

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION  
SEDFIELD LOCAL PLAN  
SITE H10, SPENNYMOOR SOUTH  
COUNTY DURHAM  
MARCH 1993

ADAS  
Leeds Statutory Group

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2FCS 6381

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## SUMMARY

An Agricultural Land Classification Survey of 20.7 ha of land at Spennymoor, County Durham, was carried out in March 1993. All of this is in agricultural use.

Subgrade 3a land covers 9.4 ha. Soils consist of medium sandy loam topsoils over heavy clay loam and sandy clay loam subsoils. Profiles are poorly drained and limited to Subgrade 3a by soil wetness.

Subgrade 3b land covers 11.0 ha. Soil profiles are poorly drained and consist of medium clay loam topsoils overlying heavy clay loam and sandy clay loam subsoils. Soil wetness is more limiting than on the Subgrade 3a land and is the main restriction on ALC grade.

Grade 4 covers 0.3 ha of moderately steeply sloping land. Gradient is the main factor limiting this land to Grade 4.

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1. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT: SEDGEFIELD LOCAL PLAN  
SITE H10, SPENNYMOOR SOUTH

1. INTRODUCTION AND SITE CHARACTERISTICS

1.1 Location and Survey Methods

The site is located on the southern edge of Spennymoor to the south of the A688, Bishop Auckland Road, around National Grid Reference NZ 258331. Survey work was carried out in March 1993 when soils were examined by hand auger borings at 100m intervals to a depth of 1m 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 the entire site was in agricultural use, mostly as permanent pasture and ley grassland, with a smaller area cultivated for cereals.

The site lies between 120m and 140m AOD. Most of the site is gently to moderately sloping, although a small area of moderately steeply sloping land occurs in the south eastern part of the site.

1.3 Climate

Grid Reference	: NZ 258331
Altitude (m)	: 135
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C (January-June)	: 1221 day°C
Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	: 693
Climatic Grade	: 2
Field Capacity Days	: 174
Moisture Deficit (mm) Wheat	: 84
Moisture Deficit (mm) Potatoes	: 67

#### 1.4 Geology, Soils and Drainage

The area is underlain by Coal Measures covered by boulder clay (till). Soil profiles consist of medium to light textured topsoils (medium clay loams and medium sandy loams) overlying medium to heavy textured subsoils (sandy clay loams and heavy clay loams). They are poorly drained (Wetness Class IV) and are similar to soils within the Dunkeswick and Brickfield Associations 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	9.4	45.4
3b	11.0	53.1
4	0.3	1.5
5		
(Sub total)	(20.7)	(100)
Urban		
Non Agricultural		
Woodland - Farm		
- Commercial		
Agricultural Buildings		
Open Water		
Land not surveyed		
(Sub total)		
	_____	_____
TOTAL	20.7	100
	_____	_____

2.1 Subgrade 3a

Land in Subgrade 3a occurs widely across the site. Soils are poorly drained (Wetness Class IV) and consist of very slightly stony medium sandy loam topsoils over gleyed heavy clay loam and sandy clay loam subsoils which are slowly permeable within 40cm depth. Soil wetness is the main factor limiting this land to Subgrade 3a.

2.2 Subgrade 3b

Over 50% of the land on the site falls within Subgrade 3b. Profiles consist of very slightly stony medium clay loam topsoils overlying gleyed, slowly permeable heavy clay loam and sandy clay loam subsoils. Soils are poorly drained (Wetness Class IV). Soil wetness and workability problems are the main factors limiting this land to Subgrade 3b.

2.3 Grade 4

A small area of the site lies on moderately steeply sloping land and is limited to Grade 4 by gradients of 12-15°.

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MAP