AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
SOUTH RYEDALE LOCAL PLAN
SITE A, STRENSALL
FEBRUARY 1993

ADAS
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SUMMARY

An Agricultural Land Classification survey of approximately 28ha of land at Moor Lane, Strensall, South Ryedale was carried out in February 1993.

27.7ha of this was in agricultural use of which 2.5ha falls within Grade 2. Soils on this land are moderately well drained (Wetness Class II) and consist of medium sandy loam and sandy clay loam topsoils over heavy clay loam and silty clay subsoils. These soils are limited to Grade 2 by slight wetness.

Subgrade 3a land covers 25.2ha. Soils on this land are well drained (Wetness Class I) and consist of loamy fine sand topsoils over loamy medium sand and, at depth, medium sand subsoils. These soils are limited to Subgrade 3a by droughtiness and by susceptibility of the topsoils to wind erosion in early spring.

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1. INTRODUCTION AND SITE CHARACTERISTICS

1.1 Location and Survey Methods

The site lies 9 km north east of York City centre, and 0.5km from Strensall around National Grid Reference SE 636605. Survey work was carried out in February 1993 when soils were examined by hand auger borings to a depth of 1m 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 98.6% of the site was in permanent pasture or arable use. The remainder consisted of a private garden.

Site altitude is 16m AOD and the land is level.

1.3 Climate

Grid Reference	: SE 635605
Altitude (m)	: 15
Accumulated Temperature over 0°C (January-June)	: 1381 day°C
Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	: 629
Climatic Grade	: 1
Field Capacity Days	: 145
Moisture Deficit (mm) Wheat	: 108
Moisture Deficit (mm) Potatoes	: 99

1.4 Geology, Soils and Drainage

The area is underlain by Triassic sandstones over which there is a thick cover of warp, lacustrine clay and aeolian sand. Soils formed on the sand are widespread and consist of well drained (Wetness Class I) loamy fine sand topsoils over loamy medium sand and medium sand subsoils. In a small area adjoining the railway in the central northern part of the site the lacustrine clay is close to the surface. Here soil profiles consist of moderately well drained (Wetness Class II) medium sandy loam topsoils over gleyed slowly permeable sandy clay loam and silty clay subsoils. The lighter soils are similar to those mapped as the Everingham series by the Soils Survey and Land Research Centre. The heavier soils are similar to the Portington series.

2. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

The ALC grades occurring on this site are as follows:

Grade/Subgrade	Hectares	Percentage of Total Area
1		
2	2.5	9.1
3a	25.2	89.5
3b		
4		
5		
(Sub total)	(27.7)	(98.6)
Urban	0.4	1.4
Non Agricultural		
Woodland - Farm		
- Commercial		
Agricultural Buildings		
Open Water		
Land not surveyed		
(Sub total)	(0.4)	(1.4)
TOTAL	28.1	100

2.1 Grade 2

Land in this grade occurs in a small area adjoining the railway in the north of the site. Soils consist of stoneless medium sandy loam and sandy clay loam topsoils over stoneless gleyed slowly permeable sandy clay loam, heavy clay loam or silty clay subsoils. Profiles are moderately well drained (Wetness Class II) and are slowly permeable at or below 40m. They are limited to Grade 2 by slight wetness.

2.2 Subgrade 3a

Land in this subgrade covers the remainder of the site. Soils consist of stoneless loamy fine sand topsoils over stoneless loamy medium sand, medium sandy loam or medium sand subsoils. Profiles are well drained (Wetness Class I) and limited to Subgrade 3a by droughtiness and by the susceptibility of the topsoils to wind erosion in early spring.

2,.3 Urban

Urban land consists of a domestic garden in the eastern part of the site.

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MAP