# AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
# HARROGATE LOCAL PLAN
# SITE 13 SPACEY HOUSES
# HARROGATE
# APRIL 1993

ADAS
Leeds Statutory Group

Job No:- 22/93
MAFF Ref:-

## SUMMARY

An Agricultural Land Classification of 66.6 ha of land at Spacey Houses was carried out in April 1993.

38.9 ha of this land was surveyed of which 34.3 ha was in agricultural use. Grade 2 land covers 5.0 ha. Soils within this grade are well drained (Wetness Class I) and consist of medium clay loam topsoils over sandy clay loam subsoils. Land of this type is limited to Grade 2 by slight droughtiness and an overall climatic limitation.

Subgrade 3a land covers 2.8 ha. Soils are either well drained (Wetness Class 1) and consist of medium clay loam topsoils over loamy medium sand subsoils, or are imperfectly drained (Wetness Class III) consisting of medium clay loam topsoils over medium sand upper subsoils and clay lower subsoils. The well drained soils are limited by droughtiness and the imperfectly drained soils by wetness.

Subgrade 3b land covers 26.1 ha. Soils are poorly drained (Wetness Class IV) and consist of medium clay loam topsoils over slowly permeable heavy clay loam or clay subsoils. This land is limited to Subgrade 3b by wetness and workability problems.

Grade 4 land covers 0.4 ha. This land is moderately steeply sloping (12° - 15°) and is therefore limited to Grade 4 by gradient.

A large area in the western part of the site where access was refused could not be classified and is shown as not surveyed on the accompanying map.

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# AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT: HARROGATE LOCAL PLAN, SITE 13, SPACEY HOUSES

## 1. INTRODUCTION AND SITE CHARACTERISTICS

### 1.1 Location and Survey Methods

The site is located 5 km south of Harrogate around National Grid Reference SE 310507. Survey work was carried out in April 1993 when soils were examined by hand auger borings at a density of one boring per hectare at points predetermined by the National Grid. (Access was refused to a large area in the Western part of the site. This is shown as not surveyed on the accompanying map). Land quality was assessed using the methods described in "Agricultural Land Classification of England and Wales: Revised criteria for grading the quality of agricultural land". (MAFF 1988).

### 1.2 Land Use and Relief

Of the land that was surveyed, 93% was in agricultural production. A similar proportion of the unsurveyed land also appeared to be in agricultural use. Site altitude varies between 110 m and 150 m AOD. The area is predominantly gently to moderately sloping with some areas of strongly to moderately steeply sloping land (gradients of 8° to 13°) along the northern boundary.

### 1.3 Climate

| | |
|---|---|
| Grid Reference | : SE310507 |
| Altitude (m) | : 130 |
| Accumulated Temperature above o°C (January - June) | : 1262 day °C |
| Average Annual Rainfall (mm) | : 849 |
| Climatic Grade | : 2 |
| Field Capacity Days | : 207 |
| Moisture Deficit (mm) Wheat | : 78 |
| Moisture Deficit (mm) Potatoes | : 62 |

## 1.4 Geology, Soils and Drainage

The site is underlain by Millstone Grit, most of which is covered by till (boulder clay). Most soils are poorly drained (Wetness Class IV) and consist of medium clay loam topsoils over slowly permeable heavy clay loam or clay subsoils. Around Walton Head and near the southern edge of the site the Millstone Grit occurs close to the surface. In these areas soils are well drained (Wetness Class I) and consist of medium clay loam or sandy clay loam topsoils over sandy clay loam and stony loamy medium sand subsoils which pass into weathering bedrock at depth.

## 2. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

The ALC grade occurring on this site are as follows:

| Grade/Subgrade | Hectares | Percentage of Total Area |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | - | |
| 2 | 5.0 | 7.5 |
| 3 | 2.8 | 4.2 |
| 3b | 26.1 | 39.2 |
| 4 | 0.4 | 0.6 |
| 5 | | |
| (Sub total) | (34.3) | (51.5) |
| Urban | 0.1 | 0.2 |
| Non Agricultural | 2.5 | 3.7 |
| Woodland - Farm | - | |
| - Commercial | - | |
| Agricultural Buildings | - | |
| Open Water | - | |
| Land not surveyed | 29.7 | 44.6 |
| (Sub total) | (32.3) | (48.5) |
| TOTAL | 66.6 | 100% |

2.1 Grade 2

Grade 2 land occurs in the north east of the site. Soils are well drained (Wetness Class 1) and consist of slightly stony medium clay loam or sandy clay loam topsoils over slightly to moderately stony sandy clay loam subsoils which pass into weathering sandstone bedrock at depth. This land is restricted to Grade 2 by droughtiness as well as by the overall climatic limitation.

2.2 Subgrade 3a

Subgrade 3a land occurs along the southern edge of the site. Soils are either imperfectly drained (Wetness Class III) or well drained (Wetness Class I). The well drained soils consist of very slightly stony medium clay loam topsoils over shallow slightly stony loamy medium sand subsoilsand sandstone bedrock. These soils are restricted to Subgrade 3a by droughtiness. The imperfectly drained soils consist of very slight stony medium clay loam topsoils over slightly stony medium sand upper subsoils and stoneless, slowly permeable clay lower subsoils. Soils of this type are restricted to Subgrade 3a by wetness.

2.3 Subgrade 3b

Most of the agricultural land surveyed on the site falls within Subgrade 3b. Soils are poorly drained (Wetness Class IV) and consist of very slightly or slightly stony medium clay loam topsoils over stoneless, slowly permeable heavy clay loam or clay subsoils. This land is limited to Subgrade 3b by soil wetness and workability problems.

2.4 Grade 4

A small area of Grade 4 land occurs on the northern boundary. This land is moderately steeply sloping (12° - 15°) and is limited to Grade 4.

2.5 Urban

This consists of a water tower.

2.6 Non Agricultural

This consists of woodland on Walton Head Whin and surrounding the water tower.

## 2.7 Not surveyed

This land was not surveyed because access could not be obtained.

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