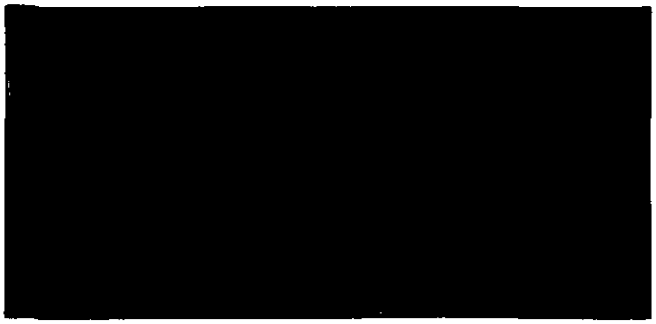

MAFF Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
BRAISTY WOODS FARM
NORTH YORKSHIRE
PROPOSED GOLF COURSE
MARCH 1995

ADAS
Leeds Statutory Group

Job No:- 67/95
MAFF Ref:- EL 10678
Commission No:- 1725

2FCS 10708

SUMMARY

A detailed Agricultural Land Classification survey of 22.9 ha of land at Braisty Woods Farm, 5km east-south-east of Pateley Bridge, was carried out in March 1995. At the time of survey 18.8 ha was in agricultural use and 17.8 ha of this falls in Subgrade 3b. The soils vary between well drained and poorly drained, with light to medium-textured topsoils overlying medium to heavy textured subsoils. Gleyed and slowly permeable subsoils begin at between 20cm and 60cm depth in many areas and the overall climate, besides soil wetness and/or slopes of 8-9°, limit this land to Subgrade 3b.

Grade 5 land occurs in two areas covering a total of 1.0 ha. The presence of boulders and Millstone Grit at or above the soil surface make the use of agricultural machinery impractical and this restricts this land to Grade 5.

The remainder of this site consists of Woodland (3.3 ha) and Urban land (0.8 ha).

CONTENTS

MAP

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT ON LAND AT BRAISTY WOODS FARM, PATELEY BRIDGE, NORTH YORKSHIRE

1. INTRODUCTION AND SITE CHARACTERISTICS

1.1 Location and Survey Methods

The site lies approximately 5km east-south-east of Pateley Bridge and covers 22.9 ha. Survey work was carried out in March 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 to allow the profiles to be described in greater detail. 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).

1.2 Land Use and Relief

At the time of survey 18.8 ha of the site was in agricultural use, principally growing ley or permanent grass, although one field had been harvested of a fodder crop. The remainder of the site consists of woodland and urban land.

Site altitude varies from 180m AOD in the west to 230m AOD in the east and the land is gently to strongly sloping (2-9°) with a westerly aspect. Slopes of 8°-9° in parts of the east of the site limit the land to Subgrade 3b.

Land above 193m AOD on this site is limited to Subgrade 3b, land below this level, which only occurs in the far west and south, is limited by the climate to Subgrade 3a.

1.3 Climate

Grid Reference	: SE 203 638
Altitude (m)	: 206
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C (January - June)	: 1172day °C
Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	: 990
Climatic Grade	: 3b
Field Capacity Days	: 238
Moisture Deficit (mm) Wheat	: 60
Moisture Deficit (mm) Potatoes	: 37

1.4 Geology, Soils and Drainage

This area is underlain by deposits of Millstone Grit over which lie variable depths of boulder clay. Millstone Grit is found within 70cm depth in some areas.

The soils vary between well drained (Wetness Class I) and poorly drained (Wetness Class IV) and consist of light to medium-textured topsoils overlying medium to heavy-textured subsoils.

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	17.8	77.7
4		
5	1.0	4.4
(Sub total)	(18.8)	(82.1)
Urban	0.8	3.5
Non Agricultural		
Woodland	3.3	14.4
Agricultural Buildings		
Open Water		
Land not surveyed		
(Sub total)	(4.1)	(17.9)
TOTAL	22.9	100

2.1 Subgrade 3b

Most of this site falls in Subgrade 3b. The soils vary between well drained (Wetness Class I) and poorly drained (Wetness Class IV). Medium sandy loam, sandy clay loam, medium clay loam or medium silty clay loam topsoils overlie medium clay loam, sandy clay loam, heavy clay loam, or clay subsoils.

Most subsoils become gleyed at between 20cm and 60cm depth, with slowly permeable layers beginning in many places at similar depth in some areas. This land is limited to Subgrade 3b by soil wetness and/or climate and, in parts of the east of the site, by slopes of 8-9°.

2.2 Grade 5

Two areas of Grade 5 land occur, one in the north and one in the east of the site. The presence of large boulders and deposits of Millstone Grit at or above the soil surface make the use of agricultural machinery impractical and it is this factor which restricts the land to Grade 5.

2.3 Urban

This category includes the minor road which runs through the site.

2.4 Woodland

Woodland covers a total of 3.3 ha in the north of the site, at Hollin Wood in the west and at Far Wood in the east.

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MAP