

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

WEST MOOR FARM, ARMTHORPE
Proposed Golf Course

MAFF
LEEDS REGIONAL OFFICE

May 1990
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1. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT ON LAND AT WEST MOOR FARM,
ARMTHORPE

1. INTRODUCTION AND GENERAL SITE CHARACTERISTICS

1.1 LOCATION AND SURVEY METHOD

The site is located around National Grid Reference SE 645062 immediately north west of junction 4 of the M18 motorway. It covers 50.8 hectares nearly all of which is in agricultural use.

Survey work was carried out in May 1990 when soils were examined by hand auger borings at 100 metre intervals pre-determined by the National Grid. Soil profile pits were also dug at representative locations to assess topsoil and subsoil stone contents and soil structural characteristics.

All assessments of land quality 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).

1.2 LAND USE

All of the agricultural land was in arable production during the 1990 season.

1.3 CLIMATE AND RELIEF

Mean Annual Rainfall (AAR) is approximately 569 mm. Accumulated temperature above 0°C between January and June (ATO) is 1417 day degree C and the field capacity period is about 117 days.

These factors indicate that although there is no overall climatic restriction on ALC grade, the crop adjusted summer moisture deficits will make soil droughtiness moderately limiting on any coarse loamy or sandy soils, and slightly limiting on fine loamy and clayey soils. Altitude varies between 3 and 5 metres above Ordnance Datum and relief is virtually flat across the whole site. Slopes do not exceed 1 degree.

1.4 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

Soils are developed on alluvial clays which form a cover 50-100 cm in thickness over the underlying glaciofluvial sand deposits. Topsoils, especially in the northern and north western parts of the site, are often organic or peaty, suggesting that peat may once have been widespread in the area. The gleyed clayey upper subsoils are slowly permeable and as a result most soils fall within wetness Class III. A sandy lower subsoil is common at a depth of between 50 and 100 cm.

2.3 AGRICULTURAL BUILDINGS

These consist of an agricultural dwelling and general farm buildings at West Moor Farm.

Resource Planning Group
Leeds RO
June 1990

MAP