



AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
KIRKLEES UNITARY DEVELOPMENT PLAN
SITE 9:1 MIRFIELD
DECEMBER 1992

ADAS
Leeds Statutory Group

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SUMMARY

An Agricultural Land Classification of approximately 20ha of land at Bracken Hill, Mirfield, was carried out in December 1992. Most of this is in agricultural use.

Subgrade 3a land covers a total of 5.9ha. It consists mainly of medium clay loam or sandy clay loam topsoils over heavy clay loam or clay subsoils. Profiles are imperfectly drained and limited to Subgrade 3a by soil wetness.

Subgrade 3b land covers 13.2ha and consists of medium clay loam topsoils which pass at 20-25cm depth into slowly permeable heavy clay loam or clay subsoils. Soils of this type are poorly drained and restricted to Subgrade 3b by soil wetness which is more limiting than on the adjoining Subgrade 3a land.

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1. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT: KIRKLEES UNITARY DEVELOPMENT PLAN

SITE 9:1 MIRFIELD

1. INTRODUCTION AND SITE CHARACTERISTICS

1.1 Location and Survey Methods.

The site is located 2Km north west of Mirfield, adjacent to the A644 and is centred around Grid Reference SE 180212. Survey work was carried out in December 1992 when soils were examined by hand auger borings at 100m intervals predetermined by the National Grid. Extra borings were made where necessary, to refine grade boundaries. 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 survey most of the site was under permanent pasture. The remainder consisted of a small area of urban land (two tracks in the centre of the site) and non agricultural land (west of the pub). The site lies at an altitude of 55m AOD and is gently to moderately sloping.

1.3 Climate

Grid Reference	:	SE 180212
Altitude (m)	:	55
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C (January-June)	:	1364 day°C
Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	:	765
Climatic Grade	:	1
Field Capacity Days	:	194
Moisture Deficit (mm) Wheat	:	95
Moisture Deficit (mm) Potatoes	:	83

1.4 Geology, Soils and Drainage

The area is underlain by Coal measures consisting of interbedded sandstones and shales. There is also a small patch of alluvial drift covering part of the area between the two tracks and a small area of restored land on the northern edge of the site. On the restored land soils consist of shallow topsoils directly overlying overburden. *Soils on the Coal Measures consist typically of medium or sandy clay loam topsoils over heavy clay loam or clay subsoils.* Profiles are generally imperfectly or poorly drained and fall within Wetness Classes III and IV.

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	5.89	29.6
3b	13.16	66.1
4		
5		
(Sub total)	(19.05)	(95.7)
Urban	0.46	2.3
Non Agricultural	0.39	2.0
Woodland - Farm		
- Commercial		
Agricultural Buildings		
Open Water		
Land not surveyed		
(Sub total)	(0.85)	(4.3)
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TOTAL	19.90	100
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2.1 Subgrade 3a

Subgrade 3a land occurs in the centre, west and south east of the site. Profiles are imperfectly drained (Wetness Class III) and typically consist of medium clay loam or sandy clay loam topsoils over slowly permeable heavy clay loam or clay subsoils. The slowly permeable layer typically starts at 55cm depth. Soil wetness is the main factor limiting this land to Subgrade 3a.

2.2 Subgrade 3b

Subgrade 3b land is widespread in the northern and south western parts of the site. Soils are poorly drained (Wetness Class IV) and generally consist of moderately shallow (20-25cm) medium clay loam topsoils over slowly permeable heavy clay loam or clay subsoils. Soil wetness and workability problems are the main factors limiting this area to Subgrade 3b.

2.3 Urban

This consists of the two tracks in the centre of the site.

2.4 Non Agricultural

This consists of the area of scrub adjacent to the pub.

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