

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION AND
STATEMENT OF PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

PROPOSED LANDFILL SITE
ESCRICK
NORTH YORKSHIRE

ADAS
LEEDS REGIONAL OFFICE

JOB NO: 108/91
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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The site (Grid Reference SE 620406) is located $11\frac{1}{2}$ km SSE of York city centre and 3 km SW of the village of Escrick. Survey work was carried out in October 1991 when soils were examined by hand auger borings at 50 m intervals at points predetermined by the National Grid. The density of borings was 4 per hectare. In addition, one soil profile pit was dug to collect further information on soil characteristics.

1.2 Climate, Relief and Land Use

Average Annual Rainfall is 581 mm. Accumulated temperature above 0°C between January and June (ATO) is 1396 day°C and the land is at field capacity for 124 days a year. There is, thus, no overall climatic limitation on ALC grade. However, summer moisture deficits of 110 mm for winter wheat and 103 mm for potatoes indicate a slight drought limitation on the light to medium textured soils which occur on the site.

All of the land is in arable production. It is flat, with an altitude of 7 m above Ordnance Datum.

1.3 Geology

The site is underlain by Bunter Sandstone over which there is a considerable thickness of glacial and post glacial drift. Surface drift consists of sandy or loamy material passing into clay loam and clay at depth.

2. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

The entire site (total area 3.38 ha) falls within Grade 2. Soils fall into Wetness Classes I or II and are well drained or moderately well drained. Topsoils consist of medium clay loam or fine sandy loam and overlie medium clay loam, medium sandy loam or loamy fine sand subsoils. Clay occurs in places at depths of 80-100 cm.

Soil droughtiness is slightly limiting and is the main restriction on ALC grade.

3. STATEMENT OF PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

One main soil type occurs on the site:-

Light to Medium Textured Topsoils over Similar Subsoils (T1/S1).

Topsoil

The topsoil consists of medium clay loam or fine sandy loam and is generally about 35 cm in thickness. It has a weakly developed medium angular blocky to subangular blocky structure and is stoneless to very slightly stony. This soil corresponds with unit T1 on the topsoil resource map.

Subsoil

The subsoil consists of medium clay loam, medium sandy loam or, in the south of the site, loamy fine sand. Clay occurs in places below about 80 cm depth. Structure is weakly developed medium angular blocky to subangular blocky and the subsoil is generally stoneless. The subsoil corresponds with unit S1 on the resource map.

Resource Planning Group
Leeds R0
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4. SOIL PROFILE DESCRIPTION

Soil 1 (T1/S1)

Land Use: Previously Potatoes Slope: 0° Wetness Class: I

Horizon	Depth (cm)	Description
1	0-30	Dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) fine sandy loam with dark grey (10YR 4/1) ped faces; stoneless to very slightly stony (0-5% small sub-rounded hard stones); no mottles; weakly developed fine angular blocky to subangular blocky structure; medium packing density; common fine pores and fissures; moderately firm soil strength; slightly sticky; slightly plastic; many fine fibrous roots; non calcareous; smooth abrupt boundary.
2	30-100	Pale brown (10YR 6/3) fine sandy loam passing to loamy fine sand at about 70 cm; stoneless; many fine distinct reddish yellow (7.5YR 6/8) mottles; weakly developed medium angular blocky to subangular blocky structure; medium packing density; common fine pores and fissures; moderately weak soil strength; slightly sticky; non-plastic; few fine fibrous roots; non calcareous.