

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR CAWSTON FARM, RUGBY

Introduction

The 79.8 ha site was visited by the Resource Planning Team in February 1993. An Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) survey was undertaken using the guidelines laid down in the ALC Revised Guidelines/Criteria Booklet (MAFF 1988).

Location, Altitude & Relief

The site is situated between the A4071 and A45 south of Cawston, Rugby.

The land is gently undulating and varies in altitude between 100m and 115m. Gradient is a limitation in a small area in the north of the site.

Climate & Rainfall

The main parameters used to assess climatic limitations are average annual rainfall (AAR), as a measure of the overall wetness, and accumulated temperature (ATO), as a measure of the relative warmth of the locality. For this site the figures are 703mm and 1366°C respectively indicating that there are no climatic limitations on this site. The field capacity days are 157 with the last mean frost occurring in early May.

Geology & Soils

The solid geology is composed of limestone overlain by alluvium, clays and silts and gravels. The associated soils are typically slightly stony medium sandy loams over slightly to moderately stony loamy sands and sands; or clay loams over clays.

Irrigation

The site is irrigated which has resulted in some of the droughty soils being upgraded.

Land Use

At the time of the survey the western block was under winter cereal. The remainder of the site was fallow.

Agricultural Land Quality

Grade 2

Land in this grade represents 24.7ha and 31% of the site. It occurs in three distinct pockets. One in the north, one around Station Farm Cottage, and one in the east.

The soils are typically medium sandy loams over loamy medium sands over medium sands, which are limited by droughtiness and stoniness.

Grade 3a

Grade 3a land represents 31.0ha and 38.8% of the site. It occurs as a strip in the west and middle of the site and as a small pocket in the north east.

The soils are typically medium sandy loams over loamy medium sands over medium sands, limited by droughtiness and stoniness; and sandy clay loams over clays where wetness is the main limitation. There are limited areas of subgrade 3b land within the unit where the main limitation is stoniness, but these are too small to map separately at this scale.

Grade 3b

Grade 3b land represents 20.7ha and 25.9% of the site. It occurs as a strip following the base of the slope in the north and middle of the site, and as two small pockets in the south east and west.

The majority of this unit is limited by wetness with the soils being typically sandy or medium clay loams over clay. In the north of the site gradient is also limiting in places. The two small pockets in the south east and west of the site are limited by stoniness, where soils are typically medium sandy loams over loamy sands over sands.

Non-Agricultural Land

Non-agricultural land accounts for 2.3ha and 2.9% of the site and is under woodland, scrub or lawn.

Urban/Agricultural Buildings

Urban and agriculture buildings occupy 0.5ha of the site.

Other Land

Other land accounts for 0.8% of the site covering 0.6ha and is open water.

**Resource Planning Group
Wolverhampton
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