

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
ROTHERHAM UNITARY DEVELOPMENT PLAN
SITE H30, THROAPHAM COMMON
DINNINGTON
MARCH 1993

ADAS
Leeds Statutory Group

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SUMMARY

An Agricultural Land Classification survey of approximately 5ha of land at Throapham Common was carried out in March 1993. 2.7ha of this land was in agricultural use, all of which falls within Subgrade 3a. Soils are either well drained (Wetness Class I) consisting of medium clay loam topsoils and thin sandy clay loam subsoils over soft limestone, or are imperfectly drained (Wetness Class III) and consist of medium clay loam or medium silty clay loam topsoils over similar or heavier slowly permeable subsoils. The well drained soils are limited by droughtiness; the imperfectly drained soils are limited by wetness.

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1. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT: ROTHERHAM UNITARY
DEVELOPMENT PLAN, SITE H30, THROAPHAM COMMON, DINNINGTON

1. INTRODUCTION AND SITE CHARACTERISTICS

1.1 Location and Survey Methods

The site is located north of Dinnington school around National Grid Reference SK 528869. Survey work was carried out in March 1993 when soils were examined by hand auger borings at a density of two 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 criteria for grading the quality of agricultural land." (MAFF 1988)

1.2 Land Use and Relief

At the time of survey 56.3% of the site was in Agricultural production, most of which was in arable use. The remainder of the site consists of Urban (foot paths and gardens) and Non Agricultural land (woods and a playing field). Site altitude varies between 110 and 115m AOD. The area is gently sloping.

1.3 Climate

Grid Reference	: SK 528869
Altitude (m)	: 115
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C (January-June)	: 1302 day°C
Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	: 661
Climatic Grade	: 2
Field Capacity Days	: 138
Moisture Deficit (mm) Wheat	: 97
Moisture Deficit (mm) Potatoes	: 86

1.4 Geology, Soils and Drainage

The site is underlain by Magnesian Limestone over which there is a drift cover of variable thickness. Soil profiles on the thicker drift deposits consist of imperfectly drained (Wetness Class III) medium clay loam topsoils over medium clay loam to heavy silty clay loam upper subsoil and slowly permeable heavy clay loam lower subsoils. Where the drift is thin medium clay loam topsoils overlie well drained (Wetness Class I) medium clay loam or sandy clay loam subsoils which pass into soft limestone at depth.

2. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

The ALC grades occurring on this site are as follows:

<u>Grade/Subgrade</u>	<u>Hectare</u>	<u>Percentage of Total Area</u>
1		
2		
3a	2.7	56.3
3b		
4		
5		
(Sub total)	(2.7)	(56.3)
Urban	0.5	10.4
Non Agricultural	1.6	33.3
Woodland - Farm		
- Commercial		
Agricultural Buildings		
Open Water		
Land not surveyed		
(Sub total)	(2.1)	(43.7)
TOTAL	<u>4.8</u>	<u>100</u>

2.1 Subgrade 3a

All agricultural land on this site falls within Subgrade 3a. In the north, profiles generally consist of medium clay loam or medium silty clay loam topsoils over heavy silty clay loam or medium clay loam upper subsoils and slowly permeable heavy clay loam lower subsoils. Soils are imperfectly drained (Wetness Class III) and are limited to Subgrade 3a by slight wetness. In the south, profiles consist mainly of medium clay loam topsoils over thin, medium clay loam or sandy clay loam subsoils which pass into weathered soft limestone at depth. These soils are well drained Wetness Class I and are limited to Subgrade 3a by droughtiness.

2.2 Urban

The Urban land on the site consists of a footpath and private gardens.

2.3 Non Agricultural

This consists of woods and a playing field.

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MAP