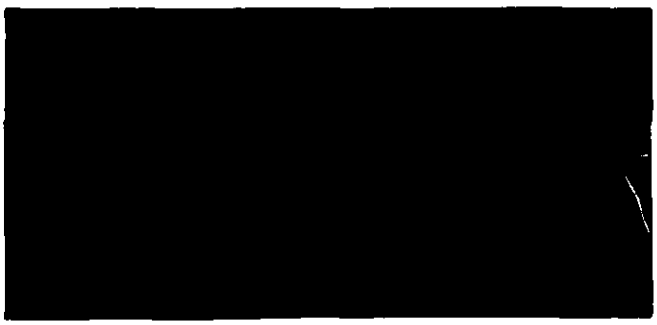

MAFF Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
LEEDS UDP
TOPIC 447
WEST YORKSHIRE
AUGUST 1995

ADAS
Leeds Statutory Group

Job No:- 175/95
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SUMMARY

A detailed Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) survey of 8.6 ha of land south of New Micklefield (Leeds UDP, Topic 447) was carried out in August 1995. At the time of survey all of the land was in cereal stubble and 3.1 ha falls in Grade 2.

The soils on the Grade 2 land are well drained and consist of very slightly stony medium-textured topsoils over very slightly stony medium or heavy-textured subsoils. Weathering limestone begins at between 70cm and 90cm depth and slight soil droughtiness limits the land to Grade 2.

The remainder of the site (5.5 ha) falls in Subgrade 3a. The soils are very similar to those on the Grade 2 land but weathering limestone is found at shallower depth (50 to 70 cm) and a more severe soil droughtiness limitation further restricts the ALC grade to Subgrade 3a.

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MAP

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT ON LAND AT MICKLEFIELD, WEST YORKSHIRE (LEEDS UDP - TOPIC 447)

1. INTRODUCTION AND SITE CHARACTERISTICS

1.1 Location and Survey Methods

This site lies on the southern edge of the village of Micklefield, on the west side of the A1 (T). A detailed Agricultural Land Classification survey was carried out in August 1995 when the soils were examined by hand auger borings at 100m intervals predetermined by the National Grid. In addition, two soil pits were dug at representative points to allow full profile descriptions to be made. 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).

This report and map supersede the less detailed report and map produced in March 1992 and titled "Agricultural Land Classification, Proposed Upgrading of the A1".

1.2 Land Use and Relief

At the time of the survey all of the land was in cereal stubble. Site altitude varies from 75m AOD in the south-west to 70m AOD in the north and the land is level to gently sloping(0-2°) with a north-easterly aspect.

1.3 Climate

Grid Reference	: SE445320
Altitude (m)	: 70
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C (January - June)	: 1336 day °C
Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	: 666
Climatic Grade	: 1
Field Capacity Days	: 145
Moisture Deficit (mm) Wheat	: 99
Moisture Deficit (mm) Potatoes	: 88

1.4 Geology, Soils and Drainage

The area is underlain by Lower Magnesian Limestone and limestone bedrock outcrops to within one metre of the soil surface over most of the site. Although the one inch to one mile scale drift geology map for the area (Sheet 70, Leeds) shows no drift cover, there is evidence on the site of a thin layer of till.

The soils on the site are well drained (Wetness Class I) and consist of very slightly stony medium clay loam or medium silty clay loam topsoils overlying medium clay loam, medium silty clay loam, heavy clay loam or heavy silty clay loam subsoils. Thin horizons of clay occur at depth in places and weathering limestone is found at between 50 cm and 90 cm depth.

The soils correspond to the Aberford and Barkston Series as mapped by the Soil Survey and Land Research Centre.

2. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

The ALC grades occurring on this site are as follows:

Grade/Subgrade	Hectares	Percentage of Total Area
1		
2	3.1	36.0
3a	5.5	64.0
3b		
4		
5		
(Sub total)	(8.6)	(100.0)
Urban		
Non Agricultural		
Woodland - Farm		
- Commercial		
Agricultural Buildings		
Open Water		
Land not surveyed		
(Sub total)		
TOTAL	8.6	100

2.1 Grade 2

An area of Grade 2 land is found in the south-west of this site. The soils are well drained (Wetness Class I) and consist of very slightly stony medium clay loam topsoils overlying very slightly to slightly stony medium clay loam, medium silty clay loam, heavy clay loam or heavy silty clay loam subsoils. Weathering limestone bedrock occurs at between 70 cm and 90 cm depth and slight soil droughtiness is the factor which limits this land to Grade 2.

2.2 Subgrade 3a

The remainder of the land on the site falls in Subgrade 3a. The soils are very similar to those on the Grade 2 land but thin horizons of clay occur at depth in places and weathering limestone bedrock begins at between 50 cm and 70 cm depth. This land has a more serious soil droughtiness limitation than on the adjoining Grade 2 land and has therefore been mapped as Subgrade 3a.

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MAP