AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
KIRKLEES UDP, SITE HWA17
SHAW CROSS, DEWSBURY, W YORKS
JULY 1993

ADAS
Leeds Statutory Group

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SUMMARY

An Agricultural Land Classification Survey of 16.4ha of land at Shaw Cross, Dewsbury was carried out in July 1993.

All of this was in agricultural use, all of which falls within Subgrade 3b. Two soil types occur within this subgrade. In the south and east soils consist of poorly drained (Wetness Class IV) medium clay loam topsoils overlying gleyed slowly permeable heavy silty clay loam subsoils. This land is limited to Subgrade 3b by soil wetness. Soils in the higher central and western parts of the site consist of well drained (Wetness Class I) medium sandy loam topsoils and upper subsoils overlying weathering sandstone bedrock at between 30cm and 40cm depth. This land is limited to Subgrade 3b by droughtiness.

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AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT: KIRKLEES UNITARY DEVELOPMENT PLAN, SITE HWA 17, SHAW CROSS, DEWSBURY

1. INTRODUCTION AND SITE CHARACTERISTICS

1.1 Location and Survey Methods

The site is located 1½km north east of Dewsbury and is centred on Grid Reference SE 260223. Survey work was carried out in July 1993 when soils were examined by hand auger borings at a density of one per hectare 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 all of the site was under grass. Site altitude varies from 100m to 110m AOD. and the land is gently to moderately sloping (1-4°) with an overall south easterly aspect.

1.3 Climate

Grid Reference	: SE 260223
Altitude (m)	: 105
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C (January-June)	: 1304 day°C
Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	: 735
Climatic Grade	: 2
Field Capacity Days	: 177
Moisture Deficit (mm) Wheat	: 90
Moisture Deficit (mm) Potatoes	: 76

1.4 Geology, Soils and Drainage

The site is underlain by Carboniferous Coal Measures, consisting of interbedded sandstone and shales. There is no significant drift cover. Soil profiles in the lower southern part of the site consist of poorly drained (Wetness Class IV), very slightly stony medium clay loam topsoils overlying gleyed slowly permeable heavy silty clay loam subsoils. Soils in the central and western areas consist of very slightly stony well drained (Wetness Class I) medium sandy loam topsoils and upper subsoils, overlying weathering sandstone bedrock within 30-40cm of the surface.

2. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

Grade/Subgrade	Hectares	Percentage of Total Area
1		
2		
3a		
3b	16.4	100
4		
5		
(Sub total)	(16.4)	(100)
Urban		
Woodland - Farm		
- Commercial		
Agricultural Buildings		
Open Water		
Land not surveyed		
(Sub total)		
TOTAL	16.4	100

2.1 Subgrade 3b

All of the agricultural land on the site falls within Subgrade 3b. Soils in the south and east consist of very slightly stony poorly drained (Wetness Class IV) medium clay loam topsoils overlying gleyed stoneless slowly permeable heavy silty clay loam subsoils. This land is limited to this subgrade by soil wetness. On the higher western and central parts of the site profiles consist of very slightly stony medium sandy loam topsoils and upper subsoils overlying weathering sandstone at between 30 and 40cm depth. In this case the land is limited to Subgrade 3b by droughtiness.

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MAP