



AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
CLEETHORPES DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN
HUMBERSTONE, HUMBERSIDE
DECEMBER 1993

ADAS
Leeds Statutory Group

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SUMMARY

An Agricultural Land Classification survey of 163.5ha of land at Humberstone was carried out in December 1993.

At the time of survey 93.7% of the site (153ha) was in agricultural use, of which 6.7ha falls in Grade 2. Profiles within this grade are generally well drained, with medium clay loam or heavy silty clay loam topsoils (some of which are calcareous) overlying similar subsoils. In some places subsoil horizons of loamy sand, sandy loam or sandy silt loam occur. The ALC grade of the land is limited by slight soil droughtiness or topsoil workability restrictions.

Subgrade 3a land covers a total of 64.2ha. Profiles are moderately well or imperfectly drained, with non-calcareous medium or heavy clay loam topsoils over heavy clay loam upper subsoils and slowly permeable heavy clay loam or clay lower subsoils. The lower subsoils begin at around 50cm depth and the land is limited to Subgrade 3a by soil wetness or topsoil workability restrictions.

The remainder of the agricultural land (82.3 ha) falls within Subgrade 3b. Profiles are imperfectly or poorly drained, with non-calcareous medium or heavy clay loam topsoils overlying slowly permeable heavy clay loam or clay subsoils at around 35cm depth. Soil wetness and topsoil workability are more limiting than on the adjoining Subgrade 3 areas and the land is restricted to Subgrade 3b for this reason.

The remainder of the site has been classified as Urban land (7.5ha), Non Agricultural Land (2.5ha) and Farm Woodland (0.3ha).

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1. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT ON LAND AT HUMBERSTONE
(CLEETHORPES DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN)

1. INTRODUCTION AND SITE CHARACTERISTICS

1.1 Location and Survey Methods

The site lies approximately 4km south-east of Cleethorpes town centre to the south-east of Humberstone village, around Grid Reference TA324053. It covers a total area of 163.9ha. Survey work was carried out in December 1993 when soils were examined by hand auger borings at 100m intervals predetermined by the National Grid. In addition, three soil inspection pits were dug to allow the assessment of subsoil structure. 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 survey 93.7% of the site (153.2ha) was in agricultural use. Most of this land had been sown to oilseed rape or winter cereals although there was an area of permanent grassland in the north-west. The remainder of the site consisted of two small areas of farm woodland, a caravan site in the north-east, a school and its grounds in the west and a road and pipeline excavations in the east.

Site altitude varies from approximately 12m AOD in the west to 3m AOD in the east, and the land is generally level to gently sloping with a slight southerly or south easterly aspect.

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	6.7	4.1
3a	64.2	39.3
3b	82.3	50.3
4		
5		
(Sub total)	(153.2)	(93.7)
Urban	7.5	4.6
Non Agricultural	2.5	1.5
Woodland - Farm	0.3	0.2
- Commercial		
Agricultural Buildings		
Open Water		
Land not surveyed		
(Sub total)	(10.3)	(6.3)
	_____	_____
TOTAL	163.5	100
	_____	_____

2.1 Grade 2

Land in this grade occurs in the south-east of the site. Profiles are generally well drained (Wetness Class I) with medium clay loam or heavy silty clay loam topsoils (some of which are calcareous) overlying similarly textured subsoils. In some places horizons of loamy sand, sandy loam or sandy silt loam occur below about 40cm depth and on occasions these horizons extend to depths of 100cm or more. Both topsoils and subsoils are generally stoneless although shell fragments are common in some of the lighter and medium-textured horizons. The ALC grade of this land is limited by slight soil droughtiness or topsoil workability restrictions.

2.2 Subgrade 3a

Subgrade 3a land occurs in six separate areas across the site. Profiles are generally moderately well or imperfectly drained, falling in Wetness Classes II or III. In the west, on the boulder clay, non calcareous medium or heavy clay loam topsoils overlie heavy clay loam upper subsoils and slowly permeable heavy clay loam or clay lower subsoils. These slowly permeable lower subsoils typically begin at between 45 and 60cm depth. The Subgrade 3a land on alluvium in the east is similar except that soils are generally more silty. In both cases the ALC grade of the land is limited by soil wetness or topsoil workability restrictions.

2.3 Subgrade 3b

The remainder of the agricultural land on the site falls within Subgrade 3b. Profiles are generally imperfectly or poorly drained, falling in Wetness Classes III or IV. In the west, non-calcareous medium clay loam or heavy clay loam topsoils overlie slowly permeable heavy clay loam or clay subsoils, at between 30cm and 40cm depth in most cases. In the east, profiles are very similar but, as in the case of the Subgrade 3a land, the soils tend to be more silty. In both cases soil wetness and/or topsoil workability limitations restrict the land to Subgrade 3b.

2.4 Urban

This category includes a school and its grounds in the north-west of the site and in the east a minor road and extensive pipeline excavations. The pipeline excavations have been placed within this category, rather than non agricultural, as the final land use was not clear at the time of survey and could, in places, include a permanent track or road.

2.5 Non Agricultural

This category includes a non permanent caravan park in the north-east and a paddock attached to the school in the north-west.

2.6 Farm Woodland

Two small pockets of woodland occur on the site, one in the west and one in the east.

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MAP