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AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

BEVERLEY BOROUGH LOCAL PLAN

MELTON CROSSING AREA

ADAS

Leeds Statutory Group

Job No:- 111/92

MAFF Ref:-

MELTONCS.AL7/MT

SUMMARY

Land covering a total area of 80 ha was surveyed on both sides of the railway at Melton Crossing and Lowfield Lane. Almost all of this is in agricultural use of which 27 ha falls in Grade 2 and 24 ha. in Subgrade 3a. There is also 27 ha. of Subgrade 3b land.

The Grade 2 and Subgrade 3a land contains easily worked well drained to imperfectly drained medium and light textured soils. These are limited to these grades by either slight droughtiness in the case of the lighter soils or slight wetness on the medium textured land. The Subgrade 3b land consists of poorly drained heavy soils which are limited to this subgrade by wetness and workability problems.

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AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT ON LAND AT MELTON
PROPOSED BEVERLEY BOROUGH LOCAL PLAN

1. INTRODUCTION AND SITE CHARACTERISTICS

1.1 Location and Survey Methods.

The site at Melton is located around National Grid Reference SE 970 257, on both sides of the main Leeds to Hull railway. The site covers an area of approximately 80 ha., virtually all of which is in agricultural use. Survey work was carried out in October 1992 when soils were examined by hand auger borings at 100 m intervals at points predetermined by the National Grid. The land quality was assessed using the methods described in "Agricultural Land Classification of England and Wales, Revised guidelines for assessing the quality of agricultural land" (MAFF, 1988).

1.2 Land Use and Relief

At the time of survey all land on the site was in arable use, with the exception of a small area of non agricultural land (consisting of a disused aerial ropeway), a farm building and a small area of urban land (consisting of two roads). The site is flat to very gently sloping.

1.3 Climate

Grid Reference	: SE 970 257
Altitude (m)	: 10
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C (January-June)	: 1395
Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	: 649
Climatic Grade	: 1
Field Capacity Days	: 145
Moisture Deficit (mm) Wheat	: 110
Moisture Deficit (mm) Potatoes	: 102

1.4 Geology, Soils and Drainage

The site is underlain by Jurassic clays and Limestones over which there is a thick cover of boulder clay, sand and gravel. Topsoil textures vary from heavy clay loam in the south and east to medium clay loam or medium sandy loam in other parts of the site. Subsoil textures vary from clay to medium sand. Profiles with heavy clay loam or clay subsoils are most common in the south and east. These are slowly permeable and this imperfectly or poorly drained (Wetness Classes III and IV). The medium clay loam, sandy clay loam, loamy sand or sand subsoils which occur in other parts of the site are generally well or moderately well drained (Wetness Classes I and II).

2. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

The ALC grades occurring on this site are as follows:

Grade/Subgrade	Hectares	Percentage of Total Area
1		
2	27.03	33.6
3a	24.12	30.0
3b	27.87	34.6
4		
5		
(Sub total)	(79.02)	(98.2)
Urban	0.62	0.8
Non Agricultural	0.70	0.9
Woodland - Farm		
- Commercial		
Agricultural Buildings	0.08	0.1
Open Water		
Land not surveyed		
(Sub total)		
TOTAL	80.42	100

2.1 Grade 2

Grade 2 land is widespread in the north east, west and central parts of the site. Soils generally consist of medium clay loam or sandy loam topsoils over clay loam, sandy loam or loamy sand subsoils, sometimes with sand at depth. These soils are well drained (Wetness Class I) and slight soil droughtiness is the main factor limiting this land to Grade 2.

2.2 Subgrade 3a

Subgrade 3a land occurs in the north and west. Soils generally consist of medium clay loam or medium sandy loam topsoils over either loamy sand or slowly permeable heavy clay loam or clay subsoils. Profiles with loamy sand subsoils are well drained (Wetness Class I) and limited to Subgrade 3a by droughtiness. Those with slowly permeable subsoils (usually at depths of 40 - 50 cm) are imperfectly drained Wetness Class III) and limited to Subgrade 3a by slight soil wetness.

2.3 Subgrade 3b

Subgrade 3b land is found across the central, southern and eastern parts of the site. Soils consist mainly of medium or heavy clay loam topsoils over slowly permeable clay or heavy clay loam subsoils. Profiles are poorly drained (Wetness Class IV) and thus limited to Subgrade 3b by soil wetness.

2.4 Urban

The urban land consists of Lowfield Lane and the track south of the sports ground.

2.5 Non Agricultural

The only area of non agricultural land on the site runs south from the cement works, along the line of a disused Aerial Ropeway.

2.6 Agricultural Buildings

This consists of a building at the southern end of Green Lane, to the west of the sports ground.

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