

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
HARROGATE LOCAL PLAN
LAND AT ALDBOROUGH GATE,
BOROUGHBRIDGE, NORTH YORKSHIRE
OCTOBER 1995

ADAS
Leeds Statutory Group

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SUMMARY

An Agricultural Land Classification survey of 30.0 ha of land at Aldborough Gate, Boroughbridge was carried out during October 1995.

28.7 ha of the site is agricultural land. 27.3 ha of this falls within Grade 2. Two soil types occur within this grade. The first comprises well drained soils (Wetness Class I) consisting of sandy clay loam or medium sandy loam topsoils overlying medium sandy loam or loamy medium sand subsoils. This land is restricted to Grade 2 by slight soil droughtiness. The second soil type within Grade 2 consists of sandy clay loam or medium sandy loam topsoils and upper subsoils overlying medium sandy loam or loamy medium sand lower subsoils. Subsoils are occasionally gleyed within 40cm depth and occasionally become slowly permeable below 45cm depth. These soils are generally well drained to imperfectly drained (Wetness Class I to III) and the land is limited to Grade 2 by slight soil wetness and pattern limitations.

1.4 ha falls within subgrade 3a. Soils consist of sandy clay loam or medium sandy loam topsoils over loamy medium sand upper subsoils and medium sand lower subsoils. This land is restricted to this subgrade by a moderate droughtiness limitation.

Urban land, consisting of a cemetery and three houses covers 1.0 ha of the site.

Non-Agricultural land covers 0.2 ha.

A pond in the west of the site covers 0.2 ha and is classed as Open Water.

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LAND AT ALDBOROUGH GATE, BOROUGHBIDGE

1. INTRODUCTION AND SITE CHARACTERISTICS

1.1 Location and Survey Methods

The site lies approximately 2 km south of the centre of Boroughbridge, to the north of Chapel Hill. Survey work was carried out in October 1995. Soils were examined by hand auger borings at 100m intervals predetermined by the National Grid. Two soil inspection pits were dug to verify soil depth and 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

At the time of the survey, 28.7% of the site was in agricultural use, mostly in arable rotation. A smaller area was under permanent grass. The remaining land was in urban use as a cemetery and houses, with a small area of non-agricultural land surrounding the pond in the west of the site.

Site altitude ranges from 27m to 42m AOD. It is level to gently sloping (0-3°) with variable aspect.

1.3 Climate

Grid Reference	: SE400660
Altitude (m)	: 30
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C (January - June)	: 1368 day °C
Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	: 634
Climatic Grade	: 1
Field Capacity Days	: 148
Moisture Deficit (mm) Wheat	: 104
Moisture Deficit (mm) Potatoes	: 95

1.4 Geology, Soils and Drainage

The site is underlain by sandstone of the Sherwood Group (Bunter Sandstone). This is covered by drift deposits of glacial till and glacial sand and gravel.

Soils in the north of the site consist of stoneless medium sandy loam topsoils, overlying medium sandy loam or loamy medium sand upper subsoils and loamy medium sand or medium sand lower subsoils. These soils are well drained, falling within Wetness Class I.

Soils in the remainder of the site generally consist of sandy clay loam or medium sandy loam topsoils and upper subsoils over sandy clay loam lower subsoils. Subsoils are generally gleyed, occasionally within 40 cm depth. Lower subsoils are occasionally slowly permeable at below 45cm depth. These soils are generally well drained or moderately well drained (Wetness Class I to II) with isolated imperfectly drained profiles (Wetness Class III) occurring across the site.

These soils are similar to the Wighill Series and Wick 1 Series as mapped by the Soil Survey and Land Research Centre at 1:25,000 scale (sheet SE36, Boroughbridge).

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	27.3	91.0
3a	1.4	4.7
3b		
4		
5		
(Sub total)	(28.7)	(95.7)
Urban	1.0	3.3
Non Agricultural	0.2	0.7
Woodland - Farm		
- Commercial		
Agricultural Buildings		
Open Water	0.1	0.3
Land not surveyed		
(Sub total)	(1.3)	(4.3)
TOTAL	<u>30.0</u>	<u>100</u>

2.1 Grade 2

Most of the agricultural land on the site falls into Grade 2. Two soil types occur in this grade. The first comprises well drained soils falling within Wetness Class I. These soils consist of stoneless sandy clay loam or medium sandy loam topsoils overlying stoneless to slightly stony (0 to 15%, total, sandstones and hardstones) medium sandy loam or loamy medium sand subsoils. This land is restricted to Grade 2 by a slight soil droughtiness limitation.

The second soil type comprises soils with stoneless sandy clay loam or medium sandy loam topsoils overlying stoneless to slightly stony (0-15%, total, sandstones and hardstones) sandy clay loam or medium sandy loam upper subsoils. Lower subsoils are generally sandy clay loam in texture and very slightly stony or slightly stony. Subsoils are occasionally gleyed within 40cm depth, and occasionally become slowly permeable at between 45cm and 80 cm depth. These soils are generally well drained or moderately well drained (Wetness Class I or II), although occasional isolated profiles fall with Wetness Class III. This land is restricted to Grade 2 by a light soil wetness limitation and by a pattern limitation due to variation in soil wetness.

2.2 Subgrade 3a

Land in this subgrade lies in the north of the site. Soils comprise stoneless sandy clay loam or medium sandy loam topsoils over slightly stony (6 to 15%, total, sandstones and hardstones) loamy medium sand upper subsoils and stoneless medium sand lower subsoils. Soils are well drained, falling within Wetness Class I. This land is restricted to Subgrade 3a by a moderate droughtiness limitation.

2.3 Urban

This consists of the cemetery at Chapel Hill and houses on Chapel Hill and York Road.

2.4 Non-Agricultural

A small area of non-agricultural land surrounds the pond in the west.

2.5 Open Water

A pond lies in the west of the site.

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MAP