

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

Sunnybank Farm  
Birkenshaw  
West Yorkshire

MAFF  
Leeds Regional Office

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1. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

# AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT

## 1.0 Introduction and Site Characteristics

### 1.1 Location

National Grid Reference:- SE210 280

Location Details:- West of Birkenshaw  
N of M62

Site Size:- 50.4 ha

### 1.2 Survey Methods

Date Surveyed:- April 1990

Boring Density and Spacing Basis:- One per hectare at 100 m interval

Sampling Method:- 49

Number of Borings:- 2 for droughtiness and soil wetness assessment.

Number of Soil Pits (used for):-

All land quality assessments were made 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)".

### 1.3 Climate and Relief

Average Annual Rainfall (AAR):- 793 mm

Accumulated Temperature above  
0°C (January-June):- 1252 day °C

Field Capacity Days:- 194 days

Altitude average:- 150 m a.o.d.  
maximum:- 190 m a.o.d.  
minimum:- 135 m a.o.d.

Climatic limitation (based on  
interaction of rainfall and  
temperature values:- Best grade 2

#### Gradient Limitation

Limiting gradient(s):- Steep slopes around Burnt Royd  
Grade(s)/subgrade(s):- limit ALC to 3b and 4.  
Occurrence on site:-

### 1.4 Geology and Soil

Solid Strata:- Carboniferous Sandstones and Shales  
Depth of solid rock from surface:- 50 cm min or max over 1 m  
Drift types:- Head -  
Thickness of drift  
and distribution:- Very Little. Head only

Soil Types and Distribution:- Sandstone derived soils to N + E  
sale derived soils elsewhere.

Soil Textures (topsoils and subsoils):- Topsoils. Sandy loam on  
lighter areas. Elsewhere clay  
loams.  
Subsoils. Sandy loams and  
clayeys.

Soil Series/Associations:-

On 1/25000 map:-

Identified on site:- Dale and Rivington.

Soil Limitations and type:- Droughtiness and Stoniness on light land.  
Soil Wetness elsewhere.

#### 1.5 Drainage

Soil type and Wetness Class:- Light soils - Wetness Class I.  
Others - Class IV.

Drainage Limitations:- Well to poorly drained.

## 2.0 Agricultural Land Classification Grades

The ALC grades occurring on the site are as follows:-

<u>Grade/Subgrade</u>	<u>Hectares</u>	<u>Percentage of Total</u> <u>Area</u>
1	-	
2	-	
3a	19.7	39.1
3b	26.8	53.2
4	2.7	5.3
5	-	
Non Agricultural	0.7	1.4
Agricultural Buildings	0.5	1.0
Urban	-	
Other	-	
Total	50.4	100

Subgrade 3a

Distribution on site:- Towards the north and east

Soil Type(s) and Texture(s):- Sandy loam over similar or lighter textured subsoils.

Depth to Slowly Permeable Layers:- N/A

Wetness and Drainage Class:- Wetness Class I

Stone Percentage and Type:- Up to 30% sandstones.

Grade Limiting Factors:- Droughtiness

Overall Limiting Factor(s):-

Subgrade 3b

Distribution on site:- South and west

Soil Type(s) and Texture(s):- Medium clay loam topsoils over clayey subsoils.

Depth to Slowly Permeable Layers:- 25 cm

Wetness and Drainage Class:- Wetness Class IV

Stone Percentage and Type:- Slightly or stoneless.

Grade Limiting Factors:- Soil wetness and workability.

Overall Limiting Factor(s):-



Non Agricultural

Type and location of land included:- Semi derelict land, near upper  
Sunnybank Farm.

Agricultural Buildings

Type and location of building included:- Farm buildings at Sunnybank Farm

Urban

Type of land use included:-

Resource Planning Group  
Leeds Regional Office  
June 1991

MAP(S)