

VERIFICATION SURVEY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION AND SOILS REPORT OF LLYNCLYS QUARRY PRESENTED BY REDLAND AGGREGATES.

1. INTRODUCTION

The site covering some 19.5 hectares at Llyncllys Quarry lies to the south of Oswestry and west of Llyncllys off the A495 road.

The Redland report (Section 9.4) shows the site to have the following grades:

Grade/Subgrade	ha	%
3a	5.7	29.2
3b	8.2	41.9
Woodland and tracks	5.2	26.7
Buildings	0.4	2.2
TOTALS	19.5	100.0

Subgrade 3a land is found in the southern part of the site and Subgrade 3b in the northern part.

The main agricultural limitations reported (para 9.4.2) are gradient, soil wetness and topsoil stone content. The soils are reported to be relatively uniform over the site and consist of medium silty clay loams overlying variable depths of drift and weathering limestone.

2. ADAS VERIFICATION SURVEY

A verification survey was carried out on 18 January 1995. Several auger borings were made across the site and two soil pits were dug.

The land on the hillsides was under permanent grass, although one field in the most north western corner was under a forage crop. The arable fields on the lower slopes were either down to temporary grass or a former maize crop.

The soil has a medium silty clay loam texture (depth 30-45 cms) overlying either more medium silty clay loam or heavy silty clay loam to depths of between 50 and 110 cms. In places clay is present at between 45 and 90 cms overlying weathered limestone. The soils fall into Wetness Class I to IV depending on the observations of gleying and the depth to the slowly permeable layer.

The northern part of the site has gradients in excess of 9° in places and these areas are classified as Subgrade 3b. In the lower fields under arable cultivation the main

limitations to the agricultural use of the land include soil wetness, gradient and topsoil stone content. This land is classified as Subgrade 3a.

One area referred to in the Redland report (para 9.4.4) and classified as Subgrade 3b is considered to be of Subgrade 3a quality and consists of about 1 hectare. The area lies below a gentle slope and could be mapped as a separate unit.

The Redland report (para 9.5) indicates that the site is treated as one soil type with a topsoil to about 23 cms and subsoil to about 40 cms. The observations made by ADAS found that clay was present below the topsoil and subsoil. It is recommended that where clay is present that this be treated as a lower subsoil and stripped and stored separately.

3. CONCLUSIONS

There is overall general agreement of the Agricultural Land Classification of the site. In several of the borings carried out by ADAS clay was present at depth. It is recommended that where clay is present that it be treated separately from the topsoil and upper subsoil.

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