AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

LENNERTON LANE, SHERBURN-IN-ELMET

Proposed Gypsum Mine Site

ADAS
Leeds Regional Office

September 1989
File Ref: 2 FCS 4530
Map Ref: 58/89

Lds.AL1.Len.ton

CONTENTS

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT ON LAND AT LENNERTON LANE, SHERBURN-IN-ELMET

INTRODUCTION AND SITE CHARACTERISTICS

This site (grid reference SE 527330) which covers about 6.0 hectares lies approximately 3½ km east of the village of Sherburn-in-Elmet, North Yorkshire, between the B1222 Cawood road and the new Selby coal mine.

The site was surveyed in August 1989 when soils were examined by hand auger borings at a density of one boring per hectare at points pre-determined by the National Grid. Additional borings were made, where necessary, to confirm soil types and to refine grade boundaries.

Land Use

The site is entirely in grassland use.

Climate

Average Annual Rainfall is approximately 623 mm. Accumulated temperature above 0°C (January to June) is 1403 day °C and the site is at field capacity for 135 days a year. There is thus no overall climatic limitation on ALC grade.

Relief

The area is virtually level at a mean altitude of 9 m above Ordnance datum. An old stream channel forms a slight linear depression in the eastern part of the site.

Geology and Soils

Strongly humified peat, overlying alluvium, occurs in the eastern part of the site along a relic stream channel. Soils here consist of organic silty clay or heavy clay loam topsoil of variable depth over humified peaty material.

The remainder of the site is underlain by lacustrine clay. Soils on this material are generally slowly permeable and consist of stoneless to very slightly stony heavy clay loams, or heavy silty clay loams, over strongly gleyed silty clay to depth.

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

The ALC grades occurring on this site are as follows.

Grade	Hectares	Percentage of total site area
3a	2.1	35%
3b	3.9	65%
Total	6.0	100%

Subgrade 3a

Subgrade 3a land occurs in a natural depression along a relic stream channel. Soils have non-calcarous organic heavy clay loam or organic silty clay topsoils (containing occasional peaty lenses) over humified peat to depth. Because of limitations on drainage within this hollow most profiles fall within wetness class III. ALC grade is therefore restricted to subgrade 3a by a combination of wetness and topsoil workability problems.

Subgrade 3b

Most of the site falls within this subgrade. Soils consist of non calcarcous heavy silty clay loam or clay loam topsoils over gleyed and slowly permeable silty clay or clay. These soils all fall within wetness class III and are limited by wetness and topsoil workability problems which are more severe than on the adjoining 3a land.

Resource Planning Group
Leeds RO

MAP