



AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

SITE H8e

KIRKLEES U. D. P.

WEST YORKSHIRE

JANUARY 1995

ADAS
Leeds Statutory Group

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SUMMARY

A detailed Agricultural Land Classification survey of 9.3 ha of land north of Bradford Road, Huddersfield (Site H8e, Kirklees U.D.P.) was carried out in January 1995.

At the time of the survey 8.6 ha of the land was in agricultural use and 3.4 ha of this falls in Subgrade 3a. Two soil types occur, the first is well drained with medium clay loam topsoils and upper subsoils overlying weathering sandstone bedrock at between 45cm and 80cm depth. Soil droughtiness limits this land to Subgrade 3a. The second soil type consists of imperfectly drained profiles where, typically, medium clay loam topsoils overlie heavy silty clay loam upper subsoils and gleyed, slowly permeable clay lower subsoils. In this case soil wetness limits the land to Subgrade 3a.

5.2 ha of the site falls in Subgrade 3b. Profiles are poorly drained, with medium clay loam topsoils overlying gleyed and slowly permeable clay subsoils at around 35cm depth. A more severe soil wetness limitation restricts this land to Subgrade 3b.

The remainder of the site (0.7 ha) consists of Non Agricultural land adjoining Bradley Villa Farm.

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1. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT ON SITE H8e, KIRKLEES U.D.P., WEST YORKSHIRE

1. INTRODUCTION AND SITE CHARACTERISTICS

1.1 Location and Survey Methods

The site lies approximately 4 km north north-west of Huddersfield town centre, to the north-east of the A641/A6107 road junction. It covers a total area of 9.3 ha. Survey work was carried out in January 1995 when the soils were examined by hand auger borings at 100m intervals predetermined by the National Grid. Two soil pits were dug to allow the profiles to be described in greater detail. The land quality was assessed using the methods described in "Agricultural Land Classification of England Wales. Revised guidelines and criteria for grading the quality of agricultural land" (MAFF, 1988).

1.2 Land Use and Relief

At the time of the survey 8.6 ha of the site were under ley grass and 0.7 ha was Non Agricultural land. Site altitude varies from 159m A.O.D. in the north-east to 165m A.O.D. in the centre and west and the land is gently to moderately sloping (2-5°) with variable aspect.

1.3 Climate

Grid Reference	:	SE 152 205
Altitude (m)	:	160
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C (January-June)	:	1245 day °C
Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	:	911
Climate Grade	:	2
Field Capacity Days	:	219
Moisture Deficit (mm) Wheat	:	75
Moisture Deficit (mm) Potatoes	:	57

1.4 Geology, Soils and Drainage

The area is underlain by Carboniferous Coal Measures consisting of interbedded sandstones and shales, and weathering sandstone outcrops to within one metre of the soil surface in the west of this site.

Where soils have developed over weathering sandstone, profiles are well or moderately well drained, (falling in Wetness Classes I and II), and typically consist of very slightly to slightly stony medium clay loam topsoils overlying slightly stony medium clay loam subsoils.

Soils developed in weathering shale are generally imperfectly or poorly drained, (falling in Wetness Classes III and IV), and typically consist of medium clay loam or medium silty clay loam topsoils overlying medium silty clay loam, heavy silty clay loam, clay or silty clay subsoils.

The soils on this site correspond to the Dale, Rivington and Ticknall Series as mapped by the Soil Survey and Land Research Centre.

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	3.4	36.6
3b	5.2	55.9
4		
5		
(Sub total)	(8.6)	(92.5)
Urban		
Non Agricultural	0.7	7.5
Woodland - Farm		
- Commercial		
Agricultural Buildings		
Open Water		
Land not surveyed		
(Sub total)	(0.7)	(7.5)
Total	<u>9.3</u>	<u>100</u>

2.1 Subgrade 3a

Subgrade 3a land occurs in the centre and west of this site. Two distinct soil types occur, the first of which (in the west) consists of well drained (Wetness Class I) medium clay loam topsoils and subsoils overlying, weathering sandstone bedrock at between 45cm and 80cm depth. This land is restricted to Subgrade 3a by soil droughtness. The second soil type (in the centre) typically consists of imperfectly drained profiles (Wetness Class III) where medium clay loam topsoils overlie heavy silty clay loam upper subsoils and clay lower subsoils. The upper subsoils may or may not be gleyed and the lower subsoils, which generally begin at between 45cm and 65cm depth, are both gleyed and slowly permeable. This land is limited to Subgrade 3a by soil wetness restrictions.

2.2 Subgrade 3b

The remainder of the agricultural land on this site falls in Subgrade 3b. Profiles are poorly drained, falling in Wetness Class IV, with medium clay loam topsoils overlying gleyed and slowly permeable clay subsoils at around 35cm depth. The ALC grade of this land is limited by soil wetness.

2.3 Non Agricultural

Land in this category occurs in the south-east of the site in an area used to dump old farm machinery, tractor tyres etc.

MAP