



AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION  
TYNEDALE DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN  
ADDITIONAL SITES AT  
CORBRIDGE, NORTHUMBERLAND  
JANUARY 1995

ADAS  
Leeds Statutory Group

Job No:- 12-14/95  
MAFF Ref:- EL 10046A  
Commission No:- 1565

## SUMMARY

A detailed Agricultural Land Classification survey of 3 sites to the north and east of Corbridge was carried out in January 1995.

Soils on all the sites are predominantly developed from light textured drift. Topsoils and subsoils are typically *medium sandy loam*. Soil profiles are generally very slightly to slightly stony and well drained (Wetness Class 1).

Site 1 contained 6.9 ha of Grade 2 and 4.1 ha of Subgrade 3a land. Overall climate and soil wetness respectively were the limiting factors.

Site 2 was all Grade 2. Overall climate limited the ALC grade.

Site 3 contained 6.6 ha of Grade 2 and 2.0 of Subgrade 3a land. Overall climate limited the Grade 2 land and droughtiness limited the Subgrade 3a land.

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AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION TYNEDALE DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN.  
ADDITIONAL SITES AT CORBRIDGE

1. INTRODUCTION AND SITE CHARACTERISTICS

1.1 Location and Survey Methods

Land at three sites to the north and east of Corbridge was surveyed in January 1995. The agricultural land quality of each of these sites is described in detail in the following sections of this report. All the sites were surveyed in detail when soils were examined by hand auger borings at a density of one boring per hectare at locations predetermined by the National Grid. Soil profile pits were dug to examine representative soil types in greater detail.

All assessments were made 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 Geology, Soils and Drainage

All 3 sites are underlain by Upper Carboniferous (Corbridge) Limestone over which are found thick deposits of mostly lightly textured, very slightly stony drift. In the south and west of site 1 however are found glacial lake deposits. The light textured drift has produced well drained (Wetness Class I) very slightly stony topsoils and subsoils, usually both medium sandy loam in texture. The lake deposits have a medium sandy loam topsoil over a sandy clay loam, gleyed, slowly permeable subsoil. These soils are imperfectly to poorly drained (Wetness Class III to IV).

2.1 SITE 1 CORBRIDGE

2.1.1 Location

The land at site 1 has centroid grid reference of NY 990 652 and is located about 1km to the north of Corbridge town centre.

### 2.1.2 Climate

Grid Reference	: NY 990 652
Altitude (m)	: 60
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C (January - June)	: 1299 day °C
Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	: 641
Climatic Grade	: 2
Field Capacity Days	: 170
Moisture Deficit (mm) Wheat	: 92
Moisture Deficit (mm) Potatoes	: 78

### 2.1.3 Land Use & Relief

The whole site is under permanent pasture. Altitude ranges from 50m AOD in the west to 70m AOD in the east. Slopes range from level to moderate (6°) and the aspect is west to south west.

#### 2.1.4 AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION - SITE 1 - CORBRIDGE

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	6.9	62.7
3a	4.1	37.3
3b		
4		
5		
(Sub total)	(11.0)	(100.0)
Urban		
Non Agricultural		
Woodland - Farm		
- Commercial		
Agricultural Buildings		
Open Water		
Land not surveyed		
(Sub total)		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<u>11.0</u>	<u>100</u>

#### 2.1.5 Grade 2

This land contains well drained, light textured, very slightly stony soils limited by the overall climate restriction to Grade 2.

#### 2.1.6 Subgrade 3a

Subgrade 3a land is found on the lower slopes to the south and west of the site. Soil wetness limits the ALC grade of this land.

## 2.2 SITE 2 CORBRIDGE

### 2.2.1 Location

The land at site 2 has a centroid grid reference of NY 996 651 and is located about a kilometre north east of Corbridge town centre.

### 2.2.2. Climate

Grid Reference	: NY 996 651
Altitude (m)	: 75
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C (January - June)	: 1282 day °C
Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	: 641
Climatic Grade	: 2
Field Capacity Days	: 170
Moisture Deficit (mm) Wheat	: 90
Moisture Deficit (mm) Potatoes	: 76

### 2.2.3 Land Use and Relief

The whole site is under permanent pasture. Average altitude is 75 m AOD and the land is mostly level.

## 2.2.4 AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION - SITE 2 - CORBRIDGE

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	2.4	100.0
3a		
3b		
4		
5		
(Sub total)	(2.4)	(100.0)
Urban		
Non Agricultural		
Woodland - Farm		
- Commercial		
Agricultural Buildings		
Open Water		
Land not surveyed		
(Sub total)		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

### 2.2.5 Grade 2

The whole site is Grade 2. Soils are light textured, very slightly stony and well drained. The overall climatic restriction limits the ALC grade of this site.

## 2.3 SITE 3 CORBRIDGE

### 2.3.1 Location

The land at site 3 has a centroid grid reference of NY 998 646 and is located approximately 1km to the east of Corbridge town centre.

### 2.3.2. Climate

Grid Reference	: NY 998 646
Altitude (m)	: 65
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C (January - June)	: 1293 day °C
Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	: 639
Climatic Grade	: 2
Field Capacity Days	: 169
Moisture Deficit (mm) Wheat	: 92
Moisture Deficit (mm) Potatoes	: 77

### 2.3.3 Land Use and Relief

The whole site was growing winter cereal at the time of survey. It is level to very gently sloping at an altitude of 65m AOD, with a slight southerly aspect.

### 2.3.4 AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION - SITE 3 - CORBRIDGE

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	6.6	76.7
3a	2.0	23.3
3b		
4		
5		
(Sub total)	(8.6)	(100.0)
Urban		
Non Agricultural		
Woodland - Farm		
- Commercial		
Agricultural Buildings		
Open Water		
Land not surveyed		
(Sub total)		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8.6</b>	<b>100</b>

### 2.3.5 Grade 2

Most of the site is Grade 2. Soils are well drained, very slightly stony and light textured, usually a medium sandy loam top and subsoil. The overall climatic restriction in the area limits the ALC grade of this land.

### 2.3.6 Subgrade 3a

The soils on this land are lighter textured and more stony than on the land graded 2, typically a slightly stony medium sandy loam topsoil over a loamy medium sandy subsoil, again slightly stony. Soil droughtiness limits the ALC grade of this land.

RPT File: 2FCS 10622-4  
Leeds Statutory Group