



AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

LANGBAURGH LOCAL PLAN

LAND NORTH OF SKELTON

CLEVELAND

OCTOBER 1992

ADAS

Leeds Statutory Group

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SKELTON.RPT

LANGBAURGH LOCAL PLAN  
LAND NORTH OF SKELTON

SUMMARY

Land covering a total area of approximately 24ha was surveyed at Skelton. 23.5ha of this is in agricultural production, all of which falls within Subgrade 3b. Soils consist of medium or heavy clay loam topsoils overlying slowly permeable and thus poorly drained, heavy clay loam or clay subsoils. Soil wetness, along with strongly sloping gradients at the southern end of the site, are the principal factors limiting this land to Subgrade 3b.

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1. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

## 1. INTRODUCTION AND SITE CHARACTERISTICS

The site at Skelton is located around grid reference NZ 661195, immediately north of Skelton. It covers an area of approximately 24ha, virtually all of which is in agricultural use.

Survey work was carried out in September 1992 when soils were examined by hand auger borings at 100m intervals predetermined by the National Grid. The land quality was assessed using the methods described in "Agricultural Land Classification of England and Wales, Revised guidelines for assessing the quality of agricultural land" (MAFF, 1988).

### Climate

Grid Reference	NZ 661195 Grid Reference
Altitude (m)	75
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C (January-June)	1286 day°C (January-June)
Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	658
Climatic Grade	2
Field Capacity Days	169
Moisture Deficit (mm) Wheat	95
Moisture Deficit (mm) Potatoes	82

### Land Use and Relief

At the time of survey all land on the site was in agricultural use except for some very small areas of non agricultural and urban land. One field on the site was under permanent pasture. The remaining agricultural land was in arable use. Relief varies from gently sloping in the northern and central parts of the site to strongly sloping at the southern end.

## Geology and Soils

Soils are formed on slightly stony glacial clays which form a thick cover over the underlying Jurassic sandstones and shales.

Topsoils consist of medium or heavy clay loam overlying gleyed reddish heavy clay loam or clay subsoils. Profiles are poorly drained (Wetness Class IV) and resemble those mapped as the Crewe Association by the Soil Survey and Land Resource Centre.

## 2. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

The ALC grades occurring on the site are as follows:-

<u>Grade/Subgrade</u>	<u>Hectares</u>	<u>Percentage of Total Area</u>
3b	23.50	96.1
(Sub-total)	(23.50)	(96.1)
Non Agricultural	0.25	1.0
Urban	0.70	2.9
TOTAL	<u>24.45</u>	<u>100.0</u>

### Subgrade 3b

All agricultural land on the site falls within Subgrade 3b.

Soils consist of medium or heavy clay loam topsoils over gleyed slowly permeable heavy clay loam or clay subsoils. Profiles are poorly drained (Wetness Class IV) and limited to Subgrade 3b by wetness and workability problems. At the southern edge of the site land is also limited to Subgrade 3b by slopes of 8-11° which restrict the use of agricultural machinery.

### Non Agricultural Land

This consists of a playing field on the western side of the site.

### Urban

This includes roads and buildings on the eastern and southern edges of the site.

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