

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

Home Farm, Askham Richard  
North Yorkshire

Proposed Golf Course

MAFF  
Leeds Regional Office

September 1991  
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1. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT:  
HOME FARM, ASKHAM RICHARD, NORTH YORKSHIRE

1.0 Introduction and Site Characteristics

1.1 Location

National Grid Reference:- SE 538487.  
Location Details:- 7½ km south west of York City  
Centre, to the east of the  
village of Askham Richard.

Site Size:- 153 hectares.

1.2 Survey Methods

Date Surveyed:- August 1991.

Boring Density and Spacing Basis:- One per hectare, carried out at  
100 m intervals at points  
predetermined by the National  
Grid.

Sampling Method:- By hand auger to a depth of  
1.00 m.

Number of Borings:- 120.

All land quality assessments were made 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)".

1.3 Land Use:-

Mainly arable but some permanent grazing land and a small area of woodland and agricultural buildings.

1.4 Climate and Relief

Average Annual Rainfall (AAR):-

653 mm

Accumulated Temperature above 0°C (January-June):-

1377 day °C

Field Capacity Days:-

146 days

Altitude average:-

25 m a.o.d.

maximum:-

32 m a.o.d.

minimum:-

20 m a.o.d.

Climatic limitation (based on interaction of rainfall and temperature values):-

None.

Relief:-

Flat to very gently sloping.

Slopes (° ):-

0-3°.

Gradient Limitations:-

None.

Limiting gradient(s):-

None.

## 1.5 Geology and Soil

**Solid Strata:-**

Triassic Red Sandstone.

**Depth of solid rock from surface:-**

Considerably more than 1 m.

**Drift types:-**

Boulder clay and glacial sand and gravel.

**Thickness of drift  
and distribution:-**

Boulder clay, sometimes with light surface layers covers most of the site. Glacial sand and gravel occurs in the west. Both are more than 1.00 m thick.

**Soil Types and Distribution:-**

Light, medium or heavy textured soils cover most of the site but with some areas of very light textured soil in the east.

**Soil Textures (topsoils and subsoils):-**

Light and medium over heavy textured soils generally consist of medium sandy loam or medium clay loam topsoils, similarly textured upper subsoils (which may be absent) over heavy clay loam (lower) subsoils. The light textured soils consist of loamy fine sand topsoils over loamy fine sand or sand subsoils.

**Soil Series/Associations:-**

**On 1/250000 map:-**

Bishampton I Association.

**Identified on site:-**

Soil Limitations and type:-

Soil wetness, soil droughtiness, stoniness and wind erosion risk.

#### 1.6 Drainage

Soil type and Wetness Class:-

With the exception of some poorly drained areas (Wetness Class IV) in the north of the site, soils are well drained to imperfectly drained, falling in Wetness Classes I to III.

Drainage Limitations:-

Soil wetness limits much of the land on the site to subgrades 3a or 3b.

## 2.0 Agricultural Land Classification Grades

The ALC grades occurring on the site are as follows:-

<u>Grade/Subgrade</u>	<u>Hectares</u>	<u>Percentage of Agricultural Area</u>	<u>Percentage of Total Area</u>
1			
2	7.1	5.4	4.6
3a	99.4	76.2	64.0
3b	23.9	18.4	15.4
Non Agricultural	22.7	-	14.6
Agricultural Buildings	0.9	-	0.6
Urban	1.2	-	0.8
Other			
Total	<u>155.2</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>

Grade 2

Distribution on site:-

A small area in the north of the site.

Soil Type(s) and Texture(s):-

Light textured topsoils overlying light to medium textured upper subsoils (often medium sandy loam over medium sandy loam of sandy clay loam) and heavy textured lower subsoils (heavy clay loam or clay).

Depth to Slowly Permeable Layers:-

Slowly permeable layers are generally absent but in places start at depths of around 60 cm.

Wetness and Drainage Class:-

These soils are moderately well drained to imperfectly drained and fall in Wetness Classes II and III.

Stone Percentage and Type:-

0-8% hard rock.

Grade Limiting Factors:-

Slight soil wetness in winter and early spring.



**Subgrade 3a**

**Distribution on site:-**

Subgrade 3a soils cover most of the site.

**Soil Type(s) and Texture(s):-**

(i) Medium to heavy textured soils (most common) consisting of medium clay loam topsoils, medium clay loam or sandy clay loam upper subsoils and heavy clay loam or clay lower subsoils.

(ii) Light textured soils consisting of loamy sand topsoils and subsoils.

**Depth to Slowly Permeable Layers:-**

Where present slowly permeable layers occur between 45 cm and 60 cm.

**Wetness and Drainage Class:-**

Where slowly permeable layers occur, soils are imperfectly drained and fall in Wetness Class III. The light textured soils, all fall in Wetness Class I and are well drained.

**Stone Percentage and Type:-**

Often 8-12% hard stones and sandstones.

**Grade Limiting Factor(s):-**

Soil wetness on the medium and heavy textured soils; droughtiness and wind erosion risk on the lightest land.

**Subgrade 3b**

**Distribution on site:-**

In 5 separate areas scattered across the northern part of the site.

**Soil Type(s) and Texture(s):-**

(i) Heavy textured soils consisting generally of medium clay loam or sandy clay loam topsoils over heavy clay loam or clay subsoils.

(ii) Light textured soils with loamy sand topsoils and loamy sand or sand subsoils.

**Depth to Slowly Permeable Layers:-**

Where present, in the heavy textured soils, slowly permeable layers occur at depths of around 30 cm.

**Wetness and Drainage Class:-**

The heavy textured soils are poorly drained and fall in Wetness Class IV. The light textured soils are well drained, falling in Wetness Class I.

**Stone Percentage and Type:-**

Generally, < 10% hard rock or sandstone.

**Grade Limiting Factors:-**

Soil wetness in the heavy textured soils and droughtiness on the light textured land.

Non Agricultural

Type and location of land included:-

Various small areas of woodland scattered across the site.

Agricultural Buildings

Type and location of building included:-

The buildings around Home Farm, in the centre of the site.

Urban

Type of land use included:-

A metalled driveway and some farm tracks.

Resource Planning Group  
Leeds Regional Office  
September 1991

MAP