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ANDOVER GOLF COURSE EXTENSION,  
BERE HILL FARM, ANDOVER, HAMPSHIRE  
ANDOVER, HAMPSHIRE  
AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION  
ALC MAP & SUMMARY REPORT  
OCTOBER, 1993.

# ANDOVER GOLF COURSE EXTENSION, BERE HILL FARM ANDOVER, HAMPSHIRE AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION, SUMMARY REPORT

## 1.0 Summary

1.1 In August, 1993, a detailed Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) was made on approximately 16.7 hectares of land at Bere Hill Farm on the eastern edge of Andover in Hampshire.

1.2 The work was conducted by members of the Resource Planning Team in the Guildford Statutory Group of ADAS in response to a commission by MAFF's Land Use Planning Unit to provide information on the quality of agricultural land affected by the extension of the Andover Golf Course.

1.3 The classification has been made using MAFF's revised guidelines and criteria for grading the quality of agricultural land. 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.

1.4 The fieldwork was carried out with an observation density of approximately one per hectare. A total of 9 borings and 3 soil pits was examined.

1.5 All of the agricultural land (15.6 ha) is classified as Sub-grade 3B. The key limitation is soil droughtiness related to the depth of soil over Chalk and the restricted amount of water available for extraction by crops. Heavy clay profiles with a soil wetness limitation occur in fissures in the Chalk creating a variable soil resource over short distances. Parts of the site may have been disturbed in the past during the creation of the by-pass.

1.6 The ALC information is shown on the attached map. The information is presented at a scale of 1:5,000; it is accurate at this level but any enlargement would be misleading. This map supercedes any previous ALC information for this site.

1.7 At the time of survey the land use on the site was permanent and ley grassland. The entrance road is classified as Urban and accounts for 0.5 hectares and the farmhouse and farm buildings account for 0.6 hectares.

1.8 A general description of the grades and sub-grades is provided as an appendix. 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.

ADAS REFERENCE : 1512/125/93  
MAFF REFERENCE : EL 6013

Resource Planning Team  
Guildford Statutory Group

## APPENDIX I

### DESCRIPTION OF THE GRADES AND SUB-GRADES

#### **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 on the 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.

#### **Grade 3 : Good To Moderate Quality Agricultural Land**

Land with moderate limitations which affect the choice of crops, 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.

#### **Sub-grade 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.

#### **Sub-grade 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 very 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 : housing, industry, commerce, education, transport, religious buildings, cemeteries. 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 re-claimed 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/airfields. Also active mineral workings and refuse tips where restoration conditions to 'soft' after-uses may apply.

## **Woodland**

Includes commercial and non-commercial 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.