



AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION  
LEEDS UDP  
WEST YORKSHIRE  
TOPIC 523  
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2 FCS 10356

## SUMMARY

A detailed Agricultural Land Classification of 9.3 ha of land north-east of Driglington was carried out in November 1994.

At the time of survey 100% of the site was in agricultural use, 3.9 ha of this falls within Grade 3a and 5.4 ha within Subgrade 3b. Soils within Subgrade 3a consist of well drained fine sandy loam topsoils overlying loamy fine sand or occasionally fine sandy loam upper subsoils followed at varying depths by weathering sandstone bedrock. Droughtiness is the main limiting factor and restricts profiles to Subgrade 3a. Subgrade 3b land has medium clay loam topsoils over clayey, slowly permeable subsoils. These poorly drained soils are limited by soil wetness and workability restrictions.

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1. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT ON LAND AT DRIGLINGTON  
(TOPIC 523), LEEDS UDP

1. INTRODUCTION AND SITE CHARACTERISTICS

1.1 Location and Survey Methods

The site lies approximately 8km south west of Leeds city centre to the north east of Driglington. It covers a total area of 9.3 ha and lies around National Grid Reference SE 228 290. Survey work was carried out in November 1994 when the soils on the site were examined by hand auger borings at 100m intervals predetermined by the National Grid. In addition two soil pits were dug to allow the soils to be described in more detail. 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 100% of the site was in agricultural use, mainly as grassland.

Site altitude varies from 175m AOD in the south-east to 150 AOD in the north. The land is gently to moderately sloping with a northerly aspect.

1.3 Climate

Grid Reference	: SE 228 290
Altitude (m)	: 160
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C (January - June)	: 1239 day °C
Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	: 800
Climatic Grade	: 2
Field Capacity Days	: 193
Moisture Deficit (mm) Wheat	: 80
Moisture Deficit (mm) Potatoes	: 63

1.4 Geology, Soils and Drainage

The site is underlain by Coal Measure Sandstone and shales. Soils on the site are derived from weathering bedrock and consist of either well drained (Wetness Class I) fine sandy loam topsoils over loamy fine sand or fine sandy loam upper subsoils, or poorly drained medium clay loam topsoils over clayey, slowly permeable subsoils. (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	3.9	42
3b	5.4	58
4		
5		
(Sub total)	(9.3)	(100)
Urban		
Non Agricultural		
Woodland - Farm		
- Commercial		
Agricultural Buildings		
Open Water		
Land not surveyed		
(Sub total)		
 TOTAL	 9.3	 100

2.1 Subgrade 3a

Land in the west falls within this Subgrade. Soils are well drained (Wetness Class I) and consist of slightly stony fine sandy loam topsoils over loamy fine sandy subsoils which pass into thinly bedded weathering fine sandstone between 40-50cm depth.

2.2 Subgrade 3b

Remaining land is all graded 3b. Topsoils are medium clay loam over a clayey, slowly permeable subsoil. These poorly drained soil (Wetness Class IV) are limited by soil wetness and workability.

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MAP