

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

SPRING PARK FARM COTTINGHAM
Proposed Residential Development

ADAS
Leeds Regional Office

November 1989
File Ref: 2FCS 45714595
Project No: 77/89

CONTENTS

1. Introduction and General Site Characteristics
2. Agricultural Land Classification Grades

Map

1. Agricultural Land Classification

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT.

LAND AT SPRING PARK FARM (PROPOSED HOUSING DEVELOPMENT)

1. INTRODUCTION AND GENERAL SITE CHARACTERISTICS

This site is located around National Grid Reference TA037339 on the north western edge of Cottingham approximately 9 km north west of Hull city centre. It covers 54.2 hectares, 71% of which is in agricultural use.

Survey work was carried out in October 1989 when soils were examined by hand auger borings at 100 metre intervals at points pre-determined by the National Grid. Extra borings were made where necessary to refine grade boundaries. Soil profile pits were also dug at representative points to assess stoniness, rooting depths and structure.

All assessments of land quality were made using the methods described in "Agricultural Land Classification. Revised Guidelines and Criteria for grading the quality of agricultural land". (MAFF 1988).

1.1 Land Use

At the time of survey most of the agricultural land was in cereal production. Other uses were horse paddocks adjoining Spring Park Farm, market gardens east of Park Lane and a small area of grass on land next to Cottingham High School.

1.2 Climate

Average Annual Rainfall (AAR) in the area is approximately 667 mm. Accumulated temperature (ATO) above 0°C between January and June is 1378 day °C and the land is at field capacity for 149 days a year. The temperature and rainfall figures indicate that there are no overall climatic restrictions on ALC grade.

Summer Moisture Deficits of 105 mm for winter wheat and 96 mm potatoes indicate a slight drought limitation on the coarse to fine loamy soils common on the site.

1.3 Relief

Altitude varies between 13 and 37 metres above Ordnance Datum with a gentle or occasionally moderate eastward slope over most of the site. In the extreme east the land is virtually level. Slopes rarely exceed 4 or 5° and do not impose restrictions on the use of agricultural machinery.

1.4 Geology and Soils

The whole area is underlain by chalk over which there is a thick cover of variable boulder clay. West of Spring Park farm, much of this consists of fine to coarse loamy drift. East of the farm heavy clay loam and clay textures are more widespread.

Soils reflect this pattern with well drained (Wetness Classes I and II) sandy loam and sandy clay loam top soils overlying loamy subsoils in the west and slowly permeable poorly drained soils (Wetness Classes III and IV), corresponding with the heavier more clayey deposits in the east.

2. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

The ALC grades occurring on the site are as follows.

Grade	Hectares	Per cent of total Site Area
2	6.2	7.8
3a	17.5	36.0
3b	14.7	27.1
Non Agricultural	14.4	26.6
Farm Buildings	<u>1.4</u>	<u>2.5</u>
Total	54.2	100

2.1 Grade 2

A narrow strip of grade 2 land occurs on gentle slopes west of Spring Park Farm. Soils consist usually of fine sandy loam to sandy clay loam topsoils over similar subsoils to depth. These profiles fall within wetness Classes I and II and are restricted to Grade 2 only by slight droughtiness limitations.

2.2 Subgrade 3a

Subgrade 3a quality land occurs in two distinct areas west of Spring Park Farm. Soils consist mainly of sandy clay loam topsoils over similar subsoil material which occasionally passes into clay at depth. All profiles fall within wetness class III and are limited by wetness and topsoil workability problems.

2.3 Subgrade 3b

Soils in this subgrade occur south east of Spring Park Farm and consist of clay loam topsoils over gleyed and slowly permeable clay subsoils. These profiles fall within wetness class IV and are limited by topsoil

wetness and workability problems which are more restricting than on the adjacent 3a land.

2.4 Non Agricultural Land

This consists mainly of playing fields adjoining the University Halls of Residence and Cottingham High School.

2.5 Agricultural Buildings

This category includes the glass houses on the market garden land east of Park Lane.

Resource Planning
Group
Leeds RO