



AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
WAKEFIELD UDP: LAND SOUTH OF
JUNCTION 41, M1
JANUARY 1994

ADAS
Leeds Statutory Group

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SUMMARY

An Agricultural Land Classification survey of 41.9 ha of land south of junction 41 of the M1 Motorway was carried out in January 1994.

36.2 ha of this land was in agricultural use. All of this falls within Subgrade 3b. Soils are poorly drained (Wetness Class IV) and consist of heavy or medium clay loam tops over gleyed clay subsoils. This land is limited to Subgrade 3b by severe soil wetness and workability problems.

5.2 ha of the site is in Urban use as roads, paths, houses and a garden centre.

Agricultural Buildings cover 0.4 ha.

Rough scrub covers the remaining 0.1 ha of the site. This is classified as Non-Agricultural land.

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1. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT: WAKEFIELD UDP; LAND SOUTH OF JUNCTION 41, M1

1. INTRODUCTION AND SITE CHARACTERISTICS

1.1 Location and Survey Methods

The site is located to the south of junction 41 of the M1 Motorway. It lies approximately 4 km north east of Wakefield town centre and is split into 2 blocks by the A650 Wakefield to Bradford road. It is centred on National Grid Reference SE 309242. Survey work was carried out in January 1994. Soils were examined by hand auger borings at 100 m intervals at points predetermined by the National Grid. One soil inspection pit was dug to confirm subsoil structure. 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

86.4% of the site was in agricultural use. Most of this was under permanent pasture, with a smaller area in arable use. Most of the remaining land was in Urban use (houses and roads). Small areas were occupied by Agricultural Buildings or in other Non-Agricultural use (rough scrub). The site lies between 72 and 100 m. A.O.D. The land is level to moderately sloping (0 - 5°) with a dominant south-easterly aspect.

1.3 Climate

Grid Reference	:	SE 309242
Altitude (m)	:	90
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C (January - June)	:	1319 days °C
Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	:	643
Climatic Grade	:	1
Field Capacity Days	:	153
Moisture Deficit (mm) Wheat	:	98
Moisture Deficit (mm) Potatoes	:	86

1.4 Geology, Soils and Drainage

The site is underlain by interbedded shales, sandstones and siltstone of the Carboniferous Coal Measures series. There is little drift cover and soils are largely formed on weathering shale and siltstone. Most profiles consist of medium to heavy textured topsoils overlying gleyed clay subsoils which are slowly permeable within 40 cm depth. Soil profiles are poorly drained (Wetness Class IV). Soils are similar to those of the Dale 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		
3a		
3b	36.2	86.4
4		
5		
(Sub total)		
Urban	5.2	12.4
Non Agricultural	0.1	0.2
Woodland - Farm		
- Commercial		
Agricultural Buildings	0.4	1.0
Open Water		
Land not surveyed		
(Sub total)	(5.7)	(13.6)
TOTAL	<u>41.9</u>	<u>100</u>

2.1 Subgrade 3b

All of the agricultural land on the site falls within Subgrade 3b. Heavy or medium clay loam topsoils generally overlie gleyed clay subsoils which are slowly permeable within 40 cm depth. Soil profiles are poorly drained, falling within Wetness Class IV. This land is restricted to Subgrade 3b by severe soil wetness and workability limitations.

2.2 Urban

This refers to the roads, houses and garden centre to the east of Bradford Road and to two metalled paths which run across the north and centre of the site.

2.3 Agricultural Buildings

A small complex consisting of barns, stables and a yard lies to the east of the A650.

2.4 Non-Agricultural Land

A small area of rough scrub lies between the A650 and Carr Gate Crescent.

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MAP