



AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
LEEDS U D P
WEST YORKSHIRE
TOPIC 918
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ADAS
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1. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

SUMMARY

A detailed Agricultural Land Classification survey of 57 ha of land at Royds Green Oulton, was carried out in November 1994.

At the time of survey 95% of the site was in agricultural use and all of this (54.3 ha) falls in Subgrade 3b. The soils are poorly drained with medium clay loam or heavy clay loam topsoils overlying gleyed and slowly permeable heavy clay loam, heavy silty clay loam or silty clay subsoils. Much of the west of the site has been restored following opencast coal mining, and shaly overburden occurs at between 35cm and 65cm depth. All of the land is restricted to Subgrade 3b by soil wetness and topsoil workability limitations.

In addition to the agricultural land, 2.4 ha of Urban Land (tracks, minor roads, houses and gardens) and 0.3 ha of Agricultural Buildings (at Dungeon Lane Farm, in the west) occur on this site.

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT ON LAND AT ROYDS GREEN,
OULTON, (TOPIC 918), LEEDS UDP

1. INTRODUCTION AND SITE CHARACTERISTICS

1.1 Location and Survey Methods

The site lies approximately 9km south-east of Leeds city centre, to the west of the A642 road. It covers a total area of 57 ha and lies around Grid Reference SE 353 266. Survey work was carried out in November 1994 when the soils were examined by hand auger borings at 100m intervals predetermined by the National Grid. In addition, two soil pits were dug to allow the soils to be described in greater detail. The land quality was assessed using the methods described in "Agricultural land Classification of England and Wales: Revised guidelines and criteria for grading the quality of agricultural land" (MAFF, 1988).

1.2 Land Use and Relief

At the time of survey 97% of the site was in agricultural use with most of the land being cereal stubble or sown to winter cereals.

Site altitude varies from 55m in the south-west to 75m in the north and the land is level to gently sloping with a southerly aspect.

1.3 Climate

Grid Reference	: SE 353 266
Altitude (m)	: 65
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C (January - June)	: 1346 day °C
Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	: 649
Climatic Grade	: 1
Field Capacity Days	: 146
Moisture Deficit (mm) Wheat	: 101
Moisture Deficit (mm) Potatoes	: 91

1.4 Geology, Soils and Drainage

This site is underlain by Carboniferous Coal Measures consisting of interbedded sandstones and shales. The soils on the site are derived from weathering shale but much of the west has been subject to opencast coal mining and the soils restored following the completion of operations.

Generally the soils are poorly drained, falling in Wetness Class IV, with medium clay loam or heavy clay loam topsoils overlying slowly permeable heavy clay loam, heavy silty clay loam or silty clay subsoils. Where the soils have been restored shaly overburden occurs in places at between 35cm and 65cm depth.

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	54.3	95.3
4		
5		
(Sub total)	(54.3)	(95.3)
Urban	2.4	4.2
Non Agricultural		
Woodland - Farm		
- Commercial		
Agricultural Buildings	0.3	0.5
Open Water		
Land not surveyed		
(Sub total)	(2.7)	(4.7)
TOTAL	57.0	100

2.1 Subgrade 3b

All of the agricultural land on this site falls in Subgrade 3b. The soils are poorly drained, falling in Wetness Class IV, with medium clay loam or heavy clay loam topsoils overlying gleyed and slowly permeable heavy clay loam, heavy silty clay loam or silty clay subsoils. Many of the soils in the west of the site which were restored after opencasting are compacted below the topsoil and overburden occurs at between 35cm and 65 cm depth in places. This land is restricted to Subgrade 3b by soil wetness and topsoil workability limitations.

2.2 Urban

Minor roads, tracks, houses and associated gardens fall within this category.

2.3 Agricultural Buildings

Agricultural Buildings occur at Dungeon Lane Farm, in the west of the site.

MAP