

4235

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

GREAT COATES, GRIMSBY

ADAS  
LEEDS REGIONAL OFFICE

MARCH 1989  
File Ref: 2FCS 4235  
Map Ref: 6/89

lds.rpg4.Great.Coates

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1. Agricultural Land Classification

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT  
ON LAND AT GREAT COATES, GRIMSBY

1. SITE DETAILS

1.1 INTRODUCTION

This 38.9 hectare site (NGR TA235107) lies immediately north west of the village of Great Coates near Grimsby, between the A180 trunk road and the Cleethorpes to Scunthorpe railway.

Survey work was carried out in February 1989 when soils were examined by hand auger borings at points predetermined by the National Grid at an overall survey density of approximately 1 boring per hectare.

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

1.2 CLIMATE AND RELIEF

Average Annual Rainfall in the area is approximately 600 mm. Accumulated Temperature above 0°C (January to June) is approximately 1402 day °C and the Mean Duration of Field Capacity is approximately 132 field capacity days.

These characteristics indicate that there is no overall climatic limitation on ALC grade.

Summer Moisture Deficits of 114 mm for winter wheat and 107 for potatoes, however, mean that soil droughtiness is slightly limiting on most fine loamy and clayey soils in the area and moderately limiting on coarser textured material.

The site is virtually level at a mean altitude of 4 metres above Ordnance Datum.

### 1.3 LAND USE

All agricultural land is used for arable production, Non-Agricultural land consists mainly of farm access tracks and road embankments.

### 1.4 SOILS AND GEOLOGY

Soils on the site are formed on heavy marine alluvium which forms a thin cover, often less than 1 metre thick, over chalky boulder clay. Typical profiles consist of heavy clay loam or clay topsoils over gleyed and slowly permeable clay or silty clay to depth. With rare exceptions, all topsoils are non or only very slightly calcareous.

## 2. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

The ALC grades occurring on the site are as follows.

Grade	Hectares	Percentage of Total Area	Percentage of Agricultural
2	1.2	3%	3%
3a	5.0	13%	13%
3b	31.1	80%	83%
Non Agricultural	<u>1.6</u>	<u>4.1%</u>	<u>-</u>
Total	38.9	100%	100

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### GRADE 2

A small area of grade 2 occurs near the eastern boundary. Topsoils are marginally lighter than elsewhere on the site and consist mainly of medium clay loam or sandy clay loam over heavy clay loam and clay subsoils.

Evidence of gleying is largely absent above 50 cm indicating that these profiles fall within Wetness Class II and thus, in areas with between 126 and 150 field capacity days, meet the criteria for Grade 2.

### SUBGRADE 3a

Subgrade 3a land occurs near the western boundary. Soils are similar to grade 2 profiles except for prominent mottling and gleying in the upper subsoil which places them within Wetness Class III.

A workability restriction associated with Wetness Class III is the main grading limitation.

**SUBGRADE 3b**

The majority of the site falls into this subgrade. Gleyed and slowly permeable clayey subsoils below approximately 35 cm depth indicates that these profiles fall within Wetness Class IV. Workability restrictions associated with wetness forms the main grading limitation.

**NON AGRICULTURAL**

This consists mainly of farm access tracks and road embankments.

Resource Planning Group

Leeds RO

March 1989

MAPS