



AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
HAMBLETON DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN
NORTH YORKSHIRE
PROPOSED MOTORWAY SERVICE AREA (SITE 2)
JANUARY 1994

ADAS
Leeds Statutory Group

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SUMMARY

An Agricultural Land Classification survey of 9.9 ha of land at Leeming Lane, Hambleton was carried out in January 1994, of which 9.4 ha was in agricultural use.

Grade 2 land covers 5.6 ha. Profiles are generally well drained and very slightly stony, with sandy loam topsoils overlying deep sandy loam or sandy clay loam subsoils. This land is limited to Grade 2 by slight soil droughtiness.

Subgrade 3a land covers a total of 1.5 ha. The Subgrade 3a land in the north-west of the site consists of well drained stoneless to very slightly stony profiles where sandy loam topsoils overlie loamy sand upper subsoils and sandy loam lower subsoils. Moderate soil droughtiness limits this area of land to Subgrade 3a. In the east of the site the Subgrade 3a land is imperfectly drained with sandy loam or medium clay loam topsoils overlying slowly permeable heavy clay loam subsoils at around 40 cm depth. In this case soil wetness is the factor limiting the land to this subgrade.

Subgrade 3b land covers a total of 2.3 ha. Profiles are poorly drained with medium clay loam or sandy clay loam topsoils overlying slowly permeable sandy clay loam, heavy clay loam or clay subsoils at around 35 cm depth.

Soil wetness and workability restrictions are the factors limiting this land to Subgrade 3b.

The remainder of the land on the site consists of a car park and lay-by covering a total of 0.5 ha.

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HAMBLETON DISTRICT PROPOSED MOTORWAY SERVICE AREA

1. INTRODUCTION AND SITE CHARACTERISTICS

1.1 Location and Survey Methods

The site is located about 10 km north-east of Ripon town centre, on the east side of the A1(T). It covers a total of 9.9 ha and lies around Grid Reference SE 340806. Survey work was carried out in January 1994 when soils were examined by hand auger borings at 100m intervals predetermined by the National Grid. Extra auger borings were made where necessary to refine grade boundaries. 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 95% of the site was in agricultural use, the north having been sown to winter wheat and the south having recently been harvested of sugar beet. The remainder of the site consists of a car park in the north-west and a lay-by in the south-west.

Site altitude varies between approximately 33m A.O.D. in the centre and approximately 36 m A.O.D. in the west. The land is generally gently sloping (typically 1 - 2°) with an easterly aspect in the west of the site and a westerly aspect in the east.

1.3 Climate

Grid Reference	:	SE 340806
Altitude	:	35
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C (January - June)	:	1357 days °C
Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	:	645
Climatic Grade	:	1
Field Capacity Days	:	149
Moisture Deficit (mm) Wheat	:	104
Moisture Deficit (mm) Potatoes	:	94

1.4 Geology, Soils and Drainage

The site is underlain by Permian and Triassic sandstone, over which lie deposits of boulder clay. These, in turn, are overlain by deposits of glacial sand and gravel which cover the whole site with the exception of an area of low-lying ground in the east.

The soils on the site closely reflect the geology with poorly drained (Wetness Class IV) profiles occurring in the east (where the boulder clay occurs at the soil surface) and well drained profiles (Wetness Class I) occurring elsewhere. In the case of the poorly drained profiles, medium-textured topsoils typically overlie slowly permeable heavy-textured subsoils while the well drained profiles consist of light or medium-textured topsoils over similar subsoils.

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	5.6	56.6
3a	1.5	15.2
3b	2.3	23.2
4		
5		
(Sub total)	(9.4)	(45.0)
Urban	0.5	5.0
Non Agricultural		
Woodland - Farm		
- Commercial		
Agricultural Buildings		
Open Water		
Land not surveyed		
(Sub total)	(0.5)	(5.0)
TOTAL	9.9	100

2.1 Grade 2

Grade 2 land covers most of the centre and south of the site. Profiles are generally well drained (falling into Wetness Class I) with sandy loam topsoils overlying deep sandy loam or sandy clay loam subsoils. Both topsoils and subsoils are very slightly stony, typically containing between 3% and 5% small and medium - sized subrounded and rounded hard stones. This land is restricted to Grade 2 by a slight soil droughtiness limitation.

2.2 Subgrade 3a

Subgrade 3a land occurs in the east and north-west of the site. In the north-west profiles are well drained (falling into Wetness Class I) with medium sandy loam topsoils overlying loamy medium sand upper subsoils and medium sandy loam lower subsoils. Profiles are

stoneless to very slightly stony (containing up to 3% small and medium-sized hard stones), and moderate soil droughtiness restricts this land to Subgrade 3a.

In the east of the site the land in this subgrade is imperfectly or poorly drained, falling into Wetness Classes III or IV. Soil profiles typically consist of sandy loam or medium clay loam topsoils overlying slowly permeable heavy clay loam subsoils at around 40 cm depth. This land is limited to Subgrade 3a by soil wetness restrictions.

2.3 Subgrade 3b

Land in this subgrade occurs in a low-lying area in the east of the site. Profiles are poorly drained (falling in Wetness Class IV) with medium clay loam or sandy clay loam topsoils overlying slowly permeable sandy clay loam, heavy clay loam or clay subsoils at between 35 cm and 40 cm depth. Soil wetness is more limiting than on the adjoining Subgrade 3a land to the east, and it is this factor which restricts the land to Subgrade 3b.

2.4 Urban

This category includes a restaurant car park in the north-west of the site and a lay-by in the south west.

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MAP