# AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

Proposed Trunk Road Service Station
on the Western Side of the A1/A168
Interchange, Dishforth, North Yorkshire

MAFF
Leeds Regional Office

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# 1. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT ON LAND AT THE WESTERN SIDE OF THE A1/A168 INTERSECTION, DISHFORTH, NORTH YORKSHIRE

## 1.1 Introduction

11.3 hectares of land to be taken by the proposed service station on the western side of the A1/A168 intersection at Dishforth (grid reference SE 368726) were originally surveyed in November 1989. Further work was carried out in December 1990 in connection with the proposed dualling of the A1 and in December 1991 to check stone content and droughtiness of the soils. This additional work has resulted in a more accurate assessment of land quality and distribution of grades on the site and the ALC map has been amended accordingly. Soils were examined by hand auger borings at points predetermined by the National Grid. In addition, a soil profile pit was dug to provide more detailed information on soil structure and stone content. Land quality assessments were made using the revised guidelines published by MAFF in 1988.

## 1.2 Climate and Relief

Salient climatic parameters at Dishforth (altitude 45 m) are as follows:-

| | |
|---|---|
| Average Annual Rainfall (mm) | 653 |
| Accumulated Temperature Above 0°C (Jan-June) | 1348 |
| Field Capacity Days | 152 |
| Moisture Deposit (mm) wheat | 103 |
| potatoes | 93 |

These factors indicate there is no overall limitation on ALC grade although stony and light textured soils will be droughty.

The land is gently undulating and slopes do not exceed 7°. Average altitude is 45 m a.o.d.

## 1.3 Geology, Soils and Drainage

Soils are all formed on light textured glacial and post glacial drift. Top and subsoils are usually formed of unmottled slightly stony, medium sandy loam (Wetness Class I), except for several hillocks which contain soils with moderately or very stony horizons. Droughtiness assessments indicate that soils of this type will be slightly droughty, especially for potatoes.

## 1.4 Agricultural Land Classification

Grade 2 (3.2 hectares/28% of area)

Land in this grade consists of freely drained unmottled, slightly stony, medium or fine sandy loam topsoils over similar subsoils. There is no wetness or workability limitation (Wetness Class I) but slight droughtiness restricts this land to no better than grade 2.

Subgrade 3a (4.5 hectares/40% of area)

Soils in this subgrade are similar to those within Grade 2. Subsoils, however, are slightly lighter, usually of loamy medium or fine sand and stone content is higher throughout the profile. Consequently the available water capacity is reduced making this land more droughty and limiting it to subgrade 3a.

Subgrade 3b (1.0 hectare/9% of area)

All the 3b land contains topsoils with many or abundant stones. These will impede cultivation, harvesting and crop growth sufficiently to limit the land to subgrade 3b.

Non Agricultural (1.8 hectares/16% of area)

This category contains a variety of land uses associated with the A1 improvements. These include soil dumps, temporary office accommodation and vehicle storage compounds.

Urban (0.8 hectares/7% of area)

The newly constructed Dishforth-Ripon C road falls within the survey area and is placed within the urban category.

Resource Planning Group
Leeds Regional Office
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