

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

GREATER BRADFORD, UPPER AIREDALE
AND LOWER AIREDALE LOCAL PLANS
LAND AT COTE FARM, THACKLEY, BRADFORD

MAFF
LEEDS REGIONAL OFFICE

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1. Agricultural Land Classification

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT
ON LAND AT COTE FARM, THACKLEY, BRADFORD

Introduction

Two adjacent areas of land at Thackley were surveyed in April 1990. The larger area to the west is centred around National Grid Reference SE 165380 east and north of High Busy Lane. The smaller eastern area adjoins Greenfield Lane at National Grid Reference SE 174385. Soils were examined by hand auger borings at 20 points predetermined by the National Grid. A profile pit was also used to examine the soil in greater detail and to collect samples for laboratory analysis.

Climate and Relief

Salient climatic parameters at Thackley are as follows:-

Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	795
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C (Jan-June)	1282
Field Capacity Days	201
Moisture Deficit wheat (mm)	84
potatoes (mm)	68

These factors indicate that there is an overall climatic limitation of grade 2 on both sites.

All the land has a north westerly aspect and slopes range from a minimum of 3° on the western site to a maximum of 8° around Greenfield Lane.

The highest land is along High Busy Lane (159 m a.o.d.) and the lowest altitude of 116 m occurs just west of Cote Farm.

Geology and Soils

Carboniferous Coal Measures lie close to the surface in this area. Deposits of boulder clay drift are thin or absent and all the soils are developed on solid strata or locally derived medium textured head deposits. These materials have weathered to produce two similar soil types. The most common soil has a medium clay loam or medium silty clay loam topsoil over a slowly permeable, clayey subsoil (Wetness Class IV). The secondary soil type which occurs on land in the western part of the larger site contains similar textured topsoils. The upper subsoils is also medium textured, often of medium clay loam or sandy clay loam but overlies a clayey, slowly permeable lower subsoil (Wetness Class III).

Land Use

All the land is in agricultural use and under permanent or long ley grass.

Agricultural Land Classification

Subgrade 3a (7.5 hectares, 34% of total area)

This small area on the western site contains medium silty clay loam topsoils over similar textured unmottled upper subsoils. The lower subsoil is usually a slowly permeable clay or sandy clay loam placing these profiles within Wetness Class III. Topsoil wetness and workability problems prevent this land being graded higher than subgrade 3a.

Subgrade 3b (13.9 hectares, 66% of total area)

The soils are similar to those within subgrade 3a. The slowly permeable layer, however, occurs closer to the surface and consequently soil wetness and workability problems are greater limiting this land to 3b. A small area of land near Greenfield Lane was also limited to 3b by slopes of more than 8°.

Resource Planning Group
Leeds Regional Office
April 1990

MAP