AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

GREATER YORK SITE 0

SOUTH HUNTINGTON

ADAS
LEEDS REGIONAL OFFICE

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CONTENTS

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT
GREATER YORK, SITE 0, SOUTH HUNTINGTON

1. INTRODUCTION

The site which is located around grid reference **SE620554** between industrial and residential development south of Huntington covers an area of 9.5 hectares 94 per cent of which is agricultural production.

Survey work was carried out during the second half of 1988 when soils were examined by hand auger borings at points pre-determined by the National Grid. The overall survey density was approximately one boring per hectare with additional borings made, where necessary, to check on soil variability.

All land quantity assessments were made using the methods described in the "Agricultural Land Classification of England and Wales: Revised guidelines and criteria for grading the quality of agricultural land.

1.2 CLIMATE AND RELIEF

Average Annual Rainfall in the area is approximately 623 mm. Accumulated temperature above $0^{o}C$ (January to June) is 1386 day ^{o}C and the field capacity period is approximately 141 days. These characteristics indicate that there is no overall climatic limitation on ALC grade . Summer moisture deficits of 108 mm for winter wheat and 99 mm for potatoes, however, mean that soil droughtiness will be slightly limiting on the coarse loamy soils occurring on the site.

The site is virtually level at a mean altitude of approximately 15 metres AOD.

1.4 LAND USE

Most of the site is under permanent pasture. Non agricultural land consists mainly of farm buildings and private housing along the northern edge of the site.

1.5 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

Soils are formed on glacial and post glacial drift. This consists of lacustrine clay overlain by a thin and patchy cover of aeolian sand. Where significant sandy drift occurs, soils consist mainly of sandy loam or sandy silt loam topsoils over similar or lighter subsoils. These profiles often have silty clay lower subsoils particularly around the margins of the deposit. Elsewhere soils consist of heavy clay loam or sandy clay loam topsoils over gleyed subsoils passing into silty clay at depth.

2. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

The ALC grades occurring on this site are as follows

Grade	Hectares	Per cent of total Site area
3a	1.8	19%
3b	7.1	75%
Farm Buildings	0.6	6%
Total Site Area	9.5	

SUB GRADE 3a

Subgrade 3a land occurs in two isolated areas; adjoining the dismantled railway in the south and in the north east corner. Soils are typical of those derived from deeper sandy drift. Because of limited field drainage resulting from a lack of relief and extensive urban development

around the periphery of the site, most profiles fall within wetness class IV and ALC grade is limited by a combination of wetness and workability problems.

SUBGRADE 3b

Most of the site falls into this subgrade. Soils consist of sandy clay loam or heavy clay loam topsoils over similarly textured gleyed and slowly permeable upper subsoils which pass into silty clay at depth.

These profiles fall within wetness class IV and are limited by wetness and topsoil workability problems which are more severe than on the adjoining subgrade 3a land.

FARM BUILDINGS

These occur along the northern edge of the site.

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