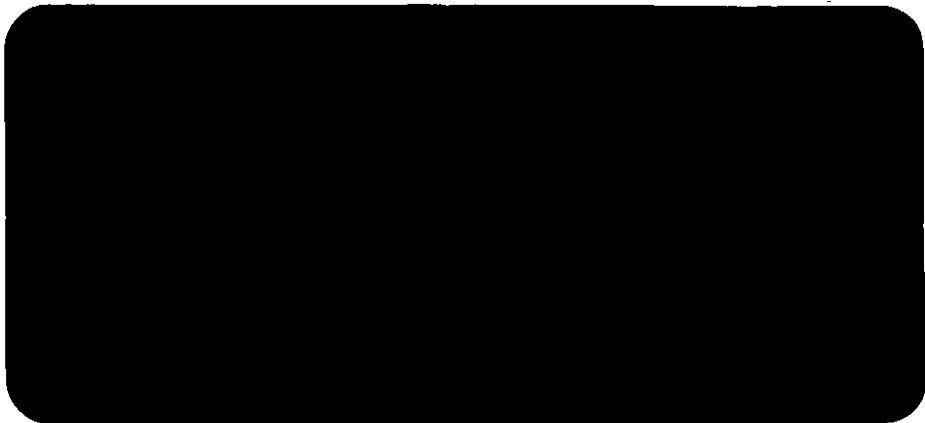


FRCA



FARMING AND RURAL CONSERVATION AGENCY
An Executive Agency of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and the Welsh Office

**REDCAR AND CLEVELAND LOCAL PLAN
LAND NORTH OF THAMES AVENUE,
TIDKIN LANE, FANCURT ROAD AND
MEYNELL AVENUE, GUISBOROUGH**

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

APRIL 1997

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

**RPT Job Number: 18/97
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AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION SUMMARY REPORT

REDCAR AND CLEVELAND LOCAL PLAN LAND NORTH OF THAMES AVENUE, TIDKIN LANE, FANCURT ROAD AND MEYNELL AVENUE, GUISBOROUGH

INTRODUCTION

1. This summary report presents the findings of a detailed Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) survey of 13.9 ha of land at Guisborough. The survey was carried out during April 1997.

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 Redcar and Cleveland local plan.

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 use on the site was under grass, both used for silage and the grazing of horses. The areas mapped as 'Other' non-agricultural land include farm buildings in the east and scrub land in the west.

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			
3a			
3b	9.4	95.0	67.6
4			
5	0.5	5.0	3.6
Agricultural land not surveyed		N/A	
Other land	4.0	N/A	28.8
Total surveyed area	9.9	100	
Total site area	13.9	-	100

7. The fieldwork was conducted at an average density of one boring per hectare. A total of 10 borings and one soil pit was described.

8. Subgrade 3b dominates the agricultural land on the site. Soils are poorly drained (Soil Wetness Class IV) with medium or occasionally heavy clay loam topsoils over clayey, slowly permeable subsoils. Soil wetness and workability problems limit the ALC grade of this land.

9. Grade 5 land is found on steep slopes north and east of Newstead Farm. Gradients over 18° will severely limit the safe use of any agricultural machinery.

10. Other, non-agricultural land includes farm buildings at Newstead Farm, allotments north of Thames Avenue and scrub woodland north of Fancurt Road.

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APPENDIX I

DESCRIPTION OF THE GRADES AND SUBGRADES

Grade 1: Excellent Quality Agricultural Land

Land with no or very minor limitations to agricultural use. A very wide range of agricultural and horticultural crops can be grown and commonly includes top fruit, soft fruit, salad crops and winter harvested vegetables. Yields are high and less variable than on land of lower quality.

Grade 2: Very Good Quality Agricultural Land

Land with minor limitations which affect crop yield, cultivations or harvesting. A wide range of agricultural or horticultural crops can usually be grown but on some land of this grade there may be reduced flexibility due to difficulties with the production of the more demanding crops such as winter harvested vegetables and arable root crops. The level of yield is generally high but may be lower or more variable than Grade 1 land.

Grade 3: Good to Moderate Quality Land

Land with moderate limitations which affect the choice of crops, the timing and type of cultivation, harvesting or the level of yield. When more demanding crops are grown, yields are generally lower or more variable than on land in Grades 1 and 2.

Subgrade 3a: Good Quality Agricultural Land

Land capable of consistently producing moderate to high yields of a narrow range of arable crops, especially cereals, or moderate yields of a wide range of crops including cereals, grass, oilseed rape, potatoes, sugar beet and the less demanding horticultural crops.

Subgrade 3b: Moderate Quality Agricultural Land

Land capable of producing moderate yields of a narrow range of crops, principally cereals and grass, or lower yields of a wider range of crops or high yields of grass that can be grazed or harvested over most of the year.

Grade 4: Poor Quality Agricultural Land

Land with severe limitations which significantly restrict the range of crops and/or the level of yields. It is mainly suited to grass with occasional arable crops (eg. cereals and forage crops) the yields of which are variable. In moist climates, yields of grass may be moderate to high but there may be difficulties in utilisation. The grade also includes very droughty arable land.

Grade 5: Very Poor Quality Agricultural Land

Land with severe limitations that restricts use to permanent pasture or rough grazing, except for occasional pioneer forage crops.