

Mr Max Sanders
Senior Planning Officer
Hertsmere Borough Council
Civic Offices, Elstree Way
Borehamwood
WD6 1WA

6/8/21

Dear Mr Sanders,

***RE: Review of Agricultural Land Classification (Askew Land & Soil dated December 2020) for
Hilfield Solar Farm and Battery Storage***

We have reviewed the above report and have the following comments whilst adhering to guidance outlined in the following documents:

- 1 *BSSS Guidance Document 1: Working with Soil Guidance Note on Assessing Agricultural Land Classification Surveys in England and Wales.*
- 2 *Agricultural Land Classification: England and Wales: Working with Soil – The IPSS Professional Competency Scheme. BSSS.*

Grading on the MAFF (1983) 1:250 000 map indicated the site was mapped as ALC Grade 3 land.

The report in general complies to the requirements of Document 1 detailed above. This includes the surveyor's competence, the type of data to collect in addition to processing and presentation.

With regards to Document 2, the report fails to meet the general guidance with specific reference to survey point density. Page 19 of this document stipulates that for such a development a survey density of one boring point per 1 ha on a 100 m grid is required. The survey has been conducted by undertaking 32 borings over 128 ha. Whilst it is accepted that a less dense boring survey grid is reasonable and not completely in disregard of the guidance if some assessment is made for other grid observation points by actual boring data interpolation and by using other data sources such as published soils data, geology and aerial photographs. A statement could be included to justify the 200 m grid or interpolated data points could be added to the data table.

A technical error exists in Table 3.1 with the inclusion of the FCD at 106. This is corrected in Section 3.5.3 as 147 FCD and is correct on checking with the MET Office data for the site.

Apart from the above minor points, the ALC Grading is correct and we agree with the findings

Yours Sincerely,



*Dr Robin Davies F.I.SoilSci
(Managing Director)*