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BASINGSTOKE & DEANE BOROUGH
LOCAL PLAN.
SITE 3: LAND EAST OF A340,
SHERBORNE ST JOHN
AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
ALC MAP & REPORT
AUGUST 1993

**BASINGSTOKE & DEANE BOROUGH LOCAL PLAN
SITE 3: LAND EAST OF A340, SHERBORNE ST JOHN
AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT**

1.0 Summary

1.1 In August 1993, a detailed Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) survey was carried out on 6 hectares of land east of the A340 at Sherborne St John. ADAS was commissioned by MAFF's Land Use Planning Unit to determine the quality of 22 sites around Basingstoke in Hampshire. The work forms part of MAFF's statutory input into the Basingstoke and Deane Borough Local Plan (2nd round).

1.2 The survey was conducted by members of the Resource Planning Team in the Guildford Statutory Group at an observation density of approximately two borings per hectare. A total of 11 borings and 2 soil inspection pits were described in accordance with MAFF's revised guidelines and criteria for grading the quality of agricultural land (MAFF, 1988). These guidelines provide a framework for classifying land according to the extent to which its physical or chemical characteristics impose longterm limitations on its use for agriculture.

At the time of survey, the land was under cereal stubble.

1.3 The distribution of the grades and subgrades is shown on the attached ALC map and the areas and extents are given in the table below. The map has been drawn at a scale of 1:5000. It is accurate at this scale, but any enlargement may be misleading.

Table 1 : Distribution of Grades and Sub-grades

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Area (ha)</u>	<u>% of Agricultural Area</u>
2	0.6	10
3a	4.8	80
3b	<u>0.6</u>	<u>10</u>
Total area of site	6.0	100%

1.4 A general description of the grades, subgrades and landuse categories identified in the survey is provided as an appendix. The main classes are described in terms of the type of limitation that can occur, the typical cropping range and the expected level and consistency of yield.

1.5 The site has been classified as grades 2, 3a and 3b. The land shown as grade 2, to the north, is limited by soil workability due to the heavy nature of the topsoil, and to the south by slight soil droughtiness due to profile stone volumes restricting available water for plant growth. The area shown as subgrade 3a is limited by moderate soil droughtiness due to the presence of chalk in the upper and lower subsoil. Pit observations found shallow rooting into the chalk further restricting available water. Land shown as subgrade 3b is limited by significant soil droughtiness due to the presence of chalk below the topsoil. Available water is more severely restricted with shallow soils over shallow rooted chalk.

2.0 Climate

2.1. The climatic criteria are considered first when classifying land as climate can be overriding in the sense that severe limitations will restrict land to low grades

irrespective of favourable site or soil conditions.

2.2 The main parameters used in the assessment of the overall climatic limitation are annual average rainfall, as a measure of overall wetness, and accumulated temperature, as a measure of the relative warmth of a locality.

2.3 A detailed assessment of the prevailing climate was made by interpolation from a 5km gridpoint dataset (Met. Office 1989). The details are given in the table below and these show that there is no overall climatic limitation affecting the site.

2.4 No local climatic factors such as exposure or frost risk affect the site. However, climatic factors do interact with soil factors to increase the risk of soil wetness and moreover soil droughtiness problems.

Table 2 : Climatic Interpolation

Grid Reference :	SU 619 555
Altitude (m) :	90
Accumulated Temperature (days) :	1430
Average Annual Rainfall (mm) :	756
Field Capacity (days) :	162
Moisture Deficit, Wheat (mm) :	102
Moisture Deficit, Potatoes (mm) :	93
Overall Climatic Grade :	1

3.0 Relief

3.1 The site lies at an altitude of approximately 85-95 metres with land sloping gently north east to the point of lowest altitude. Nowhere on the site does relief affect agricultural land quality.

4.0 Geology and Soil

4.1 The relevant geological sheet for the site, Sheet 284 (Basingstoke) BGS, 1981, shows the underlying geology for the site to be Cretaceous Upper Chalk.

4.2 Published soils information for the area, Sheet 6 "Soils of South East England", SSEW, 1983 shows the site to comprise soils of the Andover 1 Association - "Shallow well drained calcareous silty soils over chalk on slopes and crests. Deep calcareous and non calcareous fine silty soils in valley bottoms" (SSEW, 1983). A detailed inspection of soils on the site revealed the presence of fine loamy over clayey soils often passing to chalk in the lower subsoil.

5.0 Agricultural Land Classification

5.1 Table 1 provides the details of the area measurements for each grade and the distribution of each grade is shown on the attached ALC map.

5.2 The location of the soil observation points are shown on the attached sample point map.

Grade 2

5.3. Very good quality land is mapped to the north and the south of the site and consists of two soil types. The key limitations are soil workability and droughtiness. To the north profiles are

non calcareous, comprising topsoils of heavy clay loam containing 2% total flints by volume over upper subsoils of similar texture and stone content. Lower subsoils consist of clay with 0-5% total flints. Soils are well drained suffering from neither a wetness or a droughtiness limitation. However due to a heavy topsoil texture interacting with climatic factors, land here can be classified no higher than Grade 2 due to slight workability limitation. Clayey topsoil textures retain water for longer periods than other textures and decrease the time land is in a suitable condition for cultivation, trafficking by machinery or grazing by livestock.

5.4 To the south profiles comprise topsoils of medium silty clay loam containing 2-8% total flints by volume (with 0-4% > 2cm) over upper subsoils of the same texture containing 6-10% total flints. Lower subsoils consist of medium silty clay loam containing 20% weathered chalk. Profiles are well drained but suffer from slight droughtiness. Observations from soil pit 1, which was typical of these soils, revealed the presence of a compact lower subsoil that proved impenetrable to dig beyond 90 cm depth. Effective rooting was evident to this depth but in view of the compact nature of the lower subsoil it was felt that rooting would not continue to 120 cm where a grade of 1 would result. Therefore a grade of 2 is appropriate with soils experiencing a slight droughtiness limitation.

Subgrade 3a

5.5 The majority of the site is classified as Subgrade 3a. Profiles typically comprise topsoils of heavy clay loam containing 4-6% total flints by volume over upper subsoils of the same texture containing 5-35% total weathered chalk. Below this pure chalk was encountered from a depth of 45-60 cm in the profile. Soils are well drained but suffer from moderate droughtiness. Soil pit 2, typical of these soils revealed an effective rooting depth of 15 cm into the chalk. With this restricted rooting depth soils experience a reduction in available water for plant growth in the profile and also a restriction in the range of crops that can tolerate such conditions. Within this map unit profiles of better quality were encountered but not mapped separately due to their limited number and distribution.

Subgrade 3b

5.6 Land to west of the site has been classified as Subgrade 3b. Profiles typically comprise topsoils of heavy clay loam containing 4-6% total flints by volume over thin upper subsoils of heavy silty clay loam or clay containing 5-10% total flints and weathered chalk. Below this pure chalk was encountered at a depth of 35 cm in the profile. With an effective rooting depth of 15 cm into the chalk (see Pit 1) soils experience significant droughtiness. This is due to the presence of chalk at a shallow depth and the restricted rooting in the profile, consequently available water is restricted to a greater extent than that of Subgrade 3a land. Also the range of crops that can tolerate such conditions is further limited such that a grade of 3b is appropriate.

ADAS REFERENCE : 1501/147/93
MAFF REFERENCE : EL 15/144

Resource Planning Team
Guildford Statutory Group
ADAS Reading

APPENDIX I

DESCRIPTION OF THE GRADES AND SUB-GRADES

Grade 1 : Excellent Quality Agricultural Land

Land with no or very minor limitations to agricultural use. A very wide range of agricultural and horticultural crops can be grown and commonly includes top fruit, soft, fruit, salad crops and winter harvested vegetables. Yields are high and less variable than on land of lower quality.

Grade 2 : Very Good Quality Agricultural Land

Land with minor limitations which affect crop yield, cultivations or harvesting. A wide range of agricultural or horticultural crops can usually be grown but on some land on the grade there may be reduced flexibility due to difficulties with the production of the more demanding crops such as winter harvested vegetables and arable root crops. The level of yield is generally high but may be lower or more variable than Grade 1.

Grade 3 : Good To Moderate Quality Agricultural Land

Land with moderate limitations which affect the choice of crops, timing and type of cultivation, harvesting or the level of yield. When more demanding crops are grown yields are generally lower or more variable than on land in grades 1 and 2.

Sub-grade 3A : Good Quality Agricultural Land

Land capable of consistently producing moderate to high yields of a narrow range of arable crops, especially cereals, or moderate yields of a wide range of crops including cereals, grass, oilseed rape, potatoes, sugar beet and the less demanding horticultural crops.

Sub-grade 3B : Moderate Quality Agricultural Land

Land capable of producing moderate yields of a narrow range of crops, principally cereals and grass, or lower yields of a wider range of crops or high yields of grass which can be grazed or harvested over most of the year.

Grade 4 : Poor Quality Agricultural Land

Land with severe limitations which significantly restrict the range of crops and/or the level of yields. It is mainly suited to grass with occasional arable crops (eg. cereals and forage crops) the yields of which are variable. In moist climates, yields of grass may be moderate to high but there may be difficulties in utilisation. the grade also includes very droughty arable land.

Grade 5 : Very Poor Quality Agricultural Land

Land with very severe limitations which restrict use to permanent pasture or rough grazing, except for occasional pioneer forage crops.

Urban

Built-up or 'hard' uses with relatively little potential for a return to agriculture : housing, industry, commerce, education, transport, religious buildings, cemeteries. Also, hard-surfaced sports facilities, permanent caravan sites and vacant land; all types of derelict land, including mineral workings which are only likely to be reclaimed using derelict land grants.

Non-agricultural

'Soft' uses where most of the land could be returned relatively easily to agriculture, including : private parkland, public open spaces, sports fields, allotments and soft-surfaced areas on airports/airfields. Also active mineral workings and refuse tips where restoration conditions to 'soft' after-uses may apply.

Woodland

Includes commercial and non-commercial woodland.

Agricultural Buildings

Includes the normal range of agricultural buildings as well as other relatively permanent structures such as glasshouses. Temporary structures (eg. polythene tunnels erected for lambing) may be ignored.

Open Water

Includes lakes, ponds and rivers as map scale permits.

Land Not Surveyed

Agricultural land which has not been surveyed.

Where the land use includes more than one of the above, eg. buildings in large grounds, and where map scale permits, the cover types may be shown separately. Otherwise, the most extensive cover type will be shown.

APPENDIX II

REFERENCES

* BRITISH GEOLOGICAL SURVEY (1981), Sheet No.284, Basingstoke, 1:50,000 scale.

* MAFF (1988), Agricultural Land Classification of England And Wales : Revised guidelines and criteria for grading the quality of agricultural land.

* METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE (1989), Climatological Data for Agricultural Land Classification.

* SOIL SURVEY OF ENGLAND AND WALES (1983), Sheet No.6, "Soils of South East England", 1:250,000 scale and accompanying legend.

APPENDIX III

DEFINITION OF SOIL WETNESS CLASSES

Wetness Class I

The soil profile is not wet within 70cm depth for more than 30 days in most years.

Wetness Class II

The soil profile is wet within 70cm depth for 31-90 days in most years or, if there is no slowly permeable layer within 80cm depth, it is wet within 70cm for more than 90 days, but not wet within 40cm depth for more than 30 days in most years.

Wetness Class III

The soil profile is wet within 70cm depth for 91-180 days in most years or, if there is no slowly permeable layer within 80cm depth, it is wet within 70cm for more than 180 days, but only wet within 40cm depth for 31-90 days in most years.

Wetness Class IV

The soil profile is wet within 70cm depth for more than 180 days but not wet within 40cm depth for more than 210 days in most years or, if there is no slowly permeable layer within 80cm depth, it is wet within 40cm depth for 91-210 days in most years.

Wetness Class V

The soil profile is wet within 40cm depth for 211-335 days in most years.

Wetness Class VI

The soil profile is wet within 40cm depth for more than 335 days in most years.

(The number of days is not necessarily a continuous period. 'In most years' is defined as more than 10 out of 20 years.)

APPENDIX IV

SOIL PIT AND SOIL BORING DESCRIPTIONS

- Contents :
- * Soil Abbreviations : Explanatory Note
 - * Soil Pit Descriptions
 - * Database Printout : Boring Level Information
 - * Database Printout : Horizon Level Information

SOIL PROFILE DESCRIPTIONS : EXPLANATORY NOTE

Soil pit and auger boring information collected during ALC fieldwork is held on a database. This has commonly used notations and abbreviations as set out below.

Boring Header Information

1. **GRID REF** : national grid square and 8 figure grid reference.

2. **USE** : Land use at the time of survey. The following abbreviations are used.

ARA : Arable **WHT** : Wheat **BAR** : Barley **CER** : Cereals **OAT** : Oats **MZE** : Maize **OSR** : Oilseed rape
BEN : Field Beans **BRA** : Brassicae **POT** : Potatoes **SBT** : Sugar Beet **FCD** : Fodder Crops **LIN** : Linseed
FRT : Soft and Top Fruit **HRT** : Horticultural Crops **PGR** : Permanent Pasture **LEY** : Ley Grass **RGR** : Rough Grazing
SCR : Scrub **CFW** : Coniferous Woodland **DCW** : Deciduous Woodland **HTH** : Heathland **BOG** : Bog or Marsh
FLW : Fallow **PLO** : Ploughed **SAS** : Set aside **OTH** : Other

3. **GRDNT** : Gradient as measured by a hand-held optical clinometer.

4. **GLEY/SPL** : Depth in cm to gleying or slowly permeable layers.

5. **AP (WHEAT/POTS)** : Crop-adjusted available water capacity.

6. **MB (WHEAT/POTS)** : Moisture Balance.

7. **DRT** : Best grade according to soil droughtiness.

8. If any of the following factors are considered significant, an entry of 'Y' will be entered in the relevant column.

MREL : Microrelief limitation **FLOOD** : Flood risk **EROSN** : Soil erosion risk **EXP** : Exposure limitation **FROST** : Frost
DIST : Disturbed land **CHEM** : Chemical limitation

9. **LIMIT** : The main limitation to land quality. The following abbreviations are used.

OC : Overall Climate **AE** : Aspect **EX** : Exposure **FR** : Frost Risk **GR** : Gradient **MR** : Microrelief
FL : Flood Risk **TX** : Topsoil Texture **DP** : Soil Depth **CH** : Chemical **WE** : Wetness **WK** : Workability
DR : Drought **ER** : Soil Erosion Risk **WD** : Combined Soil Wetness/Droughtiness **ST** : Topsoil Stoniness

Soil Pits and Auger Borings

1. **TEXTURE** : soil texture classes are denoted by the following abbreviations.

S : Sand **LS** : Loamy Sand **SL** : Sandy Loam **SZL** : Sandy Silt Loam **CL** : Clay Loam **ZCL** : Silty Clay Loam
SCL : Sandy Clay Loam **C** : Clay **SC** : Sandy Clay **ZC** : Silty Clay **OL** : Organic Loam **P** : Peat **SP** : Sandy Peat
LP : Loamy Peat **PL** : Peaty Loam **PS** : Peaty Sand **MZ** : Marine Light Silts

For the sand, loamy sand, sandy loam and sandy silt loam classes, the predominant size of sand fraction will be indicated by the use of prefixes.

F : Fine (more than 66% of the sand less than 0.2mm)

M : Medium (less than 66% fine sand and less than 33% coarse sand)

C : Coarse (more than 33% of the sand larger than 0.6mm)

The clay loam and silty clay loam classes will be sub-divided according to the clay content.

M : Medium (<27% clay) **H** : Heavy (27-35% clay)

2. **MOTTLE COL** : Mottle colour

3. **MOTTLE ABUN** : Mottle abundance, expressed as a percentage of the matrix or surface described.

F : few <2% C : common 2-20% M : many 20-40 VM : very many 40% +

4. **MOTTLE CONT** : Mottle contrast

F : faint - indistinct mottles, evident only on close inspection D : distinct - mottles are readily seen

P : prominent - mottling is conspicuous and one of the outstanding features of the horizon

5. **PED. COL** : Ped face colour

6. **STONE LITH** : One of the following is used.

HR : all hard rocks and stones MSST : soft, medium or coarse grained sandstone

SI : soft weathered igneous or metamorphic SLST : soft oolitic or dolimitic limestone

FSST : soft, fine grained sandstone ZR : soft, argillaceous, or silty rocks CH : chalk

GH : gravel with non-porous (hard) stones GS : gravel with porous (soft) stones

Stone contents (> 2cm, > 6cm and total) are given in percentages (by volume).

7. **STRUCT** : the degree of development, size and shape of soil peds are described using the following notation:

- degree of development WK : weakly developed MD : moderately developed ST : strongly developed

- ped size F : fine M : medium C : coarse VC : very coarse

- ped shape S : single grain M : massive GR : granular AB : angular blocky SAB : sub-angular blocky PR : prismatic
PL : platy

8. **CONSIST** : Soil consistence is described using the following notation:

L : loose VF : very friable FR : friable FM : firm VM : very firm EM : extremely firm EH : extremely hard

9. **SUBS STR** : Subsoil structural condition recorded for the purpose of calculating profile droughtiness.

G : good M : moderate P : poor

10. **POR** : Soil porosity. If a soil horizon has less than 0.5% biopores >0.5 mm, a 'Y' will appear in this column.

11. **IMP** : If the profile is impenetrable a 'Y' will appear in this column at the appropriate horizon.

12. **SPL** : Slowly permeable layer. If the soil horizon is slowly permeable a 'Y' will appear in this column.

13. **CALC** : If the soil horizon is calcareous, a 'Y' will appear in this column.

14. Other notations

APW : available water capacity (in mm) adjusted for wheat

APP : available water capacity (in mm) adjusted for potatoes

MBW : moisture balance, wheat

MBP : moisture balance, potatoes

SOIL PIT DESCRIPTION

Site Name : BSTOKE LP (2) SITE 3 Pit Number : 1P

Grid Reference: SU61865544 Average Annual Rainfall : 756 mm
 Accumulated Temperature : 1430 degree days
 Field Capacity Level : 162 days
 Land Use :
 Slope and Aspect : degrees N

HORIZON	TEXTURE	COLOUR	STONES >2	TOT.STONE	MOTTLES	STRUCTURE
0- 32	HCL	10YR42 00	0	4		
32- 45	HCL	10YR54 00	0	35		
45- 60	CH	00CH00 00	0	0		

Wetness Grade : 2 Wetness Class : I
 Gleying : cm
 SPL : No SPL

Drought Grade : 3A APW : 85 mm MBW : -17 mm
 APP : 88 mm MBP : -5 mm

FINAL ALC GRADE : 3A
MAIN LIMITATION : Droughtiness

SOIL PIT DESCRIPTION

Site Name : BSTOKE LP (2) SITE 3 Pit Number : 2P

Grid Reference: SU61805525 Average Annual Rainfall : 756 mm
 Accumulated Temperature : 1430 degree days
 Field Capacity Level : 162 days
 Land Use :
 Slope and Aspect : 02 degrees N

HORIZON	TEXTURE	COLOUR	STONES >2	TOT.STONE	MOTTLES	STRUCTURE
0- 30	MZCL	10YR43 00	4	8		
30- 55	MZCL	10YR44 00	0	6		MDCSAB
55- 90	MZCL	10YR64 00	0	20		

Wetness Grade : 1 Wetness Class : I
 Gleying : cm
 SPL : No SPL

Drought Grade : 2 APW : 122mm MBW : 20 mm
 APP : 116mm MBP : 23 mm

FINAL ALC GRADE : 2
 MAIN LIMITATION : Droughtiness

SAMPLE NO.	GRID REF	ASPECT USE	GRDNT	--WETNESS--		-WHEAT-		-POTS-		M.REL		EROSN EXP	FROST DIST	CHEM LIMIT	ALC	COMMENTS	
				CLASS	GRADE	AP	MB	AP	MB	DRT	FLOOD						
1	SU61905560	CER N	01		1	2	78	-24	79	-14	3B				DR	3B	ROOT AS 1P
1P	SU61865544	STU N			1	2	85	-17	88	-5	3A				DR	3A	ROOT 60
2	SU61905550	CER			1	1	108	6	105	12	2				DR	2	IMP 90
2P	SU61805525	STU N	02		1	1	122	20	116	23	2				DR	2	PIT TO 90
3	SU61805540	BAR			1	1	93	-9	98	5	3A				DR	3A	ROOT AS 1P
4	SU61905540	BAR			1	1	88	-14	91	-2	3A				DR	3A	ROOT AS 1P
5	SU61805530	BAR			1	1	102	0	107	14	3A				DR	3A	ROOT AS 1P
6	SU61835524	STU N	02		1	1	103	1	113	20	3A				DR	3A	IMP Q2DR
7	SU61865544	CER			1	1	107	5	106	13	2				DR	2	ROOT AS 1P
8	SU61905566	CER			1	2	139	37	114	21	1				WE	2	
9	SU61955563	STU		040 040	3	3B	96	-6	108	15	3A				WE	3B	
10	SU61855555	STU			1	2	65	-37	65	-28	3B				DR	3B	IMP 40 Q3A
11	SU61825546	STU			1	2	75	-27	75	-18	3B				DR	3B	ROOT AS 1P

SAMPLE	DEPTH	TEXTURE	COLOUR	----MOTTLES-----			PED		----STONES-----			STRUCT/ CONSIST	SUBS					
				COL	ABUN	CONT	COL.	GLE	>2	>6	LITH		TOT	STR	POR	IMP	SPL	CALC
1	0-29	hc1	10YR32 00						0	0	HR	5						
	29-40	c	75YR44 00						0	0	HR	20					M	
	40-55	ch	10YR82 00						0	0		0					P	
1P	0-32	hc1	10YR42 00						0	0	HR	4						
	32-45	hc1	10YR54 00						0	0	CH	35					M	Y
	45-60	ch	00CH00 00						0	0		0					P	Y
2	0-25	mzc1	10YR42 00						0	0	HR	2						
	25-85	c	75YR44 00						0	0	HR	1					P	
	85-90	hc1	10YR64 00						0	0	CH	20					M	
2P	0-30	mzc1	10YR43 00						4	0	HR	8						
	30-55	mzc1	10YR44 00						0	0	HR	6	MDCSAB	FM	M	Y		
	55-90	mzc1	10YR64 00						0	0	CH	20					M	
3	0-30	hc1	10YR43 00						0	0	HR	5						
	30-40	hc1	10YR44 00						0	0		0					M	
	40-50	hc1	10YR44 00						0	0	CH	15					M	
	50-65	ch	10YR81 00						0	0		0					P	
4	0-30	hc1	10YR43 00						0	0	HR	4						
	30-45	hc1	10YR44 00						0	0	CH	5					M	
	45-60	ch	10YR81 00						0	0		0					P	
5	0-30	hc1	10YR43 00						0	0	HR	6						
	30-40	hc1	10YR44 00						0	0		0					M	
	40-60	hc1	10YR54 00						0	0	CH	15					M	
	60-75	ch	10YR81 00						0	0		0					P	
6	0-38	mzc1	10YR42 00						0	0	HR	2						
	38-50	mzc1	10YR44 00						0	0	HR	10					M	
	50-65	mzc1	10YR66 00						0	0	CH	20					M	Y
7	0-28	hc1	10YR42 00						0	0	HR	3						
	28-50	c	75YR44 00						0	0	HR	15					M	
	50-65	hc1	10YR54 00						0	0	CH	40					M	
	65-70	hc1	10YR54 00						0	0	CH	60					M	
	70-85	ch	00ZZ00 00						0	0		0					P	
8	0-25	hc1	10YR42 00						0	0	HR	2						
	25-40	hc1	10YR44 00						0	0	HR	2					M	
	40-60	c	75YR46 00						0	0	HR	5					M	
	60-120	c	75YR46 00						0	0		0					M	
9	0-35	hc1	10YR42 00						0	0	HR	2						
	35-40	hc1	10YR54 00						0	0	HR	10					M	
	40-70	c	10YR53 00	75YR58 00	M		00M00 00	Y	0	0		0					P	Y

SAMPLE	DEPTH	TEXTURE	COLOUR	----MOTTLES-----		PED		----STONES----			STRUCT/ CONSIST	SUBS						
				COL	ABUN	CONT	COL.	GLEY	>2	>6		LITH	TOT	STR	POR	IMP	SPL	CALC
10	0-30	hc1	10YR42 00					0	0	HR	6							
	30-40	c	10YR44 00					0	0	HR	10		M					
11	0-29	hc1	10YR42 00					0	0	HR	4							
	29-35	hzc1	10YR64 00					0	0	CH	5		M					Y
	35-50	ch	00CH00 00					0	0		0		P					Y