

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
SEDFIELD LOCAL PLAN
SITE H1, GRAYSON ROAD
SPENNYMOOR, COUNTY DURHAM
MARCH 1993

ADAS
Leeds Statutory Group

Job No: 55/93
MAFF Ref:-

2 FCS 6381

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SUMMARY

An Agricultural Land Classification survey of 12.5 ha of land at Grayson Road, Spennymoor was carried out in March 1993.

12.0 ha of this was in agricultural use of which 5.9 ha falls within Subgrade 3a. Soils in this subgrade are imperfectly drained (Wetness Class III) and consist of medium clay loam and sandy clay loam topsoils over sandy clay loam and medium sandy loam upper subsoils which pass into slowly permeable heavy clay loam lower subsoils. This land is limited to Subgrade 3a by soil wetness.

Subgrade 3b land covers 6.1 ha. Soils in this subgrade are poorly drained (Wetness Class IV) and consist of medium clay loam, with occasional heavy clay loam topsoils over permeable sandy clay loam upper subsoils, which in turn pass into slowly permeable heavy clay loam and clay subsoils. This land is limited to Subgrade 3b by wetness and workability problems.

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1. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT: SEDGEFIELD LOCAL PLAN:- SITE H1, GRAYSON ROAD, SPENNYMOOR

1. INTRODUCTION AND SITE CHARACTERISTICS

1.1 Location and Survey Methods

The site is located 1½ km south west of Spennymoor town centre and is centred on Grid Reference NZ 247332. 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. Additional borings were made where necessary to verify 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 96% of the site was in agricultural use, all of which was under arable crops. The remainder site consisted of non agricultural land. Site altitude varies from 130m AOD to 140m AOD. Most of the area is level to gently sloping (0-3°).

1.3 Climate

Grid Reference	: NZ 247332
Altitude (m)	: 135
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C (January-June)	: 1222 day°C
Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	: 698
Climatic Grade	: 2
Field Capacity Days	: 175
Moisture Deficit (mm) Wheat	: 83
Moisture Deficit (mm) Potatoes	: 66

1.4 Geology, Soils and Drainage

The site is underlain by Coal Measure sandstones over which there is a cover of till. Soil profiles in the southern half of the site consist of very slightly stony medium clay loam and sandy clay loam topsoils over very slightly to slightly stony sandy clay loam and sandy loam upper subsoils. these overlie slowly permeable slightly stony heavy clay loam and clay lower subsoils. Profiles of this type are imperfectly drained and fall within Wetness Class III. Soils in the north consist of very slightly stony medium clay loam or occasionally heavy clay loam topsoils overlying sandy clay loam upper subsoils which within 45cm pass into slowly permeable heavy clay loam and clay lower subsoils. These soils 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		
3a	5.9	47.2
3b	6.1	48.8
4		
5		
(Sub total)	(12.0)	(96.0)
Urban		
Non Agricultural	0.5	4.0
Woodland - Farm		
- Commercial		
Agricultural Buildings		
Open Water		
Land not surveyed		
(Sub total)	(0.5)	(4.0)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL	12.5	100
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2.1 Subgrade 3a

Subgrade 3a land covers the southern part of the site. Soils consist of very slightly stony medium clay loam and sandy clay loam topsoils over mottled permeable sandy clay loam and medium sandy loam upper subsoils. These pass into very slightly to slightly stony slowly permeable heavy clay loam lower subsoils. Profiles are imperfectly drained (Wetness Class III) and are limited to Subgrade 3a by wetness.

2.2 Subgrade 3b

Subgrade 3b land covers the remainder of the agricultural land. Soils consist of very slightly stony medium clay loam, or occasionally heavy clay loam topsoils overlying gleyed permeable sandy clay loam upper subsoils, which pass into gleyed slowly permeable slightly stony heavy clay loam and clay lower subsoils. The slowly permeable horizon starts at or above 45cm and profiles are poorly drained (Wetness Class IV). These soils are limited to Subgrade 3b by wetness and workability problems.

2.3 Non Agricultural

Non agricultural land occurs on the western edge of the site and consists of a small area of woodland.

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MAP