AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

LAND AT MINSKIP, BOROUGHBRIDGE, NORTH YORKSHIRE

Proposed Motorway Service Area

ADAS

Leeds Statutory Centre

APRIL 1992

FILE REF: 2FCS 5860

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C O N T E N T S

Land at Minskip, Boroughbridge, North Yorkshire.
Proposed Motorway Service Area.

1. Introduction

The site is located around National Grid Reference SE 394650 and lies about 2km south-west of Boroughbridge. It covers a total of 15.6 ha of which approximately half is under cereals and half under ley grassland. Survey work was carried out in April 1992 when soils were examined by hand auger borings to an average depth of 1.00 m. Boring density was one per hectare at points predetermined by the National Grid. Further borings were made where necessary to refine boundaries. One soil pit was dug to allow further assessment of the physical characteristics of the soil and to collect soil samples for laboratory analysis.

Climate and Relief

Average Annual Rainfall is approximately 640 mm. The accumulated annual temperature above 0°C (January to June) is 1362 day°C and the land is at field capacity for an average of 149 days per year. The temperature and rainfall figures indicate that there is no overall climatic limitation on ALC grade.

Altitude varies from approximately 25 m to 38 m and the site is flat to gently sloping.

Geology, Soils and Drainage

The site is underlain by the Triassic Sherwood Sandstone over which lies a considerable depth of glaciofluvial drift. Soils generally consist of light-textured topsoils overlying medium-textured upper subsoils and heavy-textured lower subsoils. Profiles vary from well drained (Wetness Class I) to imperfectly drained (Wetness Class III), with occasional poorly drained profiles (Wetness Class IV) occurring in the centre of the site.

2. Agricultural Land Classification

Grade 2

All of the agricultural land on the site falls within Grade 2 with the exception of an area of subgrade 3a land in the centre of the site. Topsoils typically consist of medium sandy loam and overlie medium sandy loam or sandy clay loam upper subsoils passing to sandy clay loam or heavy clay loam lower subsoils at depth. Where they occur, slowly permeable layers generally begin at around 50 cm depth. Profiles vary from well drained (Wetness Class I) to imperfectly drained (Wetness Class III). Soils are generally very slightly stony, with between 2% and 4% sandstones and hard stones occurring in both the topsoil and subsoil.

Slight soil wetness (and soil droughtiness where light-textured subsoils occur) are the main factors limiting ALC grade.

Subgrade 3a

Land in this subgrade occurs in a slight hollow in the centre of the site. Topsoils consist of medium sandy loam or medium clay loam and these overlie heavy clay loam or clay subsoils which are slowly permeable below about 40 cm depth. Profiles are thus imperfectly or poorly drained (Wetness Classes III and IV) and soil wetness is the main factor limiting ALC grade.

Urban

This consists of the minor road (Aldborough Gate) which crosses the north-western corner of the site.

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