



Ministry of
Agriculture
Fisheries
and Food

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
EASINGTON LOCAL PLAN
COLD HESLEDON, CO DURHAM
SEPTEMBER 1993

SUMMARY

An Agricultural Land Classification Survey was carried out on 11.5ha of land at Cold Hesledon, Co Durham in September 1993. All of this, except for a small area of urban land, was in agricultural use.

Subgrade 3a land covers 6.7ha. Soils within this subgrade consist of medium clay loam topsoils over permeable heavy clay loam upper subsoils and slowly permeable heavy clay loam lower subsoils. Profiles are imperfectly drained and limited to Subgrade 3a by slight soil wetness.

Subgrade 3b land covers 4.4 ha of the site. Soils consist of medium and heavy clay loam topsoils over gleyed slowly permeable heavy clay loam subsoils. They are poorly drained and limited to Subgrade 3b by wetness and workability problems.

The remainder of the site (0.4ha) consists of urban land.

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1. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION : LAND AT COLD HESLEDON
CO DURHAM: EASINGTON LOCAL PLAN

1. INTRODUCTION AND SITE CHARACTERISTICS

1.1 Location and Survey Methods

The site lies approximately 2km south west of Seaham in the village of Cold Hesledon, around National Grid Reference NZ 414471. Survey work was carried out in September 1993 when soils were examined by hand auger borings at 100m intervals predetermined by the National Grid. Land quality was assessed using methods outlined in "Agricultural Land Classification of England and Wales" (MAFF 1988).

1.2 Land Use and Relief

At the time of the survey almost all of the area was in arable use (cereals). There was also a small area in urban use as an electricity Substation. The site lies between 100m and 110m AOD and is level to moderately undulating with slopes of 0-4°.

1.3 Climate

Grid Reference	: NZ 414471
Altitude (m)	: 105
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C (January-June)	: 1246 day°C
Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	: 666
Climatic Grade	: 2
Field Capacity Days	: 163
Moisture Deficit (mm) Wheat	: 90
Moisture Deficit (mm) Potatoes	: 75

1.4 Geology, Soils and Drainage

The area is underlain by Permian Magnesian Limestone, over which there is a covering of boulder clay and undifferentiated drift. Soils are medium to heavy textured and are similar to the Dunkeswick Series as mapped by the Soil Survey and Land Research Centre.

Profiles typically consist of medium clay loam or occasionally heavy clay loam topsoils over heavy clay loam subsoils. Slowly permeable layers occur between 30 and 60cm depth and drainage is imperfect to poor (Wetness Classes III and 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	6.7	58.3
3b	4.4	38.2
4		
5		
(Sub total)	(11.1)	(96.5)
Urban	0.4	3.5
Non Agricultural		
Woodland - Farm		
- Commercial		
Agricultural Buildings		
Open Water		
Land not surveyed		
(Sub total)	(0.4)	(3.5)
TOTAL	<u>11.5</u>	<u>100</u>

2.1 Subgrade 3a

Land in this subgrade occurs in the western part of the site. Profiles consist of imperfectly drained (Wetness Class III) very slightly stony medium clay loam topsoils, over very slightly stony gleyed or ungleyed, permeable, heavy clay loam upper subsoils and, between 45 and 60cm depth, gleyed slowly permeable very slightly stony heavy clay loam lower subsoils. They are limited to Subgrade 3a by wetness.

2.2 Subgrade 3b

Land in this subgrade occurs over the eastern part of the site. Soils consist of poorly drained (Wetness Class IV) very slightly stony medium or heavy clay loam topsoils over very slightly stony gleyed slowly permeable heavy clay loam subsoils. Profiles are slowly permeable within 45cm depth and limited to Subgrade 3b by wetness and workability problems.

2.3 Urban

This consists of an electricity sub-station near the southern edge of the site.

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MAP