



AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
POOL BANK LANE, WELTON
HUMBERSIDE
OCTOBER 1993

ADAS
Leeds Statutory Group

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SUMMARY

An Agricultural Land Classification survey of 10.1ha of land at Poolbank Lane, Welton, was carried out in two stages: in August 1992 and in September 1993 when a small area was added to the original 1992 site.

A total of 7a of this was in agricultural use of which 5ha falls in Grade 2. Profiles are well drained (Wetness Class I) and typically consist of medium sandy loam or medium clay loam topsoils and subsoils, with heavy clay loam lower subsoils occurring at depth in places. This land is limited to Grade 2 by slight soil droughtiness.

1.6ha of Subgrade 3a land occurs on the site. Profiles are well drained (Wetness Class I) and consist of medium sandy loam topsoils and upper subsoils overlying, at around 60cm depth, moderately stony loamy sand or sand lower subsoils. Soil droughtiness is the main factor restricting this land to Subgrade 3a.

A small area (0.4ha) of Subgrade 3b land occurs in the south-east of the site. Profiles are similar to those found on the Subgrade 3a land but the moderately stony lower subsoil generally begins at around 45cm depth. Soil droughtiness is thus more limiting and restricts the land to Subgrade 3b.

The remainder of the site consists of Urban land (1.2ha), Non-Agricultural land (1.6ha) and Agricultural Buildings (1.3ha).

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WELTON, HUMBERSIDE

1. INTRODUCTION AND SITE CHARACTERISTICS

1.1 Location and Survey Methods

The site lies approximately 12½km west of Hull city centre, immediately south of the A63(T), around National Grid Reference SE 962267. Most of the land to the north and east of Poolbank Lane was surveyed in August 1992 as part of a Beverley Local Plan site. The remainder was surveyed in September 1993. In both surveys soils were examined by hand auger borings at 100m intervals predetermined by the National Grid. Extra borings were made where necessary to refine grade boundaries and one soil pit was dug to allow the assessment of subsoil structure and to allow the collection of samples for laboratory analysis. 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 in arable use and had recently been ploughed. The remainder consists of one field of ley grass, urban land (houses and a minor road), non-agricultural land (an orchard and track) and Agricultural Buildings (a piggery). The site lies at an average altitude of 17m AOD and is level to very slightly sloping.

1.3 Climate

Grid Reference	: SE 962267
Altitude (m)	: 17
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C (January-June)	: 1387 day°C
Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	: 650
Climatic Grade	: 1
Field Capacity Days	: 146
Moisture Deficit (mm) Wheat	: 110
Moisture Deficit (mm) Potatoes	: 101

1.4 Geology, Soils and Drainage

The site is underlain by deposits of Jurassic Ancholme Clay over which lie Quaternary deposits of sand and gravel which form part of the Vale of York glacial lake deposits.

The soils on the site are typically well drained (falling in Wetness Class I) and generally consist of medium sandy loam topsoils (medium clay loam in places) overlying similarly-textured subsoils. Heavy clay loam lower subsoils occur at depth in the northern part of the site. Loamy sand or sand subsoils (containing around 20% small and medium-sized chalk and flint stones) occur at depth in the south.

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	5.0	49.5
3a	1.6	15.8
3b	0.4	4.0
4		
5		
(Sub total)	(7.0)	(69.3)
Urban	1.2	11.9
Non Agricultural	0.6	6.0
Woodland - Farm		
- Commercial		
Agricultural Buildings	1.3	12.8
Open Water		
Land Not Surveyed		
(Sub total)	<u>(3.1)</u>	<u>(30.7)</u>
TOTAL	<u>10.1</u>	<u>100</u>

2.1 Grade 2

Grade 2 land occurs in the north and east of the site. Profiles are generally well drained (falling in Wetness Class I) and typically consist of very slightly stony medium sandy loam or medium clay loam topsoils overlying similarly-textured subsoils. Heavy clay loam lower subsoils occurring at depth in the north. This land is limited to Grade 2 by slight soil droughtiness.

2.2 Subgrade 3a

Land in this subgrade occurs in the south-western part of the site. Profiles are well drained (falling in Wetness Class I) and consist of very slightly stony medium sandy loam topsoils and upper subsoils overlying moderately stony (containing approximately 20% small and medium sized chalk stones and flints) loamy medium sand or medium sand lower subsoils. The ALC grade of this land is also limited by soil droughtiness, which is more restricting than on the adjoining Grade 2 land.

2.3 Subgrade 3b

A small area of Subgrade 3b land occurs in the south-eastern corner of the site. Profiles are similar to those found on the Subgrade 3a land except that the moderately stony lower subsoil occurs closer to the surface, typically at around 45cm depth. The water holding capacity of these soils is, thus, lower than on the Subgrade 3a land and the land is restricted to Subgrade 3b by severe soil droughtiness.

2.4 Urban

This category includes the houses at Poultry Farm and Willowbrook Farm, and Poolbank Lane.

2.5 Non-Agricultural

This consists of an orchard and track in the south-western part of the site.

2.6 Agricultural Buildings

This consists of the piggery on the southern edge of the site.

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MAP