

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
SEDFIELD LOCAL PLAN
SITE H11, FERRYHILL
COUNTY DURHAM
MARCH 1993

ADAS
Leeds Statutory Group

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2 FCS 6381

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SUMMARY

An Agricultural Land Classification survey of 10.9ha of land due south of the football ground at Ferryhill was carried out in March 1993.

All of this was in agricultural use of which 2.2 ha falls within Subgrade 3a. Soils in this subgrade are imperfectly drained (Wetness Class III) and consist of medium clay loam or medium sandy loam topsoils overlying very slightly stony heavy clay loam and sandy clay loam subsoils. Soils are limited to Subgrade 3a by soil wetness.

Subgrade 3b land covers 8.7 ha. Soils in this subgrade are poorly drained (Wetness Class IV) and consist of medium clay loam topsoils over slowly permeable heavy clay loam subsoils. They are limited to Subgrade 3b by soil wetness and workability problems.

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1. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

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1. INTRODUCTION AND SITE CHARACTERISTICS

1.1 Location and Survey Methods

The site is located 1 km west of Ferryhill south of the football ground around National Grid Reference NZ286320. Survey work was carried out in March 1993 when soils were examined by hand auger borings to a depth of 1 metre at a density of one per hectare at points predetermined by the National Grid. Extra borings were made where necessary to define grade boundaries. Land quality was assessed using the methods described in "Agricultural Land Classification of England and Wales: Revised criteria for grading the quality of agricultural land" (MAFF 1988).

1.2 Land Use and Relief

At the time of the survey all of the site was in arable use. Site altitude varies from 130m AOD to 150m AOD. Most of the land is level to gently sloping (0-3°) with a small area of moderately sloping (5°) land in the north west corner.

1.3 Climate

Grid Reference	: NZ286320
Altitude (m)	: 140
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C (January-June)	: 1216 day°C
Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	: 692
Climatic Grade	: 2
Field Capacity Days	: 176
Moisture Deficit (mm) Wheat	: 84
Moisture Deficit (mm) Potatoes	: 67

1.4 Geology, Soils and Drainage

The site is underlain by Magnesian Limestone over which there is a cover of till. Soils over most of the site consist of very slightly stony medium clay loam topsoils over poorly drained (Wetness Class IV) heavy clay loam subsoils. The south east part of the site contains very slightly stony medium clay loam and medium sandy loam topsoils over imperfectly drained (Wetness Class III) sandy clay loam and heavy clay loam subsoils. The heavy boulder clay 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	2.2	20.2
3b	8.7	79.8
4		
5		
(Sub total)	(10.9)	(100)
Urban		
Non Agricultural		
Woodland - Farm		
- Commercial		
Agricultural Buildings		
Open Water		
Land not surveyed		
(Sub total)		
	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL	10.9	100
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2.1 Subgrade 3a

Subgrade 3a land runs in a band from the central southern edge of the site to the mid eastern boundary. Soils consist of very slightly stony medium clay loam and medium sandy loam topsoils over imperfectly drained (Wetness Class III) stoneless or very slightly stony sandy clay loam and slowly permeable heavy clay loam subsoils. Soils are slowly permeable between 60 and 70cm and are limited to Subgrade 3a by soil wetness.

2.2 Subgrade 3b

The remainder of the land falls within this subgrade. Soil profiles consist of very slightly stony medium clay loam topsoils over poorly drained (Wetness Class IV) very slightly stony slowly permeable heavy clay loam subsoils. They are limited to Subgrade 3a by soil wetness and workability problems.

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MAP