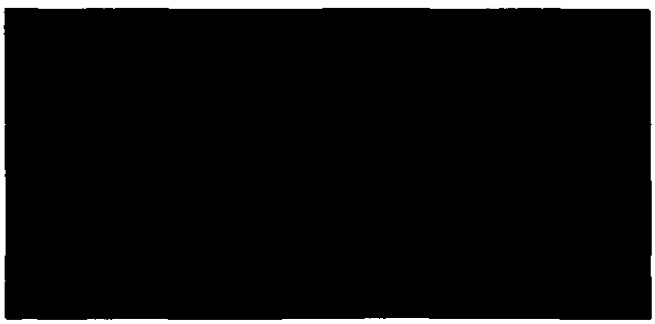

Ministry of
Agriculture
Fisheries
and Food

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
EASINGTON DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN
OBJECTOR'S SITE
(SALTER'S LANE, SHOTTON COLLIERY)
CO. DURHAM
MAY 1994

ADAS
Leeds Statutory Group

Job No:- 61/94
MAFF Ref:- EL 12/13
Commission No. 01053

SUMMARY

An Agricultural Land Classification of 13.7ha of land west of Salter's Lane, Shotton Colliery was carried out in May 1994. At the time of survey all of the land was in Set Aside and all of it falls in Subgrade 3b. Soil profiles are poorly drained with sandy clay loam or medium clay loam topsoils overlying gleyed and slowly permeable heavy clay loam subsoils at around 30cm depth. The ALC grade of the land is, thus, limited by soil wetness.

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AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT ON LAND AT SALTER'S LANE, SHOTTON COLLIERY

1. INTRODUCTION AND SITE CHARACTERISTICS

1.1 Location and Survey Methods

The site lies on the south-western edge of the village of Shotton Colliery and covers a total area of 13.7ha. It is centred on Grid Reference NZ 390 404. Survey work was carried out in May 1994 when soils were examined by hand auger borings at 100m intervals predetermined by the National Grid. One soil pit was dug in order to allow a full profile description to be made. 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 site was in Set Aside.

Site altitude varies from 125m in the west to 137m in the east and the land is typically gently to moderately sloping (2-6°) with a westerly aspect.

1.3 Climate

Grid Reference	: NZ 390 404
Altitude (m)	: 132
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C (January-June)	: 1218 day°C
Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	: 717
Climatic Grade	: 2
Field Capacity Days	: 176
Moisture Deficit (mm) Wheat	: 84
Moisture Deficit (mm) Potatoes	: 68

1.4 Geology, Soils and Drainage

The site is underlain by Magnesian Limestone over which lies a thick layer of boulder clay. In most cases the soils are poorly drained, falling in Wetness Class IV, with medium clay loam or sandy clay loam topsoils overlying gleyed and slowly permeable heavy clay loam subsoils. The soils correspond to the Dunkeswick Association as mapped by the Soil Survey and Land Research Centre.

2. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

The ALC grades occurring on this site are as follows:

Grade/Subgrade	Hectares	Percentage of Total Area
1		
2		
3a		
3b	13.7	100.0
4		
5		
(Sub total)	(13.7)	(100.0)
Urban		
Non Agricultural		
Woodland - Farm		
- Commercial		
Agricultural Buildings		
Open Water		
Land not surveyed		
(Sub total)		
TOTAL	13.7	100

2.1 Subgrade 3b

All of the land surveyed falls in Subgrade 3b. The soils are poorly drained, falling in Wetness Class IV, and both topsoils and subsoils are very slightly stony, containing between 2% and 4% subangular hard stones and sandstones. Generally medium clay loam or sandy clay loam topsoils overlie gleyed and slowly permeable heavy clay loam subsoils at around 30cm depth. The land is, therefore, limited to Subgrade 3b by a soil wetness restriction.

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MAP