

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
ROTHERHAM UNITARY DEVELOPMENT PLAN

SITE H21/47
SANDY LANE, BRAMLEY
MARCH 1993

ADAS
Leeds Statutory Group

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SUMMARY

An Agricultural Land Classification survey of approximately 18ha of land at Sandy Lane, Bramley was carried out in March 1993.

All of this area was in agricultural use of which 1.9ha falls within Grade 2. Soils in this grade are well drained (Wetness Class I) and consist of medium sandy loam topsoils over medium sandy loam subsoils with occasionally medium sand at or below 80cm. This land is limited to Grade 2 by slight droughtiness and by climatic restrictions.

Subgrade 3a land covers 11.1 ha. Soils within this subgrade are well drained (Wetness Class I) and consist of loamy medium sand or medium sandy loam topsoils over loamy medium sand and medium sand subsoils. This land is limited to Subgrade 3a by droughtiness.

Subgrade 3b land covers 4.8ha. Soils within this subgrade are again well drained (Wetness Class I) and consist of loamy medium sand topsoils over loamy medium sand and medium sand subsoils, passing in places to weathering sandstone bedrock at or below 80cm. This land is limited to Subgrade 3b by severe droughtiness.

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1. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT: ROTHERHAM UNITARY
DEVELOPMENT PLAN, SITE H21/47, SANDY LANE, BRAMLEY

1. INTRODUCTION AND SITE CHARACTERISTICS

1.1 Location and Survey Methods

The site is located 6km east of Rotherham Town Centre and 1km south east of Bramley around National Grid Reference SK 494916. Survey work was carried out in March 1993 when soils were examined by hand auger borings at a density of one boring 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 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 the site was in arable use. Site altitude varies from 120m AOD to 135m AOD and the land is level to gently sloping (0-3°).

1.3 Climate

Grid Reference	: SK 494916
Altitude (m)	: 130
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C (January-June)	: 1284 day°C
Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	: 673
Climatic Grade	: 2
Field Capacity Days	: 140
Moisture Deficit (mm) Wheat	: 96
Moisture Deficit (mm) Potatoes	: 84

1.4 Geology, Soils and Drainage

The site is underlain by Carboniferous Coal Measures, consisting of the Wickersley Sandstone. There is no drift cover and soils are formed directly on weathering solid strata. Soils consist of stoneless to very slightly stony loamy medium sand and medium sandy loam topsoils over well drained (Wetness Class I) very slightly stony medium sandy loam, loamy medium sand and medium sand subsoils.

Weathering sandstone bedrock occurs in places at or below 80cm. Most soils are similar to those mapped as the Rivington Series 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	1.90	10.7
3a	11.10	62.4
3b	4.80	26.9
4		
5		
(Sub total)	(17.80)	(100)
Urban		
Non Agricultural		
Woodland - Farm		
- Commercial		
Agricultural Buildings		
Open Water		
Land not surveyed		
(Sub total)		
TOTAL	<u>17.80</u>	<u>100</u>

2.1 Grade 2

Grade 2 land occurs near the southern edge of the site. Soil profiles consist generally of stoneless to very slightly stony medium sandy loam topsoils over stoneless to very slightly stony well drained (Wetness Class I) medium sandy loam subsoils which pass occasionally at or below 80cm depth into medium sand. Soils are limited to Grade 2 by the overall climate restrictions and by slight droughtiness.

2.2 Subgrade 3a

Subgrade 3a land is widespread. Soils consist of stoneless to very slightly stony loamy medium sand or medium sandy loam topsoils over well drained (Wetness Class I) stoneless to very slightly stony loamy medium sand and medium sand subsoils. They are limited to Subgrade 3a by droughtiness.

2.3 Subgrade 3b

Subgrade 3b land covers much of the central northern part of the site. Soils consist of well drained (Wetness Class I) stoneless to very slightly stony loamy medium sand topsoils over similar or lighter subsoils. Weathering sandstone bedrock occurs in places at or below 80cm depth. Soils are limited to Subgrade 3b by severe droughtiness.

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MAP