AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
SOUTH RYEDALE LOCAL PLAN
SITE C, MONK STRAY
FEBRUARY 1993

ADAS
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SUMMARY

An Agricultural Land Classification survey of 27.5ha of land at Monk Stray was carried out in February 1993 of which 19.8ha was in agricultural use. All agricultural land on the site falls within Subgrade 3b and consists of two soil types. The first is formed of medium clay loam to medium sandy loam topsoils medium sand subsoils. These soils are well drained (Wetness Class I) and limited to Subgrade 3b by droughtiness. The second soil type consists of medium clay loam topsoils over heavy clay loam or clay subsoils. Profiles are poorly drained (Wetness Class IV) and limited to Subgrade 3b by soil wetness and workability problems.

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1. INTRODUCTION AND SITE CHARACTERISTICS

1.1 Location and Survey Methods

The site lies 3Km north east of York City centre, south of the A1036 and is centred on National Grid Reference SE 625536. It covers a total area of 27.52ha. Survey work was carried out in February 1993 when soils were examined by hand auger borings to a depth of 1m at intervals predetermined by the National Grid. Overall boring density was approximately one per hectare. 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 survey, most of the site was under permanent pasture. The remainder consists of playing fields, farm buildings and houses. Site altitude is 15m OAD and the land is virtually level (0-2°).

1.3 Climate

Grid Reference	: SE 625536
Altitude (m)	: 15
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C (January-June)	: 1385 day°C
Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	: 616
Climatic Grade	: 1
Field Capacity Days	: 138
Moisture Deficit (mm) Wheat	: 110
Moisture Deficit (mm) Potatoes	: 101

1.4 Geology, Soils and Drainage

The area is underlain by Triassic sandstones over which there is a thick cover of glacial and post glacial drift consisting mainly of lacustrine clay and sand. Soils formed on the clay are poorly drained (Wetness Class IV). Those formed on the sand are potentially well drained (Wetness Class I) although at present the water table is close to the surface in some parts of the site.

The heavy textured soils are similar to those mapped as the Foggathorpe series by the Soil Survey and Land Research Centre. Those on sand are similar to the Formby Series.

2. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

The ALC grades occurring on this site are as follows:

Grade/Subgrade	Hectares	Percentage of Total Area
1		
2		
3a		
3b	19.88	72.2
4		
5		
(Sub Total)	(19.88)	(72.2)
Urban	0.11	0.4
Non Agricultural	6.56	23.8
Woodland - Farm		
- Commercial		
Agricultural Buildings	0.02	0.1
Open Water		
Land not surveyed	0.95	3.5
(Sub total)	(7.64)	(27.8)
TOTAL	27.52	100

2.1 Subgrade 3b

All agricultural land on the site falls within Subgrade 3b. Two soil types occur. The soils formed on sand consist of stoneless medium clay loam to medium sandy loam topsoils over stoneless medium loamy medium sand or medium sand subsoils. Profiles are well drained (Wetness Class I) but are limited to Subgrade 3b by soil droughtiness. Soils formed on clay consist of stoneless medium clay loam topsoils over stoneless strongly gleyed, slowly permeable heavy clay loam or clay subsoils. These profiles are poorly drained (Wetness Class IV) and limited to Subgrade 3b by soil wetness and workability problems.

2.2 Non-Agricultural

This consists of the playing fields on the western edge of the site.

2.3 Urban

The urban land consists of houses, a church and a clubhouse.

2.4 Agricultural Buildings

This consists of a large barn.

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