AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
KIRKLEES UNITARY DEVELOPMENT PLAN
SITE H 11.1
LOWER SOOTHILL, DEWSBURY
WEST YORKSHIRE
MAY 1993

ADAS
Leeds Statutory Group

Job No: 94/93

kudpALC.doc.nmc

SUMMARY

An Agricultural Land Classification survey of 20 ha of land at Lower Soothill north-eastof Dewsbury was carried out in May 1993.

19.5 ha of the site is in agricultural production, of which 1.5 ha falls within Grade 2. Soils within this grade consist of medium sandy loam topsoils over medium sandy loam subsoils. Overall climatic limitations and slight soil droughtiness restrict this land to Grade 2.

Subgrade 3a land covers 5 ha. Soils consist of medium sandy loam topsoils over loamy medium sand subsoil which pass into weathering sandstone bedrock at depth. This land is limited to Subgrade 3a by soil droughtiness.

Subgrade 3b land covers 10.3 ha. Soils consist of sandy clay loam topsoils over slowly permeable heavy clay loam subsoils. The land is poorly drained (Wetness Class IV) and is limited to Subgrade 3b by soil wetness and, in many places, gradients of 8-11°.

Grade 4 land covers 2.7 ha. This land is moderately steeply to steeply sloping (12°-18°) and is limited to Grade 4 by gradient.

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1. INTRODUCTION AND SITE CHARACTERISTICS

1.1 Location and Survey Methods

The site is located 3km north east of Dewsbury town centre, adjoining UDP site B11:17. It lies around National Grid Reference SE257240 and covers a total area of 20 ha. Survey work was carried out in May 1993 when soils were examined by hand auger borings at 100m intervals predetermined by the National Grid. Extra borings were made, where necessary, to define grade boundaries and soil inspection pits were dug to measure the depth to bed rock and slowly permeable horizons. 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).

1.2 Land Use and Relief

At the time of survey 97.5% of the land surveyed was in agricultural use, most of which is under permanent pasture. Site altitude varies between 90 and 130m AOD. Much of the land is strongly sloping (8°-11°) with significant areas of moderately steeply to steeply sloping land (12°-18°).

1.3 Climate

Grid Reference	:SE 264240 (climatic grid point on adjoining site B11:17)
Altitude (m)	:118
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C (January - June)	:1289 day °C
Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	:742
Climatic Grade	:2
Field Capacity Days	:177
Moisture Deficit (mm) Wheat	:87
Moisture Deficit (mm) Potatoes	:73

1.4 Geology, Soils and Drainage

The site is underlain by coal measures consisting of interbedded sandstones and shales. There is no drift cover and soils are formed on either weathering sandstone or shale. The soils formed on shale occur in the south and west of the site. Typical profiles consist of sandy or medium clay loam topsoils over slowly permeable heavy clay loam or clay subsoils. These soils are poorly drained and fall within Wetness Class IV.

The soils formed on sandstone occur in the north and east of the site. Typical profiles consist of medium sandy loam topsoils over loamy medium sand subsoils which pass into fragmented weathering sandstone bedrock at 60-70cm depth.
These soils are well drained (Wetness Class I)

2. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

The ALC grades occurring on this site are as follows:

Grade / Subgrade	Hectares	Percentage of Total Area
1		
2	1.5	7.5
3a	5.0	25.0
3b	10.3	51.5
4	2.7	13.5
5		
(Sub total)	(19.5)	(97.5)
Urban	0.2	1.0
Non Agricultural	0.3	1.5
Woodland - Farm		
- Commercial		
Agricultural Buildings		
Open Water		
Land not surveyed		
(Sub total)	(0.5)	(2.5)
TOTAL	20.0	100.0

2.1 Grade 2

Grade 2 land occurs in the northern part of the site. Profiles are well drained (Wetness Class I) and consist of slightly stony medium sandy loam topsoils over slightly stony medium sandy loam subsoils. This land is limited to Grade 2 by overall climate and slight soil droughtiness.

2.2 Subgrade 3a

Land in this subgrade occurs in the north east. Profiles are well drained (Wetness Class I) and consist of slightly stony medium sandy loam topsoils over moderately stony loamy medium sand subsoils, which pass into sandstone bedrock at depth. Soils of this type are limited to Subgrade 3a by droughtiness.

2.3 Subgrade 3b

This subgrade covers most of the site. Soils are poorly drained (Wetness Class IV) and generally consist of very slightly stony sandy clay loam or medium clay loam topsoils over very slightly stony, slowly permeable heavy clay loam subsoils. The land is limited to Subgrade 3b by soil wetness and, in many places, by gradients of 8° to 11°.

2.4 Grade 4

Grade 4 land occurs in the centre and south west of the site. The land is moderately steeply to steeply sloping (12° to 18°) and is limited to this grade by gradient.

2.5 Urban

This consists of Fort Ann Road

2.6 Non Agricultural

This consists of a small area of woodland south of Highfield House.