

Preliminary Environmental Information Report: Annex 6.1 – Agricultural Land Classification Published Data (Part 1)

Date: July 2017







Environmental Impact Assessment

Preliminary Environmental Information Report

Volume 6

Annex 6.1 – Agricultural Land Classification Published Data

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Date: July 2017

This report is also downloadable from the Hornsea Project Three offshore wind farm website at: www.dongenergy.co.uk/hornseaproject3

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Appendix A: MAFF Agricultural Land Classification Records (partly within Part 1 of this document and partly within Part 2 of the document)







1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose

- 1.1.1.1 This annex provides details of published Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) data coincident with the onshore cable corridor search area and the location of the proposed onshore HVAC booster station and onshore HVDC converter/HVAC substation. The data was obtained from Natural England Access to Evidence Published ALC Data http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/category/5954148537204736.
- 1.1.1.2 The information presented in this annex has been used to inform the baseline and impact assessment presented in volume 3, chapter 6: Land Use, Agriculture and Recreation.







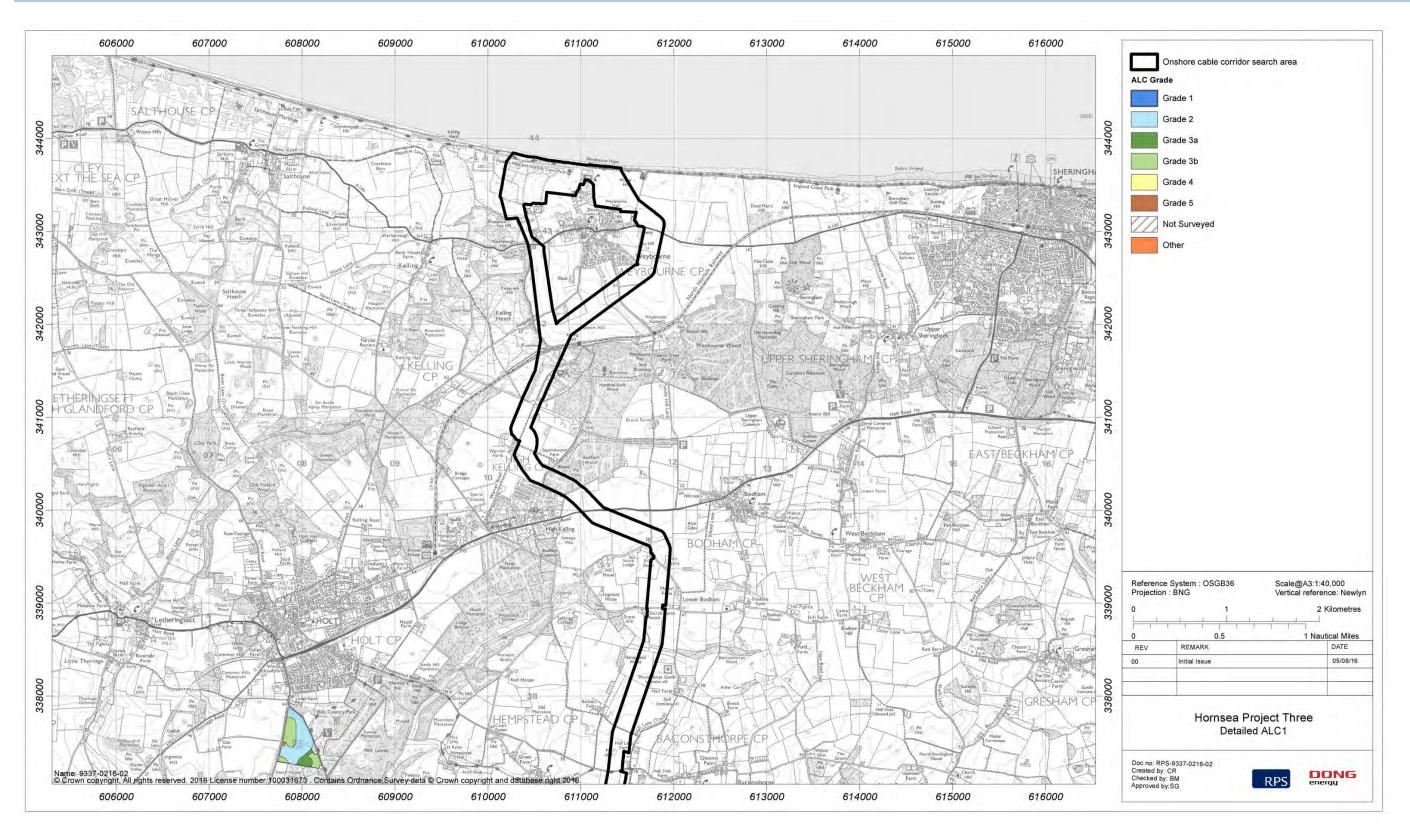
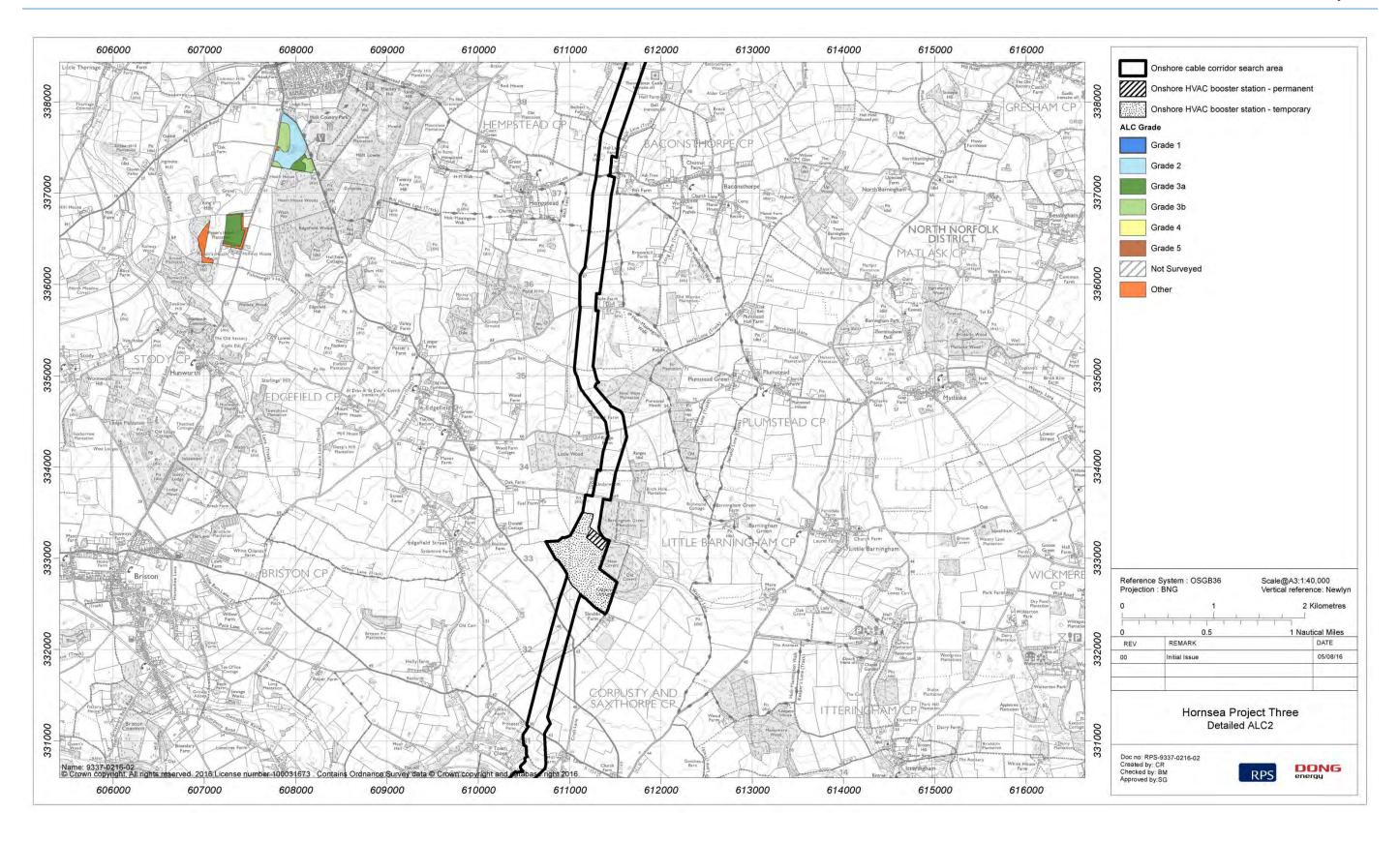


Figure 1.1: Detailed Agricultural Land Classification





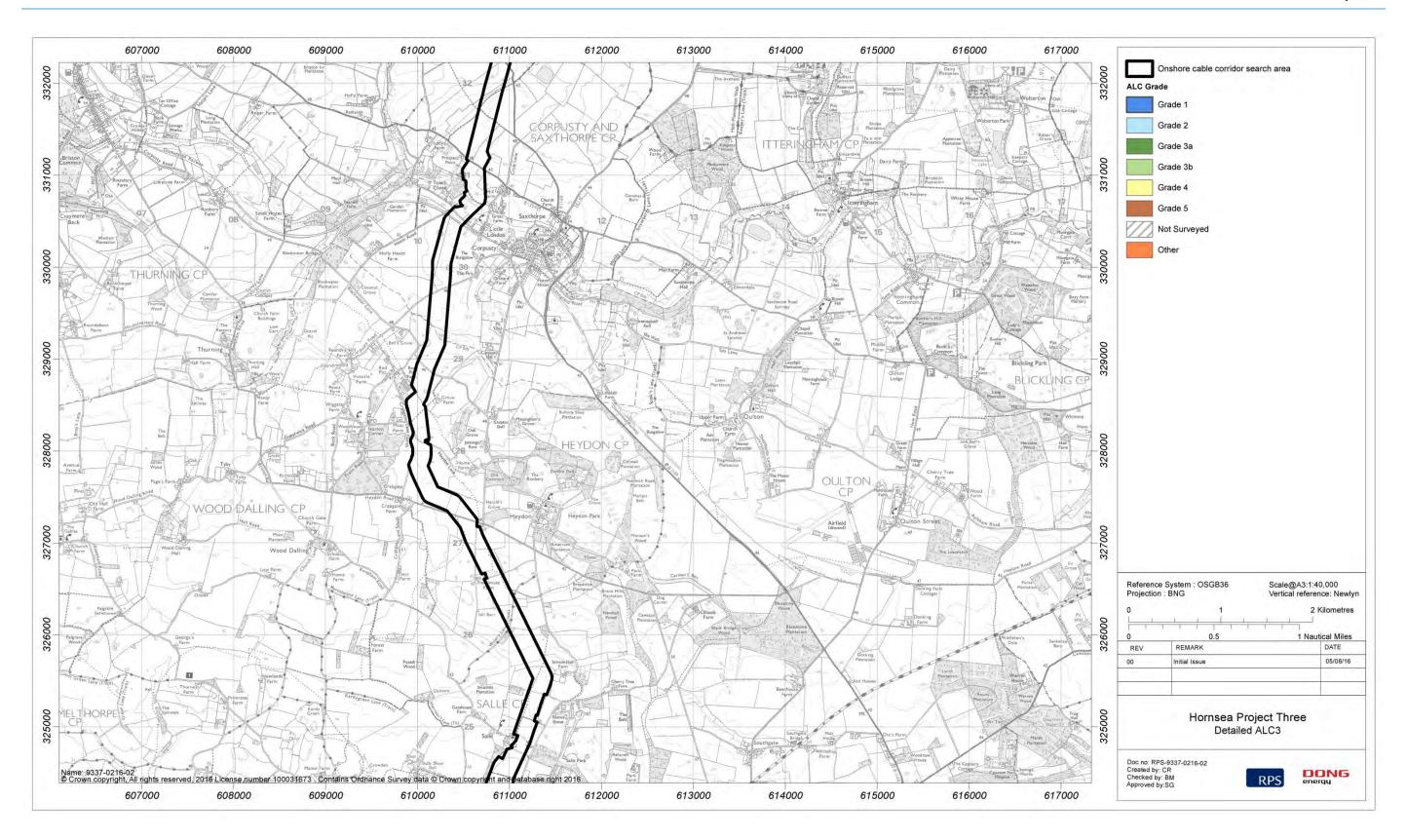








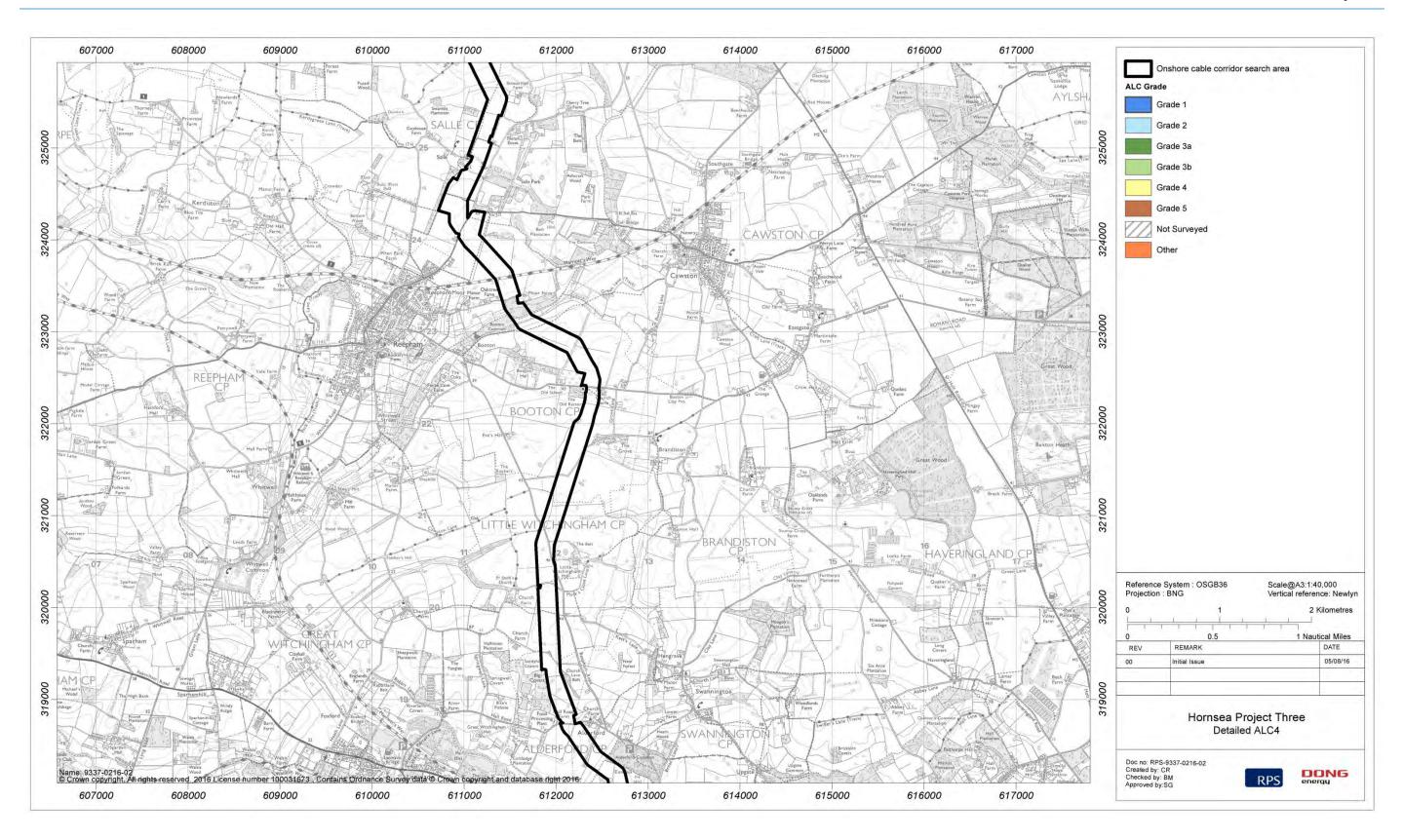








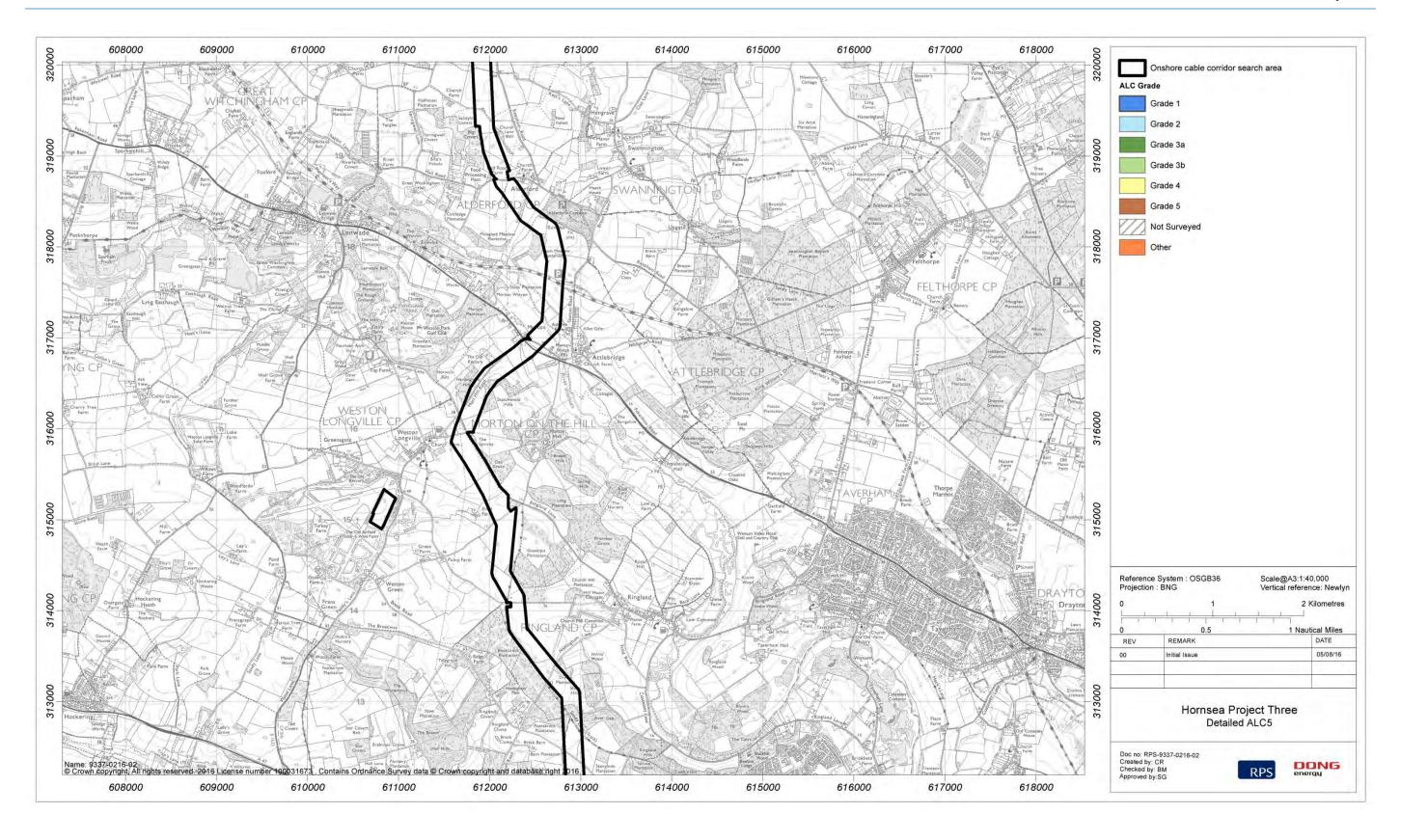






























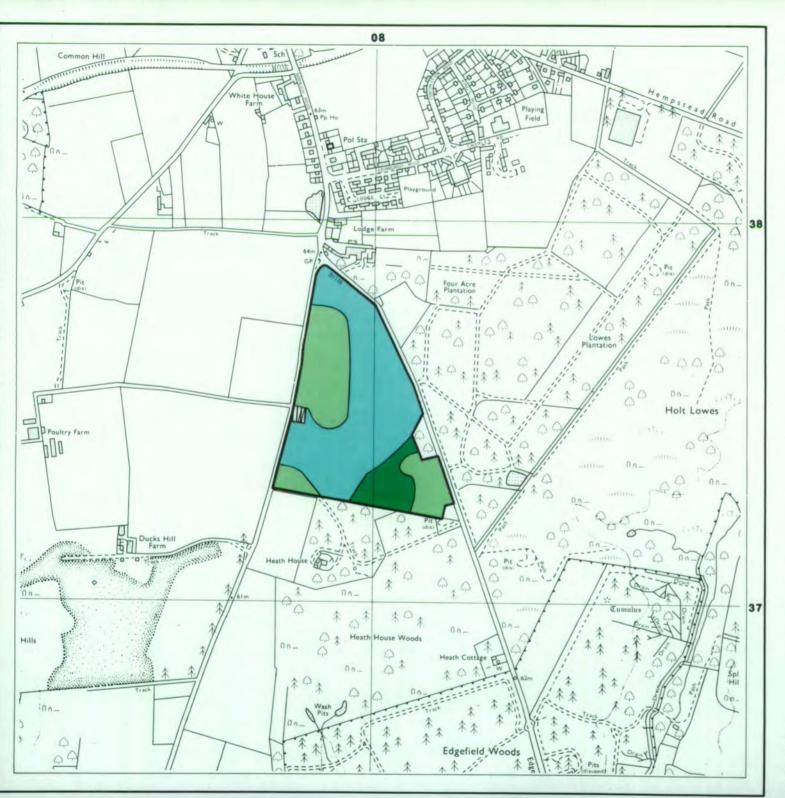




Appendix A: MAFF Agricultural Land Classification Records

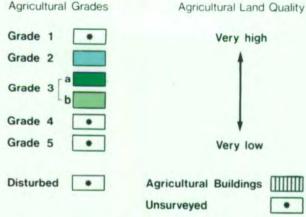






Agricultural Land Classification Land Adjacent to the B1149 Road, near Holt, Norfolk

AGRICULTURAL LAND



NON AGRICULTURAL LAND

Land predominantly in urban use

Other land primarily in non-agricultural use

•

* Land in this category does not occur on this map

SOURCE MAPS Base maps taken from the O.S. 1:10000 Sheets TG 03 NE

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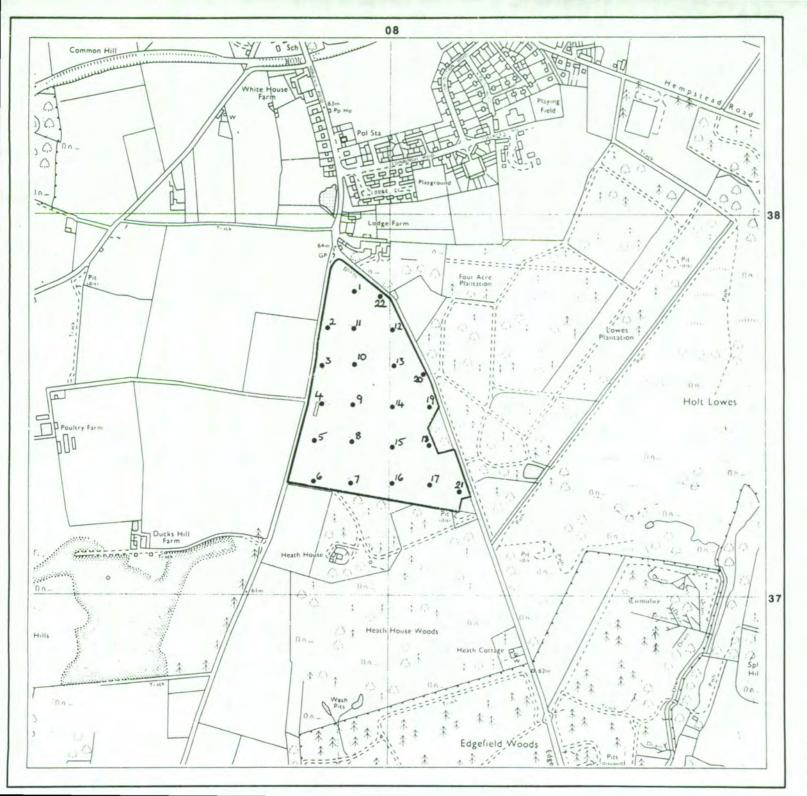
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MAFF Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food



Agricultural Land Classification Land Adjacent to the B1149 Road, near Holt, Norfolk

Location of auger boring

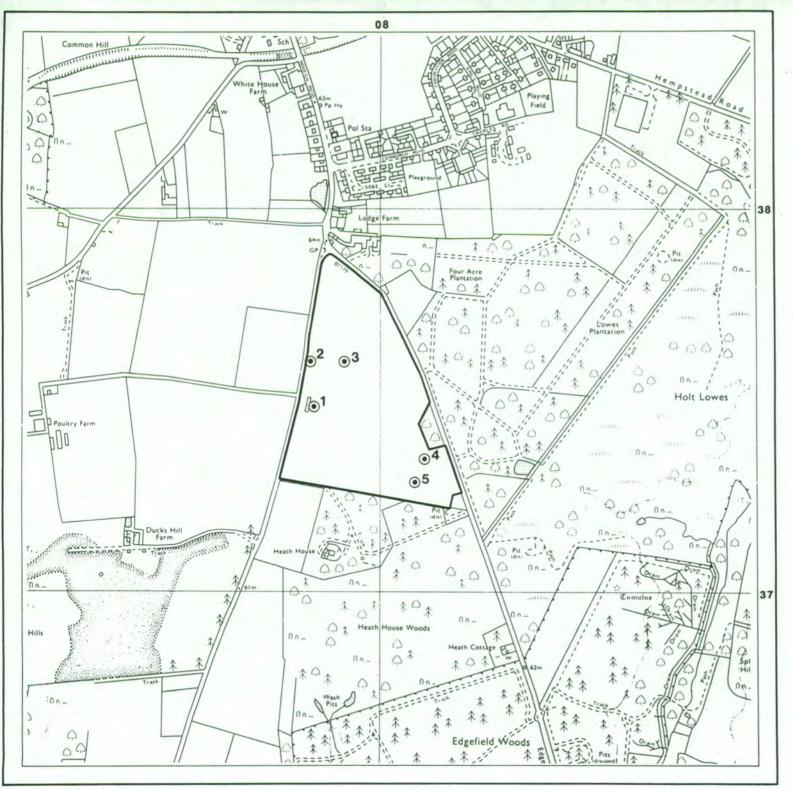
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Agricultural Land Classification

Land Adjacent to the B1149 Road,
near Holt, Norfolk

Location of soil pit

SOURCE MAPS Base maps taken from the O.S. 1;10000 Sheets TG 03 NE

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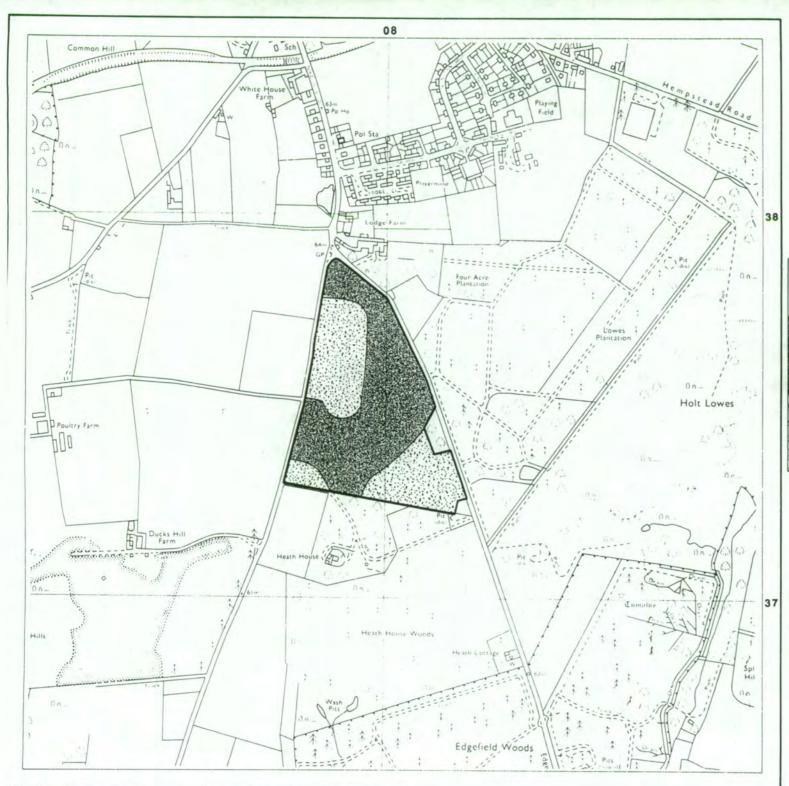
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Land Adjacent to the B1149 Road near Holt, Norfolk

SOIL TYPES

SOIL	TOPSOIL	UPPER SUBSOIL	LOWER
1	0-35/40cm v sli or sli stony MSL	35/40-70/90cm v sli or sli stony MSL	70/90-120cm v sli to mod stony LMS occ MS and SCI
2	0-35cm sli to mod stony MSL	35-45/65cm mod to v stony LS or SL occ S	45/65-120cm mod to v stony occ extr stony S, LS or SL

SOURCE MAPS Base maps taken from the OS 1:10000 Sheets TG 03 NE

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PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS REPORT INCORPORATING AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

LAND ADJACENT TO THE B1149 ROAD NEAR HOLT, NORFOLK

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 The survey site comprises 18.2 hectares which are subject to an application by Ennemix Development Ltd, for the extraction of sand and gravel at Holt, Norfolk. MAFF surveyed the site in August 1990 in order to assess the agricultural land quality and the soil physical characteristics. This survey was conducted at an auger boring density of one per hectare and supplemented by five soil inspection pits in order to assess subsoil conditions.

2. SITE PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

2.1 Climate

Climate data for the site was obtained from the published agricultural climatic dataset. (Met Office, 1989). This indicates that for the site's median altitude of 62m AOD the annual average rainfall is 690mm (28.2"). This data also indicates that field capacity days are 144 and moisture deficits are 106mm for wheat and 98mm for potatoes. These climatic characteristics do not impose any climatic limitations on the ALC grading of the site.

2.2 Altitude and Relief

The site falls gently towards the south eastern corner and ranges in altitude from 59m to 65m AOD. As a result gradient and altitude do not impose any limitations to the ALC grade.

3. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

3.1 The definitions of the Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) grades are included in Appendix 2.

Namicultural Tand Classification

3.2 The table below shows the ALC grade for the survey area.

	Agricultural L	and Classification	L
Grade	ha	*	
2	9.6	52.7	
3a	2.0	11.0	
3b	6.5	35.8	
Agricultural Buildin	gs 0.1	0.5	
TOTAL	18.2	100.0	

3.3 Irrigation

The majority of the site is regularly irrigated significantly enhancing the potential of the light soils which characterise the site. Although the south eastern corner of the site is not irrigated at present, there is sufficient water available to irrigate this area too. The ALC grade assigned to the survey area takes into account the reduction in drought risk afforded by irrigation.

3.4 <u>Grade 2</u>

The majority of the site has been graded 2. This land is associated with coarse loamy soils which have variable quantities of profile flints (described in paragraph 4.2.1). These soils have a greater depth of better bodied textures and lower topsoil and subsoil stone contents than those graded 3a and 3b. Adequate irrigation water is available to supplement the water available to crops grown on this land and as a result the profiles are slightly droughty. Slight droughtiness, and in some areas topsoil stone, excludes the land from grade 1.

3.5 Subgrade 3a

The south eastern corner of the site has been graded 3a. These coarse loamy soils, (described in paragraph 4.2.2) have a topsoil stone content of 10 - 15^{*} which acts as a moderate impediment to cultivation, harvesting and crop growth.

The combination of slightly stony topsoils with moderately to extremely stony subsoils and light textures results in a low-moderate profile water holding capacity. With the reduction in drought risk afforded by irrigation these soils are moderately droughty. Topsoil stone and/or droughtiness are the overriding limitations to the grade.

3.6 Subgrade 3b

Three areas of subgrade 3b have been delineated.

3.6.1 All three areas of land graded 3b are associated with the stonier variant of the soils described in paragraph 4.2.2. These soils are freely draining (Wetness Class I) and the significant droughtiness risk, caused by the light soil textures and profile stone is ameliorated, to a degree, by irrigation. However the presence of moderately stony topsoils results in a significant impediment to cultivation, harvesting and root growth as well as increasing production costs by causing wear and tear on implements and tyres. As a result the topsoil stone is the overriding limitation to the ALC grade.

4.0 SOIL PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Geology

4.1 The published geology map 1/4" to 1 mile drift edition, sheet No 12, shows the survey area to comprise sand and gravel deposits.

At a few locations more stony or less stony topsoils occur however they cover too small an area to delineate separately at this scale.

Soils

4.2 The survey area has been mapped on two occasions firstly at 1:100,000 scale (1973) and secondly at a reconnaissance scale of 1:250,000 (1983). These maps show the survey site to comprise Wick 3 Association **.

During this survey a detailed inspection of the soils identified two soils types.

Soil Type 1

4.2.1 (Refer to Appendix 1)

These soils are located in the central part of the site. Profiles typically comprise very slightly or slightly stony medium sandy loam topsoils over similar upper subsoils which become very slightly to moderately stony loamy medium sands at variable depths. Occasional sandy or sandy clay loam horizons may occur within the lower subsoils. Profiles are freely drained (Wetness Class 1) and commonly calcareous throughout.

Soil Type 2

4.2.2 (Refer to Appendix 1)

Soil type 2 is a stonier variant of soil type 1. Profiles typically comprise slightly to moderately stony, medium sandy loam topsoils over moderately to very stony, sandy loam or loamy sand upper subsoils. These overlie moderately to very stony or(occasionally extremely stony) sands, loamy sands or sandy loams at depth. These profiles are freely draining (Wetness Class 1) and commonly calcareous throughout.

RESOURCE PLANNING GROUP

Cambridge

February 1991

<u>Wick 3 Association</u>. Deep, well drained coarse loamy often stoneless soils. Some similar sandy soils. Complex patterns locally.

-

**

APPENDIX 1

SOIL PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

SOIL TYPE 1

Topsoil Texture : Medium sandy loam

Stone : Very slightly to slightly stony (0 - 10% greater

than 2cm)

Depth : 35/40cm

Upper

subsoil Texture : Medium sandy loam

Stone : Very slightly to slightly stony

Structure : Weakly developed coarse subangular blocky

Consistence : Friable
Depth : 70/90cm

Lower

subsoil Texture : Loamy medium sand with occasional sand or sandy

clay loam horizons

Stone : Very slightly to moderately stony

Structure : Weakly developed medium subangular blocky

Consistence : Very friable

Depth : 120 cm

SOIL TYPE 2

Topsoil Texture : Medium sandy loam

Stone : Slightly to moderately stony (10 - 25%)

Depth : 35 cm

Upper

subsoil Texture : Medium sandy loam or loamy medium sands,

occasionally sand

Stone : Moderately to very stony

Structure : Too stony to assess

Depth : 45/65 cm

Lower

subsoil Texture : Sand, loamy sand or sandy loam

Stone : Moderately to very stony, occasionally extremely

ston

Structure : Too stony to assess

Depth : 120 cm

All profiles are calcareous throughout.

Appendix 2

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 and horticultural crops can usually be grown but on some land in 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. Where more demanding crops are grown yields are generally lower or more variable than on land in Grades 1 and 2.

Subgrade 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.

Subgrade 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 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 most 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,

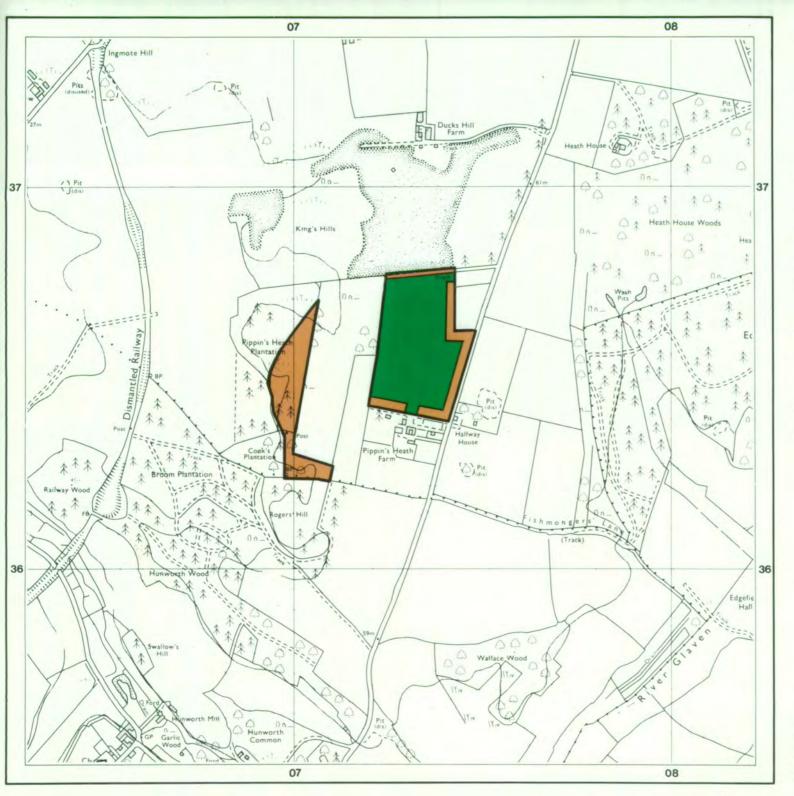
References

- GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF ENGLAND AND WALES (1933).

 Drift edition geology map sheet 12.

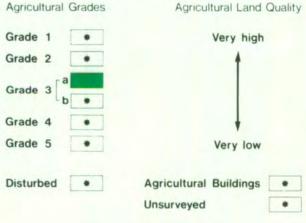
 Scale 4" to 1 mile.
- MAFF (1988) Agricultural Land Classification for England and Wales (Revised Guidelines and criteria for grading the quality of agricultural land) Alnwick.
- METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE (1989). Climatic Data extracted from the published Agricultural Climatic Dataset.
- SOIL SURVEY OF ENGLAND AND WALES (1973). "Soils of Norfolk", Scale 1:100,000.
- SOIL SURVEY OF ENGLAND AND WALES (1983). "The Soils of Eastern England"

 Sheet 4, Scale 1:250,000.



Agricultural Land Classification Extension to Holt Sand and Gravel Pit, Norfolk

AGRICULTURAL LAND



NON AGRICULTURAL LAND

Land predominantly in urban use

Other land primarily in non-agricultural use



* Land in this category does not occur on this map

SOURCE MAPS Base maps taken from the O.S. 1:10000 Sheet TG 03 NE

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Scale 1:10 000

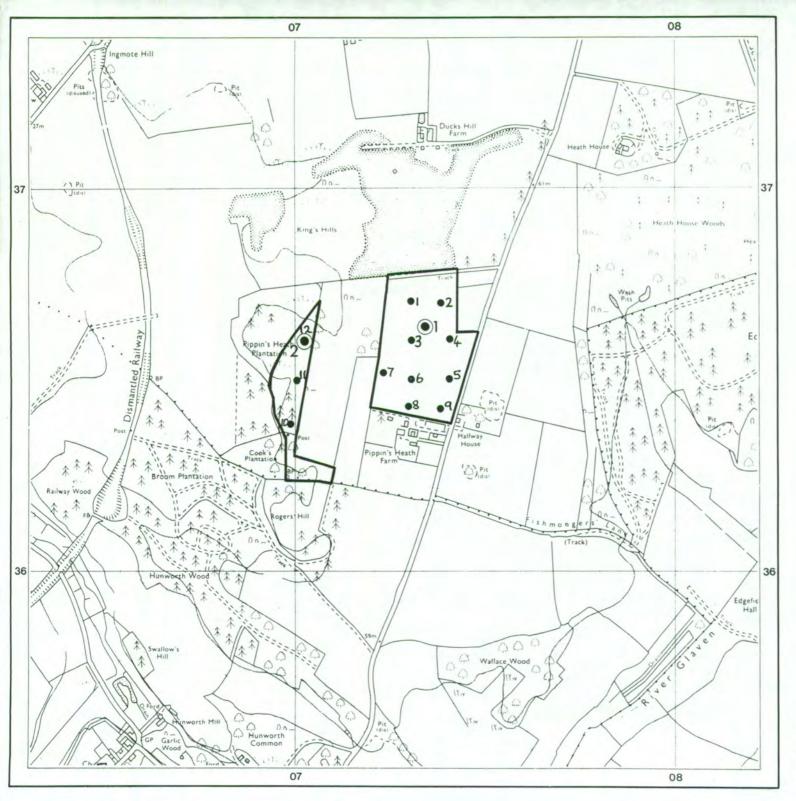
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Agricultural Land Classification Extension to Holt Sand and Gravel Pit, Norfolk

- Location of auger boring
- Location of soil pit

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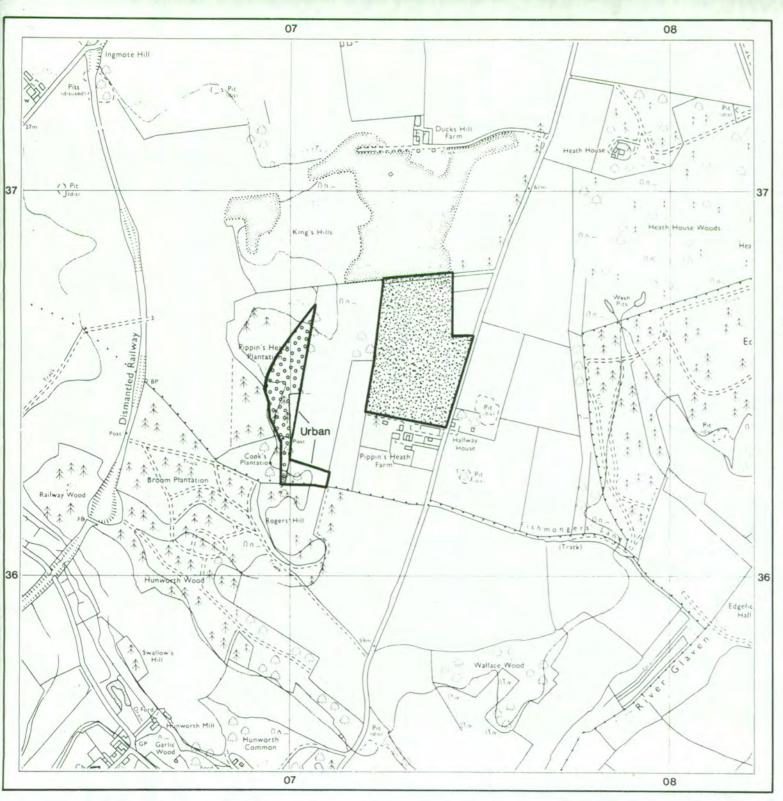
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Extension to Holt Sand and Gravel Pit, Norfolk

SOIL TYPES

SOIL	TOPSOIL	UPPER SUBSOIL	LOWER SUBSOIL	
	0-45/50cm Acidic leaf litter over organic SL mod-v stony	Gravel		
2	0-30 cm SL mod-stony	30-50/60cm SL/LS sli-mod stony	50/60-120cm MS/LS occ C sli-mod stony	

SOURCE MAPS Base maps taken from the OS 1:10000 Sheet TG 03 NE

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PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS REPORT INCORPORATING AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION AT HOLT SAND AND GRAVEL QUARRY, NORFOLK

BACKGROUND

1.1 The survey area comprises sites A and B (13.4 ha in total) which are subject to an application by Atlas Aggregates Limited, for the extraction of sand and gravel at Holt, Norfolk. MAFF surveyed the site in March 1990 in order to assess the agricultural land quality and the soil physical characteristics. This survey was conducted at an auger boring density of one per hectare and supplimented by two soil inspection pits in order to assess subsoil conditions.

2. SITE PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

2.1 Climate

Climate data for the site was obtained from the published agricultural climatic dataset. (Met Office, 1989). This indicates that for the site's median altitude of 60 m AOD the annual average rainfall is 689 mm (27.1 inches). This data also indicates that field capacity days are 109 and moisture deficits are 107 mm for wheat and 99 mm for potatoes. These climatic characteristics do not impose any climatic limitation on the ALC grading of the survey site.

Altitude and Relief

- 2.2.1 The land at site B lies fairly level ranging in altitude from 55~m AOD to 65~m AOD. As a result gradient and altitude do not constitute limitations to the ALC grade.
- 2.2.2 The non agricultural land comprising site A slopes steeply (up to 20° away from the existing pit face on the eastern boundary) and is dissected by a dry valley feature.

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

3.1 The definitions of the Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) grades are included in Appendix 2.

Agricultural Land Classification

3.2 The table below shows the ALC grade for the survey area.

	ha	%
Site A		
Non Agricultural	2.8	26.4
Site B		
3a	6.8	64.1
Non Agricultural	1.0	9.5
		allementary to the property
Total	10.6	100.0

3.3 SITE B

3.3.1 Subgrade 3a

The agricultural land has been graded 3a. The soils are moderately droughty*. The occurence of flints within the topsoil and subsoil combine with the light soil textures to impose a moderate limiting effect on the available moisture capacity of this soil. Locally the topsoil stone content (greater than 2cm) is more than 10%, in such areas this also excludes the land from a higher grade. As a result droughtiness, and locally topsoil stone, are the major limitations to the ALC grade.

At a few locations more droughty or less droughty variants of this soil type occur however they cover too small an area to delineate separately.

3.4 SITE A

3.4.1 Non Agricultural

Site A has been shown as non agricultural, this land includes woodland, areas used for topsoil storage and areas which have . already been excavated.

4.0 SOIL PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Geology

4.1 The published geology map $\frac{1}{4}$ " to 1 mile drift edition, sheet No 12, shows the survey area to comprise sand and gravel deposits.

Soils

4.2 The survey area has been mapped on two occasions firstly at 1:100,000 scale (1973) and secondly at a reconnaissance scale of 1:250,000 (1983). These maps show site A to comprise mainly the Wick 3 Association* with some Newport 4 Association** towards the south of the site. Site B is entirely mapped as Wick 3.

During this survey a detailed inspection of the soils identified two soil types.

Soil Type 1

4.3.1 (Refer Appendix 1 and the soil map).

These soils are found at Site A and typically comprise 20 cm of acidic leaf litter over moderately stony to very stony, acidic, organic sandy loams. This extends into gravelly material at 45/50 cm.

Soil Type 2

1.3.2 (Refer Appendix 1 and the soil map).

These soils are found at Site B and are less stony and non acidic. They typically comprise slightly stony sandy loams over slightly to moderately stony sandy loams or loamy sands, with clay or sandy soils at depth.

RESOURCE PLANNING GROUP CAMBRIDGE RO

April 1990

^{* &}lt;u>Wick 3 Association</u>. Deep, well drained coarse loamy often stoneless soils. Some similar sandy soils. Complex patterns locally.

^{**} Newport 4 Association. Deep, well drained sandy soils. Some very acid soils with bleached subsurface horizons especially under heath or in woodland.

APPENDIX 1

DESCRIPTION OF SOIL PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

SOIL TYPE 1

Acidic leaf litter depth: 0-20 cm

Topsoil depth: 20-45/50cm.

texture : organic sandy loam

stone: 30-50% rounded or subangular flints.

9 0

Parent material - gravel, with $>70\,\mathrm{cm}$ rounded and subrounded flints, within a sandy loam matrix.

SOIL TYPE 2.

Topsoil texture : medium, occasionally fine sandy loam

stone : typically 5-10%, occasionally 15% soil

volume comprising small medium and large

flints.

CaCO₃ : slighty calcareous

depth : 0-30 cm

Upper subsoil texture : sandy loam or loamy sand

stone : slighty to moderately stony comprising

mainly medium flints

structure : moderately developed medium and coarse

subangular blocky

consistence : very friable

depth : 50/60 cm

Lower subsoil texture : medium sand or loamy sand (often

impenetrable) occasionally becoming clay at

depth

stone : slightly to moderately stony

structure : weakly developed medium or coarse

subangular blocky (where stony, difficult

to assess)

consistence : very friable

depth : 120 cm

Additional Information

Drainage : both soil types are well drained (wetness

Class I)

Field pH : Soil Type 2 : pH 7 throughout

: Soil Type 1 : <pH 4.5 throughout

Rooting : Soil Type 2 : Few to common fine and very

fine throughout

Soil Type 1 : Few to common fine very fine

throughout (conifer roots).

CaCO₂ : Soil Type 2 : Non calcareous

Soil Type 1 : Very slightly or slighty

calcareous.

Appendix 2

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 to 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 and horticultural crops can usually be grown but on some land in 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.

Subgrade 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.

Subgrade 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 level of yields. It is mainly suited to grass with occasional arable crops (eg cereals and forage crops) the yield of which are variable. In most 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.

References

- GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF ENGLAND AND WALES (1933). Drift edition geology map sheet 12. Scale $\frac{1}{4}$ " to 1 mile.
- MAFF (1988) Agricultural Land Classification for England and Wales (Revised Guidelines and criteria for grading the quality of the agricultural land) Alnwick.
- METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE (1989). Climatic Data extracted from the published Agricultural Climatic Dataset.
- SOIL SURVEY OF ENGLAND AND WALES (1973). "Soils of Norfolk", Scale 1:100,000.
- SOIL SURVEY OF ENGLAND AND WALES (1983). "The Soils of Eastern England" Sheet 4, scale 1:250,000.



Agricultural Land Classification Norwich Area Local Plan, Lodge Farm, Norfolk

AGRICULTURAL LAND

Agricultural Grades

Grade 1

Grade 2

Grade 3

Grade 4

Grade 5

Very high

Very high

Very low

Very low

Agricultural Buildings

Unsurveyed

NON AGRICULTURAL LAND

Land predominantly in urban use
Other land primarily in non-agricultural use

* Land in this category does not occur on this map

SOURCE MAPS Base maps taken from the O.S. 1:10000 Sheets TG 10 NE,TG 11 SE

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Scale 1:10 000

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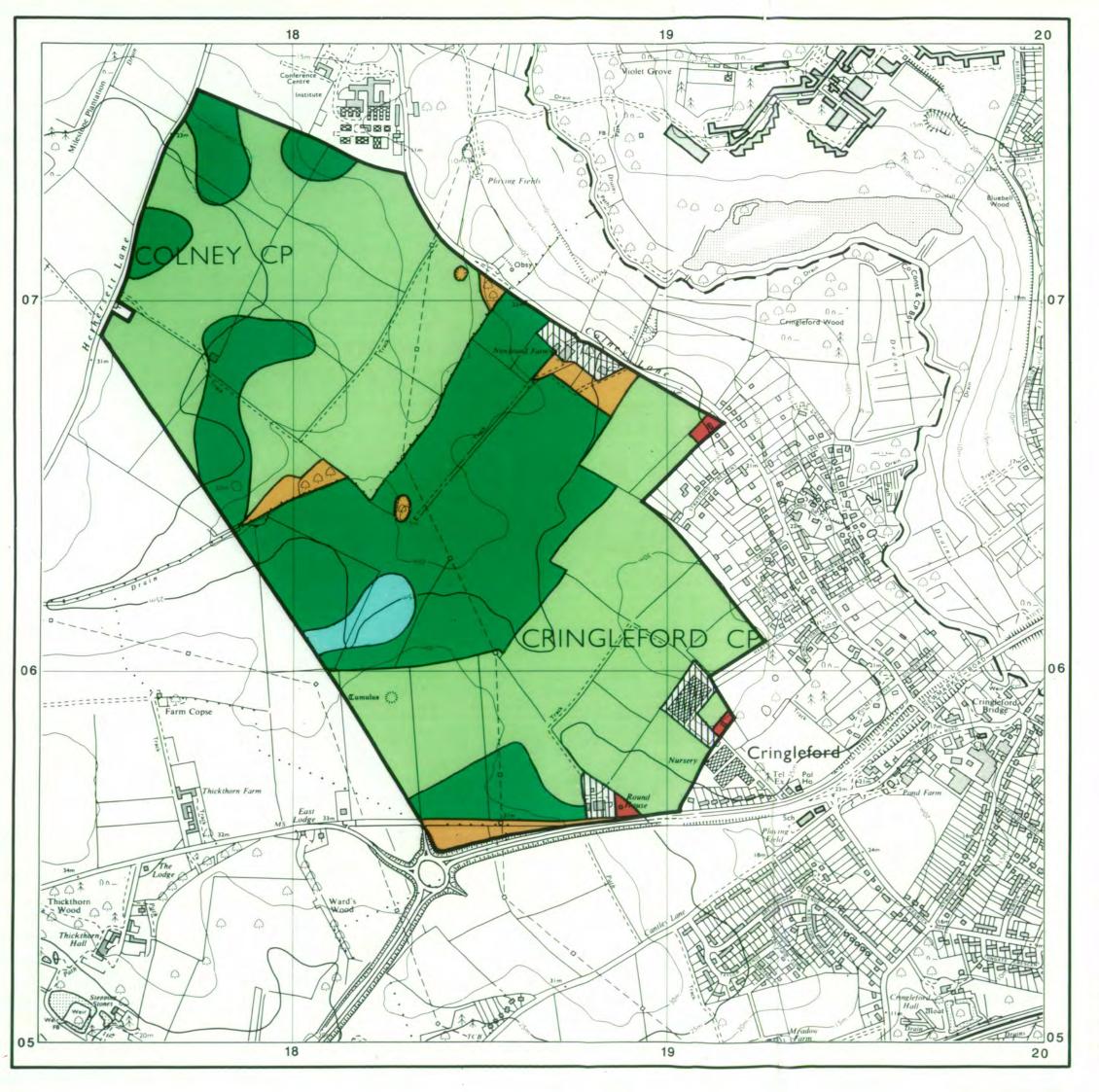
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Agricultural Land Classification Norwich Area Local Plan, Colney Lane A Norfolk

AGRICULTURAL LAND

Agricultural Grades

Agricultural Land Quality

Very high

Grade 2

Grade 3

Grade 4

Grade 5

Very low

Very low

Agricultural Buildings

Unsurveyed

*

NON AGRICULTURAL LAND

Land predominantly in urban use
Other land primarily in non-agricultural use



* Land in this category does not occur on this map

SOURCE MAPS Base maps taken from the O.S. 1:10000 Sheets TG 10 NE

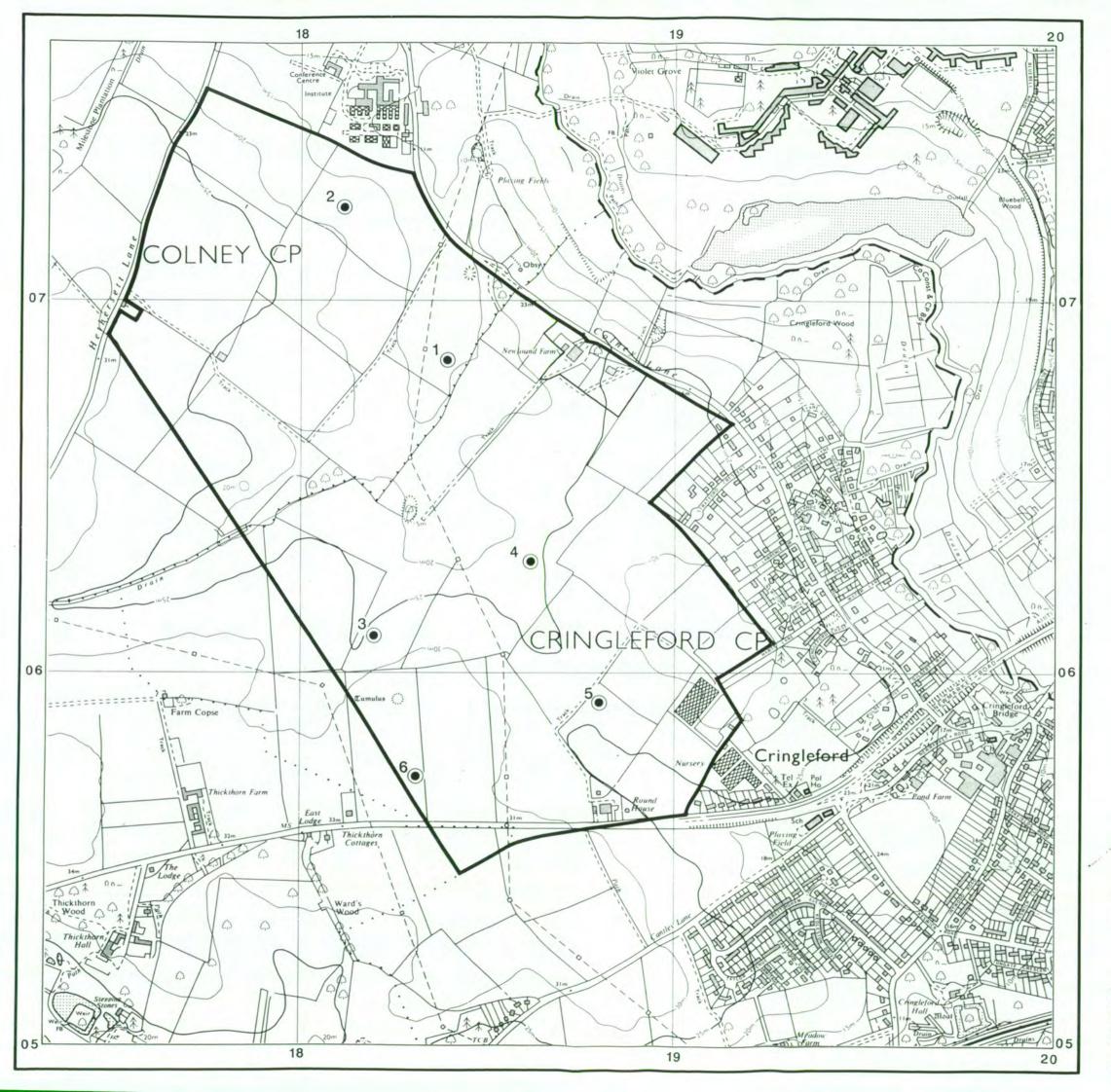
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Agricultural Land Classification Norwich Area Local Plan, Colney Lane A Norfolk

Location of soil pit

SOURCE MAPS Base maps taken from the O.S. 1:10000 Sheets TG 10 NE

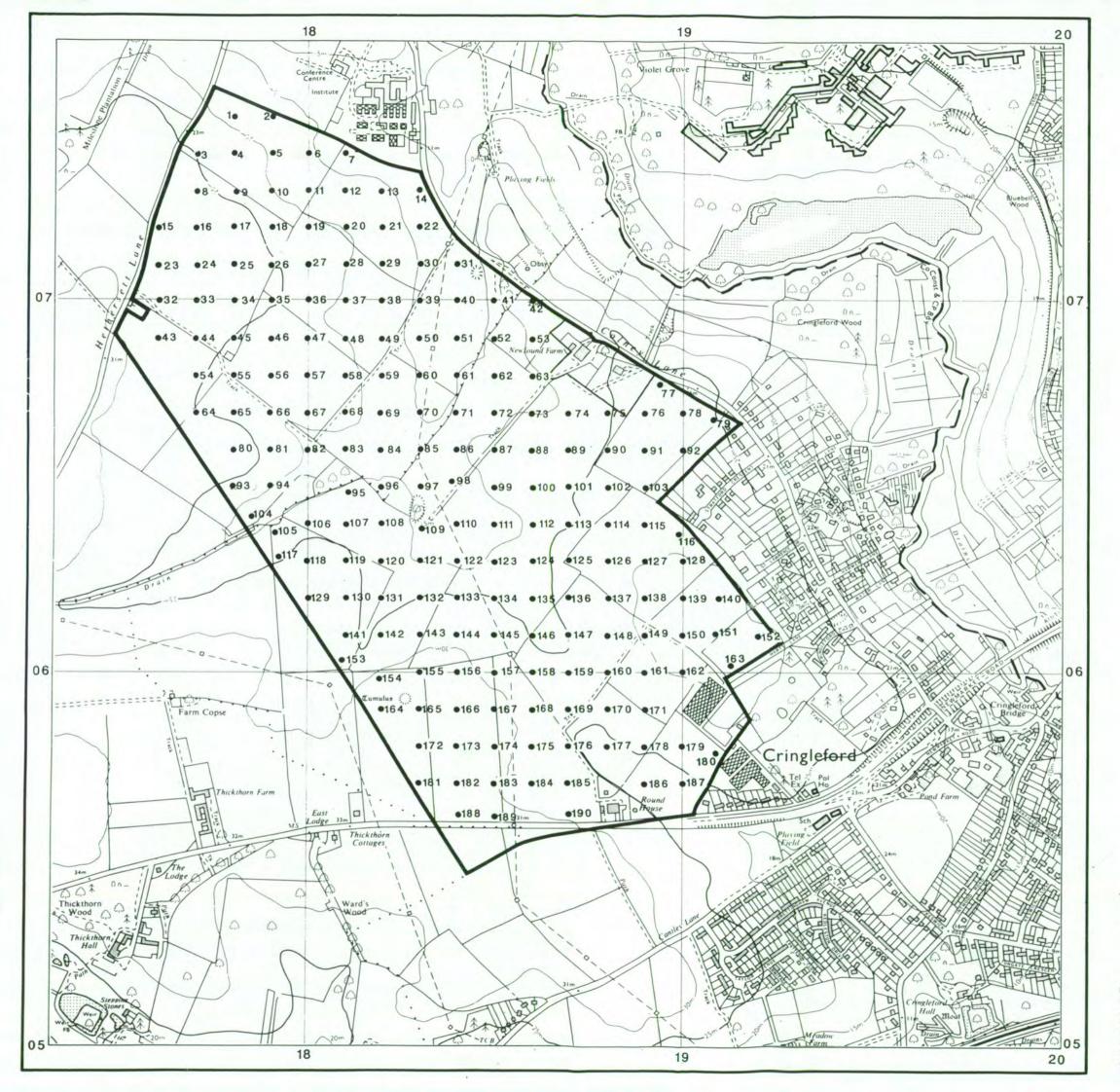
This map is accurate only at the scale shown. Any enlargement could be misleading

Scale 1:10 000

00 0 100 200 300 400 500 600 700 800 900 1000 Metres

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Agricultural Land Classification Norwich Area Local Plan, Colney Lane A Norfolk

Location of auger boring

SOURCE MAPS Base maps taken from the O.S. 1:10000 Sheets TG 10 NE

This map is accurate only at the scale shown. Any enlargement could be misleading

Scale 1:10 000

0 0 100 200 300 400 500 600 700 800 900 1000

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