AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

KIRKLEES UNITARY DEVELOPMENT PLAN

SITE B14:2

WHITEHALL ROAD, SCHOLES

DECEMBER 1992

ADAS

Leeds Statutory Group

Job No:- 139/92

MAFF Ref:

2FCS 6232

siteb14.alc.mp

SUMMARY

An Agricultural Land Classification survey of approximately 25ha of land at Site B14:2 Whitehall Road, Scholes, near Cleckheaton, was carried out in December 1992.

23 ha of this was in agricultural use of which 20ha falls within Subgrade 3b. Soils on this land are poorly drained (Wetness Class IV) and consist of medium clay loam topsoils over either heavy clay loam or clay subsoils. These soils are limited to Subgrade 3b by wetness and workability problems.

Grade 4 land covers 3ha. Soils are restored over the disused Scholes Pit and consist of poorly drained (Wetness Class IV) slowly permeable, heavy clay loam topsoils, over heavy clay loam subsoils. Overburden occurs at depths of between 30 and 100cm.

The remainder of the land is either urban or non-agricultural.

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1. INTRODUCTION AND SITE CHARACTERISTICS

1.1 Location and Survey Methods.

The site lies 7Km south of Bradford City centre and is centred on Grid Reference SE167263. Survey work was carried out in December 1992 when soils were examined by hand auger borings at a density of one 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 94% of the site was in permanent pasture. The remainder consisted of roads and private temporary buildings.

Site altitude varies from 125m AOD to 170m AOD and relief varies between level and strongly sloping (0-8°).

1.3 Climate

Grid Reference	:	SE 167263
Altitude (m)	:	150
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C (January-June)	:	1253
Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	:	896
Climatic Grade	:	2
Field Capacity Days	:	215
Moisture Deficit (mm) Wheat	:	78
Moisture Deficit (mm) Potatoes	:	60

1.4 Geology, Soils and Drainage

The area is underlain by Carboniferous Coal Measures consisting of interbedded sandstones and shales. There is no drift cover and soils are formed directly on weathering solid strata.

The area to the north west of Branch Road consists of restored soils spread over the disused Scholes Pit. These consist of heavy clay loam topsoils over poorly drained slowly permeable (Wetness Class IV) heavy clay loam and silty clay subsoils. Depth to overburden varies from 30-100cm.

The remainder of the site consists of medium or heavy clay loam topsoils over poorly drained slowly permeable (Wetness Class IV) heavy clay loam or clay subsoils.

The heavy soils are similar to those mapped as the Dale Series of the Soil Survey and Land Resource Centre.

2. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

The ALC grades occurring on this site are as follows:

Grade/Subgrade	Hectares	Percentage of Total Area
1		
2		
3a		
3b	20.00	81.1
4	3.19	12.9
5		
(Sub total)	(23.19)	(94.0)
Urban	0.63	2.6
Non Agricultural	0.83	3.4
Woodland - Farm		
- Commercial		
Agricultural Buildings		
Open Water		
Land not surveyed		
(Sub total)	(1.46)	(6.0)
TOTAL	24.65	100

2.1 Sub Grade 3b

Land in this subgrade covers the majority of the site. Topsoils are stoneless to very slightly stony and consist of medium clay loam or occasionally heavy clay loam topsoils overlying gleyed slowly permeable heavy clay loam or clay subsoils. Profiles are poorly drained (Wetness Class IV) and limited to Subgrade 3b by wetness and workability problems.

2.2 Grade 4

Land in this grade occurs to the north west of Branch Road. Soils are formed of restored material spread over the site of the disused Scholes Pit. Topsoils are stoneless to very slightly stony and consist of heavy clay loam overlying gleyed mottled slowly permeable sometimes compacted heavy clay loam subsoils. Overburden occurs at depths between 30-100cm. Profiles are poorly drained (Wetness Class IV) and limited to Grade 4 by severe wetness and workability problems.

2.3 Urban

Urban land consists of one road and tracks crossing the site.

2.4 Non-Agricultural

There are two areas of Non-Agricultural land. The one in the north east consists of shrubland. That in the south west consists of temporary huts and animal shelters.

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