

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

MANOR FARM, DRIGHLINGTON
WEST YORKSHIRE
PROPOSED GOLF COURSE

MAFF
Leeds Regional Office

Ref: 76/89.2FCS 4589
October 1989

lds.AL1Manor.Frm

1.3 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

Soils are all developed on Carboniferous Middle Coal Measures consisting of sandstone and shale. Drift cover is thin or absent in the area. The rock has weathered to produce two distinctive soil types. In the south sandstones give rise to relatively shallow, slightly stony, freely drained (Wetness Class I) fine loamy soils. These profiles have a slight droughtiness limitation. Elsewhere shales and mudstones have weathered down to produce fine loamy topsoils over clayey, gleyed slowly permeable subsoils (Wetness Class IV). Soil wetness is the principal limiting factor here. In addition shallow drift mining at the turn of the century has disturbed many of the soils in the southern half of the site.

1.4 LAND USE

16.2% of the site is occupied by Doles and Whitley woods which are deciduous. Three old shale tips above the woods are now grassed over but not farmed. Elsewhere all the farmland is in arable use currently growing cereals and potatoes.

1.5 AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

Grade	Area (hectares)	% of site
3a	35.4	54.8
3b	11.1	17.2
4	7.6	11.8
Non Agricultural	<u>10.5</u>	<u>16.2</u>
Total	<u>64.6</u>	<u>100</u>

1.5.1 Subgrade 3a

In these areas topsoils consist of medium clay loam or sandy clay loam over similar textured subsoils which in turn pass into sandstone at about 60 cm

depth. There is no slowly permeable layer and the soils are all freely drained (Wetness Class I). Slight stoniness throughout the profile and depth limitations, however, make these soils slightly droughty and this limits the land to subgrade 3a.

1.5.2 Subgrade 3b

Most of the soils within this subgrade are similar to those within subgrade 3a except for topsoil stone content. Where this is high soils are excluded from 3a as the high stone content will make farming difficult. The other sizeable area of subgrade 3b east of Doles Wood contains medium silty clay loam topsoils over clayey slowly permeable subsoils (Wetness Class IV). Soil wetness and workability are the main limitations on ALC grade in this area.

1.5.3 Grade 4

Disturbance has considerably increased the clay content of topsoils in this area making soil wetness and workability problems more severe than in other parts of the site. Slopes of 12° are also a limitation in places within this area.

1.5.4 Non Agricultural

The two areas of woodland and three grassed over spoil heaps were all included in this category.

Resource Planning Group
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