MAFF Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
LEEDS UDP
WEST YORKSHIRE
TOPIC 749
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ADAS
Leeds Statutory Group
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SUMMARY

A detailed Agricultural Land Classification of 5.7 ha of land adjoining Westfield Road, Carlton was carried out in November 1994.

At the time of survey all of the site was in agricultural use, all of which falls within the subgrade 3b. Soils consist of well drained fine sandy loam topsoil overlying thin slightly stony medium sandy loam upper subsoils followed at about 40cm depth, by weathering sandstone bedrock. The shallow depth of soil over bedrock results in a droughtiness limitation and subgrade 3b in most profiles.

CONTENTS

MAP

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT ON LAND ADJOINING WESTFIELD ROAD, CARLTON, LEEDS UDP, (TOPIC 749)

1. INTRODUCTION AND CHARACTERISTICS

1.1 Location and Survey Methods

The site lies approximately 6km south east of Leeds City Centre on the southern side of Westfield Road, Carlton around National Grid Reference SE 330 275. It covers a total area of 5.7 ha. Survey work was carried out in November 1994 when the soils on the site were examined by hand auger borings at 100m intervals predetermined by the National Grid. In addition a soil pit was dug to allow the depth of the sandstone, subsoil structure and stoniness to be assessed accurately. 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" (MAFF1988).

1.2 Land Use and Relief

At the time of survey all of the site was in agricultural use as arable land. The site is flat to very gently sloping at an altitude of about 50m AOD.

1.3 Climate

Grid Reference	: SE 330 275
Altitude (m)	: 50
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C (January - June)	: 1363 day °C
Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	: 640
Climatic Grade	: 1
Field Capacity Days	: 152
Moisture Deficit (mm) Wheat	: 102
Moisture Deficit (mm) Potatoes	: 93

1.4 Geology, Soils and Drainage

The site is underlain by Coal Measure Sandstones consisting of thinly bedded fine and medium grained sandstones. All soils on the site are derived from weathering sandstone and consist of well drained (Wetness Class I) fine or medium sandy loam topsoils over loamy fine sand or medium sand or sandy loam upper subsoils. Weathering sandstone bedrock occurs at about 40cm depth over almost all of the site resulting in a droughtiness limitation in most profiles. Most soil profiles are similar to those mapped as the Rivington Series by the Soil Survey of England and Wales.

2. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

The ALC grades occurring on this site are as follows:

Grade/Subgrade	Hectares	Percentage of Total Area
1		
2		
3a		
3b	5.7	100
4		
5		
(Sub total)	(5.7)	(100)
Urban		
Non Agricultural		
Woodland - Farm		
- Commercial		
Agricultural Buildings		
Open Water		
Land not surveyed		
(Sub total)		
TOTAL	5.7	100

2.1 Subgrade 3b

All of the site falls within this subgrade. Soils consist of well drained slightly stony (Wetness Class I) fine or medium sandy loam topsoils overlying fine or medium sandy loam, or loamy sand upper subsoils. These become increasingly stony with depth and pass into weathering sandstone bedrock within about 40cm of the surface. Droughtiness is the main limiting factor.

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MAP