

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

DONCASTER ROAD
HOLME, DONCASTER
(PROPOSED GOLF COURSE)

MAFF
LEEDS REGIONAL OFFICE

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MAP

1. Agricultural Land Classification

1. Introduction and Site Characteristics

1.1

The site is located around grid reference SE 566104 approximately 7 kilometres north of Doncaster; it covers 77.5 hectares of which 85% is in agricultural use.

Survey work was carried out in April 1991 which soils were examined by hand auger to a depth of 1 m at 100 m intervals pre-determined by the National Grid. All 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).

1.2 Land Use

The agricultural land was all in arable use except for 3 hectares adjoining the A19 which was under permanent pasture.

1.3 Climate

Average Annual Rainfall (AAR) is approximately 594 mm. Accumulated temperature above 0°C between January and June (ATO) is 1415°C and the land is at field capacity for 122 days a year. The rainfall and temperature figures indicate that there is no overall climatic restriction on ALC grade. Moisture deficits of 111 for wheat and 104 for potatoes, however, mean that soil droughtiness will be moderately limiting on coarser sandy soils and slightly limiting on more clayey soils.

Altitude on this site varies between 5 and 8 metres above Ordnance Datum, relief being generally flat.

1.4 Geology and Soils

Soils over much of the site are formed on clayey alluvium overlying lacustrine clay to depth. Topsoils consist of medium or heavy clay loam over slowly permeable gleyed clay subsoils (Wetness Class III). Two areas of peat also occur both with decomposed organic topsoils overlying peaty loam subsoils to depth. These both fall within Wetness Class I and are permeable but water retentive.

2. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

The ALC grades on this site are as follows.

Grade	Hectares	% of Total Area
1	3.5	4.5
2	3.3	4.3
3a	6.9	8.9
3b	52.3	67.4
Urban	0.2	0.3
Woodland/Non Ag	<u>11.3</u>	<u>14.6</u>
	77.5	100

2.1 Grade 1

Soils in this grade consist of humic fibrous peaty topsoils to depths of between 40 and 70 cm over subsoils of medium silty clay loam to at least 1 m depth. These soils although well drained are water retentive and seldom suffer from drought.

2.2 Grade 2

Land in this grade occurs in a small area between 2 large drains. Soils consist of dark fibrous peat containing clay bands to a depth of at least 1 m. These soils are fertile and water retentive, but are likely to have a low bearing strength which may preclude the use of heavy agricultural machinery. They are restricted to Grade 2 for this reason.

2.3 Subgrade 3a

There are 2 areas of this subgrade; next to the A19 and adjoining Holme Lane. Both contain clay loam topsoils overlying gleyed slowly permeable heavy clay loam at depths of between 30 and 45 cm. Profiles of this type fall within Wetness Class III and are limited to subgrade 3a by wetness and workability problems.

2.4 Grade 3b

This is the predominant subgrade on the site. Soils consist of heavy clay loam or occasionally clay topsoils over gleyed slowly permeable clay to at least 1 m. This land even when drained is likely to be seasonally waterlogged and soils fall within Wetness Class III. It is limited to subgrade 3b by wetness and workability problems which are more severe than on the adjoining areas of subgrade 3a.

2.5 Non Agricultural/Farm Woodland

This consists mainly of the "Sixteen Acre" plantation at the south western end of the site.

2.6 Urban

The access road running off Holme Lane falls within this category.

Resource Planning Group
Leeds Regional Office