MAFF Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
BEVERLEY BOROUGH LOCAL PLAN
SITE 17, EPPLEWORTH ROAD
COTTINGHAM
DECEMBER 1992

ADAS
Leeds Statutory Group

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SUMMARY

An Agricultural Land Classification survey of approximately 10 hectares of land to the north of Eppleworth Road, Cottingham, was carried out in December 1992. All of this is in agricultural use of which 1.0 hectare falls within Grade 2 and 9 hectares within Subgrade 3a.

The Grade 2 land on the lower g round adjoining the road contains deep well drained medium or light textured soils (medium clay loam or medium sandy loam) which are limited to this Grade by very slight winter wetness and/or summer droughtiness. The Subgrade 3a land covering the remainder of the site consists of medium clay loam topsoils and upper subsoils overlying boulder clay at about 50 cm depth. Profiles of this type are limited to Subgrade 3a by winter wetness.

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1. INTRODUCTION AND SITE CHARACTERISTICS

1.1 Location and Survey Methods.

The site, centred on National Grid Reference TA033333, lies between Eppleworth Road and Harland Way, Cottingham. It covers a total of 10.45 ha. Survey work was carried out in December 1992 when soils were examined by hand auger borings at a density of one boring per hectare at points predetermined by the National Grid. Two soil pits were also dug to allow the assessment of subsoil structure. 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 all of the area was in arable use.

The site is located on the northern side of a shallow dry valley and has a gentle (1 - 3°) south to south east facing slope, except for the southern edge adjoining Eppleworth Road which is flat.

Altitude falls from 30m AOD in the north west corner to 20m along the southern edge.

1.3 Climate

Grid Reference	:	TA033333
Altitude (m)	:	25
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C (January-June)	:	1373 day °C
Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	:	670
Climatic Grade	:	1
Field Capacity Days	:	149
Moisture Deficit (mm) Wheat	:	104
Moisture Deficit (mm) Potatoes	:	95

1.4 Geology, Soils and Drainage

The site is underlain by chalk over which there is a cover of medium to heavy textured boulder clay and loamy colluvial deposits. Boulder clay occurs within 50 - 60 cm of the surface on the gently sloping parts of the site, Here, soils consist of dark coloured medium clay loam or sandy clay loam topsoils, containing some evidence of night soiling, over very slightly mottled medium textured upper subsoils. Slowly permeable strongly mottled heavy clay loam (boulder clay) forms a lower subsoil at about 50 cm depth. Most profiles are imperfectly drained and fall within Wetness Class III.

In the lower lying flat part of the site adjoining Eppleworth Road, loamy colluvial material covers the boulder clay to a depth of at least 1m, and both top and subsoils consist of well drained (Wetness Class I) medium sandy loam or sandy clay loam.

2. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

The ALC grades occurring on this site are as follows:

Grade/Subgrade	Hectares	Percentage of Total Area
1		
2	1.03	9.9
3a	9.42	90.1
3b		
4		
5		
(Sub total)	(10.45)	(100)
Urban		
Non Agricultural		
Woodland - Farm		
- Commercial		
Agricultural Buildings		
Open Water		
Land not surveyed		
(Sub total)		
TOTAL	10.45	100

2.1 Grade 2

Grade 2 land occurs on the flat lower lying southern part of the site adjoining Eppleworth Road. Here soils are formed in thick deposits of colluvial material and consist of medium sandy loam or sandy clay loam topsoils over similar textured subsoils. Profiles are well drained (Wetness Class I), but are limited to Grade 2 by slight droughtiness.

2.2 Subgrade 3a

This subgrade occurs over all the site except for the strip adjoining Eppleworth Road. Topsoils, which consist of medium clay loam or fine sandy clay loam, are dark, coloured and contain cinders and a few pottery fragments suggesting that they have been night soiled in the past. Upper subsoils are of a similar textured and unmottled or very slightly mottled, but pass into the underlying slowly permeable boulder clay at a depth of about 50 cm. Profiles are imperfectly drained (Wetness Class III) and limited to Subgrade 3a by slight wetness.

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