



AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

LEEDS UNITARY DEVELOPMENT PLAN

SITE H5:23

DECEMBER 1992

ADAS

Leeds Statutory Group

Job No:- 128/92

MAFF Ref:-

2 Feb 6273

SUMMARY

An Agricultural Land Classification survey of approximately 12ha of land south of Middleton was carried out in December 1992.

All of this is in agricultural use of which 2.5ha falls within Grade 2. Soils within this grade are freely drained (Wetness Class I) and consist of medium sandy loam topsoils over medium sandy loam subsoils. They are limited to Grade 2 by slight droughtiness.

Subgrade 3a land covers 8.5ha. Soils are again freely drained (Wetness Class I). The topsoils of medium sandy loam are also similar to those on the Grade 2 land. Subsoils, however, are lighter (loamy medium sand) resulting in an increased drought risk which imposes a limitation of Subgrade 3a. Subgrade 3b land covers 1.4ha. Soils are poorly drained (Wetness Class IV) and consist of medium clay loam topsoils over sandy clay subsoils which are limited to this subgrade by wetness.

CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION AND SITE CHARACTERISTICS
2. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES



MAP

1. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT ON LAND AT MIDDLETON, LEEDS UDP SITE H5:23

1. INTRODUCTION AND SITE CHARACTERISTICS

1.1 Location and Survey Methods.

Site H5:23 is located around Grid Reference SE305271 south of Middleton and north of the A654. It covers approximately 12.5ha all of which is in agricultural use.

Survey work was carried out in December 1992 when soils were examined by hand auger borings at 100m intervals at points pre determined by the National Grid. All assessment of land quality were made using the methods described in "Agricultural Land Classification of England and Wales", MAFF 1988.

1.2 Land Use and Relief

The whole site is in arable use. The area is level to gently sloping.

1.3 Climate

Grid Reference	:	SE 305271
Altitude (m)	:	120
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C (January-June)	:	1284
Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	:	682
Climatic Grade	:	2
Field Capacity Days	:	161
Moisture Deficit (mm) Wheat	:	92
Moisture Deficit (mm) Potatoes	:	78

1.4 Geology, Soils and Drainage

The site is underlain by Carboniferous Coal Measures which in this area are formed predominantly of sandstone. There is a small area of clay in the centre of the site.

Soils developed on the sandstone consist of medium sandy loam or sandy clay loam topsoils over loamy medium sand or medium sandy loam subsoils. Those on the clay consist of medium clay loam topsoils over sandy clay subsoils.

The light textured soils are well drained (Wetness Class I). Profiles formed on clay, however, are poorly drained and fall within Wetness Class IV.

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	2.55	20.4
3a	8.54	68.3
3b	1.42	11.3
4		
5		
(Sub total)	(12.51)	(100)
Urban		
Non Agricultural		
Woodland - Farm		
- Commercial		
Agricultural Buildings		
Open Water		
Land not surveyed		
(Sub total)		
	_____	_____
TOTAL	12.51	100
	_____	_____

2.1 Grade 2

A small area on the north western edge of the site falls into Grade 2. Soils in this area consist of medium sandy loam^{or} sandy clay loam topsoils over medium sandy loam subsoils to a depth of at least 80cm. Profiles are very slightly to slightly stony and are well drained (Wetness Class I), but are limited to Grade 2 by slight droughtiness.

2.2 Subgrade 3a

Subgrade 2a land occurs across the south and east of the site. Typical profiles consist of slightly stony medium sandy loam topsoils over slightly stony loamy medium sand subsoils. They are well drained (Wetness Class I) but, because of the lighter subsoil droughtiness is more restricting and they are limited to Subgrade 3a for this reason.

2.3 Subgrade 3b

A small area of subgrade 3b land occurs near the centre of the site. Profiles consist of stoneless medium clay loam topsoils over stoneless sandy clay subsoils. The subsoil is gleyed and slowly permeable (Wetness Class IV) and results in soil wetness being the main factor restricting this area to Subgrade 3b.



MAP