AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

TREE ROAD, BRAMPTON, CUMBRIA
PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

ADAS
Leeds Regional Office

July 1990
2FCS 4910
53/90

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AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT
ON LAND AT TREE ROAD, BRAMPTON, CUMBRIA

1. INTRODUCTION AND SITE CHARACTERISTICS

1.1 Location

The site lies on the south eastern side of Brampton around National Grid Reference NY 536610 to the north west of Tree Road. It covers a total of 3.0 ha, all of which is in agricultural use.

1.2 Survey Methods

Survey work was carried out in July 1990 when soils were examined by hand auger borings at a rate of 2 borings per hectare at evenly spaced points predetermined by the National Grid. Soil profile pits were also dug where necessary to assess soil structural characteristics and stone content. All land quality assessments 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).

1.3 LAND USE

The whole site is under permanent grassland.

1.4 CLIMATE

Average annual rainfall at Brampton is 892 mm. Accumulated temperature above 0°C between January and June is 1266 day°C and the land is at field capacity for about 219 days a year. The above combination of rainfall and temperature figures indicate that there is an overall climatic restriction on ALC of Grade 2.

1.5 RELIEF

The northern part of the site consists of a strongly to steeply sloping hill which rises to a maximum height of 102 m a.o.d., (ie about 12 m higher than much of the remainder of the site). Elsewhere the land is gently sloping except for a moderately sloping south facing bank which cuts across the south western field adjoining Tree Road. Mean altitude over the site as a whole is about 90 m a.o.d. Gradient is an overriding limitation on ALC grade on the steeply sloping hill and on the bank in the south western part of the site.

1.6 DRAINAGE

Soils are all well drained and fall within Wetness Class I.

1.7 SOILS AND GEOLOGY

Thick glaciofluvial sand deposits cover the whole site. Soils are all similar and consist mainly of fine or medium sandy loam or loamy fine sand topsoils over loamy fine sand or fine sand subsoils. Stone content in the upper horizons is generally low and never a limiting factor. Gravel occurs at depth in a few places. All soils are freely drained and fall within Wetness Class I. Although soils are light textured drought is not limiting because of the relatively high rainfall and low summer moisture deficits.

2. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

The ALC grades occurring on this site are as follows:

GRADE	HECTARES	% OF TOTAL AREA
2	2.1	70%
3b	0.4	13%
4	0.5	17%
TOTAL	3.0	100%

Grade 2

Land in this grade covers the central and southern parts of the site. Soils fall within Wetness Class I and consist of fine or medium sandy loam or loamy fine sand topsoils over loamy fine sand and fine sand subsoils to depth. The main restriction on ALC grade is the overall climatic limitation which applies to the whole district.

Subgrade 3b

Subgrade 3b land occurs on the lower slopes of the hill in the northern part of the site and on the strongly sloping bank in the south. Although soils fall into Wetness Class I, with sandy loam and loamy sand topsoils over loamy sand and sand subsoils, land class is restricted to subgrade 3b by gradients of 8-10°.

Grade 4

Land in this grade occurs on the higher parts of the hill in the north of the site. Soils fall within Wetness Class I and consist of fine or medium sandy loam topsoils over loamy fine sand and sand subsoils to depth. ALC grade is limited by gradients of 12-14°.

Resource Planning Group
Leeds Regional Office
July 1990

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