

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
HARROGATE LOCAL PLAN
SITE 17 BECKWITHSHAW
NORTH YORKSHIRE
MAY 1993

ADAS
Leeds Statutory Group

Job No: 26/93

beckwith.doc.nmc

SUMMARY

An Agricultural Land Classification survey of 19.5 ha of land near Beckwithshaw south west of Harrogate was carried out in May 1993.

19.7 ha of this land was in agricultural production of which 10.7 ha falls within Subgrade 3a. Profiles generally consist of light to medium textured topsoils, over light upper subsoils and slowly permeable heavy clay loam lower subsoils. These soils are imperfectly drained (Wetness Class III) and limited to Subgrade 3a by slight soil wetness.

Subgrade 3b land covers 8.5 ha. Profiles consist mainly of medium textured topsoils over slowly permeable heavy clay loam subsoils. This land is poorly drained (Wetness Class IV) and limited to Subgrade 3b by soil wetness.

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1. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT: HARROGATE LOCAL PLAN,
SITE 17, BECKWITHSHAW, NORTH YORKSHIRE

1. INTRODUCTION AND SITE CHARACTERISTICS

1.1 Location and Survey Methods

The site is located 3km south west of Harrogate town centre around National Grid Reference SE 281 535. It covers a total area of 19.5 ha. Survey work was carried out in May 1993 when soils were examined by hand auger borings at 100 m intervals at points predetermined by the National Grid. Extra borings were made where necessary to refine grade boundaries. Land quality was assessed using the methods described in 'Agricultural Land Classification of England and Wales: Revised criteria for grading the quality of agricultural land' (MAFF 1988).

1.2 Land Use and Relief

At the time of survey 98.5% of the site was in agricultural use, all of which was under grass.

Site altitude varies between 152 and 168 m AOD and the site is level to gently sloping.

1.3 Climate

Grid Reference	: SE 281 535
Altitude (m)	: 160
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C (January-June)	: 1227 day °C
Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	: 869
Climatic Grade	: 2
Field Capacity Days	: 213
Moisture Deficit (mm) Wheat	: 74
Moisture Deficit (mm) Potatoes	: 55

1.4 Geology, Soils and Drainage

The site is underlain by the Carboniferous Harlow Hill Sandstone over which there is a cover of boulder clay (till).

Soils consist mainly of medium often organic sandy loam or medium clay loam topsoils over gleyed medium to heavy textured subsoils. Profiles which are slowly permeable within 55 cm of the surface are poorly drained and fall within Wetness Class IV. Those with slowly permeable horizons at 55 cm depth or more are imperfectly drained and fall within Wetness Class III.

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	10.7	54.9
3b	8.5	43.6
4		
5		
(Sub total)	(19.2)	(98.5)
Urban	0.3	1.5
Non Agricultural		
Woodland - Farm		
- Commercial		
Agricultural Buildings		
Open Water		
Land not surveyed		
(Sub total)	(0.3)	(1.5)
TOTAL	19.5	100

2.1 Subgrade 3a

Subgrade 3a land is widespread in the central, eastern and north eastern parts of the site. Profiles are imperfectly drained (Wetness Class III) and generally consist of organic medium sandy loam to medium clay loam topsoils over loamy medium sand to sandy clay loam upper subsoils and slowly permeable heavy clay loam lower subsoils. This land is limited to Subgrade 3a by slight soil wetness.

2.2 Subgrade 3b

Land in this subgrade is found in the northern and south western parts of the site. Profiles are poorly drained (Wetness Class IV) and consist of medium clay loam topsoils over slowly permeable heavy clay loam subsoils. They are limited to subgrade 3b by soil wetness and workability problems.

2.3 Urban

This consists of a house and garden on Beckwith Head Road.

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MAP