MAFF Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
THIRSK AND NORTHALLERTON GOLF CLUB
NORTH YORKSHIRE
MAY 1995

ADAS
Leeds Statutory Group

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SUMMARY

A detailed Agricultural Land Classification survey of 22.1 ha of land adjoining Thirsk and Northallerton Golf Club was carried out in two stages in May 1990 and May 1995. At the time of the more recent survey all of the site was in agricultural use of which 3.0 ha falls in Subgrade 3a. This land consists of imperfectly drained soils with medium clay loam topsoils and upper subsoils overlying slowly permeable clay at around 60 cm depth. Soil wetness limits this land to Subgrade 3a.

The remaining 19.1 ha falls in Subgrade 3b. The soils are poorly drained, with medium clay loam or heavy clay loam topsoils overlying slowly permeable sandy clay loam, heavy clay loam or clay at around 30 cm depth. A more severe soil wetness and topsoil workability limitation further restricts the ALC grade of this land to Subgrade 3b.

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AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT ON LAND ADJOINING THIRSK AND NORTHALLERTON GOLF CLUB, NORTH YORKSHIRE

1. INTRODUCTION AND SITE CHARACTERISTICS

1.1 Location and Survey Methods

This site lies about 3 km north of Thirsk and covers a total area of 22 ha. Survey work was carried out in two stages with around 14 ha being surveyed in May 1990 and an additional 8 ha being surveyed in May 1995. In both cases the soils were examined by hand auger borings at 100 m intervals predetermined by the National Grid. A total of three soil pits were dug to allow the soils to be described in greater detail. The 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 most recent survey, all of the site was in agricultural use, growing grass and oilseed rape.

Site altitude varies from 60 m AOD in the north-west to 45 m AOD in the south-east and the land is typically level to gently sloping (1-3°) with an easterly or south-easterly aspect.

1.3 Climate

Grid Reference	:	SE 415 849
Altitude (m)	:	53
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C (January - June)	:	1333 day°C
Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	:	651
Climatic Grade	:	1
Field Capacity Days	:	156
Moisture Deficit (mm) Wheat	:	99
Moisture Deficit (mm) Potatoes	:	87

1.4 Geology, Soils and Drainage

The area is underlain by Redcar Mudstones or, in the south-east, by Mercia Mudstones, over which lies a thick layer of reddish boulder clay. The soils are imperfectly to poorly drained, falling in Wetness Classes III and IV, and typically consist of sandy clay loam or medium clay loam topsoils and, in places, upper subsoils, overlying slowly permeable sandy clay loam, heavy clay loam or clay at between 25 cm and 65 cm depth.

The soils on the site correspond to the Salop Association as mapped by the Soil Survey and Land Research Centre.

2 AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

The ALC grades occurring on this site are as follows:

Grade/Subgrade	Hectares	Percentage of Total Area
1		
2		
3a	3.0	13.6
3b	19.1	86.4
4		
5		
(Sub total)	(22.1)	(100.0)
Urban		
Non Agricultural		
Woodland		
Agricultural Buildings		
Open Water		
Land not surveyed		
(Sub total)		
TOTAL	22.1	100

2. 1 Subgrade 3a

Two small areas of Subgrade 3a land occur on the site. The soils are imperfectly drained, falling in Wetness Class III, and consist of medium clay loam topsoils and upper subsoils overlying slowly permeable clay at around 60 cm depth. Soil wetness restrictions limit these areas to Subgrade 3a.

2.2 Subgrade 3b

Most of the site has been mapped as Subgrade 3b. Medium clay loam (or, in places, heavy clay loam) topsoils overlie slowly permeable sandy clay loam, heavy clay loam or clay subsoils at between 25 cm and 30 cm depth. More severe soil wetness problems and topsoil workability limitations further restrict the ALC grade of this land to Subgrade 3b.

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MAP