

Appendix 14

Definitions of Enclosed/Improved and Unenclosed

Enclosed and Improved land:

Land which was enclosed and improved for agricultural use by cultivation or manuring or both, and which is completely surrounded by man-made boundaries and usually shown as such in Ordnance Survey maps or scale 6 inches to 1 mile (1:10560).

2. Unenclosed land:

Land which was never improved and enclosed by man-made boundaries for agricultural use other than extensive grazing.

The enclosed and improved class of land approximates fairly closely to the Fertility Classes A and B are originally described in Fertiliser Prescriptions, The Second Edition (Research Communication No. 13, April 1975). This class may include land which has been in intensive agricultural use up to recent times and carries vegetation of pasture grasses and herbaceous plants. On wet soils there may be a high proportion of rushes. It is also found on reed swamp or fen peats and hand-cutaway bogs in the midlands. It may also include old fields (enclosed by banks, walls or ditches) which may have reverted partly to the original vegetation, or to Ulex (furze or whin) or bracken.

If in doubt such sites can be recognised by one or more of the following:-

- (a) Permanent field boundaries.
- (b) A plough layer in the soil profile, i.e. a distinctive dark surface horizon in which organic matter has been incorporated with mineral matter.
- (c) Vegetation associated with agricultural use, e.g. pasture, grass-herb, grass-rush, Bracken-grass, Ulex-grass, etc...

Recent tillage land would also be included in this class. Land of this class will be suitable for species such as Sitka or Norway spruce, or Douglas fir, or broadleaves.

The unenclosed class of land in practice includes all land not classifiable as enclosed. It corresponds approximately to Fertility Class C of the 1975 classification. These are areas of unenclosed ground which have never been cultivated or brought under any form of intensive agricultural use. They are usually located in upland areas or on peatland or siliceous mineral soil. They would not in general support a tree crop without cultivation and the addition of phosphate. Boundaries of enclosed/improved and unenclosed land should be clearly identified by a broken line on approval and payment maps.