

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
SEDFIELD LOCAL PLAN
SITE H5, SOUTH FARM, TUDHOE
COUNTY DURHAM
MARCH 1993

ADAS
Leeds Statutory Group

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2 FCS 6381

h5tudhoe.doc.mp

SUMMARY

An Agricultural Land Classification survey of 8.8 ha of land on the western edge of Tudhoe, Spennymoor was carried out in March 1993.

8.4 ha of this land was in agricultural use of which 0.3 ha falls within Subgrade 3a. Soils in this subgrade are imperfectly drained (Wetness Class III) and consist of sandy clay loam topsoils, over medium clay loam upper subsoils and slowly permeable heavy clay loam lower subsoils. These soils are limited to Subgrade 3a by wetness.

Subgrade 3b covers 8.1 ha. Soils in this subgrade are poorly drained (Wetness Class IV) and consist of medium clay loam or sandy clay loam topsoils over slowly permeable heavy clay loam subsoils. These soils are restricted to Subgrade 3b by wetness which is more limiting than on the adjoining Subgrade 3a land.

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1. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT: SEDGEFIELD LOCAL PLAN
SITE H5, SOUTH FARM, TUDHOE

1.1 INTRODUCTION AND SITE CHARACTERISTICS

1.1 Location and Survey Methods

The site is located west of Tudhoe around National Grid Reference NZ260354. Survey work was carried out in March 1993 when soils were examined by hand auger borings at a density of one per hectare at points predetermined by the National Grid. Land quality was assessed using the methods described in "Agricultural Land Classification of England and Wales: Revised criteria for grading the quality of agricultural land". (MAFF 1988).

1.2 Land Use and Relief

At the time of survey 95.5% of the site was in agricultural production, all of which was in arable use. The remainder of the site consists of Urban land (gardens). Site altitude is 90m AOD and the area is gently sloping.

1.3 Climate

Grid Reference	: NZ 260354
Altitude (m)	: 90
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C (January-June)	: 1272 day°C
Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	: 679
Climatic Grade	: 2
Field Capacity Days	: 170
Moisture Deficit (mm) Wheat	: 89
Moisture Deficit (mm) Potatoes	: 74

1.4 Geology, Soils and Drainage

The site is underlain by Coal Measure Shales and sandstones over which there is a covering of boulder clay (till). Most soils consist of medium clay loam or sandy clay loam topsoils over slowly permeable (Wetness Class IV) heavy clay loam subsoil. In the past parts of the site have received significant amounts of night soil the result of which is that topsoils are often dark coloured and contain fragments of pottery and cinders. The medium textured soils resemble those mapped by the Soil Survey and Land Research Centre as the Brickfield Series. Those with the heavier subsoil horizons are similar to the Dunkeswick Series.

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	0.3	3.4
3b	8.1	92.1
4		
5		
(Sub total)	(8.4)	(95.5)
Urban	0.4	4.5
Non Agricultural		
Woodland - Farm		
- Commercial		
Agricultural Buildings		
Open Water		
Land not surveyed		
(Sub total)	(0.4)	(4.5)
	_____	_____
TOTAL	8.8	100
	_____	_____

2.1 Subgrade 3a

Subgrade 3a land is found on the western edge of the site. Soil profiles consist of very slightly stony sandy clay loam topsoils, slightly stony medium clay loam upper subsoils and stoneless slowly permeable heavy clay loam lower subsoil. These soils are imperfectly drained (Wetness Class III) and are limited to Subgrade 3a by soil wetness.

2.2 Subgrade 3b

Most of the agricultural land on the site falls within this subgrade. Soils typically consist of very slightly stony, medium or sandy clay loam topsoils over stoneless, slowly permeable, heavy clay loam subsoils. Profiles are poorly drained (Wetness Class IV) and are limited to Subgrade 3b by soil wetness and workability problems.

2.3 Non Agricultural

This consists of private gardens

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MAP