

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

ABERFORD ROAD, WAKEFIELD

ADAS
LEEDS REGIONAL OFFICE

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1. Agricultural Land Classification

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT
ABERFORD ROAD, WAKEFIELD

1. INTRODUCTION AND SITE CHARACTERISTICS

The site is located north of Wakefield at Stanley, around National Grid Reference SE 345234. It covers an area of 57 ha.

Survey work was carried out in April 1991, when soils were examined by hand auger borings at 100 metre intervals at points pre-determined by the National Grid.

All assessments of land quality were made using the methods described in "Agricultural Land Classification, Revised Guidelines and Criteria for Grading the Quality of Agricultural Land", (MAFF 1988).

1.1 Land Use

All agricultural land on the site is in arable use. A large percentage of the site consists of woodland.

1.2 Climate

Average Annual Rainfall (AAR) in the area is approximately 635 mm. Accumulated temperature above 0°C (ATO) is 1375 day°C and the site is at field capacity for 141 days a year. The temperature and rainfall figures indicate that there is no climatic restriction on ALC grade within the area.

1.3 Relief

Altitude varies between 25 m and 75 metres above ordnance datum. Slopes do not exceed 7° and thus do not impose any restriction on ALC grade.

1.4 Geology & Soils

The area is underlain by Coal Measure Shales and mudstones which have weathered to form soils consisting mainly of medium or heavy clay loam topsoils over gleyed slowly permeable clay subsoils.

2. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

The ALC grades occurring on the site are as follows:

Grades	Hectares	Percentage of Total Area
2	9.6	16.1
3a	24.4	41.2
3b	18.0	30.5
Non Agricultural	5.2	9.0
Urban	<u>1.9</u>	<u>3.2</u>
TOTAL	<u>59.1</u>	<u>100</u>

Grade 2

Land in this grade consists of medium clay loam topsoils over similar upper subsoils passing to slowly permeable heavy clay loam to clay lower subsoils at depth. These soils are moderately well drained but are limited by slight soil wetness and workability problems.

Subgrade 3a

Subgrade 3a land is widespread in the eastern part of the site. Soils consist of medium clay loam topsoils over medium to heavy clay loam upper subsoils passing to clay lower subsoils. In some places weathered sandstone occurs below the upper subsoils. In these profiles the land is restricted to subgrade 3b by droughtiness. In most areas of the subgrade, however, soil wetness and workability problems are the main limiting factors.

Subgrade 3b

Much of the land in this subgrade contains soils with medium clay loam topsoils over slowly permeable heavy clay loam subsoils which are restricted to subgrade 3b by some soil wetness problems. In some locations, however shallow, weathered sandstone occurs below the topsoil. Areas containing profiles of this type are restricted to subgrade 3b by droughtiness.

Non Agricultural

Land in this category consists of woodland shelter belts and a disused tip.

Urban

This consists of public paths and farm tracks.

Resource Planning Group
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