MAFF Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
SITE H5h
KIRKLEES U. D. P.
WEST YORKSHIRE
JANUARY 1995

ADAS
Leeds Statutory Group

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SUMMARY

A detailed Agricultural Land Classification survey of 2.2 ha of land south-east of the village of Emley (Site H5h, Kirklees U.D.P.) was carried out in January 1995.

At the time of the survey all of the land was in agricultural use and all falls in Subgrade 3a. Profiles are well drained and consist of medium sandy loam or medium silty clay loam topsoils and subsoils overlying weathering sandstone bedrock at around 40cm depth. Soil depth and soil droughtness are, thus, the factors limiting this land to Subgrade 3a.

CONTENTS

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT ON SITE H5h, KIRKLEES U.D.P., WEST YORKSHIRE

1. INTRODUCTION AND SITE CHARACTERISTICS

1.1 Location and Survey Methods

The site lies 11 km east-south-east of Huddersfield town centre, on the south-eastern edge of the village of Emley, and covers 2.2 ha. Survey work was carried out in January 1995 when the soils were examined by hand auger borings at 100m intervals predetermined by the National Grid. One soil pit was dug to allow the profile to be described in greater detail. The land quality was assessed using the methods described in "Agricultural Land Classification of England Wales. Revised guidelines and criteria for grading the quality of agricultural land" (MAFF, 1988).

1.2 Land Use and Relief

At the time of the survey all of this site were under winter cereals. Site altitude varies from 190m A.O.D. in the south-west to180m A.O.D. in the north-east and the land is gently sloping (2° approximately) with a north-easterly aspect.

1.3 Climate

Grid Reference	:	SE 248 129
Altitude (m)	:	185
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C (January-June)	:	1218 day °C
Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	:	794
Climate Grade	:	2
Field Capacity Days	:	198
Moisture Deficit (mm) Wheat	:	78
Moisture Deficit (mm) Potatoes	:	60

1.4 Geology, Soils and Drainage

The site is underlain by Carboniferous Coal Measures consisting of interbedded sandstones and shales, and weathering sandstone bedrock outcrops to within 50cm of the soil surface.

The soils are well drained, falling in Wetness Classes I, and consist of medium sandy loam or medium silty clay loam topsoils and subsoils. Topsoils are very slightly to slightly stony while subsoils are slightly to moderately stony.

The soils correspond to the Rivington Series as mapped by the Soil Survey and Land Research Centre.

2. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

The ALC grades occurring on this site are as follows :

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

2.1 Subgrade 3a

All of this site has been mapped as Subgrade 3a. The soils are well drained, falling in Wetness Class I, and typically consist of medium sandy loam or medium silty clay loam topsoils and subsoils overlying weathering sandstone bedrock at around 40cm depth. Topsoils are very slightly to slightly stony (containing 4 - 8% small and medium angular sandstones) and subsoils are slightly to moderately stony (containing between 8% and 30% small, medium and large angular sandstones). This land is limited to Subgrade 3a by soil depth and soil droughtness.

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