

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION  
HARROGATE LOCAL PLAN  
SITE 4, RIPON ROAD  
FEBRUARY 1993

ADAS  
Leeds Statutory Centre

Job No:- 13/93  
MAFF Ref:-

Site4Rip.doc

## SUMMARY

An Agricultural Land Classification survey of approximately 7.05ha of land adjoining Ripon Road, Killinghall was carried out in January 1993.

6.4ha of this was in agricultural use all of which falls within Subgrade 3b. Soils on this land are mainly poorly drained (Wetness Class IV) and consist of medium clay loam topsoils overlying very slightly to slightly stony slowly permeable heavy clay loam and clay subsoils. A small area in the south east, however, contains well drained (Wetness Class I) medium clay loam topsoils over sandy clay loam and medium sand subsoils. Although these meet the physical requirements of Grade 2 soils they are downgraded to Subgrade 3b by gradients of 8°.

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1. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT: HARROGATE LOCAL PLAN,  
SITE 4, RIPON ROAD

I. INTRODUCTION AND SITE CHARACTERISTICS

1.1 Location and Survey Methods

The site is 3Km north west of Harrogate Town centre and is centred on Grid Reference SE 286582. Survey work was carried out in January 1993 when soils were examined by hand auger borings at a density of 2 borings per hectare at points predetermined by the National Grid. Land quality was assessed using the methods described in "Agricultural Land Classification of England and Wales. Revised guidelines and criteria for grading the quality of agricultural land". (MAFF 1988).

1.2 Land Use and Relief

At the time of survey 91.6% of the site was in permanent pasture or rough grazing. The remainder consists of Grainbeck Grange house and gardens.

Site altitude varies from 84m AOD to 91m AOD and the land, although mainly level to gently sloping, contains, in the south east an area of strongly sloping land (gradients of of 8°).

1.3 Climate

Grid Reference	: SE 286582
Altitude (m)	: 90
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C (January -June)	: 1305 day°C
Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	: 793
Climatic Grade	: 2
Field Capacity Days	: 199
Moisture Deficit (mm) Wheat	: 86
Moisture Deficit (mm) Potatoes	: 71

#### 1.4 Geology, Soils and Drainage

The area is underlain by Millstone grit over which there is a covering of boulder clay. Soils consist of medium clay loam topsoils and slowly permeable (Wetness Class IV) heavy clay loam and clay subsoils. Occasional areas of well drained (Wetness Class I) medium clay loam topsoil over sandy clay loam and medium sand subsoils occur on the steep slopes in the south east. The heavy soils are similar to those mapped as the Dunkeswick series by the Soil Survey and Land Research Centre.

2. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

The ALC grades occurring on this site are as follows:-

<u>Grade/Subgrade</u>	<u>Hectares</u>	<u>Percentage of Total Area</u>
1		
2		
3a		
3b	6.46	91.6
4		
5		
(Sub total)	(6.46)	(91.6)
Urban	0.59	8.4)
Non Agricultural		
Woodland - Farm		
- Commercial		
Agricultural Buildings		
Open Water		
Land not surveyed		
(Sub total)	(0.59)	(8.5)
TOTAL	<u>7.05</u>	<u>100</u>

## 2.1 Subgrade 3b

This subgrade covers all of the agricultural land. Topsoils consist of stoneless medium clay loam overlying very slightly to slightly stony gleyed poorly drained (Wetness Class IV), heavy clay loam and clay subsoils. Subsoils are slowly permeable at or below 30cm. These soils are limited to subgrade 3b by wetness and workability problems. The strongly sloping area in the south east contains well drained (Wetness Class I) medium clay loam topsoils over sandy clay loam and medium sand subsoils. These soils meet the physical requirements of Grade 2, but are placed within Subgrade 3b because of gradient restrictions (slopes of 8°).

## 2.2 Urban

Urban land consists of the house and gardens at Grainbeck Grange.

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MAP