



AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
RUFFA LANE, PICKERING
NORTH YORKSHIRE
PROPOSED GOLF COURSE AND
ASSOCIATED DEVELOPMENT
AUGUST 1993

ADAS
Leeds Statutory Group

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SUMMARY

An Agricultural Land Classification survey of 21.6ha of land at Ruffa Lane, Pickering, was carried out in August 1993. At the time of survey, all of the land was in agricultural use, of which 4.0ha falls in Grade 2. Soil profiles are well or moderately well drained (falling in Wetness Classes I or II) and typically consist of medium sandy loam topsoils overlying sandy clay loam or heavy clay loam subsoils. The ALC grade of this land is limited by the climate of the area and, in places, by topsoil stoniness and/or soil wetness and workability restrictions.

A total of 8.3ha of Subgrade 3a land occurs on the site. Profiles are well drained (falling in Wetness Class I) and typically consist of medium sandy loam topsoils and subsoils overlying sandstone bedrock at around 50cm depth. Soil droughtiness and, in places, topsoil stoniness, limit this land to Subgrade 3a.

The remainder of the land on the site (9.3ha) falls in Subgrade 3b. Profiles are similar to those found on the Subgrade 3a land but slopes of between 8° and 11° further limit the ALC grade of the land to Subgrade 3b.

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1. INTRODUCTION AND SITE CHARACTERISTICS

1.1 Location and Survey Methods

The site lies approximately 1km north-east of the town of Pickering and is centred on Grid Reference SE 811841. Survey work was carried out in August 1993 when hand auger borings were made at 100m intervals predetermined by the National Grid. Extra borings were made where necessary to refine grade boundaries and three soil inspection pits were dug to allow the assessment of depth to bedrock and subsoil structure, and to allow the collection of soil samples for laboratory analysis. 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 survey all of the site was in agricultural use, a crop of oilseed rape having recently been harvested.

Site altitude varies from 48m AOD in the south to 80m AOD in the north. The site is gently to strongly sloping (varying between 2° and 11°) with a variable aspect. Slopes of between 8° and 11° limit much of the centre and north of the site to Subgrade 3b.

1.3 Climate

Grid Reference	: SE 811841
Altitude (m)	: 65
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C (January-June)	: 1310 day°C
Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	: 710
Climatic Grade	: 2
Field Capacity Days	: 183
Moisture Deficit (mm) Wheat	: 95
Moisture Deficit (mm) Potatoes	: 83

1.4 Geology, Soils and Drainage

The area is underlain by deposits of Upper Calcareous Grit (which occur within one metre of the surface over much of the site) and a narrow band of Kimmeridge Clay runs through the centre of the site.

Generally profiles are well drained (falling in Wetness Class I) and consist of slightly stony medium sandy loam topsoils and subsoils (medium sandy silt loam in places) overlying sandstone bedrock at between 40cm and 80cm depth.

Soils developed over the band of Kimmeridge Clay are well or moderately well drained (falling in Wetness Classes I and II) and consist of very slightly to slightly stony medium sandy loam topsoils overlying sandy clay loam or heavy clay loam subsoils.

Most of the soils on the site correspond to the Rivington 1 Association 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	4.0	18.5
3a	8.3	38.4
3b	9.3	43.1
4		
5		
(Sub total)	(21.6)	(100)
Urban		
Non Agricultural		
Woodland - Farm		
- Commercial		
Agricultural Buildings		
Open Water		
Land not surveyed		
(Sub total)		
TOTAL	<u>21.6</u>	<u>100</u>

2.1 Grade 2

A small area of Grade 2 land occurs in the north-east of the site. Profiles are well or moderately well drained (falling in Wetness Classes I or II) and consist of medium sandy loam topsoils overlying sandy clay loam or heavy clay loam subsoils. Topsoils and subsoils are very slightly to slightly stony, typically containing 4-8% very small to large sandstones. This land is limited to Grade 2 by the overall climate of the area and, in places, by topsoil stoniness and slight soil wetness and workability restrictions.

2.2 Subgrade 3a

Three separate area of Subgrade 3a land occur on the site - one in the south, one in the north-east and one in the north-west. Profiles are well drained (falling in Wetness Class I) and typically consist of medium sandy loam topsoils and subsoils overlying sandstone bedrock at between 45cm and 60cm depth. Both topsoils and subsoils are slightly stony, typically containing between 6% and 12% very small to large subangular and subrounded soft sandstones. This land is limited to Subgrade 3a by soil droughtiness and, in places, by topsoil stoniness.

2.3 Subgrade 3b

A band of Subgrade 3b land runs through the centre of the site, from north-east to south-west. Soil profiles are similar to those found on the Subgrade 3a land but slopes of 8° to 11° further limit the ALC grade of this land to Subgrade 3b.

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MAP