

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
HARROGATE LOCAL PLAN
SITE 10, FOREST MOOR
FEBRUARY 1993

ADAS
Leeds Statutory Group

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SUMMARY

An Agricultural Land Classification survey of approximately 64.2ha of land at Forest Moor near Harrogate was carried out in February 1993.

Almost all of this was in agricultural use of which 4.91 ha falls within Grade 2. Soils on this land consist of well drained (Wetness Class I) medium clay loam topsoils over moderately stony (25%) loamy medium sand upper subsoils which pass into sandy clay loam lower subsoils. These soils are limited to Grade 2 by slight winter wetness and summer droughtiness.

Subgrade 3a land covers 9.94ha. Soils consist of well to moderately well drained (Wetness Classes I and II) medium clay loam and medium sandy loam topsoils over sandy clay loam subsoils. Profiles contain 10% stones in the topsoil and 25% or more in the lower subsoil and a result are limited to Subgrade 3a by droughtiness.

Subgrade 3b land covers 49.22ha. Soils consist of poorly drained (Wetness Class IV) medium clay loam topsoils over slowly permeable sandy clay loam, heavy clay loam or clay subsoils. These soils are limited to Subgrade 3b by wetness and workability problems.

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1. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT: HARROGATE LOCAL PLAN, SITE 10, FOREST MOOR.

1. INTRODUCTION AND SITE CHARACTERISTICS

1.1 Location and Survey Methods

The site lies 3.5Km east of Harrogate town centre around Grid Reference SE 338547. Survey work was carried out in February 1993 when soils were examined by hand auger borings at a density of 1 boring 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 guidelines and criteria for grading the quality of agricultural land". (MAFF, 1988).

1.2 Land Use and Relief

At the time of the survey 99.8% of the site was in rough grazing, permanent pasture or arable use. The remainder consists of a small area of woodland.

Site altitude varies from 52m AOD to 76m AOD and the land is mainly level to moderately sloping (0-4°).

1.3 Climate

Grid Reference	: SE 338547
Altitude (m)	: 70
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C (January-June)	: 1328 day°C
Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	: 738
Climatic Grade	: 1
Field Capacity Days	: 184
Moisture Deficit (mm) Wheat	: 93
Moisture Deficit (mm) Potatoes	: 81

1.4 Geology, Soils and Drainage

The area is underlain by the Upper Magnesian Limestone, and Millstone Grit over which there is a cover of till and alluvium. In the lower lying alluvial areas soils consist of medium clay loam and medium sandy loam topsoils over well drained (Wetness Class I) medium sandy loam and sandy clay loam subsoils. Elsewhere soils are formed on boulder clay and consist of medium clay loam topsoils over slowly permeable (Wetness Class IV) heavy clay loams and clay subsoils. The heavy 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	4.91	7.6
3a	9.94	15.5
3b	44.22	76.7
4		
5		
(Sub total)	(64.07)	(99.8)
Urban		
Non Agricultural	0.13	0.2
Woodland - Farm		
- Commercial		
Agricultural Buildings		
Open Water		
Land not surveyed		
(Sub total)	(0.13)	(0.2)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL	64.20	100
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2.1 Grade 2

Land in this grade occurs in the south western part of the site. Soils consist of very slightly stony medium clay loam topsoils over well drained (Wetness Class I) moderately stony loamy medium sand upper subsoils, which in turn pass into well drained moderately stony (25%) sandy clay loam lower subsoils. Soils of this type are limited to Grade 2 by slight winter wetness and summer droughtiness problems.

2.2 Subgrade 3a

Land in this subgrade occurs on either side of the Grade 2 land in the south western part of the site. Soil profiles consist of very slightly to slightly stony medium clay loam or medium sandy loam topsoils over well to imperfectly drained (Wetness Classes I to III) very slightly stony sandy clay loam upper subsoils. Lower subsoils consist of either slowly permeable heavy clay loam or very stony sandy clay loam. Soils are limited to Subgrade 3a by wetness where the lower subsoil is slowly permeable and by droughtiness where it is very stony.

2.3 Subgrade 3b

The remainder of the site falls within Subgrade 3b. Most soils consist of stoneless to very slightly stony medium clay loam topsoils over stoneless to very slightly stony gleyed slowly permeable sandy clay loam, heavy clay loam or clay subsoils. The slowly permeable layer occurs at or above 45cm in most cases. Profiles thus fall within Wetness Class IV (poorly drained) and are limited to Subgrade 3b by wetness and workability problems. A small area in the north adjoining the farmhouse consists of "night soil". This contains a high proportion of non soil material and it is placed within Subgrade 3b for this reason.

2.4 Non-Agricultural

This consists of a small area of woodland in the south east of the site.

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MAP