

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

Angrove North, Great Ayton
North Yorkshire

Proposed Golf Course

MAFF

Leeds Regional Office

December 1990

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CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION AND SITE CHARACTERISTICS

2. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

MAP

1. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT ON LAND AT
ANGROVE NORTH FARM, GREAT AYTON, NORTH YORKSHIRE

1. Introduction and Site Characteristics

1.1 Location

The site is located around NGR NZ 543110 adjoining the A172, 9 kilometres South East of Middlesbrough. It covers 43 hectares.

1.2 Survey Methods

Survey work was carried out in November 1990 when soils were examined by hand auger borings at a rate of one boring per hectare at evenly spaced points predetermined by the National Grid.

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

1.3 Land Use

The land is split fairly evenly between grassland and arable use.

1.4 Climate

Average annual rainfall is 682 mm. Accumulated temperature above 0°C between January and June is 1287 day°C and the land is at field capacity for about 177 days a year.

The above combination of rainfall and temperature imposes an overall climatic limitation of Grade 2 on the site.

1.5 Relief

The site is gently undulating at a mean altitude of about 80 m above ordnance datum. Slopes rarely exceed about 5° and thus do not affect ALC grade.

1.6 Soils and Geology

Soils are formed on heavy boulder clay which forms a thick cover over the underlying Jurassic strata. Topsoils consist mainly of medium or heavy clay loam overlying strongly gleyed slowly permeable subsoils of heavy clay loam or clay. Profiles of this type are poorly drained and fall within Wetness Class IV. The heaviest soils are more common in the low lying central part of the site with somewhat lighter land occurring on the higher ground.

2. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

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

Grade	Hectares	% of total site area
3a	16.6	44.3%
3b	14.9	39.7%
4	5.4	14.4%
Farm Buildings/Urban	<u>0.6</u>	<u>1.6%</u>
Total	37.5	100

2.1 Subgrade 3a

Land of this subgrade occurs on the slightly higher ground in the west and east of the site. In the western area around Angrove North Farm buildings soils consist of medium clay loam topsoils over heavy clay loam subsoils. Profiles are usually slowly permeable below 50 cm depth and fall within Wetness Class III. The eastern area of subgrade 3a is similar except for the topsoils which tend to be slightly lighter often of sandy clay loam. Both areas are limited to subgrade 3a by slight wetness and workability problems.

2.2 Subgrade 3b

This land occurs on the lower slopes on either side of the grade 4 land. Soils are medium over heavy in texture, fall within Wetness Class IV and are limited to subgrade 3b by wetness and workability problems which are more severe than on the adjoining 3a land.

2.3 Grade 4

Grade 4 land is found in the low lying area in the centre of the site. It consists of heavy clay loam topsoils over clay subsoils which are slowly permeable at less than 45 cm depth. Soils of this type fall within Wetness Class IV and are restricted to Grade 4 by severe wetness and workability problems.

2.4 Farm Buildings

These consist of an agricultural dwelling and general farm buildings at Angrove North Farm.

2.5 Urban

This consists of the road to Angrove North Farm.

Resource Planning Group
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