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45/92

HEATH FARM, COALPIT HEATH

Report of site visit 24 June 1992

An assessment of the Agricultural Land Classification for the site was made. Across much of the site soil moving operations had occurred. Topsoil and the upper subsoil had been stripped. The depth of stripping varied but seemed to be about 30-50cm. In some areas subsoil had been replaced and compacted. There were still some parts of the site which appeared to be intact and the assessment of Agricultural Land Classification was made in these areas. Talking to the owner these areas were in his opinion the better land with a more organic topsoil. The subsoils were slightly stoney so augering to depth was not always possible. The topsoil was a heavy clay loam with the upper subsoil also a HCL. This horizon was gleyed and the clay below was a slowly permeable layer. The depths to gleying and SPL placed the soil into wetness classes III and IV. The grade of the land is therefore 3b with the climatic regime. Boring elsewhere on the site confirmed that the clays were of SLP nature and that the subsoils were gleyed. To be best and most versatile with a HCL there would have to be no SPL and this did not seem to be the case. ALC grade 3b appears to have been the classification prior to disturbance.

C. Shaw

Time \checkmark 4 1/2 hrs LUPU informed

Interpretation: Often surrounded by ditches/rhynes. More than 1 tree/bush deep. May be whole or part of boundary length. May be rectangular blocks. Often form 'L', 'T' or 'X' shapes at boundary nodes.

Traditional shelter plantings.

Example: Queens Sedgemoor 530412 Air photo 87/345,6

Linear vegetation

Definition: All linear vegetation which does not fall into the flailed low hedge or lines of trees categories. Includes low unflailed hedges, lines of bushes and lines of bush/trees < 5 m high. < 20 m wide.

Interpretation: Unflailed hedges of irregular height, lines of bushes/short trees, less than 10 m apart. Irregular surfaces, long or short shadows. Sides may be regular if flailed (not tops). Tonal variations reflect mix of species (often greater than for flailed hedge). Unmaintained coalescing bushes which may include occasional individual taller trees. If vegetation is beside a rhyne then it often obscures the rhyne and it is difficult to determine which side it is on.

Example: Polsham 513417 Air photo 87/247,8

2. Point features

Farmsteads

Definition: Isolated group of farm buildings including the farmhouse, farm sheds and farmyard.

Example: Lower Cranel Farm 502425 Air photo 87/248,9

Isolated barns

Definition: Barns or farm buildings isolated from the rest of the farmstead.

Example: Godney Moor 473440 Air photo 87/253,4

Isolated buildings

Definition: Isolated buildings which do not fall into either the farmsteads or isolated farm categories, such as houses and industrial buildings.