



**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
LEEDS UDP
(TOPIC 403)
WEST YORKSHIRE
MARCH 1996**

ADAS
Leeds Statutory Group

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SUMMARY

A detailed Agricultural Land Classification survey of 39.5 ha of land adjoining Temple Newsam Park, Leeds ("Leeds UDP, Topic 403") was carried out in March 1996. At the time of the survey 37.3 ha of the site was in agricultural use and all falls in Subgrade 3b. The soils are generally poorly drained, with medium-textured topsoils overlying gleyed and slowly permeable heavy-textured subsoils within 40 cm depth. Soil wetness limits the land to this ALC grade.

Other land on the site covers 2.2 ha and consists of tracks, agricultural buildings, marshland and woodland.

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1. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT ON LEEDS UDP, TOPIC 403
(TEMPLE NEWSAM PARK EXTENSION)

1. INTRODUCTION AND SITE CHARACTERISTICS

1.1 Location and Survey Methods

The area surveyed lies approximately 4½ km east-south-east of Leeds city centre, and immediately south of the Halton Moor housing estate. The survey work was carried out in March 1996 when the soils were examined by hand auger borings at 100 m intervals predetermined by the O.S. National Grid. Additional borings were made where necessary, and three soil pits were dug 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).

1.2 Land Use and Relief

At the time of the survey 94% of the site was in agricultural use (growing oilseed rape, winter cereals or permanent grass, or in set-aside) while 6% consisted of tracks, farm buildings, woodland and marsh land.

Site altitude varies from approximately 53 m AOD in the north-east to 28 m AOD in the south-west and the land is level to moderately sloping (0 - 4°) with variable aspect.

1.3 Climate

Grid Reference	: SE 341 324
Altitude (m)	: 40
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C (January - June)	: 1372 day °C
Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	: 671
Climatic Grade	: 1
Field Capacity Days	: 163
Moisture Deficit (mm) Wheat	: 101
Moisture Deficit (mm) Potatoes	: 91

1.4 Geology, Soils and Drainage

The survey area is underlain by Middle Coal Measures. In the centre and east the soils are derived from Coal Measures shales and there is no significant drift cover. However, many areas appear to have been disturbed in the past, most probably due to mining operations. The soils in this area are generally poorly drained (Wetness Class IV), with medium clay loam or medium silty clay loam topsoils overlying heavy clay loam, heavy silty clay loam, clay or silty clay subsoils.

In the west of the site the soils are of alluvial origin, and consist of medium silty clay loam topsoils overlying medium silty clay loam or heavy silty clay loam subsoils. These soils are imperfectly (Wetness Class III) or, more often, poorly drained (Wetness Class IV).

The soils on this site have been mapped by the Soil Survey and Land Research Centre as belonging to the Dale series (Soils of the Leeds District, 1:63,360 scale).

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	37.3	94.4
4		
5		
(Sub total)	(37.3)	(94.4)
Other Land	2.2	5.6
TOTAL	39.5	100

2.1 Subgrade 3b

All of the agricultural land on this site falls in Subgrade 3b. Generally the soils are poorly drained (Wetness Class IV) and consist of medium clay loam or medium silty clay loam topsoils overlying medium silty clay loam, heavy silty clay loam, heavy clay loam, clay or silty clay subsoils. Generally the subsoils are gleyed and slowly permeable within 40 cm depth, and soil wetness is the factor which limits ALC grade. Although some imperfectly drained profiles (Wetness Class III) are found in the south-west of the site, they occur too sporadically to map as a separate unit.

2.2 Other land

This consists of the farmhouse and outbuildings at Skelton Moor Farm, a small area of marshland in the west, access roads, and woodland in the north-east.

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MAP