

1.11.11	Blenheim Estate	<p>Agricultural Land Yield</p> <p>Noting the content of your DL1 submission, please confirm which parcels of agricultural land proposed to be included within the Proposed Development are degraded of nutritional and organic content. Please identify each parcel of affected land/soil on a plan.</p>
	Response	<p>Thank you.</p> <p>In our RR we state, ‘very significant parts of the soils promoted for this project are degraded of nutritional and organic content’.</p> <p>In response to questions in 1.11.1, we attach a plan which shows agricultural soil sampling results for the central section during 2024. These plans relate to the management of the land and are used to steer what applications of artificial nutrients are added to the land for crops to grow. The poorer the indices, the more degraded the land is. Higher indices mean less artificial fertilisers and allow more viable food production. Management tools for farmers, like these, are not to be confused with ALC submissions made by the applicant as part of the application.</p> <p>The plan shows large areas where soil phosphorus indices are 1 or 2 within the central section and these are the types of areas we were referring to as degraded because they require significant intervention through artificial fertilisers to grow crops.</p> <p>The plan shows slightly higher indices to the north of the central section as a result of anaerobic waste and green compost being spread on the land over many years by the previous tenant farmer – this was unique to that farmer of the land as they made a conscious effort to invest heavily in improving the land with organic matter. Resting all the land during the solar project is likely to achieve similar increases which is encouraging to see.</p> <p>We hope this helps and do not have equivalent datasets of the land to the north. In the north, we would expect similar results to these given both soil type and similar farming practices to the lower central section.</p>

