MAFF Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
TYNEDALE DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN
LAND EAST OF HEXHAM
REF: H4.2/H4.1
NORTHUMBERLAND
NOVEMBER 1994

ADAS
Leeds Statutory Group
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SUMMARY

4.1 ha of land east of Hexham were surveyed in detail in November 1994. Soils were medium to heavy textured typically sandy clay loam topsoils over clayey subsoils, slowly permeable at about 30 cm depth.

Soils were poorly drained (Wetness Class IV).

Slopes ranged from level to 8° with a northerly aspect. A combination of both soil wetness and in a few places slope, limit the ALC grade of this land to Subgrade 3b.

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1. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION 1. AGRICULTURAL LAND [illegible]

TYNEDALE DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT ON LAND EAST OF HEXHAM REF: H4.2/4.1, NORTHUMBERLAND

1. INTRODUCTION AND SITE CHARACTERISTICS

1.1 Location and Survey Methods

4.1 ha of land East of Hexham, centroid grid reference NY 954638 were surveyed in detail in November 1994. Soils were examined by hand auger borings at a density of one boring per hectare at locations predetermined by the National Grid. Soil types were examined in greater detail by examination of profile pits. Land quality was assessed 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 Land Use and Relief

At the time of survey 100% of the site was in agricultural use, all as grassland. The land was mostly moderately sloping with a northerly aspect. Some slopes were steep enough to limit the use of agricultural machinery. Average altitude is 55m A.O.D.

1.3 Climate

Grid Reference	NY 954638
Altitude (m)	55
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C (January-June)	1304
Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	659
Climatic Grade	2
Field Capacity Days	177
Moisture Deficit (mm) Wheat	93
Moisture Deficit (mm) Potatoes	79

1.4 Geology, Soils and Drainage

Solid Carboniferous strata are not exposed within a metre of the surface at the site. Soils are all developed from Boulder Clay Drift deposits. Topsoils are typically medium clay loam or sandy clay loam over similar textured or clayey, slowly permeable subsoils. These soils are poorly drained and soil Wetness Class IV.

2. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

The ALC grades occurring on this site are as follows:

Grade/Subgrade	Hectares	Percentage of Total Area
1		
2		
3a		
3b	4.1	100
4		
5		
(Sub total)	(4.1)	(100)
Urban		
Non Agricultural		
Woodland - Farm		
Woodland - Commercial		
Agricultural Buildings		
Open Water		
Land not surveyed		
(Sub total)	(0)	(0)
TOTAL	4.1	100

2.1 Subgrade 3b

The whole site is graded 3b. Topsoils are medium textured over similar or clayey textured subsoils. The land is poorly drained (Wetness Class IV). Soil wetness and workability are the main limitation on ALC grade although slope also limits some land on the south of the site.

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MAP