

Old Bolsover

3/92

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR LAND AT OLD BOLSOVER.

Introduction.

The site was visited by the Resource Planning Team in April 1992. An agricultural land classification survey was undertaken and soils augered to a depth of 120cm where possible. The borings were based on a 100 metre grid, with supplementary auger borings and soil pits where necessary.

Location and Relief.

The site lies to the north of Bolsover and to the east of the B6419. The site topography consists of a gently sloping valley feature. Slope though is not a limiting factor on this site. The land lies at an altitude of between 160 and 170 metres.

Climate and Rainfall.

The main parameters used in the assesment of the climatic limitations are average annual rainfall (AAR) and accumulated temperature (ATO). For this site these figures are 723mm and 1259mm respectively, indicating an overall climatic limitation of grade 2 on this site. The field capacity days figure for the site is 163 days. The mean last frost occurs in early May.

Geology and soils

The geology underlying the area is lower magnesian limestone. The depth to the limestone varies over the site. The shallower soils, typically between 35 and 60 cm, tend to be found around the top of the slopes, whilst deeper soils are found on the valley sides. The soils covering the site tend to be variable although two main soil types are defined. The first consists of a medium clay loam overlying clay whilst the second has a medium clay loam topsoil overlying sandy clay loam and sand.

Land Use.

At the time of survey cereals were being grown over most of the site with some rough and permanent pasture in the western part of the site. One field was ploughed on the eastern part of the site.

Agricultural Classification.

Grade 2 is mapped over 4.24 hectares, and accounts for 42% of the site. Soils are typically medium clay loams over clay. Soil droughtiness and overall climate are the main limitations to the agricultural use of this land. Droughtiness is a limiting factor due to the depth at which the magnesian limestone is found as this reduces the available water capacity of the soil. The soils covering the site fall into wetness class I.

Grade 3a is mapped over 5.65 hectares, and accounts for 55% of the site. Soils are typically medium clay loams over clays onto magnesian limestone at c.45 cm or medium clay loams onto sandy clay loams or medium sandy loams onto sand at depth. Soil droughtiness is the main limitation to agricultural use of this land.

Farm buildings account for 3% of the site area and cover 0.32 hectares.

Summary.

| Grade | Area (ha) | % of site |
|----------------|-----------|-----------|
| 2 | 4.24 | 42 |
| 3a | 5.65 | 55 |
| Farm Buildings | 0.32 | 3 |