

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

GREATER YORK, SITE C
SOUTH OF MOOR LANE, ACOMB

ADAS
LEEDS REGIONAL OFFICE

JUNE 1989
FILE REF: 2FCS 4233
MAP REF: 203/88

lds.alc5.Gt.York.C

CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION
2. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

MAP

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT
GREATER YORK SITE C, SOUTH OF MOOR LANE, ACOMB**

1. INTRODUCTION

The site which is located at Grid Reference SE 578 487, south of Moor Lane on the south western outskirts of York, covers an area of 20.2 hectares, 94 per cent of which is in agricultural use. Survey work was carried out in January 1989 when soils were examined to a depth of one metre by hand auger borings, at points predetermined by the National Grid, at a density of 1 boring per hectare.

All assessments of agricultural land quality were made using the methods described in the "Agricultural Land Classification of England and Wales: Revised Guidelines and Criteria for the Grading of Agricultural Land".

1.2 LAND USE

Except for a large arable field on the western edge all agricultural land on the site is in grassland use. The 1.2 hectares of non agricultural land in the north consists mainly of private gardens.

1.3 CLIMATE

Mean annual rainfall in the area is approximately 613 mm. Accumulated temperature (above 0°C between January and June) is 1390 day °C and the land is at field capacity for about 137 days each year.

These factors indicate that there is no overall climatic limitation on ALC grade. Summer soil moisture deficits of 109 mm for winter wheat and 101 mm for potatoes, however, indicate that soil droughtiness will be slightly limiting on the clayey soils and moderately limiting on the coarse loamy and sandy soils which are common in the area.

1.4 RELIEF

The site is virtually level at a mean altitude of 13 m a.o.d. The only exception is a small area east of the stream where "made ground", possibly associated with past railway construction or tipping, contains some moderate and strongly sloping land (5-8⁰).

1.5 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

Soils are formed on glacial and post glacial drift deposits varying from lacustrine clay to fluvioglacial and wind blown sands. Their distribution is patchy resulting, over much of the site, in a complex pattern of clayey and sandy soils. In the north, however, the sand is largely absent and clayey soils are more widespread.

Soils formed on clay deposits are generally slowly permeable and consist of clay loam or heavy clay loam topsoils over similar, or heavier, strongly mottled subsoils. The lighter sandy deposits result in loamy sand or sandy loam topsoils over similar subsoils which often become lighter with depth. The "made ground" adjoining the railway on the eastern edge of the site, consists of sandy loam or sandy clay loam topsoils over ash, cinders and other rubble.

2. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

The ALC grades occurring on this site are as follows.

Grade	Hectares	Per cent of total site area
3b	17.0	84.2
4	2.0	9.9
Non Agricultural	0.9	4.5
Urban	0.0	0.1
Open Water	<u>0.3</u>	<u>1.3</u>
Total	20.2	100%

Subgrade 3b

Land in this subgrade is predominant. In the northern part of the site it consists mainly of clay loam or heavy clay loam topsoils over slowly permeable and gleyed clay to depth. All profiles of this type fall within Wetness Classes III or IV and are limited to subgrade 3b by a combination of soil wetness and topsoil workability problems.

The southern half of the site contains a patchy distribution of loamy sand or sandy loam topsoils over similar upper subsoils which become lighter with depth. Soil droughtiness is particularly limiting for potatoes on this land and combines with soil pattern limitations to restrict this area to subgrade 3b also.

The remaining areas in this subgrade occur near the eastern edge of the site where made sandy clay loam or sandy loam topsoils and upper subsoils pass into indurated ash and cinders within 60 cm of the surface. Soil droughtiness caused by shallow rooting depth, is the main limitation on ALC grade on this land.

Grade 4

Soils in this grade occur on "made" land is the south east corner. The main limitations on ALC grade are very shallow topsoil depth and droughtiness.

Non Agricultural

This consists of private gardens along the northern edge.

Urban

Residential outbuildings along the northern boundary fall within this category.

Open Water

This consists of a large pond in the northern part of the site.

Resource Planning Group
Leeds RO
June 1989