

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

Thirkleby Hall, Thirkleby,  
Thirsk

Proposed Golf Course

MAFF  
Leeds Regional Office

November 1990

CONTENTS

1. Introduction and General Site Characteristics
2. Agricultural Land Classification Grades

MAP

1. Agricultural Land Classification

## AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT

Thirkelby Hall, Thirsk

### 1. Introduction and Site Characteristics

#### 1.1 Location and Survey Method

The site is located around grid reference SE467 792 5 km South East of Thirsk immediately east of the A19. The site covers 46 hectares consisting mainly of grassland and woodland some of which is used as a caravan park.

Survey work was carried out in November 1990 when soils were examined by hand auger borings to a depth of 1 metre at 100 metre intervals pre-determined by the National Grid.

All assessments of land quality were made 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 Climate

Mean Annual Rainfall (AAR) is approximately 671 mm. Accumulated temperature above 0°C between January and June (ATO) is 1337 day °C and the field capacity period is about 159 days.

These factors indicate there is no overall climatic restrictions on ALC grade.

#### 1.3 Relief

The site has a gentle slope of about 2° to the south west from the higher ground at Thirkelby Hall and is on average about 50 m above Ordnance Datum.

#### 1.4 Geology and Soils

Soils in the eastern half of the site are formed on a thin cover of medium and heavy drift derived from the underlying Jurassic strata. These soils which consist of medium clay loam topsoils over slowly permeable heavy clay loam or clay subsoils are poorly drained and fall into Wetness Class IV. In the western part of the site below about the 55 m contour a covering of glaciofluvial sand gives light textured soils, usually of sandy loam topsoils and upper subsoils. Although clay often occurs at depth the upper horizons are well drained and most profiles fall into Wetness Class I or II.

## 2. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

The ALC grades occurring on this site are as follows:

Grade	Hectares	Per cent of Total site area
2	10.10	21.7%
3a	5.98	12.8%
3b	16.29	35.0%
Woodland & Caravan Park) and Open Water)	13.35	28.7%
Urban	<u>0.85</u>	1.8%
Total	46.57	

### Grade 2

Land of this grade occurs in the middle section of the site around Oakmount, between the 45 m and 55 m contours.

Soils consist of sandy loams over similar or slightly lighter subsoils with clay occurring at about 80 cm depth. These soils fall into Wetness Classes I and II and are limited to Grade 2 by slight summer droughtiness.

### Subgrade 3a

Subgrade 3a land occurs on the highest ground around Thirkelby Hall and at the bottom end of the slope in the South West. In both areas medium textured soils fall into Wetness Class III and are limited to subgrade 3a by slight wetness and workability problems.

### Subgrade 3b

This land occurs to the east and west of Thirkelby Hall and consists of medium clay loam top soils over slowly permeable clayey subsoils.

These fall into Wetness Class IV and are limited to subgrade 3b by soil wetness and topsoil workability problems.

Woodland and Caravan Park

This covers a large portion of land in the north east of the site and a small area of woodland adjoining Thirsk Lodge.

Urban

This consist of hard surfaced roads crossing the site.

Resource Planning Group  
Leeds Regional Office