

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
RICHMONDSHIRE LOCAL PLAN
GATHERLEY ROAD NORTH (EXTENSION)
CATTERICK BRIDGE
APRIL 1993

ADAS
Leeds Statutory Group

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SUMMARY

An Agricultural Land Classification Survey was carried out on 53.8 ha of land at Gatherley Road, Catterick Bridge in April 1993. Most of this land is in agricultural use (1.2 ha was not surveyed, as the landowner could not be contacted).

Subgrade 3a land covers 27.3 ha. Soils consist of medium clay loam topsoils over similar textured or heavy clay loam subsoils. Profiles are imperfectly drained and limited to Subgrade 3a by soil wetness.

Subgrade 3b land covers 23.8 ha of the site. Soils consist of medium clay loam topsoils over gleyed slowly permeable heavy clay loam subsoils. Profiles are poorly drained and limited to Subgrade 3b by wetness.

The remainder of the site is taken up by farm buildings, urban land and land in other non-agricultural uses.

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1. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

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GATHERLEY ROAD NORTH (EXTENSION), CATTERICK BRIDGE

1. INTRODUCTION AND SITE CHARACTERISTICS

1.1 Location and Survey Methods

The site lies approximately 1km north of Catterick Bridge, immediately to the east of the A6136, around National Grid Reference NZ227009. Survey work was carried out in April 1993 when soils were examined by hand auger borings at 100m intervals predetermined by the National Grid. Land quality was assessed using methods outlined in "Agricultural Land Classification of England and Wales" (MAFF 1988).

1.2 Land Use and Relief

At the time of the survey most of the area (51.1 ha) was in agricultural use as ley grassland or permanent pasture. A small area was cultivated for cereals. A small area in the south west was not surveyed. The site lies between 70 and 85 m AOD and is level to moderately sloping.

1.3 Climate

Grid Reference	: NZ 227 009
Altitude (m)	: 75
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C (January - June)	: 1304 Day °C
Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	: 728
Climatic Grade	: 2
Field Capacity Days	: 184
Moisture Deficit (mm) Wheat	: 94
Moisture Deficit (mm) Potatoes	: 81

1.4 Geology, Soils and Drainage

The area is underlain by Millstone grit, over which is a covering of boulder clay (till). Soils are medium to heavy textured and most are similar to the Brickfield and Dunkeswick Series as mapped by the Soil Survey and Land Research Centre. Profiles typically consist either entirely of medium clay loam or of medium clay loam topsoils over heavy clay loam subsoils. Slowly permeable layers occur within 30 to 70 cm depth and drainage is imperfect to poor (Wetness Classes III and IV).

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		
3a	27.3	50.7
3b	23.8	44.2
4		
5		
(Sub total)	(51.1)	(94.9)
Urban	0.9	1.7
Non Agricultural	0.4	0.8
Woodland - Farm		
Woodland - Commercial		
Agricultural Buildings	0.2	0.4
Open Water		
Land not surveyed	1.2	2.2
(Sub total)	(2.7)	(5.1)
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TOTAL	53.8	100
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2.1 Subgrade 3a

Land in this subgrade occurs across the site in two bands: around the southern and western site boundary and in the north-eastern sector. Profiles consist of very slightly stony medium clay loam or medium silty clay loam topsoils over mottled or gleyed medium clay loam, medium silty clay loam or heavy clay loam subsoils. Slowly permeable layers lie within 50 to 70 cm depth and profiles are imperfectly drained, falling within Wetness Class III. Soil wetness is the main factor limiting this land to Subgrade 3a.

2.2 Subgrade 3b

Subgrade 3b land occurs in the northern and central parts of the site. Soil profiles consist of very slightly stony medium clay loam topsoils overlying gleyed heavy clay loam or occasionally medium clay loam subsoils. Profiles are slowly permeable within 50 cm depth and are thus poorly drained (Wetness Class IV). Soil Wetness is more limiting than on the adjoining Subgrade 3a land and is the main factor restricting this land to Subgrade 3b.

2.3 Non - agricultural

A small area in the north at Fountain Head used for parking and storage of farm machinery is placed within this category.

2.4 Urban

This consists of two houses situated in the south-west.

2.5 Farm Buildings

This consists of Fountain Head Farm in the north-west of the site.

2.6 Land Not Surveyed

A small area in the south-west of the site was not surveyed as the land owner could not be contacted prior to the survey.

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MAP