



AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
LEEDS UDP OBJECTION TOPIC 438
SCHOLES PARK FARM, SCHOLES
WEST YORKSHIRE

FEBRUARY 1996

ADAS
Leeds Statutory Group

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SUMMARY

A detailed Agricultural Land Classification survey of 29.7 ha of land near Scholes Park Farm, Scholes was carried out in February 1996.

29.3 ha of this was in agricultural use, all of which falls within Subgrade 3b. Soils in this Subgrade are poorly drained (Wetness Class IV) and consist of medium or heavy silty clay loam topsoils over slowly permeable silty clay subsoils. They are limited to Subgrade 3b by wetness and workability problems.

The remaining 0.4 ha consists of land which is not in agricultural use (a disused railway line and a small grassed area) and is classed as 'Other Land'.

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1. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT: LEEDS UDP OBJECTION
TOPIC 438, SCHOLLES PARK FARM, SCHOLLES

1. INTRODUCTION AND SITE CHARACTERISTICS

1.1 Location and Survey Methods

The site lies to the east of Stanks Bridge on Leeds Road, Scholes. It is centred on National Grid Reference SE376 358. Survey work was carried out during February 1996. Soils were examined by hand auger borings at 100 metre intervals predetermined by the National Grid. One soil inspection pit was dug to assess 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

At the time of the survey 98.6% of the site was in agricultural use for cereals and set-aside. The remainder of the site consists of a disused railway line and a small area of grass, near the electricity substation in the centre of the site, which are not in agricultural use and are classed as "Other Land". The site is gently sloping to moderately sloping (2 - 5°) with a southerly to westerly aspect. Altitude ranges from 70m to 95m AOD.

1.3 Climate

Grid Reference	: SE376 358
Altitude (m)	: 80m
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C (January - June)	: 1324 day °C
Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	: 705
Climatic Grade	: 1
Field Capacity Days	: 168
Moisture Deficit (mm) Wheat	: 94
Moisture Deficit (mm) Potatoes	: 82

1.4 Geology, Soils and Drainage

The site is underlain by shales and sandstones of the Upper Carboniferous Coal Measures. Drift is thin or absent and soils are derived directly from weathering bedrock. Soils are poorly drained (Wetness Class IV) and consist of medium silty clay loam or heavy silty clay loam topsoils over slowly permeable, silty clay subsoils. 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>% of Total Area</u>
1		
2		
3a		
3b	29.3	98.6
4		
5		
(Sub total)	(29.3)	(98.6)
Other Land	0.4	1.4
TOTAL	29.7	100

2.1 Subgrade 3b

All agricultural land on this site falls within Subgrade 3b. Soils are poorly drained (Wetness Class IV) and consist of medium silty clay loam or heavy silty clay loam topsoils over slowly permeable silty clay subsoils. The land is restricted to Subgrade 3b by a severe soil wetness limitation.

2.2 Other Land

A small area of grass near the electricity substation on Leeds Road and the disused railway line in the north of the site are not used for agriculture and were classed as "Other Land".

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MAP