AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

Northallerton District Plan, Land at
BOROUGHBRIDGE ROAD, NORTHALLERTON

ADAS
LEEDS REGIONAL OFFICE

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MAP

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT ON
LAND AT BOROUGHBRIDGE ROAD, NORTHALLERTON

1.1 INTRODUCTION

The site is located at National Grid Reference SE 364924 on the southern outskirts of Northallerton. It covers an area of 5.8 hectares all of which is in agricultural use and has been under grass for several decades.

Survey work was carried out in May 1989 when soils were examined by hand auger borings at 15 points predetermined by the National Grid. The boring density was a little over 2 borings per hectare. Two profile pits were dug to collect data on soil morphology and to obtain samples for laboratory analysis.

Land quality assessments were made using the revised guidelines published by MAFF in 1988.

1.2 CLIMATE AND RELIEF

Average Annual Rainfall is approximately 630 mm and the accumulated temperature above $0^{o}C$ (January to June) is 1346 day ^{o}C. The site is at field capacity for 150 days a year. Soil Moisture deficits of 101 mm for wheat and 91 mm for potatoes make droughtiness limiting on many light textured soils. Excluding droughtiness there is no overall climatic limitation on the site.

Slopes are all level at an altitude of 39 m a.o.d.

1.3 GEOLOGY SOILS AND DRAINAGE

Soils are all developed on post glacial coarse loamy, occasionally stony drift. Below 70 cm depth this often overlies stoneless clay, probably of lacustrine origin.

Topsoils are all coarse loamy, usually of medium or fine sandy loam over similar, occasionally stony, upper subsoils. Lower subsoils are usually formed of slowly permeable clay except near the railway where gravel is more common.

Profiles with a clayey lower subsoil fall within Wetness Class III and have a slight soil wetness limitation. Other profiles have no wetness limitation but are droughty because of the low water holding capacity of the gravely subsoil.

1.4 Agricultural Land Classification

Grade	Area (hectares)	% of land Area
2	3.7	64
3a	2.1	36
Total	5.8	100.0

1.4.1 Grade 2

Top and subsoils are coarse loamy and only slightly stony. The lower subsoil is a slowly permeable clay. This causes slight soil wetness limiting these profiles to grade 2.

1.4.2 Subgrade 3a

Land with a gravelly or moderately stony lower subsoil is droughty for wheat and potatoes and is limited to subgrade 3a for this reason.

Reference

Revised guidelines and criteria for grading the quality of agricultural land, MAFF (1988).