AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

PIT LANE, NEW MICKLEFIELD

WEST YORKSHIRE

LEEDS U.D.P.

DECEMBER 1992

ADAS

Leeds Statutory Group

Job No:- 127/92

MAFF Ref:-

2FCS 6274

SUMMARY

An Agricultural Land Classification survey of 3.1ha of land at New Micklefield was carried out in December 1992.

At the time of survey, 99% of this was in agricultural use of which 2.0ha falls within Subgrade 3a and 1.0ha within Subgrade 3b.

The Subgrade 3a land occurs in the east of the site and consists of medium clay loam or medium silty clay loam topsoils and subsoils overlying weathering limestone bedrock at around 50cm depth. Moderate soil droughtiness is the factor limiting this land to Subgrade 3a.

The Subgrade 3b land occurs in the west and consists of well drained medium clay loam or medium silty clay loam topsoils directly overlying limestone bedrock at around 35cm depth. Soil droughtiness is thus more restricting than on the Subgrade 3a land and is the main factor limiting ALC grade.

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AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT ON LAND AT PIT LANE, NEW MICKLEFIELD WEST YORKSHIRE

1. *INTRODUCTION AND SITE CHARACTERISTICS*

1.1 Location and Survey Methods.

The site lies 15Km, east of Leeds City centre, to the east of the village of New Micklefield adjoining the Leeds-York/Hull railway. It is centred on Grid Reference SE 443326. Survey work was carried out in December 1992 when soils were examined by hand auger borings at a density of four borings per hectare at points predetermined by the National Grid. Extra borings were made, where necessary, to refine grade boundaries and two soil pits were dug to allow the assessment of subsoil structure and the depth of bedrock. The 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 land surveyed was under cereals with the exception of a small area of allotment on the eastern edge of the site. Site altitude varies from 55m AOD to 60m AOD and the land is slightly to moderately sloping (typically 1-6°).

1.3 Climate

Grid Reference	:	SE 443326
Altitude (m)	:	60
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C (January-June)	:	1347 day°C
Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	:	663
Climatic Grade	:	1
Field Capacity Days	:	146
Moisture Deficit (mm) Wheat	:	100
Moisture Deficit (mm) Potatoes	:	89

1.4 Geology, Soils and Drainage

The site is underlain by Permian Lower Magnesian limestone, which occurs at depths of between 35cm and 70cm. There is no drift cover and the soils are formed in weathering limestone.

Profiles are well drained (falling in Wetness Class I) and consist of very slightly to slightly stony medium clay loam or medium silty clay loam topsoils and subsoils.

2. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

The ALC grades occurring on this site are as follows:

Grade/Subgrade Area	Hectares	Percentage of Total
1		
2		
3a	2.06	66.5
3b	1.01	32.6
4		
5		
(Sub total)	(3.07)	(99.1)
Urban		
Non Agricultural	0.03	0.9
Woodland - Farm		
- Commercial		
Agricultural Buildings		
Open Water		
Land not surveyed		
(Sub total)	(0.03)	(0.9)
TOTAL	3.10	100

2.1 Subgrade 3a

Land in this subgrade occurs in the eastern part of the site. Profiles are well drained (falling in Wetness Class I) and consist of medium clay loam or medium silty clay loam topsoils and subsoils overlying weathering limestone bedrock at between 40cm and 60cm depth.Both topsoils and subsoils are very slightly to slightly stony (typically containing 5-20% small and medium limestones).These soils are, thus, moderately droughty and it is this factor which limits them to Subgrade 3a.

2.2 Subgrade 3b

Subgrade 3b land occurs in the west of the site. Profiles are well drained (Wetness Class I) and consist of slightly stony medium clay loam or medium silty clay loam topsoils which directly overlie limestone bedrock at around 35cm depth. The water holding capacity of these soils is very restricted and the land is thus limited to Subgrade 3b by soil droughtiness.

Non Agricultural

This refers to a small area of allotment land on the eastern edge of the site.

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