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**Hart District Local Plan
Site 3: Dilly Lane Hartley Wintney
Agricultural Land Classification
ALC Map and Summary Report
May 1995
Revised June 1997**

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION, SUMMARY REPORT.

HART DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN

SITE 3: DILLY LANE, HARTLEY WINTNEY

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. The work forms part of MAFF's statutory input to the Hart District Local Plan.
- 1.2 The site comprises 28.2 hectares of land to the south of Hartley Wintney in Hampshire. An Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) survey was carried out in May 1995. The survey was undertaken at a detailed level of approximately one boring per hectare. A total of 31 borings and three soil inspection pits were assessed according to 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 agricultural land was under permanent grass, spring cereals and field beans. The Urban area is an un-classified metalled road. The Non-Agricultural areas include a footpath and a training area for horses. The Woodland is mature and deciduous.
- 1.5 The distribution of grades and subgrades 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 1:10,000. It is accurate at this scale, but any enlargement would be misleading. This map supersedes any previous ALC survey information for this site.

Table 1: Distribution of Grades and Subgrades

Grade	Area (ha)	% of Site	% of Agricultural Area
2	15.0	53.2	56.0
3a	6.4	22.7	23.9
3b	5.4	19.1	<u>20.1</u>
Non-Agricultural	<u>1.4</u>	<u>5.0</u>	100%(26.8ha)
Total area of Site	28.2ha	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 The agricultural land at this site has been classified as Grade 2 (very good quality), to Subgrade 3b (moderate quality), including areas of Subgrade 3a (good quality). Principal limitations include soil droughtiness and soil wetness. The areas affected by soil droughtiness comprise sandy and light loamy soils, often lying over occasionally stony slowly permeable medium loams and clays. At this location, profiles of this nature are restricted in terms of profile available water, leading to slight (Grade 2) or significant (Subgrade 3b) risks of drought stress affecting plant growth and yield.
- 1.8 The areas affected by soil wetness comprise medium and light loamy topsoils overlying slowly permeable medium loamy and clayey subsoils. These cause drainage to be impeded to a moderate (Subgrade 3a) or significant (Subgrade 3b) level. Soil wetness restricts land utilisation opportunities as well as affecting plant growth and yield.

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Resource Planning Team
Guildford Statutory Group
ADAS Reading

DESCRIPTIONS 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 (e.g. 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.