

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

WALTON LODGE, WALTON
WEST YORKSHIRE

PROPOSED GOLF COURSE

ADAS
Leeds Regional Office

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CONTENTS

1. Introduction and Site Characteristics
2. Agricultural Land Classification

MAPS

1. Agricultural Land Classification

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT:

Walton Lodge, Walton, West Yorkshire, Proposed Golf Course

1. INTRODUCTION AND SITE CHARACTERISTICS

The site is located east of Walton adjacent to the trading estate around National Grid Reference SE 455472. It covers an area of 125 ha.

Survey work was carried out in April 1991, when soils were examined by hand auger borings at 100 metre intervals at points pre-determined by the National Grid.

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

1.1 Land Use

Agricultural land on the site is predominantly in arable use, along with some fields of permanent pasture.

1.2 Climate

Average Annual Rainfall (ARR) in the area is approximately 657 mm. Accumulated temperature above 0°C (ATO) is 1386 and the site is at field capacity for 156 days a year. The temperature and rainfall figures indicate that there is no climatic limitation on agricultural land quality within the site.

1.3 Relief

Land on the site is slightly undulating with altitude varying only from 20 to 30 metres above ordnance datum. Slopes do not exceed 7 degrees and do not impose any restriction on ALC grade.

1.4 Geology and Soils

Soils are derived from till, glaciofluvial drift and locally river terraces and glaciolacustrine clay. Soils on the till of glaciolacustrine clay which occur widely north of Walton Lodge, are generally heavy and formed of medium or heavy clay loam topsoils over gleyed slowly permeable clay subsoils. The terrace and glaciofluvial drift soils which are most widespread in the southern half of the site consist mainly of sandy loam to medium clay loam topsoils over similar subsoils.

2. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

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

Grade	Hectares	Percentage of Total Area
2	42.5	33.8
3a	35.8	28.5
3b	43.2	34.4
4	2.7	2.2
Urban	0.5	2.2
Agric Buildings	<u>0.9</u>	<u>0.7</u>
	125.6	100

2.1 Grade 2

Land in this grade consists of sandy loam to medium clay loam topsoils over similar subsoils. These soils are moderately well drained and fall within Wetness Class II. Slight soil droughtiness is the main limitation on land within this grade.

2.2 Subgrade 3a

Land in this grade is common in the northern half of the site in a patchy distribution. Soils consist of sandy clay loams to medium clay loams over similar upper subsoils over slowly permeable heavy clay loam to clay lower subsoils. These soils are imperfectly drained and fall within Wetness Class III. Soil wetness and workability problems are the limiting factors on land in the northern area. The remaining land in this subgrade, adjacent to the River Wharfe, is subject to flooding and limited to subgrade 3a for this reason.

2.3 Subgrade 3b

Subgrade 3b land occurs mainly to the north of Walton Lodge and consists of medium to heavy clay loam topsoils over slowly permeable heavy clay loam to clay subsoils. These soils are poorly drained and limited to subgrade 3b by soil wetness and workability problems.

2.4 Grade 4

This area near Walton Lodge Farm consists of sandy clay loam to medium clay loam topsoils over weathered sandstone at 30-35 cm depth. These soils are droughty and are limited to Grade 4 for this reason.

2.5 Urban

This consists of residential dwellings and farm tracks.

2.6 Farm Buildings

Land in this category includes the farm house and adjoining buildings associated with Walton Lodge.

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