

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
SEDFIELD LOCAL PLAN
SITE H6, TUDHOE COLLIERY
COUNTY DURHAM
MARCH 1993

ADAS
Leeds Statutory Group

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2FCS 6381

h6tudhoe.doc.mp

SUMMARY

An Agricultural Land Classification survey of 12.4 ha of land at Tudhoe Colliery was carried out in March 1993.

12.3 ha of this land was in agricultural use of which 3.3 ha falls within Subgrade 3a. Soils in this subgrade are poorly drained (Wetness Class IV) and consist of medium sandy loam topsoils over either heavy clay loam subsoils or medium clay loam upper subsoils and heavy clay loam lower subsoils. This land is limited to Subgrade 3a by soil wetness.

Subgrade 3b land covers 9.0ha. Soils in this subgrade are poorly drained (Wetness Class IV) and consist of medium clay loam topsoils directly overlying slowly permeable heavy clay loam subsoils. Land of this type is limited to Subgrade 3b by soil wetness and workability problems.

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SITE H6, TUDHOE COLLIERY

1. INTRODUCTION AND SITE CHARACTERISTICS

1.1 Location and Survey Methods

The site is located west of the B6288 in Tudhoe around National Grid Reference NZ265357. Survey work was carried out in March 1993 when soils were examined by hand auger borings to a depth of one metre 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 99.2% of the site was in agricultural production, all of which was in arable use. The remainder consisted of Urban land (Church grounds). Site altitude varies between 90 and 95m AOD and the land is level to moderately sloping.

1.3 Climate

Grid Reference	: NZ265357
Altitude (m)	: 90
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C (January-June)	: 1272
Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	: 680
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 Measures over which there is a cover of boulder clay (till). Most soils consist of medium clay loam or medium sandy loam topsoils over slowly permeable heavy clay loam subsoils. Profiles are generally poorly drained and fall within Wetness Class IV.

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	3.3	26.6
3b	9.0	72.6
4		
5		
(Sub total)	(12.3)	(99.2)
Urban	0.1	
Non Agricultural		
Woodland - Farm		
- Commercial		
Agricultural Buildings		
Open Water		
Land not surveyed		
(Sub total)	(0.1)	(0.8)
	_____	_____
TOTAL	12.4	100
	_____	_____

2.1 Subgrade 3a

Subgrade 3a land occurs in the north west quarter of the site. Soils consist of either medium sandy loam topsoils over medium clay loam upper subsoils followed by, within 45cm of the surface, slowly permeable heavy clay loam lower subsoils, or medium sandy loam topsoils over slowly permeable heavy clay loam subsoils. Both profile types are poorly drained (Wetness Class IV) and are limited to Subgrade 3a by soil wetness.

2.2 Subgrade 3b

Subgrade 3b land covers most of the site. Soils consist of medium clay loam topsoils over slowly permeable heavy clay loam subsoils. Profiles are poorly drained (Wetness Class IV) and the land is restricted to Subgrade 3b by soil wetness and workability problems which are more restricting than on the adjoining Subgrade 3a land.

2.3 Urban

This consists of the church grounds.

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MAP