

Aberford Road, Parlington, Leeds

**Agricultural Land Classification
Summary Report
September 1996**

**Resource Planning Team
Leeds Statutory Group
ADAS Leeds**

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AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION SUMMARY REPORT

Aberford Road, Parlington, Leeds

Introduction

1. This report presents the findings of a detailed Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) survey of 55 ha of land at Aberford Road, Parlington, Leeds. The survey was carried out during August and September 1996.
2. The survey was commissioned by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF) Land Use Planning Unit, Northallerton in connection with an application to construct an International Cricket Stadium. This survey supersedes a previous reconnaissance ALC survey on this land conducted in 1994 (ref 18/94) for the Leeds UDP.
3. The work was conducted by members of the Resource Planning Team in the Leeds Statutory Group in ADAS. The land has been graded in accordance with the published MAFF ALC guidelines and criteria (MAFF, 1988). A description of the ALC grades and subgrades is given in Appendix I.
4. At the time of survey most of the land on the site was in arable use and had just been harvested for peas and wheat.

Summary

5. The findings of the survey are shown on the enclosed ALC map. The map has been drawn at a scale of 1:5000. It is accurate at this scale but any enlargement would be misleading.
6. The area and proportions of the ALC grades and subgrades on the surveyed land are summarised in Table 1.

Table 1: Area of grades and other land

Grade/Other land	Area (hectares)	% Total site area	% Surveyed Area
2	5.0	9.1	9.6
3a	21.2	38.5	40.6
3b	26.0	47.3	49.8
Other land	2.8	5.1	-
Total surveyed area	52.2	94.9	100
Total site area	55.0	100	-

7. The fieldwork was conducted at an average density of one boring per hectare. A total of 56 borings and five soil pits were described.

8. Grade 2 land is found in the west of the site on well drained soils usually over limestone at about 75 cm depth. A slight droughtiness or soil wetness restriction limits the ALC grade of this land. Subgrade 3a land is found mostly in the west of the site. Limestone bedrock usually occurs at about 50 cm depth although in the extreme south of the site a clayey, slowly permeable horizon often occurs at depth. Droughtiness limits the ALC grade of most of this land although soil wetness is the limiting factor on land in the south adjacent to the motorway presently under construction. Remaining agricultural land is Subgrade 3b. This Subgrade is generally found on the slightly higher land in the east of the site. Here limestone bedrock occurs at about 30 cm to 40 cm depth and profiles are very droughty. Droughtiness restricts the ALC grade of the land.

APPENDIX I

DESCRIPTIONS OF THE GRADES AND SUBGRADES

Grade 1: Excellent Quality Agricultural Land

Land with no or very minor limitations to agricultural use. A very wide range of agricultural and horticultural crops can be grown and commonly includes top fruit, soft fruit, salad crops and winter harvested vegetables. Yields are high and less variable than on land of lower quality.

Grade 2: Very Good Quality Agricultural Land

Land with minor limitations which affect crop yield, cultivations or harvesting. A wide range of agricultural or horticultural crops can usually be grown but on some land of this grade there may be reduced flexibility due to difficulties with the production of the more demanding crops such as winter harvested vegetables and arable root crops. The level of yield is generally high but may be lower or more variable than Grade 1 land.

Grade 3: Good to Moderate Quality Land

Land with moderate limitations which affect the choice of crops, the timing and type of cultivation, harvesting or the level of yield. When more demanding crops are grown, yields are generally lower or more variable than on land in Grades 1 and 2.

Subgrade 3a: Good Quality Agricultural Land

Land capable of consistently producing moderate to high yields of a narrow range of arable crops, especially cereals, or moderate yields of a wide range of crops including cereals, grass, oilseed rape, potatoes, sugar beet and the less demanding horticultural crops.

Subgrade 3b: Moderate Quality Agricultural Land

Land capable of producing moderate yields of a narrow range of crops, principally cereals and grass, or lower yields of a wider range of crops or high yields of grass which can be grazed or harvested over most of the year.

Grade 4: Poor Quality Agricultural Land

Land with severe limitations which significantly restrict the range of crops and/or the level of yields. It is mainly suited to grass with occasional arable crops (e.g. cereals and forage crops) the yields of which are variable. In moist climates, yields of grass may be moderate to high but there may be difficulties in utilisation. The grade also includes very droughty arable land.

Grade 5: Very Poor Quality Agricultural Land

Land with severe limitations which restrict use to permanent pasture or rough grazing, except for occasional pioneer forage crops.