



Ministry of
Agriculture
Fisheries
and Food

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
NORTH YORKS MINERALS LOCAL PLAN
URE VALLEY A
NORTH YORKSHIRE
MARCH 1995

ADAS
Leeds Statutory Group

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SUMMARY

A detailed Agricultural Land Classification survey of 20.9 ha of land west of Wath ("North Yorks Minerals Local Plan, Ure Valley A") was carried out in March 1995.

At the time of survey 18.3 ha was in agricultural use and 2.6 ha consisted of Woodland or Non Agricultural land. 12.5 ha of the agricultural land falls in Grade 2. The soils are well drained, with light to medium-textured topsoils and subsoils with, in places, very light-textured soils occurring at depth. Generally the soils are very slightly to slightly stony but the very light-textured lower subsoils are typically very stony. Slight soil droughtiness and flood risk limit this land to Grade 2.

2.0 ha of land falls in Subgrade 3a. The soils are well drained, with very slightly to slightly stony sandy loam or sandy clay loam topsoils and upper subsoils overlying very stony loamy sand or sand lower subsoils at around 55cm depth. A more serious soil droughtiness restriction limits this land to Subgrade 3a.

3.8 ha of Subgrade 3b land occurs on the site. Again the soils are well drained, but slightly to moderately stony sandy loams or sandy clay loams overlie very stony loamy sands or sands at around 35cm depth. Severe soil droughtiness and, in places, topsoil stoniness, limit this land to Subgrade 3b.

CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION AND SITE CHARACTERISTICS
2. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

MAP

1. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT ON LAND WEST OF WATH
(NORTH YORKS MINERALS LOCAL PLAN, URE VALLEY A)

1. INTRODUCTION AND SITE CHARACTERISTICS

1.1 Location and Survey Methods

This site lies approximately 6km north of Ripon town centre, on the north side of the River Ure. It covers a total area of 20.9 ha. Survey work was carried out in March 1995 when the soils were examined by hand auger borings at 100m intervals predetermined by the National Grid. Two soil pits were dug to allow more detailed examination of the profiles. The 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 survey 88 % of the site was in agriculture use, having been recently ploughed or sown to winter cereals. The remainder consists of Woodland in the north-west and Non-Agricultural land in the south-west.

Site altitude varies from 30m AOD in the south-west to 35m AOD in the north and the land is level to gently sloping (0-2° in most cases) with a southerly aspect.

1.3 Climate

Grid Reference	: SE 303 772
Altitude (m)	: 35
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C (January - June)	: 1359 day °C
Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	: 654
Climatic Grade	: 1
Field Capacity Days	: 161
Moisture Deficit (mm) Wheat	: 104
Moisture Deficit (mm) Potatoes	: 95

1.4 Geology, Soils and Drainage

The area is underlain by Middle Permian Marl over which lie river terrace gravels and deposits of alluvium.

The soils are well drained, falling in Wetness Class I, and typically consist of medium sandy loam, medium clay loam or sandy clay loam topsoils and subsoils overlying very stony loamy sand or sand at varying depths.

The soils on the site correspond to the Wick 1 Association as mapped 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	12.5	59.7
3a	2.0	9.6
3b	3.8	18.2
4		
5		
(Sub total)	(18.3)	(87.5)
Urban		
Non Agricultural	2.0	9.6
Woodland	0.6	2.9
<i>Agricultural Buildings</i>		
Open Water		
Land not surveyed		
(Sub total)	(2.6)	(12.5)
 TOTAL	 <u>20.9</u>	 <u>100</u>

2.1 Grade 2

Much of the land surveyed, especially in the more southerly of the two blocks, falls in Grade 2. The soils are well drained, falling in Wetness Class I, and consist of medium sandy loam, medium clay loam or sandy clay loam topsoils and subsoils. Loamy sand or sand lower subsoils occur below around 60cm depth in places. Topsoils and upper subsoils are very slightly to slightly stony, containing 2-8% very small to large rounded hard stones, but the loamy sands or sands which occur at depth are very stony, containing around 60% very small to large rounded and subrounded hard stones. Slight soil droughtiness and a slight flood risk from the River Ure are the factors which limit this land to Grade 2.

2.2 Subgrade 3a

Two areas of Subgrade 3a land have been mapped, one in the east and one in the south. Again the soils are well drained (Wetness Class I) and consist of medium sandy loam or sandy clay loam topsoils and upper subsoils, but in this case the very stony loamy sand or sand lower subsoils begin at around 55cm depth. Soil droughtiness is more restricting than on the adjoining Grade 2 land and it is this factor which limits the land to Subgrade 3a.

2.3 Subgrade 3b

Four small areas of Subgrade 3b land occur on this site. The soils are well drained, falling in Wetness Class I, and consist of slightly to moderately stony sandy clay loam or medium sandy loam topsoils overlying very stony loamy medium sand or medium sand subsoils. Topsoils contain 10-20% total hard stones while subsoils contain around 60% total hard stones. The ALC grade of this land is limited by severe soil droughtiness and, in places, by topsoil stoniness.

2.4 Non Agricultural

An area of Non Agricultural land occurs in the south-west where the soils have been disturbed and building debris dumped.

2.5 Woodland

A belt of recently planted woodland occurs in the north-west of the site.

MAP