

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION  
ROTHERHAM UNITARY DEVELOPMENT PLAN  
SITE H23  
SAWN MOOR ROAD, THURCROFT  
MARCH 1993

ADAS  
Leeds Statutory Group

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## SUMMARY

An Agricultural Land Classification survey of approximately 12ha of land at Sawn Moor Road, Thurcroft was carried out in March 1993.

All of this was in agricultural use of which 11.6ha falls within Subgrade 3a. Soils on this land are well drained (Wetness Class I) and consist of medium and fine sandy loam or loamy sand topsoils over loamy medium sand and medium sand subsoils, which pass into weathering sandstone bedrock between 55 and 120cm depth. They are limited to Subgrade 3a by droughtiness and variability.

Subgrade 3b land covers 1.1ha. Soils are drained (Wetness Class I) and consist of loamy medium sand topsoils over medium sand subsoils, which pass into impenetrable bedrock at less than 55cm from the surface. They are limited to Subgrade 3b by severe droughtiness.

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1. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT: ROTHERHAM UNITARY  
DEVELOPMENT PLAN, SITE H23, SAWN MOOR ROAD, THURCROFT.

1. INTRODUCTION AND SITE CHARACTERISTICS

1.1 Location and Survey Methods

The site lies 7km south east of Rotherham Town centre on the southern edge of Thurcroft around National Grid Reference SK 500885. Survey work was carried out in March 1993 when soils were examined by hand auger borings at a density of 1 boring per hectare at points predetermined by the National Grid. 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 the survey all of the site was in arable use. Site altitude varies from 105 AOD to 115m AOD and the land is level to gently sloping (0-3°).

1.3 Climate

Grid Reference	: SK 500885
Altitude (m)	: 110
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C (January-June)	: 1307 day °C
Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	: 663
Climatic Grade	: 2
Field Capacity Days	: 139
Moisture Deficit (mm) Wheat	: 99
Moisture Deficit (mm) Potatoes	: 88

#### 1.4 Geology, Soils and Drainage

The area is underlain by Carboniferous coal measures consisting of interbedded sandstones and shales. There is no drift cover and soils are formed directly on weathering solid strata. Most are formed on the Wickersley sandstone and consist of well drained (Wetness Class I) light and medium textured topsoils over light upper subsoils which pass into weathering rock at varying depths. These soils are similar to those mapped as the Rivington series by the Soil Survey and Land Research Centre.

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	11.6	91.3
3b	1.1	8.7
4		
5		
(Sub total)	(12.7)	
Urban		
Non Agricultural		
Woodland - Farm		
- Commercial		
Agricultural Buildings		
Open Water		
Land not surveyed		
(Sub total)		
TOTAL	<u>12.7</u>	<u>100</u>

2.1 Subgrade 3a

Land in this subgrade occurs over most of the site. Soils consist of stoneless to very slightly stony well drained (Wetness Class I) unmottled medium and fine sandy loam, loamy medium and fine sand, or occasionally medium clay loam topsoils overlying loamy medium sand and medium sand subsoils. Depth to rock varies between 55 and 120cm. Soils are limited to Subgrade 3a by droughtiness and variability.

2.2 Subgrade 3b

Land in this subgrade covers a small area in the west. Soils consist of very slightly stony, well drained (Wetness Class I) loamy medium sand topsoils overlying very slightly stony medium sand subsoils which pass into impenetrable sandstone bedrock at about 55cm depth. They are limited to Subgrade 3b by severe droughtiness.

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MAP