

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
HARROGATE LOCAL PLAN
SITE 2, OAKER BANK
FEBRUARY 1993

ADAS
Leeds Statutory Group

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SUMMARY

An Agricultural Land Classification survey of approximately 50ha land at Oaker Bank, Killinghall Moor was carried out January 1993.

Virtually all of this land was in agricultural use of which 3.1 ha falls within Subgrade 3a. Soils on this land are well drained (Wetness Class I) and consist of medium clay loam topsoils over very stony medium sandy loam subsoils. This land is limited to Subgrade 3a by droughtiness.

Subgrade 3b land covers 20.2ha. Soils are poorly drained (Wetness Class IV) and consist of medium clay loam subsoils over heavy clay loam or clay subsoils. These profiles are limited to Subgrade 3b by wetness and workability problems. A small area of stony soil north of Saltergate Beck is limited to Subgrade 3b by droughtiness.

Grade 4 land covers 17.3ha. Soils are poorly drained (Wetness Class IV) and consist of medium and heavy clay loam topsoils over heavy clay loam or clay subsoils. Profiles are limited to Grade 4 by wetness, workability and microrelief problems.

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1. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT: HARROGATE LOCAL
PLAN, SITE 2, OAKER BANK, KILLINGHALL

1. INTRODUCTION AND SITE CHARACTERISTICS

1.1 Location and Survey Methods

The site lies 3Km north west of Harrogate Town centre and 2Km south west of Killinghall and is centred on Grid Reference SE 273565. Survey work was carried out in January 1993 when soils were examined by hand auger borings at a density of 1 boring 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 most of the site was in permanent pasture or rough grazing. There was also a small area in arable use. Site altitude varies from 99m AOD to 145m OAD and the land is level to moderately sloping, with a small area of strongly sloping land in the north.

1.3 Climate

Grid Reference	: SE 273565
Altitude (m)	: 110
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C (January-June)	: 1283 day0°C
Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	: 825
Climatic Grade	: 2
Field Capacity Days	: 207
Moisture Deficit (mm) Wheat	: 81
Moisture Deficit (mm) Potatoes	: 65

1.4 Geology, Soils and Drainage

The area is underlain by Millstone Grit over which there is a cover of boulder clay (till). The majority of soils consist of medium or heavy clay loam topsoils overlying slowly permeable (Wetness Class IV) gleyed heavy clay loam and clay. A small area in the north east contains of well drained (Wetness Class I) medium clay loam and medium sandy loam topsoils overlying medium sandy loam and medium clay loam subsoils. Profiles in this area are extremely stony at or below 35-40cm and grade is limited by droughtiness.

2. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

The ALC grades occurring on this site are as follows:

<u>Grade/Subgrade</u>	<u>Hectares</u>	<u>Percentage of Total Area</u>
1		
2		
3a	3.1	6.2
3b	20.2	39.8
4	17.3	34.1
5		
(Sub total)	(40.6)	(80.1)
Urban	0.9	1.8
Non Agricultural		
Woodland - Farm		
- Commercial		
Agricultural Buildings		
Open Water		
Land not surveyed	9.2	18.1
(Sub total)	(10.1)	(19.9)
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TOTAL	50.7	100
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2.1 Subgrade 3a

Land in this subgrade occurs in the north east of the site around Oaker Bank Farm. Topsoils consist of stoneless to very slightly stony medium clay loam or medium sandy loam and overlie well drained (Wetness Class I) medium clay loam and medium sandy loam subsoils. Subsoils are stony at or below 35cm and this land is limited to Subgrade 3a by droughtiness.

2.2 Subgrade 3b

Land in this subgrade covers the remainder of the central area south of the A59 Skipton Road. Topsoils consist of stoneless to very slightly stony medium clay loam overlying stoneless to very slightly stony gleyed poorly drained (Wetness Class IV) slowly permeable heavy clay loam and clay subsoils. Profiles are limited to Subgrade 3b by wetness and workability problems. An area north of Saltergate Beck consists of well drained (Wetness Class I) slightly stony medium sandy loam topsoils over moderately to very stony well drained, medium sandy loam subsoils. Profiles of this type are limited to Subgrade 3b by droughtiness.

2.3 Grade 4

Land in this subgrade covers all of the southern part of the site. Soils consist of stoneless to very slightly stony medium and heavy clay loam topsoils overlying stoneless or very slightly stony, gleyed, slowly permeable poorly drained (Wetness Class IV) heavy clay loam and clay subsoils. The area is boggy and undulating and north of the drain, contains large boulders. It is limited to Grade 4 by wetness, workability and microrelief problems.

2.4 Urban

This consists of buildings and the A59 Skipton Road.

2.5 Area Not Surveyed

This area, north of the Skipton Road has not been surveyed because of refusal of access by the owner.

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MAP