AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
DARLINGTON ROAD (SOUTH SIDE)
RICHMOND, NORTH YORKSHIRE
PROPOSED SUPERMARKET
DECEMBER 1993

ADAS
Leeds Statutory Centre

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SUMMARY

An Agricultural Land Classification Survey of 4.6ha of land on the southern side of Darlington Road, Richmond was carried out in January 1993.

All of this was in agricultural use of which 4.5ha falls within Subgrade 3a. Soils within this subgrade are mainly well drained (Wetness Class I) and consist of medium or light textured topsoils over similar but somewhat stonier subsoils. They are limited to Subgrade 3a by slight summer droughtiness.

Subgrade 3b land covers 0.1ha. Soils are well drained (Wetness Class I) and consist of slightly or moderately stony medium or light textured topsoils over stony medium or light textured subsoils. Profiles of this type are restricted to Subgrade 3b by severe droughtiness and/or topsoil stoniness.

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AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT ON LAND AT DARLINGTON ROAD, RICHMOND: PROPOSED SUPERMARKET

1. INTRODUCTION AND SITE CHARACTERISTICS

1.1 Location and Survey Methods

The site lies 1.5km north-east of Richmond town centre on the southern side of the A6108 Darlington Road around National Grid Reference NZ 189017. It covers a total of 4.6 hectares. Survey work was carried out in January 1993 when soils were examined by hand auger borings at a density of 2 borings per hectare at points predetermined by the National Grid. Land quality was assessed using the methods described in 'Agricultural Land Classification of England and Wales: Revised guidelines for grading the quality of agricultural land' (MAFF 1988).

1.2 Land Use and Relief

At the time of survey all of the site was under permanent grassland. Altitude falls gently from 145m alongside the A6108 to 135m along the southern boundary.

1.3 Climate

Grid Reference	: NZ 189017
Altitude (m)	: 140
Accumulated Temperature over 0°C (January-June)	: 1231 day°C
Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	: 809
Climatic Grade	: 2
Field Capacity Days	: 201
Moisture Deficit (mm) Wheat	: 81
Moisture Deficit (mm) Potatoes	: 65

1.4 Geology, Soils and Drainage

The site is underlain by Carboniferous strata consisting mainly of sandstones and chert (siliceous flintlike rock), over which there is a cover of loamy drift which in places passes onto boulder clay at depth.

Soils consist of slightly stony medium silty clay loam, medium clay loam or fine sandy loam topsoils over stonier subsoils of similar textures. Moderately stony and stony profiles occur locally especially on the western edge of the site. Profiles are well drained (Wetness Class I) except for a few small slightly lower areas in the centre of the site. Here slowly permeable boulder clay is relatively close to the surfaces and soils are strongly mottled and imperfectly drained (Wetness Class III).

2. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

The ALC grades occurring on this site are as follows:

Grade/Subgrade	Hectares	Percentage of Total Area
1		
2		
3a	4.5	97.8
3b	0.1	2.2
4		
5		
(Sub total)	(4.6)	(100)
Urban		
Non Agricultural		
Woodland - Farm		
- Commercial		
Agricultural Buildings		
Open Water		
Land not surveyed		
(Sub total)		
TOTAL	4.6	100

2.1 Subgrade 3a

Almost all of the site falls within this subgrade. Soils consist of slightly stony medium silty clay loam, medium clay loam or fine sandy loam topsoils overlying similar textured slightly or moderately stony subsoils. Strongly mottled or gleyed, sometimes slowly permeable horizons occur at 40-60cm depth in a few places. Most profiles, however are well drained (Wetness Class I) and limited to Subgrade 3a by slight summer droughtiness.

2.2 Subgrade 3b

A small area on the western edge of the site falls within this subgrade. Profiles are similar to those in the Subgrade 3a land, but have a higher stone content, especially in the subsoil which can be very stony. The higher stone content increases the drought risk and this area is limited to Subgrade 3b for this reason.

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MAP