

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

HALL FARM
SPROXTON, HELMSLEY
NORTH YORKSHIRE

Proposed Golf Course

MAFF
Leeds Regional Office

July 1990
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AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT;
HALL FARM, SPROXTON, HELMSLEY, NORTH YORKSHIRE

1. INTRODUCTION AND SITE CHARACTERISTICS

The site is located around grid reference SE 61682 approximately 2 km south of Helmsley. The village of Sproxton lies on the southern edge of the site which covers 49.4 hectares, all of which is in agricultural use.

Survey work was carried out in June 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 in arable use during the 1989-90 season.

1.2 CLIMATE

Average Annual Rainfall (AAR) is approximately 758 mm. Accumulated temperature above 0°C between January and June (ATO) is 1276 day°C and the land is at field capacity for 190 days a year. The rainfall and temperature figures impose an overall climatic restriction on ALC of Grade 2.

Summer moisture deficits of 86 mm for winter wheat and 71 mm for potatoes are small and indicate that drought is unlikely to be a serious limitation on the fine and coarse loamy soils which are prevalent on the farm.

1.3 RELIEF

The site is gently undulating at a mean altitude of about 100 metres above Ordnance Datum.

1.4 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

Jurassic strata lie close to the surface in this area. Boulder clay and other drift deposits are thin and soils are developed mainly over solid rock or locally derived medium and heavy textured head deposits.

Medium textured soils consisting of medium clay loam topsoils over similar subsoils are widespread in the south western and northern parts of the site. Lighter textured soils, sometimes passing into sandstone at depth also occur in places in these areas. Drainage in both of these soils is good and most profiles fall within Wetness Class I. Heavy textured soils formed of medium or heavy clay loam topsoils over slowly permeable (Wetness Class IV) clayey subsoils are common in the south eastern and central parts of the site.

2. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

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

Grade	Hectares	Per cent of total site area
2	8.6	17.4
3a	18.4	37.2
3b	15.5	31.4
Farm Buildings	6.9	14.4
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Total	49.4	100%

GRADE 2

Land of this grade occurs in the north east and in the south western corner. Soils fall within wetness class I and consist of slightly stony medium clay loam or fine sandy loam topsoils over similar or slightly heavier subsoils. The main restriction on ALC grade is the overall climatic limitation which applies to the district as a whole.

Subgrade 3a

Subgrade 3a land occurs in the central and southern parts of the site and in the north west. Soils consist of slightly stony medium clay loam clay loam topsoils and upper subsoils sometimes over slowly permeable heavy loam at clay depth. Most profiles fall within Wetness Classes II or III and are limited either by a combination of slight soil wetness and workability problems, or in freely drained areas, by topsoil stoniness.

Subgrade 3b

Land in this subgrade is common in the western and south eastern parts of the site. Soils consist of medium clay loam topsoils over gleyed and slowly permeable heavy clay loam or clay. Profiles of this type fall within Wetness Class IV and are limited to subgrade 3b by wetness and topsoil workability problems.

GRADE 4

Grade 4 land occurs only in the south east. Topsoils consist of heavy clay loams about 20-25 cm in thickness over gleyed slowly permeable clay. These soils are poorly drained and fall within Wetness Class IV and are limited to Grade 4 by wetness and workability problems which are more severe than on the adjoining 3b land.

Resource Planning Group

Leeds RO

July 1990

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