

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

NAFFIT'S FARM
SUTTON ON THE FOREST

Proposed Golf Course

MAFF
Leeds Regional Office

May 1990
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AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT;
NAFFIT'S FARM, SUTTON ON THE FOREST

1. INTRODUCTION AND SITE CHARACTERISTICS

The site is located around grid reference SE 581620 approximately 8 km south east of Easingwold town centre. It covers 63.2 hectares, nearly all of which is in agricultural use.

Survey work was carried out in April 1990 when soils were examined by hand auger borings at 100 metre intervals pre-determined by the national grid. Soil profile pits were also dug at representative locations to assess topsoil and subsoil stone contents and soil structural characteristics.

All land quality assessments were made using the methods described in the "Revised Guidelines and Criteria for grading the quality of Agricultural Land" (MAFF 1988).

1.1 LAND USE

All agricultural land was devoted to cereal production during the 1989-90 season.

1.2 CLIMATE

Average Annual Rainfall (AAR) is approximately 631 mm. Accumulated temperature above 0°C between January and June (ATO) is 1377 day°C and the land is at field capacity for 144 days a year. The rainfall and temperature figures for this site indicate that there is no overall climatic restriction on ALC grade.

Summer moisture deficits of 104 mm for winter wheat and 95 mm for potatoes indicate a slight drought limitation on the sandy to coarse loamy profiles found to the west of Naffit's Farm.

1.3 RELIEF

The site is virtually level at a mean altitude of 17 metres above Ordnance Datum.

1.4 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

Soils are formed on glacial and post glacial drift. This consists of lacustrine clay overlain around Naffit's Farm, by a thin and patchy cover of later aeolian sand. Where significant sandy drift occurs, soils consist mainly of sandy loam or sandy silt loam topsoils over similar or lighter subsoils. These profiles often have sandy clay loam lower subsoils particularly around the margins of the deposit. Elsewhere soils consist of heavy clay loam or sandy clay loam topsoils over similar gleyed upper subsoils passing into silty clay or clay at depth.

2. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

The ALC grades occurring on this site are as follows:-

Grade	Hectares	Per cent of total site area
2	5.4	8.4
3a	11.9	19.0
3b	45.2	72.0
Farm Buildings	0.4	0.6
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Total	63.2	100%

GRADE 2

Land of this grade occurs only to the east of Naffit's Farm. Soils fall within wetness classes I or II and consist of stoneless sandy loam, sandy clay loam or medium clay loam topsoils over similar or slightly lighter subsoils which pass into clay at depth. Slight soil droughtiness is the main restriction on ALC grade, although heavier topsoil variants can also be limited by slight wetness and workability problems.

Subgrade 3a

Subgrade 3a land occurs in the centre of the site around Naffit's Farm and in the south eastern quarter. Soils consist of medium clay loam or sandy clay loam topsoils and upper subsoils over slowly permeable clay to depth. All profiles fall within Wetness Class III and are limited by a combination of soil wetness and workability problems.

Subgrade 3b

Land in this subgrade predominates. Soils consist of stoneless, non calcareous medium to heavy clay loam topsoils over gleyed and slowly permeable clay. Profiles of this type fall within Wetness Class IV and are limited to subgrade 3b by wetness and topsoil workability problems.

Farm Buildings

These consist of an agricultural dwelling and general farm buildings at Naffit's Farm.

Resource Planning Group

Leeds RO

May 1990

MAP