



AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION  
MANOR HOUSE FARM, MICKLEFIELD  
WEST YORKSHIRE  
LEEDS U.D.P.  
DECEMBER 1992

ADAS  
Leeds Statutory Group

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## SUMMARY

An Agricultural Land Classification survey of 0.9ha of land at Micklefield was carried out in December 1992. All of the land was in agricultural use at the time of survey and all falls within Subgrade 3a. Soils are well drained (falling in Wetness Class I) and consist of medium clay loam or medium silty clay loam topsoils and subsoils overlying weathering limestone bedrock at around 50cm depth. These soils are moderately droughty and it is this factor which limits the land to Subgrade 3a.

CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION AND SITE CHARACTERISTICS
2. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

MAP

1. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT ON LAND AT MANOR HOUSE FARM, MICKLEFIELD  
WEST YORKSHIRE

1. INTRODUCTION AND SITE CHARACTERISTICS

1.1 Location and Survey Methods.

The site lies 15Km east of Leeds City centre, between the village of Micklefield and the A1. It is centred on Grid Reference SE 445334. Survey work was carried out in December 1992 when soils were examined by hand auger borings at a density of four borings per hectare at points predetermined by the National Grid. One soilpit was dug to allow the assessment of subsoil structure and the depth to bedrock. 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 survey all of the land was under cereals. Site altitude varies from approximately 45m AOD to 50m AOD. The land is flat in the centre of the site and moderately sloping (typically 3-5°) in the east and west.

1.3 Climate

Grid Reference	:	SE 445334
Altitude (m)	:	50
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C (January-June)	:	1358 day°C
Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	:	658
Climatic Grade	:	1
Field Capacity Days	:	146
Moisture Deficit (mm) Wheat	:	101
Moisture Deficit (mm) Potatoes	:	91

#### 1.4 Geology, Soils and Drainage

The site is underlain by the Permian Lower Magnesian limestone which generally occurs at around 50cm depth. There is no drift cover.

Soil profiles are well drained (falling in Wetness Class I) and consist of very slightly to slightly stony medium clay loam or medium silty clay loam topsoils and subsoils.

2. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

The ALC grades occurring on this site are as follows:

<u>Grade/Subgrade</u>	<u>Hectares</u>	<u>Percentage of</u>
<u>Total Area</u>		
1		
2		
3a	0.90	100
3b		
4		
5		
(Sub total)	(0.90)	(100)
Urban		
Non Agricultural		
Woodland - Farm		
- Commercial		
Agricultural Buildings		
Open Water		
Land not surveyed		
(Sub total)		
	_____	_____
TOTAL	0.90	100
	_____	_____

## 2.1 Subgrade 3a

All of the land falls within this subgrade. Profiles are well drained (falling in Wetness Class I) and typically consist of a medium clay loam or medium silty clay loam topsoils overlying similarly textured subsoils. Weathering limestone bedrock occurs at between 35cm and 60cm depth. Being relatively shallow the water holding capacity of these soils is low and the land is thus restricted to Subgrade 3a by moderate soil droughtiness.

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MAP