



AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION  
LEEDS UDP  
WEST YORKSHIRE  
TOPIC 731  
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ADAS  
Leeds Statutory Group  
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## SUMMARY

A detailed Agricultural Land Classification survey of 18.1 ha of land west of Royds Green Oulton, was carried out in November 1994.

At the time of survey 100% of the site was in agricultural use and all of this (18.1 ha) falls in Subgrade 3b. The soils are poorly drained with medium clay loam or heavy clay loam topsoils overlying gleyed and slowly permeable heavy clay loam, heavy silty clay loam or silty clay subsoils. The site has been restored following opencast coal mining, and shaly overburden occurs at between 35cm and 65cm depth. All of the land is restricted to Subgrade 3b by soil wetness and topsoil workability limitations.

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1. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT ON LAND WEST OF ROYDS  
GREEN, OULTON, (TOPIC 731), LEEDS UDP

1. INTRODUCTION AND SITE CHARACTERISTICS

1.1 Location and Survey Methods

The site lies approximately 9km south-east of Leeds city centre, to the north of the M62 motorway. It covers a total area of 18.1 ha and lies around Grid Reference SE 345 262. Survey work was carried out in November 1994 when the soils were examined by hand auger borings at 100m intervals predetermined by the National Grid. In addition, one soil pit was dug to allow the soils to be described in greater detail. 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 survey 100% of the site was in agricultural use. All the fields were arable, growing winter cereals, cabbages or in cereal stubble.

Site altitude varies from 70m in the north to 50m in the south and the land is level to gently sloping with a southerly aspect.

1.3 Climate

Grid Reference	: SE 345 262
Altitude (m)	: 55
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C (January - June)	: 1358 day °C
Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	: 643
Climatic Grade	: 1
Field Capacity Days	: 146
Moisture Deficit (mm) Wheat	: 102
Moisture Deficit (mm) Potatoes	: 93

#### 1.4 Geology, Soils and Drainage

This site is underlain by Carboniferous Coal Measures consisting of interbedded sandstones and shales. The soils on the site are derived from weathering shale but have been subject to opencast coal mining and the soils restored following the completion of operations.

Generally the soils are poorly drained, falling in Wetness Class IV, with medium clay loam or heavy clay loam topsoils overlying slowly permeable heavy clay loam, heavy silty clay loam or silty clay subsoils. Restored shaly overburden occurs in places at between 35cm and 65cm depth.

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		
3b	18.1	100
4		
5		
(Sub total)	(18.1)	(100)
Urban		
Non Agricultural		
Woodland - Farm		
- Commercial		
Agricultural Building		
Open Water		
Land not surveyed		
(Sub total)	(0)	(0)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<u>18.1</u>	<u>100</u>

2.1 Subgrade 3b

All of the agricultural land on this site falls in Subgrade 3b. The soils are poorly drained, falling in Wetness Class IV, with medium clay loam or heavy clay loam topsoils overlying gleyed and slowly permeable heavy clay loam, heavy silty clay loam or silty clay subsoils. This land is restricted to Subgrade 3b by soil wetness and topsoil workability limitations.



MAP