

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
OF
LAND AT ACKTON PASTURES,
CASTLEFORD, WEST YORKSHIRE.

WAKEFIELD U D P SITE CAS:14/22

MAFF
Leeds Regional Office

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1. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT

1.0 Introduction and Site Characteristics

1.1 Location

National Grid Reference:- SE 415243
Location Details:- 2km south-west of Castleford town centre.
Site Size:- 58.35ha.

1.2 Survey Methods

Date Surveyed:- 3rd January 1992
Boring Density and Spacing Basis:- One boring per hectare at 100m intervals at points predetermined by the National Grid.
Sampling Method:- By hand auger to a depth of 1.00m.
Number of Borings: 47

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).

This detailed survey supersedes the previous "1" to one mile" survey of the area.

1.3 Land use:- Mainly arable but with areas of non-agricultural and urban land in the north and small areas of urban land and agricultural buildings in the south-west of the site.

1.4 Climate and Relief

| | |
|---|------------------------------|
| Average Annual Rainfall (AAR):- | 617 mm |
| Accumulated Temperature above 0°C (January-June):- | 1,391 day °C |
| Field Capacity Days:- | 135 days |
| Moisture Deficit: | |
| wheat:- | 107 mm |
| potatoes | 98 mm |
| Altitude average:- | 25 m a.o.d. |
| maximum:- | 40 m a.o.d. |
| minimum:- | 20 m a.o.d. |
| Climatic limitation (based on interaction of rainfall and temperature values):- | None |
| Relief:- | Gently to moderately sloping |
| Slopes (°):- | 1° - 7° |
| Gradient Limitations:- | None |

1.5 Geology and Soil

| | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Solid Strata:- | Carboniferous coal measures |
| Depth of solid rock from surface:- | Greater than 1.00m across the whole site. |
| Drift types:- | None |
| Soil Types and Distribution:- | Medium to heavy-textured topsoils overlying similar subsoils. |

Soil Textures (topsoils and subsoils)

Generally medium or heavy clay loam topsoils overlying heavy clay loam, clay or silty clay subsoils.

Soil Series/Associations:-

On 1/250000 map:-

Dale Association

Identified on site:-

Dale Association

1.6 Drainage

Soil type and Wetness Class:-

Medium-textured topsoils overlying heavy textured subsoils, with most soils falling in Wetness Classes III or IV.

Drainage Limitations:-

Soil wetness limits the agricultural land to subgrades 3a and 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 | | | |
| 3a | 11.95 | 24.5 | 20.5 |
| 3b` | 36.76 | 75.5 | 63.0 |
| 4 | | | |
| 5 | | | |
| Non Agricultural | 8.17 | | 14.0 |
| Agricultural Buildings | 0.46 | | 0.8 |
| Urban | 1.01 | | 1.7 |
| Other | | | |
| Total | <u>58.35</u> | <u>100</u> | <u>100</u> |

Subgrade 3a

Distribution on site:- In two separate areas in the south-west and east of the site.

Soil Type(s) and Texture(s):- Medium-textured topsoils (usually medium clay, loam) overlie medium to heavy textured subsoils (generally sandy clay loam, heavy clay loam or clay).

Depth to Slowly Permeable Layers:- Slowly permeable layers generally start at depths between 40cm and 60cm.

Wetness and Drainage Class:- Soils are imperfectly drained and fall in Wetness Class III.

Stone Percentage and Type:- Profiles are stoneless to very slightly stony, with up to 5% hard stones or sandstones.

Grade Limiting Factors:- Soil wetness and workability.

Subgrade 3b

Distribution on site:- Land in this subgrade covers most of the agricultural land, the exceptions being the two small areas of subgrade 3a.

Soil Type(s) and Texture(s) Medium to heavy-textured topsoil (medium clay loam or heavy clay loam) overlies heavy-textured subsoils (heavy clay loam, silty clay or clay).

Depth to Slowly Permeable Layers:- Slowly permeable layers start at depths of 30-35 cm.

Wetness and Drainage Class:- Soils are poorly drained and fall in Wetness Class IV.

Stone Percentage and Type:- Profiles are stoneless to very slightly stony with up to 5% hard stones or sand stones.

Grade Limiting Factors:- Soil wetness and workability.

Non Agricultural

Type and location of land included:- A small area of marshy land on the western edge of the site and a large area of parkland and allotments in the north.

Agricultural Buildings

Type and location of building included:-

The farmhouse and outbuildings at Netherfield Farm in the south-west.

Urban

Type of land use included:-

An area of housing in the south and an industrial area in the north-east.