp flints 50 2 1 090 -18 090 -11 3A 01 0 068 3 2 141 33 138 37 1 WE 2 SPL 68 4 SU73605440 PGR N 112 4 121 20 3A 1 5 SU73575457 ÞGR N 055 DR 3A Imp flints 70 1 0 6 SU73605430 PGR E 01 0 050 3 3A 0 WE 3A SPL 50 7 SU73705430 PGR E 01 0 045 3 3A 0 0 WE 3A SPL 45 0 0 WE 3A SPL 50 0 0 9 SU73605420 PGR E 01 025 050 3 WE 3A SPL 50 ЗА 10 SU73705420 PGR E 01 025 060 3 0 WE 3A SPL 60 0 ЗА 11 SU73805420 PGR E 01 0 055 3 ЗА 0 0 2 WE 3A SPL 55

----MOTTLES----- PED ----STONES---- STRUCT/ SUBS COL ABUN CONT COL. GLEY >2 >6 LITH TOT CONSIST STR POR IMP SPL CALC 1PLE DEPTH TEXTURE COLOUR 10YR42 00 10YR58 00 C 0 0 HR 0 - 32fszl ٧ 5 1 10YR62 53 10YR58 00 C 0 0 HR 8 32-52 mc1 М 1P 0-23 mc1 10YR42 00 10YR46 00 C 2 0 HR 5 10YR62 00 10YR68 00 M 00MN00 00 Y 0 0 HR 8 MDCSAB FR M 23-43 mc1 25Y 61 00 10YR58 00 M 25Y 53 00 Y 0 0 0 MDCAB FM P Y 43-65 7 0 HR 10YR42 00 15 0-25 fszl 0-30 10YR41 42 10YR46 00 F 2 0 HR 5 fszl 10YR62 53 10YR58 00 M 0 0 HR 30 FR M 30-50 mc1 FR P 10YR61 00 10YR58 00 C Υ 0 0 HR 55 50-62 mc1 25Y 61 00 10YR58 00 M 0 0 HR 45 FM P 62-72 C 5 10YR42 00 10YR58 00 C 0 0 HR 0-30 fszl 30-50 10YR53 62 10YR58 00 C 0 0 HR 10 М ms 1 10YR42 00 10YR58 00 C Υ 2 0 HR 5 0-32 fszl 10YR62 53 10YR58 00 C Υ 0 0 HR 10 М 32-68 fszl 25Y 72 00 10YR68 00 M 0 0 HR 2 68-90 0 0 HR 0-30 fszl 10YR42 00 А 30-45 fs1 10YR62 53 0 0 HR 12 М 10YR62 53 0 0 HR 18 45-55 fsl 25Y 62 61 75YR58 00 C 0 0 HR 55-70 scl 5 0-28 10YR42 00 10YR46 56 C 0 0 HR 5 mc? 10YR52 00 10YR68 00 C 0 0 HR Υ 3 28-50 mcl 50-80 25Y 61 00 10YR58 00 M 0 0 0 С 10YR42 00 10YR46 56 C 0 0 HR 5 0-28 mc1 10 10YR52 00 10YR68 00 C Υ 0 0 HR 28-45 mcl 45-80 25Y 61 00 10YR58 00 M 0 0 HR 3 O O HR 5 0-25 mcl 10YR42 00 00MN00 00 Y 25-50 10YR62 00 10YR68 00 M 0 0 HR 5 mc1 25Y 61 00 10YR58 00 M 0 0 50-80 0-25 mc1 10YR42 00 10YR46 00 F 0 0 HR 5 10YR62 00 10YR68 00 C 00MN00 00 Y 0 0 0 25-50 നവി 25Y 61 00 10YR58 00 M Υ 0 0 HR 50-90 3 0-25 mc1 10YR42 00 10YR46 00 F 0 HR 5 25-45 10YR62 00 10YR68 00 C 0 0 HR 5 М mc1 10YR62 00 10YR68 00 C 00MN00 00 Y 0 0 HR 45-60 mcl 5 М 25Y 61 00 10YR58 00 M Υ 0 0 0 60-90 С 10YR42 00 10YR46 00 C Υ 0 0 HR 2 11 0-28 നമി 25Y 71 72 10YR68 00 M 00MN00 00 Y 0 0 HR 5 28-55 mcl 25Y 61 00 10YR58 00 M 0 0 HR 5 55-100 c