

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
SEDFIELD LOCAL PLAN
SITE H4, SOUTH FARM
TUDHOE, COUNTY DURHAM
MARCH 1993

ADAS
Leeds Statutory Group

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SUMMARY

An Agricultural Land Classification Survey of approximately 5ha of land at Tudhoe, County Durham was carried out in March 1993. All of the site was in agricultural production.

Subgrade 3a land cover 3.6 ha. Soils consist of sandy clay loam topsoils over variable light to heavy upper subsoils and heavy textured, slowly permeable lower subsoils. Drainage is imperfect (Wetness Class III) and soil wetness is the main limitation to grade.

Subgrade 3b land covers 1.3 ha of the site. Medium textured topsoils overlie slowly permeable, heavy textured subsoils. Profiles are poorly drained (Wetness Class IV) and soil wetness is the main factor limiting this land to Subgrade 3b.

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1. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT: SEDGEFIELD LOCAL PLAN, SITE H4, SOUTH FARM, TUDHOE, COUNTY DURHAM

1. INTRODUCTION AND SITE CHARACTERISTICS

1.1 Location and Survey Methods

The site is located on the outskirts of Tudhoe, between Scarehill Drive and the footpath to The Green, around National Grid Reference NZ 259351. Survey work was carried out in March 1993 when soils were examined by hand auger borings at points predetermined by the National Grid. Land quality was assessed using methods described in "Agricultural Land Classification of England and Wales" (MAFF 1988).

1.2 Land Use and Relief

At the time of the survey, all of the site was in arable use, having been cultivated for cereals. The site lies at an altitude of 90m and is level to gently sloping.

1.3 Climate

Grid Reference	: NZ 259351
Altitude (m)	: 90
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C (January-June)	: 1272 day°C
Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	: 679
Climatic Grade	: 2
Field Capacity Days	: 170
Moisture Deficit (mm) Wheat	: 89
Moisture Deficit (mm) Potatoes	: 74

1.4 Geology, Soils and Drainage

The site is underlain by Coal Measures, over which there is a cover of Glacial Till. Soil profiles are imperfectly to poorly drained (Wetness Classes III and IV) and consist of medium textured topsoils overlying medium to heavy textured upper and lower subsoils, which are gleyed and slowly permeable. The soils are similar to those within the Brickfield Association as mapped by the Soil Survey and Land Research Centre.

2. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

The ALC grades occurring on this site are as follows:

<u>Grade/Subgrade</u>	<u>Hectares</u>	<u>Percentage of Total Area</u>
1		
2		
3a	3.6	73.5
3b	1.3	26.5
4		
5		
(Sub total)	(4.9)	(100)
Urban		
Non Agricultural		
Woodland - Farm		
- Commercial		
Agricultural Buildings		
Open Water		
Land not surveyed		
(Sub total)		
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TOTAL	4.9	100
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3.1 Subgrade 3a

Most of the site falls within Subgrade 3a. Profiles are imperfectly drained (Wetness Class III) and consist of sandy clay loam topsoils overlying gleyed upper subsoils (medium sandy loams, loamy medium sands and medium clay loams) and within 60cm of the surface slowly permeable lower subsoils (sand clay loams or clays). Soil wetness is therefore, the main factor limiting this land to Subgrade 3a.

3.2 Subgrade 3b

Land in the eastern part of the site falls within Subgrade 3b. Profiles are poorly drained (Wetness Class IV) and consist of sandy clay loam topsoils overlying heavy clay loam subsoils which are slowly permeable within 40cm of the surface. Soil wetness is therefore more limiting than on the adjoining Subgrade 3a land and is the main factor restricting this land to Subgrade 3b.

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MAP