AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

BEVERLEY LOCAL PLAN

WELTON

HUMBERSIDE

AUGUST 1992

ADAS

LEEDS STATUTORY GROUP

Ref:- 72/92

MAFF FILE:-

2FCS 6045

ALCWLTON.PLN

BEVERLEY LOCAL PLAN

SITE AT WELTON

SUMMARY

Land covering a total of 54.9 ha. was surveyed at Welton. 98% of this is in agricultural production, of which approximately 22 ha has been classified as Grade 2, 20 ha as Subgrade 3a and 12 ha. as Subgrade 3b.

Grade 2 land occurs in the centre and east of the site and typically consists of a medium sandy loam or medium clay loam topsoil and upper subsoil overlying a slowly permeable clay lower subsoil. Slight soil droughtiness is the main limiting factor.

Subgrade 3a land occurs mainly in the west of the site and typically consists of a sandy loam or medium clay loam topsoil over a loamy sand, sand or, occasionally, sandy clay loam subsoil. Soil droughtiness is again the main limiting factor.

Subgrade 3b land occurs in a band in the north and east of the site and in a small area in the south. Topsoils and upper subsoils are medium textured (usually medium clay loam) but sand and gravel occur below about 50 cm. Soil droughtiness is again the main limiting factor.

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INTRODUCTION AND SITE CHARACTERISTICS

The site at Welton is located around Grid Reference SE960764, immediately to the south of the A63 (T) and adjacent to the main Leeds to Hull railway line. The site covers a total of approximately 55 ha., virtually all of which is in agricultural use.

Survey work was carried out in August 1992 when soils were examined by hand auger borings at 100 m intervals predetermined by the National Grid. The land quality was assessed using the methods described in "Agricultural Land Classification of England and Wales, Revised guidelines for assessing the quality of agricultural land" (MAFF, 1988).

Climate

Grid Reference:	SE960264
Altitude (m):	10
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C (January - June):	1395 day °C
Average Annual Rainfall (mm):	646
Climatic Grade:	1
Field Capacity Days:	145
Moisture Deficit (mm) Wheat:	111
Moisture Deficit (mm) Potatoes:	103

Land Use and Relief

At the time of the survey all of the land on the site was in agricultural production with the exception of a small area of non-agricultural land (consisting of a farm track) and a small area of urban land. Of the agricultural land approximately half had been ploughed out while the remainder was under wheat, barley or oilseed rape. The site is flat to gently sloping.

Geology and Soils

The site is underlain by Jurassic rocks of the Ancholme clay group and overlain by deposits of boulder clay and sand and gravel of glaciolacustrine origin.

Topsoils consist of sandy loams in the centre and north-west of the site and medium clay loams or sandy clay loams in the north-east and south. Subsoils in the west of the site are mainly light-textured (generally medium sand, loamy medium sand or mediu, sandy loam) while those in the centre typically consist of medium clay loam, heavy clay loam or clay. Subsoils in the east of the site are more variable and range in texture from medium sand to clay.

Profiles are generally well-drained (Wetness Class I) over the whole site.

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The A.L.C. grades occurring on this site are as follows:-

Grade/Subgrade	Hectares	Percentage of Total Area
2	22.0	40.1
3a	20.1	36.6
3b	11.6	21.1
(Subtotal)	(53.7)	(97.8)
Non Agricultural	1.0	1.8
Urban	0.2	0.4
TOTAL	54.9	100

Grade 2

Grade 2 land occurs in central and eastern parts of the site. The soils in this area generally consist of a medium clay loam, sandy loam or sandy clay loam topsoil overlying similarly-textured subsoils. Heavy clay loam or clay occurs at depth in places but profiles are generally well-drained, falling in Wetness Class I. This land is limited to Grade 2 by slight soil droughtiness.

Subgrade 3a

Land in this subgrade occurs in the west of the site and in a small area in the centre. Soils typically consist of a medium sandy loam topsoil (medium clay loam in places) overlying a loamy medium sand or medium sand subsoil, with sandy clay loam occurring at depth in places. Profiles are well-drained, falling in Wetness Class I, but the land is limited to this subgrade by soil droughtiness.

Subgrade 3b

Subgrade 3b land occurs mainly in the north east of the site. Medium clay loam topsoils overlie medium clay loam upper subsoils. Sand and gravel occurs at between 45 and 60 cm depth and the profiles are well-drained, falling in Wetness Class I. The land is, however, limited to Subgrade 3b by soil droughtiness.

A small area of Subgrade 3b land also occurs in the south of the site. The soils here are medium to heavy-textured (typically medium clay loam overlying clay) and poorly drained, falling in Wetness Class IV. This area of land is restricted to Subgrade 3b by soil wetness and workability limitations.

Non Agricultural Land

This consists of a rough farm track in the centre of the site.

Urban

This consists of a house and gardens in the centre of the site and a minor road, Lowfield Lane.

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