



AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

BEVERLEY BOROUGH LOCAL PLAN

SITE 16, WILLERBY LOW ROAD

COTTINGHAM

JANUARY 1993

145/92

ADAS

Leeds Statutory Group

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SUMMARY

An Agricultural Land Classification survey of approximately 11 hectares of land between Willerby Low Road and Castle Road, Cottingham, was carried out in January 1993. All of this is in agricultural use of which 1.4 hectares falls within Grade 2, 5.1 hectares within Subgrade 3a and 4.5 ha within Subgrade 3b.

The Grade 2 land on the lower ground adjoining Willerby Low 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 east and south east of the glasshouses consists of medium clay loam topsoils and upper subsoils overlying boulder clay at about 50cm depth. Profiles of this type are limited to Subgrade 3a by winter wetness. The Subgrade 3b land on the slightly higher ground in the western part of the site contains poorly drained (Wetness Class IV) medium clay loam topsoils directly overlying slowly permeable heavy boulder clay. Soils of this type are limited to Subgrade 3b by wetness and workability problems.

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1. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT: BEVERLEY BOROUGH LOCAL PLAN
SITE 16, WILLERBY LOW ROAD, COTTINGHAM

1. INTRODUCTION AND SITE CHARACTERISTICS

1.1 Location and Survey Methods.

The site, centred on National Grid Reference TA 030320, lies between Willerby Low Road and Castle Road, Cottingham. It covers a total of 11.15ha. Survey work was carried out in January 1993 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 a gentle (1-2°) east to south east facing slope, except for the eastern edge adjoining Willerby Low Road which is flat.

Altitude falls from 30m AOD in the west to 20m along the eastern edge.

1.3 Climate

Grid Reference	:	TA 030320
Altitude (m)	:	15
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C (January-June)	:	1374 day°C
Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	:	668
Climatic Grade	:	1
Field Capacity Days	:	149
Moisture Deficit (mm) Wheat	:	103
Moisture Deficit (mm) Potatoes	:	94

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 30-40cm of the surface on the slightly higher western parts of the site. Here, soils consist of medium clay loam or sandy clay loam topsoils, over slowly permeable mottled heavy clay loam (boulder clay) subsoils. Most profiles are poorly drained and fall within Wetness Class IV.

In the low lying parts of the site adjoining Willerby Low Road, loamy colluvial material and/or medium textured boulder clay form permeable upper horizons over slowly permeable heavy clay loam which occurs usually at depths of 40-70cm. Soils in these areas are moderately well drained (Wetness Class II) to imperfectly drained (Wetness Class III).

2. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

The ALC grades occurring on this site are as follows:

<u>Grade/Subgrade</u>	<u>Hectares</u>	<u>Percentage of Total Area</u>
1		
2	1.43	12.8
3a	5.16	46.3
3b	4.56	40.9
4		
5		
(Sub total)	(11.15)	(100)
Urban		
Non Agricultural		
Woodland - Farm		
- Commercial		
Agricultural Buildings		
Open Water		
Land not surveyed		
(Sub total)		
	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL	11.15	100
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2.1 Grade 2

Grade 2 land occurs on the flat lower lying eastern edge of the site adjoining Willerby Low Road. Here upper horizons of soils are formed in colluvial material and consist of dark coloured (night soiled) medium sandy loam or sandy clay loam topsoils over similar textured upper subsoils. Slowly permeable boulder clay occurs at depths of 60-70cm. Profiles are moderately well drained (Wetness Class II), and are limited to Grade 2 by slight wetness.

2.2 Subgrade 3a

This subgrade occurs in the area east and south east of the glasshouses. Topsoils, which consist of medium clay loam or fine sandy clay loam, are often 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 depths of 40-50cm. Profiles are imperfectly drained (Wetness Class III) and limited to Subgrade 3a by slight wetness.

2.3 Subgrade 3b

Subgrade 3b land covers the western half of the site. Soils consist of slightly stony medium clay loam topsoils over slowly permeable mottled boulder clay subsoils formed of slightly stony heavy clay loam. Most profiles are poorly drained (Wetness Class IV) and soil wetness is the main factor limiting this land to Subgrade 3b.

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MAP