



Ministry of  
Agriculture  
Fisheries  
and Food

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION  
GOLF COURSE, AKEBAR PARK,  
WENSLEYDALE,  
N YORKS  
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ADAS  
Leeds Statutory Group

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## SUMMARY

An Agricultural Land Classification survey of 8.2 ha of land east of Bedale, North Yorkshire was carried out in September 1994.

8.2 ha of this was in agricultural use of which 0.2 ha falls in Grade 2. Soils within this grade are well drained (Wetness Class I). Soils consist of medium clay loam topsoils overlying permeable medium clay loam, medium sandy loam or sandy clay loam subsoils. This land is restricted to Grade 2 by climatic limitations and slight flood risk.

7.3 ha is Subgrade 3a land. Soils on the northern parcel consist of medium silty clay loam topsoils over moderately to imperfectly drained (Wetness Class II-III) heavy silty clay loam subsoils. This land is limited to Subgrade 3a by moderate soil wetness restrictions. The remaining Subgrade 3a land lies on the southern parcel. Soils consist of very slightly to slightly stony medium sandy loam topsoils overlying very slightly to slightly stony medium sandy loam subsoils. Impenetrable stones are encountered between 50-90cm depth. Soils are limited to Subgrade 3a by topsoil stoniness restrictions.

The remaining 0.7 ha is subgrade 3b land. Soils consist of slightly stony loamy, medium sand topsoils over impenetrable hard stones at 40cm. These soils are limited to Subgrade 3b by topsoil stoniness restrictions.

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1. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT ON LAND AT AKEBAR PARK  
GOLF COURSE, WENSLEYDALE, NORTH YORKS

1. INTRODUCTION AND SITE CHARACTERISTICS

1.1 Location and Survey Methods

The site lies 8km east of Bedale directly south of the A684 at Akebar Farm. It is centred around National Grid Reference SE 192 900. Two separate parcels of land make up the site, approximately 300m apart. Climatic data for the larger southern parcel has been used for the whole site. Part of the site was surveyed in 1992, but most of the land was surveyed in September 1994 when soils were examined by hand auger borings at 100m intervals at points predetermined by the National Grid. Two soil inspection pits were dug to assess soils in greater detail. 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).

1.2 Land Use and Relief

At the time of the survey the smaller northern parcel was in set-aside and the southern parcel in arable use. Relief is level to moderately sloping (0-4°). Altitude varies from 65m AOD to 100m AOD.

1.3 Climate

Grid Reference	: SE 192 900
Altitude	: 85 m
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C (January - June)	: 1299
Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	: 750
Climatic Grade	: 2
Field Capacity Days	: 192
Moisture Deficit (mm) Wheat	: 90
Moisture Deficit (mm) Potatoes	: 77

#### 1.4 Geology, Soils and Drainage

The site is underlain by Carboniferous Millstone Grit. Soils are all developed from drift deposits. Bedrock is not exposed within a metre of the surface. Soils in the northern area are developed from alluvium and in the southern area from sandy fluvioglacial drift.

The northern area contains alluvial gley soils the southern typical brown earths. Soil profiles on the northern parcel consist of medium silty clay loam topsoils over permeable, gleyed, heavy silty clay loam subsoils, and occasionally slowly permeable lower subsoils. Soils are moderately to imperfectly drained (Wetness Class II - III). Soil profiles on the southern parcel consist of very slightly to slightly stony medium sandy loam topsoils over well drained (Wetness Class I) medium sandy loam and occasional loamy medium sand subsoils.

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	0.2	2.5
3a	7.3	89.0
3b	0.7	8.5
4		
5		
(Sub total)	(8.2)	(100.0)
Urban		
Non Agricultural		
Woodland - Farm		
- Commercial		
Agricultural Buildings		
Open Water		
Land not surveyed		
(Sub total)	(0.0)	(0.0)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<u>8.2</u>	<u>100</u>

## 2.1 Grade 2

A small area of previously surveyed land occurs on the northern parcel. Soils consist of stoneless to very slightly stony (0-5%) medium clay loam topsoils, over well drained (Wetness Class I) medium clay loam, medium sandy loam or sandy clay loam subsoils. These soils are limited to Grade 2 by climate and slight flooding risk.

## 2.2 Subgrade 3a

Subgrade 3a land covers the majority of the site. Soils on the northern area consist of stoneless medium silty clay loam topsoils over gleyed stoneless permeable heavy silty clay loam subsoils. Occasionally soils are slowly permeable below 50cm. These soils are moderately to imperfectly drained, falling into Wetness Class II to III and are limited to Subgrade 3a by soil wetness restrictions. The remainder of Subgrade 3a land lies on the southern area. Soils consist of very slightly to slightly stony (5-10%) medium sandy loam topsoils over very slightly to slightly stony (5-15%) well drained (Wetness Class I) medium sandy loam subsoils. Impenetrable stones were encountered between 50-90cm depth. These soils are limited to Subgrade 3a by topsoil stoniness restrictions.

## 2.3 Subgrade 3b

A small area of Subgrade 3b land occurs on the southern parcel. Soils consist of slightly stony (10%) loamy medium sand topsoils over impenetrable stones below 40cm. These soils are limited to Subgrade 3b by severe topsoil stoniness restrictions.

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MAP