

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
HARROGATE LOCAL PLAN
SITE 15, CASTLE HILL FARM
PANNAL ASH
NORTH YORKSHIRE
MAY 1993

ADAS
Leeds Statutory Group

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SUMMARY

Agricultural Land Classification surveys of land at Castlehill Farm, Pannal Ash, Harrogate were carried out in October 1986 when the area south of the farm was classified and in May 1993 when a small area north of the farm was added. The total area covered by both surveys is 8.7 ha of which 8.2 ha is in agricultural use.

Subgrade 3a land covers 5.1 ha. Soils are imperfectly drained (Wetness Class III) and consist of unmottled medium clay loam topsoils overlying slowly permeable heavy clay loam subsoils at or below 45 cm. Land is limited to Subgrade 3a by wetness.

Subgrade 3b land covers 3.1 ha. Soil profiles are poorly drained (Wetness Class IV) and are formed of unmottled medium clay loam topsoils overlying slowly permeable heavy clay loam subsoils at between 30 cm and 40 cm depth. This land is limited to Subgrade 3b by wetness.

The remaining 0.5 ha consists of agricultural buildings.

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1. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT: HARROGATE LOCAL PLAN,
SITE 15, CASTLEHILL FARM, PANNAL ASH

1. INTRODUCTION AND SITE CHARACTERISTICS

1.1 Location and Survey Methods

The site lies 3 km south west of Harrogate town centre adjacent to Whinney Lane, Pannal Ash, around Grid Reference SE 292 529. Survey work was carried out in October 1986 and May 1993 when soils were examined by hand auger borings at a density of two borings per hectare at points predetermined by the National Grid. Land quality in the May 1993 survey was assessed using methods described in 'Agricultural Land Classification of England and Wales: Revised guidelines and criteria for grading the quality of agricultural land' (MAFF 1988). The earlier 1986 survey information was also reassessed using the revised guidelines.

1.2 Land Use and Relief

At the time of the survey most of the site was under permanent pasture or silage grass. The remainder consisted of farm buildings.

The site lies between 160m and 178m AOD and is flat to gently sloping with a south facing aspect.

1.3 Climate

Grid Reference	: SE 292 529
Altitude (m)	: 170
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C (January-June)	: 1216 day °C
Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	: 879
Climatic Grade	: 3a
Field Capacity Days	: 213
Moisture Deficit (mm) Wheat	: 72
Moisture Deficit (mm) Potatoes	: 53

1.4 Geology, Soils and Drainage

The area is underlain by Millstone grit over which there is a cover of glacial till (boulder clay).

Soils consist of imperfectly or poorly drained (Wetness Class III or IV) medium textured topsoils overlying slowly permeable heavy clay loam subsoils. In the poorly drained soils which are common in the northern and south western parts of the site slowly permeable horizons occur within 35 cm of the surface. Elsewhere, where soils are slightly lighter textured and imperfectly drained, slowly permeable horizons occur at depths of 55 cm or more from the surface.

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	5.1	58.6
3b	3.1	35.6
4		
5		
(Sub total)	(8.2)	(94.2)
Urban		
Non Agricultural		
Woodland - Farm		
- Commercial		
Agricultural Buildings	0.5	5.8
Open Water		
Land not surveyed		
(Sub total)	(0.5)	(5.8)
TOTAL	8.7	100

2.1 Subgrade 3a

Subgrade 3a land lies centrally and in the south eastern part of the site. Soil profiles are imperfectly drained (Wetness Class III) and consist of very slightly stony unmottled medium clay loam topsoils and upper subsoils to 55cm overlying very slightly stony gleyed slowly permeable heavy clay loam lower subsoils. This land is limited to subgrade 3a by wetness.

2.2 Subgrade 3b

The remainder of the agricultural land falls within Subgrade 3b. Soil profiles are poorly drained (Wetness Class IV) and are formed of very slightly stony medium clay loam topsoils overlying very slightly stony gleyed slowly permeable heavy clay loam subsoils at between 30cm and 40cm depth. The land is limited to Subgrade 3b by wetness.

2.3 Farm Buildings

This consists of Castlehill Farm.

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MAP