

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION  
GREAT GRIMSBY LOCAL PLAN  
SITE AG 2, GREAT COATES  
AUGUST 1993

ADAS  
Leeds Statutory Group

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## SUMMARY

An Agricultural Land Classification survey of 21ha of land at Great Coates, Grimsby (Site AG 2, Great Grimsby Local Plan) was carried out in July 1993.

At the time of survey 19.6ha of the site was in agricultural use of which 9.3ha falls in Subgrade 3a. Profiles are imperfectly drained (Wetness Class III) and typically consist of medium clay loam or calcareous heavy clay loam topsoils overlying slowly permeable heavy clay loam subsoils at around 45cm depth. The calcareous nature of the heavy clay loam topsoils makes them more workable than would otherwise be the case and this land is, therefore, limited to Subgrade 3a by a soil wetness restriction.

The remainder of the agricultural land on the site (10.3ha) falls in Subgrade 3b. Profiles are poorly drained (Wetness Class IV) and consist of medium clay loam or heavy clay loam topsoils overlying slowly permeable heavy clay loam or clay subsoils at around 30cm depth. This land is restricted to Subgrade 3b by soil wetness and workability limitations.

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1. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT ON LAND AT GREAT COATES,  
GRIMSBY, HUMBERSIDE

1. INTRODUCTION AND SITE CHARACTERISTICS

1.1 Location and Survey Methods

The site lies approximately 4Km north-north-west of Grimsby town centre and is located around Grid Reference TA 232103. Survey work was carried out in July 1993 when soils were examined by hand auger borings at 100m intervals predetermined by the National Grid. One soil profile pit was dug to allow the assessment of subsoil structure. 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

Most of the agricultural land on the site is arable, with smaller areas of permanent pasture in the north and south. Two small areas of urban land also occur on the site, one in the south-west (a British Gas installation) and one in the south-east (a small housing estate).

The site lies at an average altitude of 5m AOD and is flat to very slightly sloping (typically 0-2°).

1.2 Climate

Grid Reference	: TA 232103
Altitude (m)	: 5
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C (January-June)	: 1395 day °C
Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	: 607
Climatic Grade	: 1
Field Capacity Days	: 133
Moisture Deficit (mm) Wheat	: 113
Moisture Deficit (mm) Potatoes	: 106

#### 1.4 Geology, Soils and Drainage

The area is underlain by deposits of Cretaceous chalk over which lie deep deposits of boulder clay.

Topsoils typically consist of medium clay loams in the north of the site and heavy clay loams or heavy silty clay loams (some of which are calcareous) in the south. Subsoils generally consist of slowly permeable heavy clay loams.

Profiles are generally imperfectly or poorly drained (falling in Wetness Classes III or IV) with slowly permeable layers beginning at between 30cm and 45cm depth.

The soils on the site are similar to the Holderness Series as mapped by the Soil Survey and Land Resource Centre.

## 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	9.3	43.9
3b	10.3	48.6
4		
5		
(Sub total)	(19.6)	(92.5)
Urban	1.6	7.5
Non Agricultural		
Woodland - Farm		
- Commercial		
Agricultural Buildings		
Open Water		
Land not surveyed		
(Sub total)	(1.6)	(7.5)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<u>21.2</u>	<u>100</u>

## 2.1 Subgrade 3a

Land in this subgrade occurs in the centre and south of the site. Profiles are imperfectly drained (falling in Wetness Class III) and typically consist of non-calcareous medium clay loam or calcareous heavy clay loam topsoils overlying gleyed slowly permeable heavy clay loam subsoils at between 40cm and 45cm depth. Both topsoils and subsoils are very slightly stony (containing 2-3% chalk and flints) and the land is limited to this subgrade by soil wetness.

## 2.2 Subgrade 3b

Subgrade 3b land occurs in the north and west of the site. Profiles are poorly drained (falling in Wetness Class IV) and consist of medium clay loam or heavy clay loam topsoils overlying gleyed, slowly permeable heavy clay loam or clay subsoils at around 30cm depth. Both topsoils and subsoils are, again, very slightly stony, containing 2-3% chalk and flints. Soil wetness and workability limitations restrict this land to Subgrade 3b.

## 2.3 Urban

This category includes a British Gas installation in the south-west of the site and small housing estate in the south-east.

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MAP