



AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

DONCASTER UDP. SITE RP5

ASKERN, SOUTH YORKSHIRE

JANUARY 1993

ADAS
Leeds Statutory Group

Job No:- 6/93

MAFF Ref:-

2 FLS 6314

siterp5.alc.mp

SUMMARY

Approximately 143 ha of land between the villages of Askern and Norton was examined in January 1993.

Approximately 97 ha of this consists of urban land associated with the former Askern Colliery and its spoil tips. Most of the remainder of the site (almost 38 ha) consists of non-agricultural land and farm woodland on restored heavy textured soils. None of this land is at present in commercial agricultural production.

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1. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

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PROPOSED INCLUSION IN UNITARY DEVELOPMENT PLAN

1. INTRODUCTION AND SITE CHARACTERISTICS

1.1 Location and Survey Methods.

The site lies 11 Km north of Doncaster town centre, between the villages of Askern and Norton. It is centred on Grid Reference SE 557142 and covers a total area of 143 ha. The site was visited in January 1993 but no detailed survey was carried out because none of the land was in commercial agricultural production at that time.

1.2 Land Use and Relief

At the time of survey none of the site was in commercial agricultural production. Approximately 68% of the area consisted of a colliery spoil tip (in the north) and urban areas associated with the former Askern Colliery (in the south). Almost 33.5 ha of land in the north of the site was in the process of restoration and these areas have been classified as non-agricultural land.

1.3 Climate

Grid Reference	:	SE 557142
Altitude (m)	:	20
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C (January-June)	:	1403 day°C
Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	:	588
Climatic Grade	:	1
Field Capacity Days	:	119
Moisture Deficit (mm) Wheat	:	109
Moisture Deficit (mm) Potatoes	:	101

1.4 Geology, Soils and Drainage

Most of the site is underlain by deposits of Triassic Bunter sandstone except for the western edge which is underlain by Magnesian limestone.

The soils on the site are in the process of restoration and have not yet been returned to commercial agriculture. Profiles typically consist of a compacted heavy clay loam or clay topsoil and subsoil overlying colliery overburden at variable depth. The soils are poorly drained to very poorly drained and are subject to severe waterlogging after prolonged rain.

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		
4		
5		
(Sub total)		
Urban	97.07	67.6
Non Agricultural	33.49	23.3
Woodland - Farm	4.33	3.1
- Commercial		
Agricultural Buildings		
Open Water		
Land not surveyed	8.60	6.0
(Sub total)	(143.45)	(100)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL	(143.45)	(100)
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2.1 Urban

Urban land covers most of the site and consists of a colliery spoil heap and slurry lagoons in the north, and areas associated with the former Askern Colliery in the south.

2.2 Non Agricultural

Land in this category occurs in the north of the site and consists of soils in the process of restoration. Profiles typically consist of compacted heavy clay loam or clay topsoils and subsoils overlying structureless colliery overburden at variable depth.

Due to their compaction and coarse structure (generally coarse angular blocky) these soils are subject to severe waterlogging after prolonged rain and for this reason the land would not, at present, be classified higher than Grade 4. In the longer term it is probable that this land will be limited at best to Subgrade 3b.

2.3 Farm Woodland

This occurs in the north and north west of the site.

2.4 Not Surveyed

This land, most of which is not in agricultural use, occurs along the eastern edge of the site.

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