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# AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
# GRIMSBY LOCAL PLAN
# LAND AT SCARTHO TOP, GRIMSBY, HUMBERSIDE
# AUGUST 1994

ADAS
Leeds Statutory Group

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## SUMMARY

A detailed Agricultural Land Classification Survey of 79.8 ha of land at Scartho Top, Grimsby was carried out in August 1994.

26.8 ha were classed as grade 2. Either a slight wetness or droughtiness problem limited the grade of these medium to light textured soils.

24.6 ha of subgrade 3a land were identified. Soils are medium textured, imperfectly drained (Wetness Class III) and the ALC grade is limited by soil wetness.

Subgrade 3b land covers 25.7 ha. Poorly drained medium textured topsoils overlie slowly permeable clayey subsoils (Wetness Class IV). Again soil wetness is the factor limiting the ALC grade.

0.6 ha of urban and 1.9 ha of non agricultural land were also identified.

CONTENTS

# AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT ON LAND AT SCARTHO TOP, GRIMSBY, HUMBERSIDE

## 1. INTRODUCTION AND SITE CHARACTERISTICS

### 1.1 Location and Survey Methods

The site lies 4km south west of Grimsby town centre. It has a centroid grid reference of TA 255 065. Detailed survey work was carried out in August 1994 when soils were examined by hand auger borings at a density of 1 boring per hectare at locations predetermined by the National Grid. Soil pits were dug to examine the soil in greater detail. Land quality was assessed 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).

### 1.2 Land Use and Relief

At the time of survey most of the site was in arable use. Cereals and oil seed rape had recently been harvested. This site is level to gently sloping at an average altitude of 18 m AOD.

### 1.3 Climate

| | |
|---|---|
| Grid Reference | : TA 255 065 |
| Altitude (m) | : 18 |
| Accumulated Temperature above 0°C (January - June) | : 1337 day °C |
| Average Annual Rainfall (mm) | : 634 |
| Climatic Grade | : 1 |
| Field Capacity Days | : 141 |
| Moisture Deficit (mm) Wheat | : 109 |
| Moisture Deficit (mm) Potatoes | : 101 |

1.4 Geology, Soils and Drainage

Soils are all developed from drift deposits. Solid chalk bedrock does not outcrop within 1 metre of the surface. Towards the centre of the site heavy textured poorly drained (Wetness Class IV) soils have developed from stoneless lacustrine clay. In the north chalky boulder clay has weathered to produce moderately well and imperfectly drained medium textured soils (Wetness Class II or III). An area of glacial sand and gravel in the south has produced stony, well or moderately well drained, light to medium textured soils (Wetness Class I or II).

## 2. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

The ALC grades occurring on this site are as follows:

| Grade/Subgrade | Hectares | Percentage of Total Area |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | | |
| 2 | 26.8 | 33.6 |
| 3a | 24.6 | 30.8 |
| 3b | 25.7 | 32.2 |
| 4 | | |
| 5 | | |
| (Sub total) | (77.2) | (96.6) |
| Urban | 0.6 | 1.0 |
| Non Agricultural | 1.9 | 2.3 |
| Woodland - Farm | | |
| - Commercial | | |
| Agricultural Buildings | | |
| Open Water | | |
| Land not surveyed | | |
| (Sub total) | (2.5) | (3.3) |
| TOTAL | 79.8 | 100 |

2.1 Grade 2

Two areas of grade 2 land occur on the site. The area in the south contains stony, light to medium textured well drained soils (Wetness Class I) limited to this grade by droughtiness. The other area of grade 2 land contains medium textured topsoils and upper subsoils over heavy textured slowly permeable subsoils (Wetness Class II). Soil wetness limits this land to grade 2.

2.2 Subgrade 3a

This subgrade contains imperfectly drained (Wetness Class III) boulder clay derived soils. Soil wetness limits ALC grade.

2.4 Subgrade3b

All the subgrade 3b land is poorly drained (Wetness Class IV) with medium textured topsoils over clayey slowly permeable subsoils. Again soil wetness is limiting.

2.4 Non Agricultural

This includes a scrub field.

2.5 Urban

The remains of New Farm are classed as urban.

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