AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
HARROGATE LOCAL PLAN
SITE 11, CRIMPLE FARM
MARCH 1993

ADAS
Leeds Statutory Group

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SUMMARY

An Agricultural Land Classification Survey of approximately 23ha of land at Crimple Farm, Harrogate was carried out in October 1986 and February 1993. All of this is in agricultural use.

Subgrade 3a land covers 2.2ha. Soils consist of medium clay loam topsoils over gleyed medium clay loam or heavy clay loam upper subsoils and slowly permeable sandy clay loam or clay lower subsoils. Profiles are imperfectly drained (Wetness Class III) and limited to Subgrade 3a by soil wetness.

Subgrade 3b land covers 20.1ha. Medium clay loam topsoils overlie gleyed upper subsoils of similar texture and slowly permeable sandy clay or clay lower subsoils. Profiles are poorly drained and land is limited to Subgrade 3b by soil wetness.

Grade 4 land covers 0.6ha. A small area of moderately steeply sloping land is limited this Grade by gradient.

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1. INTRODUCTION AND SITE CHARACTERISTICS

1.1 Location and Survey Methods

The site at Crimple Farm is located around Grid Reference SE330540, between the Great Yorkshire Show Ground and Crimple Lane. Survey work on part of the area was carried out in October 1986. Additional work was undertaken in February 1993. In both surveys soils were examined by hand auger borings at intervals predetermined by the National Grid. Soil profile pits were dug to determine subsoil structure. Land quality was assessed using methods described in "Agricultural Land Classification of England and Wales" (MAFF, 1988).

1.2 Land Use and Relief

At the time of the survey, all land at the site was under permanent pasture. Most of it is flat to very gently sloping, lying between 75 and 85 metres AOD. A small area in the southwest is moderately steeply sloping and is restricted to Grade 4 by gradient limitations.

1.3 Climate

Grid Reference	: SE 330540
Altitude (m)	: 80
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C (January-June)	: 1317 day°C
Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	: 757
Climatic Grade	: 2
Field Capacity Days	: 189
Moisture Deficit (mm) Wheat	: 96
Moisture Deficit (mm) Potatoes	: 77

1.4 Geology, Soils and Drainage

The site is underlain by Millstone Grit over which there is a cover of boulder clay (till). Medium textured topsoils overlie medium or heavy textured gleyed subsoils many of which are slowly permeable within 35cm of the surface. Profiles are imperfectly or poorly drained (Wetness Classes III or IV and are similar to those within the Dunkeswick Association as mapped by the Soil Survey and Land Research Centre.

2. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

The ALC grades occurring on this site are as follows:

Grade/Subgrade	Hectares	Percentage of Total Area
1		
2		
3a	2.2	9.6
3b	20.1	87.8
4	0.6	2.6
5		
(Sub Total)	(22.9)	(100)
Urban		
Non Agricultural		
Woodland - Farm		
- Commercial		
Agricultural Buildings		
Open water		
Land not surveyed		
(Sub total)		
TOTAL	22.9	100

2.1 Subgrade 3a

Land in this subgrade occurs in the south west of the site. Medium clay loam topsoils overlie gleyed medium clay loam or heavy clay loam upper subsoils and gleyed, slowly permeable sandy clay loam or clay lower subsoils. Profiles are imperfectly drained (Wetness Class III) and limited to Subgrade 3a by soil wetness.

2.2 Subgrade 3b

Most of the site consists of land within this subgrade. Topsoils consist of medium clay loam, heavy clay loam or sandy clay loam, over similar textured, but gleyed slowly permeable subsoils. Profiles are poorly drained (Wetness Class IV) and limited to Subgrade 3b by soil wetness and workability problems.

2.3 Grade 4

A small area of moderately steeply sloping land in the south west of the site is limited to Grade 4 by gradients of 12-15°.

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MAP