

**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR CONGLETON LOCAL PLAN,
SITE 16 (SITE 1 ON ALC MAP)**

Background Information

Following the request for detailed information on the soils for Site 16, an Agricultural Land Classification Survey was carried out in March 1991.

Location, Altitude & Relief

The site lies to the west of Congleton, and is bordered by Black Firs Lane, Back Lane, and playing fields and housing to the east. The land lies at an altitude of 89-93 metres and is level or very gently sloping. Altitude and relief are non-limiting in the classification of the site.

Climate & Rainfall

The main parameters used in the assessment of the climate limitations are average annual rainfall (AAR) and accumulated temperature (ATO). For this site these figures are 800 mm and 13530C respectively, indicating that there are no climatic limitations on the site. However, the field capacity days figure for the site is 197, so any grade 1 land would be marginal in climatic terms. The mean date of the last frost is in late April.

Geology & Soils

The site is underlain by Lower Keuper Marl, with a drift deposit of Middle Keuper Marl and limited Boulder Clay in the east of the site. Soils are typically loamy sands overlying sands, with occasional peaty or clay pockets.

Land Use

At the time of survey the crops included winter cereals and grass, although some potatoes had been grown in previous years. Horses were being grazed to the north-east of Black Firs Farm.

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

Grade 2: This accounts for 1.78 hectares and 7.8% of the site. Soils are typically sandy peaty loams overlying loamy sands and sands. Droughtiness is the main limitation to the agricultural use of this land.

Subgrade 3a: This accounts for 19.61 hectares and 85.6% of the site. Soils are typically loamy sands overlying sands. Droughtiness is the main limitation to the agricultural use of this land.

Sub-grade 3b: This accounts for 1.20 hectares and 5.2% of the site. Soils are typically sandy loams or loamy sand overlying clay. Soil wetness is the main limitation to the agricultural use of this land.

Farm Buildings: this accounts for .33 hectares and 1.4% of the site.

SUMMARY

Grade	Hectares	%
2	1.78	7.8
3a	19.61	85.6
3b	1.20	5.2
Fm. Build.	.33	1.4
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	22.92	100.0

RESOURCE PLANNING GROUP
Wolverhampton RO

March 1991

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR CONGLETON LOCAL PLAN, SITE 18 (SITE 2 ON ALC MAP)**Background Information**

Following the request for detailed information on the soils for site 18, an Agricultural Land Classification Survey was carried out in March 1991.

Location, Altitude & Relief

The site lies to the north-west of Congleton, and is bordered by the River Dane to the west, a reclaimed tip to the south, and agricultural land to the north and east. Altitude varies between 73 metres adjoining the River Dane, and 95 metres near Hulme Walfield Farm. Gradient is a limiting factor on part of the site. The relief of the area comprises a series of river terraces.

Climate & Rainfall

The main parameters used in the assessment of the climatic limitations are average annual rainfall (AAR) and accumulated temperature (ATO). For this site these figures are 788 mm and 13720C respectively, indicating that there are no climatic limitations on the site. The mean date of the late frost is in late April.

Geology & Soils

The site is underlain by Lower Keuper Marl, with a variety of drift deposits. The area adjoining the River Dane comprises Alluvium, and the associated soils are typically deep well-drained sandy silt loams. On the higher ground undifferentiated River Terrace deposits occur, comprising a mixture of sandy and clayey soils. On the land nearest to Hulme Walfield Farm, Middle Keuper Marl occurs, with a mixture of sandy and peaty soils associated with it.

Flooding

Local evidence suggests that this site is not prone to flooding, and does not represent a limitation to the agricultural use of the land.

At the time of survey the agricultural land had all been entered into the set-aside scheme, and was supporting grass crops for turf cutting.

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

Grade 2: This accounts for 5.45 hectares and 18.0% of the site. Soils are typically medium clay loams overlying well drained sandy silt loams, sometimes with sandy loams or loamy sand at depth. Soil wetness is the main limitation to the agricultural use of this land.

Sub-grade 3a accounts for 5.84 hectares and 19.3% of the site. Soils are typically loamy sands overlying sands, although in places the topsoil texture is more variable including sandy loams, peaty loams, medium clay loams and sandy clay loams. The stone content is equally variable, reflecting the nature of the drift material deposited on the River Terraces. Droughtiness is the main limitation to the agricultural use of this land.

Sub-grade 3b accounts for 12.71 hectares and 42.0% of the site. Soils are typically medium clay loams or sandy clay loams overlying clays or sandy clays. Wetness is the main limitation on these soils, although locally surface stones are sufficient to downgrade the land to sub-grade 3b. On the steep slopes south of Hulme Walfield Farm gradient is a limiting factor.

Grade 4 accounts for 2.23 hectares and 7.4% of the site. Soils are typically peaty loams overlying sands, often with clay inclusions. These soils are poorly drained and their variable nature is reflected in the grade.

Grade 5 accounts for 0.39 hectares and 1.3% of the site. This represents a recently restored tip, with brick and rubble within the soils and on the surface preventing a higher grading.

Non-agricultural land accounts for 2.74 hectares and 9.1% of the site.

Woodland accounts for 0.89 hectares and 2.9% of the site.

SUMMARY

Grade	Hectares	%
2	5.45	18.0
3a	5.84	19.3
3b	12.71	42.0
4	2.23	7.4
5	0.39	1.3
N. Ag	2.74	9.1
Wood	<u>0.89</u>	<u>2.9</u>
	30.25	100.0