

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
SELBY DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN
SITES B, C AND D, DRAX
JULY 1993

ADAS
Leeds Statutory Group

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SUMMARY

An Agricultural Land Classification of 32.8ha of land on Sites B, C and D at Drax was carried out in July 1993.

Most of this is in agricultural use of which 17.1ha fall within Subgrade 3a (Site B 2.5ha, Site C 7.2ha, Site D 7.4ha). Soils consist of moderately well drained (Wetness Class II) or imperfectly drained (Wetness Class III) medium sandy loam or medium clay loam topsoils over slowly permeable clay subsoils at between 30 and 60cm depth. The majority of these soils are limited to Subgrade 3a by wetness with occasional profiles limited by droughtiness.

Subgrade 3b land covers 14.5ha (Site B nil, Site C 2.6ha, Site D 11.9ha). Soils consist of well drained (Wetness Class I) loamy medium sand topsoils overlying deep medium sand subsoils. These soils are limited to Subgrade 3b by droughtiness.

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1. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT: SELBY DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN,
SITES B, C AND D, DRAX

1. INTRODUCTION AND SITE CHARACTERISTICS

1.1 Location and Survey Methods

The sites are located 7km west north west of Goole and 1km south of Drax village around National Grid Reference SE 670259. Survey work was carried out in July 1993 when soils were examined by hand auger borings at a density of one per hectare at points predetermined by the National Grid. Land quality was assessed using the methods described in "Agricultural Land Classification of England and Wales: Revised criteria for grading the quality of agricultural land" (MAFF 1988).

1.2 Land Use and Relief

At the time of survey almost all land on the three sites was in agricultural uses consisting of arable, permanent pasture and set aside. The remainder consisted of Non Agricultural land (Allotments and scrub) farm buildings and private dwellings. The site is level at an altitude of 5m AOD.

1.3 Climate

Grid Reference	: SE 670259
Altitude (m)	: 5
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C (January-June)	: 1407 day°C
Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	: 593
Climatic Grade	: 1
Field Capacity Days	: 124
Moisture Deficit (mm) Wheat	: 111
Moisture Deficit (mm) Potatoes	: 103

1.4 Geology, Soils and Drainage

The whole of the area is underlain by Bunter Sandstone over which there is a thick cover of sandy drift along with, in the northern part of Site D a small area of silt and clay.

Soil profiles on the sandy drift consist of stoneless loamy medium sand or medium sandy loam topsoils overlying stoneless well drained (Wetness Class I) medium sand or loamy medium sand subsoils.

Profiles on the heavier soils consist of stoneless medium sandy loam and medium clay loam topsoils overlying imperfectly drained (Wetness Class III) slowly permeable clay subsoils.

2. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

The ALC grades on the three sites are as follows:-

<u>Subgrade</u>	<u>Hectares</u>			<u>Percentage of Total Land</u>		
	SITE B	SITE C	SITE D	SITE B	SITE C	SITE D
3a	2.5	7.1	7.4	100	69.7	36.8
3b		2.5	11.9		24.5	59.2
(Sub Total)	(2.5)	(9.6)	(19.3)	(100)	(94.2)	(96.0)
Urban			0.3			1.5
Non Agricultural		0.3	0.5		2.9	2.5
Agricultural Buildings		0.3			2.9	
(Sub Total)		(0.6)	(0.8)		(5.8)	(4.0)
TOTAL	2.5	10.2	20.1	100	100	100

2.1 Subgrade 3a

Subgrade 3a land covers the whole of Site B, most of Site C and the northern part of Site D. The majority of soils within this subgrade consist of stoneless medium clay loam or medium sandy loam topsoils overlying stoneless, imperfectly drained (Wetness Class III), gleyed, slowly permeable clay subsoils. These soils are limited to Subgrade 3a by soil wetness and/or occasionally, droughtiness. A small area in the eastern part of Site C containing stoneless medium sandy loam topsoils overlying deep stoneless well drained (Wetness Class I) medium loamy sand subsoils is limited to Subgrade 3a by droughtiness.

2.2 Subgrade 3b

Subgrade 3b land covers the remaining agricultural land. It is particularly widespread in the southern half of Site D. Soils consist of stoneless loamy medium sand topsoils over well drained (Wetness Class I) medium sand subsoils. They are limited to Subgrade 3b by severe soil droughtiness.

2.3 Non Agricultural

This consists of areas of scrub at the eastern end of Site D and on the western edge of Site C, and a small area of allotments on the north western corner of Site D.

2.4 Urban

Urban land consists of private housing adjoining the allotments on Hales Lane on Site D.

2.5 Agricultural Buildings

This consists of Hales Lane Farm.

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MAP