

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
SEDFIELD LOCAL PLAN
SITE H12, DEAN ROAD, FERRYHILL
COUNTY DURHAM
MARCH 1993

ADAS
Leeds Statutory Group

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2 FCS 6381

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SUMMARY

An Agricultural Land Classification survey of 16.4 ha of land at Dean Road, Ferryhill was carried out in March 1993.

14.2 ha of this land was in agricultural use of which 3.0 ha falls within Subgrade 3a. Soils within this subgrade consist of stoneless to very slightly stony medium clay loam topsoils over imperfectly drained (Wetness Class III) stoneless to very slightly stony heavy clay loam subsoils. This land is limited to Subgrade 3a by wetness.

Subgrade 3b land covers 10.8 ha. Soils consist of stoneless to very slightly stony medium clay loam topsoils overlying poorly drained (Wetness Class IV) stoneless to very slightly stony heavy clay loam subsoils. These soils are limited to Subgrade 3b by wetness and workability problems. An area of restored land occurs within the centre of the site and consists of very slightly stony medium clay loam overlying overburden at between 30 and 40cm. These soils are limited to Subgrade 3b by droughtiness.

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1. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT: SEDGEFIELD LOCAL PLAN
SITE H12, DEAN ROAD, FERRYHILL

1. INTRODUCTION AND SITE CHARACTERISTICS

1.1 Location and Survey Methods

The site is located ½km south of Ferryhill, adjacent to Dean Road and is centred on Grid Reference NZ290320. Survey work was carried out in March 1993 when soils were examined by hand auger borings at a density of one per hectare at points predetermined by the National Grid. Land quality was assessed using the methods described in "Agricultural Land Classification of England and Wales: Revised criteria for grading the quality of agricultural land". (MAFF 1988).

1.2 Land Use and Relief

At the time of the survey 86% of the site was in arable and permanent pasture. The remainder of the site consisted of non-agricultural land (animal compound), agricultural buildings and urban land (hard footpaths). Site altitude varies from 120m AOD to 130m AOD. The site is level to gently sloping (0-3°).

1.3 Climate

Grid Reference	: NZ290320
Altitude (m)	: 125
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C (January-June)	: 1233 day°C
Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	: 687
Climatic Grade	: 2
Field Capacity Days	: 175
Moisture Deficit (mm) Wheat	: 85
Moisture Deficit (mm) Potatoes	: 69

1.4 Geology, Soils and Drainage

The site is underlain by Magnesian Limestone over which there is a cover of till. Soils consist of very slightly stony medium clay loam topsoils over very slightly stony imperfectly drained (Wetness Class III) and poorly drained (Wetness Class IV) heavy clay loam subsoils. Two areas of restored land in the centre and south eastern parts of the site contain medium clay loam topsoils over overburden at between 30 and 40cm depth. These soils are well drained (Wetness Class I) and are limited by soil droughtiness.

2. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

The ALC grades occurring on this site are as follows:

<u>Grade/Subgrade</u>	<u>Hectares</u>	<u>Percentage of Total Area</u>
1		
2		
3a	3.0	18.3
3b	10.8	65.9
4	0.4	2.4
5		
(Sub total)	(14.2)	(86.6)
Urban	1.1	6.7
Non Agricultural	0.9	5.5
Woodland - Farm		
- Commercial		
Agricultural Buildings	0.2	1.2
Open Water		
Land not surveyed		
(Sub total)	(2.2)	(13.4)
	_____	_____
TOTAL	16.4	100
	_____	_____

2.1 Subgrade 3a

Subgrade 3a land occurs in two areas in the west and north east of the site. Soils consist of stoneless to very slightly stony medium clay loam topsoils overlying stoneless to very slightly stony imperfectly drained (Wetness Class III) heavy clay loam subsoils. Soils are limited to Subgrade 3a by wetness.

2.2 Subgrade 3b

Subgrade 3b land occurs over the majority of the site. Soils consist of stoneless to very slightly stony medium clay loam topsoils overlying poorly drained (Wetness Class IV) slowly permeable stoneless to very slightly stony heavy clay loam subsoils. These soils are limited to Subgrade 3b by soil wetness and workability. A small area of restored land in the centre of the site consists of very slightly stony medium clay loam topsoils over overburden at between 30-40cm. These soils are limited to Subgrade 3b by droughtiness.

2.3 Grade 4

Grade 4 land occurs over a small area of moderately steeply sloping land in the south east of the site. Gradients of 12-15° limit this land to Grade 4.

2.4 Urban

A small area of land consisting of tracks and parts of the derelict sewage works is placed within this category.

2.5 Non Agricultural

This consists of an area of temporary buildings and animal shelters.

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MAP