

**Agricultural Land Classification
Summary ALC Map and Report**

**Proposed Motorway Service Area,
Kirby Hill, Boroughbridge, North Yorkshire**

July 1997

**Resource Planning Team
Northern Region
FRCA, Leeds**

**RPT Job Number: 33/97
MAFF Reference: EL 11106
LURET Job Number: ME2 JTPN**

SUMMARY AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT

PROPOSED MOTORWAY SERVICE AREA, KIRBY HILL

INTRODUCTION

1. This report presents the findings of a detailed Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) survey of 14.9 ha of land at Kirby Hill, adjacent to the A1 motorway, north of Boroughbridge.
2. The survey was carried out by the Farming and Rural Conservation Agency (FRCA) for the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF), in connection with the proposal to develop a motorway service area (MSA). This application covers a similar area to a previously proposed MSA which MAFF was consulted on in late 1996. Most of the information contained in this report was collected during an ALC survey of the 1996 proposal although some additional fieldwork was required in June 1997 to produce this report.
3. The work was conducted by members of the Resource Planning Team in the Northern Region of FRCA. 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 the land on the site was all in arable use. West of A1(M) peas were being grown and to the east cereals and sugar beet.

SUMMARY

5. The findings of the survey are shown on the enclosed ALC map. The map has been drawn at a scale of 1:5,000. 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)	% surveyed area	% site area
1			
2	10.2	74.5	68.5
3a	3.5	25.5	23.5
3b			
4			
5			
Agricultural land not surveyed		N/A	
Other land	1.2	N/A	8.0
Total surveyed area	13.7	100	-
Total site area	14.9	-	100

7. The fieldwork was conducted at an average density of 1 boring per hectare. A total of 14 borings and 2 soil pits were described.

Grade 2

8. This grade is found on both sides of the motorway but is more widespread in the east. Topsoil and upper subsoils are typically fine sandy loam. Lower subsoils are more variable but are often loamy sand or a reddish slowly permeable clay. All horizons are very slightly stony (max 5% stones). Droughtiness and topsoil stoniness is limiting where subsoils are sandy and soil wetness where clay subsoils are found.

Subgrade 3a

9. Remaining agricultural land is all Subgrade 3a and mostly found west of the motorway. Generally this subgrade is found on higher land where soils are lighter textured. Topsoils are generally medium or fine sandy loam over loamy medium sand or loamy fine sand subsoils often becoming a sand at depth. This land has a lower water holding capacity than the Grade 2 land, and is more droughty. Droughtiness limits the ALC grade of this land.

Other land

10. Leeming Lane and unfarmed land adjacent to it are classed as other non-agricultural land.