

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

BRIDGE ROAD, AIRMYN  
GOOLE  
Proposed Marina and  
Residential Development

MAFF  
Leeds Regional Office

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1. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

## AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

BRIDGE ROAD, AIRMYN, GOOLE

### SECTION 1 INTRODUCTION AND SITE CHARACTERISTICS

#### 1.1 LOCATION

The site is located around national grid reference SE 727259, approximately 3 km north west of Goole town centre. It is bound to the west by the River Aire and to the north by the River Ouse. It covers 27.17 hectares, 85.5% of which is in agricultural production.

#### 1.2 SURVEY METHOD

Survey work was carried out in February 1990 when soils were examined by hand auger borings at 100 metre intervals pre-determined by the National Grid. A soil profile pit was dug to assess stoniness in the north-eastern part of the site.

All land quality 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).

#### 1.3 LAND USE

All agricultural land on the site is in arable use. At the time of survey the crop was winter cereals.

#### 1.4 CLIMATE

Average annual rainfall in the area is approximately 589 mm. Accumulated temperature above 0°C, between January and June, is 1407 day °C and the land is at field capacity for about 125 days a year. There is thus no overall climatic restriction on ALC grade.

## 1.5 RELIEF

The site is virtually level with slight undulation in the north west corner. Mean altitude is 4 metres above ordnance datum.

## 1.6 DRAINAGE

Water tables on the site are managed by a network of tile drains draining to the south east. There are no slowly permeable subsoil horizons to impede soil drainage. A small localised depression of about  $\frac{1}{2}$  ha in the extreme north west corner of the site can become waterlogged in winter months because of a broken tile drain. Correction of this problem constitutes normal management and is not therefore regarded as a restriction to ALC grade.

## 1.7 SOILS AND GEOLOGY

Soils have developed over artificially deposited river alluvium (warp). They typically consist of stoneless silt loams and medium silty clay loams over silt loam, silty clay loam and fine sandy silt loam subsoils. Topsoils are dominantly slightly calcareous with small areas that are not calcareous. In the north-eastern corner of the site soils have been restored to agriculture from an early armed forces base. Here soils are slightly stony, containing rubble from buildings, with a rootable soil depth of approximately 64 cm.

## SECTION 2: AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

The ALC grades occurring on this site are as follows.

Grade	Hectares	Percentage of Total Site Area
1	22.09	81.3
3 a	1.14	4.2
Agricultural Buildings	0.02	0.1
Other Non Agricultural	3.92	14.4
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	27.17	100

## Grade 1

Grade 1 land occurs over most of the site. Soils fall into Wetness Class I. They are medium in texture, are easily worked for most of the year and have adequate reserves of available water during the summer.

## Subgrade 3a

The area of subgrade 3a occurs on disturbed land in the north eastern corner of the site. Topsoils are slightly stony and contain blocks of concrete and bricks larger than 6 cm. This material occupies between 5 and 10% of the total soil volume within the top 25 cm of the surface. It thus forms the main limitation to ALC grade.

## Other Non Agricultural

This land is found around the western and northern edges of the site and forms the flood protection banking of the Rivers Aire and Ouse. A small area of woodland associated with the banking is in the north-western corner.

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MAPS

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