

**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
PROPOSED GOLF COURSE
DELPH FARM, KNOWSLEY**

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AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR PROPOSED GOLF COURSE, DELPH FARM, KNOWSLEY

1 SUMMARY

1.1 The Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) Survey for this site shows that the following proportions of ALC grades are present:

Grade/Subgrade	ha	% of site
2	10.8	37
3a	13.4	46
3b	3.1	11
Other land		
Woodland	1.9	6

1.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of land in Grade 2 is soil droughtiness.

1.3 The main limitation to the agricultural use of land in Sub grades 3a and 3b is soil wetness.

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 The site was surveyed by the Resource Planning Team in March 1994. An Agricultural Land Classification survey was undertaken according to the guidelines laid down in the "Agricultural Land Classification of England and Wales - Revised Guidelines and Criteria for Grading the Quality of Agricultural Land" (MAFF 1988).

2.2 The 29.2 ha site is situated to the west of Knowsley. It is bounded to the west by Croxteth Brook and to the east by the M57 motorway. The site is bounded to the north by agricultural land.

2.3 The survey was requested by MAFF in connection with a proposed golf course development.

2.4 At the request of MAFF the survey was at a scale of 1:10,000 with a minimum auger boring density of 1 per hectare. The attached map is only accurate as a base map scale and any enlargement would be misleading.

2.5 At the time of the survey the northern portion of the site was in fallow whilst the southern portion had been ploughed.

3 CLIMATE

3.1 The following interpolated data are relevant for the site:

Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	968
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C January to June (day °C)	1370

3.2 There is no overall climatic limitation on the site

3.3 Other relevant data for classifying land include:

Field Capacity Days (days)	219
Moisture Deficit Wheat (mm)	73
Moisture Deficit Potatoes (mm)	56

4 SITE

4.1 When classifying land three site factors are taken into consideration; gradient, micro-relief and flooding.

4.2 These factors do not impose any limitations on the agricultural use of the land.

5 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

5.1 The solid geology of the area consists of Bunter Sandstone overlain by Boulder Clay and Shirdley Hill Sand, (British Geological Survey, Sheet 84, 1 inch).

5.2 The underlying geology influences the soils which in the northern portion of the site consist predominantly of clay loam textured topsoils over clay, and the in the southern portion consists of clay loam textured topsoils over loamy sand and sand.

6 AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

6.1 Grade 2 - occupies 10.8 ha (37%) of the survey area and occurs as a broad band running north to south across the site.

6.1.1 These soils typically consist of clay loam topsoils over medium sand.

6.1.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of this land is soil droughtiness.

6.2 Subgrade 3a - occupies 13.4 ha (46%) of the survey area and occurs in two areas; along Croxteth Brook and between the motorway and Thunderbolt Cottages in the south east of the site.

6.2.1 These soils typically have a clay loam texture overlying clay in the south east of the site, whilst along Croxteth Brook the soils consist of clay loam topsoils over sandy loam and sand. In both areas the subsoils are gleyed.

6.2.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of this land is soil wetness.

6.3 Subgrade 3b - occupies 3.1 ha (11%) of the survey area and occurs as one area in the north east of the site.

6.3.1 These soil typically have a clay loam texture overlying clay. The clay is gleyed and forms a slowly permeable layer.

6.3.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of this land is soil wetness.

6.4 Other land includes woodland occupying 1.9 ha (6%) of the site.

6.5 SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

Grade/Sub-grade	Area in Hectares	% of Survey Area	% of Agricultural Land
2	10.8	37	40
3a	13.4	46	49
3b	3.1	11	11
Other land			
Woodland	1.9	6	
Totals	27.3	100	100

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