

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
SEDFIELD LOCAL PLAN
SITE H3, TROTTER WOOD
SPENNYMOOR, COUNTY DURHAM
MARCH 1993

ADAS
Leeds Statutory Group

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2 FCS 6381

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SUMMARY

An Agricultural Land Classification survey of 13.5 ha of land at Trotter Wood near Spennymoor was carried out in March 1993.

13.3 ha of this land was in agricultural use all of which falls within Subgrade 3b. Soils in this subgrade are poorly drained (Wetness Class IV) and consist of medium clay loam topsoils over slowly permeable heavy clay loam or clay subsoils. They are limited to Subgrade 3b by wetness.

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1. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT: SEDGEFIELD LOCAL PLAN,
SITE H2 TROTTER WOOD, SPENNYMOOR

1. INTRODUCTION AND SITE CHARACTERISTICS

1.1 Location and Survey Methods

The site is located 1½km north west of Spennymoor and is centred on Grid Reference NZ250350. Survey work was carried out in March 1993 when soils were examined by hand auger borings at a density of one boring per hectare at points predetermined by the National Grid. Additional borings were made where necessary to refine grade boundaries. 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 the survey 98.5% of the site was in agricultural production, all of which was under arable crops. The remainder consists of Non-Agricultural Land (private gardens). Altitude varies from 80m AOD to 90m AOD and the site is level to gently sloping (0-3°).

1.3 Climate

Grid Reference	: NZ250350
Altitude (m)	: 84
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C (January-June)	: 1279 day°C
Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	: 677
Climatic Grade	: 2
Field Capacity Days	: 169
Moisture Deficit (mm) Wheat	: 90
Moisture Deficit (mm) Potatoes	: 75

1.4 Geology, Soils and Drainage

The site is underlain by Coal Measures over which there is a cover of till. Soils consist of stoneless to very slightly stony medium clay loam topsoils over poorly drained (Wetness Class IV) slowly permeable slightly stony heavy clay loam and clay subsoils. Most soils are similar to those mapped as the Dunkeswick series 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		
3b	13.3	98.5
4		
5		
(Sub total)	(13.3)	(98.5)
Urban		
Non Agricultural	0.2	1.5
Woodland - Farm		
- Commercial		
Agricultural Buildings		
Open Water		
Land not surveyed		
(Sub total)	(0.2)	(1.5)
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TOTAL	13.5	100
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2.1 Subgrade 3b

All of the agricultural land on the site falls within this subgrade. Soils consist of stoneless to very slightly stony medium clay loam topsoils over poorly drained (Wetness Class IV) very slightly stony, gleyed slowly permeable heavy clay loam and clay subsoils. They are limited to Subgrade 3b by wetness.

2.2 Non-Agricultural

Non agricultural land consists of a small wooded area in the centre of the site.

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MAP