

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

Wakefield Unitary Development Plan
Land at South Elmsall (EMS4)

ADAS
Leeds Regional Office

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AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT ON LAND AT SOUTH ELMSALL, WEST YORKSHIRE

1.1 Introduction

The site is located around National Grid Reference SE 480120 and forms a parcel of land between Dale Lane and Field Lane to the north and south and the A638 Wakefield-Doncaster road. The village of South Elmsall lies to the south west. The area surveyed covers a total of 69.6 hectares 75% of which is in agricultural use.

Survey work was carried out in March 1989 when soils were examined by hand auger borings at points predetermined by the National Grid. The density of borings was one per hectare. Additional borings were made where necessary to check upon and refine grade boundaries.

Land quality assessments were made using the revised guidelines published by MAFF in 1988.

1.2 Climate and Relief

Average annual rainfall is approximately 632 mm and the accumulated temperature above 0°C January to June is 1355 day °C. The site is at field capacity for 133 days a year. The moisture deficits for wheat and potatoes are 102 mm and 91 mm respectively. As a result some shallow soils on the site are likely to be subject to a droughtiness limitation. The area is typically gently undulating at an average altitude of about 60 m aod.

1.3 Geology Soils and Drainage

Soils across the whole site are developed over Magnesian limestone. Drift cover is patchy or absent in the area. Topsoils are usually of medium clay loam over a similar textured, unmottled subsoil. Where the bedrock is harder, subsoils tend to be shallow or occasionally absent. These profiles are usually only about 40 cm deep and subject to both depth and droughtiness limitations.

1.4 Land Use

All the agricultural land is in arable use. A strip of derelict land along Dale Lane is classified as non agricultural as is some land off Field Lane. The two distribution depots fall into the urban category.

1.5 Agricultural Land Classification

Grade	Area	% of Agricultural Land Area
2	21.52	54%
3a	18.03	40%
	<u>39.55</u>	<u>100</u>

1.5.1 Grade 2

Land in this grade consists of deep freely drained fine loamy soils with a minimum thickness of 45 cm over limestone bedrock. These soils fall within Wetness Class 1 and are limited only by slight summer droughtiness which will effect crops such as potatoes.

1.5.2 Subgrade 3a

Soils in this subgrade are similar in texture and drainage, but shallower and stonier than those in the Grade 2 land. As a result droughtiness is more restricting and land of this type is limited to subgrade 3a for this reason.

Reference

Revised guidelines and criteria for grading the quality of agricultural land, MAFF (1988).

Resource Planning Group
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