# AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

LAKEWOOD'S HOLIDAY VILLAGE
SOUTH CLIFFE
MARKET WEIGHTON
HUMBERSIDE

MAFF
Leeds Regional Office

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AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT:
LAKEWOOD'S HOLIDAY VILLAGE, SOUTH CLIFFE, MARKET WEIGHTON

## 1. *Introduction and Site Characteristics*

The site is located around grid reference SE 867350 adjacent to South Cliffe approximately 5 km south of Market Weighton. It covers 275 hectares 85% of which is in agricultural use.

Survey work was carried out in April 1991 when soils were examined by hand auger borings at 100 m intervals at points pre-determined by the National Grid.

All assessments were made using the methods described in "Agricultural Land Classification of England and Wales: Revised Guidelines and Criteria for Grading the Quality of Agricultural Land".

### Climate

Average Annual Rainfall (AAR) is approximately 623 m. Accumulated temperature above 0°C between January and June (ATO) is 1396°C and the land is at field capacity for 142 days a year. The rainfall and temperature figures indicate that there is no overall climatic restriction on ALC grade. Moisture deficits of 108 mm for wheat and 100 mm for potatoes indicate that light sandy soils with a small water holding capacity will suffer from droughtiness. Wind erosion of the fine sandy soils which are widespread in this area is also a restriction on agricultural land quality.

### Relief

Altitude varies between 3 and 10 m above Ordnance Datum. Slopes are negligible and do not impose any limitation on ALC grade.

Geology and Soils

Soils over most of the site are formed on post glacial fine sand (the "blowing" sand of the Vale of York) which forms a cover a metre or so in thickness over the underlying Keuper Marls and, in the east, Lias clays. Topsoils consist generally of loamy fine sand or occasionally fine sand passing into similar or lighter subsoils. Wind erosion is common on land of this type in spring. There is also a small area of peaty soil in the east near South Farm and an area of heavy alluvial clay in the south west.

Drainage

The sandy soils contain no slowly permeable layers and thus fall within Wetness Class I as do the peaty soils in the east. The heavier textured soils in the south west contain slowly permeable subsoils and fall within Wetness Class IV.

## 2. Agricultural Land Classification

The ALC grades on this site are as follows:

| Grade | Hectares | % of total area |
|---|---|---|
| 2 | 2.5 | 0.9% |
| 3a | 203.4 | 73.6% |
| 3b | 30.1 | 10.9% |
| Non Agric (Woodland) | 39.7 | 14.3% |
| Agric Buildings | 0.8 | 0.3% |
| | 276.5 | 100 |

### Grade 2

This consists of a small area in the NE corner of the site above South Farm. Topsoils consist of mixed loamy medium sand and peat with peat or fine sand subsoils. Profiles are unmottled and stoneless falling into Wetness Class I. They are limited to Grade 2 by very slight droughtiness and on patches of deeper peat, by low bearing strength.

### Subgrade 3a

This subgrade dominates the site. Topsoils consist mainly of loamy fine sand overlying loamy fine sand and fine sand subsoils. Profiles are stoneless and mottled but only occasionally gleyed at depth. Soils of this type are subject to wind erosion (blowing) in early spring, as well as slight summer droughtiness and are limited to subgrade 3a for these reasons.

### Subgrade 3b

Land in this subgrade falls into two types. In the south and south west are areas with very light almost pure sand topsoils. These are subject to severe wind erosion risk and are limited to subgrade 3b by this and the very light droughty nature of the topsoil. Also within subgrade 3b are two small areas of clayey soil on the western and eastern extremities of

the site. These contain heavy clay loam topsoils over gleyed slowly permeable clay subsoils and are limited to subgrade 3b by wetness and workability problems.

Non Agricultural Woodland and Urban

This consists of 2 large and 3 smaller plantations of mixed deciduous and coniferous woodland.

Agricultural Buildings

This category includes South Farm and the agricultural buildings surrounding it.

Resource Planning Group
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