

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

HAMBLETON LOCAL PLAN

SITE 5: THIRSK

NORTH YORKSHIRE

SEPTEMBER 1992

ADAS

LEEDS STATUTORY GROUP

Ref: 103/92

MAFF FILE:

THIRSK5.RPT/MP

HAMBLETON LOCAL PLAN

SITE 5, THIRSK

SUMMARY

Land covering a total of 3.5ha was surveyed at Thirsk. All this is in agricultural production, of which approximately 1.0ha has been classified as Subgrade 3a and 2.6ha as Subgrade 3b.

Subgrade 3a land occurs in the north western part of the site and consists of heavy clay loam topsoils overlying sandy clay loam or heavy clay loam upper subsoils over slowly permeable clay lower subsoils. Soil wetness is the main limiting factor.

Subgrade 3b land occupies the remainder of the site. Soils consist of medium or heavy clay loam topsoils overlying either heavy clay loam or sandy clay loam upper subsoils followed by clay lower subsoils or, slowly permeable and gleyed clay subsoils. The main limiting factor is soil wetness.

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1. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

HAMBLETON LOCAL PLAN. SITE 5, THIRSK

1. INTRODUCTION AND SITE CHARACTERISTICS

The site at Thirsk is located around Grid Reference SE424827, adjacent to the road B1448 and immediately to the east of Wetlands Lane. The site covers a total of 3.5ha, virtually all of which is in agricultural use.

Survey work was carried out in September 1992 when soils were examined by hand auger borings at 50m intervals as predetermined by the National Grid. The land quality was assessed using the methods described in "Agricultural Land Classification of England and Wales, Revised guidelines for assessing the quality of agricultural land" (MAFF, 1988).

Climate

Grid Reference	SE424827
Altitude (m)	38
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C (January to June)	1350
Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	648
Climatic Grade	1
Field Capacity Days	157
Moisture Deficit (mm) Wheat	101
Moisture Deficit (mm) Potatoes	90

Land Use and Relief

At the time of the survey all land on the site was in agricultural production and had been recently ploughed out and prepared for drilling.

The site is flat to gently sloping.

Geology and Soils

The site is underlain by Triassic mudstones and overlain by deposits of glacial sand and gravel.

Topsoils consist of medium clay loam in the north east, heavy clay loam in the central area and heavy clay loam or sandy clay loam in the south western part of the site. Subsoils are as variable as the topsoils consisting of sandy clay loam, heavy clay loam, or clay.

Profiles are generally imperfectly or poorly drained (Wetness Class III or IV) over the majority of the site.

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>	<u>Hectares</u>
3a	0.98	27.4	
3b	2.60	72.6	
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TOTAL	3.58	100.0	
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Subgrade 3a

Subgrade 3a

Land in this Subgrade occurs in the north west of the site. Soils consist of heavy clay loam topsoils (sandy clay loam in places) overlying sandy clay loam or heavy clay loam upper subsoils. These pass at about 55-60cm depth into clay lower subsoils containing a small percentage of weathered limestone.

Only the lower subsoil is slowly permeable and gleyed and profiles are moderately well drained (Wetness Class II).

The land is limited to Subgrade 3a by slight soil wetness.

Subgrade 3b

The remainder of the site consists of land within this Subgrade. Topsoils consist of medium or heavy clay loam directly overlying gleyed slowly permeable heavy clay loam upper subsoils passing to clay at depth. Profiles are poorly drained (Wetness Class IV) and limited to Subgrade 3b by soil wetness.

Resource Planning Team

File:-

September 1992