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Ministry of
Agriculture
Fisheries
and Food

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
SHERBURN-IN-ELMET, NORTH YORKSHIRE
PROPOSED INDUSTRY/WAREHOUSING SITE
DECEMBER 1993

ADAS
Leeds Statutory Group

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SUMMARY

An Agricultural Land Classification survey of 27.2ha of land at Sherburn-in-Elmet was carried out in two stages in July and December 1993.

Of the total area, 23ha was in agricultural use, 3.4ha was classed as Non Agricultural land and 0.8ha was urban land.

16.0ha of the agricultural land on the site falls in Subgrade 3a. Profiles are generally moderately well or imperfectly drained, falling in Wetness Classes II or III. Typically medium or heavy clay loam topsoils overlie subsoils which vary in texture from sandy silt loam to silty clay. In most cases slowly permeable silty clay or heavy silty clay loam lower subsoils begin at around 65cm depth and the ALC grade of the land is limited by soil wetness restrictions and/or topsoil texture.

The remainder of the agricultural land on the site (7.0ha) falls in Subgrade 3b. Profiles are typically imperfectly or poorly drained (falling in Wetness Classes III or IV) with heavy clay loam or clay topsoils overlying slowly permeable heavy-textured subsoils at between 30cm and 45cm depth. This land is limited to Subgrade 3b by soil wetness and workability restrictions.

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AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT ON LAND AT SHERBURN-IN-ELMET PROPOSED INDUSTRY/WAREHOUSING SITE

1. INTRODUCTION AND SITE CHARACTERISTICS

1.1 Location and Survey Methods

The site lies 11Km west-north-west of Selby town centre, on the eastern side of the village of Sherburn-in-Elmet. It lies around Grid Reference SE 515331 and covers a total area of 27.2ha. Survey work was carried out in two stages - land to the south of Green Dike was surveyed in July 1993 as part of a Selby District Local Plan site, while land to the north of Green Dike was surveyed in December 1993. In both cases soils were examined by hand auger borings at 100m intervals predetermined by the National Grid. One soil inspection pit was dug in December 1993 to allow the assessment of subsoil structure. 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

The site covers a total area of 27.2ha of which 23.0ha was in arable use at the time of survey. The remainder (4.2ha) consists of a track and a strip of Non Agricultural Land in the centre of the site.

Site altitude varies from 8m AOD in the east to 7m AOD in the west and the land is level.

1.3 Climate

Grid Reference	: SE 515331
Altitude (m)	: 8
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C (January-June)	: 1404 day°C
Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	: 627
Climatic Grade	: 1
Field Capacity Days	: 137
Moisture Deficit (mm) Wheat	: 107
Moisture Deficit (mm) Potatoes	: 99

1.4 Geology, Soils and Drainage

The site is underlain by Permian Marl over which lie deposits of glacial silts and clays.

Profiles are typically moderately well or imperfectly drained (falling in Wetness Classes II or III) although some well drained (Wetness Class I) and poorly drained (Wetness Class IV) profiles do occur. The soils are typically medium to heavy-textured, with medium clay loam or heavy clay loam topsoils overlying similarly textured upper subsoils and heavy clay loam, heavy silty clay loam, clay or silty clay lower subsoils. However, silty upper subsoils (consisting of silt loams, sandy silt loams or medium silty clay loams) also occur across the site and in places extend to depth.

2. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

The ALC grades occurring on this site are as follows:

Grade/Subgrade	Hectares	Percentage of Total Area
1		
2		
3a	16.0	58.8
3b	7.0	25.7
4		
5		
(Sub total)	(23.0)	(84.5)
Urban	0.8	3.0
Non Agricultural	3.4	12.5
Woodland - Farm		
- Commercial		
Agricultural Buildings		
Open Water		
Land not surveyed		
(Sub total)	(4.2)	(15.5)
TOTAL	27.2	100

2.1 Subgrade 3a

Land in this subgrade occurs in the centre and west of the site. Profiles are generally moderately well or imperfectly drained (falling in Wetness Classes II or III) although some isolated well drained soils (Wetness Class I) occur in the south. Topsoils consist of stoneless medium or heavy clay loam and these overlie subsoils which vary in texture from sandy silt loam to silty clay. In most (but not all) cases slowly permeable lower subsoils consisting of heavy silty clay loam or silty clay begin at around 65cm depth. The ALC grade of the land is limited by soil wetness and/or topsoil texture.

2.2 Subgrade 3b

Subgrade 3b land occurs in the south-east and north-east of the site. Profiles are typically imperfectly or poorly drained (falling Wetness Classes III or IV) with heavy clay loam or clay topsoils overlying slowly permeable heavy clay loam, heavy silty clay loam, clay or silty clay subsoils at between 30cm and 45cm depth. In some northern parts of the site sandy silt loam or medium silty clay loam upper subsoils occur. This land is limited to Subgrade 3b by soil wetness and workability restrictions.

2.3 Urban

This consists of the track in the centre of the site.

2.4 Non Agricultural

An area of land in the centre of the site falls within this category

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MAP