



Ministry of  
Agriculture  
Fisheries  
and Food

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION  
DONCASTER UNITARY DEVELOPMENT PLAN  
SITE EMP 2(24) MEXBOROUGH  
FEBRUARY 1993

ADAS  
Leeds Statutory Group

Job No:- 10/93  
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## SUMMARY

An Agricultural Land Classification survey of 10.6ha of land adjoining Pastures Road, Mexborough was carried out in February 1993

6.5ha of this was in agricultural use all of which falls within Subgrade 3a. Soils consist of medium sandy loam topsoils over medium sandy loam, sandy clay loam or loamy medium sand subsoils. Profiles are well drained (Wetness Class I) and soils are limited to Subgrade 3a by droughtiness. The remainder of the area consists of derelict disturbed land.

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1. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT: SITE EMP 2(24).  
MEXBOROUGH

1. INTRODUCTION AND SITE CHARACTERISTICS

1.1 Location and Survey Methods

The site lies 8.5Km south west of Doncaster Town centre on the eastern edge of Mexborough and is centred on Grid Reference SE 492006. Survey work was carried out in February 1993 when soils were examined by hand auger borings at a density of 2 borings 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 all agricultural land on the site was in arable production. The remainder, in the south eastern part of the site, consists of derelict and disturbed land. Site altitude varies from 15m AOD to 25m AOD and the land is level to gently sloping.

1.3 Climate

Grid Reference	: SE 492006
Altitude (m)	: 20
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C (January-June)	: 1405 day°C
Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	: 593
Climatic Grade	: 1
Field Capacity Days	: 125
Moisture Deficit (mm) Wheat	: 110
Moisture Deficit (mm) Potatoes	: 103

#### 1.4 Geology, Soils and Drainage

The area is underlain by Middle Coal Measure sandstones. There is no drift cover and soils are formed directly on weathering solid strata. Soils consist of medium sandy loam topsoils over well drained (Wetness Class I) medium sandy loam, sandy clay loam or loamy medium sand subsoils. These soils are similar to those mapped as the Rivington Series by the Soil Survey and Land Research 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	(6.53)	(61.4)
3b		
4		
5		
(Sub total)	(6.53)	(61.4)
Urban		
Non Agricultural	4.10	38.6
Woodland - Farm		
- Commercial		
Agricultural Buildings		
Open Water		
Land not surveyed		
(Sub total)	(4.10)	(38.6)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<u>10.63</u>	<u>100</u>

2.1 Subgrade 3a

*This subgrade occurs over the whole agricultural area. Soils consist of very slightly stony medium sandy loam topsoils overlying well drained (Wetness Class I) very slightly to slightly stony medium sandy loam, sandy clay loam or loamy medium sand subsoils. Soils are limited to Subgrade 3a by droughtiness.*

2.2 Non Agricultural

This consists of derelict and disturbed land adjoining Pastures Road in the south eastern part of the site.

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MAP