



AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

LEEDS UDP

TOPIC 441

WEST YORKSHIRE

SEPTEMBER 1995

ADAS

Leeds Statutory Group

Job No:- 195/95

MAFF Ref:- EL 49/13

Commission No:- 2102

2FCS 11130

SUMMARY

A detailed Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) survey of 20.3 ha of land at Scholes (Leeds UDP, Topic 441) was carried out in September 1995. At the time of the survey 19.1 ha of the land was in agricultural use and 1.2 ha consisted of Agricultural Buildings, Non-Agricultural land and Urban land.

All of the agricultural land falls in Subgrade 3b. Most profiles are poorly drained, with medium clay loam topsoils overlying gleyed and slowly permeable heavy clay loam or clay subsoils at around 30 cm depth. Soil wetness limits this land to Subgrade 3b. In a small area in the south of the site patchy deposits of lighter-textured drift occur, where sandy clay loam or medium sandy loam topsoils and upper subsoils overlie gleyed slowly permeable heavy clay loam or clay lower subsoils at around 65 cm depth. Although these profiles are imperfectly drained, they cannot be accurately mapped as a separate unit and so the pattern limitation means they have been mapped as Subgrade 3b.

The remaining land on the site consists of Agricultural Buildings (0.9 ha), Urban land (0.1 ha) and Non-Agricultural land (0.2 ha).

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1. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT ON LAND AT SCHOLES, WEST YORKSHIRE (LEEDS UDP, TOPIC 441)

1. INTRODUCTION AND SITE CHARACTERISTICS

1.1 Location and Survey Methods

The site lies 8½ km east-north-east of Leeds city centre, on the south side of the A64(T), and covers a total area of 20.3 ha. Survey work was carried out in September 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 and the 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 94% of the land was under permanent grass while 6% consisted of Agricultural Buildings, Non-Agricultural and Urban land. Site altitude varies from 115m AOD in the north to 105m AOD in the south and the land is gently sloping (2-3°) with a southerly or south westerly aspect in most cases.

1.3 Climate

| | |
|---|---------------|
| Grid Reference | : SE375378 |
| Altitude (m) | : 110 |
| Accumulated Temperature above 0°C (January - June) | : 1289 day °C |
| Average Annual Rainfall (mm) | : 719 |
| Climatic Grade | : 2 |
| Field Capacity Days | : 173 |
| Moisture Deficit (mm) Wheat | : 89 |
| Moisture Deficit (mm) Potatoes | : 75 |

1.4 Geology, Soils and Drainage

The area is underlain by Carboniferous Coal Measures over which lie thick deposits of till.

Most of the soils on the site are poorly drained (Wetness Class IV) with medium clay loam topsoils overlying heavy clay loam or clay subsoils. In a small area in the south of the site patchy deposits of lighter-textured drift occur where the soils are often imperfectly drained (Wetness Class III) with medium sandy loam or sandy clay loam topsoils and upper subsoils overlying heavy clay loam or clay lower subsoils.

The soils on this site correspond to the Dunkeswick Association 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 | | |
| 3b | 19.1 | 94.1 |
| 4 | | |
| 5 | | |
| (Sub total) | (19.1) | (94.1) |
| Urban | 0.1 | 0.5 |
| Non Agricultural | 0.2 | 1.0 |
| Woodland | | |
| Agricultural Buildings | 0.9 | 4.4 |
| Open Water | | |
| Land not surveyed | | |
| (Sub total) | (1.2) | (5.9) |
| | | |
| TOTAL | <hr/> 20.3 <hr/> | <hr/> 100 <hr/> |

2.1 Subgrade 3b

All of the agricultural land on this site has been mapped as Subgrade 3b. Most of the profiles are poorly drained, falling in Wetness Class IV, with medium clay loam topsoils overlying gleyed and slowly permeable heavy clay loam or clay subsoils at around 30cm depth. Soil wetness is the factor limiting this land to Subgrade 3b. In parts of the south of the site patches of lighter drift occur where the soils are often imperfectly drained (Wetness Class III), consisting of medium sandy loam or sandy clay loam topsoils and upper subsoils overlying gleyed and slowly permeable heavy clay loam or clay lower subsoils at around 65cm depth. Although soil wetness is less of a problem in these areas, they cannot be accurately mapped as a separate unit and in this case it is this pattern limitation which restricts them to Subgrade 3b.

2.2 Urban

A small area of Urban land occurs in the west of the site, where builders rubble has been dumped.

2.3 Non-Agricultural

An area used to store farm machinery and straw bales has been mapped as Non-Agricultural.

2.4 Agricultural Buildings

Agricultural Buildings occur at Home Farm, in the west of the site.

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MAP