



AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
DARLINGTON DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN
(HARROWGATE)
COUNTY DURHAM
JANUARY 1994

ADAS
Leeds Statutory Group

Job No:- 9/94
MAFF Ref: EL 12/3
Comm. No:- 892

SUMMARY

A semi-detailed Agricultural Land Classification Survey of 57.1 ha of land at Harrowgate, Darlington was carried out in January 1994.

31.0 ha of this was in agricultural use all of which falls within Subgrade 3b. Soils consist of poorly drained (Wetness Class IV) medium clay loam, with occasional heavy clay loam and silty clay loam topsoils overlying slowly permeable heavy clay loam and clay subsoils. This land is limited to Subgrade 3b by soil wetness.

The remainder of the site is urban, non-agricultural and open water.

CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION AND SITE CHARACTERISTICS
2. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

MAP

1. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT: DARLINGTON DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN, HARROWGATE FARM

1. INTRODUCTION AND SITE CHARACTERISTICS

1.1 Location and Survey Methods

The site lies immediately east of Whessoe Road, Harrowgate, approximately 3km north of Darlington town centre. Survey work was carried out in January 1994 when soils were examined by hand auger borings at a density of one per two hectares at points predetermined by the National Grid. 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 the survey the agricultural land was mostly grassland, permanent and leys, the remaining land being urban, non-agricultural and open water. The site is level to gently sloping (0-3°) and lies between 66m AOD and 71m AOD.

1.3 Climate

Grid Reference	: NZ 288176
Altitude (m)	: 70
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C (January-June)	: 1302 day°C
Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	: 656
Climatic Grade	: 2
Field Capacity Days	: 161
Moisture Deficit (mm) Wheat	: 96
Moisture Deficit (mm) Potatoes	: 82

1.4 Geology, Soils and Drainage

The site is underlain by Middle Magnesian Limestone over which there is a thick covering of boulder clay. A small area of lake deposits occurs in the east of the site. Topsoils across the site consist of medium clay loam, with occasional medium silty clay loam and heavy clay loam. Subsoils are poorly drained (Wetness Class IV) gleyed slowly permeable heavy clay loam and clay.

Soils on the site correspond to the Dunkeswick Association as mapped by the Soil Survey and Land Research Centre.

2. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

The ALC grades occurring on the site are as follows:

<u>Grade/Subgrade</u>	<u>Hectares</u>	<u>Percentage of Total Area</u>
1		
2		
3a		
3b	31.0	54.3
4		
5		
(Sub total)	(31.0)	(54.3)
Urban	12.0	21.0
Non Agricultural	13.4	23.5
Woodland - Farm		
- Commercial		
Agricultural Buildings		
Open Water	0.7	1.2
Land Not Surveyed		
(Sub Total)	(26.1)	(45.7)
TOTAL	57.1	100

2.1 Subgrade 3b

All of the agricultural land on the site falls within Subgrade 3b. Topsoils consist of stoneless to very slightly stony medium clay loam, with occasional heavy clay loam and medium silty clay loam. Subsoils consist of poorly drained (Wetness Class IV) gleyed, slowly permeable, stoneless heavy clay loam, clay and silty clay. The slowly permeable layer starts at or above 40cm depth. This land is limited to Subgrade 3b by soil wetness and workability problems.

2.2 Urban

Urban land comprises a large industrial development in the west of the site, Whessoe cottages directly north of this, and housing development in the east of the site.

2.3 Non-Agricultural

The majority of non-agricultural land lies in the south of the site and consists of playing fields and scrub. A small area of scrub lies directly north of Whessoe Cottages.

2.4 Open Water

An area of open water lies within the non-agricultural land to the south of the site.

RPT File: 2 FCS 6795
Leeds Statutory Group

MAP