

**PROPOSED EMPLOYMENT  
SITE OFF A180 GRIMSBY  
NORTH-EAST LINCOLNSHIRE**

**Agricultural Land Classification  
Summary Report  
AUGUST 1996**

**Resource Planning Team  
Leeds Statutory Group  
ADAS Leeds**

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## AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION SUMMARY REPORT

### PROPOSED EMPLOYMENT SITE OFF A180 GRIMSBY, NORTH - EAST LINCOLNSHIRE

#### Introduction

1. This report presents the findings of a semi-detailed Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) survey of 51.9 ha of land north of the A180 near Great Coates, Grimsby. The survey was carried out during August 1996.
2. The survey was commissioned by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF) Land Use Planning Unit, Northallerton in connection with a proposed employment site near Grimsby. The far west of the site had been subject to a reconnaissance survey in 1993, which found the land in this area to fall in Subgrade 3b.
3. The work was conducted by members of the Resource Planning Team in the Leeds Statutory Group in ADAS. 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 all of the agricultural land on the site was under winter wheat.

#### Summary

5. The findings of the survey are shown on the enclosed ALC map. The map has been drawn at a scale of 1:5000. 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)	% Total site area	% Surveyed Area
3b	51.6	99.4	100.0
Other land	0.3	0.6	-
Total surveyed area	51.6	-	100
Total site area	51.9	100	-

7. The fieldwork was conducted at an average density of 1 boring per 2 hectares. A total of 26 borings and 1 soil pit were described.

8. All the agricultural land on the site was Subgrade 3b, moderate quality agricultural land. Soil wetness and workability limit the ALC grade of this land.

Other land on the site consists of an embankment surrounding an access bridge to the south of the site.

## APPENDIX I

### DESCRIPTIONS 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 which 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 (e.g. 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 which restrict use to permanent pasture or rough grazing, except for occasional pioneer forage crops.