AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
NEWMARKET LANE/ABERFORD ROAD
(M62 JUNCTION 30) ROTHWELL
PROPOSED EMPLOYMENT PARK
JUNE 1993

ADAS
Leeds Statutory Group

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newmark.doc.mp

SUMMARY

An Agricultural Land Classification survey of approximately 47ha of land immediately south east of Junction 30 of the M62 was carried out in June 1992. A small additional area was surveyed in May 1993.

17.6ha of this land was in agricultural use of which 9.2ha falls within Grade 2. Soils in this grade have medium textured topsoils and upper subsoils over slowly permeable heavy textured lower subsoils. This land is moderately well drained (Wetness Class II) and is limited to Grade 2 by slight wetness.

Subgrade 3a land covers 6.2ha. Soils consist of medium textured topsoils over heavy textured subsoils which are slowly permeable below 40cm depth. They are imperfectly drained (Wetness Class III) and limited to Subgrade 3a by wetness.

Subgrade 3b land covers 2.2ha. Soils consist of medium textured topsoils over heavy textured subsoils which are slowly permeable within 40cm of the surface. This land is poorly drained (Wetness Class IV) and is limited to Subgrade 3b by wetness, which is more limiting than on the adjoining Subgrade 3a land.

The remainder of the site (28.9ha) is formed of urban and non-agricultural land, most of which consists of the derelict Newmarket Silkstone Colliery.

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AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT ON LAND AT NEWMARKET LANE/ABERFORD ROAD (M62 JUNCTION 30) ROTHWELL: PROPOSED EMPLOYMENT PARK

1. INTRODUCTION AND SITE CHARACTERISTICS

1.1 Location and Survey Methods

The site is located south east of Junction 30 of the M62 and is centred on National Grid Reference SE 365 258. Most of the site was classified during a previous survey of the area for the Leeds UDP, which was carried out in June 1992. The remainder was surveyed in May 1993 when soils were examined by hand auger borings at a density of four 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" MAFF 1988.

1.2 Land Use and Relief

At the time of survey 38% of the site was in agricultural production, most of which was in arable use. The remainder consists of urban (roads and a derelict coal mine) and Non Agricultural (woodland) land. Altitude varies between 30 and 45m AOD. The site is gently sloping with an overall southerly aspect.

1.3 Climate

Grid Reference	: SE 365 258
Altitude (m)	: 30
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C (January-June)	: 1386 day °C
Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	: 633
Climatic Grade	: 1
Field Capacity Days	: 143
Moisture Deficit (mm) Wheat	: 106
Moisture Deficit (mm) Potatoes	: 97

1.4 Geology, Soils and Drainage

The area is underlain by Carboniferous coal measures consisting of interbedded shales, sandstones and siltstones. There is little drift cover and soils are formed largely on weathering shale and siltstone. Most profiles consist of medium textured topsoils over either medium textured upper subsoils and clay lower subsoils or heavy textured subsoils throughout. Profiles vary from moderately well to poorly drained (Wetness Classes II, III and IV).

2. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

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

Grade/Subgrade	Hectares	Percentage of Total Area
1		
2	9.2	19.9
3a	6.2	13.3
3b	2.2	4.7
4		
5		
(Sub total)	(17.6)	(37.9)
Urban	23.9	51/4
Non Agricultural	5.0	10.7
Woodland - Farm		
- Commercial		
Agricultural Buildings		
Open Water		
Land not surveyed		
(Sub total)	(28.9)	(62.1)
TOTAL	46.5	100

2.1 Grade 2

Grade 2 land occurs in the north eastern part of the site. Profiles generally consist of medium clay loam topsoils and upper subsoils over, below about 50cm depth, gleyed slowly permeable clay lower subsoils. Profiles are moderately well drained (Wetness Class II) and limited to Grade 2 by slight soil wetness.

2.2 Subgrade 3a

Subgrade 3a land occurs in the west and east. Soil profiles consist of medium clay loam topsoils over heavy clay loam or clay subsoils which are slowly permeable below 40cm depth. Profiles are thus imperfectly drained (Wetness Class III) and limited to Subgrade 3a by wetness.

2.3 Subgrade 3b

Subgrade 3b land occurs in the eastern and central north western parts of the site. Soils consist of medium clay loam topsoils over gleyed heavy clay loam or clay subsoils which are slowly permeable at less than 40cm depth. These soils are poorly drained (Wetness Class IV) and are limited to Subgrade 3b by wetness and workability problems.

2.4 Urban

Urban land consists of roads and the disused Newmarket Silkstone Colliery.

2.5 Non Agricultural

This consists of areas of woodland.