Soil Environment Services Ltd

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) surveys are undertaken strictly in accordance with:

Agricultural Land Classification of England and Wales
Guidelines and criteria for grading the quality of agricultural land, 1988, MAFF, London

1 Desktop study

The classification includes an initial desktop investigation to examine:

- Previous ALC grading
- Mapped soil types
- Superficial and solid geology
- Flood risk

2 Site survey

The site visit will involve soil augering to 1.2 m depth at, typically, 100 m intervals using, in most cases (dependant on soil conditions), a 40 mm Dutch hand held auger. The interval between auger locations can vary as necessary to develop a map of soil characteristics relevant to ALC determination and in accordance with the size of the site and scale of the project.

Soil pits will be excavated in each soil type to examine structure if needed. Pits are up to 0.6 m x 0.6 m square (maximum) to 0.6 m depth. All soil horizons and grass turf surfaces removed will be carefully replaced following excavation if appropriate. All the survey is conducted on foot and in tram lines in a crop. Pits will not be excavated in a crop if possible.

The soil removed during the augering and during pit excavation is examined in accordance with:

Soil Survey Field Handbook
Describing and Sampling Soil Profiles
Soil Survey of England and Wales, Technical Monograph No. 5, 1976

3 Laboratory testing

Laboratory analysis may be required for soils from some sites.

4 Reporting

Reporting will include a colour map for ALC Grades, the justification for the grading and their areas.

Overall timescale

Timescale would be approximately 2-3 weeks total time from date of instruction.

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