



**LAND AT ECKINGTON WAY
BEIGHTON, SHEFFIELD
SOUTH YORKSHIRE**

**Agricultural Land Classification
Summary Report
November 1996**

**Resource Planning Team
Leeds Statutory Group
ADAS Leeds**

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AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION SUMMARY REPORT

LAND AT ECKINGTON WAY, BEIGHTON, SHEFFIELD

Introduction

1. This report presents the findings of a detailed Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) survey of 6.4 ha of land at Eckington Way, Beighton, near Sheffield. The survey was carried out during October 1996.
2. The survey was commissioned by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF) Land Use Planning Unit, Northallerton in connection with the proposal to convert the land to playing fields. This ALC survey supersedes any previous ALC surveys.
3. The work was conducted by members of the Resource Planning Team in the Leeds Statutory Group in ADAS. The land has been graded in accordance with the published MAFF ALC guidelines and criteria (MAFF, 1988). A description of the ALC grades and subgrades is given in Appendix I.
4. At the time of survey the land on the site was all under winter cereals with the exception of a small area of scrub in the far south.

Summary

5. The findings of the survey are shown on the enclosed ALC map. The map has been drawn at a scale of 1:5,000. It is accurate at this scale but any enlargement would be misleading.
6. The area and proportions of the ALC grades and subgrades on the surveyed land are summarised in Table 1.

Table 1: Area of grades and other land

Grade/Other land	Area (hectares)	% Total site area	% Surveyed Area
Grade 2	1.3	20.3	20.6
Subgrade 3b	5.0	78.1	79.4
Other land (as req)	0.1	1.6	-
Total surveyed area	6.3	-	100
Total site area	6.4	100	-

7. The fieldwork was conducted at an average density of one boring per hectare. A total of seven borings and two soil pits were described.

8. Grade 2, very good quality agricultural land, occurs in the west of the site. The soils are generally well drained and typically consist of medium sandy loam topsoils and upper subsoils overlying medium clay loam, medium silty clay loam or heavy silty clay loam lower subsoils. This land is limited to Grade 2 by very slight soil droughtiness restrictions.

9. Subgrade 3b, moderate quality agricultural land, covers the centre and east. The soils are well drained, with slightly stony sandy loam topsoils and moderately stony sandy loam subsoils overlying weathering sandstone bedrock at between 35 cm and 60 cm depth. Moderate soil droughtiness restricts this land to Subgrade 3b.

10. Other non-agricultural land consisting of scrub occurs in the far south of the site.

APPENDIX I

DESCRIPTIONS OF THE GRADES AND SUBGRADES

Grade 1: Excellent Quality Agricultural Land

Land with no or very minor limitations to agricultural use. A very wide range of agricultural and horticultural crops can be grown and commonly includes top fruit, soft fruit, salad crops and winter harvested vegetables. Yields are high and less variable than on land of lower quality.

Grade 2: Very Good Quality Agricultural Land

Land with minor limitations which affect crop yield, cultivations or harvesting. A wide range of agricultural or horticultural crops can usually be grown but on some land of this grade there may be reduced flexibility due to difficulties with the production of the more demanding crops such as winter harvested vegetables and arable root crops. The level of yield is generally high but may be lower or more variable than Grade 1 land.

Grade 3: Good to Moderate Quality Land

Land with moderate limitations which affect the choice of crops, the timing and type of cultivation, harvesting or the level of yield. When more demanding crops are grown, yields are generally lower or more variable than on land in Grades 1 and 2.

Subgrade 3a: Good Quality Agricultural Land

Land capable of consistently producing moderate to high yields of a narrow range of arable crops, especially cereals, or moderate yields of a wide range of crops including cereals, grass, oilseed rape, potatoes, sugar beet and the less demanding horticultural crops.

Subgrade 3b: Moderate Quality Agricultural Land

Land capable of producing moderate yields of a narrow range of crops, principally cereals and grass, or lower yields of a wider range of crops or high yields of grass which can be grazed or harvested over most of the year.

Grade 4: Poor Quality Agricultural Land

Land with severe limitations which significantly restrict the range of crops and/or the level of yields. It is mainly suited to grass with occasional arable crops (e.g. cereals and forage crops) the yields of which are variable. In moist climates, yields of grass may be moderate to high but there may be difficulties in utilisation. The grade also includes very droughty arable land.

Grade 5: Very Poor Quality Agricultural Land

Land with severe limitations which restrict use to permanent pasture or rough grazing, except for occasional pioneer forage crops.