AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
ALNWICK DISTRICT PLAN
SITE H6 (11)
APRIL 1993

ADAS
Leeds Statutory Group

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SUMMARY

An Agricultural Land Classification of 9.3 ha of land at Amble, Northumberland was carried out in April 1993.

1.5 ha of the site falls in Subgrade 3a. Soils on this land are imperfectly drained and typically consist of medium clay loam topsoils and upper subsoils overlying slowly permeable heavy clay loam lower subsoils at around 60cm depth. Soil wetness and workability limitations are the factors which limit this land to Subgrade 3a.

The remainder of the site (7.8 ha) falls in Subgrade 3b. Profiles are poorly drained and consist of medium clay loam topsoils overlying slowly permeable heavy clay loam subsoils at around 30cm depth. Soil wetness and workability limitations are, again, the factors limiting the ALC grade of the land.

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AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT: ALNWICK DISTRICT PLAN, SITE H6 (11)

1. INTRODUCTION AND SITE CHARACTERISTICS

1.1 Location and Survey Methods

The site lies approximately 1 Km south-west of Amble town centre and is centred on Grid Reference NU 265036. Survey work was carried out in April 1993 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 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 the site was under cereals.

The site lies at an altitude of 10m AOD and is flat to very slightly sloping (0-2°).

1.3 Climate

Grid Reference	: NU 265036
Altitude (m)	: 10
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C (January-June)	: 1332 day°C
Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	: 649
Climatic Grade	: 1
Field Capacity Days	: 167
Moisture Deficit (mm) Wheat	: 99
Moisture Deficit (mm) Potatoes	: 88

1.4 Geology, Soils and Drainage

The site is underlain by Carboniferous Coal Measures over which lie thick deposits of boulder clay. The soils on the site are generally poorly drained (Wetness Class IV) but those in the north-western corner are imperfectly drained (falling in Wetness Class III).

Profiles typically consist of a medium clay loam topsoil (and upper subsoil in the north-western corner) overlying a slowly permeable heavy clay loam subsoil at around 35cm depth.

The soils correspond to the Brickfield Series as mapped by the Soil Survey and Land Resource Centre.

2. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

The ALC grades occurring on this site are as follows:

Grade/Subgrade	Hectares	Percentage of Total Area
1		
2		
3a	1.5	16.1
3b	7.8	83.9
4		
5		
(Sub total)	(9.3)	(100)
Urban		
Non Agricultural		
Woodland - Farm		
- Commercial		
Agricultural Buildings		
Open Water		
Land not surveyed		
(Sub total)		
TOTAL	9.3	100

2.1 Subgrade 3a

Subgrade 3a land occurs in the north-western corner of the site. Profiles are typically imperfectly drained (falling in Wetness Class III) and consist of medium-textured topsoils and upper subsoils (consisting of medium clay loams) overlying heavy-textured lower subsoils (heavy clay loams) at around 60cm depth. The lower subsoils are slowly permeable and this land is, thus, limited to Subgrade 3a by soil wetness and workability restrictions.

2.2 Subgrade 3b

Subgrade 3b land covers most of the site. Profiles are poorly drained (falling in Wetness Class IV) and generally consist of medium clay loam topsoils overlying slowly permeable heavy clay loam subsoils at between 25cm and 35cm depth. Soil wetness and workability problems are more limiting than on the adjoining Subgrade 3a land, and restrict this land to Subgrade 3b.

MAP