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SWALE LOCAL PLAN (FAVERSHAM)
SITE 8: NORTH OF GOLDFINCH CLOSE,
FAVERSHAM
AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
ALC MAP AND SUMMARY REPORT
JULY, 1993

Ref 2011/97A/93

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SITE 8: NORTH OF GOLDFINCH CLOSE, FAVERSHAM

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1. In June, 1988 a detailed Agricultural Land Classification,(ALC), survey was carried out on approximately 43 hectares of land at Ham Farm, Faversham. The work was undertaken in response to MAFF being consulted under the 1981 Minerals Act. In May 1993, ADAS was commissioned by MAFF's Land Use Planning Unit to determine the quality of agricultural land for part of the same site, now under consideration for inclusion in the Swale Borough Local Plan.
- 1.2. The 1988 survey was conducted by members of the Resource Planning Team, ADAS, Reading at an observation density of approximately one boring per hectare. The site was assessed in accordance with MAFF's guidelines for grading the quality of agricultural land (Technical Report 11 (1966) and Technical Report 11/1 (1976)). These guidelines provided a framework for classifying land according to the degree to which its physical or chemical characteristics impose long term limitations on its use for agriculture.
- In 1988, the ALC system was revised, the new system being implemented at the beginning of 1989. Information from the 1988 survey has been re-assessed in the light of the ALC revision and it was considered unnecessary to carry out any new survey work as the 1988 grading is unlikely to be affected by the revision.
- 1.3. The distribution of the grades and subgrades is shown on the attached ALC map an extract from the map of the larger survey of 1988. The area and extent are given in the table below. The map has been drawn at a scale of 1:5000. It is accurate at this scale, but any enlargement may be misleading.

Table 1 : Distribution of Grades and Subgrades

| <u>Grade</u> | <u>Area (ha)</u> | <u>% of Agricultural Area</u> |
|-------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|
| 3a | 1.17 | 100 |
| Total agricultural area | <u>1.17</u> | <u>100</u> |

- 1.4. A general description of the grades and land-use categories identified in this survey is provided as an appendix. The grades are described in terms of the type of limitation that can occur, the typical cropping range and the expected level and consistency of yield.

- 1.5. The land is assigned to subgrade 3a on the basis of soil droughtiness. The land has been worked for brickearth in the past and soils were found to show evidence of disturbance. The occurrence of brick fragments, rubble and stones combine with relatively fine, sandy, but well drained, soils to give rise to the risk of soil droughtiness.

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