MAFF Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
ALLERTHORPE PARK GOLF COURSE
POCKLINGTON
HUMBERSIDE
JANUARY 1996

ADAS
Leeds Statutory Group

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CONTENTS

MAP

SUMMARY

A detailed Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) survey of 7.1 ha of land adjoining Allerthorpe Park Golf Course was carried out in January 1995. At the time of survey all of the site was in agricultural use and 3.1 ha of this falls in Grade 2. This land has been recently marled and consists of well drained soils where fine sandy loam topsoils overlie fine sand subsoils. Until the marl has been fully incorporated in the topsoil there is still a slight risk of wind erosion, and it is this factor which limits the land to Grade 2.

The remaining 4.0 ha on the site fall in Subgrade 3a. Loamy fine sand topsoils overlie loamy fine sand or fine sand upper subsoils and fine sand lower subsoils. Although well drained, this land is prone to wind erosion and it is this which limits it to Subgrade 3a.

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT ON LAND AT ALLERTHORPE PARK GOLF COURSE, HUMBERSIDE

1. INTRODUCTION AND SITE CHARACTERISTICS

1.1 Location and Survey Methods

This site lies approximately 3 km south-west of the village of Pocklington, around Grid Reference SE782463. Survey work was carried out in January 1996 when the soils were examined by hand auger borings at 100 m intervals predetermined by the National Grid. In addition, one soil pit was dug to allow a full profile description to be made and a number of soil samples were taken for laboratory analysis. The 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 the survey the north of the site was sown to winter cereals while the south had outdoor pigs. The site is level and lies at 13 m A.O.D.

1.3 Climate

Grid Reference	: SE782463
Altitude (m)	: 13
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C (January - June)	: 1386 day °C
Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	: 661
Climatic Grade	: 1
Field Capacity Days	: 158
Moisture Deficit (mm) Wheat	: 104
Moisture Deficit (mm) Potatoes	: 95

1.4 Geology, Soils and Drainage

The site is underlain by Keuper Marl, with superficial deposits of wind blown sand.

In the south loamy fine sand topsoils overlie loamy fine sand or fine sand upper subsoils and fine sand lower subsoils. The soils in the north of the site are very similar, but the practice of marling has given rise to a topsoil with an overall texture of fine sandy loam, although the clay has not as yet been fully incorporated. The soils throughout the site are well drained, falling in Wetness Class I, and correspond to the Kexby series as mapped by the Soil Survey and Land Research Centre.

2. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

The ALC grades occurring on this site are as follows:

Grade/Subgrade	Hectares	% of Total Area
1		
2	3.1	43.7
3a	4.0	56.3
3b		
4		
5		
(Sub total)	(7.1)	(100.0)
Other Land		
TOTAL	7.1	100

2.1 Grade 2

Grade 2 land occurs in the north of the site. This land has recently been marled which has given rise to an overall topsoil texture of fine sandy loam, with fine sand subsoils below around 30 cm depth. However, until the marl has been fully incorporated into the topsoil there remains a slight risk of wind erosion and it is this factor which limits the land to Grade 2. Once full incorporation has occurred this land will probably meet the requirements for Grade 1.

2.2 Subgrade 3a

Subgrade 3a land occurs in the south of the site, where loamy fine sand topsoils overlie loamy fine sand or fine sand upper subsoils and fine sand lower subsoils. These soils are well drained (Wetness Class I) but are prone to wind erosion, particularly in dry springs before crop cover has been established, and it is this factor which restricts the ALC grade of the land.

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