

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

Proposed Residential Development at  
Moss Road, Askern, South Yorkshire

MAFF  
Leeds Regional Office

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2FCS 4699

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AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT ON THE PROPOSED  
RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT AT MOSS ROAD, ASKERN, SOUTH YORKSHIRE

1.1 Introduction

The site which covers 5.0 hectares (NGR SE 570138) lies on the north eastern edge of Askern about 11 km north of Doncaster. Survey work was carried out in January 1990 when soils were examined by hand auger borings to a depth of 1 m at 12 points predetermined by the National Grid. A soil profile pit was also dug to confirm soil characteristics and to collect samples for laboratory analysis.

1.2 Climate and Relief

Salient climatic parameters at Askern are as follows:-

Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	569
Accumulated Temperature Above 0°C (Jan-June day °C)	1415
Field Capacity Days	120
Moisture Deficit (mm) wheat	111
potatoes	104

The rainfall and temperature figures indicate that there is no overall climatic limitation on ALC grade.

The site is flat at an altitude of about 6 m a.o.d.

1.3 Geology, Soils and Drainage

All the soils are formed on non calcareous alluvial drift. Topsoils usually consist of silt loam or occasionally fine sandy silt loam, over slowly permeable silty clay subsoils. Most of the soils meet the criteria for Wetness Class III. In a few places, however, where subsoils are lighter (sandy silt loam) drainage is much better and these profiles are placed within Wetness Class I.

#### 1.4 AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

##### 1.4.1 Subgrade 3a (4.8 hectares, 96% of total area)

The whole site falls within subgrade 3a. The main limitations are slight topsoil wetness and workability problems caused by the slowly permeable nature of the heavy subsoil. The occasional better drained profiles do not form areas large enough to separate into a higher grade.

##### 1.4.2 Farm Buildings (0.2 hectares, 4% of total area)

Farm Buildings occupy land in the middle of the site.

Resource Planning Group  
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