

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
ALNWICK DISTRICT PLAN
SITE H6 (23) LESBURY
APRIL 1993

ADAS
Leeds Statutory Group

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SUMMARY

An Agricultural Land Classification survey of approximately 12.1 ha of land at Lesbury near Alnwick was carried out in April 1993.

11.9 ha of this land was in agricultural use of which 7.3 ha falls within Grade 2. Soils in this grade are well drained (Wetness Class I) and consist of medium sandy loam topsoils over medium sandy loam, loamy medium sand or occasionally medium sand subsoils. This land is limited to Grade 2 by slight droughtiness.

Subgrade 3a land covers 1.5 ha. Soils within this subgrade are well drained (Wetness Class I) with loamy medium sand topsoils over loamy medium sand and occasionally sand subsoils. This land is limited to Subgrade 3a by droughtiness.

Subgrade 3b land covers 2.7 ha. Soils within this subgrade are physically similar to those in the Subgrade 3a area, but the land is limited to Subgrade 3b by gradients of 8°-11°.

Grade 4 land (0.4 ha) again contains similar soils to those elsewhere on the site, but is limited to this grade by gradients of 11°-18°.

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1. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT: ALNWICK DISTRICT PLAN,
SITE H6 (23) LESBURY

1. INTRODUCTION AND SITE CHARACTERISTICS

1.1 Location and Survey Methods

The site is located 5 Km south east of Alnwick at Lesbury and is centred on Grid Reference NU 235114. Survey work was carried out in April 1993 when soils were examined by hand auger borings at a density of 2 borings 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 criteria for grading the quality of agricultural land". (MAFF 1988)

1.2 Land Use and Relief

At the time of survey 98.3% of the site was in agricultural use, all of which was in permanent pasture. The remainder consisted of Non-Agricultural land (wood).

Site altitude varies from 5m AOD to 20m AOD. The southern part of the site is level to gently sloping. The northern part is strongly sloping (8-11°) and also contains a small area of steeply sloping (16-25°) land.

1.3 Climate

Grid Reference	: NU 235114
Altitude (m)	: 15
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C (January-June)	: 1324 day°C
Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	: 678
Climatic Grade	: 1
Field Capacity Days	: 176
Moisture Deficit (mm) Wheat	: 96
Moisture Deficit (mm) Potatoes	: 84

1.4 Geology, Soils and Drainage

The site is underlain by Carboniferous shales and limestones over which there is a cover of glaciofluvial sand and gravel deposits. Most soil profiles consist of very slightly stony medium loamy sand or medium sandy loam topsoils over deep well drained (Wetness Class I) very slightly to slightly stony medium loamy sand, medium sandy loam or occasionally medium sand subsoils.

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	7.3	60.3
3a	1.5	12.4
3b	2.7	22.3
4	0.4	3.3
5		
(Sub total)	(11.9)	(98.3)
Urban		
Non Agricultural	0.2	1.7
Woodland - Farm		
- Commercial		
Agricultural Buildings		
Open Water		
Land not surveyed		
(Sub total)	(0.2)	(1.7)
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TOTAL	12.1	100
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2.1 Grade 2

Grade 2 land is widespread in the central and southern parts of the site. Soils consist generally of very slightly stony medium sandy loam topsoils over very slightly stony well drained (Wetness Class I) medium sandy loam and loamy medium sand subsoils, or occasionally medium sand subsoils. These soils are limited to Grade 2 by slight droughtiness.

2.2 Subgrade 3a

Subgrade 3a land occurs in two small areas in the north east and north west of the site. Soils consist of stoneless loamy medium sand topsoils over well drained (Wetness Class I) stoneless loamy medium sand subsoils. These soils are limited to Subgrade 3a by droughtiness.

2.3 Subgrade 3b

Subgrade 3b land occurs in a strip running east to west in the northern part of the site. Soils generally consist of very slightly stony loamy medium sand topsoils over slightly stony freely drained (Wetness Class I) loamy fine sand subsoils. Although these soils fit the physical requirements of Subgrade 3a they are limited to Subgrade 3b by slopes of 8-11°.

2.4 Grade 4

Grade 4 land occurs in a small area in the north of the site. Soil characteristics are similar to those of Subgrade 3b but the land is limited to Grade 4 by slopes of 12-18°.

2.5 Non-Agricultural

This consists of a small wooded area adjoining the A1068 on the western edge of the site.

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MAP