AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

SEDGEFIELD LOCAL PLAN

SPENNYMOOR EAST

YORK HILL ROAD

COUNTY DURHAM

SEPTEMBER 1992

ADAS

LEEDS STATUTORY GROUP

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SEDGEFIELD LOCAL PLAN

SPENNYMOOR EAST

SITE AT YORK HILL ROAD

SUMMARY

Land covering a total of approximately 14 hectares was surveyed at York Hill Road. All of this is in agricultural production of which 2.2 ha has been classified as Grade 2 and 12.1 ha as Subgrade 3b.

Grade 2 land occurs in the southern part of the site and consists in the east of medium clay loam topsoils over loamy medium sand subsoils. Peaty soils occur in the western part of this area. Both soils are limited to Grade 2 by climate and soil droughtiness problems.

Subgrade 3b land occurs over the remainder of the site. Topsoils consist of medium clay loam and directly overlie slowly permeable heavy clay loam or clay subsoils. Soils of this type are restricted to Subgrade 3b by wetness and workability problems.

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MAP

SEDGEFIELD LOCAL PLAN, SPENNYMOOR EAST (YORK HILL ROAD)

1. INTRODUCTION AND SITE CHARACTERISTICS

The site is located around Grid Reference NZ272352, west of Tudhoe and north of the York Hill road. It covers an area of approximately 14 ha., all of which is in agricultural use.

Survey work was carried out in September 1992 when soils were examined by hand auger borings at 100 m intervals predetermined by the National Grid. The land quality was assessed using methods described in "Agricultural Land Classification of England and Wales, Revised guidelines for assessing the quality of agricultural land" (MAFF, 1988).

Climate

Grid Reference:	NZ272352
Altitude (m):	110
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C (January - June):	1248
Average Annual Rainfall (mm):	686
Climatic Grade:	2
Field Capacity Days:	172
Moisture Deficit (mm) Wheat:	87
Moisture Deficit mm) Potatoes:	72

Land Use and Relief

At the time of survey all land on site was in agricultural production. Approximately half was ploughed, the other half being under cereal stubble. The site is gently sloping with a northerly aspect.

Geology and Soils

The site is underlain by Coal Measures over which there is a cover of Boulder clay and, in places sandy glaciofluvial drift and peat. In the southern part of the site soils consist of either loamy peat to depth or medium clay loam topsoils over loamy medium sand subsoils. These profiles are well drained (Wetness Class I). Soils in the remainder of the site consist of medium clay loam topsoils over heavy clay loam or clay subsoils. These soils are gleyed and slowly permeable immediately below the topsoil and fall within Wetness Class IV (poorly drained).

2. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

The ALC grades occurring on this site are as follows:

Grade/Subgrade	Hectares	Percentage of Total Area
2	2.20	15.4
3b	12.11	84.6
TOTAL	14.31	100

Grade 2

Grade 2 land occurs in the south. Two soil types make up this area; in the east soils consist of medium clay loam topsoils over loamy medium sand subsoils. Droughtiness and the overall climatic limitation are the main restricting factors on this soil type. The western part of the Grade 2 area contains loamy peat soils which are restricted to Grade 2 by the overall climatic limitation.

Subgrade 3b

Subgrade 3b land occurs over the remainder of the site. Medium clay loam topsoils overlie heavy clay loam on clay subsoils which are gleyed and slowly permeable. Profiles are slowly permeable at less than 40 cm depth and fall into Wetness Class IV (poorly drained) as a result. They are restricted to Subgrade 3b by wetness and workability problems.

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