MAFF Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food

# AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
# PROPOSED GOLF COURSE
# HILLINGS LANE
# GUISELEY, LEEDS
# WEST YORKSHIRE
# MARCH 1996

ADAS
Leeds Statutory Group

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# SUMMARY

30.9 ha of land at Hillings Lane between Guiseley and Menston were the subject of a detailed Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) survey in March 1996.

Soils on the site are all developed from Boulder Clay drift deposits. The site contains land with slopes of between 11° and 15° in the west. Elsewhere slopes are generally less than 7°.

20.1 ha were mapped as Subgrade 3b. Soil wetness and workability limit the ALC grade of this poorly drained land.

9.5 ha contained slopes between 11° and 15° which limited ALC to Grade 4.

Other land (1.3 ha) comprised a small area of newly planted trees and excavations for a new water pipeline.

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# AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT ON PROPOSED GOLF COURSE AT HILLINGS LANE, GUISELEY, LEEDS

## 1. INTRODUCTION AND SITE CHARACTERISTICS

### 1.1 Location and Survey Methods

A detailed Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) survey was carried out on 30.9 ha of land at Hillings Hill, Guiseley in early March 1996. The site lies south of the Bingley Road and west of High Royds Hospital, between Menston and Guiseley. This report refers to a proposed extension to land already in receipt of planning permission for a golf course, although construction work on the course has not yet started.

Soils were examined by hand auger borings at locations predetermined by the OS National Grid. Supplementary borings were used to check upon and refine grade boundaries. The overall density of borings was 1 per hectare. One soil profile pit was dug to examine representative soils in greater detail. Land quality was assessed using the methods described in "Agricultural Land Classification of England and Wales: *Revised guidelines and criteria for grading the quality of agricultural land*" MAFF (1988).

### 1.2 Land Use and Relief

All the site is under grass including some rough grazing land which contains stands of gorse. Land in the east of the site has been disturbed by the construction of a water pipeline. This strip of land has not been restored to agriculture at the time of survey and is shown as Other Land on the attached ALC map. The site also contains a small area of recently planted trees. Relief is complex in the west of the site with several small hills containing moderately steep slopes (12 - 15°). Elsewhere relief is more gentle with moderate (4° - 7°) or strong (8° - 11°) slopes. Altitude ranges from 160 m A.O.D. near the Bingley Road in the east of the site to over 200 m A.O.D. adjacent to Hillings Lane in the west.

1.3 Climate

| | |
|---|---|
| Grid Reference | : SE164432 |
| Altitude (m) | : 185 |
| Accumulated Temperature above 0°C (January - June) | : 1206 day °C |
| Average Annual Rainfall (mm) | : 845 |
| Climatic Grade | : 3a |
| Field Capacity Days | : 209 |
| Moisture Deficit (mm) Wheat | : 75 |
| Moisture Deficit (mm) Potatoes | : 56 |

1.4 Geology, Soils and Drainage

Solid Carboniferous deposits of sandstone and shales do not outcrop within a metre of the surface on the site. Soils are all derived from Boulder Clay drift. Topsoils are typically sandy clay loam or occasionally medium sandy loam over similar upper subsoils usually gleyed. Clayey slowly permeable lower subsoils generally occur at about 35 cm to 45 cm depth. Profiles are generally Soil Wetness Class IV although they occasionally meet the criteria for Wetness Class III.

Soils on the site correspond to the Brickfield 3 Association as mapped by the Soil Survey and Land Research Centre.

## 2. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

The ALC grades occurring on this site are as follows:

| Grade/Subgrade | Hectares | % of Total Area |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | | |
| 2 | | |
| 3a | | |
| 3b | 20.1 | 65.0 |
| 4 | 9.5 | 30.7 |
| 5 | | |
| (Sub total) | (29.6) | (95.7) |
| Other Land | 1.3 | 4.3 |
| **TOTAL** | 30.9 | 100 |

### 2.1 Subgrade 3b

This subgrade of land occurs in the south-west and east of the site where slopes are less than 11°. Soils typically contain sandy clay loam topsoils over similar upper subsoils and clayey slowly permeable lower subsoils.

These soils meet the criteria for Soil Wetness Class IV and are subject to a soil wetness and workability limitation. Occasionally, although not in mapable units profiles meet the criteria for Soil Wetness Class III which would limit the land to Subgrade 3a with medium textured topsoils. However, these small areas were included within the area mapped as Subgrade 3b.

2.2 Grade 4

Slopes of between 11° - 15° limited this land to Grade 4.

2.3 Other Land

This includes the land excavated for the water pipeline and a small newly planted area of woodland.

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